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The End of an Era and the Beginning of Something New

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Amanda Thorson

For the last six years, the University Avenue Undergraduate Journal of Economics (UAUJE) has been a collaborative effort between the economic departments at Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State University. The journal is a completely online publication (URL:<http://www.econ.ilstu.edu/UAUJE>), which publishes editions annually containing undergraduate research from across the United States and around the world. It has given students the unique opportunity to experience the editing and peer evaluation process associated with submitting research to scholarly journals. And through this process, Illinois Wesleyan students have excelled receiving the Bernard J. McCarney Award for the top paper submission for the last three years running. However, the era of the UAUJE is drawing to an end and this will be the last year the publication will exist in its current form. IWU and ISU have decided to stop collaborating following this spring's edition in order pursue separate goals.

Though it is unclear if Illinois State will continue to publish an undergraduate journal, Illinois Wesleyan is in the process of developing its own online version. Dr. Seeborg, Desi Hristova, Kory Blumer, and Iftekhar Ahmed are currently developing ideas for this brand new publication. They have not yet decided on a title for the new journal but hope to encourage other small liberal arts schools to participate in the publication in addition to the prestigious

universities whose students formerly submitted papers to the UAUJE. The plan is to have Wesleyan students as the primary editors but to encourage students from other schools to act as associate editors to help with the publishing process. It may also contain a page where economics faculty from around the country can share ideas, class schedules, and projects with each other.

Dr. Seeborg believes the new publication will have three distinct advantages for Wesleyan's economics department. First, it will continue to give students the benefits of having another outlet of publication in addition to the Park Place Economist, where their work can be published before a wide audience. Secondly, it will increase the exposure of the Illinois Wesleyan economics program to the rest of the scholarly community. Illinois Wesleyan's online journal will be one the few in the world devoted solely to undergraduate research and will allow the editorial board to come into contacts with many students and faculty from prominent schools around the country. Finally, it will provide another opportunity to students to get both leadership and editorial experience, which will be valuable as students begin careers or continue their education in economics. It will be exciting to see the results of this endeavor, which will surely be another instance where Wesleyan students rise to a new challenge.