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Editors' Introduction

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Editors' Introduction

EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

This year represents the fifteenth anniversary of *Res Publica's* conception, and we hope to honor the great work that has come before us. At their core, academics are the exploration of the unknown and that search excludes no willing participants. Undergraduate publications are relatively rare, so we are proud to be a part of producing such interesting scientific work every year. At Illinois Wesleyan University, students are taught to always question established knowledge as we delve into our studies, because it is only with a critical mindset that new ideas can be generated. The students in this volume have done just that. They have identified interesting puzzles and have demonstrated the tools with which political scientists investigate the world and expand their field. Some have used statistical analysis, others have developed detailed models of their issue, and still others used logical reasoning to reexamine the wisdom of the past as it applies today.

“The rapid Progress *true* Science now makes, occasions my regretting sometimes that I was born so soon. It is impossible to imagine the height to which may be carried, in a thousand years, the power of man over matter.”

– Benjamin Franklin in a letter to Joseph Priestley in 1780

The authors have all made a contribution to society and have, as Benjamin Franklin hoped, advanced scientific knowledge a little bit further than it was before.

We would like to thank the authors for their hard work both in and out of class. This journal would also not be possible without the Political Science Faculty who strive everyday to shape us into intellectuals with a passion for what we study. And to our associate editors, Amy Uden and Sara Ghadiri, you have been invaluable in helping put this journal together. Thank you.

Erin Strauts and Emily Vock