I’m pleased to introduce the Winter 2010/2011 issue of New Voices in Public Policy. The journal’s editorial staff have worked hard to identify and publish some of the best masters student work at George Mason’s School of Public Policy. This issue features work on the financial crisis of 2008, asking whether it was a "Black Swan" event, "green" international political economy, and a critical look at the Washington Consensus. Pieces on the political and economic stability in both Iran, fomented by civil unrest, and Iraq, through its water resources, round out this volume.

This issue marks the first produced under new School leadership. Founding dean Kingsley Haynes, who strongly supported New Voices, has returned to the faculty after overseeing a remarkable era of our programs, our student body, and even our physical facilities. As I write this, classes are getting underway in our new building, Founders Hall, which is a symbol of the School’s visibility and maturation as an institution.

The School’s new dean, Ed Rhodes, has inherited a vigorous and entrepreneurial faculty, an amazingly diverse and talented student body, and a set of programs that is at the cutting edge of scholarship and public debate. NVPP has played an important role in shaping the culture of this vibrant community. I look forward to the continued strengthening and development of this vital contribution to the life of SPP.

Finally, I want to publicly acknowledge the extraordinary work of a dedicated Editorial Board, which has labored mightily to bring this issue to fruition. Strong leadership, close collaboration, and great skill have combined to make this a terrific issue of New Voices.

Dr. Todd M. LaPorte
Faculty Advisor
Associate Professor of Public Policy
George Mason University