

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the 9th edition of *The Forum: Journal of History*! We hope you enjoy reading this year's completely student-run publication. Here at Cal Poly, our motto is "Learn by Doing." Within the history department, we are proud to develop skills in publishing both as authors and editors working on this journal. The hard work Cal Poly students put into historical research and writing is exemplified in this year's edition. Many of the pieces selected come from Cal Poly's Research and Writing Seminar, a class all history majors and minors must take in order to move on to upper division courses. During this course, students are tasked with writing their first in depth research paper and have the opportunity to work in the University's archives and special collections. Students often carry the skills they learn through this class with them as they continue their academic careers.

Our intention with this year's selections is to showcase the importance of critical thinking within the diverse field of history. Our authors look critically at their topics and ask the hard-hitting questions that dig deeper into historical thought.

We would like to offer a very special thank you to our editing team. This journal would not have been possible without all their hard work and dedication. We would also like to thank our faculty advisor, Dr. Lewis Call, as well as the entire history faculty for their help in facilitating the publication of this journal. We would also like to thank last year's executive editors, Jennifer Freilach and Madeleine Aitchison for their guidance as we maneuvered our new positions as executive editors. They answered our numerous questions and we owe them our success in transitioning smoothly into these roles. Lastly, we would like to thank all of the authors who submitted to *The Forum*. Their in depth research on a wide array of fascinating topics were always a pleasure to read.

—Kali Leonard & Danielle Skipper