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## Editorial Comment

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# SPNA REVIEW

*Best Student Papers*  
*School of Public and Nonprofit Administration*  
*Grand Valley State University*

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Volume V

2009

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

The 2009 edition of the *SPNA REVIEW* represents a milestone in the development of student scholarship in the School of Public and Nonprofit Administration at GVSU. Five years of continuous quality improvement has yielded a superb set of papers selected from a pool of over 50 eligible capstone papers by MPA and MHA graduate students. Year by year it has become more difficult to select the best papers, and many very good ones did not make this final cut.

This year's papers range from Michigan, to South America, to Africa, and encompass topics in public, nonprofit, and health administration and policy. They are distinguished by cutting edge topics, quality of analysis, and good writing. The best paper, *Using Transparency to Regulate in the Age of Technology: A Case Study of the Childcare Business in Kent County, Michigan*, by Susan Toman, deals with a contemporary policy issue and applies it in local context, with useful and insightful applications to practice. The paper shows that Susan is able to conduct professional level research and communicate the results in a way that is useful to organizational leaders and understandable to an informed public. These are among the most important learning objectives of the MPA program and are essential to effective leadership in public and nonprofit administration.

All of the papers chosen for this volume of *SPNA REVIEW* achieve these objectives and reflect what students are learning in the MPA program at GVSU. The SPNA faculty is proud of the achievements of our students and look forward to many future volumes of this journal.

*Danny L. Balfour*  
*August, 2009*