

Letter from the Chair

In the inaugural edition of the IU Journal of Undergraduate Research, three student authors shed new light on overlooked moments in American history. In “The Sand Creek Massacre,” Asa Kerr confronts a disturbing absence of research on the 1864 slaughter of Cheyenne and Arapaho Native Americans by a Colorado territorial militia, examining the various motivations behind this heinous atrocity. Likewise, Natalie Schumann’s “Nationalism in *National Geographic Magazine*, 1888-1923” examines the infusion of American exceptionalism and colonialist ideology in the early days of the *National Geographic Magazine*, detailing how the magazine’s early issues contradicted its proclaimed mission statement, shaping the views of the American public on important national issues. Finally, in “*Silent Spring* and *The New York Times*: How Rachel Carson Won the Journey” Kushal Shah tracks public opinion and critical reactions toward Rachel Carson’s influential book on the harmful effects of extensive pesticide use, exposing the rocky beginning of the Green Movement and environmentalism. Though addressing three different moments of America’s past, this research expands and clarifies our current understanding of American history, casting a renewed and critical glance toward the past while imparting didactic value for the future.

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