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From the Editor's Viewpoint

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This is the seventh volume of Kaleidoscope and I never fail to be impressed by the quality of the scholarly contributions of our students. The breadth and depth of the interests and inquiries of our students continues to astonish me. Although editing a journal always entails hard work, I find that editing Kaleidoscope is also highly enjoyable. The joy comes from learning from the students and what they have written, and it comes from the pleasure of seeing our students excel. A university can only be as great as its students, and ours are outstanding.

The creation of a journal of this magnitude and quality is the result of the contributions of many individuals. Mine is only one part of the overall effort. Of course, the primary contributors are our students who have engaged in scholarly inquiries of the highest professional quality, and then put forth the hard work required to write publishable accounts of their results. As we all know, writing is hard work and the student authors have devoted themselves to this task admirably, learning and polishing their writing skills in the process of providing us with such wonderful reading. For every student author, there is a faculty member who has devoted countless hours first guiding the student’s scholarly inquiry and then to mentoring the writing and editing of the article. The enormous value added to a student’s education by these mentors is incalculable. The reward to the mentors is seeing their protégées grow and succeed. Many additional faculty members contribute by serving as anonymous referees who judge whether a submission is, indeed, of the high caliber we have come to demand for publication in Kaleidoscope.

In addition to the students, their mentors, and the faculty referees, there are two individuals who contribute mightily to the creation of each volume of Kaleidoscope. Evie Russell is the organizer and coordinator of all of the technical aspects of this journal. It is she who works directly with each of the students and their mentors. She arranges for the peer reviews of all submissions and summarizes the results. She coordinates the process of obtaining copyright permission for the use of images and other material. And, she arranges all of the business and technical details of final design and printing of the journal. In all of these and many other endless tasks, Ms. Russell is ably assisted by Kathy Logsdon, whose many contributions also are gratefully acknowledged.

I am sure that you will learn much from this issue and I hope that you will be inspired to become or remain active in undergraduate scholarship. Your education does not end when you leave the classroom. On the contrary, the classroom should be only the beginning. Engaging in and then writing about your own scholarship is the way we make the most of our educations and at the same time educate others.