

LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Illinois Wesleyan University's Department of Political Science and our Pi Sigma Alpha chapter are pleased to publish Volume XII of RES PUBLICA, a journal of original undergraduate research. The papers in this volume examine important questions in international, comparative, and American politics through their application of various methodological approaches. These works speak to a variety of concerns, including political beliefs, culture, and participation and, therefore, constitute a truly *public thing*.

This publication reflects the Department's emphasis on developing students' analytical and research skills. Most, though not all, of these papers grew out of our Senior Seminars. The quality of research and writing in this volume highlights the caliber of work being done in the Senior Seminars in particular and across our curriculum in general. RES PUBLICA provides an opportunity to display some of the best work underway in the Department while serving to invite discussion and critique of student-generated ideas. In a very real sense, our students have grown from mere consumers of knowledge to being producers of knowledge.

We are pleased with our recent successes and look forward to the continued development of an outstanding and innovative Political Science program.

Professor Tari Renner
Chair, Department of Political Science