



Pursuit - The Journal of Undergraduate Research at The University of Tennessee

Volume 1
Issue 1 *Spring 2010*

Article 3

March 2010

A Message from the Founder

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Recommended Citation

Sharma, Payal (2010) "A Message from the Founder," *Pursuit - The Journal of Undergraduate Research at The University of Tennessee*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 1 , Article 3.

Available at: <https://trace.tennessee.edu/pursuit/vol1/iss1/3>

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A Message from the Founder

Dear faculty members, staff, and students:

The University of Tennessee stands as a prominent academic and research institution today. Undergraduate students begin by taking core academic courses and electives that pertain to their major across several departments and colleges. Many students then take the initiative to complete an independent study or senior thesis project through research. Students dedicate months and even years finishing these projects, which ultimately become an integral part of their academic journey. These projects are not only ambitious and exploratory, but also creative and diverse. And often, they precipitate a student's interest towards a particular profession.

After taking note of several accomplished projects by students from various disciplines, I decided to draft a proposal for the creation of a multidisciplinary undergraduate research journal. The proposal was approved by Dr. Brad Fenwick, Vice Chancellor for Research. With generous support and encouragement from the Office of Research and the Chancellor's Honors Program, the *Pursuit* Undergraduate Research Journal was established.

The primary inspiration behind *Pursuit* was UT's commitment to creating scholarly research and discourse. The purpose of the journal is to establish a well-coordinated, peer-reviewed journal to showcase and promote undergraduate research and creative achievements across campus. *Pursuit* offers students a university-sponsored publication opportunity that enhances their academic achievement and furthers UT's role as a top tier research university.

I sincerely hope *Pursuit* becomes a part of every scholar's journey on campus. It has been a tremendous experience working with the editorial board and the offices for the past few months.

Wishing success,
Payal Sharma,
Senior in Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology,
Founder of *Pursuit*

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