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Editor's Introduction

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Editor's Introduction

Editors' Introduction

You are holding the sixth volume of *Res Publica* — an undergraduate journal of original political science research published by Illinois Wesleyan University's Political Science Department and its Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter.

Res Publica is one of only a few undergraduate political science journals in the nation, which illustrates the strength and quality not only of the political science program at IWU, but also of its students and their academic endeavors. Special thanks for this year's edition goes to the officers of Pi Sigma Alpha, whose continued support once again allowed for a high quality journal; Student Senate, who allocated funding for this undertaking; and to all contributors, whose submissions helped ensure the competitiveness of the selection process.

This year's volume continues the tradition of publishing original and exemplary student research papers of all sub-fields of political science. Interestingly enough, all six of the papers published in this volume address topics relatively new to the field, thereby demonstrating the willingness and ability of the authors to embark on untreaded paths of intellectual inquiry.

The Internet and politics, social capital, minorities' satisfaction with new democracies, women in politics, environmental legislation — all of those are concepts and issues that have yet to receive due attention from the field. The authors of the papers published in this volume lead the way. We hope you'll enjoy reading their work.

The Editors