

Contributors



Gabriela D. Noa Betancourt's (Tulane '16) article, "If the Newcomb Walls Could Talk: The Story of June Wall," began as a research project in a history course. Intrigued by the rumors she had heard about Newcomb College students who had died after receiving abortions during the 1960s Noa Betancourt embarked on an ambitious research plan, scouring Newcomb yearbooks, Ancestry.com records, and *The Times-Picayune* archives to uncover the identity of the student who died of a botched abortion in 1963. The article stresses the importance of social networks as a crucial, and often overlooked, component to ensuring women's safety in the era before abortion was legal. In the fall, Noa Betancourt will commence her junior year at Tulane, where she studies public health and political science. She plans to continue researching the reproductive health experiences of Newcomb College students before and after *Roe v. Wade*.

"The midwife must be abolished! The Fall of Midwifery in Mid-Twentieth Century New Orleans," by **Claire Crilley** (Tulane '14) highlights the history of physicians' efforts to secure professional legitimacy by discrediting midwifery and unlicensed healthcare providers who practice outside of hospitals. Drawing primarily from *The Times-Picayune*, Claire explains how the New Orleans's District Attorney's investigation of an abortion racket led to a spike in midwife prosecutions during the 1950s. She also considers how the city's newspaper contributed to the vilification of midwives, attributing antagonistic reporting to the gradual disappearance of midwifery in New Orleans. Crilley resides in New York, where she is pursuing a career in public health policy.

Tamara Dukich's (Tulane '14) article, "Women's Organizing after Suffrage: The Women's Joint Congressional Committee and the Sheppard-Towner Act," illuminates the history of how the first social policy legislation for women's reproductive healthcare was passed by Congress due to pressure from women's groups in the wake of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment. Dukich, who earned a B.S. in neuroscience at Tulane and served as the president of the university's chapter of VOX: Voices for Planned Parenthood, plans to pursue a career in women's reproductive healthcare.

"Fighting Against All Odds: How Three Ethnically and Racially Diverse Abortion Providers Overcame Public Scrutiny to Challenge Society's Outlook on the Controversial Abortion Laws," by **Nicholas Lowe** (Tulane '14) began as a research essay for a course on the history of reproductive health within the United States. In this paper, Lowe analyzed how the abortion controversy that surrounded *Roe v. Wade* impacted the work of three pioneering abortion providers, Dr. Edgar Keemer, Dr. Kenneth Edelin, and Dr. Milan Vuitch. Lowe argues that all three faced increased societal pressure due to being viewed as outsiders by American society, influenced by a particularly stressful time in U.S. history that included the Civil Rights Movement and the Cold War. Lowe majored in history at Tulane.