

# MOUNTAINEER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH REVIEW

Volume 7, Spring 2022

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ISSN 2769-1756

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### Cover Synopsis:

*When mentioning undergraduate research, or simply just research in general, many picture someone in a lab coat with goggles, mixing some different colored liquids together. Where that may be the case in some instances, simply saying that image sums up undergraduate research here at West Virginia University is a disservice. There are so many different and unique disciplines that our undergraduate researchers participate in, and that is something that I feel MURR is trying to tell the public too. I wanted my cover art to reflect this. I started with the idea of trying to fit as many different “categories” of research as I could into the drawing. I liked the idea of somehow incorporating a computer into the piece, as it is most likely that some of the research shared in this volume had occurred over the pandemic and “zoom university”. I then fell down a rabbit hole of the person in this workspace being a collector and keeping all of the different disciplines somewhere around the computer. I came to the conclusion that like insects kept in jars, I wanted to have a representation of each discipline in jars, like caught specimens to research and observe. (Jars From Left to Right: Art, Music, Engineering, Life Sciences) Going off of that idea, I also added more disciplines in windows in the computer to act as additional research. (Windows From Left to Right: Math and Physics, Business and Statistics, Theater and Literature, and Philosophy) The back cover is inverted and shaded to make it look like the silhouette of the workspace from behind. This is an original digital art piece that I created by myself. I picked jewel tone color palettes, mostly focusing on light greens, teals, and purples, because it gives a cohesiveness throughout the piece. Instead of a normal, wide color pallet, this color pallet emphasises the idea that all of these different disciplines are able to fit comfortably in this research setting. The most important thing to me is for people to understand that the undergraduate research being done here at West Virginia University is not in just all sizes, shapes, and colors, but in all different disciplines as well.*

## **Mountaineer Undergraduate Research Review Indigenous Land Acknowledgement**

West Virginia University, with its statewide institutional presence, resides on land that includes ancestral territories of the Shawnee, Lenape (also known as the Delaware), the Cherokee, the Haudenosaunee (also known as the Iroquois Six Nations, including the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk, Tuscarora), and many other Indigenous peoples.

Furthermore, as a land-grant institution, the sale of lands including lands of the Wahzhazhe (or Osage), Ojibwe (also called Chippewa), Menominee, Kaw, Dakota (Wahpeton, Sisseton, Medewakanton, and Wahpekuta bands), and 29 other tribes<sup>1</sup> helped to fund the establishment of West Virginia University.

It is important that we understand both the context that has brought our university community to reside on this land, and our place within this long history.

In acknowledging this, we recognize and appreciate all those Indigenous nations whose territories we are living on and working in. Indigenous peoples have been in the land currently known as West Virginia since time immemorial. Indigenous people are not relics of the past. We seek to acknowledge, honor, and appreciate those people who once lived on these lands and those who now live elsewhere through our actions and support.

We also recognize that colonialization and genocide against Indigenous people are current, ongoing processes, and as scholars seeking truth and understanding, we need to be mindful of our present participation in this process.

Through this land acknowledgement, we hope to inspire all researchers and members of the West Virginia University community to stand in solidarity with Native nations. This can look like donating time and money to Indigenous organizations, amplifying and supporting the voices of Indigenous people, returning land, and ensuring that we contextualize our research with Indigenous people in mind.

*Adapted by Wren King from the WVU Native American Studies Land Acknowledgement with input from the WVU Native American Studies Program Coordinator Bonnie Brown to be included within our published journal and to start a conversation about the land we reside and work upon within our journal and the research community as a whole. We will continue to consult with the Program Coordinator to be as inclusive, relevant, and accurate as possible, modifying this acknowledgement as needed.*

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<sup>1</sup> Lee, Robert and Tristan Ahtone. "Land-grab universities." *High Country News*, March 30, 2020. <https://www.hcn.org/issues/52.4/indigenous-affairs-education-land-grab-universities>.