From the Editors

The University of Rochester is host to a variety of innovative research facilities, ranging from Optics laboratories to Women's Studies research centers. Within each academic discipline, undergraduate students collaborate with faculty members to create new research methods, develop original hypotheses, and make valuable contributions in their respective fields. From the first day of Freshman Orientation, undergraduate students are encouraged to participate in research and to explore ways of learning outside the classroom. Research can be an incredibly rewarding experience, and plays a vital role in the academic and creative enrichment of a large portion of the student population. Through research, students learn to become independent thinkers and develop critical thinking skills.

The Journal of Undergraduate Research (jur) strives to provide a medium through which undergraduates can present their original research to the rest of the student body, as well as to faculty members and other universities throughout the United States. We encourage submissions from a wide range of academic fields, from history or anthropology to biology or psychology. jur distinguishes itself from many other academic journals by presenting information from all academic disciplines; we believe that research in any field is significant. Through publishing original undergraduate research, jur hopes to promote curiosity and encourage other students to participate in research.

This current issue showcases promising and unique research from undergraduate students at the University of Rochester. The ideas and discoveries presented are diverse, but all reflect the intellectual curiosity and academic potential of the University of Rochester's undergraduates.

Sincerely,

Xiaoge Guo
Rachel Sims

Editors-in-Chief