This issue carries several editorial components, most of which are reports we publish annually. I am pleased to acknowledge, for instance, the more than 600 reviewers who supported PAR with their intellectual and professional input during 2013. In addition to reviews from our hardworking Editorial Board, we rely on a vast number of ad hoc reviewers to give us advice about the hundreds of manuscripts that must be reviewed each year. Our inclusion of the names and affiliations of all our reviewers is a small token of our appreciation for professional service that happens behind the scenes.

We are also pleased to announce in this issue the winners of the 2013 PAR awards. The Dwight Waldo Award, won this year by Rosemary O’Leary from the University of Kansas, recognizes career contributions to the literature of public administration. The William E. Mosher and Frederick C. Mosher Award, Louis Brownlow Award, and Laverne Burchfield Award recognize stellar contributions by academicians, practitioners, and book reviewers, respectively, to PAR during 2013. I congratulate all of this year’s winners for well-deserved recognition for their achievements.

A third editorial component in this issue is Managing Editor Richard Feiock’s report to readers, “Continuity with Change,” which follows this editorial. This is the third managing editor’s report during my term as editor in chief. As Rick notes, his report concludes a transition process that began late last year when we announced in the November/December 2013 issue that he would take on the managing editor duties with Michael McGuire’s departure for a well-deserved sabbatical. Rick rightly acknowledges our debt to Michael. This editorial gives me an opportunity to acknowledge how fortunate we all are—particularly me—for both Michael and Rick’s service.

It will be difficult for many of you to understand fully what Rick means when he refers to Michael McGuire’s “exceptional insight and tireless work.” Let me offer some concrete evidence. During his two and a half years as managing editor, Michael read and processed more than 1,000 new manuscripts and issued almost 3,000 unique reviewer invitations. More important than the numbers, however, is the customer service culture that he helped create at PAR. Our turnaround times are exemplary. As an author myself, I know how hard it can be to get a “rejection” letter. Michael’s clarity, detailed explanations, respect for authors and reviewers, and tone have helped focus stakeholders’ attention on the quality of our process and not results or the message alone. Even more noteworthy is that Michael invented the current process from scratch: he selected, established, and configured the web-based manuscript submission system we now use only after our selection as editors in early 2011.

All of PAR’s stakeholders—especially me—owe Michael McGuire a great debt for his service. You will also understand why I began the transition with a great deal of trepidation. It is not easy to replace someone with Michael’s record of performance. We are all most fortunate, however, that Rick Feiock stepped forward as the new managing editor. Let me share with you a few details about the experience and accomplishments that Rick brings to the role of managing editor.

Rick holds the Jerry Collins Eminent Scholar Endowed Chair at Florida State University. His credentials as a scholar are impeccable. They include five books, more than 100 refereed articles, and principal investigator on five National Science Foundation research grants totaling more than $1.5 million. He is a multiple winner of the annual PAR awards celebrated above. He received the 2009 William E. Mosher and Frederick C. Mosher Award for best article by an academic and the 2011 Marshall Dimock Award for the best lead article in PAR. In addition to his credentials as a scholar, Rick is involved in a variety of services to community and profession. Most recently, he directed the Network of Energy Sustainable Communities, providing outreach to local governments on energy sustainability and conservation for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Rick titled his editorial in this issue “Continuity with Change” for a reason. Just as we all benefited from Michael McGuire’s service to PAR and the profession, I am looking forward to the continuity that Rick Feiock brings.

—James L. Perry, Editor in Chief