It is my pleasure to present the eleventh volume of *Pioneering Neuroscience: The Grinnell Journal of Neurophysiology.* The articles collected in this volume represent original contributions to the field of Neuroscience offered by students *in the tenth offering* of Biology 150: Introduction to Biological Inquiry - the Language of Neurons. As has been true for nine previous classes of Bio 150, this course was taken by most of the students during their first semester in college. For all of the students, this was their first college-level biology course!

The articles in this volume explore several themes: the modulatory actions of octopamine and serotonin, retrograde modulation of synaptic transmission via nitric oxide and endocannabinoids, the role of internal calcium stores in neurotransmitter release, the mechanism of action of the crustacean neuropeptide FMRFamide, and an exploration of a novel mechanism by which the antidepressant drug Prozac interacts with serotonin. Of course, all of this was done using the wonderful model system of the crayfish neuromuscular junction. I hope you enjoy this volume and trust you will be as impressed as I am with what these students have accomplished in such a short time.

I wish to thank the students of Biology 150 for their hard work and collegiality. None of this would have been possible without the major contributions of Sue Kolbe, the lab instructor for Biology 150, and the excellent mentors/lab assistants Grace Hazeltine ’12 and Molly Wingfield ‘12. Lastly, I am pleased to acknowledge Helen Carey ’04, who contributed the cover illustration.

Clark Lindgren, Editor
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