

## Founder's Note

*Martha Celeste Murphy*

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With honor and pride, we introduce the inaugural edition of *Policy Perspectives: The George Washington University Journal of Public Administration*. This journal is unique in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area in that it is currently the only policy journal produced solely by graduate students of public administration.

As a member of the 1994 graduating class of the Department of Public Administration at The George Washington University and having been involved with this journal since its inception, I can report that the process — from initial concept to the publication of the first issue — has been a fulfilling experience.

This journal is the work of a great many people and I would like to publicly express my thanks to a few of them. James E. Kee, Senior Associate Dean of the School of Business and Public Management at The George Washington University, was the first person I approached with the idea for this journal. Professor Kee provided essential encouragement and guidance in the journal's early stages. Also, the entire editorial, production and business staffs put much of the rest of their lives on hold to research, write, edit and produce this journal. Their efforts and dedication has earned them the highest possible praise.

When I was a first-year student in the public administration program, I was constantly impressed by the talents and ideas of my fellow students. As various topics were discussed in class, I felt that the collective knowledge and experience of these students would be of interest and benefit to a wider audience. Thus, one purpose in creating this journal was to provide a means for disseminating the thoughtful and creative writing of my classmates.

Another motivating force behind this journal is the demanding nature of public administration. New solutions are constantly being sought for old problems — and, along the way, new problems are often discovered. One example illustrates this point: the Clinton administration has called on federal agencies to scale back their programs and personnel while asking public administrators to respond in a way that protects the human dimension of downsizing. With all the demands on public servants to balance conflicting interests in an innovative and timely manner, I felt that a journal of policy studies might serve to stimulate creative thinking.

A final reason for the creation of this journal is the location of The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Our department and our university are ideally situated — four blocks west of the White House and four blocks north of the State Department. I believe that essays about public administration written by students in Washington, D.C., have a certain immediacy and credibility. To that end, we include in this journal a review of recent decisions by the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit that are relevant to public administrators.

Public administration is a dynamic and vibrant field, constantly changing and not without conflict. I hope this journal serves as a catalyst for reflection within our profession. Perhaps more importantly, as I come to the end of my studies at The George Washington University, I hope that this journal conveys the excitement and sense of satisfaction that I felt as a student of public administration and inspires others to a career in public service. ★