

Editor's Note

The writing of history, an ever elusive, ever maddening process, is enough to leave any student, by the end, in some form of catatonic shock. However, somewhere between the endless frustrations of analytical and critical thinking and the euphoria of reaching the finish line is a cathartic state, when weeks of research and understanding coagulate into intellectual cohesion. As I write this reflection I am in that absolute state of catharsis; when everything falls perfectly into place.

After four months of tactically balancing the organization of other students' hard work with my own, I am just as much relieved as I am delighted to present you with the 2007 edition of *Pangaea*, the Dalhousie Undergraduate History Journal. To say the least, the following essays showcase the academic adroitness of some of Dalhousie's senior history undergraduates, and at the same time, reflect the diversity of the Dalhousie History Department. The pool of submissions was deep this year so I must thank my editorial team as well as the faculty advisors, Christopher Bell and Jaymie Heilman, for providing much needed advice on a variety of issues. I would especially like to thank Matt Sugrue, our society's president, for his words of wisdom; Eric Topping, my assistant editor, for supporting most of my creative decisions; and Saman Jafarian for her comprehensive understanding of the editing process.

So, as you read, keep in mind George Santayana's old aphorism that "History is always written wrong, and so always needs to be rewritten," and remember that the following essays are merely new chapters in the ongoing process of historical writing. But until more research is accumulated and theses are developed further, I hope that *Pangaea* 2007 will satiate your desire for historical thought and lead to hours of enjoyment and enlightenment.