EDITORIAL

Letter from Frank J. Dooley, Senior Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning

Working closely with faculty mentors, undergraduate students improve critical-thinking skills, refine their research, develop conclusions, and craft scholarly papers for presentation at conferences and publication in journals, including in the *Journal of Purdue*

Undergraduate Research (JPUR). The benefits of the investigative process—and the faculty-student mentoring relationships that make it work—last well beyond graduation. In the Alumni Spotlights section of this journal, alumni describe how they have applied their research experiences to their lives after Purdue.

We are pleased to see an increasing interest in undergraduate research each year. To respond to this need, a new Office of Undergraduate Research opened its doors on July 1, 2017, under the direction of Dr. Amy Childress. The goal of the office is to provide critical research support by facilitating the development and sharing of resources, enhancing research collaboration and grant development, and working with Purdue's National and International Scholarships Office to seek student scholarship opportunities. The office will provide a one-stop shop for student information, and an online system will facilitate student-faculty matching across programs. The office will be responsible for managing the

annual Purdue Undergraduate Research and Poster Symposium, where students present their research to members of the community, other students, and faculty judges. With help from faculty and students, we will shine a bright light on undergraduate research and develop best practices to share across disciplines.

Most of all, we want to encourage more students to become involved in research so that they can benefit from its inherent advantages and fill many more volumes of the *Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research*. We are very proud of this high-quality, student-run publication, and I wish to acknowledge the outstanding support our students receive from members of the Purdue University Press, Purdue University Libraries, the Online Writing Lab, and Purdue Marketing and Media. Their collaboration has brought to you this volume of JPUR.

More than 60 years ago, Albert Einstein said to a Harvard freshman who had lost interest in his studies, “The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existence.”¹ Curiosity is the impetus that drives our undergraduates to conduct research at Purdue and we hope it will be an internal teacher for them for the rest of their lives. We hope, too, that it will motivate you to explore the pages of this seventh volume of JPUR and marvel, as we do, at the extraordinary students we call Boilermakers.

Note

1. From the memoirs of William Miller, an editor, quoted in *Life* magazine, May 2, 1955, *Expanded*, p. 281.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AT PURDUE

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