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Letter From the Editor

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Letter From the Editor

Better from the Editor

Over the past year I have had the privilege of overseeing the eighth edition of *The Park Place Economist*, a unique undergraduate journal that presents the impressive research conducted by my peers. As in previous years, a wide array of topics are presented in this issue.

The journal's first paper, written by Alex Kons, discusses the dynamics of airline pricing. Next, Terry Chapman explains how today's policymakers can benefit from the monetary policy failures during The Great Depression. The two papers that follow offer complimentary research on gender discrimination in the workforce. In her research honors thesis, Jenny Van Dyke '99 explores the wage gap between males and females across various professions. In an attempt to further explain the existing gender wage gap, Dieter Haager builds upon Van Dyke's model.

The following five papers deal with financial and international issues. Quan Lai explores the recent currency crisis in Thailand while Emily Griffen, Esteban Lizano, Kathy-Ann Moe, Marta Siaba, and Michelle Stone collaborate to explain the recent success of the Chilean economy. Peter Karlis then examines IPO underpricing while Sunil Jagwani looks at influences on the supply and demand for venture capital. Jason Lewis concludes the journal with his study on how lesser-developed countries can attract foreign direct investment.

Thanks to all staff members who volunteered for this year's journal; the issue would not have been possible if it weren't for their help. I would especially like to thank Tom Kirkwood for his technical expertise. Without his help, I would probably still be reading the Adobe Pagemaker manual. I would also like to thank Julie Dusek for her assistance, and wish her the best of luck next year as Editor-in-Chief.

Thanks also to the Economics Department for their input and encouragement throughout the year. In addition, I would like to thank Bob Aaron for his publicity of the journal and Gary Schwartz for his guidance on the printing and design of the issue.

Without further ado, I invite you to enjoy *The Park Place Economist*!

Nate Taulbee,
Editor-in-Chief

General Information:

Submissions to *The Park Place Economist* are always welcome. Students interested in assisting in future editions of the journal are also welcome. For any comments, questions, or more information about *The Park Place Economist*, please call (309)-556-3178. Written queries and responses can be addressed via email to bleekley@titan.iwu.edu or to:

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