

Editors' Note

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We are pleased to present the third volume of the *Xavier Journal of Politics* (XJOP). Volume III is a compilation of high quality quantitative and qualitative research articles by Xavier University students. The articles in this edition represent a wide array of topics related to politics, ranging from international affairs to the political economy.

This year's volume received 21 submissions – a record number. As a result, we had to turn away a number of promising articles. A total of 8 papers were accepted, for an acceptance rate of 38%.

For the first time we divided the journal into separate sections for research papers and essays. The addition of an essay section allows us to highlight papers that demonstrate examples of strong analysis and writing that are typically found in classroom assignments whereas, the research papers showcase advanced, independent student research.

This year, the *Xavier Journal of Politics* editorial board was enrolled in Advanced Political Analysis (Poli 393) with Political Science professor Mack Mariani. In this course, the editorial board learned about the process of designing and implementing quantitative political research. The course design gave the editorial board a strong understanding of what is involved in a quality research papers while advancing our skills as independent student researchers. The research papers in this edition of the XJOP are good examples of high quality quantitative and qualitative research.

We would like to thank all individuals involved in making this volume possible. In particular, we would like to thank all faculty members on the XJOP advisory board for their continued support of our publication. The editors would also like to recognize and thank Kevin Lavelle, Director of Web and Media at Xavier University, for his help with the XJOP website.

The XJOP would not be possible without the dedicated student contributors whose papers have encouraged us to pursue similarly creative research projects of our own. The editorial board would like to especially recognize the XJOP's faculty advisor, Dr. Mack Mariani; without his guidance and continuous support our publication would not be possible.

We are pleased to present Volume III of the *Xavier Journal of Politics* and we hope that these papers will inspire future students to pursue creative projects that contribute substantively to the field of Political Science.

