MISSION STATEMENT

Here is a secret about research that only researchers know: it only looks easy.
Here is the truth about research: it is not easy at all.

It is a seemingly endless literature review, your browser complaining when you open the fiftieth tab, but you are the one who wants to cry when the perfect article denies you access. It is coaxing your cells to grow, until you are willing to sell your soul for data, any data, never mind the gorgeous histology in other people’s papers. It is curling in the fetal position when very expensive equipment breaks, right when you need it.

Research is primarily the art of running into walls, finding the sheer stubborn will to shake off the concussion, and charging at the wall again. Some might say performing the same actions and expecting different results is insanity. In research, it’s just the scientific method.

The University of Maryland, College Park has long been established as a top national research university. It is consistently named as one of the top fifty research universities and one of the top twenty-five public research universities in the nation. The university acquired $401 million in research money in 2008, offering a means for looking at the world through a kaleidoscope of perspectives.

But how can a research institution reach its full potential if the undergraduate students are overlooked and pushed to the periphery? Before now, there have been few avenues for students to share their work with the rest of the community. They have had little opportunity to engage in academic discussion and debate. We foster a “culture of research” by providing an outlet for students to publish work across all disciplines, including:

- **Life Sciences:** biology, chemistry, biochemistry, ecology
- **Applied Sciences:** engineering, mathematics, computer science, physics, geology
- **Social Sciences:** economics, government/politics, psychology, business, sociology

We seek to connect student researchers with one another, so they might form intellectual partnerships and friendships. We sponsor workshops and presentations to not only encourage interdisciplinary discourse, but to share research opportunities and practical advice for advancement in their fields.

*Scientific Terrapin* celebrates the insanely brilliant (or brilliantly insane) student researchers. We salute students for their initiative, their dedication, and their pursuit of knowledge. We herald the work of promising young minds and extraordinary mentors. We offer a stepping stone for burgeoning, bright scientists at the beginning of their careers.

But mostly, we are honored to have ringside seats for the wave of exciting research produced at the University of Maryland.