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Introduction

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Introduction

Santa Clara University's Phi Alpha Theta chapter publishes a number of exceptional essays annually in the History Department's journal, *Historical Perspectives*. This year, we faced the difficult decision of choosing among many well-written student essays that cover significant topics spanning many years and the world across. As a result, the essays chosen represent some of the most impressive undergraduate writing that Santa Clara University students have produced for advanced seminars, original research, and senior theses. We are grateful to every student who submitted their papers for consideration and the faculty members who assisted student writers with their essays. We are proud to share the meaningful work from our community that exemplifies the outstanding academic achievements and unique perspectives of Santa Clara University students for the 2022 edition of *Historical Perspectives*.

Reflecting on the 2022 school year, we at Santa Clara University have witnessed many landmark changes for women and women's rights. In our Santa Clara community, we celebrated the inauguration of our first lay and first female President of Santa Clara University, Julie Sullivan. This marks a turning point in our university's history, and it has also been 61 years since Santa Clara became a coeducational university. To go along with these themes, this year we have received a pair of essays on the challenges that women in the community have faced in the past. Bianca Romero's "Notre Dame/Our Lady: The Economic Origins of Multilingual Education at a Bay Area Catholic School" discusses the early years of a local women's institution, like Santa Clara University, founded in 1851. It examines the early stakeholders in the community and the racial tensions that divided them as California shifted from a Spanish cultural space to an American cultural space. Many of the first women to attend Santa Clara graduated from Notre Dame High School. Hannah Hagen's "Tradition Shattered" discusses the challenges that women faced when the

university first became coeducational during the 1960s, as well as the community that developed to support these women. Santa Clara has continued to develop as a coeducational institution in the male dominated Silicon Valley.

At the same time as this progress in our local community, nationwide women's rights, health, and sexuality face new challenges. With the release of the decision in June in the case *Dobbs vs Jackson* the longstanding precedent of *Roe vs Wade*, which lasted 50 years, was overturned. This has allowed for the prohibition of abortion and government infringement on the health and rights of women across the country. This year's journal includes two papers reflecting on the history of women's health and sexuality in America. In Adelaide Vergnolle's "Medicalization of Sex in the Cold War," she discusses the medically enforced politics of heteronormativity and the stripping of feminine sexual pleasure in the 20th century. Additionally, Sydney Shead's "'Granny' Midwife to Nurse-Midwife: The Decline of Southern Black Midwifery in the 20th Century" examines the decline of black midwives and their replacement by the white medical community, despite the quality of care and variety of services they offered to women in rural communities. Lili Tavlan's "The Infamous Rosalie: Infanticide as Female Slave Resistance" examines the role of infanticide as resistance in Haiti during the Haitian Revolution. All of this scholarship at Santa Clara University shows the way these issues have existed throughout history as we continue to reexamine them today.

Following the precedents set in recent years, this year's journal includes a book review written by Continuing in the vein of tradition shattered, this year's journal does include the first ever short fiction published by *Historical Perspectives*. Sophie Wink's story "The Girl" is inspired by her research on the history of eugenics and sterilization in Maine. The story is about a fictional woman reflecting on the effects of the trauma she suffered in a mental institution.

This year's edition features a variety of commentaries on sex and gender and which is reflected in our cover image. It is a photo from the Santa Clara University archives depicting the university's first female applicant. This was a year where tradition was shattered, so it is a fitting subject for our cover. We wanted to highlight the progress made, with the hope that it inspires optimism for the future, while also acknowledging the fight for the continued protection of the rights of all.