

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Because this is the last issue of *Politics and the Life Sciences* for which I will serve as editor, it is an appropriate time to take a brief look back at the road travelled during the past decade. Many people have been involved with the journal over this span of years, and I would like to recognize their contributions.

PLS had its origins in the newsletter *Notes*, published by the Center for Biopolitical Research at Northern Illinois University from 1978-1980. During those years, seed funding from the Earhart Foundation of Ann Arbor, Michigan helped us to produce the newsletter and pay for its mailing. Joan Flaherty worked very hard to pull things together and develop drafts of news items. Each issue contained a brief article, a listing of recent papers and publications, and news regarding the growing community of political scientists with a life science orientation. The consistent good cheer and hard work of Joan Flaherty made *Notes* a success and laid the groundwork for the more ambitious publication to follow.

In 1980 the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences was formed by a group of political scientists who wanted to give their innovative undertakings a solid professional focus. Shortly thereafter, Dean James D. Norris offered the financial assistance of NIU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to produce a journal on behalf of the fledgling professional society. The interim governing board of the Association accepted the offer, and plans were developed for the publication of the first issue of *Politics and the Life Sciences*.

Before the first issue could appear, however, much work, initially unforeseen, had to be undertaken. In addition to substantive issues, we had to deal with such practical and vexing decisions as: How often would the journal appear? What would be its contents beyond the scholarly articles? What about format, physical size? What would the cover look like?

We decided that, since we as political scientists were dealing with some of the most contemporary approaches to the study of politics, the journal should have a decidedly contemporary "feel": clean, straightforward, and modern in physical appearance. Since none of us claimed knowledge of journal design, we put out a notice of a design competition to the School of Art at Northern Illinois University, with the winning effort to be awarded a prize of \$300. We received ten to twelve submissions, all of them innovative and bold.

At the time, Samuel M. Hines, Jr. and James N. Schubert were serving a year's appointment as post-doctoral fellows

at the Center for Biopolitical Research, and I sought their advice in what by then had become a year-long process in getting the journal off the ground. If my memory serves me correctly, Hines, Schubert, Dean Jaros, then dean of NIU's Graduate School, and I spent an evening with the design submissions spread out on my living room floor debating their merits over pretzels and beer. The choice was made that night, with the prize going to Vivian Esposito, an NIU undergraduate student.

As part of this effort, we hired Kathleen Shankman as the first managing editor for the journal, and she began the complex process of setting up production procedures for the very first time. An Interim Editorial Advisory Board was appointed consisting of Carol Barner-Barry, Lynton K. Caldwell, Peter A. Corning, Fred Kort, Roger Masters, Steven Peterson, Glendon Schubert, Albert Somit, and John Wahlke. Each of these individuals contributed valuable, constructive advice during these formative stages. Peter A. Corning also served briefly as a post-doctoral fellow at the Center, and he participated in many journal discussions in DeKalb.

So, Volume 1, Number 1 was born; we were all delighted and exhausted. And to our dismay, Volume 1, Number 2 had to be produced in short order. After the first issue was published, Fred Kort asked that we increase the size of the type a bit. It was a worthwhile suggestion, and today's type size results from Fred's concern.

For the first issue I served as book review editor, but it quickly became quite clear that this was a major job in its own right. At my invitation, Carol Barner-Barry accepted the position of book review editor and has served in that capacity more than admirably for the past ten years. I thank her for her generous contribution of time and energy. Sherri Jackson and Elizabeth A. Benevides, both undergraduate students at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, assisted Carol in the many details of her work. I am also grateful to Carol's institution for the financial support that it gave her from time to time.

With his coming to Northern Illinois University in 1986, Robert H. Blank was appointed associate editor, and he handled many of the policy-oriented submissions with great care and professional dedication. I appreciated his help in this and in many other ways over the past five years.

In the early years, the Association sought institutional members that could subsidize various journal needs. We are pleased to have four institutional members (with their APLS sponsors): the University of Hawaii- Manoa (Glendon Schubert), University of Oregon (James Davies),

Center for Public Issues in Biotechnology, Maryland Biotechnology Institute, University of Maryland (Raymond A. Zilinskas), and Northern Illinois University.

Over the years two other individuals served as managing editors: Patricia Finn-Morris and Frederick Frankena. Both did commendable work for the journal, and I thank them for their efforts. Kenneth Biswell is serving as the managerial assistant during this final year of publication at NIU. His work has been outstanding.

During these past ten years a number of staff persons and graduate and undergraduate students at NIU have contributed to various production aspects of *Politics and the Life Sciences*. They are Lisa Chase Bywaters, Marie Chase, Diana Dalnes, Christine Davidson, Andrea Ivy, Randy Jacobsen, Heather Kuhar, Jill Lowery, J. Patrick Spradlin, Christine A. Surabia, and Katharine L. Wiegeler. All of these individuals took their responsibilities seriously and performed their tasks in a thoroughly professional manner.

Readers of PLS are familiar with the "Recent Books and Articles" section. Robert H. Blank, Peter A. Corning, Heiner Flohr, and Gary R. Johnson have been serving for several years as the bibliography editors to put this section together. Each brought a distinct orientation to the section, and I am grateful for their efforts.

I have frequently called upon members of the Editorial Advisory Board for assistance in reviewing manuscripts. They have always been dedicated and professional in this task, and they have never wavered in their commitment to PLS. I thank Carol Barner-Barry, Robert H. Blank, Lynton K. Caldwell, Peter A. Corning, James C. Davies, David Easton, Heiner Flohr, Odelia Funke, Samuel M. Hines, Jr., Fred Kort, Jean A. Laponce, Roger D. Masters, Steven A. Peterson, Glendon Schubert, James N. Schubert, Albert Somit, John C. Wahlke, Meredith W. Watts, Elliott S. White, and Raymond A. Zilinskas.

I also wish to thank the many authors who gave us the privilege of reviewing and publishing their work.

Finally, there is one special person whose efforts were frequently not seen, but whose professionalism and meticulous efforts contributed greatly to the success of *Politics and the Life Sciences*. That person is Carolyn A. Craddock, who, as assistant to the editor, processed purchase orders, dealt with the printer, proofread, handled all subscriptions, kept the financial accounts for the journal and the Association, mailed the journal, typed correspondence on matters relating to editorial decisions and production, and dealt with the inevitable problems that arose from

time to time. The readers of this journal and the members of the Association owe her a major debt of gratitude for her long service and complete dedication.

I can hardly believe that we have been at the task of publishing *Politics and the Life Sciences* for a decade. Ten exciting years! The time has moved so quickly, but now, with my own retirement from NIU, the moment has come to turn over the editorial responsibilities to Gary R. Johnson of Lake Superior State University. The next issue of the journal will appear under his editorship and I am confident that his work will be superb. Gary will be assisted by Andrea Bonnickson of Northern Illinois University and Joseph Losco of Ball State University who will become the new book review editors.

Again, my thanks to all of the many people who have contributed to the first decade of *Politics and the Life Sciences*. It was an honor for me to serve as editor.

Thomas C. Wiegeler