Letter from the Editors

It is a pleasure to present the 2013-14 issue of the Western Illinois Historical Review. The purpose is to showcase the best scholarship produced by Western Illinois University History students. Due to a number of changes occurred during the past year the current edition is relatively smaller than previous issues. The three articles presented are based on interesting and valuable research which may help undergraduate students to learn how to do research and how to produce relevant historical narratives.

The issue opens with “Education Means Liberty: Filipino Students, Pensionados and U.S. Colonial Education” by Jeremy Knake who discusses the experience of Filipino students in American. He argues that these students were not passive recipients of American colonial education, but active participants as they used their new acquired education to support their nationalist goals.

“ Seems Like Yesterday: Community, Memory and the Michigan Copper Strike, 1913-2013” by Lindsay Hiltunen is a journey through the memory of some dramatic events occurred in 1913 in Michigan. The analyses proposed by Hiltunen that the memory, or lack of it, of those events shaped the future development of those communities touched by those dramatic events.

The last article by Jessica Toops “Living Lives of Quiet Desperation: Accounts of Gay and Lesbians During the Troubles” is a thorough study of the experience of gay and lesbians in Northern Ireland before the peace process was eventually successful. Toops has been able to successfully connect the struggle of the LGBT community to see the decriminalization of gay sex with the larger Northern Irish conflict, showing the achievements of the LGBT community through oral history.

These articles have been the product of successful research carried out by WIU students. We hope they will serve as an inspiration for future students.

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