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Editors' Introduction

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EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

This spring we had the privilege of reviewing many scholarly submissions to this year's publication of *Res Publica*. The articles we have chosen for publication reflect Illinois Wesleyan students' commitment to academic excellence and outstanding intellectual curiosity. From an international study of the ethnic security dilemma to an analysis of the correlation between personality and policy preferences of students here on our campus, *Res Publica XVII* covers a diverse range of topics, utilizing various research techniques. It has truly been a rewarding learning experience working with this year's authors. Their research offers unique insight into a number of highly pertinent issues and has made substantive contributions to the discipline of political science.

Res Publica is one of the few undergraduate political science journals in the country. Since its inception in 1995, political science students at Illinois Wesleyan University have been using their research and analytical skills developed through our program's rigorous coursework to produce original and intriguing pieces of literature. In past years, the journal has been distributed solely on our campus; however, thanks to a generous grant provided by Pi Sigma Alpha, this year we are proud to announce that we are able to share this journal with colleges and universities across the country. We hope that the expansion of our publication will foster lively academic discussion on campuses nationwide concerning the research topics presented.

We would like to thank both Sarah Latshaw and Timothy Luby for their tireless work as associate editors in ensuring the quality of this edition of the journal. We truly appreciate their dedication and intelligent contributions throughout this process. We are also grateful to Lindsay Starr, an IWU student, for her creativity and talent in designing this year's cover. In addition, we would like to thank each professor of the Political Science Department here at IWU, not only for their support as we developed this journal, but also for the years of excellent instruction and caring mentoring.

We hope you enjoy this year's edition of *Res Publica*.

Laura Gaffey and Lauren Contorno