

EDITOR'S NOTE

You hold in your hands the fifth edition of *The Forum*, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's journal of history. It represents a year's worth of hard work from Cal Poly students, staff, and alumni, working to bring readers the best our history department has to offer.

This year, we've changed things up a little with the addition of two new sections, outside of our traditional content of research papers and book reviews. We have decided to initiate the tradition of publishing a Cal Poly history student's final research project in each edition, as well as quality papers written by freshman students just learning how to interpret primary sources and write history. It is our hope that these new elements, along with our traditional research articles, will showcase the quality of our history department and the growth our students undergo at Cal Poly.

As a graduating senior, managing this journal has truly been a challenge for me; though an incredibly rewarding one. Working on *The Forum* has instilled in me a greater appreciation for the publication process and a deep respect for our previous editors. I know that our future editors will do what it takes to uphold our tradition of publishing high-quality historical research and put Cal Poly's "learn by doing" philosophy into action.

Matthew Brown
Executive Editor