

## ***Letter from the President***

While they can have a dramatic impact on the careers and lives of students, undergraduate research and scholarly activity are among the most underappreciated of all student university experiences. Evidence indicates that scholarly collaboration between students and faculty effectively enhances the totality of an undergraduate education by creating opportunities to explore undiscovered regions of thought and practice. These academic experiences not only provide undergraduate students with unique educational opportunities but have the potential to ignite career paths in scientific and creative exploration that could last a lifetime.



As part of an effort to highlight and encourage greater undergraduate student development through academic research, we are pleased to announce the inaugural edition of *Chrysalis: The Murray State University Journal of Undergraduate Research*. The purpose of this journal is to celebrate many of the most interesting collaborative research projects between undergraduate students and faculty at Murray State University. I am confident that you will find the selected articles and the diversity of research and scholarly topics valuable as they attempt to address many complex challenges facing our increasingly global society today.

F. King Alexander  
President  
Murray State University