

“Be mindful that the disposition to seek the truth is safer than one that claims to know the unknown. Let us search in ways to make discoveries, and discover in ways to keep on searching.”

St. Augustine, *De Trinitate*, IX, 1,1

As we collectively find ways of navigating our changing world, where misinformation and disinformation are prevalent, research and inquiry remain imperative. This volume showcases the breadth and depth of intellectual inquiry pursued within the Augustinian tradition, highlighting how scientific exploration can intersect with creativity and curiosity across diverse fields of study.

From black holes to mangroves, biomarkers to bioethics, plagues to robots, and everything in between, these studies demonstrate the power of interdisciplinary research and the potential of young minds to make meaningful contributions to their respective fields. We are proud of the work presented in this issue, which represents the commitment of Villanovans in addressing the challenges of our time. They boldly pursue truth, progress, and the common good.

We continue to extend our deepest gratitude to the faculty mentors who have guided these students throughout their research, as well as to the readers who continue to support and engage with VVRJ. We look forward to the future of undergraduate research at Villanova University and hope this issue inspires both current and prospective researchers to pursue their academic passions.

Sincerely,

Emily Wetzels-Ulrich,
Gray F. Kidd, and
The VVRJ Student Editorial Team

