From the Editors

Each year, approximately six hundred future leaders depart operational tours to attend the United States Naval War College. Throughout the academic year, students are challenged on a vast array of topics ranging from the strategic lessons of the Peloponnesian War, proper operational planning in today's joint and coalition force environments, and how the United States Military interacts with the Executive and Legislative Branches of the U.S. Government. Students from each branch of the U.S. armed services, civilian federal agencies, and international naval forces interact every day to discuss and learn from each other, and also to challenge each other's thoughts and ideas. Additionally, for those unable to physically attend in Newport, RI, the College of Distance Education enables them to participate in seminars at their current locations. All students come away from these interactions with a renewed perspective on current and historical issues while building enduring personal relationships across the Joint Force, interagency, and international spectrum.

As part of this rich educational experience, students provide critical analysis of key national security and military issues impacting events at the operational and strategic levels of war through papers and essays designed to meld rigorous academic requirements with real-world operational experiences. Each year, the best student writing is recognized by various associations and organizations affiliated with the Naval War College through the annual essay competition.

With this special issue, the Editors of /luce.nt/ would like to highlight and congratulate some of the winners of the 2011 – 2012 NWC essay competition. We encourage all students to continue refining their thoughts in anticipation of the 2012 – 2013 essay competition.

- **ADM Richard G. Colbert Memorial Prize**
  CDR Michael Junge, USN, "Kennan vs Nitze 'To Discover How Much of Our Resources Must Be Mobilized for War'"

- **B. Franklin Reinauer II Defense Economics Prize**
  CDR Judy T. Malana, USN, "NAFTA: A Partial Solution Not a Savior to Mexico's Economic Woes"

- **Interagency Partnership Prize**
  Maj David A. Bickerstaff, USAF, "Changing Interagency Culture"

- **Marine Corps Association Award**
  Maj Mathew D. Bain, USMC, "Logistics Lessons for Operational Art in Counterinsurgency"

- **Military Officers Association Of America Award For Excellence In Joint Service Warfare**
  MAJ Ian C. Palmer, USA, "A Model for Joint Leadership Doctrine"

- **Naval War College Foundation Award**
  LT Bryan Pinckney, USN, "Evaluating the Core Capabilities of the United States Navy"

- **Robert E. Batemans International Prize**
  Captain Praveen Nair, Indian Navy, "Easing of Tensions in the South China Sea—The Need for a Multilateral Approach and Cooperative Strategy"
  Commander Golam Sadeq, Bangladesh Navy, "Involvement of the United States in the Bay of Bengal—Need for a Strategy for Winning the Battle without Fighting"

- **VADM James H. Doyle, Jr., Military Operations and International Law Prize**
  CAPT Praveen Nair, Indian Navy, "Counter-Piracy and the Legal Quagmire"

- **Zimmerman-Gray NSC International Prize**
  LCDR Nilesh Khokle, Indian Navy, "Maritime Terrorism: A Nautical Quandary"
  Commander Oliver Berdal, Royal Norwegian Navy, "Decision time for ASW – Increased Cooperation to Prevent Irrelevance"