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## Editors' Introduction

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We are proud to present the 24th edition of *Res Publica*, Illinois Wesleyan University's Undergraduate Political Science Journal. Publication has been an intensive process, but has been a labor of love during our final semester at Illinois Wesleyan. The impressive quality of the work submitted to this year's issue made the selection process difficult, and we truly appreciate the time that every author spent on his or her submission. Together these works represent some of the very best political science minds our department has to offer.

The theme of this year is "*hearing the other side*". From the debate on the campus speech codes to the reasons why Latinos are not very socialized to be involved in politics, from the impact of social media on elections to the way people process political cues, from the reasons why people are ideologically polarized in China to color-blind or race-conscious policies, we strive to represent different voices. This year, we made several changes to the content and format of this journal by including short essays, first-year works and caricatures. Through these changes, we expect to increase participation from all years and strengthen interdepartmental cooperation.

The editorial staff would like to thank all of our authors for their contributions to the 24th edition of *Res Publica*. Their enthusiasm for this project, and willingness to share their original work, and without their involvement, this journal would not exist. In addition to the authors' contributions, this edition of *Res Publica* wouldn't have been possible without the support of some key individuals. Thank you to Raya Hussein who designed our inside caricatures. We'd also like to thank our associate editor Daniel Maisch. Finally, we would like to thank the political science faculty for their guidance throughout this semester long process, and their continual support in our development as scholars.

Thank you for reading and we hope you enjoy this year's issue of *Res Publica*!