

# Locus: The Seton Hall Journal of Undergraduate Research

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## Introduction

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## Introduction

As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic—certainly not over, but hopefully waning—it can be jarring to return to elements of our previous lives. Removing masks can feel vulnerable and strange; gathering together inside is thrilling but also, perhaps, a little stressful—there’s no mute button in real life! As a result, some of the traditions and habits cultivated over the last two years remain as anchors, steady drumbeats that have accompanied the cacophonous symphony of recent times.

One of those traditions is, for this editorial team, the autumnal publication of *Locus*, the undergraduate research journal of Seton Hall University. The leaves are changing and there’s a crispness in the air—and once again we can welcome a batch of brilliant essays from some of our finest students. Whether it’s an examination of spatial problem solving, a study of facial memory, an exposé of the devastating effects of deforestation, a nuanced look at differing models of jurisprudence, an analysis of immigration right here in New Jersey, or a survey of disaster-response strategies following a devastating typhoon, these essays demonstrate the wide variety of interest that Seton Hall undergraduates cultivate.

In short, our students remain curious about the world around us. Our global crisis is thawing, and life is returning; we hope that you can, amidst the complex emotions of this return, also take solace in the curative resilience of intellect.

As always, if you are an undergraduate or recent graduate of Seton Hall, you are welcome to submit your work for our next volume. You can find our editors’ contact information on our website, <https://scholarship.shu.edu/locus>.

All our best,

The Editorial Committee