

## Journal Message

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In recent years, undergraduate research and creative work has become an essential component of a university education. The University of Utah has long been at the forefront, boasting many excellent programs and an infinite number of opportunities for our students. Our excellent faculty, top notch facilities and Research I status allow our students to be an integral part of the cutting edge process of discovery. The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) helps achieve success by assisting students in finding a one on one research or creative experience, academic assistantships with wages, numerous presentation opportunities and publication in this journal. It is our mission that every student at the U has the rich experience of research or creative work, which not only supports class work but also provides the necessary experience for graduate school and the post undergraduate career.

In six years, over 1200 students have passed through my door and I'm continually amazed at the brilliance and excitement a research or creative experience can generate. Student accomplishments are many whether it is explaining nano technology to a legislator during Research Posters on the Hill to acceptance at a professional conference or journal publication. Spring semester brings the joy of hearing from student after student sharing the news of acceptance to medical school, law school and other graduate programs. It's a great pleasure to provide students the tools for such future success.

I'd like to recognize the many, many students across the campus that presented their research at discipline specific professional conferences and campus-wide presentation events this year. In January 2008, 27 students traveled to the Utah State Legislature (represented in this journal) and 14 students gave oral and poster presentations at the 2nd annual Utah Conference on Undergraduate Research (UCUR) February 29th at Utah Valley State College. The UROP sponsored Undergraduate Research Symposium, April 3rd saw over 150 presentations from every college on campus. For me, the highlight of the year was the National Conference on Undergraduate Research April 12 – 14, 2008 at Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland where 23 students from the U presented research with 2200 other undergraduates from 400 colleges and universities around the country. Our students did an excellent job representing the U at this prestigious conference. It's an honor to work with these brilliant young men and women and I look forward to another exciting and rewarding year.

