



Pursuit - The Journal of Undergraduate Research at The University of Tennessee

Volume 1
Issue 1 *Spring 2010*

Article 2

March 2010

A Message from the Chancellor

Jimmy G. Cheek

University of Tennessee - Knoxville, pursuit@utk.edu

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Recommended Citation

Cheek, Jimmy G. (2010) "A Message from the Chancellor," *Pursuit - The Journal of Undergraduate Research at The University of Tennessee*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 1 , Article 2.

Available at: <https://trace.tennessee.edu/pursuit/vol1/iss1/2>

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A Message from the Chancellor

Undergraduate research is a vital and growing part of campus life.

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, prides itself on being an institution dedicated to cutting-edge research that impacts the lives of Tennesseans and people around the globe, closely complementing our missions of teaching and public service. For that reason, it is fitting that our campus should work to encourage and promote research conducted by our undergraduate students.

The articles in this inaugural edition of *Pursuit* provide fine examples of innovative thinking by the scholars of tomorrow. Whether in the sciences, humanities or arts, this work serves to exemplify the commitment of our students – and the faculty who guide them – to the role of research and scholarship in our world.

Involving undergraduates in research and scholarship in the formal sense not only provides valuable lessons in process and methods, but also the opportunity to think creatively and determine new approaches to solving problems. Whether working with the world's fastest academic supercomputer or assisting with climate research in Latin America, our students have unparalleled opportunities to work alongside the world's best researchers. Undergraduate research like this can be the source of inspiration that lasts a lifetime.

By encouraging and nurturing research in our undergraduate population, we as a campus are helping to sow the seeds that will one day yield tomorrow's top graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and, ultimately, the faculty, entrepreneurs and scholars who will fuel our nation's engine of innovation for years to come.

I'm proud of the outstanding work that is contained in *Pursuit*, and I look forward to seeing more of it in the years ahead.

Jimmy G. Cheek
Chancellor
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

