I want to take this opportunity to thank my faculty colleagues, our administrative staff, and the students for the joint effort of the past year. We have had many successes, individual and collective, and these are noted with pride and satisfaction in this annual Department Newsletter.

I believe we are a department that has worked to push the development of our discipline with both creativity and focus. The yearly accounting of our activities in the Newsletter is a ritual that provides us with a reflection in which we can stand back and see what we have done, taking measure of our efforts and pleasure in the results. We all know what it takes for a graduate student to refine a project, develop it into a proposal, get it funded, and write a dissertation. In these individual projects, overseen by many hands, we see the trajectory of our field in the making, generations of influence finding their way into concrete plans. It is just a moment, but one worth having. In this way, the excitement and intensity of research, teaching, and training can be celebrated and remembered.

Fred Myers
Department Chair