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Introduction

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Introduction

“*Anthós*: a bloom, flower, the brightest, brilliant, shining ... These words are not only the meaning, in ancient Greek, of this journal’s title, but also contain both its reason for existence and the criteria for inclusion within it.”¹ Quite a bit has changed within the University Honors Program since Diana Biller and Adam Brewer, former Editors-in-Chief, printed these words in the June 2009 issue of *Anthós*. One of the biggest changes the Program has undergone is the broadening of its student body. In recent years, students from all different levels in their educational journeys have joined the Honors Program, further diversifying its community of learners who are interested in well-preparing themselves for graduate studies. In turn, *Anthós* too has adapted to include contributions from students with or without the formal University Honors training acquired in the first two years of the program. Nevertheless, the importance of “rigor and attention to research methods,”² which the University Honors Program writing training emphasizes, still provides guidance for the selection of papers for *Anthós*, and we hope to highlight here some of the finest undergraduate work being done at Portland State University.

Just as the June 2009 issue was a revitalization of the *Anthós* project after years in hiatus, this year’s issue presents *Anthós*’s return to the printed page. With the gracious support of the University Honors Program, we have been allowed to take this year’s essays, collect them in a tangible format, and cover them in the wonderful photography of Tatyana Ostapenko. This issue contains essays by undergraduate scholars in the disciplines of history, literature, philosophy, and sociology, covering a broad array of topics from

¹ Diana Biller and Adam Brewer, “Letter from the Editors,” *Anthós* 1, no. 1 (June 2009).

² *Ibid.*

Russian nationalism and economic policy near the turn of the last century, to the subculture of ‘gamers’ in Lacey, WA. Additionally, we are honored to showcase in this issue the Portland State University History Department’s Best Undergraduate History Seminar Papers of 2012 and 2013. These essays by Jonathan Phillips and Nathan Hellman are some of the finest examples of undergraduate history scholarship produced at Portland State in the last two years, and we would like to thank them, along with all those who contributed to this issue, for allowing us to publish their work. Everyone featured here has written in a well-formed, clearly articulated manner, with careful attention to methodology.

This year’s editors would like to give special thanks to the following people: first and foremost, the Director of the University Honors Program, Dr. Ann Marie Fallon, for her continuous support and patience with this project; Professor Lawrence Wheeler for advice in regards to printing options, and for having begun the *Anthós* project in the first place; Emily Yoder and Jonathan Phillips for providing a solid foundation and the necessary guidance for this issue to have happened; Dr. John Ott for both writing recommendations for our editors, and for acting as our History Department liaison, along with Dr. Natan Meir, in coordinating the publication of the History Seminar Papers. We hope that you enjoy this issue, and we also hope that undergraduate readers will consider submitting material to *Anthós* this coming year.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Van der Naald and Katherine Jensen
Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor, 2012-2013