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Editor's Note

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This fourteenth issue of the Journal is the first published under my term as editor and represents a significant departure from the format and editorial-review process of previous years. For one thing, we have moved to an online version of the journal in conjunction with the development of our new Web site (www.iass1.org). All members will be able to access the journal online. Second, the print version of the journal will be a spiral-bound 8.5" X 11" issue available for members to pick up at the next annual meeting, as we will no longer be mailing hard copies to members. The only exception to this policy will be the mailing of a single copy to authors. Those institutions and individuals who would like a hard copy will have to pay an additional printing and mailing fee. (Please contact the editor for further information regarding pricing.) The reason for these changes is simple and straightforward: The Academy, like all organizations, must live within its budget and can no longer afford the high cost of printing and postage, which has accelerated in recent years. There is also the fact that many younger and Web-savvy faculty prefer to access information online.

This issue also marks a departure in the review and referee process. The decentralized peer-review process lodged in the former dozen or so "junior directors," each representing each disciplinary area, has been replaced by a centralized, standardized review process administered by the editor and associate editors. This has enabled us to ensure that each and every article is reviewed according to a standard set of expectations for high quality and scholarship by at least two and, in the overwhelming majority of cases, three referees (two referees only when a paper's topic is so specialized as to make finding a third referee nearly impossible and impractical). As a result of our new emphasis on quality first, we can no longer guarantee that every issue will always contain at least one paper from each of the disciplines represented by the IASS. Thus in the current issue, some disciplines have more than one paper represented while others have none. This issue marks the first time that the Journal has published exceptional undergraduate and graduate student papers, a practice that I plan to continue when such papers exist.

As of my tenure as editor, submission of papers to the JIASS are no longer limited to IASS Conference papers as had been the past practice. Of course, the majority of paper submissions I receive are still from our annual meeting, as will likely continue to be the case for us as for many other academic societies, but I have solicited and received non-conference papers as well. For the first time, this issue includes a research article that was not presented at the 2010 IASS conference—a small step, perhaps, but the Board of Directors and I agree that the JIASS must, as a result of a heightened commitment to quality scholarship, seek to publish the best scholarship available, period. I will therefore continue to solicit and accept paper submissions regardless of IASS conference-presentation status for publication.

I am happy to share the fact that, beginning with this issue, our journal will be listed in Cabell's Directory (of special interest for scholars in business, economics, and finance) and will be indexed in EBSCO.

I want to thank my associate editors, Jaishankar Raman and Dulce Maria Scott, for their wonderful assistance in helping to shepherd the many paper submissions through the review process. And I especially want to thank the many reviewers who served as referees of papers; the

authors, IASS, and I owe you many thanks for helping to preserve the cornerstone of academic integrity: the peer-review process.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the role of Jay Howard, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Butler University, both for his support of the Journal and also for his commitment to the Indiana Academy of the Social Sciences.

Ken Colburn

Editor