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An Introduction to the KPSA Commonwealth Review of Political Science

Michael W. Hail

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It is an honor to serve as the Senior Editor for this inaugural issue of the *Commonwealth Review of Political Science*. In my capacity as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of KPSA, I was given the responsibility to develop the initial plans for the journal and then to implement its establishment and operations. While this task has been greater than imagined, the support from numerous colleagues has been equally great in bringing the journal to realization. I am writing this article to explain the development and purpose of this journal, but also to acknowledge the many leaders of KPSA that helped to make this possible.

In 2008, at the annual meeting of the Kentucky Political Science Association (KPSA), Dr. John Heyrman presided over our annual business meeting where as Executive Secretary-Treasurer I was tasked with doing a study of the feasibility of founding a journal for KPSA. Dr. Heyrman gave important enthusiasm to the prospects and Berea College hosted an outstanding meeting. Updates were presented and discussed at the University of Louisville the next year where Dr. Jason Gainous presided over another great KPSA conference and then at the next meeting at Murray State University where Dr. James Clinger presided we decided to follow through with the study and organize to publish the journal. In 2012, at Campbellsville University we held the first Editorial Board meeting. The purpose for which KPSA undertook the journal was to promote scholarship on Kentucky government as well as scholarship from across the discipline presented at the annual KPSA conference.

Thus with this issue, the *Commonwealth Review of Political Science* was established in 2012 with an Editorial Board and two excellent editors. The Editorial Board features a mixture of public and private institutions of higher education from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky: Sandra Ardrey, Western Kentucky University; Mike Berheide, Berea College; James Clinger, Murray State University; Jason Gainous, University of Louisville; William Garriott, Centre College; Joe Gershtenson, Eastern Kentucky University; Michael Hail, Morehead State University; and John Heyrman, Berea College.

The Editorial Board serves to govern the journal and meets annually at the KPSA conference. The support of the KPSA Executive Committee is also very much appreciated, and it includes John Chowning, Campbellsville University, Past-President 2012, Sandra Ardrey, Western Kentucky University, Past-President 2011, James Clinger, Murray State University, Past-President 2010, Stephen Voss, University of Kentucky, Past-President 2013, Murray Bessette, Morehead State University, President 2014, and Michael W. Hail, Morehead State University, Executive Secretary and Past-President 2007.

Our editors, Dr. Stephen Voss of the University of Kentucky and Dr. Jonathan Pidluzny of Morehead State University, are an outstanding editorial team. Dr. Voss is an Associate Professor of Political Science and he received his Ph.D. from Harvard University. Dr. Voss' research specialization is in elections and voting behavior, with a focus on racial/ethnic politics and his research has appeared in various journals, including the *American Journal of Political Science* and *Journal of Politics*. Dr. Pidluzny is an Assistant Professor of Government and he received his Ph.D. from Boston College. Dr. Pidluzny's research specialization is American political development and he does work in both American politics and political philosophy and he has published in *Advances in Design for Cross-Cultural Activities* by CRC Press. These co-Editors are scholars of the highest caliber and have demonstrated the outstanding qualities requisite to found this quality journal and the Editorial Board is most grateful for their service to the discipline.

The co-Editors, Dr. Stephen Voss and Dr. Jonathan Pidluzny, have collected some outstanding manuscripts presented at prior KPSA conferences and several of which were peer reviewed at those conferences to receive awards. These awards are the Rafai and Hughes awards. Each year, the KPSA awards the Abdul H. Rafai Award for the best paper presented by an undergraduate student at its annual meeting. The award was established in honor of Dr. Abdul H. Rafai, 1986 KPSA President and professor of government at Berea College, in recognition of his outstanding commitment to student teaching and scholarship. And each year the David Hughes Memorial Award recognizes the outstanding paper presented at the previous year's conference by a faculty member from a Kentucky college or university. The David Hughes Memorial Award was established to honor the memory of Dr. Hughes who was a former Centre College professor and 1972 KPSA President.

The mission of this journal is to provide a venue for publication of outstanding student research (undergraduate and graduate) and draw from the ever stronger submissions to the student paper panels at KPSA; provide a venue for outstanding research from faculty presented at KPSA, helping build participation and interest in our annual conference; provide a venue for those

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doing research on Kentucky and/or state politics and policy with strong relevance to Kentucky; provide an outlet for pieces of solid research that are not clearly able to track into standard publication outlets (often methodological and theoretical pieces). In sum, this journal will to provide a publication venue for excellent work from all political science subfields for faculty and students.

There is a great debt owed to another KPSA leader that deserves special mention. Dr. Michael Berheide, professor of political science at Berea College, who served as 1996 KPSA President and for many years as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of KPSA. Dr. Berheide was an excellent leader of KPSA and the steward of the KPSA that built the solid financial foundation from which this journal could be developed. He serves on the journal editorial board and everyone at KPSA owes Dr. Berheide an incalculable debt of gratitude for his outstanding service to KPSA over the years.

The KPSA is excited to welcome faculty and students from across the state to our 2014 meeting at Morehead State University and our 2015 meeting at Somerset Community College. In 2016, the KPSA will return to Murray State University. We welcome political science faculty and students from across the United States to attend our annual meeting and engage the growing KPSA conference with their research. Manuscripts submissions to this journal are strongly encouraged from members of the association as well as non-members. For more information on our conferences or to join the KPSA listserv, please visit the KPSA website at either: www.kpsa.us or www.kpsaweb.org.

We hope that this journal serves well the faculty and student members of the Kentucky Political Science Association, as well as those in the Commonwealth of Kentucky interested in political science scholarship.

1 November, 2012