

“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

How might this world look with universal access to clean water, sustainable energy, a narrowed wage gap, low-cost prosthetics, nurse-led primary care, increased contemplation on dignity and beauty, and just governance?

It is through the pursuit of truth that these goals take shape and become reality. It is through the collaborative and creative process of research that the truth—*veritas*—emerges. Research at Villanova brings together minds that uncover truths and create those tomorrows about which we dream.

It is with *veritas* in mind that we created *Veritas: Villanova Research Journal* (VVRJ), the first peer-reviewed, undergraduate research journal at Villanova University. This initiative was born in 2016 and developed with the guidance and support of many Villanovans who have dedicated their own careers to the pursuit of truth. For this, we are immensely grateful.

This inaugural issue showcases the work of students and recent alumni for whom research is a central component of their journeys. VVRJ celebrates the imagination, creativity, and curiosity of undergraduates and alumni across all disciplines at Villanova. Each piece of this issue reflects the authors’ enthusiasm for their work. The breadth and depth of the submissions highlight the commitment of faculty and administrators to developing and supporting student researchers.

On behalf of the Villanova University Center for Research and Fellowships, we are elated to present the inaugural issue of *Veritas: Villanova Research Journal*.

Sincerely yours,

Catherine Stecyk,
Alexandra Was, and
the VVRJ Editorial Team
