

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Over the past three years, I have had the tremendous privilege of serving on the editorial team for the Arizona Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies. This year, I have had the honor of serving as editor-in-chief. As part of the organizational structure we instituted last year, I have worked alongside Heather Jensen, our assistant editor-in-chief, who will take over my role next year. Together, we hired new editors and a new graphic designer as part of our mission to continually improve the journal's quality with each publication. Our goal is for the journal to be one place where undergraduate students from a variety of disciplines can showcase their hard work and knowledge to the broader University of Arizona community.

None of what we do at the Arizona Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies would be possible without the support of the entire undergraduate-run editorial team and our sponsors. I want to thank The Office of Societal Impact and our advisor, Courtney Leligdon; AJIS is the journal it is today because of the generous funding and mentoring they provide. I also want to thank the Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry and Angela Martinez, who helped us print an edition of the journal for the first time this last year, and our faculty advisor Susan Crane. Finally, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to Ellen Dubinsky from the University of Arizona Libraries for her patience and support in navigating the publication process.

It is amazing to see how far the journal has come since we revived it three years ago. I will be the last editor-in-chief who was there when we revived the journal back in the summer of 2020. As my time as editor-in-chief comes to a close, I am grateful that we have established a sustainable journal—one that has a process for hiring editors, training them into leadership positions, and having those leaders pass the torch every year. I am confident the journal will continue to thrive, and I am excited to see where it goes. Thank you to all of the authors who submitted to the journal and to Ethan Alcock, Madison LaMonica, and Bao “Tintin” Nguyen for their diligent work with the editing process. I am proud to present Volume 9 of the Arizona Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theodore Lowell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Theodore Lowell

Editor-in-Chief, Spring 2023