Congratulations to the winners of the 2014 Public Administration Review awards.

Dwight Waldo Award
Presented to a person who has made outstanding contributions to research and the professional literature in public administration over at least a 25-year period.

Frank J. Thompson
Frank J. Thompson is professor of public affairs and administration at Rutgers-Newark and at the Rutgers Center for State Health Policy in New Brunswick. Professor Thompson has served as fellow with the U.S. Public Health Service and published extensively on issues of health policy and its implementation. Prior to his tenure at Rutgers, he served as dean of the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy at the University at Albany, State University of New York. Frank Thompson is a nationally renowned scholar of politics and administration, implementation, public management, and health policy. Thompson is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, a past president of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, and the former executive director of the National Commission on State and Local Public Service (Winter Commission). He has focused particular attention on issues of federalism and health care policy, participating in several funded projects related to this subject at the Rockefeller Institute of Government in Albany, New York. The selection committee praised his contributions to the discipline and practice of public administration and proclaimed Frank Thompson as an excellent recipient who reflects well on everything that Dwight stood for.

Dwight Waldo Award Committee: Brint Milward (Chair), University of Arizona; Marc Holzer, Rutgers University Newark; Melvin Dubnick, University of New Hampshire; Vicky Wilkins, American University; Rosemary O’Leary, University of Kansas; Jered Call, University of Illinois Chicago; Trevor Brown, The Ohio State University; Geert.Bouckaert, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven; Jonathan West, University of Miami

Laverne Burchfield Award


Martin Lodge
Twenty-seven book reviews were published in volume 74 of PAR. All made a contribution to the field by highlighting important new books, critiquing their value, and promoting more theoretical and empirical research in subject areas. Martin Lodge’s review of Preventing Regulatory Capture: Special Interest Influence and How to Limit It stood out for its blend of book description, analysis, critique, and future development. His critique is balanced, and his recommendation for future work that integrates international experiences and research with the exclusive focus on the United States as presented in the book is well taken and argued. Professor Lodge is recognized for writing the best book review published in the 74th volume.

Laverne Burchfield Award Committee: Tom Bryer (Chair), University of Central Florida; Kim Nelson, University of North Carolina; Dan Smith, New York University

William E. Mosher and Frederick C. Mosher Award
Presented to the authors of the best PAR article by an academic.

Zachary W. Oberfield
In this article, Oberfield compares temporal and atemporal analyses of the business case for diversity management. Using survey and personnel data drawn from U.S. federal government subagencies, Oberfield shows that both analyses support general expectations, but that cross-sectional analysis fails to account for organizational inertia in public agencies, thus portraying diversity management as more potent than in the longitudinal analysis. Oberfield’s article advances the literature on diversity management while making an important contribution to public management epistemology and methodological approaches, empirically demonstrating the threats that come from cross-sectional analysis. The committee selected Oberfield’s article for its sophisticated analysis and important theoretical and practical implications.

William E. Mosher and Frederick C. Mosher Award Committee: Mary Feeney (Chair), Arizona State University; Leisha DeHart Davis, University of North Carolina; Rhys Andrews, Cardiff University

Louis Brownlow Award
Presented to the authors of the best PAR article by a practitioner.


Shui-Yan Tang, Richard F. Callahan, and Mark Pisano
This case study-oriented article on fiscal sustainability is based on a three decade view of three California cities with very different fiscal outcomes. The authors nicely apply the Ostrom “common pool resource” framework to budgeting as a way of explaining these differences. They focus on six variables (from the literature) that can shape the success of collective action to achieve fiscal sustainability, and offer eight design principles (also from the literature) that rely on these variables. The practical insights from this article offer local government officials ways to avoid municipal bankruptcy, or at least provide them the insight as to why their community isn’t doing well and what could be done differently.

Louis Brownlow Award Committee: John Kamensky (Chair), IBM Center for The Business of Government; Paul Posner, George Mason University

Chester A. Newland Award
Presented to the authors of the best PAR commentaries.


Dall W. Forsythe and Juanita Scarlett
In 2014, PAR began to publish commentaries on selected articles. As noted in PAR, “the commentaries are intended to advance PAR’s mission of supporting dialogue among practitioners and academicians. The commentaries aim to add value by relating the articles’ insights, findings, and conclusions to the experiences of practitioners.” Over 35 commentaries were published last year. Without exception, the commentaries provided insightful practice-driven perspectives on major issues being advanced by scholarship. Two of those commentaries were particularly outstanding—Dall W. Forsythe’s “Political Culture and Revenue Forecasting” and Juanita Scarlett’s “A Deeper Understanding of the Peaks and Pitfalls of Transparency in Government Work.” Both provided clear, direct, and excellent perspectives on articles that dealt with theoretically complex topics. Both commentaries also presented thoughtful analyses of the very real trade-offs and constraints imposed by implementation in complex, politicized environments. Accordingly, both Dall Forsythe’s and Juanita Scarlett’s commentaries are being recognized with the inaugural Chester A. Newland Award for Best PAR Commentary.

Chester A. Newland Award Committee: J. Christopher Mihm (Chair), U.S. Government Accountability Office; Jonathan D. Breul, Georgetown University; Joyce Wilson, City of El Paso, Texas; Robert J. Lavigna, University of Wisconsin