

*From the guest editor*

## Where we are now at *Politics and the Life Sciences*

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I am pleased to have served with Albert Somit as co-editor of the preceding special issue of *Politics and the Life Sciences*. We both felt that we shepherded a very interesting issue to press and are delighted to have had the opportunity to do so.

I coordinated the development of this issue, although Rob Sprinkle, our Editor-in-Chief, actually did much of the editing work. He should be recognized for that accomplishment, as he worked with Robert Gilbert and John Moon to bring their essays to fruition. The essay in this issue written by Peter Corning was part of the special issue, most of whose contributions appeared in Volume 26, number 2 (September, 2007).

The works appearing here are fascinating pieces, showing the wide variety of approaches to the study of biology and politics. Peter Corning's contribution to the special focus on public goods is "Holistic Darwinism: The New Evolutionary Paradigm and Some Implications for Political Science." This essay uses Corning's well known thesis on synergism to explore the evolutionary approach to public goods. And it actually discusses much broader issues as well.

John Ellis van Courtland Moon, in a fascinating essay entitled "The Development of the Norm against the Use of Poison," calls upon multiple sources to answer the question as to why countries tend to agree that the use of chemical and biological weapons is abhorrent. He calls upon literature, Scripture, and so on

to address humans' sense that the use of poisons as weapons is evil.

Robert Gilbert's essay, "Eisenhower's 1955 Heart Attack," is another in a series of insightful essays by the author on health issues and presidential performance. His book on the subject is masterful; this article builds on his prior work.

Eric Bucy and Maria Elizabeth Grabe, in their "Happy Warriors' Revisited: Hedonic and Agonic Display Repertoires of Presidential Candidates on the Evening News," replicate and refine some exciting publications by Roger Masters and his team. As the authors note in their abstract: "In this paper we argue that facial displays are influential elements within political news and examine the character of televised candidate displays over four presidential election cycles."

Finally, there is a lengthy review essay of a book co-authored by Lynn and Vanhanen, "IQ & Global Inequality" by Albert Somit and me. The review explores the provocative thesis by the book's authors, who argue that "national IQ" is a key factor in differences in national wealth and economic growth.

I am delighted to have had the chance to assist in bringing this issue to press, and hope that readers of *Politics and the Life Sciences* will likewise be pleased.

**Steven A. Peterson**  
*Guest Editor*

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