Welcome from the President

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At the University of Kentucky, we believe that our undergraduates should all have the opportunity to work in a mentored environment with our outstanding faculty scholars, pursuing inquiries that expand the boundaries of knowledge. Such mentored scholarly inquiries are what set apart an undergraduate education at a Research I university from study at other institutions. An ever-growing number of our students are now availing themselves of this wonderful opportunity. Some of the finest of their studies come to be published in *Kaleidoscope*.

The articles included in this issue continue the tradition of excellence set in earlier volumes. It is wonderful to enjoy the diversity of the studies. There is a challenging study of the application of the death penalty to women juxtaposed with an inquiry into the relationship of public policy to childhood obesity; a first-person report on Cossack pride and identity next to a study in plant cell biology. Virtually every academic aspect of the University is represented. I offer the authors my sincere congratulations.

UK’s dedication to excellence in undergraduate education is clearly demonstrated by the inclusion of the reports of our Beckman Scholars, the abstracts of many of our undergraduate researchers, and the impressive listing of academic prizes, honors, and conferences at which our students have presented their work.

As I have said in previous years, the success of our students is a direct result of the dedication of their faculty mentors. It has been said that if the student does not exceed the teacher, the teacher has failed. Time and again I have found our professors to take the greatest pride and pleasure in the creative and professional achievements of their students. We are fortunate at UK to have such caring, supportive faculty members, and I salute them.

I hope you will join me in congratulating the young women and men whose scholarly works are published in this issue of *Kaleidoscope*. These students are but a few of the thousands of highly creative and productive undergraduate scholars who are active at UK. For example, over thirty UK undergraduates made presentations of their scholarly work at the most recent National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), and scores of others have made presentations at other professional conferences. Together they are making contributions to the enhancement of knowledge and are being recognized nationally and internationally through their performances, publications, and productions.