



SYMPOSIUM

Student Journal of Science & Math

Volume 1 Issue 1

**For young men and women in the sciences willing to discover something new about
our reality, and who are daring enough to share it.**

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND FOUNDER

Dear Readers of *Symposium*:

As founder and Editor-in-Chief, I am extremely proud to introduce the inaugural issue of *Symposium: Student Journal of Science and Math*. It's remarkable to reflect back on a year's work and see how a professional product came out of an idea discussed over coffee. *Symposium* has come a long way to reach this tremendous accomplishment.

Symposiums are known today as open forums and colloquiums for scholars to present new information and to learn from others in the field. *Symposium* is unique because it's not just an academic journal, but an outlet for students to give and gain knowledge. The education students receive in the College of Science and Math (COSAM) maintains the heart of the Cal Poly Learn by Doing initiative. I have seen how COSAM creates amazing opportunities for its students through research, labs, fieldwork, and internships. I founded *Symposium* with a vision to provide COSAM students a platform to share not only their research, but their educational experiences.

Building a completely student-run and student-written academic journal from the ground up was no easy feat. I think of the development of *Symposium* as analogous to a scientific experiment. The process was explorative and experimental explorative and experimental—from getting students and faculty on board, shaping the journal's mission and policies, and everything that fell in between. While there were certainly bumps in the road, I can conclude that the results of this experiment were extremely successful.

However, the success of the journal couldn't have been accomplished without the support and dedication of the many students, faculty, and staff involved in its development. I would first like to recognize faculty advisor of *Symposium*, Dr. Elena Keeling. Dr. Keeling dedicated invaluable time and guidance to ensure the success and quality publication of the journal. *Symposium* is also indebted to the endless support from Kennedy Library, and specifically to Digital Scholarship Services Librarian

Marisa Ramírez. As the first supporter of the journal's initiative, I am forever grateful for everything Marisa has contributed to *Symposium*.

I would like to thank the Executive Editors and Reviewers for their hard work, creativity, and enthusiasm. What makes *Symposium* so unique is its ability to be a completely student-led initiative. This journal has allowed opportunities for students of all majors. The expertise from journalism, graphic communication, English, engineering and science majors on the Editorial and Review Boards was essential to the publication of this first issue. Bringing so many individuals from various backgrounds together, but who all shared the same passion for science and COSAM, was one of the most rewarding experiences. It was a privilege to work with such a talented group of students. Last, but not least, I would like to thank all our contributing authors of the first issue of *Symposium*. Without you, we wouldn't have this journal. Together, these individuals and support groups made *Symposium* a reality.

This first issue published three exemplary research articles and two outstanding research proposals, all of which are available online and open access. Back in June of 2013, I would have never thought I would be able to see this idea to fruition. I am amazed with what the founding Editorial Board was able to accomplish in one year. However, I believe that there is a wealth of riches waiting to be found in *Symposium*. I encourage students to share their experiences and work with *Symposium*. I hope to see *Symposium* continue to grow, share, discuss, and achieve with many more issues to come.

I am honored to open the floor for *Symposium*. I hope you enjoy the first issue and that it inspires you to engage in the discussion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LJY' in a stylized, cursive script.

Lauren J. Young
Founder and Editor-in-Chief, 2013-2014