Note from the Editors

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As *Interest Groups & Advocacy* (IGA) enters its fifth year, we are happy to report strong progress toward becoming a well-established journal. We have moved away from our initial status as a ‘new’ journal and are advancing as an important international forum for cutting-edge scholarship on interest organizations, social movements, lobbying and advocacy of all kinds from throughout the world. Among our accomplishments in the past year:

- The journal was accepted for inclusion in Scopus, the largest bibliographic database of peer-reviewed journal articles, a major step that will make it easier for scholars to find and cite the work published in the journal.
- Several articles from the journal have been featured in prominent policy blogs, such as The Monkey Cage and Vox.
- IGA became an official journal of the Political Organizations and Parties section of the American Political Science Association. What this affiliation means for individual subscriptions to the journal is still being considered, but we are happy to have a formal connection to the APSA section whose members include so many of our authors.
- To improve transparency as well as enabling replication, IGA has begun requiring that data used in our articles be made available through a trusted digital repository at the time of publication. In addition, the publisher will upload replication files, codebooks and supplementary information alongside accepted articles. Note that we are aware of concerns that exist about such requirements and the need to protect subjects. The editors will work with authors and adjust requirements as appropriate.
- The journal will be moving very soon to electronic submissions and electronic reviews. Until then, authors and reviewers may continue to reach out to individual editors at IGA@polisci.rutgers.edu.

As we head into 2016, we bid adieu to our remaining founding editor, Professor Burdett Loomis. Bird and Grant Jordan launched the journal in 2012 and worked to fill it with the highest quality research. Scholars of interest groups had never before had a journal that focused exclusively on their research area, and the enthusiasm met by this new outlet has been reflected both in submissions and in the citations generated by those submissions. Many thanks to Bird, who stayed with the journal for 4 important years.

The new North American editor, Beth L. Leech of Rutgers University, begins her term with this issue. Beth has studied and written about organized interests in the United States for more than 20 years and is author or co-author of the books *Basic Interests* (Princeton University Press), *Lobbying and Policy Change* (Chicago University Press) and *Lobbyists at Work* (APress), as well as numerous journal articles about lobbying and interest groups, including two published in this journal. Beth joins Jan Beyers (the editor for manuscripts from Europe and manuscripts on transnational advocacy) and Darren Halpin (the editor for manuscripts from the United Kingdom and the rest of the world) as co-editors. Heath Brown remains as the reviews editor, and is delighted to accept ideas for books to review and offers to contribute review essays. Conor McGrath continues to lead our practitioners' panel, and we greet Nicole Bizzoco of Rutgers University as our new editorial assistant.

The new year also provides an opportunity to refresh and renew the Editorial Board. We give our heartfelt thanks to the founding members for their generous gifts of time and energy to this project, and we welcome the new members of the board. A warm vote of thanks is also extended to the army of reviewers who have supported the journal since its establishment. It is through their generosity that the journal is able to publish high-quality contributions in a timely manner.

As always, the editors welcome submissions from scholars that speak to the core mission of the journal: to analyze how advocacy by groups, movements and lobbying professionals shapes policy. We are open to the breadth of methodological and theoretical approaches in the field. We encourage those with ideas for special issues to contact one of the editors to discuss their ideas. It is anticipated that we will have one special issue per year.

—Antwerp, Canberra, New Brunswick, January 2016