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Editor's Note

Robert T. Schultz
Illinois Wesleyan University

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This fourth volume of *Constructing the Past* represents the increasing control that Illinois Wesleyan history majors have over the selection of essays that appear in the journal and the style of the cover and its pages. The student editors chose the publications and edited them. They also held a contest and awarded a cash prize to the student who designed the cover. We congratulate Colin L. Burke on winning the contest, and we thank him for the design; it will grace the covers of future volumes as well. Beginning with volume five, the editors have decided to end the policy of selecting manuscripts from faculty recommendations. Students will henceforth submit their own papers for review. This new policy is the last step in placing full control of the journal in students' hands. The criteria for manuscripts submitted to *Constructing the Past* will appear at the end of each volume, starting with this one. I thank editors Robert J. Callahan, Rachael Marusz, and Angela C. Skeggs for their work. I join them in thanking Patra Noonan for her work transforming the articles into their current format.

The editors chose one senior-seminar paper for publication this year: Brendan McCormick's "Old Time Music—New World Business: Bristol 1927 and the Exploitation and Appropriation of Depression Era Southern Folk Music." Lauren Boegen's "Reality Bites: Social Implications of the Early 20th Century Movie" is the first of three very different essays that students wrote for the sophomore seminar. The two others are Anna Deters' "Frederic Chopin and George Sand Romanticized," and Karen Patyk's "Perspectives on an Epidemic: the Yellow Fever in 1793 Philadelphia." The final essay that appears here is based on Robert Callahan's oral history interview with Irish poet John O'Leary. John has been a visiting professor and poet at Illinois Wesleyan University for two years. We invite you to read about this intriguing and remarkable individual in Robert's "The Quest for Identity: A Conversation with John O'Leary."

Robert T. Schultz
April, 2003