

EDITOR'S NOTE

As Cal Poly comes to the end of another academic year, it is with great honor that I announce the fourth volume of *The Forum*, Cal Poly's journal of history. Although an endeavor of this magnitude is not without its trials, the experience has nevertheless been fulfilling; one that will stick with me for years to come.

The last two years, *The Forum* has been recipient of the Gerald D. Nash History Journal Award in both print and "digital" categories. This year, we hope to maintain the tradition of quality that editors past have instilled in the journal with the presentation of Cal Poly's finest historical writing by students.

This issue is marked by its variety of cultural and political topics, incorporating research papers and historiographies written by both undergraduate and graduate students. As it is Phi Alpha Theta's mission to promote the study of history through the exchange of learning and ideas, I believe the variety and creativity of topics represented in this issue, medicinal beer, presidential legacies, and cannibalism amongst others, achieves these goals.

As I finish my graduate work in the coming months and bid farewell to both *The Forum* and Cal Poly, I have nothing but confidence that the journal will continue to improve and grow in the coming years. Since its inception, *The Forum* has been an excellent example of Cal Poly's "learn by doing" philosophy and truly acts as a forum for students to express their passions for history. I have no doubt that future editors will continue this legacy.

Hilda Iorga
Executive Editor