

# INTRODUCTION FROM THE OFFICE OF SOCIETAL IMPACT

The Office of Societal Impact, within the Office of Research, Innovation, and Impact (RII), is proud to support the Arizona Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies (AJIS). Our office strives to expand equitable access to high quality undergraduate research and inquiry experiences across disciplines. A crucial part of conducting research is presenting findings, and AJIS is committed to showcasing the incredible efforts of undergraduate student researchers. Providing a wealth of opportunities ensures that our future is full of a diverse group of leaders forging innovative pathways, forming powerful collaborations, and making remarkable discoveries.

Since its revival in 2020-21, the AJIS team has worked diligently to keep the journal moving forward each year. The strong foundations being built will allow for the journal to continue in perpetuity and will leave it in an excellent position to expand in new directions. This year's team consisted of six returning editors, one of whom stepped into the role of Assistant Editor-in-Chief. These experienced editors welcomed two new editors and a new graphic designer to their team. The collective efforts of this team to not only prepare the journal for publication but also to strengthen each team member's editorial, leadership, and communication skills is truly inspiring.

The papers featured in this 9th issue of the journal seek to better understand influences, past and present, that affect human behavior on an individual and societal level. This generation of undergraduates is facing social injustices and inequities that have gone unaddressed for decades. These unique challenges will require interdisciplinary insights, extensive collaboration, and creative solutions to make meaningful change. In a time of heightened tensions and conflicting ideologies, AJIS provides a scholarly platform for societal challenges to be discussed and the groundwork for interdisciplinary solutions to be laid.

The display of remarkable undergraduate research showcased in this year's journal is just the tip of the iceberg; this devoted team of student editors will undoubtedly continue to shine a spotlight on the incredible scope of interdisciplinary undergraduate research taking place across campus. We are committed to supporting AJIS as it continues to grow and look forward to seeing how this journal evolves each year. Please join us in congratulating this year's AJIS team on their hard work! We'd also like to acknowledge Theodore Lowell, this year's Editor-in-Chief, who has been essential in the revival of this journal and put substantial time and energy into this initiative to ensure its continuity for years to come. We wish Theodore and other departing or graduating editors all the best!



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