

“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

What does research look like from here? From there? From where you are? This year will never leave our memories. It has been the year of constant change and challenge. We have honored heroes, mourned losses, stared at screens with despair and laughter, and taken it upon ourselves to promote positive change in our communities and world.

Students, you have confronted many unexpected challenges this year. Unsurprisingly, you have exhibited remarkable creativity and resilience. We are especially energized by Villanova’s undergraduate researchers and how they quickly pivoted to pursue research entirely remotely during Summer 2020. You worked with your mentors, modified proposals, creatively devised alternate ways of pursuing truth, *veritas*, and committed yourself to a summer of scholarship and discovery—and you did this in the face of more uncertainty than any of us could have anticipated.

The 2020 Villanova Undergraduate Research Fellows innovated to conduct research remotely by modifying research questions and methods and changing locations. They studied corals, chemical compounds, robotic fish, compost and community gardens, learning environments, human development, and protein-protein interaction—all from living rooms, bedrooms, backyards, and rooftops. To honor this, the 2020 VVRJ cover is a student-sourced collage of what research looked like to the Summer 2020 VURF cohort: their “view from here.”

With this second publication of *Veritas: Villanova Research Journal*, we celebrate creativity and unstoppable scholarship. We express our gratitude to your incredible faculty mentors.

On behalf of the Villanova University Center for Research and Fellowships, we proudly present the 2020 *Veritas: Villanova Research Journal*.

Sincerely,

Catherine Stecyk,
Sage Milo, and
The VVRJ Student Editorial Team
