

## ***Letter from the Editors***

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *Chrysalis: The Murray State University Journal of Undergraduate Research*. The purpose of this journal is to honor our most gifted students by celebrating their best efforts in a public forum. The involvement of undergraduates in research or creative projects that are guided by talented and dedicated faculty members enhances our students' ability to think and write both critically and independently. As students become more engaged in research, their analytical gifts are finely honed and they prepare themselves to solve the complex problems of today and tomorrow.

While many high-quality manuscripts were submitted, space limitations only allow us to publish nine of these works. We sincerely believe the selected papers demonstrate a degree of distinction worthy of the excellent academic reputation of Murray State University. We also hope the quality of this publication will spur other young scholars and their mentors to submit their best efforts for inclusion in subsequent volumes.

A journal of this breadth and depth would not have been possible without the support of a dedicated university community. The quality of the articles contained herein attests to the considerable time and effort that went into these works by their undergraduate authors and faculty mentors. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to President F. King Alexander and Provost Gary Brockway. Their encouragement and pledge of financial support helped make the publication of this journal possible. Our thanks also go out to Stacy Stone, who generously donated her significant talents and was indispensable for paper evaluation and content review; to Phil Schooley, whose diligence was vital during the entire production process; to Allison Binford, who did much of the style editing; to Linda Pierce, who put considerable effort into layout and graphic design; to Tobie Johnson, for proofreading and additional editing; and to MSU Publications and Printing Services. Finally, we acknowledge the many students and faculty who participate in research at Murray State University. These innovative and boldly imaginative scholars elevate the intellectual climate and reputation of our institution.

Over the coming years, *Chrysalis* will enable us to showcase and celebrate the work of our students and of those dedicated faculty who want to see Murray State students achieve their full potential. We welcome your comments on Volume I of *Chrysalis* and encourage you to consider publishing in a future edition.

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