

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Fellow historians and history enthusiasts,

It is with great pleasure that I reveal for your reading pleasure the second issue to the second volume of the Undergraduate Historical Journal at UC Merced. After months of editing and collaborating with our student authors, we have composed an issue that we believe reflects the sincere passion and dedication that our fellow students have for the field of history. With an interesting array of topics for you to read, from Elizabethan England to the effects of the United States' involvement in Vietnam, we hope you enjoy this latest issue of the Journal, and we hope to have your continued interest and support in the future as we strive to continue publishing the work of UC Merced students.

This is a particularly unique and exciting issue, for it is our first to include the abstracts of historical topics that our universities' history majors have researched in their spring History Capstone class. From a plethora of topics in both world and U.S. history, these abstracts illustrate the constant mission of the historian: to explore and interpret the past while making interesting and essential connections to the present state of our tremendously diverse world. We hope to see this extraordinary addition to the Journal as a new tradition that will remain for years to come, for we believe that it is extremely important to archive the research of the talented students of history at UC Merced. It is also essential that future history students receive guidance and inspiration from reading these abstracts, in hopes that it will inspire them to produce their own historical work in the future. This abstract project has become a tremendous feat for the Journal, and I look forward to see what else the Undergraduate Historical Journal can achieve in the years to come.

I now take this opportunity to personally thank all those who made the completion of this spring issue conceivable. This whole project would not have been made possible without the tireless efforts of the Journal's committed editors, along with the cooperative efforts and guidance from UC Merced's history faculty, including Professors Ruth Mostern and David Torres-Rouff. In addition, I wish to thank the predecessor editors and founders of this journal who have offered their constant aid and experienced guidance to the current editorial board; I truly hope that we have lived up to your standards and dreams for the Journal. And last but certainly not least, I want to thank all friends, family, and loved ones who have offered continuous support and encouragement over the course of this semester. I would not be able to witness this great accomplishment without the help of all you amazing individuals. I am extremely proud of this issue, and I invite audiences from far and wide to come witness the grand efforts of UC Merced's historians.

Most sincerely,

Havilliah J. Malsbury
Editor-in-Chief and fellow historian