

I am honored and privileged to once again write the faculty forward for the Fall 2018 edition of *The Undergraduate Historical Journal at UC Merced*. Published once or twice per year, this journal was established and is run by UC Merced undergraduate students. They solicit articles and book reviews, collaborate with authors to refine submissions for publication, and edit individual entries and the journal. The feedback student editors provide to contributors is constructive, supportive, and nurturing, which is often not the case in the publishing world, and results in the production of quality scholarship. Having served on the editorial board of the history journal while an undergraduate at California State University, Fullerton I am intimately familiar with the devotion and commitment that our editorial board provides while publishing *The Undergraduate Historical Journal*.

Even as graduate students regularly publish journals as venues for showcasing their scholarship, few undergraduates are ambitious enough to organize and pursue this endeavor. In guiding pieces through the publication process, the journal affords a valuable forum for UCM students to apply the historiographical skills acquired during coursework to share their scholarship with audiences beyond the classroom. Given the strength and determination of UCM undergraduate history students, it is perhaps not surprising that they would provide this intellectual space for their fellow students at our young university. None-the-less, they must be commended for dedication that exceeds that of most undergraduates throughout the country.

Omar Gonzalez, the Chief Editor of *The Undergraduate Historical Journal at UC Merced*, diligently collaborated with the editorial team—Pooja Dimba, Summer Escobar, Gio Menchaca, Sarah Shank, and Brandon Sor—to produce this issue. Importantly, Dimba was the only returning editor, as all the other previous editors graduated in Spring 2018. To produce this edition of the journal, the editors devoted considerable time familiarizing themselves with the publishing process.

As Always, this edition is thought provoking and well-crafted. It includes the following two articles: Omar González, “How Latin Americans Transformed the US During the Cold War” and T.R. Salsman, “Rise of the Beet: Irrigation Labour and Agricultural Intensification in the California Beet Sugar Industry, 1850-1903.” These two scholars should be recognized for articulating 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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