

# Perpetua: The UAH Journal of Undergraduate Research

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## Front Matter

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# PERPETUA

SPRING 2022  
SPECIAL EDITION

*STAFF*

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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

In 2015, the first edition of *Perpetua* was released, showcasing the amazing work of a group of undergraduate students at The University of Alabama in Huntsville. Since then, it has ebbed and flowed in many ways, with significant setbacks arising with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a university, we have been fortunate to gradually work on our reemergence, but the same was not true for *Perpetua*, our Journal for Undergraduate Research.

Until now, that is. *Perpetua* is Latin for "unceasing." Quite the appropriate name, though I can't imagine the inaugural student committee anticipated the many challenges we have overcome to sustain not only our journal, but our community at large.

It is a great honor to usher in a new *Perpetua* for the UAH community. With it, I must humbly commend the student researchers presented in this special edition. They have worked hard to get to this point, nearly a year after the earliest of their submissions, and I am pleased to present their peer-reviewed manuscripts as a testament to their will and persistence throughout what has been a very rough transition. We as an editing team extend our gratitude to them particularly, as well as the faculty members who have taken the time to review their work for this publication.

Thank you for taking the time to look through the research presented here. It is a small sampling of some of the astonishing work carried out by undergraduates here at UAH every day. We, as the editors of *Perpetua*, are delighted to share this and many more works in the years to come.

Charge on!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eirian Waldron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Eirian Waldron  
*Interim Editor-in-Chief*

## ***DEDICATION***

*This special edition is dedicated to all the students, faculty, and staff at  
The University of Alabama in Huntsville who have been involved in  
research over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

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