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The Expositor showcases exceptional work done by Trinity students under the guidance of our faculty across humanistic disciplines, broadly defined.

This journal is seeking submissions for future volumes.

Any faculty member may submit humanities work by students in their classes or by research fellows under their supervision. Please inform your students when you submit their work. Selections are made in the Fall.

Send your submissions to expositor@trinity.edu.
Editor’s Preface

The Expositor was first published in 1989 by Trinity’s Department of English at the initiative of Professor Peter Balbert, and, through 2015, it provided a venue for the best academic writing produced at the university. Beginning with the 2016 volume, the members of the English Department responsible for the journal, in consultation with the director of the Mellon Initiative for Undergraduate Research in the Humanities, made the decision to change the journal’s scope to focus exclusively on humanities disciplines. The journal is now published annually as a collaboration of the Mellon Initiative and English Department, and its editorial board is made up of faculty from across our humanities programs.

The decision to focus the disciplinary approaches represented in The Expositor was made for a number of reasons. While Trinity students in the natural and social sciences are certainly participating in exciting and innovative research, those disciplines also allow more easily for students to appear as co-authors of essays written in conjunction with faculty. (And our faculty in the sciences have been very good at creating opportunities for this kind of student involvement in research and publication.) Humanities research is different: professors in the humanities do not have labs to which our students can contribute, and the specialist skills required for our work make it extremely difficult for undergraduates to collaborate with and contribute to the writing of our publications. At the same time, thanks to programs like the Mellon Initiative and now the Humanities Collective, humanities departments at Trinity are creating opportunities for student research that are almost unprecedented at undergraduate institutions across the country. We have an exceptionally talented body of students, and they are undertaking research of an unusually high quality, offering new and theoretically sophisticated interpretations of cultural artifacts and presenting archival research and discussions of previously unnoted material. (Not incidentally, several of the essays published in the most recent volumes of The Expositor have been used as writing samples to win their authors places in top graduate programs in the United States and abroad.) Though these students are less likely to write collaborative pieces with faculty members, their work is original, thoughtful, provocative, and rigorous—it has real potential to contribute to ongoing scholarly conversations on a variety of topics, and it therefore merits publication. The Expositor promotes that work within, and beyond, the Trinity community.

Finally, it should be noted that The Expositor is endeavoring to draw attention to the range of forms taken by humanistic research. While the argument-driven essay is (for good reason) the most common, original research in the humanities can also yield scholarly descriptions, editions and translations of texts, and other less familiar kinds of writing. By soliciting and publishing works in all of these forms, The Expositor aims to reveal the rich variety of work done in our disciplines.

Andrew Kraebel
Department of English
Students, do you want to flex your brains? Work with a professor and do research in the humanities!

Summer humanities research fellowships are offered through the McNair Scholars Program, the Mellon Initiative in the Humanities, and the Murchison program. Check out the website below to see which would work best for you. And note that the Mellon Initiative offers mini grants to support independent study and thesis research during the semester. Don’t hesitate to ask a faculty member about the possibility of undertaking research with them. They can also help you find out more about these opportunities.

For more about all of these programs, visit: goto.us/studentresearch
This volume of *The Expositor* includes new research on literature, art history, history, and cultural studies by Trinity University undergraduates:

Kaylee Avila, Raquel Belden, Emily Bourgeois, Abigail Bowen, Jessie De Arman, Stephanie Gredell, Isaak Loewen, Alexander Motter, & Brooke Yung.

Faculty are encouraged to submit work prepared by students in their classes and research fellowships for publication in *The Expositor*. We seek essays, scholarly descriptions of art and archival material, translations and editions of new texts, and humanistic scholarship in any written form.

Please notify your student of your intention to submit their work, and email submissions to expositor@trinity.edu.