

Letters from the Editors

I feel very fortunate to have participated in all that the Political Science department has to offer during my time at Cal Poly Pomona. The students in the Political Science department are beyond comparison. I was consistently inspired by the motivation, unique perspectives, and wealth of knowledge that these students have. I do not find this to be a coincidence as the faculty in this department are immensely caring and generous towards their students. As a student-centered university, the Political Science faculty go above and beyond to ensure their students' success.

The Undergraduate Journal of Political Science is a culmination of all that the department has engrained in their students. Hard work and dedication do not fall short in this journal. The authors in this journal brilliantly shed light upon our social and political society as well as our international community. Their work is nothing short of inspiring and I feel very blessed to have been a part of it through reading their journal submissions.

In addition to thanking these authors, I would like to thank the amazing peer reviewers who took the time to help bring this journal to fruition. As for the advisors of this journal, Dr. Neil Chaturvedi and Dr. Eli Menounou have not only guided the authors and peer reviewers, but the Junior Editor, Nicolas Hernandez, and me as well. Lastly, I would like to thank the Chair of the Department, Dr. Mario Guerrero, as well as the Political Science faculty as a whole.

My time in this department has been the opportunity of a lifetime. Thank you.

Natalie Kassar
Senior Editor

Having the opportunity to work on putting this undergraduate journal together was an experience that I will always be grateful for and one that afforded me the ability to perceive first-hand the exceptionalism of this department.

I was blown away by the intellectual curiosity to be found in the questions posed by the authors and the rigor shown in answering them. From term papers to senior theses, the work chosen to be included is a reflection of the department's dedication to its students' academic success and the university's signature polytechnic experience. Behind every article featured there were also peer reviewers who lent their time and effort to build upon original submissions and help accentuate the aptitude of the authors; their effort was invaluable to this publication's success. I am also grateful for the guidance and care of the journal's faculty advisors, Dr. Neil Chaturvedi and Dr. Eli Menounou. Their devotion to making the journal the best possible reflection of the department and its students cannot be understated. That the publication is able to spotlight student achievement across subfields and methodologies is also a testament to Dr. Mario Guerrero's leadership of the department and all of its faculty members who teach, mentor, and inspire us on a daily basis.

As I prepare for taking on the senior editorship for the next volume of the journal, I am also indebted to Natalie for her work on this publication and the example she leaves for the next. I cannot wait to see what the department and its students have in store next. Thank you all.

Nicolas Hernandez Florez
Junior Editor

Letters from the Faculty Advisors

At Cal Poly Pomona, our motto is “learn by doing.” In the Department of Political Science, we strive to give our students every possible experience that will help them develop successful careers and create well rounded scholars. We offer over 50 undergraduate courses in six different subfields (American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, Public Administration, and Public Law). In an effort to provide our students with the experience needed to succeed in graduate programs in law, master’s programs, doctoral programs, or the job force, our courses focus on the teacher-scholar model, encouraging our students to engage in scholarly research.

In our Undergraduate Journal of Political Science, we showcase some of the best articles written by our students, exemplifying the various areas of studies offered to students here at CPP. While the articles published in the journal tackle some of the most salient issues in the discipline, we also hope that these articles serve as examples for our continuing students on what successful academic scholarship looks like.

The Undergraduate Journal is a particularly impressive endeavor in that it is student run. As such, we should recognize the editor-in-chief, Natalie Kassir, and the junior editor, Nicolas Hernandez Florez. Their work producing this issue and overseeing the editorial process was a monumental task, especially considering the challenges COVID-19 presented to our students. Natalie and Nicolas did an incredible job, as the final product here suggests. Natalie is now a graduate of CPP and while we are sad to see her leave, we are excited for what is on the horizon, with Nicolas as our new editor-in-chief. We should also recognize the hard work of the editorial board, composed of political science students who volunteered their time to provide peer review to ensure the strength of this journal.

Finally, we offer a special thanks to our predecessor, Dr. Mario Guerrero, who served as the faculty advisor for the journal at its inception and has supported the journal’s goals as our department chair. Without Dr. Guerrero, this journal would not have existed, and we are grateful for his work in setting our students up with this opportunity. Thank you to Ms. Kim Alm, the department’s administrative coordinator, and the entire faculty of the political science department who inspire our students.

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Thank you to this year's editorial board for their help with peer reviewing the journal's articles. The final publication would not have been possible without the time and effort of our reviewers to read and provide feedback on all the articles.