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A Message from the Editor

Looking back on the review process for the Fall 2011 issue of *Pursuit*, I have gained an enormous amount of respect and appreciation for the exceptional undergraduate talent at the University of Tennessee. We received over twenty submissions for this particular issue from students in disciplines ranging from geography to biology, and I must say I was blown away with the quality and the originality of the research papers that came in.

Pursuit is constantly striving to present an accurate picture of the many diverse research projects performed by undergraduate students. We make a point to ensure that the works selected for publication do not favor one academic discipline over another, and we are sensitive to the fact that certain disciplines tend to produce more written research papers than others. As the journal grows and progresses, we hope that we will be able to continue to pull in excellent research from all fields, but especially the more underrepresented fields in the sciences and in engineering. As outlined in the feature article in this issue, many students in the STEM fields produce outstanding research through various internships and grants, and our goal is that we will be able to showcase more science and engineering work as *Pursuit* develops.

I could not be more proud of this issue of *Pursuit*. I would like to extend a great many thanks to the review board, the research editors, and especially the managing editors. Their contributions to the growth and development of this journal have been absolutely invaluable, and their hard work and dedication certainly shows in the quality of this issue. It has been a privilege to work with this group of students, and we are looking forward to our upcoming Spring 2012 issue.

Sarah Russell
Junior in History
Editor in Chief of *Pursuit*