

Gratitude

This year's gratitude is written by editor, Lukas Ducker. Lukas graduates this May with his BS in History and History Education.

“Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel.” – Socrates

As the editor for this year's edition of *The Alexandrian*, I would like to say thank you. More specifically, thank *you* the reader. Your support, or continued support, of our authors and the mission of this journal is greatly valued.

Thank you to the Alexander family. Your continued support of *The Alexandrian* is invaluable to the students of Troy University's History and Philosophy Department. You provide the opportunity for students like the authors and I to grow into the shoes of a historian. Consciously or unconsciously, you are continuing the most precious work that Dr. Alexander started when he became an educator, you are providing the outlet for students to kindle the flame of knowledge and encouraging the next generation of historians to share their work outside of the classroom.

Thank you to the faculty. You are the foundation for which we as students rely on. Your dedication to our academic growth and professional development is the basis for our success. This semester I have been able to see firsthand how demanding the profession of education really is. It takes someone truly dedicated to their students to do what you do. So again, thank you. Thank you for pushing us to better ourselves as students, as thinkers, and as historians.

Thank you to the authors. You did it. Whether this is your first publication or just the latest in a collection of publications, you did it. It takes courage to publish your work. I'm positive there were many times during the writing process that you doubted yourself or your ability. During the editing process, there were times that you thought that it would be easier to just forget about it and give up. But here you are. This is only the first of many steps in your professional career as a writer. When you have walked the path of life and written your last story of years long past, look back on this with a smile as the beginning of your path.

I want to give a special thank you to Dr. Margaret Gnoinska. Thank you for encouraging me to publish my work in last year's edition. Without your encouragement, I would not have believed myself good enough to do so. Your encouragement pushed me to believe in myself as a writer and as a historian. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Lastly, thank you to Dr. Ross. Your guidance and willingness to work with me is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support of the students and your dedication to the mission of *The Alexandrian*. Without you, *The Alexandrian* would not be what it is today.

Lukas Ducker, Editor