

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Editing an academic journal carries its own challenges, but it is also a labor of love. This holds doubly true for a student-run journal like *Scientia*. Our journal has a twofold mission, one academic and one educational. The academic mission is self-explanatory: showcasing our university's best graduate and undergraduate student research. The labor of love, however, truly stems from our educational mission. Over the last year, I have had the privilege of getting to know both authors and staff, working closely with them through a long and arduous process. My pride in both is immense. Although most of our initial submissions receive a "revise and resubmit" recommendation, our final acceptance rate for issue 7 was less than 33%, making this our most competitive issue yet. Almost all our accepted articles underwent at least one major revision and usually several additional minor revisions. Our authors survived several rounds of rigorous review (peer, editorial, and faculty) as well as copyediting and proofreading. Many of our authors, I'm sure, probably groaned when they saw yet another e-mail from me. Nonetheless, their dedication and diligence never failed to impress me. Likewise, *Scientia's* staff this year could not have been more professional. Despite receiving a record number of submissions this year (25 in all), our staff—all volunteers working around their own coursework demands—kept the machine smoothly running during all stages of production. Even beyond producing a high quality journal of peer reviewed student research, *Scientia* aims to prepare the next generation of scholars and researchers for the demands of academic publication, and it has been my pleasure to see authors and staff alike strive to achieve their highest potential.

Issue 7 features an eclectic and diverse set of articles—the first issue since our second, in fact, where literary analysis does not represent the clear bulk of articles. Our undergraduate articles represent three different fields: international relations, English, and psychology. Our five graduate articles feature just as wide a range: two economics, two English, and one social work.

Starting off this year's issue are our two recipients of the Deans' Distinguished Essay award, an award bestowed by the deans of the Honors College to recognize an issue's best graduate and undergraduate essay. **Hillary K. Yeager**, a doctoral student in English, represents the graduate students for her article about medieval drama. Representing our undergraduates is **Christopher R. Bearden**, who just graduated with a B.A. in psychology, writing about leadership strategies in student aviation teams.

Next we have **Mary Ellsworth**, a masters candidate in economics, writing about the impact of incarceration on the labor market participation rate for men. Two articles focused on literary analysis follow: **Sara Hayes**, another doctoral student in English, writing about games as cultural expression, and **Rebecca Clippard**, a Spanish and Japanese double major, writing on fears about the New Woman in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. After these two articles, **Muhammad A. Yadudu**, who just graduated with his Ph.D. in economics, provides an analysis of the HOPE Scholarship's impact on high school graduation in Georgia. After this analysis comes an article on foster care, written by M.A. candidate in social work **Calista Barberi**. Rounding out our issue is an article by **Kayla McCrary**, who just graduated with her B.S. in international relations. Her study of Euroskepticism and Brexit has been adapted from her MTSU University Honors thesis.

The 2017 issue of *Scientia et Humanitas* marks my fourth and final year with *Scientia*, and I can honestly say that every year the experience has simply gotten more enjoyable. I've met and worked with many fantastic people during my time; alas, too many to mention by name. Particular thanks, however, must be given to this year's staff for all their hard work, dedication, and love of the process: Erica Anderson, Ellie Carpenter, Nick Dalbey, Katie Hickman, Benjamin Kulas, Erica Macon, Kayla McCrary, Abul Hasnat Muhammed Salimullah, Sara Snoddy, and Courtney Wright. Additional kudos must be given to Nick, Ellie, and Erica Macon for their willingness to accept tough assignments, rush jobs, or even extra work. My associate editor, Hillary Yeager, made my life considerably easier with her constant assistance and support. Finally, special thanks must be given to Marsha Powers and Phillip E. Phillips, *Scientia's* faculty advisors, who were always available with advice and suggestions. A lot of hard work goes into producing an academic journal, much of it behind the scenes, but I believe it has especially paid off in this issue. Enjoy.

Dennis Wilson Wise

Editor in chief