Dear Readers,

As many graduating seniors turn in their last research papers, or finish their last design seminars, we have, over 4 years, acquired a set of tools more powerful than any specific knowledge from their respective classes. The ability to reason, research, and formulate our own questions is invaluable, regardless of what path we take after college. While we continue with our ever-specializing educational training – formally or informally – we must be vigilant that we do not detach ourselves from a larger social context. With the opportunities afforded by this institution, we are obligated to use our skills to affect change from the local to international levels.

This second edition of the Journal of Undergraduate Research (jur) is grounded in an academic context, but demonstrates some of the relevant methods and tools that will be helpful beyond the college setting. Even though scholarly vernacular certainly has its place in academia, the style presented in this journal has been designed to reach a diverse audience while being mindful of placing it in a larger context. This issue again offers a broad look at undergraduate research interests ranging from Linguistics and Maths to Neuroscience and English.

Encouraged by the reception of our last issue by students and faculty, we hope that this issue will continue to inspire deeper and broader inquiry. An increase in interest has allowed our staff to rapidly expand, as well as encouraged high quality research submissions.

Again, we invite the University of Rochester undergraduate community to contribute their original research, letters, or reviews to the Fall 2003 issue of jur. Also, we are actively looking to expand the jur staff. Please e-mail journal@rochester.edu or visit our website jur.rochester.edu for further information.

Sincerely,

Prabhjot “Jot” Singh Dhadialla ’03
Editor–in–Chief