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## Note from the Chair

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Illinois Wesleyan University's Department of Political Science and our Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter are pleased to publish Volume III of *Res Publica*, a journal of original undergraduate research. Paper nominations require a faculty sponsor from within the Department. The Editorial Board selects, from among the nominations, those which appear to make the most substantive contributions to the discipline.

This publication reflects the department's increasing emphasis upon developing students' analytical and research skills. We have made great strides toward these ends in recent years by restructuring our curriculum generally, and Research Methods and Senior Seminar, in particular. The latter course, for example, requires all students to apply what they learned in Methods by completing an original research project. The research design and final product are publicly presented to their classroom peers for evaluation and discussion.

Other important indicators of the development of research skills include student participation in professional conferences and collaborative work with department faculty. In recent years, for example, students have participated in a wide variety of regional and local political science meetings. This year, two students have presented their work in professional forums. These include Angela Burnette (Midwest Political Science Association) and Meg Bergin (The John Wesley Powell Research Conference). We are pleased with our recent progress and look forward to the continued development of an outstanding and innovative undergraduate political science program.

The Department wishes to dedicate this volume of *Res Publica* to Dr. Robert Leh, a retiring member who has made significant contributions to the program and the University at-large for over thirty years. We will all greatly miss his gregarious nature, unparalleled dedication to students and encyclopedic knowledge of politics and history.

**Tari Renner**  
**Department Chair**