Letter from the Editor

Students of the humanities and social sciences spend considerable time during their college years conducting research, analyzing data, and reporting their findings. The fields in CHSS are diverse, yet they all deal with what it means to be human. In an age where the world is becoming more interconnected and people are interacting more with varying cultures, languages, and histories, the study of the humanities is more important than ever if each of us is to become a contributing member of a global society. This second edition of *The Measure* highlights some of the best research produced by undergraduate students within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The articles are arranged alphabetically, in order of student's last names, and form a broad overview of the excellent contributions our students are making. Each article is presented in the general style and formatting of its respective discipline. Our first article by Baylie Adams shows how the city of Constantinople was transformed from a Christian to a Muslim city through architecture and the development of a strong bureaucratic government working in conjunction with the monarch. Conner Flynt's piece on a little known Confederate submarine addresses the debate on honoring the Confederate legacy. A bit of local history is also presented as Sarah Schmitt focuses on the Huntsville Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1867, which also reflects on how race relations were changed during this crisis that coincidentally occurred right after emancipation.

Danielle Watley reports on the evolution of West Germanic languages and how they compare to the different variations of English. Samantha Hunt's call for the preservation of a dying language through a showcase of its poetry exemplifies how easily our roots can be forgotten in the modern world. A microstudy on feminism by Stewart Lawrence analyzes the female resistance in Paris to their German occupiers in World War II through the eyes of a French photographer.
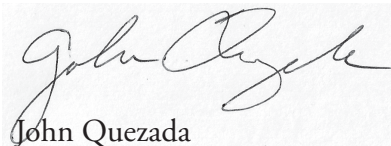
Issues in our more modern world are also included in this edition. Amandamay Naquin-Eason reports on justice-involved youth and the connection to parental incarceration and teacher support. Estrella Godinez explores the bond between the lack of parental attachment to their children and its influence on teens' risky behaviors. Michelina Olivieri provides hope for teens struggling with identity formation in the LGBT+ community. Traditional ideas of academic research are broadened

through Maria Hendrickson's research into the ways cosplay communities support one another as they bond over the new hero from the film, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens.*

The second edition of *The Measure* is the result of extensive work and support. To begin, faculty throughout the college inspired the students to conduct quality research. Our faculty editorial board spent countless hours reading selections and editing this year's submissions. Interim Associate Dean Rick Bello also donated his time in the copyediting of the final submissions. University archivist Barbara Kievit-Mason was a wealth of knowledge, who along with university photographer Brian Blalock, assisted the staff the curating the beautiful pictures of SHSU contained herein. To all the students and advisors who submitted articles to *The Measure*, thank you. Your hard work and contributions to your field remind us that the reason for the creation of *The Measure* is to show the world the great work SHSU students produce. This issue could not be have been released without the mentorship of Associate Dean and Executive Editor Carroll Ferguson Nardone. Your advice has been invaluable to me as both an editor and as an individual.

Please enjoy this edition of *The Measure*. The research in this journal exhibits what the College of Humanities and Social Sciences represents, the advancement of our society through the study of ourselves.

Sincerely,

John Quezada
Managing Editor