

Title: The Never- Ending Discovery of Invention: the Mission of *Inventio*: The Undergraduate Research Journal of The Catholic University of America

Last year, a group of undergraduates, in collaboration with two faculty editors, launched the first issue of *Inventio*: The Undergraduate Research Journal of The Catholic University of America. Certainly, the articles within the journal speak to the importance of research initiatives at the university, although the journal itself and the ideas driving its production by the Student Editorial Board (SEB) serve as examples of research in their own right. *Inventio*'s title is derived from the Latin word *invenire*, meaning "invention" or "discovery," and was chosen because the journal is a student-driven inquiry into the nature of research. As it materially "invents" or assembles the journal, the SEB sets and upholds standards for publishing student research across the fields of theology, philosophy, the humanities, and the social sciences. As it works towards the publication of each issue of *Inventio*, the SEB is forced to confront the question of what qualities research ought to have, ultimately asking: What makes research valuable? In this sense, *Inventio*'s SEB also embarks on a mission of discovery. In this presentation, members of the SEB will describe how their invention of a platform for undergraduate research has ultimately been an ongoing discovery of research's defining qualities, universal aspects, and impact on the intellectual community at CUA.

In striving to define these elements of research, the SEB raises pertinent questions for the university by examining how undergraduates and the CUA community understand the value of undergraduate research. In attempting to answer these questions, the SEB is expanding students' understanding of how research can reach beyond the classroom. Overall, the SEB seeks to promote undergraduate research, to engage in an ongoing dialogue across the disciplines mentioned above, and to encourage an environment that supports academic success. By presenting the current state of this project to a wider audience, the SEB seeks to serve and encourage CUA undergraduate students in their efforts to discover and impart knowledge, as well as the faculty members who mentor them.

The work performed by the SEB, at every stage of the publication process, speaks to a profound commitment to research in that the board seeks not to publish their own work, but rather to publish exemplary work by other students. The focus is on the importance of undergraduate research and *Inventio* strives to appeal to a general audience, both at CUA and beyond, without sacrificing academic quality. The journal is an exploration of shared standards of research that promotes an interdepartmental interest in that research on a smaller scale through the work of students from different disciplines. *Inventio* does not solely belong to a department, a school, the SEB, or to its contributors. The research of *Inventio* has been an exercise in discovering the true purpose of academic research: fostering connections.