

Letter From the Chief Editor

I am thrilled to present the first issue of the fifth volume of *The Undergraduate Historical Journal at UC Merced*. This issue is the result of months of hard work from both the editorial board and students who were determined to become published authors as undergraduates.

This edition of the journal holds two articles that cover a wide range of North American history. Fourth year history major, T.R. Salsman opens the edition with a history on irrigation in California, with an emphasis on sugar beats and labor struggles. Third year history major, Omar González takes us through the history of social movements among the Latinx community, in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of social movements.

I am very pleased with this issue and 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 were crucial in completing this issue of the journal. This was made possible with the hard effort my editorial board: Pooja Dimba, Summer Escobar, Gio Menchaca, Sarah Shank, and Brandon Sor. Half of these editors are new to the team, but they have quickly adapted and were able to bring the best out of both papers submitted. I would also like to thank the original chief editor and founder of the journal, Rocco Bowman. Rocco, currently a graduate student in UC Merced's interdisciplinary humanities program, has been a great guide in this editing process. Lastly, I would like to thank Associate Professor Kevin Dawson, whose support we are most thankful for. This project reflects the bond forged between students and faculty at UC Merced through the writing of history.

Omar González
Chief Editor