

# Inquiry: The University of Arkansas Undergraduate Research Journal

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## Foreword

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**FOREWORD**

The *Inquiry* journal was developed by the Teaching Academy of the University of Arkansas. The journal is supported financially and conceptually by the offices of the Provost and the Vice Provost for Research. Through print and on-line publication, *Inquiry* provides a forum for sharing the research and creative endeavors of undergraduate students at the U of A.

This issue of *Inquiry* records the scholarly contributions of 8 U of A student/faculty mentor pairs during the 2010/2011 academic year. The first three manuscripts by Fulton, Teague, and Walchuk are also the recipients of the 2011 Undergraduate Research Award. The work of Fulton and Teague shows the tenacity and commitment of undergraduate researchers as they took on projects that extended over several years and involved multiple stakeholders. Walchuk addressed an issue of vital importance at home and abroad – the link between immigration and far right sentiment and voting trends. The remaining articles display the remarkable diversity of research endeavors on this campus. It is particularly encouraging to see these leaders of the future engaged in studies that will ultimately make the world a better place – in business, computer technology, biomedical nanotechnology, inexpensive clean water, and cardiac health. The faculty mentors uniformly demonstrated belief in their students' abilities and a commitment to enhancing their students' growth in the research domain.

As always, many more high quality manuscripts were received than could be accepted for publication. Despite that fact, it was satisfying to note that the work in this issue reflects initiatives in five different colleges. Articles are selected for publication after review by faculty members with relevant content expertise. Manuscript reviews are needed at the end of the spring semester and into the summer (the worst possible time), yet faculty graciously agree to help in this process year after year. Space does not permit recognition of all of these individuals, but I am deeply appreciative. As Editor, I must also thank the members of the Publication and Undergraduate Research Award Review Board who gave so generously of their time.

While the papers chosen for publication vary in subject, method, writing style, and manuscript format, they are uniformly excellent in content. As much as possible, we have endeavored to maintain discipline-specific styles to provide students with a publication experience comparable to one they might find in their individual disciplines. I hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Inquiry*. On a personal note, this is my last year serving as Editor. It has been a wonderful opportunity to meet faculty and students and develop a greater appreciation for the research work that goes on at the University of Arkansas.

*Barbara B. Shadden, Editor*

**INQUIRY PUBLICATION AND UG RESEARCH AWARD  
REVIEW BOARD FOR 2010-2011 ACADEMIC YEAR**

*The following individuals made the selection of UG Research Award Winners and publication of Inquiry possible through their guidance and their willingness to take on reviewing responsibilities at the most hectic time of the academic year: David E. Gay, Amy Herzberg, Marcia Imbeau, Pat Koski, John Norwood, Janine Parry, Molly Rapert, Mary Jo Schneider, Mike Wavering.*