Welcome from the SURG editor

Welcome to the seventh issue of the University of Guelph's undergraduate research journal, SURG. We continue our tradition of presenting high-quality research from all across campus. As well, Graduate Studies joins the Office of Research and the McLaughlin Library as a new partner in producing SURG. This is a natural relationship – not only do many SURG authors eventually pursue graduate studies, but also their contributions here may help them win scholarships for such work. To mark the occasion, we've expanded content for the first time to include a perspectives piece on choosing research topics.

Already, our undergraduates are engaged in a wide range of exciting research. In this issue, Guelph students tackle topics such as adolescent sexual risk taking, racism related to battered women trying to find housing, interracial marriage and HIV/AIDS policy in Botswana. Other topics include freshwater scarcity and pricing, right-to-farm legislation, relationships between marine organisms, plant anatomy, controlling poultry infection, molecular simulations to understand multiple sclerosis and the physics of black holes.

Before you jump in, we'd like to thank all participants: student researchers, faculty supervisors, reviewers, journal advisors and readers. We look forward to upholding SURG as a venue for exceptional undergraduate research from all disciplines.

Sincerely,

Robert Fieldhouse
Editor-in-Chief