

## Letter from the Editor

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I am pleased to be able to offer this third volume of *The Measure* as a continuing reflection of the strong work students in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences accomplish. As more people are interacting globally, finding out about varying cultures, languages, and histories—the diversities that make us human—becomes more important than ever before. This issue contains some of the best undergraduate research at Sam Houston State University and exemplifies the considerable time and effort our students spend researching information, analyzing data, and reporting findings. Arranged alphabetically, in order of students' last names, these articles collectively form a broad overview of the excellent contributions our students are making. Each article is presented in the general style and format of its respective discipline.

The first article, by Kurstin Buckmaster, sheds light on a different type of border migration than what has been in the news lately. Her research about the monarch butterfly gives strong support for her claim that the governments of the United States and Mexico must learn to work together to combat the recent declines in the butterfly's numbers and natural habitats. In a different article about the southern border, Cesar Cantú discusses how a fictionalized account of the unprecedented number of unsolved murders in Ciudad Juárez expounds on the strong cultural and economic links between the border cities of El Paso-Juárez.

Heather Howsmon relates her travels across Mexico in a study-abroad history course to the historical significance and cultures of that geographic location, tying the past and present with interesting insights. In another historical reflection, Ethan Eichhorst helps readers understand the rise of the communist party in China with the writings of Mao Zedong. His primary research into the 20th century leader illuminates specific geographic and economic explanations for the rise of the communist ideology and the power of China's most famous recent leader.

Marlene Martinez links the historical Jim Crow era of the South to present-day systems of mass incarceration and new "Juan Crow Laws" that continue a racialized social control system in the lives of those of Mexican and Latinx descent. In a different

view of the historical, Rebekah Primrose’s research into similarities between two extinct languages provides a solid pathway for non-linguists to grasp the importance of studying languages’ roots in order to understand the structure, use, and psychology of language in general.

These six articles represent a small percentage of the research CHSS students produced during the preceding academic year. Each of our authors has worked extensively writing, rewriting, and reimagining the audience for their research projects. Their faculty mentors worked extensively to help the students learn about and participate in the world of scholarly publication. I want to express my sincere thanks to the authors and mentors for their work transforming class assignments into these fine articles for an audience beyond the classroom. I also want to thank Camille Nguyen and Amanda Devaul, student workers in the Dean’s office, for their help in checking citations and formatting the final documents. In addition, I want to thank John Quezada, former managing editor, for his support in my transition to the editorship and his help in checking citations for this issue.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *The Measure* and join me in commending the students for their fine work advancing our knowledge through their studies.

Sincerely,



Margaret “Marnie” Hageman  
Managing Editor