

### NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Serving as the President of the Oklahoma Political Science Association has been an honor and a pleasure. I admire the members of our executive team and their continual commitment to the field of Political Science in Oklahoma both in terms of scholarship and student success. The many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic have not escaped our organization. It is my belief that we have confronted such challenges and transformed them into learning opportunities in the pursuit of our mission. For example, hosting a virtual conference in 2020 opened the door to innovation for future conferences including a hybrid format. This creates opportunities for greater accessibility for our members. Such formatting is the case for the 2021 OPSA Conference hosted by Mr. Conner Alford of Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, OK.

Enjoying membership and serving as a leader for OPSA is certainly an area of pride for me as a political scientist. I am encouraged by the collegiality and inclusive approach of the organization not always found in other academic spheres. I truly believe that OPSA creates opportunities for students to witness or even present their first academic paper while also encompassing the contributions of our most distinguished colleagues. This thirty-first publication of our journal, *Oklahoma Politics*, is a representation of the continued scholarly work produced by the members of this organization.

The 2022 OPSA conference will be hosted again at Oklahoma City Community College immediately following the midterm election. Thank you for allowing me to serve the Oklahoma Political Science Association.

Shanna Padgham  
*OPSA President*



## STATEMENT FROM THE EDITOR

The peer-reviewed journal *Oklahoma Politics* publishes articles, research notes, and book reviews that have significant Oklahoma political, social, and environmental related issues. Consequently, we consider work that addresses practical methods and makes significant contributions to scholarly knowledge about theoretical concerns, empirical issues, or methodological strategies in the subfield of political science and or environmental politics in the state of Oklahoma. Manuscripts submitted for review should address an important research problem and or question, display a modest level of creativity and or innovation in research, contribute in a significant fashion to a body of knowledge, and lastly demonstrate the use of appropriate quantitative and or qualitative methods.

Our core concern is to ensure that we provide a platform for authors from Oklahoma and their collaborators from around the United States and around the world to inform the larger scientific community of current political science and environmental politics-related research issues in the state. All manuscripts submitted for publication in our journal are thoroughly reviewed by anonymous referees. The submitted manuscripts first go through a detailed check including a plagiarism check. The editor together with the editorial office takes charge of the review process. When a manuscript is accepted for a full review, the editor will collect at least two review comments and prepare a decision letter based on the comments of the reviewers. The decision letter is sent to the Corresponding Author to request an adequate revision after which the manuscript is forwarded for eventual publication. If you would like to publish your research in *Oklahoma Politics*, please submit your paper for peer-review at: [eananga@ecok.edu](mailto:eananga@ecok.edu).

Erick Ananga  
*Editor, Oklahoma Politics*