

Introduction and Dedication

After the inaugural issue of *The Alexandrian* last year, the history department became showcased on a university level for providing a forum for student research. This tiny publication aided two students when applying for masters programs in history and gave the writers a chance to present their material in front of students, faculty, and supportive administration. In short, our first issue accomplished all we hoped it would and set a precedent for history and philosophy students who also wished to submit their work.

Our first issue discussed Dr. Nathan Alexander, the impetus for a student-run history publication at Troy University. All the work presented in these pages is done in his memory.

With the publication of our second issue, we have accomplished another great feat. This is the first issue since the very first *Alexandrian*. This is no small accomplishment, as we believe the essays spanning from Charlemagne to the Armenian genocide are just as exciting as those published in our first issue. We have also expanded the contents of this journal to include a faculty essay by Dr. Jennifer Ann Newman Treviño. This journal is the accomplishment of so many contributors' hard work, and this is why the achievement of finishing our second issue and officially creating a serialized journal is so meaningful.

To Doug Allen, who was the first student editor and the former Phi Alpha Theta president who came back from a conference one day with the statement, "We have to make a history journal," congratulations, because your inspiration is our legacy. To Dr. Ross who has held this idea through "generations" of Phi Alpha Theta members as they are initiated and graduate, thank you for the hard work you have not only already done, but are planning to do as this journal continues. With big dreams for what this journal is to become, I know that even as I graduate this spring semester, at least one part of my hard work will be shared with others.

Another special legacy that I hope will continue with this journal, is a dedication of each issue as *The Alexandrian* is passed from student to student. So, our second issue of *The Alexandrian* is dedicated to Dr. William Welch who is retiring from Troy University this year. Dr. Welch was my first professor in the history department and was my reason for declaring a history minor, and otherwise has been a favorite professor of his students. He leaves the history department in order to travel, but we thank him for his time at Troy and wish to recognize him here because of his importance to several contributors of this journal.

It is my hope that the Iota-Mu chapter of *Phi Alpha Theta* will continue to find and reward excellent student research. I am so happy to have been a part of this issue of *The Alexandrian* and I sincerely wish for you to enjoy the essays.

Nichole Woodburn
Phi Alpha Theta president and co-editor