



JOURNAL OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH



Research at the University of Florida is constantly expanding and extending into new areas, and this is just as true for our undergraduates as any other group on campus. The forty essays in this year's volume represent the work of undergraduates across our departments, colleges and programs: covering topics from artificial intelligence to zoology.

Our student authors have explored our shared pasts, and placed the oldest approaches to the humanities in conversation with modern science. They have broken down the foods we consume and the spaces we make for nature, and demonstrated the effect of artificial intelligence on music, health, and the ways we

communicate, to name just a few topics. Any undergraduate, at any level, in any field, may submit to the *JUR* as long as their work is supported by a faculty mentor.

We recognize and celebrate the faculty mentors who have supported our student authors through their research process, and who often appear as co-authors alongside their students. They provide an open door and a helping hand to our authors, sometimes beginning with their arrival on campus. With their help, students discover the potential their work has to reach audiences beyond the classroom, and the possibilities that exist for them beyond undergraduate study. This includes the dedicated staff and student mentors at the Center for Undergraduate Research, who help provide structure and guidance to hundreds of students per year.

This work would not have been possible without the efforts of the more than 100 graduate students who volunteered their expertise as reviewers and editors. In addition to those acknowledged in the Editorial Board section, many more volunteers gave careful feedback and evaluation to papers we could not ultimately accept for publication. Thank you all for allowing us to publish research of the highest standard, and helping it to appear in the best form possible.

At the end of 2023, UF was one of three institutions to receive the AURA award from the Council of Undergraduate Research in recognition of the scale of undergraduate research but all the individual actions that make it possible. So read on. I know you will find something to talk about.

Thank you,
Neil Weijer, PhD
Managing Editor, *UF Journal of Undergraduate Research*

Every January, we offer training to prospective authors on how to submit an article to the UFJUR. The submission is open to all current UF undergraduate students, in any major, who work with a faculty mentor. The submission opens in mid-March and closes April 1 of each year. JUR is a double-blind peer reviewed, open access publication. Students retain copyright through Creative Commons licensing. Each article has a unique DOI and we encourage the student authors, faculty mentors, and colleges to support these student authors by announcing their publication via social media.