A Letter from the Editors

Dear Readers:

We are very pleased to present the inaugural edition of the *Evans School Review (ESR)*. *ESR* is a biannual peer-reviewed journal that publishes multidisciplinary research in public policy and management at the Evans School of Public Affairs. The *Review* is an exciting opportunity for the Evans School to showcase student and alumni research and perspectives from a wide range of policy issues. Establishing *ESR* as the first student-run policy journal of the Evans School has been a grueling but remarkably rewarding experience, and we are excited to share with you our final product of the past year.

After receiving high quality submissions from a variety of Evans School students and alumni, through a tough selection process, we chose to publish a collection of pieces reflecting a diverse set of policy areas and examining today’s most pertinent public policy issues. Grant Blume analyses the benefits, drawbacks, and costs of policies to extend financial support to undocumented students, while Rachel Stoermer discusses the policy arguments made in favor of government-sanctioned marriage and challenges that each fails to justify the legal framework that currently exists. McKenna Morrigan’s research quantifies the life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions reductions that could be achieved by recycling or composting materials currently being landfilled. Ken Ghalambor reviews Margaret Wheatley’s “Finding Our Way: Leadership for an Uncertain Time” and commends her innovative approach to analyzing organizational practices and the dynamics that govern change.

Our strong international focus at the Evans School is exemplified by contributors Devra Densmore, Anne Buffardi, Kate Schneider, Gena Barnabee, and Jane Renahan. Densmore’s op-ed pushes for cohesive human rights policy in the growth and prosperity of the EU, Buffardi offers a mezzo-level approach to integrating donors into the empirical world of aid effectiveness, and Schneider argues that barriers to technology adoption, initial asset endowments, and constraints to market access may inhibit the ability of the poorest to participate in the gains from agricultural productivity growth. Barnabee and Renahan provide us with genuine insights into gender disparity from their experiences as Peace Corps volunteers in Cameroon and Azerbaijan.

*ESR* is privileged to publish two op-eds from distinguished alumni, General Peter Chiarelli and John Burbank. Both provide us with inspirational and authentic guidance on a life of public service and work toward social change.
Our vision for this publication came to fruition through the support of Dean Archibald and our faculty advisors, Professors Ann Bostrom and Mark Long. Their research expertise, guidance, and motivation encouraged us to produce what we present here, a journal of exceptional and true quality. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Ellen Whitlock Baker, Director of Information and Evaluation, and Alan Foster, President of ESO.

From beginning as an informal collection of interested students, our editorial board has been vigorously involved in the development of the Review. Our Content Editor, Patrick Chiarelli was instrumental in facilitating the review process and providing outreach and communication to our contributors. Senior Editors Chris Boyd and Mary Waldron developed editing guidelines and managed the ESR editors. Director of Online Journal and Multimedia, Keibun Mori created our website and developed our electronic communications capability. Director of Layout and Design, Ryan Mock collaborated with Evans administration and created the format for the Review. Director of Business and Development, Michael Huynh worked with the University in formalizing and structuring our presence on campus. This inaugural issue of the Evans School Review became a reality with countless efforts of our staff and we extend our sincere appreciation to each of them.

Lastly, we thank the Evans School faculty, staff, administrators, and students who have supported and encouraged us along the way. The enthusiasm behind this journal is a testimony to the sense of community present here at the Evans School. This Review would not have been possible without it.

Sincerely,
Andrew Erwin & Keshia Peris
Founding Editors-in-Chief