

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

We are pleased to present the 11th edition of the Arizona Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies.

It has been a tremendous honor to serve as the Editor-in-Chief of the Arizona Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies. As the last remaining member from the editorial team since the journal's revival in 2021—led by Robert Lowell—I've had the opportunity to witness the journal's growth over the past four years. Volume 11 is especially meaningful to me, as it represents the culmination of years of dedication and evolution. While the journal has always acted as a platform for amplifying undergraduate research, I've watched it become something more: recognizable and connected to the campus community. This year, AJIS received a wider pool of submissions and proudly introduced new opportunities for student engagement with undergraduate research through our Research Showcase.

I am certain AJIS will continue to flourish under future leadership, and I'm excited to see how the journal's legacy is carried forward. With that being said, I'd like to express my deepest thanks to Angela Tatsch (Assistant Editor-in-Chief) and the editorial team for their hard work throughout our rigorous review process. Each of you has made a meaningful impact, and it has been an absolute privilege to serve alongside you. I also want to thank our graphic designer whose creativity brought Volume 11 to life.

The Arizona Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. On behalf of the team, I extend our gratitude to The Office of Societal Impact and our advisor, Courtney Leligdon. Your mentorship and funding has played a vital role in the success of AJIS, and we cannot thank you all enough. We also thank the Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry for their support in printing hard copies of Volume 11 and past editions. And finally, we are grateful for Ellen Dubinsky, from the University of Arizona Libraries, for her support throughout the publication process.

Leaving AJIS is bittersweet, but I do so knowing that it is being left in strong hands and on an even stronger path. My hope is that AJIS will continue to grow as a space that uplifts undergraduate voices, where bold ideas are celebrated and curiosity never ends. Here's to the future of undergraduate research—and I'm grateful to have left a mark on it.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ayah Ghannam".

Ayah Ghannam  
Editor-in-Chief, Spring 2025