History is a journey.

Many of the paths are wide and familiar; others are forgotten, broken, or undiscovered. We don’t all start from the same place, and choosing our various destinations is almost as problematic as knowing when we’ve arrived.

Ultimately, we study history to learn more about ourselves. An honest study of history will sometimes lead us to confront difficult, unexpected, and controversial ideas, with which we must grapple and against which we must eventually reconcile what we thought we knew. This exercise places students of history in the position to do a tremendous amount of good—it is also, however, a position of great responsibility.

These pages contain some of those difficult topics. I commend the authors for their honest efforts to shed light in dark places so that we may all learn and benefit. Thank you for your work and your willingness to share with the journal.

This effort would have undoubtedly failed without this year’s editorial staff. I express my gratitude and my awe for their incredible work. In particular, I would like to thank Jeremy Ruppe, my managing editor, for his patience in keeping us all on track and his good sense in the execution of tasks; and Haley Gibson, my technical editor, for her brilliant implementation of essential skills—skills that, I am convinced, she alone possesses.

Additionally, I was thrilled to be able to collaborate with the Center for Constitutional Studies in the expansion of their important work.

Finally, I express my thanks to Dr. Keith Snedegar, the faculty mentor for the journal. His positive attitude and openness to new ideas enabled the staff to expand their vision and have experiences that might otherwise have been stifled.

I invite all who read to let knowledge grow. Colten Sponseller, Editor–in–Chief

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