Foreword to the Tenth Issue of *Scripta*

Verba volant, scripta manent—spoken words fly away, written words remain. This enduring Latin proverb, often attributed to Seneca the Elder, reflects a realization that has shaped intellectual life for centuries: what is spoken may fade, but what is written endures beyond its moment. It was with this spirit that *Scripta* began.

Scripta was envisioned as an initiative to provide our students with a space where their remarkable potential could take lasting form—where they would not only learn from existing knowledge, but actively contribute to it through research, writing, and publication. In doing so, they join an ongoing intellectual conversation that connects them with the past while allowing their ideas to carry forward into the future. As we now mark the fifth year and tenth issue of *Scripta*, we are reminded that this journey began with a simple yet powerful belief: that writing gives thought permanence, and through it, students find their voice in time.

When we first started *Scripta*, we did not imagine what it would look like five years later. It began as an idea—an ambitious one—built on a simple question: could high school students take on the full responsibility of running a peer-reviewed journal? At the time, it felt both exciting and uncertain.

Today, as we publish Volume 5, Issue 10, that early question feels distant, not because it has been answered once and for all, but because it has been lived through—issue by issue, year by year.

We still remember the early days: figuring out processes, learning how to give feedback, navigating deadlines, revising, and sometimes struggling to bring everything together. There was no perfect model to follow. What existed instead was a group of students willing to try, to learn, and to take ownership of something that was, in many ways, entirely new to them. Over these five years, the accumulated experience and the culture shaped by curiosity, inquiry, and intellectual engagement have themselves become a model—one that continues to nurture new minds, researchers, and writers.

Over time, something began to take shape. Not suddenly, but gradually. Each issue carried lessons into the next. Editors became more confident in their decisions. Reviewers learned how to read more carefully and respond more thoughtfully. Authors approached their work with a growing sense of purpose. What once required constant guidance slowly became something students could carry forward themselves.

Looking back now, what stands out to us is not just the journal itself, but the process behind it—the conversations, the revisions, the quiet persistence. The small, often unseen moments when a piece was reshaped through feedback, when an editor began to trust their own judgment, when a student started to recognize the weight and clarity of their own thinking. These are not always visible on the final pages, but they are what *Scripta* is truly built on.

Perhaps the most meaningful part of this journey has been seeing how it continues beyond each issue. Students who once edited and reviewed are now in universities, still writing, still questioning, still engaging with ideas. And at the same time, new students step in, bringing their own energy and perspectives. In this quiet continuity, *Scripta* has become more than a publication—it has become a shared space that carries conversations across time.

In many ways, this journey has also reflected the values we strive to cultivate at Fulton Science Academy. *Scripta* has been an expression of curiosity—in the willingness to ask questions and explore ideas; of resilience—in working through challenges, revisions, and uncertainty; and of integrity—in offering honest, thoughtful feedback and engaging seriously with the work of others. At its core, it has always aimed to nurture something deeper: a culture where questioning, researching, and writing are not tasks, but habits of mind that continue to grow over time.

At this moment, we want to pause and truly recognize the people behind this journey. To our current students, who continue to carry this work with such care, responsibility, and dedication, and to our alumni, who laid its foundations and trusted in it when it was still just an idea—this is your achievement. You have given your time, your effort, your patience, and your belief to something that is not always easy, but deeply meaningful. There have been long hours, revisions that felt endless, moments of uncertainty—but you stayed with it. You made it real. What you have built here matters, in ways that may only fully reveal themselves over time. We are not only proud of what you have accomplished, but also genuinely grateful to each of you for being part of this journey and for shaping *Scripta* into what it has become.

As we mark this fifth year and tenth issue, it is natural to see this as an achievement—but we also see it as a beginning. The kind of spirit and work *Scripta* represents is not meant to have a clear endpoint; it grows, deepens, and continues over time. What we have built so far gives us a foundation, but there is still so much ahead—more voices to bring in, more ideas to explore, more connections to make across generations. If these past years have shown us anything, it is that meaningful work does not arrive all at once—it is built steadily, and it endures. We hope that *Scripta* continues to evolve in this way, becoming stronger, more thoughtful, and more far-

reaching with each passing year, carrying forward its purpose of connecting minds and nurturing a lifelong journey of thinking, writing, and inquiry.

The reflections that follow from our alumni are a testament to this continuity. Their words offer a glimpse into how this experience extends beyond the journal itself, carrying forward into new academic and personal paths. They remind us that *Scripta* is not defined solely by its pages, but by the people who have contributed to it and continue to carry its spirit forward.

As we share this issue, we find ourselves returning, above all, to a sense of gratitude—for the students who took this idea seriously, who gave their time and effort to it, and who continue to shape what *Scripta* is becoming.

Dr. Ramin Ahmadoghlu Adams

Fulton Science Academy
Alpharetta Georgia
May 2026

Verba Quae Manent: Alumni Reflections

"When Dr. Ahmadoghlu first told me about Scripta, I was excited, it seemed like a meaningful way to apply the skills I'd been building throughout my schooling. Engaging with the peer-review and research process in high school gave me a meaningful head start when I arrived at college in the fall.

More than that, Scripta showed me the power of ideas: how to develop them, how to refine them, and how far they can go. Watching the journal grow from its first publication to where it is today has been a reminder of how careful planning and concentrated effort can bring an ambitious idea to life and keep it evolving."

Abhiram Chennupati
Software engineer at Juicebox
Student, CS & Urban Planning at UC Berkeley
Class of 2022

"Scripta was my first meaningful encounter with the peer-review and research publication process, though I didn't fully appreciate its impact until I began astrophysics research in college. Many of the skills I now rely on—evaluating arguments, both in my own work and in others', identifying gaps, and asking the right questions—were shaped during those early high school experiences. While coding and astrophysics can be taught, the ability to think critically and analytically is cultivated through practice and reflection. It was this foundation, along with the confidence to pursue my own questions, that has supported my growth.

Since Scripta, I have spent a summer researching cosmology at MIT, collaborated with teams at NASA and ASU on solar sail development, and most recently received the Goldwater Scholarship. More than anything, Scripta gave me the courage to ask questions without hesitation, to accept being wrong, and to continue refining ideas until they gained meaning. Above all, it taught me not to fear the process."

Annie Mehta
Student and 2026 Barry Goldwater Scholar
University of Georgia
Class of 2022

"What *Scripta* means to me is more than just extracurricular. It has given me the opportunity to form a community, connect with my peers, and grow in many ways. I value *Scripta* because it allows me to contribute my own work while also appreciating the creativity and curiosity of my peers. The *Scripta* community inspires me to continue writing, researching, and growing both as a student, but also as a person. *Scripta* is a way to see your hard work and effort come to life. Seeing a tangible product of collaboration and endless hours of commitment, is a sense of accomplishment that will always remain unmatched."

Fatima Awan
Biochemistry Student
Georgia Institute of Technology
Class of 2025

"The experience of Scripta inspired me and made me more interested in research and publishing. It was very exciting to be active in the club since the start and see the journal make progress towards achieving its goals. The most important aspect of Scripta was the level of participation from students and the chance for us to read each other's research and provide critical feedback.

We were all active in various circles where we produced our own articles, but Scripta provided us with a platform to present them. Reading articles written by students from various disciplines broadened my perception on certain issues."

Ganiv Tuteja
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, Neuroscience and Psychology,
University of Georgia
Class of 2025

"Seeing *Scripta* grow from just an idea into what it is today is a source of pride for all FSA alumni. Many of the students who began their research journey with *Scripta* have felt inspired to continue pursuing research in college.

I remember joining as an EIC in my senior year and reading through the many excellent papers submitted to our committee, as well as writing my own piece. The experience prepared me for undergraduate research and helped me become familiar with the writing process, something that has stayed with me ever since!"

Krishna Suresh
Founder at GETASAP (YC S25)
CS Student at Georgia Tech
Class of 2023

"Participating in Scripta was a very meaningful experience for me because it gave me an early introduction to academic research and publication in a supportive environment. It was exciting to experience the full research process firsthand: starting from a literature search, developing a well-motivated project, receiving feedback from peers, and continuously improving my work through revision. Going through this process helped me become more confident in communicating ideas clearly and thinking critically about my own work.

Being part of the editorial team was also especially valuable because it allowed me to experience research from another perspective. Evaluating peers' work taught me how to give constructive feedback, pay attention to detail, and think carefully about what makes writing effective and rigorous. Working together to organize manuscripts into a polished journal edition also showed me how much collaboration and effort go into producing a final publication.

Overall, Scripta helped me develop research, writing, and collaboration skills that continue to be useful to me today as a physics researcher. I think it is a great opportunity because there are many different ways to contribute—from research and peer review to art and website design—so students with different interests can all play an important role while gaining meaningful experience."

Matthew Patkowski
Student, Colorado University Boulder
Class of 2024

"Thank you for reading and contributing to *Scripta*! I am so grateful for the dozens and dozens of students who have contributed and kept the journal alive beyond the founding team. Truly, I cannot believe we are on the 10th issue already; it's incredible how fast the students at FSA are able to move and produce excellent work once they organize around something they care about. If you attend FSA, you already know how quickly things must move. Everything about FSA is oriented around speed. You have to take your APs as soon as possible, or get an internship as young as possible, or start a startup, a non-profit, and a club while your parents still drop you off at school every morning.

Dr. A asked me to leave a note for the future generation of *Scripta*, so here's my note: Don't mistake speed for greatness. I believe modern internet culture sells a shallow version of greatness—one where great ideas are cheap, execution is easy, and the only thing standing between you and your meaningful life is how many medals you can collect before graduation. Now, I'm not much older or wiser than you are, to tell you what to do, but here is what I believe it's like to be really great. At some point in your life, you will begin to do hard, ambitious work. I know you will because you're an FSA student after all; you're meant to do ambitious things. One day, however, you are going to want to do something, and you will face a problem that is so tremendously hard that it will feel as though all the time in the world is not enough time to solve it.

That is usually the sign that the task is great and worth doing. This is because truly great opportunities are not easy. They cannot be limply grasped at, but must instead be devoted to.

Thus, research is an amazing thing to work on in high school. It is one of the few pursuits which doesn't reward speed because you cannot speed run a great question. You can only think through it. Your work only gets better

when you slow down enough to let yourself think and see clearly. I believe that is what *Scripta* can mean for you: not a line on your college application, but instead the practice of taking an idea seriously longer than anyone else. I promise that if you are able to tough it out and can stick through a problem like this for a long time, you will be able to produce so much great work.

To this year's writers, you will have so many opportunities in your life to move fast if you want to (in fact, most of your life will be people asking you to move faster). So use this time to learn how to move slowly!"

Nicholas Papciak
Founder at Datafruit (YC S25)
Computer Science Student at Georgia Tech
Class of 2022

"Publishing my first research paper during high school to a peer-reviewed journal was one of my first experiences creating work beyond a grade that really pushed me to communicate my ideas with clarity and an audience in mind. The process of revising, responding to feedback, and holding my work to a higher standard helped me build a foundation that I still rely on today as an almost-graduated biomedical engineering student. While these skills were especially valuable in my role as an undergraduate researcher in a cancer lab, they also carried into every single role I have been involved in since—whether that be clinical observation-based research or medical device development. As a biomedical engineer, I am deeply passionate about improving patient outcomes through innovation, but that isn't possible without the ability to clearly communicate ideas and rigorously test and refine them. Publishing my first paper in Scripta was a defining moment in developing these skills, and I do not regret my participation one bit.

For students considering submitting, don't overthink or wait for the perfect moment when you feel "ready." You'll learn so much more than you expect. The process of structuring your ideas, implementing feedback, and truly taking ownership of your work is incredibly rewarding and will prepare you for any path you pursue in the future."

Nicole Dubinskiy
Graduating Biomedical Engineering Student
Georgia Institute of Technology
Class of 2022

"This new issue of *Scripta*, marking its 10th installment, reflects the enduring spirit of student research at Fulton Science Academy. *Scripta* was one of the most meaningful experiences of my time there, and I hope future students continue to explore their curiosity through this truly unique opportunity."

Sophie Wang
Student, Human Health, Emory University
Class of 2025

"Being part of *Scripta* honestly had a bigger impact on me than I expected at the time. For me, *Scripta* was more than just a place to "publish" writing. It felt like one of the first spaces where my ideas could actually become something official and real. In a way, it was kind of like an academic version of posting on LinkedIn, except instead of posting updates, you were sharing thoughts, research, and work you genuinely cared about. That was probably my favorite part of *Scripta*. *Scripta* gave students a platform to take their own ideas seriously.

Looking back, I think that experience mattered a lot more than I realized at the time. As someone who was always stuck in the cycle of "What project should I build next?" or "What should I make?", seeing how differently people approached problems and ideas actually changed the way I think.

I'm really grateful I got to be part of it, and it's honestly amazing seeing how far *Scripta* has come. I also want to sincerely thank Dr. A for everything: for constantly supporting students, believing in our ideas, and helping shape the research mindset that so many of us carried beyond *Scripta*. Knowing that someone genuinely had our backs made a bigger difference than we probably realized at the time. Congratulations on your 10th issue, and to future members: stay curious, keep building things you care about."

Yujun Kim
Student, Computer Science
Georgia Institute of Technology
Class of 2024