

# EXECUTIVE EDITOR'S NOTE

There is a saying often quoted by professors of public policy and public administration, “The easy problems have already been solved.” What’s left are the kinds of problems our staff writers grappled with this year through illuminating research and compelling prose in our short-form digital forums: Brief Policy Perspectives and the GW WonkCast. This year featured policy briefs, analyses, opinion pieces, and interviews that dissect many of the issues weighing on this generation of up-and-coming policy experts and the public at-large. The declaration of the pandemic four years ago was the starting gun for many in our student cohort to study the intersection of delicate and complex topics, including healthcare, gender equity, the Supreme Court, labor rights, immigration, and more. From reimagining Title IX and raising the alarm on the environmental hazards of “forever chemicals” to women’s health, to the equity dilemmas of AI and debating reforms that would breathe new life into our democracy, our team traversed the frontiers of public policy research.

Looking back on the work produced this year, current and returning staff expertly navigated the intersectionality of policy, law, and politics and published pieces that can walk even the most inexperienced reader through the highs and lows of a given issue with ease. I am immensely grateful to have worked with such a talented and diverse staff for the 2023-2024 academic year, and I believe our body of work examines many of the key issues permeating contemporary American life. For Policy Perspectives Volume 32, the editorial board selected the four pieces that best capture the breadth of research performed this year and model the high-quality work done by Trachtenberg students.

The journal, blog and podcast are a labor of love and the result of careful collaboration between our staff writers, contributors, podcast hosts and editors. It is a testament to the caliber of the students Trachtenberg brings together that this volume and all of the work beyond it reaches publication in spite of the responsibilities of education, work, and personal commitments that each of us carry. It has been my hope that, throughout every tedious step of writing, editing, fact-checking, and publishing, those who contribute to Brief Policy Perspectives find value and growth in the journey. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to watch staff strive to put forth their best efforts and meaningfully develop their expertise as writers and editors over the past year. I want to thank each one of our dynamic team members for the value they have brought to this work and my own experience as Executive Editor. Thank you so much to my deputy editor Kathleen, to my writers Caroline, Julia, Kate, and Sophia, and to my WonkCast team Ali, Emily, and Annie.

My partners in this endeavor, Frank and Sarah, deserve my deepest appreciation for their patience and positivity as we dealt with the countless challenges of keeping a student-run journal afloat. And many thanks to the faculty and staff who have sup-

## Best of the Blog

ported, guided and mentored us, especially Director Mary Tschiarhart, Dr. Kathryn Newcomer and Dr. Lori Brainard, who are always ensuring we have the tools at our disposal to provide this forum for Trachtenberg students.

To quote Policy Perspectives' founder, Martha Celeste Murphy, , I am "constantly impressed by the talents and ideas of my fellow students." Congratulations to the Brief Policy Perspectives team on another successful year of dedication, experimentation, and exemplary work! I wish you a warm, quiet summer and all the best as the next team takes the reins.

**Nathan Varnell**

Executive Editor