

## *Foreword*

Welcome to the twelfth 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. As always, *Ibid.* remains committed to building student confidence through conversational mentorship that experientially grows knowledge.

As faculty advisor, I am extremely proud of the student writers and editors who, over the years, have transformed a small, in-house experiment into a professional, nationally award-winning student journal. This year, I should like to recognize the efforts of our student editors Kasie Moffett, Joy Siler, and Ashton Brackett. Their hard work and dedication to this project is much appreciated. I also appreciate the excellent work of the student and faculty editorial boards.

As in past years, a generous private endowment allows us to award three "Best Paper" prizes. Named for longtime TWU professor Valentine J. Belfiglio, the Belfiglio Prize recognizes the very best in student research and writing. This year's winners are Cynthia Lewis, Hunter Vermeer, and Kasie Moffett. In addition to our Belfiglio Prize winners, the 11<sup>th</sup> volume also includes special departments focusing on Women's History and Historiography. This year we also introduce an entirely new section devoted to highlighting the scholarship of first year students from introductory History courses. I offer my thanks to Professors Aubri Thurmond and Cynthia Butler for their work in encouraging scholarship among first year students.

This year's volume is dedicated to Dr. Valentine Belfiglio. Dr. Belfiglio is a widely respected scholar and master teacher who begins a much-deserved retirement in the fall. Dr. Belfiglio taught at TWU for 49 years. He is a member of Phi Alpha Theta and an early and constant supporter of *Ibid.* Our annual Belfiglio Prize, named in his honor, recognizes Dr. Belfiglio's central role as a scholarly example and mentor to students and faculty alike. With thankfulness for his friendship, we dedicate this volume to him.

After twelve 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 twelfth volume carries on our proud tradition.