

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I am pleased to announce the completion of the thirty seventh volume of the Lambda Alpha Journal, a publication of the National Anthropology Honors Society. This year's volume presents seven papers with topics in cultural, archaeological and biological anthropology. In addition, we have included both book and article reviews.

In the first paper, Danielle Deemer discusses how local knowledge is used to understand the causes of youth outmigration in rural areas. David Bailey II explores the influence of Buddhism in Sri Lanka's identity making. The concept of identity is also addressed by Gennie Thi Nguyen. In her paper, Vietnamese foodways is the unit of analysis, as it functions to maintain and transform cultural identity. M. Lynne Thompson examines if the religion Psychiana exhibits the primary components of a revitalization movement as defined by Anthony F. C. Wallace. The Katsina Cult, as explained by Ashley Atkins is not only understood in the religious sphere, but it should also be explained within the political sphere. Kristina Countryman analyzes the development of ancient Mesopotamia in terms of Multilinear Evolution Theory. Lastly, Alexia Dovas explores three theories as to why the Aztecs converted to Catholicism.

We have included four book reviews and an article review. A recent added feature to the Journal, I strongly urge readers to submit manuscripts in this category, even anthropological film reviews. I suggest that the reviews provide students with an important alternative for students to apply critical thinking to anthropological literature.

For the first time, we have included abstracts. Ten years ago I worked with a student to organize a student presentation forum at Wichita State University to provide students in all areas of anthropology an opportunity to prepare and present papers researched and written by them. The event quickly grew into a full day conference with attendance from Kansas and neighboring states. This year's symposium is the 9th Annual conference in Wichita and the presenters came from Kansas and Arkansas.

We conclude volume 37 with an updated list of chapters and advisors, followed by a recognition of past award recipients of the National Graduate Research Grant, winners of the National Scholarship Award, and National Dean's List Scholarship. The journal staff and I welcome all recent chapters and new members to the society. We congratulate this year's award winners and wish them success in their future endeavors. I extend my personal appreciation to all advisors and officers of the Lambda Alpha chapters across the nation and to the student authors for their contributions. I offer a very special thank you to Ms. Sandi Harvey, student-editor, for her diligent work to complete this volume.

Peer H. Moore-Jansen  
Editor-In-Chief