

# Letters from the Editors

When I first declared political science as my second major at Cal Poly Pomona I had no idea what I was getting myself into. Three years later, now a graduate of the university and preparing for a doctoral program in the very same field, I have nothing but gratitude for the Department of Political Science and all the students, staff, and faculty who make up its ranks. As the senior editor for the Undergraduate Journal of Political Science, it is a privilege to fill these journal's pages with the result of months (or years) of our students' arduous effort, knowing that this publication serves as a reflection of the academic excellence rich in the department.

Thank you to all the authors who not only entrusted us with their work to publish, but remained engaged throughout the entire process. Additionally, I want to thank and recognize our editorial board for dedicating their time and energy to evaluating and reviewing manuscripts; without them this journal would not be possible. I am also incredibly grateful for the steadfast guidance provided by Dr. Menounou, who in her first year advising the journal was instrumental to every step in the publishing process. Similarly, I want to thank Sofia Rosales, this year's junior editor, for a wonderful job at bringing this journal to life. I am excited to see Sofia as the senior editor next year and am confident the journal is in great hands. Lastly, I would like to thank all the faculty members of this department whose support and expertise directly influences the scholarship found in this journal, especially Dr. Guerrero, whose leadership and example sets the tone for this department's excellence.

Once again, to everyone who makes this department what it is, thank you.

## **Nicolas Hernandez Florez**

*Senior Editor*

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As the junior editor of the Undergraduate Journal of Political Science at Cal Poly Pomona, I want to express how grateful I am for the experience of serving under such a wonderful team for Spring 2022, Journal Volume 6. As a student-run program, this undergraduate journal is composed of wonderfully written academic works from Cal Poly Pomona students themselves that cover topics prevalent in the political science world of the past, present, and issues of the future. Not only is the journal built from student works, but it was reviewed and pieced together by some of the strongest student writers across the department, our editorial board.

I would personally like to congratulate my editor-in-chief, Nicolas Hernandez Florez for all of his accomplishments at CPP and I wish you all the best in Michigan. I know you will succeed in all of your future endeavors! Next, I wanted to personally thank my faculty advisor, Dr. Elli Menounou, for all of your help within the undergraduate journal and my general academic career as a whole. The department of political science here at CPP is exceptional and a lot of the credit can be attributed to the department chair, Dr. Mario Guerrero. I am truly grateful for all that the department has done and will continue to do to help suit all of their students' needs.

As I enter my senior year at Cal Poly Pomona, I recognize how many opportunities have been provided to me at this wonderful university and I am looking forward to my last year as the upcoming editor-in-chief. Thank you all.

## **Sofia Rosales**

*Junior Editor*

# Letter from the Faculty Advisor

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, Nicolas Hernandez Florez, and the junior editor, Sofia Rosales. Their work producing this issue and overseeing the editorial process was a monumental task; Nicolas and Sofia did an incredible job, as the final product here suggests. Nicolas is now a graduate of CPP and while we are sad to see him leave, we are excited for what is on the horizon, with Sofia 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, I offer a special thanks to my 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. Jessica Castillo, the department’s administrative coordinator, and the entire faculty of the political science department who inspire our students.

**Dr. Elli Menounou**

*Faculty Advisor*

*Assistant Professor*

*Department of Political Science*

*Cal Poly Pomona*

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*Without the select group making up the journal's editorial board, this publication would not have been possible. We thank this year's dedicated group for peer reviewing every article published and for their invaluable suggestions and feedback.*