

# Perpetua: The UAH Journal of Undergraduate Research

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## Front Matter

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*Perpetua*

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## *LETTER FROM THE EDITOR*

Dear Reader,

I am proud to introduce the third issue of *Perpetua*. Although we are a very young publication, we have grown to serve as a cornerstone of the undergraduate research community at UAH. We owe a great deal of thanks to our advisors as well as the various graduate students, faculty, administrators, and alumni who have been instrumental in our growth and success as a publication.

Our primary mission is to create a publication platform for UAH undergraduates and in that we have been successful. We also serve to support the reputation of UAH as a premiere research university offering research opportunities in all disciplines. As you browse the table of contents, you will see that this diversity of opportunity is reflected in the articles published in this issue.

*Perpetua* as an organization has grown and evolved since our previous issue was published. Our ever-growing staff is stronger and more diverse than ever before and we have made some notable accomplishments in recent months. This spring we welcomed our first intern as part of a program that will continue for years to come. We established a review board which has paved the way for unprecedented cooperation between faculty and undergraduate researchers. We built and fostered relationships with other organizations at UAH and in the greater Huntsville community. Most recently, we sponsored a research panel at Health Careers Day which served to promote undergraduate research at UAH to high school students. We hope to continue serving our UAH community in these roles and more in coming years.

I hope that you find something of interest to you within our pages and that you will be inspired to make your own contribution to research at UAH.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "E Hartsell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "E" being large and stylized.

Emily Hartsell  
Editor-in-chief  
*Perpetua*

## SPECIAL THANKS

### *SPECIAL THANKS*

*Perpetua* is a cooperative effort and publication would be impossible without the support of various individuals and organizations across campus and throughout the greater Huntsville community. We offer special thanks to all who have contributed their time, expertise, financial support, and hard work to *Perpetua*. A few of our biggest contributors are recognized below.

We thank the Student Government Association for providing sufficient funding to print and distribute physical copies of this issue. We would also like to thank Dr. William Wilkerson and the Honors College for their commitment to providing financial support to *Perpetua*.

Next, we would like to extend our thanks to the faculty advisors who have provided invaluable insight and guidance to our editorial staff. We thank Dr. Gordon MacGregor of the Biological Sciences Department for his assistance in evaluating submissions and improving our peer review and revision processes. We thank Dr. Alanna Frost of the English Department for helping *Perpetua* establish our first review board.

Finally, we thank every graduate student, alumnus, and professor who served as a reviewer for one of the manuscripts featured in this issue. Without such individuals volunteering their time and expertise *Perpetua* would not be able to provide our services to the UAH community.

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