

## Faculty Forward

It is a great honor and privilege for me to write a faculty forward to this issue of *The Undergraduate Historical Journal at UC Merced*. This journal is now in its fifth year of operation, and regularly publishing one to two issues per year! I would like to stress that this journal was established and is run entirely by UC Merced undergraduate students. They solicit the articles, they work with the authors until a submission is ready for publication, and they edit the individual pieces. The feedback that they offer is constructive and supportive at the same time—which is any author’s dream!

While it is now commonplace for graduate students to publish their scholarship, relatively fewer opportunities exist for undergraduate history students to have the first-hand experience of seeing a piece of scholarship through to publication. Doing so allows them to put into practice the historiographical skills they learn in their classes and share their work with an audience beyond their classmates. That UC Merced undergraduates have created this opportunity for their fellow students will come as no surprise to anyone who is familiar with the remarkable student body of this young university.

Verenize Arceo, the Chief Editor of *The Undergraduate Historical Journal at UC Merced*, along with members of the editorial team-- Pooja Dimba, Adriano Dore Gomes Da Costa, Israel Pacheco, and Akhila Yechuri—have all worked extremely hard not only to publish this issue, but also to re-establish the journal after a period of turnover due to most of the previous editorial team having graduated. Every member of the editorial team was new to the job and spent a great deal of time familiarizing themselves with the process of publishing a journal. The result is the issue here.

The three interesting articles in this issue cover a wide range of topics and time periods, including kingship in medieval Persia, old world perceptions in colonial North America, and taco shops in contemporary Merced, California. They reflect one of the guiding principles of the humanities here at UC Merced: “the world at home and at home in the world.”

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