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## From the Editor

Lindsay MR Oden

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, [odenl1@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:odenl1@unlv.nevada.edu)

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# Psi Sigma Siren

The Journal of the UNLV Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta: Winter 2014

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## *From the Editor*

This semester's edition of the *Psi Sigma Siren* reflects the hard work and dedication that several UNLV undergraduates put toward historical scholarship over the past year. Jonathan Barrett, Shanella Gardner, and Kaitlin Peck have produced work that most certainly lives up to the mission statement of Phi Alpha Theta. All three papers illustrate how each student exceeded the necessary rigor of collegiate life, and they have contributed to our educational community through these efforts.

As you will read, each paper addresses a historical issue with ramifications for the present. Jonathan Barrett's "Misusing Freud: Psychoanalysis and the Rise of Homosexual Conversion Therapy" documents the intellectual history of homosexual conversion therapy in the United States. He argues that American psychoanalysts took the ground-breaking work of German psychiatrist Sigmund Freud and used it to justify their techniques of attempting to turn homosexual men and women back into heterosexuals. Shanella Gardner's piece "Marriage and Citizenship in the United States" also dissects aspects of acceptable behavior, this time through the legal history of the concept of citizenship as it applied to marriage, immigrants, women, and people of color. Finally, Kaitlin Peck's "The Impact of Academic Exchange between China and the U.S., 1979-2010" analyzes the cultural, educational, and diplomatic exchanges present in the United States' academic exchange program with China. She traces the political history of academic exchange as the program sought to adapt to various political and cultural problems that plagued its implementation.

I would like to thank the authors for their tireless perseverance in the face of my editorial nagging, as well as for their patience as this issue of the *Siren* came into being over the course of several months. I would also like to thank Dr. Marcia Gallo for giving me this great opportunity to edit the journal, and Shannon Nutt for suggesting that I apply for the job. It is my pleasure to submit to you the following fine examples of historical scholarship from our student body.

-- Lindsay Oden, February 2015