

## Editorial Introduction

### Exploring the History of Higher Education

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Studying the History of Higher Education Journal* (SHHE), published under the auspices of the Russel Center for the Study of Higher Education of the University of Toledo's Higher Education program! The *SHHE Journal* offers students and emerging scholars of the history of higher education a venue to publish their historical research and to promote dialogue in the academic community. Through mentorship, peer collaboration, and a commitment to academic excellence, our editorial team aims to foster a supportive environment where students and other budding historians can refine their research skills, disseminate their findings, and make meaningful contributions to the field of higher education history.

For this first *SHHE Journal* issue, we focused on archival research that sheds light on significant developments in the history of higher education. Each article in this issue shares an intriguing higher education story from the past and brings insights from a journey of historical discovery and interpretation of existing primary and secondary sources. Our contributors scoured the archives, rummaged through institutional materials, combed newspaper articles, worked through individual narratives (both their own and those of others), and chased institutional histories to bring their stories to us.

The issue begins with an account of the origins and evolution of the University of Toledo's Higher Education program and its Russel Center for the Study of Higher Education, which host the *SHHE Journal*. The establishment of higher education studies at the University of Toledo marks a significant milestone in the institution's history. Founded in 1960, the Higher Education program was amongst the pioneers of doctoral education at the municipal Toledo University. Its faculty awarded two of the first doctoral degrees ever granted by the university (in 1962 and 1964), bestowed the first PhD degree to an African American student at the university (1971), and launched the first interdisciplinary research-based Center for the Study of Higher Education in the

state of Ohio (1967). Despite these achievements, the program's unique origins and early accomplishments of its faculty and students have remained under-acknowledged.

The next four articles then follow a chronological order. Dana Parcher's archival research, showcased as the second article in this journal issue, focuses on a period of time during World War II when the University of Colorado Boulder hosted a Japanese language school. Between 1942 and 1946, CU Boulder's language school trained urgently needed officers in the Japanese language who contributed significantly to the war efforts. The article reviews the factors behind the school's formation and the actions of its organizer Commander Albert E. Hindmarsh. Parcher's historical analysis offers a unique glimpse into the diversity of war-time involvements of institutions of higher education as well as into the U.S.-Japanese tense relations prior to and during World War II.

Next, Lee Richards' article recounts the experiences of four faculty members of the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO) who, alongside African-American students and other faculty, were jailed for their integration activism in Jackson, Mississippi in March of 1964. The four faculty members included Van Bogard "Bogie" Dunn, Everett Tilson, Paul Minus, and Jeffrey Hooper. All four were outspoken supporters of racial equality and travelled to Jackson to protest racist church practices. Their actions played a pivotal role in organizing for change across the Methodist church and its subsequent desegregation.

The fourth article, authored by Carolani Green, focuses on the creation of the Human Sexuality Office at the University of Michigan, the first official LGBTQ+ center at a university in the United States. The Human Sexuality Office opened in the Fall of 1971 spearheaded by graduate student Jim Toy, but also with support from local LGBTQ+ groups and university staff, students, and faculty. Green's historical essay traces the opening of the office, the role of its main founder Jim Toy, the resistance against it, its first year in operation, and the national attitudes and gay rights activism during the 1960s and early 1970s.

The journal issue ends with Donovan Nichols' retrospective on the emergence and evolution of Blue Crew, a secret spirit society at the University of Toledo. Nichols roots his narrative in his recollections as one of the society's co-founders and in archival resources. Blue Crew's unique characteristics and dedication to enhancing school spirit set it apart from other institutions' secret

societies. Founded in 2000, Blue Crew consists of 10 student members whose identities are hidden behind masks, wigs, and overalls. This secret society is devoted to building community and improving the campus culture by promoting university traditions. Today, Blue Crew is a thriving society with over 130 total initiated members, an alumni association, and an endowment fund that financially supports its members and activities.

The historical essays in this inaugural journal issue represent a wide diversity of topics, locations, time periods, and perspectives. We trust you will find them informative and engaging!

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