



## Undergraduate Review

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# OUR Director's Note

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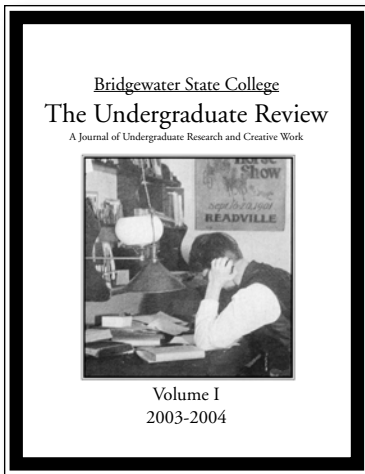
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Inaugural Volume

Tony Soprano: You don't know who I am, do ya?  
Remember Johnny? Johnny Boy? Your kid brother?  
This thing of ours.

Uncle Junior: I was involved with that?

Tony Soprano: You and my dad. You two ran  
North Jersey.

Uncle Junior: We did?

Tony Soprano: Yeah.

Uncle Junior: Hmm. Well, that's nice.

From *The Sopranos*

I've had the privilege of watching this journal become "this thing of ours" since day one. We've gotten better at putting the journal together every time. It's a testament to the faculty, students, and staff who are responsible for the journal that you can't actually tell that. Pretty much after our admittedly rough effort in Volume One, this journal has always looked top notch. After that first issue, when Stacy and I were spread out on the floor of the Honors Center (no Office of Undergraduate Research back then), her daughter Meg helping us paper clip together bundles of stuff to go here and there, we knew one thing: we had to do justice to the student writers and researchers that we published in *The Review*. We just had to. And so we did. The journal passed out of my hands to some extent after the first two years, but Stacy was always there. With great faith in the writers and readers of *The Review*, she has made this journal the exceptional contribution to the scholarly culture of campus that it is. For me, it feels right and true that in my last year as Director Stacy and I would team up one more time. But, now, at the end, I'm not sure what to say. There are only so many superlatives you can use to describe students and faculty, only so many ways to say thank you to the higher ups. What I really want to say is just this: when I quote "this thing of ours"? I really mean that. This beautiful book is all of ours. And it will last long after those of us who make up the "we" of this present moment are long gone. I remember that when I look at the new books coming out of the boxes—that new book smell in my nose: It's not just that *The Review* will outlast me in this job. It will outlast me at this *college*. And that's, well, that's nice.

LEE TORDA

Director, The Office of Undergraduate Research