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Editorial Comment

Danny L. Balfour
Grand Valley State University

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Welcome to the fourth volume of the SPNA Review, the best papers by MPA students in the School of Public and Nonprofit Administration at Grand Valley State University. This publication recognizes the outstanding achievements of our students, while providing evidence of student learning and exemplars of research and writing for new MPA students to emulate. The papers chosen for publication come from across the spectrum of public and nonprofit management, public and urban policy, and health administration. Each paper was initially written to fulfill a course requirement in the MPA curriculum, and then revised and improved for publication as part of the MPA capstone course, Management Seminar. Finally, a panel of faculty members reviewed the papers and selected the finalists for publication. The papers show the extent to which students about to complete their MPA are able to master a substantive topic area, design and complete a research project, and present their findings in a clear and accessible manner.

Of the papers submitted during 2007, the best of the best is the paper by Tendai Masiriri, "*The Effects of Managed Care on Social Work Mental Health Practices.*" It was originally written for the course PA 630: Health Administration and Service. Tendai's paper was chosen for this distinction because of its insightful, interdisciplinary analysis of how a profession adapts to changing dynamics in its social and economic environment. The paper shows that Tendai can 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 faculty is proud of the achievements of our students and look forward to many future volumes of this journal.

Danny L. Balfour
Professor, SPNA
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