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Introduction

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Introduction

As always, this year's *Historical Perspectives* showcases the extraordinary research of students in the Santa Clara University History Department. Through demanding courses and attention from the Department's dedicated and passionate professors, these students are well prepared to do exceptional work. The faculty's expertise and support guides students to develop interests in a wide variety of critical topics.

The entries for this year cover an extensive span of historical eras in both European and American history. Three of the authors examine a variety of feminist issues including women's contribution to peace-making, the changing definitions of gender norms, and women's roles in the preservation of history. Brigid Eckhart's article deals with local California Mission history, utilizing primary sources unique to Santa Clara University. James Hooper tackles the complicated topic of Russian-Chechen relations, and Emily Elrod, dealing with the earliest period of all the selections, discusses religious heresy in the medieval era. The collection of papers for the 2006 *Historical Perspectives* captures the many interests and represents the high level of scholarship and critical analysis of the students in the History Department.

The publication of this volume has been made possible by the sponsorship of the Lambda Upsilon Chapter of *Phi Alpha Theta* and particularly through the generosity of Mrs. Maria Damon's gift to the History Department in memory of her late husband Duane. The editors would also like to thank all the students who submitted their fine research for

consideration and express their gratitude to Judy Gillette for her indispensable work in the design and assembly of this journal. In the words of Oscar Wilde, "Anybody can make history. Only a great [person] can write it."

Courtney Marunda
Darby Riley