

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *NEXUS: The Liberty Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*! As the executive editor of this new department publication, it is my distinct pleasure to introduce you to a platform that embodies the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and the pursuit of knowledge across various disciplines. *NEXUS* serves as a bridge that connects the research spheres of the humanities, the sciences, and the creative arts, fostering a vibrant intellectual exchange that is rooted in the values of Liberty University as a Christian institution.

The title *NEXUS* holds significance with respect to its Latin origin, translating to "a connection" or "a link." This name aptly captures the essence of the journal as it seeks to establish meaningful connections and foster interdisciplinary links between various fields of study. The concept of 'nexus' serves to remind us that the pursuit of knowledge thrives when diverse disciplines intersect and collaborate, creating a network of collaborative ideas.

In a world that is becoming increasingly interconnected, it is crucial for us to embrace interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and problem-solving. The challenges we face today are complex and multi-faceted, requiring fresh perspectives and creative solutions that can only emerge through the synthesis of various disciplines. It is within this context that *NEXUS* emerges as a vessel of intellectual exploration, aiming to ignite a passion for interdisciplinary studies.

At Liberty University, we recognize that the pursuit of Truth is paramount. As Christians, we are called to engage with the world around us, seeking to understand the intricate tapestry of God's creation in all its manifestations. By breaking down the barriers that often divide academic disciplines, *NEXUS* offers a space where students with different academic interests can come together to explore, challenge, and contribute to a deeper understanding of our complex world.

This new journal stands as a testament to our commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and the holistic development of our students. By encouraging students to venture beyond the confines of monodisciplinarity, we empower them to become well-rounded individuals who can adapt and thrive in an ever-changing landscape. The journal's multidimensional nature opens doors for fresh insights, unconventional methodologies, and transformative discoveries that would not be possible within the confines of traditional disciplinary boundaries.

Within the pages of *NEXUS*, you will find a rich tapestry of research papers, essays, artwork, and creative expressions that epitomize the remarkable synergy between disciplines. Each contribution is a testament to the inherent value of interdisciplinary collaboration, shedding light on the interconnections that exist between seemingly disparate fields of study.

The department's vision for this journal is twofold: Firstly, we aspire to create a vibrant community of student scholars who are passionate about interdisciplinary studies. *NEXUS* will serve as a catalyst for meaningful conversations, encouraging dialogue, debate, and the exchange of ideas that transcend disciplinary boundaries. Secondly, we envision this journal as a platform that showcases the exceptional work of our INDS students, providing them with a unique opportunity to be published and recognized for their intellectual contributions.

In conclusion, I invite you to embark on a journey of discovery as we unveil the first issue of *NEXUS: The Liberty Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*. I am confident that the research, insights, and creative expressions contained within these pages will inspire a passion for interdisciplinary inquiry among our readers. Together, let us forge new paths, explore uncharted territories, and unlock the transformative power of interdisciplinary collaboration.

*Plus ultra,*

S. Alexander Mason, PhD

Executive Editor, *NEXUS*