

Beyond Boundaries

MASTERING
THE
LIBERAL
ARTS

Issue 1, Fall 2021



Beyond Boundaries: Mastering the Liberal Arts

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Catarina Garza & Veronica Vasquez (Fall 2021)

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We would like to give special thanks to all our reviewers who donated their time to reading and selecting works for publication.

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Special thanks to the University of Texas – San Antonio College of Liberal and Fine Arts for their support of this journal.

Beyond Boundaries would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our faculty liaison, Professor Catherine Clinton. We are greatly appreciative of all her support and tireless efforts.

Beyond Boundaries would also not be possible without the support of Dr. Jason Yaeger. The founders want to express our sincerest thanks to Dr. Yaeger for allowing *Beyond Boundaries* to come to life and for the continued support throughout this year.

Letter from the Founders

We started this journal after a very isolated first semester of graduate school. New to the master's program, we had no benchmark to compare our online learning environment to in-person history courses. Was graduate school supposed to feel this... disjointed?

We found ways to connect with our cohort online: Zoom happy hours hosted by the department, group chats and social media. We shared and supported each other's scholarship and commiserated over anxieties and ambitions in an increasingly digital environment.

A common frustration we all shared was the lack of publication opportunities for scholars such as ourselves who were new to academia. We were eager to share our work but found barriers to publishing professionally. Some, like the global pandemic slowing down the process, were unalterable. Some, like finding the process a mystery, were due to lack of experience.

The idea for *Beyond Boundaries* came from a casual conversation one day in December of 2020 when Bryan, one of the co-founders, stated, "why don't we start our own journal?" So, we did: a student-run publication exclusively for master's students in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts. We imagined it as a platform for new scholars and an avenue for engagement with other students and faculty.

Creating a journal with relatively no experience during a pandemic had its fair share of challenges. Nevertheless, we persevered and moved forward. We enlisted, and are very grateful for, the help of interdisciplinary reviewers and editors. This journal would not exist without the participation of students and faculty across COLFA. It brings us great joy to see the participation of such departments like Anthropology, Art and Art History, History, English, and Modern Languages and Literatures. Thankfully, we have had the incredible support of our advisor, Professor Catherine Clinton, and Dr. Yaeger. Without either of them, this project would not have achieved realization.

This inaugural issue is a testament to the capabilities and endless possibilities that graduate students have at the University of Texas at San Antonio. When we envision *Beyond Boundaries* in the near future, we see it in the capable hands of UTSA's graduate students. We hope incoming, interdisciplinary editors will make this journal an enduring part of the UTSA experience.

We are proud to present the first issue of *Beyond Boundaries: Mastering the Liberal Arts*.

Sincerely,

Cindy Chavez
Cristóbal López

Catarina Garza
Bryan Morales

Letter from the Editors

Beyond Boundaries: Mastering the Liberal Arts is a testament to the capabilities and endless possibilities held by graduate students at the University of Texas at San Antonio. We created this journal so graduate students at the College of Liberal and Fine Arts could have a space to connect and showcase their excellent work during a tumultuous time in all our lives.

We are very excited and proud to present the inaugural issue of *Beyond Boundaries: Mastering the Liberal Arts*. In this issue, we are pleased to present seven incredible representations of original student work. We would like to thank every author for submitting their work and joining us in the publication process. Our authors have been wonderful to work with, even though as of publication we have not been able to meet most of them in person. The *Beyond Boundaries* team is honored to provide a platform for your work, and we wish you all the best in the future.

Creating a journal during a global pandemic did not come without challenges, nevertheless, we are appreciative to everyone who helped us persevere and create our final product. We would like to thank our first round of editors, Cristóbal López and Bryan Morales, for all their hard work in the submission and initial review process. Without their dedication, *Beyond Boundaries* would not have received the outstanding works that follow. Special thanks are due to Andrés Borunda for donating his time and skills to our website. We would also like to thank our friends and family who supported our early fundraising efforts.

We're excited to see what the future holds for *Beyond Boundaries*. We wish to expand, to include the voices of all COLFA graduate students at UTSA. This first issue of *Beyond Boundaries* is just a glimpse into the hard work and dedication of graduate students at the University of Texas at San Antonio. To our readers, we hope you enjoy *Beyond Boundaries* as much as we enjoyed creating it. We invite all current master's students and recent graduates of their respective programs to submit their work for consideration for the next issue of *Beyond Boundaries*.

Catarina Garza
Veronica Vasquez

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