



## Kaleidoscope

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# From the Editor's Viewpoint

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*Kaleidoscope*, a refereed journal dedicated to showcasing the accomplishments of undergraduate researchers at The University of Kentucky, is aptly named. The articles in this volume represent a depth and breadth of achievements and discoveries, a “myriad of colors and shapes”, if you will, that reflect the many and varied disciplines and interests across our campus. In the pages that follow, our students demonstrate their ability to convey the beauty and value of their research projects, and to share with you their intellectual journeys. *Kaleidoscope* provides a venue for students to 1) tell you what they've discovered, 2) practice the important skills necessary for successful communication, and 3) connect with a community locally, nationally, and even internationally.

The number and variety of entries reflects our increased efforts to promote undergraduate research at UK, and to showcase both faculty and students alike. We are constantly striving to improve our infrastructure to efficiently support undergraduate research, from administrative efforts, such as improving our student and faculty database, and streamlining the initiation and maintenance of mentor-protégé pairings, to improving communication at all levels, for example, developing online faculty training modules. Through continued efforts by the Office of Undergraduate Research in collaboration with other research-based programs on campus, we support prolific undergraduates in their passion to bring their exciting discoveries to you, as well as to accomplish the goal of our land grant university, to promote diversity, inclusion, economic development, and human well-being throughout the Commonwealth.

A project of this magnitude cannot happen without the hard work and dedication of many individuals. Enormous recognition goes to the Associate Editor of *Kaleidoscope*, Evie Russell, *Kaleidoscope* Web Administrator, Danica Kubly, and staff at UK Libraries, who have done the leg work for this issue, and who have moved us into the future by taking the necessary steps to begin publishing online, through UKnowledge. We also thank our reviewers, who help to maintain the excellence expected of a high-quality journal.

My wish is that, after reading the stories within, if you are an undergraduate student, you are encouraged to begin your own journey into research, and if you are a faculty member, you will be stimulated to initiate working with an undergraduate protégé.



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