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Introduction

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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

I am honoured to present to you the Fall 2014 issue of the *Great Lakes Journal of Undergraduate History*. In the following pages you will find a number of essays written by outstanding undergraduate students from across the Great Lakes region. The subjects and methodological approaches of the following essays will vary widely, and I am certain that you will find something within the *Journal's* pages that will peak your curiosity. Curiosity, after all, is why you picked up a copy of this publication, or decided to visit our wonderful website. Curiosity is why we choose to embark on tedious investigative journeys through dusty records and, at times, poorly designed internet archives. Curiosity pushes us to ask why, when and how “it” happened, but it also encourages us to ask what was being thought and what was being felt. Curiosity encourages us to piece together historical narratives for a chance at understanding those who are not us. Curiosity, then, inspires us to try to decode a remote place in time and space through another’s conceptualizations. Doing history is the manifestation of that inherent urge. Some are more adept at focusing that inquisitiveness, as you will soon see, but it is indisputable that curiosity is something we all share and are able to appreciate.

In my second year as editor I have learned that things do get *marginally* easier with practice. This past year we have introduced a new online interface to house our submission, review, and editorial functions. Of course, emblematic of the *Journal's* existence thus far, the process was somewhat shaky; I would not have had it any other way. I am confident that the infrastructure that has been implemented will secure the success of the *Journal* for many years to come. It goes without saying that these infrastructural advancements could not have been implemented without the help of the University of Windsor Leddy Library liaisons, Dr. Heidi Jacobs and Dave Johnston.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my colleagues and friends, at Windsor and elsewhere, who volunteered their time to realize this project. I choose to quote my introduction from last year

when I affirm that “if I am fortunate enough to work alongside a dedicated group of individuals such as them in the future, retirement will never be a consideration.” I also wish to thank the Department of History for their academic and financial support. You are the ‘little Department that *always* could’, and I am deeply appreciative of that. In addition, the Student Life Enhancement Fund’s mandate to enhance the undergraduate experience at the University of Windsor has directly benefited the *Journal* yet again. Without their financial support the print version of the *Journal* would not have materialized.

Finally, as I write this in Montréal I am fully aware that upon completion of this introduction my ties with the *Journal*, a representation of my affiliation with the University of Windsor as a whole, will be severed. It is perhaps why I left it to the very last to complete. I look forward to picking up copies of future manifestations of the *Journal*, for they will always bring me back to the *now*, providing me with a welcomed opportunity to reminisce.

Thank you so very much for reading.

Calin Murgu
Editor-in-Chief &
Design Editor
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