

Volume X, April 2008

Preface

In 1998, The College of New Jersey published the inaugural volume of the *Journal of Student Scholarship*. The first issue offered an array of eight articles from the natural sciences followed by seven from the humanities, social sciences, and education. First in the issue appeared an article co-authored by a student, Michael P. Cassidy, and a member of the Chemistry Department, Professor Georgia M. Arvanitis. "Palladium Catalyzed Arylation and Amination" explored the synthesis, through experimental methods, of substances known as cinnamaldehyde, methyl cinnamate, and cinnamic acid. One set of experiments yielded convincing results, while another left the investigators with more work to do. This paper grew from a student-faculty research project, a collaborative pedagogy to which The College of New Jersey was already committed in the 1990s.

The humanities, social sciences, and education section opened in 1998 with an article by Joseph A. Bisti, sponsored by Professor John Landreau, of Modern Languages, for an Honors course. Titled "Rational Repression: The Ideologies behind Argentina's 'Dirty War,'" the essay investigated state terror in Argentina, emphasizing political, social, and economic consequences from 1976 to 1983. It discussed the effects of military dictatorship on the lives of professionals in education and law. Paradoxically, the author observed, nationalism arose as the nation was torn asunder through the period of military government.

As these two inaugural articles suggest, the divide between the two cultures, the sciences on the one side and the humanities, social sciences, and education on the other, appeared in formal delineation in the first issue. Yet the journal insisted by its very existence on bridging that divide. Ten years later, the College has nurtured and matured its commitment to student-faculty collaboration. The *Journal of Student Scholarship* has likewise evolved. Most noticeable is the growing diversity of disciplines and interdisciplinary work that enlivens the pages over the first decade, the quality consistently superior. The *Journal* records our own growth as an institution dedicated to the best possible undergraduate experience. We hope that the articles published in each volume live as a source of pride for the student and faculty authors throughout their careers—and as an enduring record of achievement for our community.

Susan Albertine
Professor of English
Dean, School of Culture and Society