

Foreword

Welcome to the eighth volume of *Ibid: A Student History Journal*, published by the Eta Nu Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society at Texas Woman's University. Celebrating eight years of publishing the best in graduate and undergraduate scholarship, *Ibid.*'s eighth volume continues the journal's strong tradition of faculty and student collaboration.

Last year, the national office of Phi Alpha Theta awarded this journal the prestigious Gerald Nash Journal Prize. This national award recognized TWU students for their superlative efforts in creating a professional journal that boasts both a print and on-line presence. At the same time, the national office of Phi Alpha Theta named the Eta Nu Chapter a "Best Chapter" for the third year in a row. As advisor, I am proud of our chapter's many activities, including our many community outreach efforts. I am especially proud that our chapter's signature effort has been to encourage our members to present and publish their research.

Thanks to a generous private endowment, *Ibid.* was able to award two prizes for the "Best Papers" appearing in this volume. Named for long-time TWU professor, Valentine J. Belfiglio, these prizes, awarded to Jillion Crawford-Becker and Leah Stanton, reward innovative scholarship and excellent writing.

In addition to featuring our Belfiglio Prize winners' essays, *Ibid.* is very pleased to publish the top papers from the Living History Community College Essay Contest. As in past years, the journal partnered with local Community Colleges to sponsor this popular essay contest. The journal is also especially pleased to debut a new department detailing trends in historiography.

Finally, I offer my sincere thanks to the journals' editors, Kaitlyn Waynen, Amanda Roberts, and Aubri Thurmond. Their hard work and dedication to this project is much appreciated. I also appreciate the excellent work of the student and faculty editorial boards.

After eight years of working with hundreds of students on *Ibid.*, I believe, more than ever, that this project shapes excellent historians and elegant writers. As the fine essays in this volume indicate, our eighth volume carries on our proud tradition.

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