Message from John Francis

An education is far more than the transmission of knowledge from one generation to another. A university education is built on the expectation that faculty and students both contribute to the constantly changing and expanding body of knowledge.

An education at a research university is best understood as a shared endeavor between the faculty and the students in learning more about ourselves and the world around us. It is an education that builds on the foundations of past scholarship in preparing students to contribute to future knowledge. We believe that the education we offer takes place both within and outside the classroom and no where is this more apparent than in the achievements of our students ranging from the laboratory to the stage.

We want our students not to be passive learners but active participants in making their education a rich and continually engaging enterprise. An obvious and important way to achieve this goal is to invite our undergraduates to work with our faculty. Our faculty are committed scholars engaged in a wide range of creative research projects that offer our students many ways in which they may contribute to our understanding of the world in which they live. Similarly, the students themselves pursue many projects which can benefit from faculty guidance to become valuable additions to our body of knowledge.

It is an impressive tribute to our students and to our faculty to see the rigorous and thoughtful creative work described in this journal. Educational achievement is best measured by what students do with their education. In this journal the reader will observe that our students are doing a great deal.

John Francis
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