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## Editor's Note

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# The Catalyst

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**John Rimann**  
Editor and Chief

## Dear reader,

You are reading the inaugural issue of the re-launch of The Catalyst, the undergraduate research journal of The University of Southern Mississippi. The mission of The Catalyst is to allow undergraduates at The University of Southern Mississippi the opportunity to engage in one of the core aspects of scholarly and academic life from the earliest stages of their careers: publishing research in a peer-reviewed scholarly journal. We believe that having the opportunity to experience this process first-hand while still an undergraduate will help our students extensively as they hone their writing skills, submit applications for grad school, and build their academic portfolios. The process of publishing this first issue put the old aphorism “Begin, the rest is easy” to the test, but through the good and the bad we have had an amazing team and support system every step of the way. In particular I am indebted to Dr. Jeanne Gillespie, Dr. Marie Danforth, and Josh Cromwell, without whose help, encouragement, and unwavering support this project would never have gotten off the ground. Though this marks the end of my time with The Catalyst I am confident that it is in good hands with y’all at the helm.

Thank you to the Center for Undergraduate Research and Dr. Gordon Cannon for supporting this project. A special thanks as well to Professor John Lawler and the entire team at RISE Creative, whose excellent work and dedication has helped to make our vision come true.

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