

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I love solving jigsaw puzzles, but I have one golden rule — I can't look at the picture on the box. My friends tease me for taking the longer path, but to me, it's more satisfying to navigate on my own, testing pieces (and making mistakes) until they eventually fit. This way, you can't see the result from the beginning. Instead, you work piece by piece until you finally see the bigger picture.

Science works the same way. There's no guide or answer key — no "picture" to follow. It's a series of unknowns waiting to be connected. These enigmas give us something to work towards, rewarding us with "aha moments" that eventually lead to new questions.

Take black holes, for example. Scientists have had evidence of their existence for over a century, but capturing an image of one seemed impossible. Black holes swallow light, making them invisible. But researchers persevered, developing the Event Horizon Telescope to aggregate data from observatories worldwide. Finally, in 2019, they revealed the first-ever image of a black hole, turning a long-standing enigma into a groundbreaking discovery. And still, we've only scratched the surface of black holes and their secrets, giving us new avenues for further research.

This issue of NU Sci uncovers enigmas all around us. We ask if sibling birth order impacts personality, and examine discoveries relating to gut health and molecular aging. We look at cultural phenomena like parasocialism and nepotism alongside neurological processes like memory sorting. We investigate whether or not animals have morals, explore possible treatments for ALS, and even discuss the potential existence of a new planet.

Thank you to our writers, editors, designers, and photographers for contributing their creativity and passion. I also thank our e-board members and the software, social media, and outreach teams working hard to make this possible. I hope these pages help you untangle enigmas in science and beyond, but more importantly, give you the confidence to persist in the face of unknown answers.



Dessy Dusichka

Dessy Dusichka
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