# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the 2012 edition of *The Park Place Economist*. This volume is the twentieth publication of one of the nation's few undergraduate economic journals. While *The Park Place Economist* has certainly changed over the last twenty years, it stays true to its purpose of recognizing the best economics research conducted by students at Illinois Wesleyan University.

This year we received research papers from Senior Seminar as well as from other economics electives, providing a great variety of research done by economics students in the past year. Graham Boden, Manh Dao, Cathy Geehan, and Joshua Pandian researched and discussed both sides of the debate over China's accession to the World Trade Organization. Tung Hoang, an international student from Vietnam, was intrigued by the impact China's trading has had on U.S. manufacturing unemployment. Nicholas Kenaga explores the U.S. Housing Crisis so commonly discussed since the housing bubble burst. Devin Long takes an interesting approach looking at the effects of electricity exports on the quality of life in Africa. Jake Mann takes a local approach and establishes financial and labor market determinants of mortgage delinquency rates in McLean County, IL from the past twenty-six years. Nikola Poplovic studies the returns from self-employment using Human Capital Theory to compare U.S. natives and immigrants. Former Illinois Wesleyan basketball player, Dan Schouten, furthers his passion for basketball and researches the economics of salary dispersion in the National Basketball Association. Finance and Economics double major Cory Sloan explores the determinants of American stock prices at a firm-specific level. Dave Warren's study provides an in-depth analysis of ideology's effect on bilateral aid allocation in the top four aid-giving countries: the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Japan. Chinese native Eunis Wu looks at the economic assimilation of Chinese immigrants in the United States to see if there is a wage convergence with natives. Finally, I took the challenge of being the first Illinois Wesleyan student to conduct a meta-analysis, focused upon Environmental Kuznets Curve studies, for my research.

This edition of *The Park Place Economist* represents a collaboration of the hard work and dedication of many individuals, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff. Mark, Assistant Editor-in-Chief, deserves praise for all of his help. Tung and Tara's technical expertise and assistance were of great help to the journal's production. I would like to thank all of the editors and reviewers for their help in selecting and refining each article published in this edition of *The Park Place Economist*. I am also thankful for Dr. Robert Leekley's excellent guidance, advice, and support over the course of the year. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Gary Schwartz and Illinois Wesleyan's Printing Services for handling the production of the journal.

I hope you enjoy this special edition of *The Park Place Economist*!

Brittany Goldman
*Editor-in-Chief*

GENERAL INFORMATION
Submissions to *The Park Place Economist* are always welcome, and we strongly encourage students to participate in the creation of this journal. If you are interested in submitting an article or becoming a member of the staff, please contact Dr. Robert Leekley, the faculty advisor, at (309) 556-3178 or at bleekley@iwu.edu. Written queries can be addressed to:

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