Public Administration Review has now entered its second year of publication under the editorial team for which I am managing editor. Just as Editor-in-Chief James Perry, I, and the entire editorial team strive to assemble the finest issue every two months, we also aim to provide the very best service to PAR’s authors and reviewers. Indeed, one goal is bound up with the other: with efficient backroom operations, prospective authors will receive quality reviews in a timely manner, invited reviewers will be sent quality manuscripts, and accepted manuscripts will enter into the production process quickly. The editors, authors, and reviewers, in fact, work as a team, even within the context of a double-blind review process. The journal’s quality depends on these relationships.

Accountability and performance are values that drive the editorial team and provide the basis for how we grade ourselves. Toward that end, I offer a brief assessment of how we have managed in our first 18 months as editors. Since we assumed the operational helm of PAR on July 1, 2011, we have managed exactly 700 new manuscripts: 85 that were in the pipeline when we took over, 228 in the second half of 2011, and 387 in 2012 (as of December 15). The manuscript flow, more than one per day, is taxing but sustainable. In fact, one of PAR’s goals is to increase the number of new submissions, which will enable us to select what we publish from the very best in the field.

Given the large number of submissions, competition for space in the journal is strong. The editorial team thus remains highly selective in making decisions about which manuscripts should be reviewed and which should be revised once reviewed. The rate at which newly submitted manuscripts are sent out for external review has remained relatively constant since July 2011: approximately 60 percent of all submissions are externally reviewed. Roughly 22 percent of manuscripts that are externally reviewed are sent back for revision to be resubmitted. Not including special issues, PAR’s acceptance rate is approximately 11 percent, which is right in line with other first-rate journals such as the American Journal of Political Science and the Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory.

The quantity of pieces published in PAR in 2012 was remarkable. We published 63 regular research articles, three Theory to Practice articles (Donald Moynihan, editor), one Public Administration and the Disciplines article (Bradley Wright, editor), one Administrative Profile (Anne Khademian, editor), and 39 book reviews (Sonia Ospina and Rogan Kersh, editors) in six issues. An additional 10 articles were published in a special issue honoring the work of H. George Frederickson. Producing more than 100 items for publication is a monumental task.

PAR would be unable to publish such volume if not for the reviewers who work so hard for us. Since July 2011, we have extended more than 1,600 invitations to reviewers. As I indicated last year at this time, the most significant factor in making a timely editorial decision on submissions is how long it takes for a reviewer to complete the review. We ask reviewers to complete their assessment within 30 days, and for the most part, reviewers do so. However, there are some submitting authors who have had to wait longer than 30–45 days for their reviews because of the tardiness of the reviewer. We understand how busy reviewers are, and we provide as much assistance as we can to a reviewer who is having trouble making the deadline. We also make sure that a manuscript that is sent out for external review stands a decent chance of making it to publishable quality; we do not want to burden our reviewers with manuscripts that are not ready for PAR. As a result, the mean length of time for a reviewer to complete his or her review (calculated both for new submissions and for revised submissions) is 26 days. We thus are able to arrive at a first decision (accept, revise and resubmit, or reject) for submitting authors in no more than 60 days the vast majority of the time (mean of 48 days).

Quantity and service are important, but ultimately, we want PAR to be an outlet where readers find the very best research and authors are able to disseminate their research in a way that impacts the field. I am happy to report that PAR ranks first in the public policy and administration field from 2007 to 2011 in citation metrics provided by Google Scholar, which some consider a more robust measure of the impact and influence of
and reviewers, we believe that we can continue to enhance PAR’s visibility and influence in the coming years. Thank you for your service and contributions to the journal.

—Michael McGuire
Indiana University-Bloomington
Kyung Hee University, South Korea

We look forward to producing an outstanding volume this year, publishing special issues in both 2013 and 2014, and celebrating PAR’s seventy-fifth anniversary in 2015. With your help as authors

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