Preface

Questions in Politics (QiP), the scholarly journal of the Georgia Political Science Association (GPSA), welcomes our readers to Volume VI. These articles began as papers presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the GPSA. The authors then submitted the manuscripts to the journal, where they were anonymously and thoroughly reviewed by peers. After further review and editing, out of nine manuscripts submitted, three are published here.

We are pleased to announce that the first article in Volume VI, “Re-Valuing Public Diplomacy in the Trump Era” by Dr. Dlynn Armstrong-Williams, Assistant Professor of Political Science, and Dr. Cristian Harris, Associate Professor of Political Science, both at the University of North Georgia, is the McBrayer Award winner for 2018. The McBrayer is given annually to the best paper presented at the Annual Meeting. The winning author or authors have traditionally received a certificate and a cash award. To further recognize this achievement, the McBrayer winner is the first article in this volume.

All the articles for this volume are scholarly examinations of issues found in our deeply polarized American politics. The lead article argues for the rebirth of public diplomacy within American foreign policy. Tures et al. examine the partisan politics found within the issue of civil forfeiture. Finally, Bryan and Cavalli explore the gender gap on the campus of a public university in the South.

In the 50 years since the Georgia Political Science Association’s (GPSA) founding, this scholarly organization has served the teaching professor, the faculty member who is committed to both teaching and scholarship. The articles for the 2018 volume fit within this approach. All three are timely and political, all three offer scholarly analysis, and each article includes material that could be used in the teaching of undergraduate and graduate students in political science.

Since the rebirth of the GPSA’s scholarly publication as Questions in Politics, each volume has included a preface outlining, among other things, changes in the journal and in the political world that surrounds all of us. This year, we announce that we are both stepping aside after nine years as coeditors-in-chief. During our first three years, this publication was known as The Proceedings of the Georgia Political Science Association, and since the 2013 volume, the journal has had its current name.

During our years as coeditors, we have sought to improve the GPSA’s journal in five ways. First, we have established and maintained an acceptance rate for publication of approximately 40%. This is a reasonable balance between
rigor and accessibility. This allows our authors to use publications in QiP as scholarly work appropriate for both promotion and tenure. Second, and building on the first item, the journal is both an outlet for scholarship and service to those who present at our annual conference. Third, the content of QiP is more diverse, covering the traditional four fields of political science (American politics, comparative politics, international politics, and political theory), as well as specific subfields like public administration and the new and evolving field of political science education. The journal has endeavored to include more diverse authors and viewpoints with its traditional commitment to the political science generalist who engages in both teaching and research. Fourth, QiP now has an institutional structure appropriate for a scholarly journal. There is an editorial board and a separate editorial staff, including the formal positions of Editor and Managing Editor. Finally, QiP is at home as an online publication that can be both downloaded and printed. This will serve all readers and authors with minimal cost to the GPSA.

We continue to thank our anonymous reviewers, as well as the Editor, James “Larry” Taulbee, and the Managing Editor, Matthew E. Van Atta, for their efforts to continuously improve this journal.

Finally, we both want to extend our deep thanks to the GPSA and its Executive Board for entrusting us with its scholarly journal for almost a decade. We look forward to seeing the continued growth and evolution of QiP well into the future.

Thomas E. Rotnem and Adam P. Stone