

Letter from the Chief Editor

I am proud to present the first issue of the fourth volume of *The Undergraduate Historical Journal at UC Merced*. This issue is the result of months of tireless efforts from both my editorial board and the students who embarked on the process of becoming published authors.

Third-year history major, T.R. Salsman offers readers an analysis on Persian Kingship and the impact that it had on power in a Post-Abbasid Persian. Fourth-year history major, Alex Wood researched the practices of Old-World America and the effects these practices had in forming the divides we still see in American society today. Fourth-year history major, Adriano Dore Gomes Da Costa analyzed the implications Merced's urban space has on the image formation of taco shops in the area.

These articles demonstrate the hard-earned effort historians pursue when tasked with making their work publishable. This issue offers readers a wide variety of topics that demonstrates the complexity and flexibility of the history discipline, especially at UC Merced. Salsman's paper moves beyond the habit of comparing two sources as different because they were produced by different individuals; rather, it demonstrates the contingent character of historical development. Wood's paper reflects historical efforts in continuing to ask questions and redefine our understanding of the past. Gomes Da Costa's paper challenges our understanding of what constitutes as evidence and pushes readers to move beyond traditional textual sources to analyze our surrounding communities. Together, these articles represent the core concepts of the history community at UC Merced.

I am very proud of this issue and I invite all audiences to partake in the grand efforts that this journal reflects. I would like to take this time to personally thank those whose efforts made the completion of this issue of the *Undergraduate Historical Journal* possible. This project would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of my editorial board: Pooja Dimba, Adriano Dore Gomes Da Costa, Israel Pacheco, and Akhila Yechuri. I would like to thank Associate Professor Sholeh Quinn, whose insight and encouragement we are especially thankful for; this project reflects the unique bond students and faculty of history build at UC Merced in working to produce written works in history. Last and certainly not least, I would like to thank the original Chief Editor, Rocco Bowman. Rocco, who is currently a Graduate Student in UC Merced's Interdisciplinary Humanities Program, has been a constant helping hand in this process.

Verenize Arceo
Chief Editor