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## INTRODUCTION TO EUREKA

Eureka is a student-founded and student-run initiative whose mission is to promote the world class undergraduate research done in the Faculty of Science. This journal offers undergraduate scientists the unique opportunity to share their discoveries with the scientific world, while learning the peer review process. Most undergraduate students do not get to experience the publication process as part of their scientific education. Eureka is an educational institution, with a diverse team of reviewers from many scientific backgrounds. Through clear, effective scientific writing students will be able to work together with faculty members to promote University of Alberta science. Eureka serves to recognize, encourage, and reward intellectual activity in science. Each year hundreds of undergraduate students complete honours projects and write thesis of their work. Eureka will take this one step further by allowing students to learn clear scientific writing, in addition to an educational taste of the peer review process. In addition to primary research, Eureka will also be publishing interviews and biographies with various members of the faculty to help bridge the gap between faculty and the undergraduate students. Eureka is beneficial to the faculty as it is beneficial to the student population. In addition to being an invaluable educational tool, this journal brings a sense of community to the Faculty of Science through the exchange and dissemination of research and ideas. Eureka's breadth covers all disciplines of science, increasing faculty awareness of the research being done at the University of Alberta. While this is an educational tool aimed at undergraduates in their higher years, this journal serves to promote scientific research to the entire faculty. An awareness of quality research only serves to promote science further by attracting better students.

In my first year of university the faculty of science decided to help bridge the gap between the undergraduate experience and involvement in research by hosting a number of key speakers to my first year class. I was lucky enough to be in a seminar of a world-renowned expert of... insects. While I praise the effort that the Faculty of Science made to get me and my peers involved with research this experience only served to further alienate me more from basic research. "Research for research' sake" seemed to involve pulling bugs apart, and that did not satisfy what I wanted to accomplish in science. For the rare student I am sure this was the chance of a lifetime, to hear from an expert in a field that inspired and amazed them. My own involvement in research happened by chance, which is something I hope to change for students in years to come. As for basic research – that "insect researcher" happened to be Dr. Reuben Kaufman, who studies the physiology of ticks. Years after first hearing him speak I considered joining his team, when my grandfather was diagnosed with Lyme disease, a disease carried by a tick vector.

If you are a student in this faculty, you have already been given the tools to succeed in science, medicine or industry. Being a student in a research-intensive university allows you to be at the cutting edge of groundbreaking research. Taking that first step in research, be it a summer job, an honours thesis or volunteer work is easier than you might think. Most professors are happy to talk to you about research (even more so about *their* research), and often the first step is finding an email online and simply going to meet them. Have an area that you are interested in? Every department has an exhaustive list of their faculty members and their research interests through the Faculty of Science website.

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