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Editor's Introduction

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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

When the opportunity arose to take up the mantle of Editor-in-Chief of this publication, I all but jumped to assemble my application. Having completed three years of an undergraduate History degree at the University of Windsor, I had witnessed the inception and incredible growth of the Journal and sympathized heavily with its ambitious mandate. Undergraduate research, particularly that conducted within the humanities, serves as a largely untapped fount of academic potential. Recognizing this gap within our local academia's research culture, my predecessor, Calin Murgu, created this journal in the hopes of showcasing and celebrating those works often dismissed as trivial or unavailing. Certainly, the Journal has succeeded in this regard, acting as a consistent vehicle for the recognition of quality works that have accrued a diverse and multinational readership. Indeed, undergraduate History students within the Great Lakes Region, as evidenced by this third Volume, are producing works of great caliber and historiographical insight on a variety of subjects. It is my hope that their pieces may pique your interests, encourage further investigation, inspire you to seek out your own research niche, or simply entertain.

In truth, I have gained a newfound appreciation of the hard work and tremendous coordinative efforts required to produce a publication of this standard. Though I knew there would be a steep learning curve, I would have been truly bereft without the guidance and support offered to me by my peers, our wonderful Leddy Library liaisons, Dr. Heidi Jacobs and David Johnston, and the ever-accommodating faculty of the University of Windsor History department, without whom this vision could not be achieved nor sustained. I also tip my hat to the efforts of our tireless troupe of editors and my Managing Editor, Sydney Murray, who was the model of patience dealing with my every request, question, and lengthy email. My year with the Journal would not have been the same without this network of hard-working and intelligent individuals, whose time and dedication have made this publication a success.

In closing, I have taken many things away from this experience. However, perhaps my most poignant, if cliché, grain of wisdom is this: try new things. This endeavor had its pitfalls and moments of frustration, but its overarching goals and ultimate fruition made it worth the climb. I encourage every student to do the same - pursue what you love and take risks along the way. Research the hard topics, the ones where the information does not fall into your lap. Apply for that position you admire, even if you fear rejection. Submit an essay for publication.

Start a journal.

But first, peruse and enjoy the wonderful works before you. Thank you and enjoy reading.

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