

I am delighted to introduce the second issue of *Acta Spartae: The Journal of Undergraduate Research in the Sciences and Mathematics* at the University of Tampa.

Continuing on the success of last year's edition, the five publications this year represent a swath of intriguing research conducted by students at UT, from computational protein analysis to marine science. It is ever our goal at to publish articles that continue to showcase the wide variety of exciting opportunities for students to pursue research at UT, as well a way for these students to present their work in a professional, refereed journal.

New this year is the ability for authors to assign Creative Commons licenses to their submissions. Creative Commons is a way by which creators can share their work with a wide audience under less-restrictive and more collaboratively-oriented copyright license. Look for the Creative Commons logo © on papers which have been released under Creative Commons licenses.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who helped in the process of producing this edition: the Editorial Board of *Acta Spartae* along with our anonymous reviewers for their assistance with article review and editing; Dr. James Gore, Dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences and Dr. Joseph Sclafani, Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, for their support; and to all the students who sent in submissions and worked with the referees to produce the articles that have been published—without you, there would be no journal.

In conclusion, as we begin the 2016–2017 academic year, I continue to invite all aspiring authors to please consider publishing in *Acta Spartae*, and readers to send in their comments and suggestions through our website at <http://www.ut.edu/ActaSpartae>. It is my hope that this journal will continue to inspire students in their research, and remain a place where students in the sciences and mathematics can show off their results for a long time to come.

—Dr. Ethan Deneault
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Editor-in-Chief, *Acta Spartae*