

## Editor's Note

*Dr. Mary Elizabeth Sullivan*

Editor-in-Chief, *CLA Journal*

I am incredibly pleased to present the eighth volume of *CLA Journal* to our readers. Despite this year's Student Research Symposium being cancelled due to Covid-19, the decision was made to still publish student work in our journal, and in a surprise twist, we have ended up with the largest volume of the journal to date! I cannot express how proud I am of our student authors and how grateful I am to my colleagues in the College of Liberal Arts who assisted in nominating outstanding papers and helping students prepare manuscripts for submission.

Our student authors explore a wide range of topics this year. The volume begins with a series of papers looking at issues of global economic development, including GMO maize production and land ownership in Mexico (Seward), the relationship between corruption and economic freedom (Cramer), and the effects of economic development on suicide rates (King). We then come closer to home to explore funding formulas for public schools in Arkansas (Hacker). Another series of articles takes on issues of sex and gender in modern America, exploring the "manic pixie dream girl" and her effect on female political candidates (Vincent), sexism in sports (Azumara), and the experiences of mothers running for political office (Woerner). Our third set of articles deals with racial and ethnic bias, including that found in the work of Leibniz (Moix) and that which Frederick Douglass faced, even

within the ranks of abolitionists (Grove); Flemens and Mars then use public sociology to combat racial bias in Arkansas and at UCA. We then have papers exploring the cognitive science of religion (Taylor), social disorganization and violence in Arkansas (Barnes), poetic responses to the violence of WWI (Samons), and reporting of sexual offenses (Wiesboeck). Finally, we have three articles in Spanish all dealing with criticism of fascism and Franco-era Spain in literary works- an analysis of critiques of Franco-era Spain in Gothic literature (Ordaz), anarchist critiques of social hierarchies in *Los Mares del Sur* (Owens), and the use of ambiguous language to provide social commentary on Spain's transition away from dictatorship (Perkins).

I wish to thank all of our student authors for their hard work this year. Not only did they manage to complete their scholarly work during an exceptionally challenging time, but they have exceeded standards of previous years. I am also grateful to all the faculty advisors who helped students prepare their manuscripts, especially Dr. Jennifer Parrack and Dr. John Parrack who assisted in copy editing the Spanish language pieces. Finally, I must thank Dr. Peter Mehl for his years of service to the College of Liberal Arts, and especially for his support of the Student Research Symposium and *CLA Journal*.