

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

AS *CALIFORNIA HISTORY* enters its ninety-sixth year of publication, it is a good time to reflect on the state of the discipline at hand. In this special issue, *Teaching California History*, we have set aside the probing and ambitious research readers have come to expect from *California History* to focus instead on the practice of teaching California History. It is a generative time for such a discussion, particularly given the California Historical Society's new *Teaching California* initiative (teachingcalifornia.org), set to launch in Summer of 2019. More broadly, there seems to be a growing sentiment that California represents a kind of outlier to the current political direction of the nation. "These days," the *Los Angeles Times* recently opined, "when the federal government turns in one direction, California veers in another." Most meaningfully, as enrollments in the California State University and California Community Colleges have grown over the last two decades (albeit unevenly), there is probably more demand for college-level California history courses than there has ever been. Considering these developments, we decided to interview ten professors who teach California history (and in one case, geography) at various college and university campuses across the state. In the process, we learned more than we expected about the pedagogy and methodology of teaching California history. We also learned about the passion these professors bring to their college classrooms. Furthermore, in our *Public History* section, Stephanie Narrow and Peter Sebastian Chesney explore innovative exhibits and programming that are edifying for students, faculty, and the broader public. In our *Book Review* section, readers will learn about important new works by Steven W. Hackel, Lon Kurashige, Glenda Riley and Richard Etulain. Finally, in our *Spotlight* section, Marie Silva marks the 40th anniversary of the Jonestown Massacre by exploring the archives of the California Historical Society.

JOSH SIDES, LOS ANGELES