

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This year has been an interesting one for the undergraduate academic journal. I began this year as the only remaining member of last year's journal staff due to the graduation of my colleagues. I have been a member of the Michigan State History Association since my sophomore year, and had the opportunity to be an editor of Volume 7 of the journal. Seeing the journal grow through the last three years has been a blessing. I believe that the interest it has garnered for both students and professors alike should be a point of pride for the Department of History. It is my pleasure to present Volume 8 of the Michigan State Journal of History.

Volume 8 represents the continued restoration of the department's academic journal, and by extension the tradition of recognizing excellent undergraduate scholarship at the university. It is our good fortune to have five exceptional works to help grow journal's reputation in the academic community. The showcased research touches on a variety of subjects, with a coincidental focus mainly on Italian history. Without question, it is the creativity of these authors that has made serving on the editorial board an experience worthwhile.

I offer my gratitude to the editors of this academic journal for their dedication to reviewing and evaluating the submissions that were presented to them. To Owen Carvill, Evan Newton, Micaela Procopio, Duncan Tarr, and Al Wang, I send my utmost thanks.

Additionally, I would like to congratulate Owen Carvill for his appointment as Editor-in-Chief for Volume 9 of the academic journal. I having nothing but the utmost confidence that Owen will continue to expand the journal past what it has already become in these last few years.

Last, but by no means least, a special thanks to department secretary Elyse Hansen. Her help and patience in technologically related affairs was essential to the completion of an electronic journal.

For the editorial board, our work is not finished. The next few months will be spent expanding our web presence and critically assessing every step taken this year to ensure future editors can learn from our mistakes. For my part, I am excited to see what Volume 9 will bring. Thank you, please enjoy Volume 8.

*Kolt Ewing  
Editor-in-Chief  
Michigan State Journal of History*