

Message from John Francis

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

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 inside and outside the class room and nowhere is this more apparent than in the achievements of our students, which take place in all disciplines and media, ranging from the laboratory to the stage.

We want our students to be 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 on research endeavors with our faculty. Our faculty are committed scholars engaged in a wide range of creative research projects that offer our students countless ways in which they can actively contribute to our collective understanding of the world. Similarly, students themselves pursue many self-initiated projects which, through the benefit of faculty guidance, 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.

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