

## Editor's Note

(Revised)



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The Lambda Alpha Journal is back! After a period of unfortunate but inescapable delay, it is with the greatest of pleasure that I submit to you the latest issue of the Lambda Alpha Journal. The current double issue of the Journal comprises volumes 25 and 26 for 1994 and 1995. It also signifies an important period in the life and history of both the Journal and the Lambda Alpha Anthropology Honors Society. Now in its twenty fifth issue (Vol. 25/26), the Journal has served as a forum for student publications in all areas of anthropology for more than a quarter of a century. During this time the Journal has undergone various changes in format and it has also grown in circulation. An endless diversity of student and occasional faculty manuscripts have been filling the pages of the Journal from year to year. When scanning the pages of the past volumes, several author's names stand out - they are the individuals who have continued on in their education and eventually become professionals in the anthropological disciplines. It is especially gratifying to note that the articles published in Lambda Alpha receive nationwide and even international circulation and recognition. During the past months, the editorial staff of the Lambda Alpha Journal has undertaken an elaborate review of the Journal format and it is with great anticipation that we present to you the latest "look". As a result of our efforts, the style and format of the Lambda Alpha Journal have been completely revised, and compliance with the guidelines for the *American Anthropologist* has been more completely enforced. Additionally, the new print format permits more extensive contents to be published in the Journal at little or no added cost. Also new to the Journal, but not included in the current issue, is the addition of notes, essays, and student book reviews of recent publications. It is hoped that this added feature will encourage students to engage actively in anthropological debates and offer individual points of view.

The "new" format does not reflect a change in philosophy on the part of the editorial staff, rather it marks an attempt to live up to the philosophy and standards established by the founders and the previous editors of the Journal. Without them we would not be where we find ourselves today--growing and diversifying. We hereby recognize the efforts of all the previous student participants and editors. In addition, we wish to recognize Ben K. Swartz who has been extraordinarily supportive throughout the years. We extend our thanks to all of you wherever you are, and it is our hope that you recognize the important contribution that everyone of you has made to the success of the Journal.

We especially wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to Lowell D. Holmes, former Editor-In-Chief, Advisor, and Founder of the Journal. As a founding member of Lambda Alpha, Lowell D. Holmes has been one of the driving forces behind the National Anthropology Honor Society, and his contributions to the Journal in his capacity of Advisor and Editor-In-Chief are innumerable. During his editorship, he nursed the Journal from an idea to a reality. For twenty years he oversaw the publication of the Journal and its contents,

and he guided the Journal through some rough economic times. As a result of his efforts, the Lambda Alpha Journal is alive and well with a healthy circulation. Thanks to his efforts, students from near and far were afforded the opportunity to experience the satisfaction of getting their words and thoughts disseminated to other students through the print medium of a student journal.

Aside from his efforts and contributions to the Lambda Alpha Journal, Lowell D. Holmes is a distinguished and universally recognized scholar. He represents a tradition of excellence in research and publication in anthropology and his professional contributions over forty plus years range from thorough re-visitations of earlier studies to innovations in contemporary research. His own research in Eastern Polynesia is expansive and innovative in a multitude of ways and has embraced studies of culture change in both Samoa and the United States. He also ventured into research in the anthropology of aging, Jazz and Blues culture, and many other topics. His research is extensively documented in an extraordinary number of publications and film, for example a recent manuscript that is included in this volume.

Lowell D. Holmes' efforts also touched students through film and through the class medium. As a teacher he captivated student audiences ranging from introductory classes to advanced seminars in anthropological theory, by sharing with them the experiences of his mentors, colleagues, and of his personal research. By bridging the gap between past and present research and by teaching research by example, he managed to put anthropology into a coherent context, meaningful and full of intrigue to the seasoned professional as well as to the novice. As a film maker, he also educated and entertained audiences nation-wide. Though currently retired from teaching, Holmes continues to be actively engaged in research and publication and he still finds time for Lambda Alpha. In recognition of his contributions to the Lambda Alpha Journal, the Honor Society, and to the field of Anthropology, the Lambda Alpha Journal staff, on behalf of our subscribers and readership past and present, dedicates the current volume of the Lambda Alpha Journal to Lowell D. Holmes.

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Editor-In-Chief *λ $\alpha$  Journal*