

Editorial

A Journal is Born - The *SUNY Geneseo Journal of Science and Mathematics*

It is my honor to introduce this first issue of the *SUNY Geneseo Journal of Science and Mathematics*. Science is a challenging discipline and advances only through the clear communication of ideas that form the ever-growing body of scientific and mathematical knowledge. This knowledge is principally laid down as manuscripts that have been tediously prepared by authors, carefully scrutinized by fellow researchers, and published in the academic literature for review by others. It is through this process that research has the potential to be considered a true contribution to the field.

I have three primary goals in establishing this *Journal*. First, this *Journal* provides a peer-reviewed periodical for the dissemination of articles written by students who have completed independent and mentored research at SUNY Geneseo in the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geology, Mathematics, and Physics. This will serve as many of our students' first complete experience of doing science or mathematics, from developing and conducting the research to its publication. Second, I hope that this *Journal* helps our students of science and mathematics to understand the process of publishing scientific work. In addition to the student researchers and authors, students gain the opportunity to participate in the *Journal's* production through manuscript editing, reviewing, and layout. The final goal of this *Journal* is to publish primary research so that it is accessible to the scientific community, both within the College and beyond. To further this goal the *Journal* is published free of charge on the internet and is, therefore, accessible to researchers around the world.

Manuscripts are currently being accepted on a continuing basis with plans to release several issues per year. We will consider manuscripts whose first authors are either students of SUNY Geneseo or have been Geneseo students within the past year. Priority will be given to manuscripts presenting original research in the above mentioned disciplines. The *Journal* will publish creative research that advances our understanding of science and mathematics. Other work, such as book reviews, may be considered for publication in the *Journal*, but prior consultation with the Editor is highly recommended before preparation of manuscripts.

Now is the best time to start this *Journal*. As this inaugural issue of the *Journal* goes to press (online), I feel proud to be a part of the scientific process that both encourages and facilitates the dissemination of student research in a format available to researchers and others throughout the world. This issue begins what I hope is a long tradition of reporting research results and discoveries by our student scientists and mathematicians.

This *Journal* would not be possible without the help and support of many colleagues and students. First, I would like to thank the authors for their efforts to submit and revise their manuscripts. I also would like to thank both the student and faculty reviewers of the manuscripts. The Associate Editors from each of the departments represent an important link between authors, reviewers, and the *Journal*. In addition, the two managing editors, Laura Rae Brady ('01) and Julie Walinski ('02), were most helpful in organization and production. Finally, I would like to thank the Biology Department Chairman Dr. Ed Spicka for his encouragement and support, Provost Dixon for her encouragement and stamp of approval, Dr. Doug Harke for his support, and our President, Dr. Dahl.

I feel lucky to have arrived at SUNY Geneseo and been able to initiate this process. The internet is clearly an important resource of information and represents the world's most far-reaching printing press. With the expansion of the information age and the free exchange of knowledge we are granted the amazing opportunity to present the accomplishments of our students in the fields of science and mathematics. I hope this new *Journal* continues to grow in its importance by providing both a high-quality forum for the presentation of our students' discoveries and, for students beginning their research careers, the inspiration and knowledge required to help develop and pursue meaningful careers in their scientific and mathematical endeavors.

Gregg Hartvigsen
Editor-in-Chief
Biology Department
SUNY Geneseo
Geneseo, NY 14454