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# Greetings from the Director:

Welcome to the first edition of the University of Utah Undergraduate Research Abstracts, which appears both in electronic and hard copy form. I heartily applaud the 16 students who volunteered to describe in the pages that follow the research they conducted under the supervision of their faculty mentors. These students are a small but outstanding subset of a much

larger group of remarkable students who were recipients of fellowships from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program [UROP]. UROP's primary purpose is to provide undergraduate students with opportunities to collaborate directly with a faculty mentor in research and/or creative activities in every discipline. To find out about how to become involved in UROP, please visit our web site at: <http://www.ugs.utah.edu/student/UROP.htm>

This publication aims to offer students a forum for presenting abstracts of their scholarly work to other students, to their friends and family, to the University community, and to citizens of the state. In recognizing and publicizing these efforts, we encourage other students to emulate them. An increasing number of UROP students also submit their work for presentation at professional meetings, such as the annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research [NCUR]. The 2002 meeting of NCUR will be held during April at the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater, and the 2003 meeting will be held during spring break at the University of Utah. For conference information, consult the NCUR web site at <http://www.ncur.org/>

I wish to thank the faculty mentors for working with these students on their research and creative work. I also wish to thank the following faculty who provided ideas and encouragement that led to the launching of this publication: Professors Margaret P. Battin (Philosophy), David Dodd (Psychology), Sivaraman Guruswamy (Metallurgical Engineering), and Sheila Muller (Art). Finally, I am most grateful to Susie Christiansen for her assistance in preparing this publication.

In addition to these abstracts, we have reprinted on page 22 excerpts from an article, "A Doorway to Higher Education" written by two former students and previously published in the

*lessons* magazine.

Slava Lubomudrov  
Director and Associate Dean  
Undergraduate Research Opportunites Program and