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From the Editor's Viewpoint

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Welcome to the fourth volume of Kaleidoscope. It seems to me that each year I have been so impressed by the quality of the work of UK’s undergraduate students that it would not be possible for the next year to be better. And, each year I am proven wrong, as the articles, stories, poems, and other forms of creativity exceed the highest standard set previously. Such is the case once again this year.

The attitude of today’s students, their thirst for knowledge and for creative contributions, is not new. This issue begins with the republication of the first professional paper written by UK’s only living Nobel Laureate, William N. Lipscomb. Professor Lipscomb told me in his letter granting permission to reprint his article, “I finished early the laboratory work in a course... I then met with Prof. Baker to see if we could organize an undergraduate research study. Hence this: my first publication!” Precisely the same enthusiasm motivates the many students who seek mentored undergraduate research experiences in virtually every academic discipline through both the UK Undergraduate Research Program (UKURP) and the independent research programs of their individual departments. Most of the reports in Kaleidoscope are the direct products of such mentored studies.

I encourage you to consider the section of this issue devoted directly to UK’s new office of Experiences in Undergraduate Research and Kreative Activities (eUreKa!), part of the new Chelgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence. eUreKa! includes a number of programs designed to support undergraduate scholarly activities by undergraduates, including UKURP, the Beckman Scholars program, AMSTEMM, the Oswald Research and Creativity Awards, and support for undergraduate research and travel. You may find out much more about eUreKa! at www.uky.edu/eureka.

In this issue, we again have a broad range of contributions including theater, literature, philosophy, creative writing and poetry, natural sciences, health sciences, architecture, and sports, among others. This is an impressive collection, but no less than we should expect at a comprehensive research university. It is always my pleasure and reward to have the privilege of reading and learning from each of the articles, and then to work with the authors. I never cease to be impressed by their abilities and intellectual excitement. It is also my pleasure to acknowledge the essential contributions of Evie Russell who handles all of the administrative details of Kaleidoscope, Teresa Shear who develops the wonderfully creative design, and Matt Smith who produces the entire web site and the on-line version of the journal.

If you are a student, please consider submitting your work to the next issue of Kaleidoscope. Submission guidelines and deadlines are available on the inside back cover and at www.uky.edu/kaleidoscope. If you are a faculty member, please consider mentoring an undergraduate researcher and encouraging her or him to submit the resulting work for consideration for publication. If you are a parent, please be supportive and proud of your student’s creativity, and suggest that it be submitted to Kaleidoscope. Participation in creative and research undertakings is what can set apart an education at a comprehensive research university, and make it the superior professional experience that launches a student’s career — as it did for Prof. Lipscomb.