

Foreword

Welcome to the ninth 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 nine years of publishing the best in graduate and undergraduate scholarship, *Ibid.*'s ninth 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 for the second consecutive year. This national award recognized TWU students for their superlative efforts in creating a professional journal. At the same time, the national office of Phi Alpha Theta named the Eta Nu Chapter a "Best Chapter" for the fourth 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 Kaitlyn Waynen & Leah Stanton, reward excellent scholarship and 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. The journal is also especially pleased to debut new department detailing trends in material culture and Texas history. Our ninth issue is also our very first 100% on-line publication. While we will miss the print edition, we are excited about the opportunities our new medium provides.

Finally, I offer my sincere thanks to the journals' editors, Kaitlyn Waynen, Megan Martin, 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 nine 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 ninth volume carries on our proud tradition.

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