Editor's Note

It is with great pride that I introduce to you the twenty-eighth volume of the Lambda Alpha Journal. To keep up with the responsibilities of publishing the journal is an elaborate task and I extend my thanks to all the contributors, the Wichita State Student Government Association which sponsors the Journal and has done so since the Journal's inception, and finally, but not least, the volunteer staff.

The current volume is dedicated to a dear friend and member of Lambda Alpha, Mr. Chester Arthur Harrison, who passed away in 1997 while serving as an officer in the Society. His efforts and contributions are recognized in a special dedication which opens the volume.

The following papers are varied in content and reflects the breadth and diversity of the discipline of anthropology. The introductory article by Plested represents a unique and entertaining piece on socio-linguistics. Her paper is followed by an elaborate presentation by Oakland on the collective memory and improvisation in Jazz. He presents a number of complex assessments of interest to the generalist as well as the Jazz enthusiast. Additional papers include Nail's review of the Miocene fossil primate phenomenon Gigantopithecus, adding an interesting contribution from the field of paleoanthropology, and Gann's brief but rather unique behavioral study of a group of wild Howler monkeys in Costa Rica. Her study is of particular interest because of the relative sparsity of existing observational studies of these primates in the wild. A cultural anthropological contribution by Löbenbruck on the role the party cadre as a social institution in the changing society of China is accompanied by a diverse paper on aspects of the social dynamics of the Hadza and Kaguru of Africa. The concluding article represents a study by Phelps who reports on the effects of a unique field school project on the community that it is aimed at studying. A kind of anthropological study of the effects of anthropological interference. The main articles are followed by two book reviews presented by student contributors.

As always, the Journal concludes with an updated list of the student award recipients and chapter addresses and advisors. I take this opportunity to congratulate not only the award winners, but also all the participants in the two competitions. I also welcome all the new chapters and membership. In this vein, I invite all of you who are not currently subscribing to the Journal to do so. A common misunderstanding has been that the Journal and the Newsletter from the executive secretary at Ball State University is one and the same. Indeed, they are two different organs of the Society. The Lambda Alpha Journal is a separate publication, and has remained a non-profit, purely volunteer-based production which receives no funding from the Society. Our sponsor has been the Wichita State Student Government Association. The Journal publishes student submissions and student award competition papers following an editorial staff review/referee process. Approximately forty to sixty percent of all submissions are published following the review process. The Journal already has several individual and library subscribers and we would certainly appreciate more. Subscriptions are mailed to individuals or institutions throughout the U.S., in Germany, Japan and South America, thus contributions, if accepted, achieve wide exposure. All individual...
student members are encouraged to subscribe (see form in back of journal), and even more importantly, all chapters are encouraged to take out a chapter subscription. We really depend on your subscriptions to keep us going. At Wichita State University, the Alpha Chapter requires their membership to subscribe as part of the active participation in the Society, thus showing their support and appreciation for the Journal.

When possible, we have mailed complimentary copies to the chapters in the past. Our intention was, of course, to establish an interest and greater awareness of the Journal. It is too early to judge whether or not we have succeeded. Yet as the editor-in-chief I have seen a substantial increase in manuscript submissions, and I am pleased to say that submissions are diverse in nature and content.

The growth of Lambda Alpha nationally has been considerable in recent years and I wish to recognize the special efforts of Dr. Swartz, our executive secretary, and the contributions of all of the individual Chapter faculty advisors. The increasing number of Chapters and membership is clearly suggesting that there is an important place for the society and I assume, by association, for the Journal. I urge you, therefore, to subscribe, and to submit manuscripts.

For now, as the editorial staff has proceeded to work on Volume 29, I urge the readership to take time to enjoy the volume before you. I shall look forward to your contributions.

Peer H. Moore-Jansen
Editor-In-Chief λα Journal