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## Editors' Introduction

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“I therefore call any Republic a State ruled by laws, under whatever kind of administration there might be, because only then does the public interest govern, and is *res publica* a reality”  
– Rousseau, *Of the Social Contract*

It has been a great privilege and honor to serve as the editors of *Res Publica XVIII*. Over the past semester, we have reviewed outstanding submissions from many of our peers and classmates. Although the selection process was difficult, we feel as the selected papers show that commitment to academia is shared between all members of the political science department. This year's journal is unique in that it showcases works from not only senior seminars, but also from other classes, which demonstrate the breadth of political science research. We believe that publication in *Res Publica* is the final piece in the research puzzle. *Res Publica* features work from students who strive to take the next step in the scholarly cycle, to go beyond due dates and course grades, and to share their work with the political science community.

*Res Publica* is something to be proud of. As one of the very few undergraduate political science journals in the country, *Res Publica* represents 18 years of tradition and hard work from Illinois Wesleyan students. It demonstrates both the intellectual capabilities of its authors, and the quality of instruction and guidance from faculty members of the department. Thanks to continued support from Pi Sigma Alpha, we are again able to share *Res Publica* with graduate programs and law schools across the country.

Creation of such a publication would not have been possible without the hard work of Abby Carter and Ryan Winter, associate editors of *Res Publica*. Their time, patience, and ideas were invaluable contributions. A special thanks to Karl Winter, a freshman IWU art minor, for his design of this year's cover. Furthermore, we would like to thank all of the professors in the Political Science Department. Without their support and guidance during the *Res Publica* process and over the past four years, we would not be able to deliver this journal to your hands.

Thank you for reading! We hope you enjoy *Res Publica*.

**Zoe Gross and Yelei Kong**