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A Note from the Department Chair

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Illinois Wesleyan University's Department of Political Science and our Pi Sigma Alpha chapter are pleased to publish Volume V of *Res Publica*, a journal of original undergraduate research. This collection of papers promises to make substantive contributions to our discipline. The papers in this volume examine important questions in international and American politics through their application of various methodological approaches. These works speak to a variety of concerns, including several aspects of representation, and constitute a truly *public thing*.

This publication reflects the Department's emphasis on developing students' analytical and research skills. Some, though not all, of these papers grew out of our Senior Seminars. The quality of research and writing in this volume highlights the impressive caliber of work being done in the Senior Seminars in particular and across our curriculum more generally. *Res Publica* provides not only an opportunity to display some of the best work underway in the Department but also serves to invite discussion and critique of student-generated ideas. In a very real sense, our students have grown from mere consumers of knowledge to being producers of knowledge.

Student research plays an increasingly important role in our academic life together. In recent years students have assisted faculty and joined as co-authors on projects published in scholarly journals and presented at professional conferences. Recent projects have ranged from local public opinion surveys to studies of legislative seat shifts in the Hungarian parliament.

We are very pleased with our recent successes and look forward to the continued development of an outstanding and innovative political science program.

Tari Renner

Department Chair

Introduction

Res Publica, in its fifth year of publication, is a unique undergraduate journal of original research compiled and analyzed by Illinois Wesleyan University students across the many and varying sub-fields of political science. This journal includes some of the highest quality work and effort that our department produces, depicting the excellence demanded of our students.

This edition includes a diverse range of topics from American politics to comparative legislative institution to political thought. The diversity contained in this volume is a sample of the areas of study open to political scientists and research opportunities available to students. It is our desire that this edition of *Res Publica* exposes readers to research topics in political science and evokes future research questions...

Kathryn Vojack and Todd Zoellick

***Res Publica* Editors**