

## Foreword

SEBASTIAN RIDER-BEZERRA  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Reader:

It is with a multitude of emotions that I deliver this, the fourth issue of *Vexillum*, to you and all of our readers in the United States and around the world. Sadness, because with this issue I step down as Chief Editor after two long years; excitement, because I know this issue includes some of the very best student work we've had the privilege of reading and reviewing. Above all else, however, are pride and satisfaction, as we bring you what we hope will be a fascinating read and a true testament to the abiding interest, dedication, and passion that our undergraduate authors have brought to their ongoing scholarly pursuit of knowledge. From medieval Transylvania to classical Athens, ancient Rome to the rain-swept isle of Ireland, our new issue spans the world geographically and chronologically.

It is with even more pride, indeed, that I announce that as I step down from the chair of Chief Editor—although never, I hope, from involvement with the journal—my place will be taken by our own Senior Editor, Edward Mead Bowen. Holder of a B.S. in journalism and B.A. in English from the University of Florida as well as an M.A. in medieval Welsh literature, Edward—Mead, to his friends—has served capably as reader, editor, and Senior Editor for almost as long as I have been at the journal. Together, we've plotted a bold new direction for *Vexillum*, and I cannot think of a better person to guide the journal forward down that road.

The most important of these changes is the end of our relationship with Western Washington University. We owe a great debt of thanks to Diane Johnson and the WWU Department of Classics for nurturing the germ that grew into this journal, but it is time for *Vexillum* to take advantage of the resources and connections afforded to us by other institutions. To that end, I am pleased to announce that for the 2014-2015 academic year we will receive full funding from the Yale University Medieval Studies Program, to which we owe thanks, as well as to its Chair and Director of Graduate Studies, Anders Winroth. It is the intention of the journal moving forward to seek grant funding to secure its future—a committee has been formed to negotiate this process over the course of the coming year.

Other changes will be evident as you read our issue. We have again reduced the proportion of published articles to submitted papers, so that we can present truly the best undergraduate work and take the time and care needed to ensure each is an optimal representation of the author's skill and the chosen topic. This year marked the debut of our new website, along with our new engagement with social media. Above all, we remember that our journal must change and grow as time passes, and I greatly look forward to seeing how Mead and the new board of editors direct and shape this ongoing process. As I step down, the future looks very bright indeed.

Sebastian Rider-Bezerra  
*Yale University, 2013*