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Foreword

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FOREWORD

Welcome to Volume 15 of the *Inquiry Undergraduate Research Journal*. The *Inquiry* journal was developed by the Teaching Academy of the University of Arkansas and is supported financially and conceptually by the offices of the Provost and the Vice Provost for Research and Economic Development. *Inquiry* provides a forum for sharing the research and creative endeavors of undergraduate students and their faculty mentors at the University of Arkansas. While the journal has traditionally been published once per year, given the increase in the number of outstanding submissions to the journal for possible publication, we have decided to publish two online volumes each year.

Volume 15 of the *Inquiry Undergraduate Research Journal* features the unique contributions of seven undergraduate student authors and their faculty mentors. Their research and creative endeavors span diverse fields at the University of Arkansas, including Architecture, Marketing, Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, Mechanical Engineering and Chemistry/Biochemistry. For example, using the theories of Kevin Lynch and Jane Jacobs, Hannah Breshears measures, compares, and evaluates spatial performance of formal and informal neighborhood spaces in Istanbul. Turning to Marketing, Samantha Feng compares and contrasts consumer attitudes, purchase intentions, and product choices as they relate to a standardized sustainability index. Mike Norton, Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, used 2010-2011 production data from Ghana to estimate the change in net present value associated with Cocoa Livelihoods Program training. Luke Osborn, Mechanical Engineering, examined the effects of targeted microstructures on the tribological performance of a surface in an effort to examine their ability to withstand considerable wear. In his study, Keaton Piper developed and examined whether low-cost titanate nanofiber-bioscaffolds compensate for the longstanding problem of implantable biomaterial's poor stability and versatility.

I would like to extend a special thank you to the many faculty members who volunteered their time and expertise to provide comprehensive reviews of student manuscripts. While we are unable to publish all of the submitted manuscripts, we want to thank the students and faculty mentors for their diligent efforts. Please join me in congratulating our authors; I hope that you enjoy this edition of the journal as much as we have.

We plan to publish Volume 16 of the *Inquiry* journal in March 2014. I encourage undergraduate students and faculty mentors to consider the *Inquiry Undergraduate Research Journal* for future publication.

Marcia A. Shobe, Editor