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Perpetua

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Volume 1, Issue 1

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A Letter from the Provost of the University of Alabama in Huntsville

One of the greatest opportunities The University of Alabama in Huntsville offers is the chance for students from any major to participate in collaborative research and creative projects with faculty and research staff during their undergraduate academic careers. In 2015, undergraduate students and supporting faculty and staff established *Perpetua*, a student-run journal focused on undergraduate research. The purpose of *Perpetua* is to provide a peer-reviewed forum for UAH undergraduate students to publish their research findings. *Perpetua*, which is published online, gives our undergraduate research exposure to a wide audience and recognizes the scholarly and creative contributions of our students. *Perpetua* has the potential to become the standard bearer of undergraduate research at UAH.

Undergraduate research and creative activities provide students and their faculty mentors with mutually beneficial opportunities. Students learn how to engage in the discovery process by performing research and/or developing a creative project. Students learn how to ask the right questions, collect and interpret data, develop creative ideas, discover novel solutions, experiment with different art forms, use the language appropriate to their future professions, report findings, and produce creative works while faculty and research scientists mentor the students through the process. Through *Perpetua*, students learn how to disseminate the knowledge gained through the discovery and creative process and learn the rigors of the peer-review process that pushes the research and creative work to excellence.

Perpetua connects the entire university through undergraduate research, showing the breadth, depth and diversity of research and creative projects in which our undergraduate students, faculty and research staff are engaged. UAH is widely recognized as a major research university attended by some of the best and brightest students in our nation. This inaugural issue of *Perpetua* presents articles written by these undergraduates who are passionate about research and creative achievement in their respective fields.

Christine Curtis
Office of the Provost
University of Alabama in Huntsville

Special Thanks

This journal would not have been published without the involvement of the University of Alabama in Huntsville and several advocates and benefactors. Their contributions supported the journals founding, along with the production and publication processes.

Perpetua would like to thank our university's provost, Dr. Christine Curtis, for providing the journal with a foundation to be published upon. We would also like to thank UAH Student Government Association for their gracious letter, and recognition of our journal. We certainly thank our reviewers, both peer and faculty, for their hard work of ensuring that our manuscripts are built of quality research. We thank our faculty advisors for their careful instruction on the building of an academic journal. A special thanks to Michael Mercier for photographing our faculty and staff. We are grateful for the involvement of the Department of Chemical and Material Engineering, especially for providing our faculty and staff with a conference room. And lastly, we thank the university's undergraduate research department for their sponsoring of our journal.

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