

# LETTER FROM THE FACULTY ADVISOR

---



The Cal Poly Pomona Department of Political Science strives to embody the university's mantra of "learn by doing." Our department offers a number of undergraduate courses in six different subfields (American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Public Law, Political Theory, and Public Administration) with the goal of providing students with experiential learning to prepare them for successful careers and graduate programs in law, political science, public policy, and public administration.

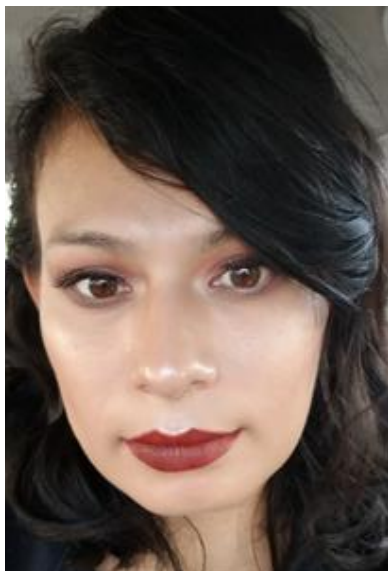
The Undergraduate Journal of Political Science is one of these experiential learning opportunities offered by the department. The journal showcases some of the best written work by our students, covering the aforementioned subfields and exemplifying the research our students engage in. Much of the work published comes from our capstone Senior Thesis course, in which students engage in a yearlong research project on a topic of their choice. 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 Journal is a particularly impressive endeavor as it is entirely student run. While I do advise our editors and work with the editorial board, the journal is run entirely by our students. In particular, I want to recognize the hard work of our Senior Editor, Sandra Escobar, and our Junior editor, Natalie Kassar. Sandra is a graduating senior and her superb thesis is published in this year's edition of the journal. She is also responsible for this year's design of the journal. While we are sad to see her leave us, we should be very proud of her accomplishments, and grateful for her work on the journal. We are also thrilled that Natalie will stay on and become the Senior Editor for the journal next year. Natalie has also published a fantastic paper in this year's edition. I also want to recognize and thank our editorial board composed of political science students who gave their time to offer feedback on the submitted manuscripts. I would like to thank Dr. Mario Guerrero, our department's chair and faculty advisor to the journal at its inception. Finally, I would also like to thank Dr. Jill Hargis, who served as our interim chair during the Spring Semester, Ms. Kim Alm, our department's administrative coordinator, and all of the faculty of the Department of Political Science who inspire our students.

Neil S. Chaturvedi  
Associate Professor  
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

# LETTER FROM THE SENIOR EDITOR

---



To the Political Science Students at Cal Poly Pomona,

This was not how I imagined the Spring 2020 semester would end. In my mind it ended too soon and all seniors missed their opportunity to say a proper goodbye. In the middle of this pandemic, I had the opportunity to do this one last thing for my fellow seniors and for all the students. This is my way of saying goodbye to everyone I have meet while I was at Cal Poly Pomona.

I wanted to leave something behind as a reminder of my time at Cal Poly, as a reminder of the amazing people I have met and the many professors that have shown me what I really wanted out of my degree. I transferred to Cal Poly Pomona from Riverside City College, and I always thought of my self as someone who sought a new challenge in life. This was the main reason I decided to apply to this school. To challenge my self in a place where I did not know anyone and be able to accomplish the one thing I always dreamed of doing.

To my friends, the ones that were there when I needed them the most, I want to say thank you. Many of you and many of my classmates have given me the confidence in my ability to become a researcher and go for my PhD. I can not talk about my time at Cal Poly Pomona without talking about the struggles I had to go through to get this far. It was not easy getting to this point but at the same time it fills me with joy that I was able to make it this far even with all the struggles.

The Political Science department has taught me so much, and the lessons I have learned I will take with me to the next stage in my educational career. I will leave everyone with this, research is not for everyone but it teaches you to question everything. It teaches you to not accept what you see, and to learn the truth for yourself. Take this opportunity to learn how to properly research and to learn how to make a difference in the world.

Good luck with all your studies and to your future careers.

Best wishes,

Sandra E. Escobar

# LETTER FROM THE JUNIOR EDITOR

---



I am incredibly blessed to be a part of the Political Science Department. The mentorship, care, and knowledge that the faculty gives their students is immeasurable and is well-reflected in the Undergraduate Journal of Political Science. Whether it be getting advice regarding graduate school, asking for help on an essay, or simply venting, the faculty remains one Zoom call away.

The Political Science Undergraduate Journal truly embodies the “learn by doing” philosophy of Cal Poly Pomona. Alongside our Faculty Advisor, Dr. Neil Chaturvedi, our Senior Editor, Sandra Escobar, and the Journal Editorial Board, I was awe-inspired when reading the manuscripts from these hard-working students. The students have been given the unique platform to share their perspective in regards to the subfields of International Relations, Comparative Politics, American Government, Public Administration, Public Law, and Political Theory. Many of the manuscripts were Senior Theses, which is a year long research project that students complete prior to graduating. I believe the Senior Theses presented in this journal is telling to the students’ successes and future endeavors.

While I debated writing about the Covid-19 pandemic, I find that the response from the Political Science Department is inspiring and a true testament to their resiliency. The students continue to be a part of “on-campus” activities, participate in research, engage in political science courses, and give other students a helping hand along the way. As for the faculty, they continue to provide one-on-one interactions with their students and thoughtfully teach their field of study. Despite being in the midst of a pandemic, the bond amongst the students and faculty remains. Although much is unknown within our social and political climate, I am confident that the department will continue to lead students to realize their strengths, abilities, and intelligence.

I would like to thank the faculty for their endless support. Our Faculty Advisor, Dr. Neil Chaturvedi, continues to be a mentor to the editors, editorial board, and his students both inside and outside the classroom. I am as well grateful for the Chair of the Political Science Department, Dr. Mario Guerrero, and the Interim Chair of the Political Science Department for the spring semester, Dr. Jill Hargis, for guiding the department. Additionally, I would like to thank Ms. Kim Alm, the Political Science Department’s administrative coordinator. Lastly, thank you to the incredible students and future changemakers of society.

I am grateful for the Political Science Department for giving me the wonderful opportunity to be Junior Editor for this distinguished journal. I look forward to being Senior Editor for the 2020-2021 school year.

Sincerely,  
Natalie Kassir

# JOURNAL EDITORIAL BOARD 2019-2020

**James Berry**

**Martin Calderon**

**Alex Carcamo**

**Evelyn Cortez**

**Jackie Cortez**

**Samantah Fidel**

**Prabhat Jammalamadaka**

**Sandy Le**

**Oli Loeffler**

**Christopher Lopez**

**Raisa Majid**

**Marsha Mata**

**Isaias Martinez**

**Luis Medina**

**Caitlyn Pierce**

**Tala Qasqas**

**Julianna Quinnonez**

**Alexis Ramirez-Ruiz**

**Annett Ramos**

**Andres Reyes-Martinez**

**Nicole Rival**

**Alexis Sweet**

**Paul Wang**

**Alvin Wong**

Thank you to all the peer reviewers for dillgently reviewing the manuscripts submitted to Cal Poly Pomona's Undergraduate Journal of Political Science. This journal would not have come to fruition without your reading and writing skills as well as collaborative efforts.

To those from the editorial board who are a part of the Class of 2020, we wish you luck in your post-undergraduate career. We thank you for your commitment to undergraduate research and are confident that this wonderful skill set that you have attained will aid you in your future endeavors.

To the returning students, we look forward to you being a part of Cal Poly Pomona's Undergraduate Journal of Political Science in the coming years. We thank you for your hadwork and hope you continue to be apart of all that this distinguished department has to offer.

Dr. Neil Chaturvedi's guidance to the editors, editorial board, and authors made this journal possible. We appreciate you encouraging students to share their knowledge by participating in undergraduate research. Thank you to the Chair of the Political Science Department, Dr. Mario Guerrero, and the Interim Chair of the Political Science Department for the spirng semester, Dr. Jill Hargis, for their support towards the undergraduate journal and all the opportunities that this department gives to students. The continuous support of the Political Science Department allows students to show their work through this platform.

\* \*There was no conflict of interest between the peer reviewers and the papers that were selected to be published in this journal. No one person was assigned their own paper to review and every paper had more than one peer reviewer assigned to them.