



SYMPOSIUM

Student Journal of Science & Math

Volume 2 Issue 1

**To the bright young minds that are endlessly
in pursuit of their dreams and ideas**

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Readers of *Symposium*:

It is my pleasure to introduce the second issue of *Symposium: Student Journal of Science and Math*. As Editor-in-Chief of the 2014-2015 issue of *Symposium*, I am proud to say that our vision of providing Cal Poly students a platform to share their research and educational experiences is steadily gaining attention and support.

The second year of running any professional publication is always a turbulent one because it determines whether the publication has enough support and funding to survive. *Symposium* was certainly a challenge to manage this year, but it has seen a lot of good changes that will help the journal grow and progress. Two of the most influential changes *Symposium* encountered this year were the recognition by the Cal Poly Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) program, as well as being selected as one of the winning contestants for the Baker & Koob Endowment. Being recognized by Cal Poly's IRA program and getting funded by an extremely selective endowment is a huge step forward for *Symposium* in becoming an academic journal that represents Cal Poly students.

Symposium was originally started for students in the College of Science and Math (COSAM), but this year, I decided to open it up for the entire Cal Poly student community. I envision *Symposium* to be the voice for an interdisciplinary field of undergraduate and graduate students performing exemplary work in scientific and mathematical projects. It is my hope to see that in every issue of *Symposium*, students from many fields will be able to share their engagement in science, scholarship, and research that demonstrates Cal Poly's Learn by Doing custom and create campus-wide scientific discussion.

The Executive Editors and Reviewers working on *Symposium* make the journal a true interdisciplinary professional publication made by students, for students. Having the opportunity to meet and work with people from majors such as English, Microbiology, Journalism, and Kinesiology has made my experience as Editor-in-Chief of *Symposium* exceptionally fun and rewarding for me. It was also a privilege to have the continual support of Kennedy Library. I would like to give special thanks to Michele Wyngard for help with the Digital Commons platform, as well as Jeanine Scaramozzino for being our main contact at Kennedy Library. Last but not least, I would like to thank Dr. Elena Keeling

of the Biological Science Department for being such an awesome and supportive advisor. Without her guidance, *Symposium* would not be the academic journal it is today.

The second issue published three research proposals and four research articles, all of which are available online and in Kennedy Library as open resources for students. It is astonishing to see how a small idea from June 2013 has grown into a fully-funded and recognized journal in June 2015. I hope *Symposium* will continuously inspire different disciplines across campus and spur the advancement of student research.

I formally invite the student community of Cal Poly to come and explore all the different possibilities *Symposium* has to offer.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. Shao', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Wilson W. Shao
Editor-in-Chief, 2014-2015