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Faculty Advisor's Note

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I am very pleased to present to you Volume IV of *The Undergraduate Review*. The journal has grown significantly each year since the first, expanding diversity while maintaining its high quality. The mentored work you will find in this volume is wide-ranging. The Adrian Tinsley Program Grants section contains the results of the work of students who worked under the guidance of a faculty mentor during the ATP Summer Grant program. The opportunity for this ten-week research experience is open to all undergraduates, including both students with outstanding academic histories and students who show great promise. Grants are approved based on the quality of student proposals, and you will see the results of the extraordinary efforts these students produced.

The section of National Conference on Undergraduate Research includes work presented at the annual conference. Student submissions face rigorous competition from applications from across the nation. The section of Honors Thesis includes portions of honors theses produced by students who pursue Departmental Honors in their major program. The section on Coursework includes submissions that were originally produced as work for a course, and the same is true for the section on First & Second Year Work. All papers included in the volume were chosen only after being scrutinized by faculty with expertise in the individual disciplines. Thus, the journal is a review of excellence, representing a cross-section of some of the best mentored research and creative work produced by Bridgewater State College undergraduate students.

Production of *The Undergraduate Review* is made possible by the financial support of the Bridgewater Foundation, and the leadership and support of BSC President Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria. Dr. Nancy Kleniewski supports our product and our mission. Dr. Ron Pitt, my supervisor, offers advice and encouragement at every turn. I cannot give enough credit and thanks to Dr. Lee Torda and Dr. Ann Brunjes, whose significant efforts paved the way and laid the sustaining foundation for the continued success of the publication of this journal. Thanks go to Kathy Frederick in the OUR, who keeps us sane, relatively cheerful, and focused. Stacy Nistendirk, managing editor, deserves particular credit for her professionalism, commitment, and diligence. I am grateful to the faculty readers, who take on the burden of reviewing submissions and assure that the journal presents high quality work.

Finally, thanks must go to the students who desired to share their work with the larger campus community. You should be proud, not only to be included in journal, but also to present your work as inspiration for students who follow your example. To each of the mentors who worked with students, whether as course instructor or long-term mentor, your dedication to the profession is highly commended. Our students could not succeed without your help and support.

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