Hello! It is my pleasure to present to you the thirteenth volume of The Forum. After a few kerfuffles and delays, this edition is arriving into the world approximately a month later than it has in previous years, although I wholeheartedly believe that the edition emerged from those ups and downs all the better for having endured them. Before I talk about volume thirteen, I would like to thank everyone involved in its publication: the authors for bravely submitted their work, the journal staff for editing these articles on top of their other academic commitments and during all the upheaval this year brought, our graphic designer for doing such a wonderful job, and the members of the Cal Poly History Department that supported us through publication, including our faculty advisor Dr. Lewis Call, the department administrative support coordinator Denna Zamarron, and previously Sherrie Miller.

This journal is comprised of historical papers written by students at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. While our liberal arts departments are often overshadowed by engineering, architecture, and other such fields, I have found my fellow students to be singularly engaged in researching and contributing to the existing historiography of their particular interests, and the professors to be not only wonderfully knowledgeable but also vitally invested in the success of their pupils. I am proud to present this collection of work produced by my skillful colleagues and thankful to our faculty for teaching us so well.

I hope you enjoy.

- Camille Sibel, Executive Editor