

EDITOR'S NOTES

As I assume editorship of the journal, I wish to express thanks to my predecessor, Sherman Folland, for his careful shepherding of the journal during his years as editor. When Sherm handed over the reins to me, he felt, to mix metaphors, as if he were overseeing a child being given up for adoption or separation from a spouse. I will strive in my role as editor to ensure that the journal maintains the tradition Sherm has established. I hope to attract the high quality of articles and broad readership which the journal has received. Request for copies are coming from as far away as India. *The Oakland Journal* is a key nexus of conversation on things that matter to us in the broader Oakland community. And even when we disagree, as we shall, integrity, respect, and goodwill must always prevail. We should always hold to the view that ours must never be the last word. This special issue commemorating Oakland's 50th Anniversary is, I believe, testimony to the history and people that have shaped and defined our collective history and identity. But history like identity is multiple and protean. This issue also evidences the frankness of discourse that characterizes Oakland and the journal. The one essay in this issue not directly related to Oakland or its history is Desiree Long's "The Power of An Image: Wedgwood's Slave Cameo." While we celebrate publicly Oakland's fiftieth anniversary, another anniversary, and silent, it seems, here in the US, is being remembered, the bicentenary of the abolition of slavery (1807–2007). *The Oakland Journal* owes an immense debt to President Russi and Provost Moudgil, whose support for it has been unwavering. My fellow editors have been instrumental in helping us in this issue to reflect on Oakland's fascinating history. I wish also

to thank my support staff in The Honors College, along with Jianna Hair, who is serving as editorial assistant. Jianna is a 2007 graduate in English and The Honors College, and is winner of the Matilda Wilson Award. Please consider sending us your submissions—articles, book reviews, forum, and creative bits—meaningful to our Oakland University community. Submissions that reach us by mid-November, if accepted, will appear the winter issue.