



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

Volume 5 | Issue 1

Article 2

June 2014

Letter from the Editor

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Recommended Citation

Lee, Melissa (2014) "Letter from the Editor," *Pursuit - The Journal of Undergraduate Research at The University of Tennessee*: Vol. 5 : Iss. 1 , Article 2.

Available at: <https://trace.tennessee.edu/pursuit/vol5/iss1/2>

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Dear Reader,

Having been a member of the *Pursuit: The Journal of Undergraduate Research* team for the past three years—first as a review board member and now as its editor-in-chief—I am proud to say that the quality of research within a single issue of *Pursuit* has never been higher. I am so grateful for all the hard work the review board, the research editors—Alex Houck and Evan Ford, the managing editors—Sahba Seddighi and Franco D'Aprile, the graphic editor—Marianela D'Aprile—and, most of all, the undergraduate researchers publishing in this journal have put into making this issue possible.

This year, *Pursuit* grew from a small, local undergraduate research journal limited only to submissions from University of Tennessee students to a journal with an international reach. We received submissions from students at other universities within Tennessee, students at other universities within the United States, and even from students as far away as the United Kingdom, India, and China. That the vast majority of the research within the journal—selected by a review board blind to author name and origin—remains produced by students at the University of Tennessee speaks to the capability and quality of our undergraduate students.

Here at *Pursuit*, we firmly believe that every student should have the opportunity to maximize his or her undergraduate experience through the pursuit of undergraduate research. However, we recognize that this can be a daunting task. In this issue, you will find a guide composed by the *Pursuit* editorial team aimed at helping you find and utilize several different types of undergraduate research opportunities. If you participate, we believe your time as an undergraduate will not just be enhanced, but transformed.

In these years of funding difficulties and rising tuition costs, this matters. The students that are published here in *Pursuit* are examples of students that have worked, through undergraduate research, to make the most of their educations. They ought to be commended, and I am honored to have played a small part in celebrating their hard work and creativity.

Happy reading, and happy researching.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Lee', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Melissa Lee

Senior in the College Scholars Program, Integrative Neuroscience