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## Introduction

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## Introduction

### Welcome Back to *Of Life and History*

After a three year hiatus, we are overjoyed to bring our reader the newest edition of *Of Life and History*. The return of this beloved student publication is especially exciting as the History department continues to bring back many other programs that were put on hold during the pandemic. We began the process of reviewing several articles at the beginning of the spring semester. Selecting the articles was not easy as there was so much talent and diversity in terms of thematic, regional and research coverage. We would like to thank everyone who submitted their works.

Congratulations to Jack Hynick, who is this year's recipient of the Edward F. Wall, Jr. Prize, for his essay titled, *Indians in the Archive*. It provides a fascinating history of the College of the Holy Cross in relation to the indigenous communities that inhabited the hill and the surrounding areas. John's use of diverse archival records to shed light on the forgotten history of indigenous peoples' experiences at Holy Cross is exemplary.

The essays in this issue contain a variety of topics spanning the globe and demonstrate a range of research methodologies and approaches to history. Andrew Toritto's *Finding Human Rights in Higher Education: A History of Federal Financial Aid and Discrimination in the United States* discusses the discriminatory financial aid legislation in post-World War II American society. Toritto argues that G.I. Bill and the National Defense Education Act of 1958 denied equal opportunity to Black war veterans when obtaining financial aid to pursue higher education with long term socio-economic implications.

Nora Springer's essay *Opportunity Calls: The Moral Economy During Existential Economic Transition in the Ural Mountains and Appalachia, 1991- 2008* juxtaposes the dramatic economic transitions in the Ural region in Russia and the Appalachian region in the United States. She shows similarities in how Russia reckoned with privatization of industries, and Appalachia struggled with the decline of coal mining and manufacturing industries across the region.

Yuwie (Ada) Liu's paper *A Quest for Dignity: Colored Women's Anti-Slavery Resistance in the Eighteenth-Century British Jamaica and the Reconceptualization of Human Rights* analyzes the overlooked role of black women in anti-slavery movements. She uses a diverse body of primary sources to underscore how enslaved people exercised a range of agency and participated in human rights activism in Jamaica.

Christina Darko's *Postcards from Paradise* analyzes how race functioned in Cuba before and after the Revolution. She specifically examines how black Afro-Cubans became hypersexualized with the advent of dollar-based tourism industry in Cuba. The essay highlights how Afro-Cuban women

through cinema, art, and literature have sought to push back against those stereotypes and create new forms of identities.

Thomas J. Murray concludes this issue with *Bob Dylan and American Folk Music: The Pigeonhole Effect*. He looks at how Dylan's music career progressed and led to his decision to use an electric guitar. It highlights many artists and musical movements that influenced Dylan's works.

*Of Life and History* would not have been possible without the dedicated work of our amazing editorial board. Mack Cook '23, Jacqueline Harrington '22, John Larsen '22, and Ariana Zandi '23 helped to make our double-blind peer review process as swift and thorough as possible. Professor Sanjog Rupakheti aided us in revising and proofreading each article, and in encouraging us to publish this issue that had been delayed by the pandemic for over two years. Finally, we would like to thank Yolanda Youtsey (History Department Secretary) for her various logistical support for this project.

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