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FIU'S FIRST
RESEARCH
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AND FOR
UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS

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The mission of FIUURJ is to create a platform to showcase the diverse array of undergraduate research across STEM, the Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts while being freely available to the higher education community as a whole. As an open-access, blind-reviewed multidisciplinary journal, we ensure that student scholarship receives the proper support in order to impact and enrich a wide range of compelling fields. FIUURJ, run by undergraduate students alongside graduate students, alumni, faculty, and volunteers, offers opportunities for FIU students and alumni to gain experience in copy-editing, digital project creation, peer-reviewing, and peer-advising. We aim to empower undergraduates to contribute meaningfully to academic discourse and cultivate expertise in scholarly communication early in their higher education experience.

COVER ILLUSTRATION © ALEXANDRA LEON

COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AS COVER ART CONTEST WINNER

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Alexandra Leon

Cover Art Winner



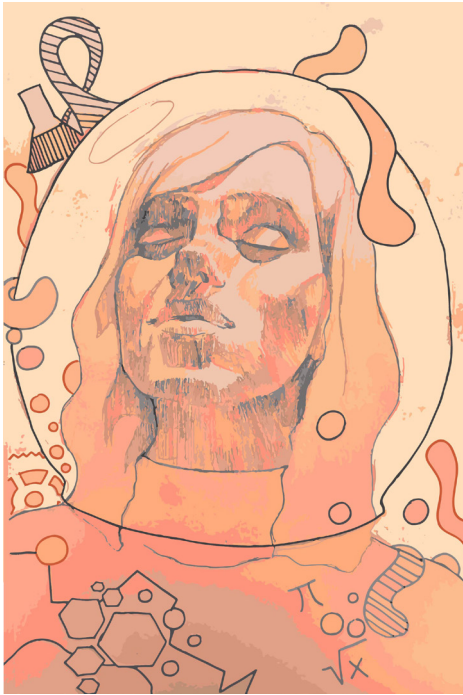
Naturaleza is a digital artwork representing the unification of man, nature, sciences, and the arts. Working mainly with warmer tones originally derived from the official FIU gold color (#B6862C), the artwork portrays humanity standing alongside nature, both looking towards a bright future, while sharing similar colors to represent their harmony as two parts of a whole in nature, not separate species.



Inspired by artworks by J.C. Leyendecker and illustrations by art director Jen Zee, *Naturaleza* aims to portray a vision of the unity of different fields of study with a stylized illustrative art style while including wildlife that is native to Florida. The woman, representative of man and the humanities, holds a branch of *Hamelia patens* to represent the sciences, a native plant of Florida and commonly known as the firebush. Both stand alongside the well-known *Puma concolor coryi*, the Florida panther, symbolizing nature and all wildlife. They face the right, simultaneously looking towards the future as a unified force.

Michael Garcia Arias

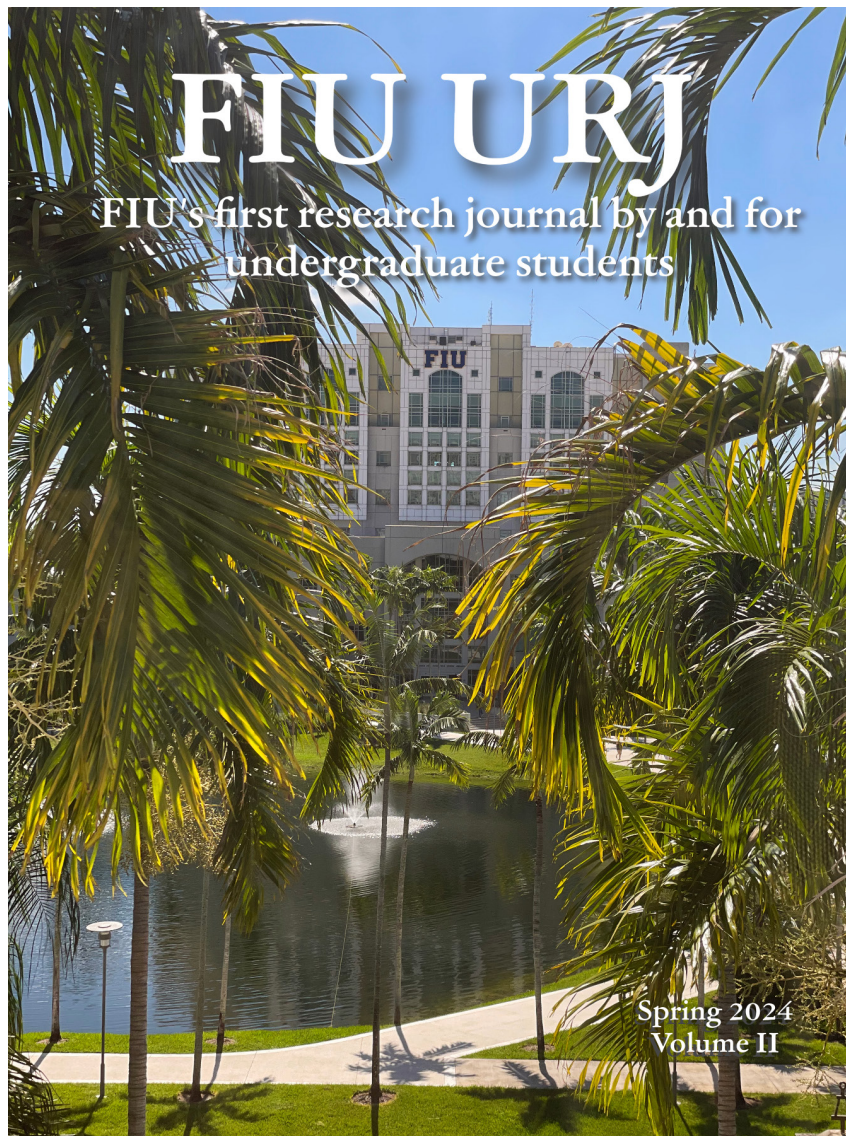
Runner-Up Cover Art Winner



The idea behind this piece was to create this surreal feeling with colors and shapes. My art tends to blend simple shapes and complex figures such as portraits. Therefore, this creates a unique contrast between the two and that's what I wanted to present with this work. Another thing that I wanted to touch on was the color since its another big part of my work. A good color palette is what I think makes a composition stand out since its one of the many components in an art piece that attracts a viewer. My work represents the journal's theme because I feel as though the themes that were required for the contest drove me in a direction to think of other subjects to put in my composition. The color palette was influenced the most since I wanted to connect the other subjects to an artist's process.

Isabella Polo

Runner-Up Cover Art Winner



FIU serves as a beacon of academic diversity, a place where countless students find their passions, whether it lies in STEM, the arts, or social sciences. The picture was taken at the CASE building, a part of campus many have grown familiar with during their time here. This building houses more than humanities-related courses but they also hold many of the science classes, showing how diverse the student body of FIU can be. It's a place where our student body can grow in its incredible range of interests and talents, where boundaries blur and possibilities are endless. FIU for many has been a safe haven for education, offering mentorship throughout their career endeavors. From creators and explorers to aspiring scientists, growing through their education, the next generation is promising in their endeavors. The student body is what represents FIU's multifaceted drive for education as well as a progressive future. CASE also happens to be one of my favorite views of campus, surrounded by greenery with FIU right in the center. This image embodies the essence of FIU. It shows that no matter how different our studies are, at the center of it all FIU is a place where we can all succeed. It is more than just a university, it's a hub for passions, united by the common thread of ambition and pursuit of knowledge. Here at FIU, everyone finds a home for their passions, and together, we can help build toward a brighter and more promising future for all.

I.	Implications of Microplastic Pollution for the Conservation of Marine Protected Areas <i>Estefany Carvajal & Amanda Di Perna</i>	1
II.	“The Way to Dusty Death”: The Feminist Revision of the Western in <i>Nomadland</i> (2021) <i>Lucas Cicarelli Vieira</i>	10
III.	Using Geochemical Tracers to Determine Seasonal Inputs of Freshwater to a Coastal Estuary: Biscayne Bay, FL <i>Melaney Lara, Dr. René Marie Price</i>	19
IV.	Exploring Alternative Writing Styles: A Journey into Free-Writing and Bilingualism <i>Maria Isabel Galiano</i>	31
V.	Understanding the Health Impacts of Vehicular Emissions in South Florida: A Comprehensive Analysis <i>Janelle Ducheine</i>	41
VI.	Benefits of Time Spent Outdoors in Early Childhood Education: A Systematic Review <i>Crismely Fermin, Monica Perez, Averill F. Obee, Dr. Katie C. Hart</i>	54
VII.	The State of Knowledge of CCA Diversity in the Caribbean Coral Reefs <i>Danielle Macias, Fabio Nauer, Dr. Alain Duran</i>	73
VIII.	Sustainability in Action: Green Infrastructure as a Marker of Sustainable Urban Development <i>Brianna Santiago</i>	87
IX.	Assay Replicability in Enzyme Kinetics Across Laboratories <i>Nicole-Tia Najam, Dr. Jaime Mayoral</i>	98
X.	Forging Romanitas: The Intersection of Urbanization and Identity in Mérida <i>Raymond Puentes</i>	108

XI.	An Examination of the Ways in Which Transdisciplinary Research Could Be Used to Incentivize Local Communities to Combat the Illegal Wildlife Trade	
	<i>Jessica Rios</i>	115
XII.	The Impacts of the Low-FODMAP Diet on the Management of Irritable Bowel Syndrome Symptoms: Possibilities, Feasibility, and Alternatives	
	<i>Nicolas J. Jo, Carmen P. Ortega-Santos</i>	123
XIII.	Exploring the Evolution of Gender-Based Violence in India and its Contributing Actors	
	<i>Angel Reji</i>	132
XIV.	The Effect of Saltwater Stress on the Performance of Cherry Tomatoes	
	<i>Samarah Martin, Ivan Oyege, Kateel Shetty, Krishnaswamy Jayachandran, Maruthi Sridhar Balaji Bhaskar</i>	137
XV.	Constructible Sandwich Cut	
	<i>Philip Son</i>	149
XVI.	The Evolution of Tumor Suppressing Genes in Multicellular Organisms: Nature's Prevention of Oncogenesis	
	<i>Melanie Perez</i>	161
XVII.	Validation of a Forensic Method to be Used in Food Fraud Investigation	
	<i>Jennifer Melayes, Nicole DeAngelo, Vallarie Ostenson, Dr. Fabiana Taglia, Dr. DeEtta Kay Mills</i>	170
XVIII.	A Comparative Political Analysis of Finland and Belarus Based on the 2022 World Happiness Report	
	<i>Anastasiya Tsapenko</i>	181
XIX.	Purification of Recombinant E. coli Topoisomerase III for Structure-Based Drug Design Using Protein Crystallization	
	<i>Miguel Perez Rodriguez</i>	189