Introduction

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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 en-
hance 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 representa-
tion 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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