

From the Editor

As I write this, 2009 is just beginning, as is my editorship of the *Journal of Public Affairs Education*. With these new beginnings, *JPAE* officially moves to the Arizona State University (ASU) School of Public Affairs.

The new editorial team is comprised of Heather E. Campbell, Editor-in-Chief, ASU School of Public Affairs; Iris Geva-May, Associate Editor for International and Comparative Education, Simon Fraser University Public Policy Program; Michael O'Hare, Associate Editor for the Assessment and Practice of Teaching, University of California, Berkeley, Goldman School of Public Policy; and Jeffrey Callen, Editorial Assistant and Ph.D. student, ASU School of Public Affairs.

The successful production of this first issue of 2009 owes much to the former editorial team of Mario A. Rivera, Editor-in-Chief, University of New Mexico (UNM); Nicholas A. Giannatasio, Managing Editor, University of North Carolina, Pembroke (UNCP); and Eusebio Anaya, Graduate Assistant to the Editor-in-Chief. In fact, every article published in this issue was accepted by the UNM-UNCP editorial team, as will also be true of many articles published in subsequent issues of 2009.

The eight articles in this issue should be of general interest to readers at NASPAA schools and other schools of public affairs and non-profit administration around the world. The first six articles focus on improving master's education, the first four focusing on elements of the Masters of Public Administration (MPA), and the remaining two focusing on nonprofit studies. The last two articles focus on Ph.D. education in our fields. As we begin each new semester, the topic of how to improve teaching looms large, and these eight articles can help us think afresh about our goals and methods as we prepare to teach and learn again.

Editing a journal is like being one of many weavers working on a large tapestry. The basic plan was created by *JPAE*'s founders, and the work is kept going by the members, staff, and Executive Council of NASPAA, particularly Laurel McFarland, Executive Director; Jackie Lewis, Conference & Project Coordinator/National Director of Pi Alpha Alpha; and Monchaya Wanna, Computer Support/Office Manager. The substance is provided by different authors at different times, with quality-control performed by the Board of Editors, Editor's Council, and other reviewers. Each editorial team, interlinked with those preceding and following, weaves it all together, stressing different elements of the design while maintaining and creating something of value for our community. As I take over responsibility for the next section of the pattern, I am keenly aware of the thanks that I owe the many, many people who have contributed to *JPAE*, both now and in the past. Special thanks go to Jennifer Ward, who served as Production Editor from Volume 3 through Volume 14, bridging the terms of four editors. The ongoing editorial quality of *JPAE* has in no small part been due to her effectiveness, eye for detail, and attention to nuance of language. We thank her for her past work, and wish her well in her future endeavors.

What elements of *JPAE*'s design will the new editorial team stress? As indicated

by the new Associate Editorships, two areas of emphasis are international and comparative understandings of PA education, and better assessment of teaching practices. At this time, many new programs of public affairs are opening up throughout the world, especially in China and Eastern Europe. Many of these programs are in systems where there is no tradition of teaching governance. This is a time when *JPAE* truly can serve the public good by improving worldwide understanding of how to teach public affairs in different political and cultural settings. Therefore, the new editorial team encourages the submission of articles with international and comparative components. In aid of this goal, international Correspondents will become part of the *Journal*. Currently we are very pleased to have two correspondents, Dr. Charlene Roach in Trinidad and Tobago and Dr. Kahlid Al-Yahya in Dubai, but we will be adding others from regions throughout the world. Correspondents will help us understand the effects of recommendations published in *JPAE* in other countries, and help those in their regions know about the resources that *JPAE* can provide.

As Michael O'Hare has tirelessly pointed out at international conferences, we have very little understanding of which teaching practices are best even for our own students, let alone for students in other political systems and cultures. Sometimes we have evidence that something works or doesn't work, but we rarely know whether a teaching practice is one of the best or the worst. Some other disciplines use radically different teaching methods, such as the studio method used in Architecture. Would such methods work well in our fields? Would it matter which fields? Could studios work in teaching statistics, but fail in teaching public human resources management? Would studios work better than other methods? Under ASU's hosting of the *Journal*, these are the types of questions that we would like to tackle, using analytic methods that let us say not only whether something works or doesn't work, but also that method A works better than method B under conditions X, Y, and Z. In this spirit we invite submissions that can help us more systematically tackle questions of teaching practice.

Emphasizing these threads does not mean others are cut off. I value *JPAE* and its many past contributions to schools of public affairs and their teachers. I hope to maintain its high level of quality and its successful elements while bringing into the light some strands that have not been emphasized recently.

By the way, you probably noticed that *JPAE* also begins 2009 with a different cover. The newer cover presents a paradox: by appearing less green, it is more green. We chose to retain enough of *JPAE*'s traditional green to maintain its identity, but reduced the amount of green ink on the cover because intense inks are not environmentally friendly.

Greetings from ASU. May 2009 bring good work, good health, and a better world order to us all. And, may *JPAE* help us help our students to achieve better governance.

— Heather E. Campbell, Ph.D.
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