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## Letter from the Editor

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# Letter from the editor

*“Nothing has such power to broaden the mind as the ability to investigate systematically and truly all that comes under thy observation in life.*

*Marcus Aurelius*

Anyone who knows me knows I love a good quote. So, I’m guessing that many of you are probably thinking, *Marcus Aurelius, really?* There was no one to quote who lived beyond the year 180? But hear me out: While Aurelius is probably best known for his cunning leadership as Emperor of Rome (161-180 CE) he was also a mathematician, a lover of law and science, a philosopher, a politician, an avid writer and reader. If he were alive today, he would subscribe to *The UR*, he would friend us on Facebook, even, because we publish what every dabbler enjoys—a little of everything. Volume VII features work from the social and natural sciences, mathematics, humanities, and arts. Aurelius was a thinker, a ponderer, an observer, and a systematic investigator, like the students featured in this year’s volume. The research on display in this year’s journal required inquiry and relentless pursuit of observation, resulting in some of the best, most polished work published by *The Review* thus far. And while he wouldn’t tear up over the aesthetics of it, or entertain any of the editorial whining about the layout issues or proofing the math formulas (he was a Stoic, after all) I like to think he would have it on his coffee table.

As always, the staff of *The Undergraduate Review* would like to thank the Adrian Tinsley Program (ATP) for funding the journal, The Office of the President, the Bridgewater Foundation, The Office of Undergraduate Research, and the faculty readers. Most of all, thank you to the dedicated BSU students and mentors for their time, effort, and hard work on display here.

I invite you to witness this “broadening of minds” as you read the diverse collection of scholarly and creative work showcased in this volume—a true testament of the conquering quest for knowledge here at BSU.

It is my pleasure to present to you Volume VII of *The Undergraduate Review*

STACY M NISTENDIRK

Managing Editor, *The Undergraduate Review*