

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

One of the exciting things about *Scientia et Humanitas* is that as a journal showcasing student research, our contributors come from many academic fields of study across the Middle Tennessee State University campus. The *Scientia* tradition is proudly supported by the Honors College, and since 2011 the journal has provided a home for students who wish to share their work with the academic world. In this volume, we have work on topics as disparate as Navajo literature and quantum computing. While variety is important, our ultimate goal is to produce a journal of the highest quality. Our article acceptance rate this year was 42%, reflecting the competitive nature of our submissions process.

As a student of composition and rhetoric, I know the benefit of communicating effectively to an audience. I also understand the many challenges when attempting to be an effective communicator. Our journal's contributors have worked hard to produce manuscripts for publication, but they also endeavor to create pieces that have the potential to alter a reader's understanding of the world. Those who engage with Volume 9 of *Scientia* will undoubtedly benefit from these new perspectives.

This year's submissions underwent a rigorous review cycle from peers, editors, and faculty. Those who worked through the process and persevered have proven their unyielding dedication to excellence. Our team of staff members, all of whom are students, worked around busy schedules to provide contributors with quality editing and detailed feedback. These student editors are likewise worthy of admiration. I am proud of both the contributors and staff represented by our journal. This text is a monument to the labor and educational growth of all our participants.

Volume 9 boasts a diverse set of articles, half of which focus on religious studies and popular culture. **Hanan Beyene**, a junior in the college of Liberal Arts, gives an analysis of the critically acclaimed 2016 album *Lemonade* by Beyoncé Knowles-Carter through a mobilization of Delores S. Williams's definition of womanist testimony. **Ansley Morgan Pearson**, a graduating senior in animation, applies several theoretical concepts central to religious studies depicted by the world-building of Nintendo's beloved *Legend of Zelda* video game series. **Aaron Selby**, senior in behavioral and health science, reframes work of several scholars and the concept of soteriology in narrative in order to correlate the impact of films from Disney's "Renaissance" and American attitudes regarding salvation. **Madison Ellis**, a graduating senior named Student of the Year for the Philosophy department along with the Outstanding Undergraduate of the Year for the College of Liberal Arts, provides us with a rumination on the use of Aristotelian ethics in the business world. Ultimately, Ellis combines her understanding of both disciplines and outlines the incompatibility of these philosophies, stating that "it is imperative that we do not confuse the two, treating them as equals in practice and theory."

Miranda Uselton, a senior in Basic and Applied Sciences, provides an informative article with "Investigating Quantum Computation." She outlines the exciting recent developments in quantum computing in an accessible way that provides insights regarding the advantages new understandings in the field can have on machine learning,

mathematics, and cryptography. The article also covers the dangers of hackers who may use quantum computers to gain sensitive online data. Finally, in “Nádlee and Trickster: Accounting for the Absence of Non-Binary Genders in Foucault’s *History of Sexuality*,” master’s candidate in English Studies **Jess Bennett** interrogates the role of the “berdache” in Native American society and literature. Bennett mobilizes a perceived gap of gender difference in Foucault’s work and evaluates this schism through the lens of Native American literature that explores both gender and sexual fluidity.

In closing, I would like to state that I believe *Scientia* is a journal that produces significant work and plays a valuable role at MTSU. My time as its editor has come to an end, but I am hopeful that this year’s volume will bring a sense of accomplishment to everyone who had a hand in its production. I am equally hopeful that this journal will be a teaching tool and an example to other members of our campus community in the future.

I would like to thank Jacob Castle, Gabrielle Morin, Katelin MacVey, Myranda Uselton, Michael McDermott, Brielle Campos, Britney Brown, and Matthew Spencer for all their hard work. Your kindness, camaraderie, dedication to the journal, and care for our contributors made this year a joy. Working with each one of you was an honor. I also owe so much to Marsha Powers whose experience and sage advice made everything easier. Susan Lyons has kept me afloat technologically speaking, and I am eternally grateful for her knowledge and assistance. I would have also been lost without the patient guidance of digital scholarship librarian Alissa Miller. Last but not least, I owe a debt of gratitude to our faculty advisor, Philip E. Phillips, who provided me with this opportunity. I have found his graciousness and wisdom to be invaluable.

Amy Harris-Aber
Editor in Chief