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Letter from the Department Chair

James Simeone
Illinois Wesleyan University

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Letter from the Department Chair

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April 22, 2009

Dear Readers:

It is fitting that the cover of *Res Publica*'s Volume XIV features an image of the Lincoln Memorial under construction. Not only is this the year of the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, but the global reach of this birthday celebration matches our editors and contributors' ambitions. Lincoln is studied in corners of the world where they likely know very little about central Illinois. But they are curious to learn more, and IWU students have returned the favor by studying places like China, Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire, and Columbia in this volume.

The backwoods autodidact would have been especially proud of our student's scholarly curiosity. A studious person, Lincoln was said to have spent more time in the Library of Congress during his one term as US Representative than in the House chamber itself. He would have identified too with the painstaking labor—over two semesters—our authors endured to produce their papers. The Lincoln-Douglas debates were his senior seminar, and the Cooper Union Address his independent study paper.

Christine Gibbs, Rebecca Tong, and the entire editorial staff deserve our thanks for producing this fine volume. For all eternity, the headless Lincoln will grace their cover and always remind us that lives and studies devoted to public things remain ever works in progress.

Sincerely,

Jim Simeone

Department Chair