



Dear Readers: Welcome to the spring 2006 issue of *Nanoscope*!

Our goal with *Nanoscope* is to provide insight into the exciting advances in nanoscience research and to encourage undergraduates to pursue research in this area. Most of the Nanoscale Science and Engineering Centers (NSECs) around the country, including ours here at Northwestern University, have active Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) programs.

All of the authors featured in *Nanoscope* were part of an REU program, and I know from my personal experience in an undergraduate research program years ago just how life-changing these programs can be. If you have interests in science and/or engineering, I strongly encourage you to seek out the program that is right for you and apply (a list of all of the NSECs and links to their web sites can be found at www.nsf.gov/mps/dmr/awards/dmr_nsec.jsp).

I would like to thank the students who submitted and/or reviewed articles and the mentoring professors, postdoctoral associates, and graduate students who contribute to the undergraduate research experience and to the development of each issue. And finally I would like to thank managing editor Kathleen Cook, without whom this journal would not be possible.

Enjoy the issue!

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