From the Editorial Board

Tempus fugit – time flies, especially when you are working on an exciting venture, such as establishing a student research journal. With the publication of this issue, *Aquila* already enters its third year of existence. It has been a great and wonderful experience and privilege to work with so many dedicated and talented FGCU students, faculty and staff. While there is, of course, plenty of room for further growth, *Aquila* has been established as part of the fabric of student scholarship at FGCU. At least as important is the growing acceptance and appreciation of *Aquila* as a way to publish the outcomes of faculty-mentored scholarship and research. Having a strong and growing faculty support bodes well for the future for *Aquila* and our students’ scholarly activities.

There are many people who deserve to be acknowledged for their help and support for this current issue. However, what stands out this time is the support of the FGCU Student Senate and Government, who stepped up and made it possible for us to have a printed journal again. As of now, FGCU is the only university in the State University System with a student research journal that is being published online and in print at the same time. We are looking forward to continued support from all areas of FGCU to keep *Aquila* growing.

One of the best assets and greatest strengths of this issue again is the breadth of topics covered by our authors. There are articles looking at recent political events (*Dictatorships to Democracies: The Democratic Progress of Tunisia and Egypt Following the Arab Spring*) or topics that have been at the center of passionate public discussion (*Historic Selective Breeding has led to Canine Breed Discrimination and Stereotyping; Lolita and Friends: An Ethical Examination of the Life Histories of Captive Orcas*), but also contributions that demonstrate the strengths of FGCU as a research institution (*The Master of Genomic Programs: HOTAIR in Cellular Development and Cancer Metastasis; Aloe Emodin’s Effects on Apoptosis in Cervical Cancer Cells, etc.*).

However, *Aquila’s* role goes beyond publishing student authored scholarship. We want to play a role in educating students and faculty about student research/scholarship in general and opportunities to get involved at FGCU. Therefore, this issue includes a guest column by Dr. Charles “Billy” Gunnels, the Director of Quality Enhancement Plan & Undergraduate Scholarship, on his office’s role in promoting scholarly activities of undergraduate students. We also asked our new Scholarly Communication Librarian, Chealsye Bowley, to introduce herself and her position to our readers, and last, but not least, students from the *Aquila* Editorial Board interviewed Dr. Lyndsay Rhodes, a cancer researcher in the Department of Biological Sciences (and faculty mentor for one of our authors) to learn more about her path to cancer research and what advice she has for students who want to get involved in research. The
final piece in this sequence is a short report on a truly unique research internship of an FGCU student at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

We hope you will enjoy reading Volume 3, Issue 1. If you didn’t catch the first issues or you want to learn more about student scholarship at FGCU, go to our website (fgcu.edu/aquila) where you will find a lot more than we can offer you in print. If you are interested in getting involved with Aquila, may be as a reviewer or as a member of our Registered Student Organization (Aquila Student Research Journal) and help us grow Aquila even more, just send us a message (aquila@fgcu.edu) or give us a call.

On behalf of the Aquila Editorial Board

Melodie Eichbauer, Ph.D.  Peter Reuter, M.D., Ph.D.

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- University leadership and the Deans of the Colleges for supporting student scholarship and the Board of Trustees for making the future bright for Aquila by including faculty and financial support in the new strategic plan.

- Last but not least, we would like to thank all faculty and staff who support student scholarship at FGCU. Without you this journal and this university wouldn’t be what they are.