

# Message from the Dean of Arts and Science

It is my great pleasure to introduce to the Trent community – as well as to the wider community – the first edition of the Journal of Undergraduate Studies at Trent (JUST). The idea for this journal came from two undergraduate students here at Trent who wished to collect together and publish a sample of some of the excellent research done by our students. My office was pleased to support and encourage Chris Allen and Syed Hussan as they planned and promoted the journal and as they recruited students to fill the editorial and production teams and faculty to help with the review process.

Trent is justifiably proud of the opportunities afforded its undergraduate students to engage in research, whether it is undertaken independently or with fellow students or faculty; within traditional disciplinary boundaries or across disciplines; in the humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences, or in select professional programs. The editors of the inaugural edition of JUST had a very difficult time selecting among the excellent essays considered for review. The high quality of research by Trent's undergraduates bodes well for the future of this journal. And it speaks to the need to recognize this research and to provide a forum in which to disseminate it. The editorial team is to be congratulated for its commitment to making this research readily available to the public through its open access policies.

I am very proud of the students who initiated the journal, the students who worked towards its successful publication, the students who submitted essays to be considered for inclusion in the inaugural edition, and all the faculty who encourage and inspire our undergraduates to do their very best. I wish the current – and future – editorial and production teams well. And I hope you, the reader, will find the papers in the first edition as stimulating and thought-provoking as I did and that, if you are an undergraduate student at Trent, you will think about submitting your own research papers to JUST for review and possible inclusion in future editions.

With very best wishes and with thanks to Chris and Hussan for including me in this very exciting initiative,



Christine McKinnon  
Dean of Arts & Science