

Chair's Message

There are so many reasons to be proud of the UVic History Department and for two entirely distinct reasons *The Graduate History Review* is at the top of the list.

First, the existence and sustenance of the *GHR* is a reflection of a vibrant graduate program and a graduate student culture that valorizes excellence, experience, and community. From experience, I know how much work goes into advertising, peer reviewing, selecting, editing, printing, and distributing a journal, and also that a community of people has to be drawn into the work of each issue. This volume is the result of that collective effort on the part of editors, reviewers, and authors who have chosen to learn the craft of editing and History in the hard work of doing of it.

Second, the *GHR* represents the best of the scholarship of a new generation of scholars from across North America. The five essays in this volume are the result of stringent peer review process and chosen because each is a blade on the cutting edge of contemporary scholarship, opening up historical themes that are not yet, but soon will be, at the forefront of scholarly attention. These include the history of human-mammal relations; the historiography of the history of disability and the differentially abled; gendered class analyses of medieval religious torture and modern country and western songs; and the interaction of sports, politics and war. The future of History is in this volume.

The publication of this journal celebrates the community who have embarked on this project for the reward of the experience itself and who, by their labour, have enriched us all.

With pride and thanks ...

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