

Message from the Editor

The *Whitehead School* recently began its tenth year with the announcement of Ambassador John K. Menzies as its new dean. With his extensive diplomatic experience, as well as his proven worth in furthering academic achievement, his arrival is very promising for the continued advancement of the *Whitehead School*. The staff of the *Journal* was particularly delighted to find that Ambassador Menzies had served as Chief of Mission at the US office in Kosovo, where he participated in the international peacebuilding operations taking place in the region. For the theme of the first issue of our eighth volume, the *Whitehead Journal* has focused on the topics of post-conflict reconstruction and transitional justice. Throughout the production of this issue, we have developed a thorough understanding of the complex difficulties and overwhelming challenges the world faces when confronting a society torn apart by humanity's most destructive forces. We are, thus, confident that Ambassador Menzies' successes in places such as Kosovo will make him an invaluable guide in the administration of the *Whitehead School's* ambitious path.

As the title of our theme indicates, the articles that follow are an attempt to evaluate the most consequential issues of contention within the international community, regarding how the world should seek to repair the damage, and smooth the scars, of conflicts brought about by the worst of human nature. With the troubled past of Clinton's humanitarian intervention in Somalia and Bush's democracy promotion in Iraq, what is left to aspire to when confronting the obligation of helping a doomed state that can no longer stand on its own? How can the world assist in the redevelopment of a properly functioning system of justice in lands soaked in blood that cries out to the survivors for retribution? Can the international community collectively operate through the self-interest of its individual members to prevent the greatest of atrocities? With the potential for an independent Republic of Kosovo, the continuation of genocide in Darfur, and the ever-widening gap between Iraq and peace looming over the heads of the international community, the debates encountered in this issue are of great consequence to the necessity of constructing a perspective through which to approach the greatest challenges of our day. We hope that this issue will serve as a more in-depth introduction to some of the more challenging aspects of international peacebuilding and the promotion of lasting justice. Our authors represent a diverse field of perspectives, and we are confident that their collective knowledge and experience will provide for a comprehensive discussion of this issue's theme.

In addition to those articles dealing specifically with our theme, this issue also features a number of essays that explore more general topics of international affairs. From the creation of a regional security organization in the former Soviet Union, to a discussion on the effects of US opposition to the International Criminal Court, as well as a look at the use of formal modeling in the study of conflict intervention, this section attempts to cover some of the broader areas that are currently of interest in the study of internal relations. In the final section, we are pleased to include a number of reviews of some notable books from the field of international affairs.

To conclude, we would like to thank the faculty of the *Whitehead School* for their indispensable assistance in the production of the *Journal*. We would also like to extend a special thanks to Associate Dean Rosa Alves-Ferreira for all of her assistance throughout the production process. As always, we are indebted to our advisor, Dr. Philip Moremen, for his crucial guidance and support in all aspects of our work.

Jason Brookhyser