

Fall 2020

From the SPNHA Review Editor

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Recommended Citation

Balfour, Danny L. (2020) "From the SPNHA Review Editor," *SPNHA Review*: Vol. 16 : Iss. 1 , Article 3.
Available at: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/spnhareview/vol16/iss1/3>

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From the SPNHA Review Editor,

Despite all the complications caused by the covid-19 pandemic, we are pleased to publish this 16th edition of the SPNHA Review. These five papers by recent graduates of our Master of Public Administration, Master of Health Administration (newly accredited), and Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, are excellent examples of the work done by all of our graduate students, who benefit from this process whether or not their paper is selected for publication. Over these 16 years, we have published nearly 100 papers. Most of them have been downloaded from ScholarWorks, some of them thousands of times, and cited in the academic literature. I expect no less from this set of papers.

As is our practice, one paper is selected as the best of the best. This year's winner is, *The Impact of Hospital Consolidations: Who is Really Benefitting from M&A's within Healthcare?* by Brent Reed, who found a negative impact of rising costs and poorer patient outcomes associated with the anticompetitive nature of mergers and acquisitions within the healthcare industry in the United States. This is the kind research that can inform policy makers and administrators in their decision-making process and help achieve better outcomes for patients and citizens during these trying times.

Finally, this is my last edition as editor of the journal as I am retiring from academia at the end of 2020. I'm sure I leave it in good hands as the journal has always been a team effort by the SPNHA faculty. I especially want to thank the school directors that succeeded me – Mark Hoffman, Rich Jelier, and Raymond Higbea – along with George Grant, dean of the College of Community and Public Service, for their support of the journal. Professor Priscilla Kimboko merits special mention as well for her able editorship from 2014 – 2018, and Lindsey Bair for outstanding work as our editorial assistant. But most of all I want to thank our students for their hard work and dedication to their studies, and without whom there would be no SPNHA Review. You are the reason for the journal and everything we do here at GVSU and SPNHA.

Danny L. Balfour, PhD
Professor and Editor-in-Chief
October, 2020