

## Letter from the Editor, Paul Matsudaira

Most of you have never published a paper before today. In this inaugural issue of the MIT BUG Journal, your intellectual scholarship, honed in Project Lab or a UROP, is displayed as a scientific communication. We, the Biology faculty, are proud of your achievements and this Journal is one way that we introduce you to the real world of science. In a couple of years, some of you will start publishing papers. This experience will prepare you for that important part of science.

However, this Journal reflects the effort of many people who should be acknowledged. First, you the students took up the challenge that we laid before you to write a paper according to our guidelines (the new Phase II requirement). Approximately 70% of the papers were rejected in the first round of reviews and accepted after two or three revisions. Science also works this way. Our papers improve from the comments and criticisms of our peers. Second, the faculty seriously reviewed the papers and wrote critiques like those for papers submitted to a scientific journal. Dr. Lessard and Profs. Sanders, Weinberg, Grossman, Robbins, Pardue, and Steller served on the editorial review board for this edition. They set the standard for publication. Third, BUSA provided much of the student leadership for the Journal. Orli Bahcall, Sam Jahanmir, Maitreya Dunham, and Lisa Tattersson devoted much of their time to shape the Journal. Fourth, financial and intellectual support for the Journal came from an NSF grant award to Dean Roz Williams and Dean Les Perelman. Their generosity in sharing the funds and Institute resources made the idea of a Journal a reality. Dean Perelman deserves particular thanks. His enthusiasm pushed the Journal through the MIT Infrastructure. The Biology Department also contributed its share to the Journal, thanks to the Chair, Phil Sharp. Fourth, a large number of other people contributed to different parts of the Journal and the Writing Program. All of you know Sue Fitzgerald in the Biology Office. Sue and Julie Morrill in my office kept the records and managed the flow of messages and manuscripts between you and me. Ms. Nancy Mulford, the Biology Department Writing Tutor, helped many of you transform your bits and strings of knowledge into a cogent and coherent paper. Together with your UROP supervisors and Project Lab instructors, this team of professionals introduced you to a taste of science communication. Profs. Gene Brown, Bob Sauer, and Graham Walker guided the early phases in the development of the Journal. Prof. Hazel Sive contributed the important idea of the non-scientific abstract. Lastly, Ms. Liane Fredel played key roles at seminal points of the project. She designed the journal and the web page. From the outset, the professional look of the journal convinced many that this effort is justified. The publication of this journal is the result of her work to format and edit the manuscripts. All these people deserve our thanks.

A final note, you spent much time writing and revising your papers. Thank you for persevering. I hope you value this publication as much as we do.