

2018

Editor's Note

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Recommended Citation

Aly, Samuel (2018) "Editor's Note," *Tenor of Our Times*: Vol. 7, Article 3.
Available at: <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/tenor/vol7/iss1/3>

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Memorialization of the past has gained significant relevance this year, and no one has been better prepared to tackle this issue than historians. America asked itself what, why, and how it remembers its history by analyzing examples of its glories and its maladies. The Eta Phi chapter of Phi Alpha Theta at Harding University took on the responsibility to engage with this hot-button issue, choosing its theme as “Memorials and Commemorations.”

We enjoyed challenging ourselves with the unique history of our city and state in the backdrop of larger contexts. Eta Phi hosted a panel discussion over the topic of memorials; we asked ourselves difficult questions about the meaning behind these physical manifestations of our history in our hometown of Searcy, Arkansas. The 60 year commemoration of the integration of the Little Rock School district took place only an hour away from our campus, sparking conversation about the progression of race relations and educational equality in our state. We sent a delegation to New Orleans for the Phi Alpha Theta National Conference, where we stretched ourselves as historians by listening to, engaging with, and responding to research done by peers from all over the nation. As a Christian university, we engaged with the 500 year anniversary of the Martin Luther's 95 Theses from a unique perspective which drew equally from our interest in history and theology.

This ambitious seventh volume of *Tenor of Our Times* has been designed to be read as a whole. Through this publication, we start at home and move eastward to explore memories of remarkable human lives which have great influence on the world as we know it, for better or for worse. Our journey has not only taken us through time, but also through space. We have examined the unique history of Arkansas and the city of Searcy itself, but in this edition of *Tenor* our sights move outward to shed new light on history throughout the world. From transatlantic international experiences, we gain better knowledge of our own cultural legacies here in the United States.

We hope to bring some of these perspectives to our readers through this year's issue. Stories such as these need to be told. More than that, though, they need to be heard. Our history provides many answers

which can be guides to our future as much our present circumstances. However, we also strive to ask new questions in light of our constantly changing context.

At the end of the day, what do you deem worthy to remember?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Aly'. The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name 'Sam' and the last name 'Aly' clearly visible.

Samuel B. Aly