

# President's Message

It is my honour to be a part of the inaugural issue of the *University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal* (USURJ).

Universities are places of discovery and because of that we spend a great deal of time talking about findings made by our faculty and graduate students. There aren't as many venues to celebrate the research work of our undergraduates. This journal, positioned to do just that, is an important undertaking and I wish to congratulate our students for creating a much-needed channel to showcase and celebrate the early achievements of our university research community.

USURJ helps expose our undergraduates to the world of research and discovery at the very start of their academic careers. It enables them to work with nationally and internationally recognized faculty, and provides a place in which their work can be published and their achievements recognized.

As a research-intensive university we must celebrate our achievements at all levels. But just as significant as the recognition of undergraduate work, is the value this journal brings to the academic experience. USURJ sends a clear message to our undergraduate students that they have the chance to not only witness how new knowledge comes to exist, but also be a part of the process of creating it and sharing it with the world.

This journal truly gives our students a chance to share both their perspectives and discoveries. Realizing where gaps of knowledge exist and being able to ask the questions needed to fill those gaps is an invaluable skill. The skills they develop through the research process will provide a solid foundation on which to build careers within and beyond the academy.

Ilene Busch-Vishniac  
*U of S president and vice-chancellor*

# Letter from the Editors-in-Chief

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal (USURJ)*. *USURJ* is an online, faculty-reviewed scholarly journal featuring original work by University of Saskatchewan undergraduate students. We are pleased to present a multidisciplinary collection of articles which exemplifies the excellence of University of Saskatchewan undergraduate students and the dedication of the faculty who support students in their journey towards research and scholarship.

In 2012 undergraduate students from across disciplines participated in a Research Learning Community through the University Learning Centre. Together they researched and presented a proposal for the university's first multidisciplinary undergraduate research journal, which led to support from the Office of the Vice-President, Research, and the University Learning Centre.

All articles were reviewed by University of Saskatchewan faculty members using a double-blind process. We greatly appreciate the contributions of all the faculty members who read manuscripts and suggested recommendations, which both informed decisions of the editorial board and provided valuable feedback to students. The overwhelming response to our call for papers made our final decisions challenging, and we thank all students who submitted articles for consideration.

It has been wonderful working with such an enthusiastic and persevering student editorial board, as well as the faculty and staff who have provided invaluable support. We would especially like to thank Liv Marken, University Learning Centre, and Kathleen James-Cavan, Department of English, for their hard work, support and guidance in creating a sustainable journal that we hope will continue to prosper through the years.

With this journal we intend to bring visibility to the outstanding undergraduate research happening on our campus and encourage undergraduate students to pursue research opportunities and graduate studies. Above all, the journal is a celebration of undergraduate contributions to research. We hope you enjoy this inaugural issue of *USURJ*.

Scott Adams  
Danielle Bruni-Bossio  
*Editors-in-Chief*

# University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal

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