



2006

### Letter from the Editors

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#### **Recommended Citation**

Koeppen, Melissa and Schulmann, Rachael (2006) "Letter from the Editors," *Constructing the Past*: Vol. 7 : Iss. 1 , Article 4.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/constructing/vol7/iss1/4>

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We are pleased to present the seventh annual edition of *Constructing the Past*, the Illinois Wesleyan University undergraduate history journal. The student papers presented herein were chosen via a rigorous and anonymous selection process. We believe that these papers not only display some of the best history produced in the department during the 2005 school year, they also represent the diverse topics and subject matter our students research.

The following pages contain papers on a dazzling array of topics that cover a wide span of time, ranging from an analysis of England's King Charles and his parliament in 1628 to race and genocide in the Dominican Republic in the 1930s. Other topics of study include a re-examination of John C. Calhoun; a study of Catharine Beecher's domestic architecture; an analysis of Frederick Jackson Turner's conception of America; Buffalo Bill shows as a way to construct American identity; Jewish orphanages in late-nineteenth century Chicago; a comparison study of censorship in movies and theater during the 1930s; an original argument against neutralism in the county of Worcestershire before the English Civil War; a history of European and American women's rights movements; and the relationship between architecture and nation building in Nazi Germany.

*Constructing the Past* would not have been able to be completed without the help and support of many members of the Illinois Wesleyan community. First and foremost, we would like to thank Dr. Robert Schultz, our faculty advisor, for his support and guidance throughout the publication process. We would also like to thank Student Senate and the Department of History, with Dr. April Schultz as its chair, for their financial support. We would like to thank the entire history faculty for providing interesting and thought-provoking classes, as well as the opportunity for students to practice and improve their skills as historians. Finally, we would like to thank everyone who submitted to this year's journal. Thank you.

—The Editors