

March 22, 2009

Dear LMU Community Members, Students, and Guests,

Welcome to the first annual LMU Undergraduate Research Symposium. This event reflects Loyola Marymount University's commitment to academic excellence both inside and outside of the classroom. The LMU Undergraduate Research Symposium provides an opportunity to showcase student discoveries from their faculty-mentored work in the Ballona Wetlands, arts studios, virtual environments, and academic libraries, among other resources. Our students have engaged in research in Beijing and Tibet to Peru and the Taizé community in France. Others have worked in the science laboratories of faculty at UCLA, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Washington, the University of Notre Dame and in the local prisons. We are also pleased to showcase the work of students in the creative arts in dance, music, creative writing, screenwriting, and art history.

The LMU Undergraduate Research Symposium celebrates much of what Loyola Marymount University has to offer. It brings to the fore the accomplishments of our students and the mentoring efforts and expertise of our stellar faculty. This year's theme, *Foundations for the Future: Building a Strong Bridge from Theory to Application*, reflects our collective understanding of and appreciation for the benefits of faculty/student collaborative projects. Undergraduate engagement in research and creative activity enhances a student's professional communication skills, prepares students to work effectively as part of a team, encourages them to explore graduate school opportunities and potential career paths, and sharpens critical thinking skills. All the while, students build confidence as independent thinkers, grow in their understanding of ethical issues and in their responsibility to contribute to the world in which we live.

Thank you for participating in the LMU Undergraduate Research Symposium and for supporting the undergraduate researchers and creative artists presenting here today. We especially thank all of the faculty mentors who have devoted so much time guiding our students in their work. We look forward to the future of these outstanding students and we hope that today's program will inspire other students and faculty to be involved in next year's presentations.

Please join me in congratulating today's presenters!

Sincerely,

Rae Linda Brown
Vice President of Undergraduate Education