Welcome to the eleventh edition of *The Forum*, Cal Poly’s own student written and student published historical journal. The school’s motto is “Learn by Doing,” and *The Forum* perfectly exemplifies that approach. Each year, the journal is the product of Cal Poly students *doing* history—researching, writing, and publishing scholarly work. This edition includes essays from all class levels. Ms. Taketa wrote her essay in History 100, the first course every history major takes as a freshman. Mr. Michaels is a current graduate student. Thus, this edition showcases the progress that every history major achieves during their time at Cal Poly.

I thank the wonderful team of editors that worked tirelessly to refine each of these submissions. Publishing the journal would be an insurmountable task without their help. I would also like to thank Dr. Lewis Call, our faculty advisor, for guiding us through this process as well as the faculty members that recognized and recommended each of these superb submissions. It goes without saying that the journal would not be possible without students courageously submitting their work to scrutiny. While many of the essays we received were of publishable quality, unfortunately we could only accept so many. I hope the edits that each author received were helpful to their progress as a writer, and I encourage every student to submit in the future. It’s a pleasure every year to see what history students are working on and to admire the quality of work that the department produces.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *The Forum*, and I hope it encourages us all to keep on writing!

*Kelly Barr*