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Letter from the Editors

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Letter from the editors

The Great Lakes Journal of Undergraduate History aims to publish extraordinary historical research papers from undergraduate students across the region. We aim to promote a culture of undergraduate research and allow students to showcase their hard work and dedication to the discipline of history. It is critical to recognize undergraduate research and highlight young academics to ensure the longevity and future of our field. The COVID-19 pandemic provided many challenges to these students, including the difficulties of conducting historical research when most libraries and archives remained closed. This forced many to rely upon digitized sources (documents, books, journals, etc.) to create research papers while dealing with many scholarly limitations. Despite these challenges, the submissions that we received demonstrated the determination to create original topics and contribute meaningful research to the field of history. The eighth volume focused on a diverse range of papers highlighting various periods and geographic spaces, truly providing a wide array of research in several historical sub-fields.

We must take the time to acknowledge those involved in making this edition of the journal a success. First, thank you to the many students who submitted a variety of top-quality papers. Your work made it difficult for the editors to make selections for this issue, which is why we have decided to publish two volumes during the 2022/2023 academic year. The editors also wish to thank those at Leddy Library for working closely with us to help electronically publish our journal and work through technical difficulties. In addition, thank you to the many professors who have encouraged students to develop and produce high quality research papers. Lastly, thank you to faculty advisor and co-editor Dr. Gregg French; your endless dedication to fostering academic excellence is unmatched. Without your encouragement, students who wrote papers in your upper-year classes may not have submitted their work and continued to develop their topics.

We hope in the future to see more students aiming to stay in the field and become a part of academic research culture, where future students can look upon their work for inspiration and information. If this volume is any indication of forthcoming scholarship, the future is hopeful and bright. Thank you again to everyone who made this journal publication possible. It is our pleasure to publish these works as impactful additions to the field of history.