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Introduction

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Introduction

The Lambda Upsilon chapter of Phi Alpha Theta annually publishes *Historical Perspectives*, an undergraduate research journal. For twenty-one years, students have submitted their best scholarship to be reviewed by the *Historical Perspectives* editing committee, a team of students and faculty. This year, we were fortunate to have an exceptional selection of papers to evaluate, reflecting the high level of achievement of Santa Clara University's history students. We would like to thank all students who submitted essays. The variety of research topics, theoretical approaches, and writing styles illustrate the innovativeness and uniqueness of these pieces.

While the following selection consists of papers that are distinct and cover a variety of geographic regions and eras, the overarching theme of identity unifies them. "We should think of academic freedom," wrote Edward Said, "as an invitation to give up our obsession with our own identity in the hope of understanding, and perhaps even assuming, more than one." These eight papers, organized chronologically, each contribute to our understanding of identity's importance in the study of history. In Christina Forst's paper dealing with infanticide cases in Victorian England, she discusses the pathologization of mothers who committed infanticide, and how their transgression affected how they were perceived by society. Maxine DeVincenzi also studies the Victorian era, specifically its death culture, and how burial practices helped define the period's social identity. In her paper "Wicked California," Michelle Khoury explores how Gold Rush California's structureless society provided miners the freedom to engage in activities that were widely unaccepted elsewhere, allowing them to form their own identities through leisure. Maggie Woods' work on World War I propaganda examines the romanticized, false identity of American soldiers in propaganda, which was used as a recruitment tool. In "Tough on Black Asses,"

Laurel Bettis demonstrates how migrating north allowed African-American jazz musicians to embrace their own identities as respected artists, as they were more removed from the racial stereotypes that had defined them in the south. Andrea Dlugos' paper "Virile, Yet Feminine" analyzes the effect that women's participation in sports had on the formation of identity by examining gender roles in Fascist Italy. In "Japan Disarmed," Ian Ghows discusses the transformation of identity of the Japanese soldier before and after World War II, specifically looking at Japanese social media. Finally, Elizabeth Marsden's historical analysis of women in the United States military touches upon their struggle to form their own identities, for they face being labeled as either "whores or dikes."

We would like to acknowledge the faculty, staff, and students who make this undergraduate journal possible. Specifically, we thank professor Fabio Lopez-Lazaro and Father Paul Mariani, faculty advisors of this year's edition, as well as history Department Office Manager Mrs. Judy Gillette. Congratulations to those students whose papers were selected for publication. We are grateful to belong to a department that provides an opportunity to showcase student talent, research, and intellectual achievement.

Andrea Dlugos
Michelle Khoury
Student Editors