Dear Readers,

Thank you for taking time to read the 12th edition of Eukaryon. The purpose of Eukaryon is to showcase the outstanding work done by students at Lake Forest College. As in all years, the entire board has worked exceptionally hard to make this publication possible. I was blessed to have a board who deeply cared about the journal and producing the wonderful journal product you are currently holding. Like all journeys, the path was not smooth. However, the board rose to each challenge presented to ensure a successful publication. I hope you enjoy it.

At the beginning of the school year the board met to determine the theme for this year’s journal. This year Dr. William B. Martin, the iconic organic chemistry professor at the college is retiring after teaching at the college for 54 years. Anyone that has taken his class remembers him repeating the phrase, “Structure is everything” to help students understand the importance of structure in understanding properties of molecules. This phrase is very similar to the major biological theme “structure indicates function” reminding us that biology and chemistry continue to be intertwined. In order for many biological systems to be understood, chemical principles must often be applied. Thus, this year’s theme, “Structure is everything,” pays tribute to a man who dedicated his life to cultivating the minds of Lake Forest College students while also being rooted in an essential biological principle.

This year at inauguration we wanted to have a speaker who bridged the gap between the fields of biology and chemistry. We were fortunate to have one of our own, Dr. Karen Kirk, give a talk about her research. Dr. Kirk received her bachelors in science while majoring in chemistry at the University of Delaware. However, she eventually became interested in biology as well which led her to receive her PhD in molecular genetics at Rutgers University. She then did her Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the University of California San Francisco, where she worked in Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn’s laboratory. Dr. Blackburn won the Nobel Prize for her research about telomeres and the enzyme telomerase. Lake Forest College students have worked in Dr. Kirk’s laboratory for many years and learned the skills necessary to be successful in their ventures after college. The college is fortunate to have a professor like Dr. Kirk. Dr. Kirk’s field of molecular biology requires a great knowledge of both chemical and biological principles, which made her a perfect fit as this year’s inauguration speaker.

This publication would not be possible without the support of many individuals. First, I would like to thank the journal’s advisors Dr. Alexander Shingleton and Dr. Ann Maine. They provided us with wise guidance and helped us navigate problems that arose. They pushed us to produce a product we all can be proud of. Although he was not our advisor this year, Dr. DebBurman’s vision for Eukaryon continues to persist and he remains a valuable reservoir of knowledge to utilize. I would also like to thank Lindsey Nemcek, Assistant Director of Communications and Marketing, and Dr. Dawn Abt-Perkins, Director of Writing Programs and Professor of Education for their support of Eukaryon for multiple years. They have been essential in ensuring quality writing is produced and that our journal is professional. Finally, thank you to Lake Forest College for continuing to invest and believe in Eukaryon. The production of the publication teaches each member how to work together to create something greater than ourselves.

Sincerely,

Tyler Kaplan
Editor-in-Chief, Eukaryon, 2015-2016