

Gratitude

I was so excited to have the opportunity to edit *The Alexandrian* again this year. My team and I learned a lot creating last year's issue, and it was a joy to be able to expand and apply that learning. A project like this is impossible to complete alone; I am so thankful for every person who did something to help.

This was the year of COVID-19. It has been a startling, scary time. The pandemic upended our most basic activities. It has threatened us with death and fundamentally changed our lives. At the time of writing, no one knows when quarantine will end. In the context of this nightmare, I am immensely grateful that we can have an issue at all, and beyond impressed that the contributors were able to produce such quality scholarship.

Revising one's work for publication is no easy task in normal times. To the contributors and the faculty members who worked with them on revisions: thank you for your hard work.

Thank you, once again, to the Alexander family. It is impossible to overstate the importance of your support. I have never met Dr. Alexander and so to be trusted with an important project in his memory is an incredible privilege. Thank you to Sandra, Steve, Rachel, Sarah, Andrew, and Elise for your intellectual, financial, and spiritual support over nine beautiful issues.

Lauren Post volunteered to be my copy editor and has been an inspiration ever since. She has an impeccable grasp of the English language and, more importantly, a sense of good cheer and kindness. Thank you, Lauren, for your literacy and for your friendship.

Our faculty editor, Dr. Karen Ross, was forced to abruptly transition to online teaching along with the rest of the faculty. Despite this, she contributed enormously to the journal. Thank you, Dr. Ross, for your careful attention and support.

This is my last semester at Troy University and *The Alexandrian* has made it special. I can only hope that I, in turn, have made *The Alexandrian* special.

Nola Aycock
Editor

PS – I would like to add my thanks to Nola's. This has been a labor of love for many years, and thanks to the work of our talented student-authors, -editors, and -artists, as well as faculty, we have completed this ninth volume.

And, as always, we so deeply appreciate the support of the Alexander family. Thank you for your love and continued involvement!

Karen Ross
Faculty Editor