This is the first publication of The Forum, Cal Poly’s Journal of History. Although it has been a trying process, it has also been a rewarding one. The process began in the Spring of last year when Keith Goodwin and I were given the opportunity to establish the precedents for this journal. We started from scratch putting together an editorial board, composed entirely of members of Phi Alpha Theta, and began the process of establishing submission requirements, an evaluation system, a means of distributing submissions to the editorial board, and many more technicalities that go along with establishing a journal. Although we had a few setbacks with our original plans, the entire editorial board was flexible, and we managed to get The Forum together for this publication.

As Co-Editor-in-Chief I would like to thank everyone that contributed to the publication of our first issue. Dr. Thomas Trice has been invaluable to this publication. The Department of History has long lacked an outlet to showcase its work and thanks to Dr. Trice, we finally have one. I would also like to thank Keith Goodwin, my fellow editor, for helping me to start Cal Poly’s first history journal. I would like to thank the editorial board. In the beginning we had an editorial board of eleven students; by the end we had seven students. It is largely due to their support that this publication exists. Lastly, none of this would have been possible without the numerous contributors to our journal—without them there would be nothing to publish. I thank each and every one of you that submitted.

Our goal this year was to give students at Cal Poly the opportunity to publish their history articles and reviews, and we succeeded. While we are pleased with this year’s progress, Keith and I hope to expand on this year’s accomplishments in the next publication. It is our hope to have submissions from other departments at Cal Poly, as well as have submissions from other universities. While we are pleased with this year’s progress, Keith and I hope to expand on this year’s accomplishments in the next publication.

Katrina Chludzinski

Co-Editor