



The Middle Ground Journal, 2014-2015 Summary

Overview. The state of the journal is sound. Our 2015-2016 publication schedule is full. We are now scheduling pieces into Fall 2016. Our relationship with our host, The College of St. Scholastica, is excellent. The college has generously provided funding which allows for shipping books for review around the U.S. and the world, as well as engaging in online marketing campaigns. The college has continued to generously grant a course release for my work as the journal's Chief Editor, and for the journal's K-12 and undergraduate outreach project. We continue to receive broad based support from academic departments across the campus, particularly the Department of History and Politics and the School of Arts and Letters, and support from the college's IT, Marketing, Library, and other departments.

Publishing. We have developed and published several ongoing and special forums. Within the next 3-5 years an additional 5-10 forums are being developed, they include forums on philosophy, on literature, on Europe and the World, and on graphic texts. Particularly noteworthy for this school year are special forums being organized by Professor Ann Waltner of the University of Minnesota, and Professor Birgit Schneider of University of Hong Kong. Professor Waltner's forum will highlight the pedagogical uses of reviews for first semester Ph.D. candidates. Professor Schneider's forum examines the pedagogical uses of scholarly reviews for advanced undergraduate courses. Both forums serve as templates for future participating professors and teachers. We have developed excellent working relationships with major publishers. We receive books from publishers and documentarians regularly. Approximately 70 books will be placed before the end of this school year, these reviews will cover 2016-2017 school year schedule, and we have approximately 150 books on reserve.

Others. Because of a generous budget for the 2014-2015 school year supplied by The College of St. Scholastica, we were able to establish The North Star Reports: Global Citizenship and Digital Literacy (<http://NorthStarReports.Org>) ISSN: 2377-908X as an affiliated publication. The NSR is student written and student edited, we currently have 30 student editors under my supervision. These students come from all parts of the campus, nursing to healthcare, natural sciences to economics. Articles from the NSR have been used by students at St. Scholastica, Duluth East High School, and North Star Academy (8th grade) in their studies. The NSR has published over 150 reports, covering all habitable continents around the globe, with articles tackling issues as serious as political conflicts and environmental degradation, to light hearted and insightful articles on food, music, "personal space" and so on. By the end of this school year over 200 reports will be published. NSR student editors also curate a Facebook page dedicated to annotated news articles concerning global and historical events. (<http://Facebook.Com/NorthStarReports>) Having witnessed how students receive these articles from K-12 classes to college classes, it is clear that this collaborative project between The Middle Ground Journal and St. Scholastica is innovative and well worthy of the substantial investment in time and resources.