

## In the COMMONWEALTH

Thomas J. Baldino, Editor

This seventh volume marks a milestone for *COMMONWEALTH*. For the first time since its inception, someone other than Don Tannenbaum is the editor. Sometime in 1984, Don came to the executive council of the Pennsylvania Political Science Association and suggested that the association publish an annual journal. While there were serious questions raised by the council about the feasibility of such an undertaking--particularly financial concerns, Don's vision and tireless efforts, from assembling an editorial board to selecting the title of the journal, resulted in the publication of the first volume in 1987. That *COMMONWEALTH* has not just survived but flourished to see a seventh issue is a testament to the quality of Don's work. I think that I speak for all the members of the Pennsylvania Political Science Association when I extend my sincere appreciation to Don for everything that he has done for both *COMMONWEALTH* and the Association. Don will remain with the journal as an associate editor responsible for political theory.

As the new editor with large shoes to fill, I am pleased to present this issue of *COMMONWEALTH* to our readers as I believe it continues the tradition established by Don of publishing excellent scholarship. Bringing this journal to print was a great deal more work than I ever anticipated, and I could not have done it without the cooperation of the authors, the diligence of the many reviewers, and the assistance of my associate editor, Martin Collo, and my managing editor, Jim Morse, both at Widener University. My thanks to all of you for your patience with me as I struggled to find my way along the tortuous path to publication.

The five articles contained here are a somewhat diverse group. The first two, by Janeen Klinger and Marla Brettschneider, examine American policy in the Middle East from the perspective of interest group behavior, and arrive at different but compatible interpretations of government policies. Donald R. Brand's article on public tort law discusses the evolution of the common law of sovereign immunity in the United States over the last thirty years and raises serious concerns about the implications for the capacity of the executive to govern under the new interpretations. The article on southern Democratic representatives in the House by Donald Beachler explores the voting habits of the group and compares them with their northern colleagues on a variety of issues. Finally, Patterson and Armon investigate the motivations of Pennsylvania state legislatures concerning

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congressional redistricting. Though an extensive literature exists in this area, the authors are among the first to study the attitudes of those responsible for redistricting House seats.

Last, my colleagues and I at *COMMONWEALTH* welcome manuscripts in all the sub-fields of the discipline, and encourage our readers to consider submitting their current research to our journal.