



crossings.

an undergraduate arts journal

Volume Four

Land Acknowledgement

The Organization for Arts Students and Interdisciplinary Studies, Crossings, and The University of Alberta respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Naktoos Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community.





Photographer: Jienan Chen



Editorial Team



Photographer: **Arthur Macatangay**



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Section Editor



Jayden Blumhagen

I am thrilled to welcome you to the fourth volume of *Crossings: An Undergraduate Arts Journal*. As the peer-reviewed journal for the Faculty of Arts undergraduates, we take pride in showcasing the best written and visual works spanning the fine arts, humanities, and social sciences at the University of Alberta. Despite coming into this role a little late, I have witnessed an inspiring display of creativity and intellectual rigour. The continued growth and development of our faculty are sources of immense pride for me. Arts students have consistently shown remarkable resilience in adapting to various challenges and opportunities. This resilience was particularly evident this year with the closure of the Humanities Centre, a building that was not only the heart of the Arts community on campus but also a long-standing home to OASIS.

The successful completion of this volume is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our exceptional editorial board and review team. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to our art and design director, Peilin Wu, along with our junior graphic designer, Vira Novoselska, who were the creative force behind *Crossings*. The invaluable contributions of our Section Editors, Cameron Kennedy, Logan West, and Feven Worede, in leading a large review team and refining the work in this volume cannot be overstated. Jasleen Mahindru, our senior copyeditor, guided the copyediting team through extensive revisions to ensure the highest quality of each submission. Our communications director, Abigail Cullen, played a crucial role in promoting the *Crossings* name through effective social media management. Lastly, my deepest gratitude

goes to Nathan Perez, our editorial director, who worked tirelessly alongside me to ensure a smooth execution of this year's processes.

Working alongside such experienced and passionate peer review and copyediting teams in creating this volume has been an absolute honour. Our peer review and copyediting teams, consisting of 21 individuals, encompass each discipline within the Faculty of Arts. Their expertise in their respective fields and enthusiasm for this project have been vital to the success of this volume. I extend my deepest appreciation to each and every one of them for their significant contributions to *Crossings* and the Arts community as a whole.

I would like to express my greatest appreciation to my colleagues at OASIS: Hussain Alhussainy, Layla Alhussainy, Prishna Sweeney, Alex Ballos, and Nathan Perez. Their support, assistance, and enthusiasm have been invaluable in producing this volume. I cannot wait to see what our incoming OASIS executives will achieve not only with the *Crossings* journal but with the organization as a whole.

On that note, I now turn to Dr. Christine Brown, who has provided much guidance and support to *Crossings* since its creation. Her contributions have been instrumental in promoting undergraduate research and fostering a sense of community within the Arts.

To all of our readers, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and engagement. As you delve into the fourth volume of *Crossings*, I hope you find it as enriching to read as it was for us to create.

Jayden Blumhagen
Editor in Chief



Hussain Alhussainy

As the OASIS president for this academic year, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the resilience and dedication of our arts students. Despite the unexpected shutdown of the Humanities Centre and the subsequent challenges that came with relocating the OASIS office, our community has not only persevered but thrived.

In the face of these obstacles, Jayden and the Crossings team have pressed on, culminating in the release of the fourth edition of the journal. This accomplishment underscores our unwavering commitment to showcasing the talents of art students within the community and highlighting the bright minds and great research conducted within the faculty.

Our students have shown exceptional work ethic and made significant contributions, working diligently to advance their education and enhance the academic and social fabric of our faculty. Through active engagement with OASIS initiatives and participation in a multitude of activities, they have played a pivotal role in shaping our faculty into the best it can be.

Your dedication and contributions have not gone unnoticed, and I am deeply humbled to have served as your OASIS president this academic year.

Hussain Alhussainy
OASIS president



Dr. Christine Brown

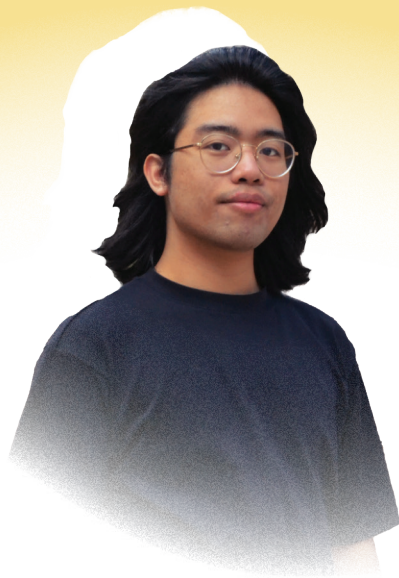
As the journal's academic sponsor, I congratulate the editorial team on producing this excellent fourth volume of *Crossings*. I continue to be impressed by the quality of the work presented and congratulate all the authors whose work appears in this volume. It has been my pleasure to support the editorial team in their efforts to present a highly interdisciplinary collection of undergraduate research.

The University of Alberta Library provides crucial support and development opportunities for student editors. My Open Publishing & Digitization Service colleagues provide training, development, and invaluable technical support to *Crossings* and other student journals, facilitating their success. This issue exemplifies the breadth and depth of learning the editorial team has undertaken. Team members have invested considerable effort in developing their skills in recruiting team members, seeking submissions, editing, layout design, and the collaboration required to produce this new issue. Their commitment to developing and promoting *Crossings* demonstrates the impact that student-led journals can have on the academic culture at the University of Alberta.

The editorial team has worked diligently to ensure this volume reflects the diversity and breadth of student research in the Faculty of Arts. This volume contains 25 undergraduate essays covering the fine arts, humanities, and social sciences. The quality of thought and research undertaken reflects the excellence that the Faculty of Arts instills in its students. As you read the papers in this new volume, you will find much food for thought.

Dr. Christine Brown

*Head, Faculty Engagement (Social Sciences & Humanities)
Crossings, Academic Sponsor*



Nathan Perez

I am pleased to be the inaugural Editorial Director for Crossings. My role was working closely with the Editor-in-Chief in an administrative capacity. I have had the pleasure of seeing the hard work of the editorial team, facilitating communication in the Art and Design team, and preparing necessary documents for the Editorial Board's meetings. Throughout this journey, I was also fortunate enough to meet many wonderful student-applicants by sitting at interviews on behalf of the Editor-in-Chief and getting to know them and their many talents.

A considerable thanks goes to Jayden Blumhagen, this year's Editor-in-Chief, for the immense work she has put in the fourth edition of Crossings and for the creation of this position. Upon taking the role of the VP Academic, Jayden immediately jumped straight to work in ensuring the success of Crossings and its team; her dedication in elevating students' achievements is truly reflected in the quality of this journal. A special thanks to the OASIS Executive team: Hussain Alhussainy, Layla Alhussainy, Alex Ballos, Prishna Sweeney and Jayden Blumhagen; to Peilin Wu, our Art and Design Director, Abigail Cullen, Communications, and Arthur Macatangay, our team photographer.

It has been a real pleasure being Andrea Sachs to Ms. Blumhagen's Miranda Priestly at the Arts' very own Runway.

Nathan Perez
Editorial Director



Abigail Cullen

Crossings Undergraduate Journal exists in a unique space as an accumulation of the diverse, interdisciplinary and meaningful voices of undergraduate academic research. As this year's Media and Communications Director and my first year on the Crossings team, I am grateful to have been a part of this project, and am excited to bear witness to the discourse which springs from the insightful works published here. This year has allowed me to experience Crossings' champions and cheerleaders in their collaboration, making this journal the best it can be. The effort and love poured into this year's journal has been a constant reminder that the arts, and all contained within it, is fluid and collaborative at every turn.

This year, Crossings has begun to grow our presence on social media. You can now find us and hear about upcoming opportunities on Instagram, X, and Threads! This year has marked a year of growth as Crossings has also discussed creating a more varied social media feed, establishing colour schemes, and more. In the future, it is my hope that Crossing's identity and presence will continue to be discussed and developed to fully represent the hard work of undergraduate art students!

Abigail Cullen
Media and Communications Director



Peilin Wu

As this year's Art and Design Director for Crossings: An Undergraduate Arts Journal, I'm dedicated to shaping our creative vision and building an inclusive environment where diverse voices can thrive. With a focus on accessibility and intersectionality, I aim to amplify the voices of emerging artists while celebrating the rich variety of artistic expression.

Our design direction this year is centered around the themes of Forming, Building, and Connecting. Our cover, featuring a collage of student work, serves as a visual representation of the landscapes we're forming and the connections we're building within our community.

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to Vira Novoselska, our Junior Graphic Designer, for her exceptional work in assisting with the final publication of the journal. Through our discussions and shared creative ideas, we are honoured to publish and present to you this year's edition.

At Crossings, we're all about embracing exploration and adventure. As Art and Design Director, I invite you to join us as we navigate these pathways of creativity together. Let's discover the incredible works waiting to be uncovered on a journey of artistic discovery unlike any other.

Peilin Wu
Art & Design Director

Vira Novoselska
Junior Graphic Designer