

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

My favorite part of sending a voice message is the suspense after it's sent. Did it actually go through – or has it slipped into the “void”? My friends and I joke about this digital limbo, a place of emptiness floating beyond the bounds of retrieval in some eerie, unreachable dimension.

The void represents something lost, missing or simply unknown. Once in the void, what is gone often cannot be retrieved. Yet this loss, paradoxically, offers a fresh start. In this sense, the void can be an opportunity for growth and may not be as bleak as it seems at first glance.

Acknowledging the voids around us, whether personal or societal, can help us bridge knowledge gaps and reach mutual understanding with each other. In science, identifying voids in our knowledge drives innovation and unearths solutions to our pressing issues. In the American political climate, many feel a void in representation and policy that leaves them dissatisfied. Personal voids exist too — for me, the impending thought of graduation and losing the familiar bubble of my college environment is scary, but it also represents a fresh start: a new life chapter with a stronger sense of independence. Pinpointing precisely what's missing is essential for making meaningful progress and lasting solutions.

This issue of NU Sci explores voids across science and society. We investigate brain plasticity, sensory deprivation, and intrusive thoughts. We reflect on the impact of technology on art and human empathy, alongside philosophical questions of consciousness and the block universe theory. Finally, we delve into nature's mysteries, from the depths of the Mariana Trench to the phenomenon of disappearing stars.

I'm grateful for our writers, editors, designers, and photographers, along with the web and software, marketing, and outreach teams that make this possible. To our readers, I hope these pages inspire you to reflect on the voids around you. Voids are less empty than they seem — let's approach them not with fear, but with the curiosity to uncover what's possible.



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