

## EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

In the first century, Cicero wrote a philosophical treatise called *De re publica*. In this Socratic dialogue, Cicero discusses the political situation of the Roman Empire, outlines Roman history, and suggests the role of citizen in government. It is from his phrase, *res publica*, literally meaning “public thing” or “public matter,” that we derive the term *republic*.

Following Cicero's example, all of the papers included in this journal discuss salient issues in politics today, such as environmentalism, anti-Americanism, congressional voting, and comparative politics. They are the best student papers to come out of the Political Science Department at Illinois Wesleyan University.

For the past twelve years, *Res Publica* has been publishing original student papers from Illinois Wesleyan University. In this, the thirteenth volume of *Res Publica*, we continue this tradition, thanking the students for all of their hard work and dedication in drafting and editing their papers for publication. Each student's individual passion for his or her subject is what makes this journal so great.

I would like to thank the Political Science faculty members at Illinois Wesleyan University for their intellectual guidance and enthusiasm for all things political, as well as the Illinois Wesleyan Student Senate for its financial support. In addition, Professor Simeone has been incredibly helpful in the process of putting this journal together, as well as my assistant editors, Chelsea Schafer and Bobby Porter, so a great big thank you goes out to all of them. Without the efforts of all of the aforementioned people, this journal would cease to exist.

**Leah Strege**  
**Editor-in-Chief**