

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

I am delighted to introduce the 2025 issue of the University of Victoria History Department's undergraduate journal, *The Ascendant Historian*. In this volume, readers will find an impressive range of original and innovative scholarship by UVic History students. Topics range from military to social history, from gender norms to revolutionary dynamics, from the ancient to the modern. Yet all of these papers illustrate our students' intellectual curiosity and nuanced analysis at a time when the world is badly in need of both.

Over the past few months, rising trade conflicts and US-Canadian tensions have reminded us all of the importance of historical knowledge and perspective. They have also reminded us of the dangers of superficial thinking and unreflective nationalism. And no discipline better prepares us to understand and navigate these perils than history. Although the messages emanating from media and society seem to emphasize only the need for scientific and technical education, our world is greatly in need of those trained to think historically.

As in previous volumes of *The Ascendant Historian*, the articles in this issue offer superb examples of this form of thinking. On behalf of my colleagues in the History Department, I salute the authors, editors, and peer reviewers of *The Ascendant Historian* for once again producing a superb collection of scholarship by our young historians. You make us all proud.

Jason Colby, Department Chair, April 2025