



2005

## Letter From the Editor

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Class of 2005

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Gale, Molly K. (2005) "Letter From the Editor," *The Gettysburg Historical Journal*: Vol. 4 , Article 2.  
Available at: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ghj/vol4/iss1/2>

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## Letter From the Editor

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Readers,

Within the classrooms of Weidensall Hall at Gettysburg College, students and professors daily embark on the journey of studying history. History majors and minors often laugh as they reflect on their time spent within the building: from walking through the doors on the way to their first class freshman year, to falling asleep in the lobby innumerable times in the next four years, to walking out its doors—relieved, yet somehow more pensive—after turning in their senior thesis. Weidensall Hall, for them, has become not just an academic home at Gettysburg, but it has become the personification of their passion for undergraduate study.

Author and historian Robert R. Archibald wrote that “in the absence of empathy, emotion, concern, and caring, history becomes an exercise in nostalgia or an academic sidebar of limited use in the real world. If we do not care, we will not be motivated to take action.” The excellence of students’ work in their undergraduate studies reflects the desire of students and professors to meaningfully apply historical inquiry in order to challenge modern viewpoints and preconceived notions.

In this fourth issue of *The Gettysburg Historical Journal*, authors and editors alike have poured their own passion into the study, and refinement, of history. We strived this year to maintain not only a high standard of prose, but also degree and depth of research, in topics that expand on the geographical, topical, and chronological diversity of our journal: racial perceptions during the Civil War; the origin of freedom songs during the Civil Rights Movement; the formation of internees’ identities in World War II Great Britain; and General Juan Domingo Peron’s failed economic policies as president in Argentina. In each piece of work, the authors have meaningfully addressed historical topics that have practical applications even in our modern world

These four authors, as well as the editors, of this fourth issue of the journal, invite you to enjoy the work to which they devoted so much of their time and insight. That passion was undoubtedly furthered by one Gettysburg professor who passed away earlier this year. In this issue, we are privileged to begin our journal by honoring Dr. Francis A. Burkle-Young, former Professor of English at Gettysburg College. His influence on Lorelei Westbrook ('05) is undoubtedly indicative of his influence on an entire community of learners. If you have the opportunity to visit Weidensall Hall during the academic year, I suggest visiting a history classroom, and you will, as I did, feel fortunate to be involved in such an inspiring academic community, dedicated to engaging its community in history that has the ability to change the future.

Molly K. Gale  
General Editor