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Every year the Phi Alpha Theta chapter at Santa Clara University publishes a selection of outstanding research papers in the History Department’s journal, *Historical Perspectives*. The papers are chosen from submissions from students who have completed research projects in advanced seminars and which represent the highest standard of achievement in the department. We were fortunate to have received a number of impressive papers and would like to thank all of the students who submitted their work for review and also to extend our appreciation to the faculty who assisted them with their projects. We are pleased to present this year’s edition of *Historical Perspectives*.

The 2015 edition of the journal includes six studies that analyze significant social, economic and political issues in modern global affairs. The presentations begin with Sally Ulmer’s research about 19th century British women travellers in colonial Africa and their views on race and gender. This is followed by Kyra McComas’ analysis of the significance of Kim Philby in British espionage literature. In the third paper Héctor Navarro discusses the role of the American press in the portrayal of events in the Salvadoran civil war. The fourth study, by Nicholas Comaratta, offers a detailed examination of how Mark Sykes and the Sykes-Picot Agreement shaped the modern Middle East. This is followed by Carlos Andrés Castro’s study of social and political assimilation in Canada with respect to sexual orientation legislation, a key issue in the contemporary world. The final paper, by Ramsey Fisher, illustrates how the United States’ involvement in post-war Japan impacted current Japanese criminal procedure.

Acknowledgments

We congratulate the student authors of the papers in this collection. We would also like to acknowledge the support of Father Paul Mariani, SJ, Professor David Skinner and office manager Mrs. Judy Gillette who have played integral roles in the final product of the *Historical Perspectives* journal. On behalf of the History Department we would like to thank the faculty, staff and students who have contributed to the department this year. We are honored to be able to represent the department through our services on the editorial board and we hope you enjoy this year’s edition of *Historical Perspectives*.

Ramsey Fisher
Sally Ulmer
Student Editors

The History Department expresses its gratitude to John and Lulu McPhee, whose generous gift provided the financial support for the publication of this journal.