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## Message From the Editor

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## Message from the Editor

The decision to designate sustainable development as the focus area of this issue comes from the realization that the future of our planet and our very existence depends on the choices we, as a global community, make today. As the United Nations prepares to host the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, our goal at the *Journal* remains to bring to the forefront current topics in the area of diplomacy and international relations. We hope to further the discussion surrounding sustainable development through the scholarship that we offer you in this issue. Articles included in this issue address such topics as trade and the environment, United States energy policy and the United Nations Global Compact, among other topics.

There are many layers to this discussion; sustainable development is a concept that has been the subject of debate and concern to scholars and practitioners from diverse fields of study. Our authors discuss sustainable development at the state, national and international level. This multi-level discussion is necessary because progress in terms of sustainable development will only take place with responsible action at all three of these levels, and with cooperation and communication between these groups.

You, our readers, are the driving force behind the success of the *Journal*. We are a global community, and the discourse we generate makes us all better prepared to face the challenges of an interdependent world. We thank-you for your support. There are several other people to whom the *Journal* would like to express its sincere thanks. To the editorial staff who endured to make this issue possible, their commitment to creating and building a Journal founded on ideas propel us forward. We should also like to thank our advisors and the faculty and administration of the School of Diplomacy and International Relations for their steadfast guidance. Finally, to our authors, your work educates and equips us with the knowledge of the many issues facing our global community.

Securing the future of our planet is a very personal responsibility and one that we can no longer afford to take lightly.

M. Suying Hugh