

Editors' Introduction

Kevin Smith, Student Editor:

Queen's University, like any university, is a vibrant, open, and bustling place—filled with talented young minds ready to take on the world. Unlike other university students, however, Queen's students go that extra mile in the pursuit of excellence, striving to be the best in everything we do. That is our philosophy: though we may sometimes find ourselves overworked, when push comes to shove our true talent shines through and we produce work worthy of recognition.

This journal, *Inquiry@Queen's*, is both a collection and a celebration of such work. From environmental studies to politics to drama, our inaugural issue is home to a wide array of subject matter and writers' styles. I'm confident that our on-line journal will not only showcase the ability of Queen's students but also inspire us to continue on the path of academic inquiry.

Doug Babington, Faculty Editor:

Ever since my colleague, Vicki Remenda, envisioned an undergraduate conference dedicated to inquiry-based learning, this journal has been a possibility. Now it is a reality, thanks to fruitful collaboration among eight writers and two editors. It's been a pleasure for me to work with Kevin Smith and to see how imaginatively our undergraduate contributors demonstrate the four steps of successful inquiry: to ask, to investigate, to create, and to reflect.

Readers of *Inquiry@Queen's* will learn about a remarkable range of subjects. In the first article, Diana Withrow explores the modernistic implications of the London Underground—while creating her own response to a poet's impressions from long ago. Blake Anderson then makes a case for sustainability at Queen's; the writer's analysis comprises scholarship in environmental studies and observation of initiatives on his own campus. Next comes Katie Gemmill's essay on "the possibility of feeling the sacred in everyday events and experiences," as realized by novelist Virginia Woolf. From the world of literature we move to the world of politics: Gemma Boag defines and assesses the impact of the "middle power" approach to Canadian foreign policy through the twentieth century.

And that's only the half of it. Our fifth contributor, Erin Weaver, engages the likes of Plato, Schiller, and Zola in order to think through the didactic power of theatre. Aaron Lemkow follows with vivid case studies of "local food procurement" in Kingston, which he sets within the context of sociological theory. Equally topical are the practices of body modification—plastic surgery, piercing, and tattooing—that Tarah Hogue links to commercializing forces in popular culture. Concluding this inaugural issue of *Inquiry@Queen's* is "the battle of the dubyas": a rendezvous, imagined and composed by J. Rosel Kim, between William Wordsworth and Virginia Woolf—in which the latter befuddles the former with her ideals of androgyny and of the "fruit of genius."

Enjoy your reading of these inquiring minds from Queen's University.