So many people helped with the fall 2020 conference that this book is the proceedings of. Because of COVID-19, the conference was held virtually. Connie Doebele, managing director of the Center for C-SPAN Scholarship & Engagement at Purdue University, put together and executed a two-day conference that involved professors, discussants, undergraduate students, and presentations. She was assisted in the planning and execution by the CCSE associate program administrator, Andrea Langrish. Also, in the control room to make sure that the video presentations went well was Ed Dunn of the Purdue University Broadcast Services. Two Purdue students, Kyle Foley and Alyson deHaai, were CCSE interns during the conference and assisted in the planning and execution details. Andrea Langrish and intern Erica Campos assisted in creating the QR codes that link directly to video clips and are a new feature in this year’s volume.

The Center for C-SPAN Scholarship & Engagement is a program in the Lamb School of Communication at Purdue University. The school’s head, Professor Marifran Mattson, supports the CCSE and guides the activities throughout the year. Without her support, the conference would not exist and the many programs of the CCSE throughout the year would not be as successful.

Six faculty and graduate students from Purdue and other institutions helped by providing comments on the papers. They were from the Lamb School, Professors Jennifer Hoewe and Diana Zulli. Also, Eric Wiemer, an accomplished graduate student in communication provided comments as did political science graduate student Amber Lusvardi. From outside of Purdue, Matthew Bergbower of Indiana State University and Stephen Llano of Saint John’s University ably assisted with comments for the presenters.

Three undergraduate students, who won the Lamb School Undergraduate Research Competition, presented their research: Noah Alderton, Kaleigh
Kara George, and Morgan Murphy. They were introduced by Andie Slomka, who was a finalist in last year’s competition. This activity enables a dozen Purdue undergraduates to present research concepts using the C-SPAN Video Library, with three finalists invited to the research conference.

My colleagues in communication and political science support our programs throughout the year as judges and participants in our activities. Professors Josh Boyd, Jennifer Hoewe, Diana Zulli, Natasha Duncan, and Kathryn Brownell also serve on the CCSE advisory board and give their time and advice. At the research conference Kathryn Brownell provided an update on her present book project that looks at the evolution of cable television, including C-SPAN. Professor Cherie Drake Maestas, head of the Purdue University Political Science Department, is also supportive of the CCSE programs.

Brian Lamb, Robert Kennedy, Susan Swain, and Richard Weinstein of C-SPAN provide support to the CCSE, and the C-SPAN Education Foundation provides a grant that allows us to provide stipends to the paper presenters and authors in this volume. The staff of the C-SPAN Archives provided assistance at the conference through the software, in transportation, and in support of the C-SPAN Video Library.

This book and the book series owe so much to the staff of the Purdue University Press. Director Justin Race, Katherine Purple, Bryan Shaffer, Christopher Brannan, and the rest of the staff work expertly to produce this annual volume. Kelley Kimm superbly copyedited the volume once again. Thanks to all.

Robert X. Browning
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