

Chair's Message

This issue of the Graduate History Review comes off the press just as the UVic History Department is responding to an independent external review of our Department. The assessors ranked our “undergraduate, graduate and faculty research...[as] among the leading history departments in the country.” They remarked on the high quality of both our graduate program and our graduate students and observed that the Graduate History Student Union is a “a sign of a vibrant and collegial Department.” There is no better barometer of the health of the Department than this journal.

The Graduate History Review is the best example I know of the magic that can happen in a department where strong students produce top-notch writing and research. It is the result of the academic generosity of an editorial team who have put *experience* into the phrase “experiential learning” and a sign that together, faculty, staff and students have built a rich learning community that extends beyond the classroom.

The essays in this year's volume highlight the diversity that both characterizes our department and makes it a welcoming home for scholars with widely ranging interests in topic, method and time period. They are a gift of learning to all of us from the authors and editorial team and for that, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks and congratulations!

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