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Letter from the Advisor

I am immensely impressed by the dedication and talent that all the student editors and authors have brought to this inaugural issue of the *Undergraduate Historical Journal* at UC Merced. Your accomplishment is extraordinary. It's taken effort, gumption, and strategy to get to this point, and your finished issue meets the highest professional standards.

As a historian and a history professor, it's exciting to witness your commitment to the craft of history. You've brought your college major to life outside of the classroom simply for the sake of an intellectual challenge, an inquisitiveness about history as an endeavor, and an urge to discover and interpret the record of human accomplishment and conflict. The range of topics and genres you're publishing in this issue reflects the breadth of historical inquiry.

In the spirit of our new campus, you have built a road and driven it at the same time. In the course of a year you've gone from an idea to a finished issue and publisher approval, and you've created procedures and processes that will permit the journal to persist and grow long after you graduate.

I am humbled to have the chance to work such remarkable students. I learn as much as I teach, and I am inspired in my own work and career by what you are able to accomplish.

Congratulations to all of the editors and authors for a fabulous inaugural issue,

Ruth Mostern
Associate Professor of History
Undergraduate Historical Journal Advisor