

# *New Errands*



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**Welcome to New Errands!**

The Eastern American Studies Association and the American Studies Program at Penn State Harrisburg are pleased to present the sixth issue of *New Errands*, an online journal that publishes exemplary American Studies work by undergraduate students.

Seeking to develop the next generation of Americanists, *New Errands*' mission is both to provide a venue for the publication of important original scholarship by emerging young scholars and to provide a teaching resource for instructors of American Studies looking for exemplary work to use in the classroom.

New Errands will be published semi-annually, after the end of each academic semester. The goal of this timetable will be to collect and publish essays produced during the previous term, so that they can be made available as quickly as possible for use in the following term. We encourage both self-submission by undergraduate students and nominated submissions by instructional faculty. They must have an American focus, but can employ a variety of disciplinary methods. Submissions can be emailed as Word documents to: [newerrandsjournal@gmail.com](mailto:newerrandsjournal@gmail.com).

Essays can be of any length, but they must have a research focus. Any visual images should be placed at the end of the manuscript, and tags should be placed in the text to indicate the intended placement of each image. Manuscripts should conform to MLA guidelines.

**New Errands Staff:**

**Supervising Editor**– Jeffrey A. Tolbert

**Co-managing Editors**– Brittany Clark and Caitlin Black

**Layout Editor**– Denis M. Crawford

For further information about the Eastern American Studies Association, including the annual undergraduate roundtable and the EASA undergraduate honors society, please visit:  
<http://harrisburg.psu.edu/eastern-american-studies-association>.

## A Message from the Editors—

The Spring 2019 edition of *New Errands* includes six exemplary submissions. Leah Hunt's essay "*Just Mercy's* Stories of Unjust Ableism and Racialization" offers an intersectional analysis of the effects of race and disability in the criminal justice system. In her essay "Remarks on *Craftsman of the Cumberlands: Tradition and Creativity*," Alexandra Gupta analyzes the findings of Michael Owen Jones to determine how Chester Cornett's chairs could be interpreted in a museum setting. Jordan Cohn examines sheet music during the Civil War to offer fresh analysis of Abraham Lincoln's policies and public perception in "Abraham Lincoln and the Music of the Civil War Era." Micaiah Bulgrien, in "Legend Trips from Home Still Count," collects and analyzes interviews of legend trips done from home, determining that they fulfill the requirements of a traditional legend trip. In "Magic: The Obsession," Megan Martin explores the game *Magic: The Gathering* to determine the features of the game that make it both addictive and appealing to players. The final essay in this volume is "The Dynamics of Free Speech on Modern College Campuses" by Juan Flores-Serrano, Trishawna Forde, Austen Johnson, Monica Monteiro. This essay resulted from a case-study competition in which teams of students determined the best way for a fictional university to manage controversial speakers on college campuses.

This exciting collection of papers touches on a wide range of topics and research methodologies. In doing so, they reflect the breadth of American Studies scholarship while bringing attention to important current and historic events. Each paper also demonstrates a high commitment to excellence in both research and writing. As such, we hope that you will find in these papers strong examples of undergraduate writing that model interesting assignments and approaches at this level of scholarship.

We would like to thank Alicia Bott for her aid in the selection process. In addition, we would like to thank our contributors for their dedication to American Studies scholarship.

We hope you enjoy these essays.  
Caitlin Black and Brittany Clark

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