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Cover image: Particle Interactions in a bubble chamber (image copyright CERN)	

Editorial

Welcome to the first volume of SURJ: The annual SEPS Undergraduate Research Journal, published by the School of Electronics and Physical Sciences (SEPS) at the University of Surrey.

This first volume is a trial of what I hope will become a successful and established project in the School. For this first year, the Journal is open to Physics students only. Its purpose is to give undergraduate students at Surrey experience of the scientific publishing process in all its stages – from writing the articles, to refereeing and having their own work refereed – to seeing their research work in print. Its secondary purpose is to showcase the research that undergraduates in SEPS undertake, since our MPhys research year and professional training year provide Surrey students with unique opportunities amongst undergraduates to perform research. It is also an auspicious year to begin such a project in the Physics Department, as we are celebrating 100 years of existence, following our founding in 1906 at Battersea Polytechnic.

In this first volume, the articles cover research ranging from medical imaging and neutron detector design, to particle physics and the foundations of quantum mechanics, showing a wide range of the kind of research that goes on in the Physics Department. I look forward, next year, to seeing more articles submitted by the keenest students, not just in Physics, but also in Mathematics, Computing and Electrical Engineering – the other Departments making up SEPS.

The publication of SURJ was made possible this year thanks to the University's Fund for Strategic Development of Learning and Teaching (FSDLT), for which many thanks are due. In future, we hope to attract sponsorship, so if you would like to advertise in future editions, please do get in touch. Contact details can be found below.

This year a prize of £250 will be awarded to the best article, to be judged after publication by the Departmental publicity and marketing committee. Sponsorship willing, we hope to continue this prize in future years.

Finally, I would like to thank Juliette White, who was involved with SURJ at its inception before moving on to better things at the Open University.

Submission Instructions

Those wishing to write an article for the next volume should discuss the suitability of the material with either the editor, and/or their project supervisor. Articles must be prepared using Microsoft Word, and separate copies of any figures provided. Articles, and any correspondence, should be sent to surj@surrey.ac.uk. The formatting of the articles should be kept as plain as possible as the layout will be arranged at the production stage by the designer. The deadline for submission of articles for the 2007 volume is 31st Jan 2007. Following the deadline, all authors will be asked to act as referees for other articles, with the printed issue ready in time for graduation.

Dr. Paul Stevenson
Editor