

PROMOTING HUMAN FLOURISHING THROUGH UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH: INSIGHTS FROM THE CANYON JOURNAL OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

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REFLECTION

This June, we eagerly present a new issue of the vastly growing Canyon Journal of Undergraduate Research (CJUR). We are pleased to introduce the editorial staff that has diligently collaborated to produce this issue of the journal at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona: Scott Greenberger, EdD, Executive Editor, Breanna Naegeli, PhD, Editor-in-Chief, Katalina Inzunza Herrera, Assistant Editor, Jenny Kuban, Managing Editor, Ramesh Velupillaimani, PhD, Neal Adam, PhD, Tara Chavez, EdD, and Marette Hahn, PhD as Editorial Board Members, and Sandi van Lieu as Copy Editor. For this issue of CJUR, we welcomed the support of 5 undergraduate peer editors under the direction of Assistant Professor, Kimbel Westerson. We sincerely appreciate the on-going dedication, collaboration, and support of this editorial staff.

The Canyon Journal of Undergraduate Research serves as a platform for undergraduate learners at Grand Canyon University to share their original, contemporary research as it aligns with the Boyer Model of Scholarship. Further, this journal is dedicated to the publication of faculty-mentored and peer-reviewed research, and the following manuscripts have undergone both a competitive selection process, and a rigorous peer-review process. This issue is inclusive of 27 unique authors across ten manuscripts: three empirical research studies, six literature reviews and one reflection on interdisciplinary problems.

We humbly announce that we will be publishing two issues in 2024, and eagerly await manuscript submissions for our November 2024 issue. Undergraduate learners can visit <https://research.gcu.edu/cjur> to learn more about the Canyon Journal of Undergraduate Research, to access writing guides available for authors, and to submit a manuscript for consideration.

CURRENT ISSUE

Human flourishing can be defined as the holistic well-being of an individual; a state of fulfillment, peace and abundance achieved through living in accordance with God's will. This encompasses the harmonious development of an individual's life, including their intellectual, moral, emotional, and spiritual dimensions (Reize, Stovell, & Toffelmire, 2021). This concept emphasizes living a life of virtue, engaging in deep, meaningful relationships, and contributing to the common good while reflecting the image of God. While the authors featured in this issue have augmented their intellectual curiosity through the immersive and rigorous process of research, they also identified topics that promote human flourishing for those in our community.

The ten manuscripts selected for the June 2024 issue of the Canyon Journal of Undergraduate Research represent the exceptional commitment our learners possess to promoting human flourishing both within the university and throughout our community. This issue includes research on the themes of mindfulness, resilience through adversity, stress reduction and health and wellness which supports the need for spiritual, physical and emotional development to promote human flourishing. Select manuscripts articulate research on sheltering victims of sex trafficking, promoting healing and social justice through trauma-informed practices, and embracing cultural identity which supports the moral and emotional facets of human

flourishing. Additionally, this issue features manuscripts devoted to optimal leadership practices, the need for interpersonal skill development and cultivating self-efficacy in undergraduate learners, which promotes intellectual curiosity and growth, another significant facet of human flourishing. The issue demonstrates both the range in research topics and methodologies used by these gifted undergraduate authors.

The editorial staff of the Canyon Journal of Undergraduate Research is committed to empowering learners to engage in robust, collaborative research programs, and to publish quality research across various academic disciplines. We will continue to publish scholarly manuscripts that support the advancement of scientific knowledge, and those that promote human flourishing.

References

Reize, N., Stovell, B., & Toffelmire, C. (2021). Human flourishing and a theology of poverty alleviation. *International Journal of Public Theology*, 15(2), 177-196. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15697320-12341653>