

2002

Letter From the Editor

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Class of 2002

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Andrews, Sarah Marie (2002) "Letter From the Editor," *The Gettysburg Historical Journal*: Vol. 1, Article 3.

Available at: <http://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ghj/vol1/iss1/3>

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Letter From the Editor

Readers,

Less than a year ago, the History Department faculty at Gettysburg College offered a challenge to a group of its students: put together the first issue of an undergraduate journal using the best work from the department. The following months found our small editorial board embarking into new waters—trying to use the wonderful advice that was given to us while also keeping in mind our own realities. We now present you with the fruit of our best efforts—an issue which we hope will only spark further high-caliber undergraduate history work and thus continue to supply this journal with articles for many years to come. This issue is but a beginning, though we believe it is a good beginning.

Many people have helped us put this inaugural issue together. First, I must thank all of the members of the editorial board—four of whom are seniors, and two who will carry the torch for next year’s issue. I have immensely enjoyed working with them, and know we have all learned a great deal during this process. A great deal of gratitude must also be extended to our two advisors: Dr. Joseph Coohill, who we will unfortunately be losing as an advisor, but whose mark on this project is undeniable and will remain as long as it is published; and also to Dr. Scott Hancock, whose guidance this year makes us confident that the journal will continue to grow and mature under his talented leadership. Carla Pavlick, our Production Consultant, but mostly our unlimited source of information, has contributed more than words can truly capture. We are also greatly indebted to the professors of the History Department, whose inspiration has motivated all of the articles which herein appear and whose support for this journal continues to inspire us. Finally, we must certainly offer our deepest thanks to Dr. Michael Birkner, whose vision for this project lit a spark that has illuminated all of our work and whose constant support and guidance as helped us stay focused and motivated.

Writing in the last century of the Common Era, Roman Marcus T. Cicero explained, “History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illuminates reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life, and brings us tidings of antiquity.” This inaugural issue of the Gettysburg Historical Journal seeks to capture glimpses of reality, to remind readers of from whence we come, and to where we are or ought to be heading. Such is the simple, yet indeed enormous task of the historian.

Sarah Marie Andrews, '02
General Editor