

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Saying goodbye to the University of Alabama is hard. There is just so much to miss: a beautiful campus and vibrant student life, punctuated by Saturdays at Bryant-Denny Stadium, for one. What is more, there is the U.A. History Department, from which this very journal sprung to life. In my estimation, an undergraduate publication like the *Review* is exceedingly rare, a testament to the ambition of my colleagues and the commitment of the history faculty. Other institutions lay claim to similarly erudite professors and precocious students, of course, and often strong scholarship blossoms from their collaboration. Yet I cannot help but feel, with a hint of almost paternal pride, that the *CHR* is special.

Perhaps it is because of our staff's precise standards. Though we again received many excellent submissions, the current issue is among our shortest. It is common that an otherwise outstanding paper misses only one key element, or requires further development on only one key idea. I am proud that, in these cases, review board members offer detailed feedback, which authors can use to improve their work in the future. Or perhaps it is because Dr. Margaret Peacock has proven the finest leader an organization could ask for. She was fittingly recognized as such this year, winning the John L. Blackburn Award for the best academic advisor on U.A.'s campus.

Or perhaps it is because I consider a great number of *Review* personnel to be not only unparalleled minds, but dear friends, too. I will deeply miss my associates on the executive board: John Pace, Caroline Lawrence, and Lily Mears, who will all graduate with distinction, and Gavin Jones, John French, Kara Hutchinson, and Sarah Jaggears, who I trust will take the *CHR* to new heights. In fact, this edition—which examines the imperialism and Panama Flag Crisis, lost cause ideology during the Spanish-American War, the politicization of the International Olympic Committee, and a book on the Boer War—marks the last to be shaped by some of the *Review*'s founding cohort.

Still, such a change is good: throughout the past semester, I have been energized by the new *CHR* class' fresh perspective, as well as their passion for historical inquiry and writing. To express my gratitude for their enthusiasm and expertise would require reams and reams. So, yes, saying goodbye is difficult, but I am excited to watch the *Review* flourish from afar.

Yours sincerely,

Jackson C Foster
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Co-Editor-in-Chief