

***“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 can we create a world where underrepresented groups receive lifesaving medical treatments? How can public transportation help connect vulnerable communities with their places of work and leisure? As scholars, do we privilege certain forms of social and political “resistance” at the expense of others? What can vampires teach us about coming of age?

The immensity of the cultural, ethical, and historical questions investigated in this year’s issue of *Veritas: Villanova Research Journal* exceeds its modest physical size. These collegial provocations deepen and extend our understanding of the world. Driven by a strong interdisciplinary thrust, VVRJ reminds us that research is never an end in itself. On the contrary, scholarly inquiry connects us through the common pursuit of meaning and truth. Wherever we encounter them—perhaps at the lab bench or mulling over statistical sets—we deepen and enrich our knowledge of our world and are emboldened to leave it better than we found it.

Our fourth issue of VVRJ celebrates Villanova’s intellectual change makers and their indefatigable commitment to open discovery. We express our sincerest gratitude to you, student researchers, and your remarkable faculty mentors.

Sincerely,

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

