

From the Editors

It is our pleasure to bring you the sixth edition of *Esra's Archives*. Over the past six months, our dedicated editors have been hard at work assembling this collection of high-quality undergraduate historical research from students all over the country. We invited submissions from more than fifty universities, hoping to give undergraduates the opportunity to publish their original research and start a dialogue about history across the country. Our editorial staff received over sixty submissions from institutions such as Princeton University, University of Michigan, Stanford University, and the University of Chicago. Each year we find it difficult to decide which papers to publish, and this year was no exception. After many months of preparing the journal, we are excited to present the papers in this edition.

The first paper provides key insights into the struggle between indigenous and non-indigenous populations over American-Indian land and resource claims. University of Washington senior Jennifer Smith explores the relationship between the Yakama nation and the wild horses on the Yakama Indian Reservation. The paper argues that through the dispute between the Yakamas and non-Indians over wild horses, Yakamas were able to subvert non-Indian authority and assert their sovereignty.

The second paper, by University of Michigan senior Charles Sorge, presents a unique microhistorical study of Sarah Dering Thomas, a Revolutionary War-era loyalist. Sorge tells Sarah's history through a series of letters she wrote to her relatives; he uses these letters to investigate how Sarah's experiences as a loyalist woman in Revolutionary America fit into historical claims about loyalist women in general.

The third paper discusses a controversial topic of the present-day United States that was also prominent in the 1970s: gun control. Written by University of Michigan senior Christopher Haughey, the paper details President Ford's experience with gun laws as he faced pressure from all sides to balance second-amendment rights against safety with policies that could withstand the test of time. Haughey further claims that the way in which the gun issue was handled in the 1970s had a strong and direct impact on its role in politics and society today.

In the fourth paper, Meredith Miller, a junior at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, employs the work of Polish artists Stanislaw Wyspiański and Stanislaw Ignacy Witkiewicz as a vehicle through which to analyze the morphing and molding of the Polish identity of the Polish people in the early years of the nineteenth century. Miller's choice to

explore the turn-of-the-century Krakovian narrative through art is what sets the piece apart from the typical historical narrative: she illustrates the history of the political, cultural, and intellectual struggles of a nation as told through camera and paintbrush.

We conclude with a religious and political conundrum: the use of anti-papist rhetoric to denounce the enemies of New England during and after the colonial era. University of Minnesota-Twin Cities senior Daniel Kilgore illustrates that though Catholicism was not the primary issue in many of New England's conflicts between 1754 and 1781, a history of condemnation of its practices allowed New Englanders to deploy its terminology as a weapon against their opponents.

The papers we read throughout the submission and editing process were diverse, creative, and profound. Each year, as we read works by history students here at Cornell and at institutions across the country, we find ourselves increasingly impressed with the historical scholarship at the undergraduate level. Last year was our fifth anniversary, and as we look to the next five years, and the many years after that, we will continue to work to provide a platform for exceptional undergraduate historical research. We hope that the papers in this volume will captivate you as they have captivated us. We are proud to present to you the sixth edition of *Ezra's Archives*.

Sincerely,
Julia Krupski and Samantha Reig
Editors-in-Chief