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# Publish or Perish: Reflecting on Chronika's Past, Present and Future

Six years ago, Chronika was born out of a conversation between three Ph.D. students in the halls of the University at Buffalo, after an IEMA talk. James Artz, Michael Rienti and myself were wondering why IEMA seemed to serve senior level scholars, but lacked a graduate student component. Sure, we could attend IEMA lectures and events, but IEMA publications (IEMA Conference Proceedings and IEMA Monograph Series) were out of our reach as young scholars.

What could we do to gain some traction in academia? We wanted to get our feet wet: gather experience with the publishing process, expand our CV's, publish and present our research. Most of all, we wanted to grow as scholars. Our various dissertation projects were progressing, but our work wasn't mature enough for a senior-level academic journal yet. What were our options? And, could IEMA help?

Eager to turn our brainstorming session into a reality, Michael, James and I approached the IEMA Board with an idea about a "Student Newsletter," and a lunch-hour "Student Brownbag" speaker series. IEMA enthusiastically supported the idea, and suggested we adopt their interdisciplinary structure. The idea of a "Student Newsletter" was scrapped in favor of a more rigorous "Graduate Student Journal," and "Student Brownbag" lectures were scheduled once per month. Within a year, IEMA followed up by establishing a Student Research Scholarship, offering University at Buffalo students financial support for pre-dissertation and dissertation research.

In the five years since Chronika Volume 1 was published, the journal has grown substantially. Many of the most important changes have occurred under the leadership of Darren Poltorak, who has filled the Editor in Chief position since I stepped down in 2013. Under Darren's leadership, Chronika is more competitive: each year we collect an increasing number of compelling abstracts from a growing body of international submissions. Our editorial policy is more rigorous: Chronika has established a large body of peer reviewers with expertise in spanning from prehistoric to Classical times. And, we have expanded our digital presence: Chronika is accessible at [www.chronikajournal.com](http://www.chronikajournal.com) and we are focusing on providing digital accessibility at university libraries worldwide.

Chronika's growth has been fostered with unwavering support from IEMA, the University at Buffalo graduate students who produce it each year, our extended network of peer reviewers, and of course our authors. I look forward to overseeing Chronika's role in disseminating interdisciplinary, international research in Europe and the Mediterranean, in the next five years and beyond.

Laura Harrison  
Editor Emeritus