

*To the students of Cal Poly who ask  
the hard questions and rise to the  
challenge of “learn by doing”*

## A Note from the Editor-in-Chief

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Dear Readers of *Symposium*,

I am pleased to introduce the fourth installment of *Symposium: Student Journal of Science and Math*. The past year has been one of tremendous growth and change both within and around the publication. Allow me to bring you up to date.

For the first time ever, *Symposium* published two editions in one year, the first of which was the finalized 2016 issue. Although this was unconventional, the process proved that it is possible for future editions of the journal to be completed on a bi-annual basis.

This year also marked the expansion of the types of articles accepted to the journal. With the addition of two new sections – interdisciplinary research and abstracts – we seek to fulfill founder Lauren Young’s mission to spark scientific discussion through the inclusion of a wider variety of science-related student research. These additions will also enable us to keep up with the growing number of research opportunities occurring at Cal Poly.

We are also pleased to announce our first special feature article, a letter written by Dr. Phil Bailey, Dean of the College of Science and Math. Over the years, he has provided us with support, insight, and valuable feedback in planning for the future of *Symposium*, and we are truly grateful for the 48 years of service he has dedicated to our college. His effort in securing a \$110 million donation to the College of Science and Mathematics will open doors for the future generation of student researchers.

Additionally, this year marked the passing of the torch from our founding advisor Dr. Keeling to Dr. Kitts of the Biology department. We would like to thank Dr. Keeling for her enthusiasm and support of the journal since its inception. The staff of *Symposium* also wishes to offer a heartfelt welcome to Dr. Kitts. We know that *Symposium* will continue to find success under your guidance.

As always, thank you to Cal Poly for its funding via the Instructional Related Activities (IRA) program. Also, to Jeanine Scaramozzino, Dana Ospina, and Wilson Shao, thank you for your service to *Symposium* and your dedication to helping us publish a quality and accessible journal.

Now, without further ado, I formally present to the Cal Poly student community *Symposium: Student Journal of Science and Math*.

Sincerely yours,



Jenna Vacca

*Editor-In-Chief, 2016-2017*