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Message from the Editor

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Message from the Editor

Soon after beginning my studies in Malibu, I knew that the School of Public Policy (SPP) needed a student policy journal. I hoped that a journal would not only provide a forum for student ideas, but also continue to raise the high standard of scholarship and writing at the school this year and for many to come. With that goal in mind, I pestered Dean Wilburn for months to convince him that the class of 2008 possessed the intellect and initiative to make the journal a success. He eventually gave in and we went to work.

After months of careful planning and meticulous editing, we present to our readers the fruits of our labors in the inaugural volume of *Pepperdine Policy Review*. I believe that the fruits are good. The articles reflect the school's aims to help students design and implement policy solutions that are rooted in wisdom of ages past, are guided by moral and ethical principles, and are not limited to government solutions.

The journal includes four academic articles that highlight the extensive breadth and depth of scholarship at SPP. Jeffrey M. Jones's book review features the sort of interesting and notable work in which SPP alumni are engaged worldwide. And three SPP students offer fascinating commentaries that provide astute observations concerning some of the most pressing issues of our day and set forth policy recommendations to address them.

This first volume presents some of the most insightful analysis SPP students have to offer. It sets a solid precedent for future volumes and commences what I hope will become a remarkable tradition of excellence at SPP.

I gratefully acknowledge the diligent effort of the many students, staff and faculty who helped produce this journal. I thank Dean Wilburn for giving us a chance to succeed, Sheryl Kelo for her endless patience and dedicated service, Dr. James Prieger for his wise counsel and, above all, the authors and editorial staff for their diligent work, particularly Nicolas Valbuena for his loyal support throughout the project. Please enjoy the inaugural volume of *Pepperdine Policy Review*!

Matthew C. Piccolo
Editor-in-Chief