

Historical Perspectives: Santa Clara University Undergraduate Journal of History, Series II

Volume 12

Article 5

2007

Introduction

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Recommended Citation

(2007) "Introduction," *Historical Perspectives: Santa Clara University Undergraduate Journal of History, Series II*: Vol. 12 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/historical-perspectives/vol12/iss1/5>

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Introduction

Historical Perspectives, Phi Alpha Theta's undergraduate research journal, was created as a vehicle for public recognition of excellent student scholarship. Students benefit immensely from the practice of historical methods provided by Santa Clara's History Department; intensive courses allow students to engage history through the process of research topics and formulating papers that address new concepts in scholarship. Through close interaction with faculty, students hone writing skills and their grasp of methodology. The culmination of these historical encounters results in a high level of scholastic achievement, as demonstrated in this issue.

Moreover, not only does this journal provide students with the opportunity to be published, it enables them to gain experience in the editing and publishing process of historical scholarship. Student editors worked with faculty advisors to determine the final selection of student papers. Although many History majors and minors submitted their finest work for the review of the editorial board, only the best papers were selected from this pool of exceptional academic writing. Lively discussion produced the final selection of seven papers presented in this edition of *Historical Perspectives*, an outstanding final product we are pleased to introduce.

As student editors we would like especially to thank everyone who contributed their papers for consideration. Thanks as well to Professors Steven Gelber and Brigitte Charaus for assisting and educating us in the editorial process, and a special thanks to Judy Gillette, who took care of the publication details.

Lastly, as graduating seniors of this University and Department, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire faculty and staff of the History Department for nurturing our passion for history and the historical process, and for installing in us a firm grasp of historical perspective.

Cheers!

Brigid Eckhart
Galen Smith