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Letter from the Editor

Duc Nguyen
dnguyen1@iwu.edu

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Letter from the Editor

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Welcome to the 25th edition of the Park Place Economist (PPE). Throughout my time at Illinois Wesleyan University, I have been grateful to the opportunities that the university and the Economics Department have created for undergraduate research in economics. Besides providing knowledge for students in several specific topics in economics through a number of elective courses, the department also offers methods courses, including Econometrics and Time Series Analysis, in order to equip students with necessary research skill sets. Moreover, professors from the department always encourage and are willing to instruct students on conducting independent research. Students at IWU are also offered various opportunities, such as the Eckley Scholars and Artists Program and the Mark Israel Research Fellowship in Economics, in which students work in close collaboration with members of the faculty on their research projects during the summer. Finally, economics students at IWU have opportunities to share research projects through publication in economic journals, including the Park Place Economist and the Undergraduate Economic Review, and through oral or poster presentations at the John Wesley Powell Research Conference. Support from the university and the Economics Department have contributed greatly to the success of IWU students in conducting their economic research.

This year's edition consists mostly of papers from the senior seminar class, but the last three papers are the work of students in upper-level courses. The edition presents a wide variety of interests ranging from the study of local economic impacts to international economic issues. For instance, the work by Sean Grady studies the economic impact of college towns in Illinois on residents' income, while those of Brigitta Jakob and Jade Phung concentrate on global economic issues. The variety in this edition is also represented by the range of subjects, including financial economics, labor economics, environmental economics, and sports economics. I hope that you will find these articles informative to your understanding of different economic issues.

This edition of the PPE would not have been possible without the support and contribution of many students and faculty. In particular, I would like to thank Minh Doan, our Assistant Editor-in-Chief, Yuanziyi Zhang, our Technical Editor, and Heidi Luu, our Assistant Technical Editor for your many hours of work on the journal. I am additionally grateful to Ania Bui, our Graphic Designer, for her excellent job on designing the cover which successfully conveys our message in this edition. I would also like to thank Professor Robert Leekley, our advisor, and Professor Durbal for their support and guidance. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Gary Schwartz and the Illinois Wesleyan Printing Service, as well as Student Senate for their support in the printing of this edition.

I hope you enjoy the 25th edition of the Park Place Economist.



Duc Nguyen
PPE Editor in Chief