

FROM THE EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

When he became dean of the LBJ School in January 2006, James Steinberg emphasized the need for the school to increase its focus on international policy. Steinberg is a former deputy national security adviser and director of foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institution. The student contributions to this volume of the *LBJ Journal of Public Affairs*, which were prepared in advance of Steinberg's appointment as dean, underscore that need: four of the six articles tackle international policy issues. Culain Fripp analyzes the reconstruction of post-conflict societies, Jennifer Richmond assesses the prospects for civil society in Burma, Stephanie Fain explores Russia's role in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, and Laura Sullivan evaluates local governance in Mexico.

The contributors to this volume represent a broad range of disciplines and backgrounds. Two of the authors are LBJ School students, two are doctoral students in other programs at The University of Texas (Government, Community and Regional Planning), and two are students at other public policy schools (The University of California—Berkeley, The University of Maryland—College Park).

In his inaugural "Dean's Message," Steinberg discusses the seven academic concentrations the LBJ School is now offering its students. These include "Urban and State Affairs" and "Technology, Innovation, and Information Policy." In this volume, Rosie Tighe analyzes housing policy in the United States and David Agrawal explores whether open source code is a public good.

The LBJ School has a proud tradition of preparing students to serve in state government, and we are pleased to include in this volume the observations of former Texas House Speaker Pete Laney, who is retiring from the Texas Legislature after a 34-year career that parallels almost exactly the history of the LBJ School.

We are grateful to the LBJ School staff for their support, especially graphic designer Doug Marshall and the school's business office. We would like to dedicate this issue to Marilyn Duncan, the school's longtime director of communications. Duncan has been an invaluable resource to the LBJ Journal's editors over the years and each volume has been a better volume because of her care and attention. We wish her well in her retirement.

Submissions to the LBJ Journal should be less than 5,000 words and on a topic relevant to public affairs. Citations and style should conform to the LBJ School Student Publishing Guide (http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/student_res/pubguide/) and/or The Chicago Manual of Style (15th ed. 2003).

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