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Letter from the Editor

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Letter from the Editor

Letter From The Editor

Welcome to the 2001-2002 edition of *The Park Place Economist*. We are especially proud to present this volume because this year marks the tenth year of this incredible undergraduate economics journal. Alexis Manning and George Coontz studied the beginnings of the journal and present the history of how the journal was started in their article "Has it Been Ten Years Already?"

We received a number of quality research papers this year and we are excited to feature ten of those papers in this issue. The works cover a wide variety of topics relating to the field of Economics. Our first paper, written by Megan De Serf, uses labor theory to predict the effects of familial and social variables on the educational attainment of children. Next, Nicole Skalski presents a study on contingent workers and the wage gap they face in the labor market. The next two papers focus on legal issues. Alison Oliver's paper looks at the determinants of crime rates in America. Mindy Mannlein looks at how the risk of facing malpractice suits affects what specialties physicians choose to enter. Justin Leverton's paper explains the causes of stock market bubbles. Amy Cline studies how the prices of oil in the transportation and residential sectors affect demand in those sectors. Our next two papers study immigration in America. Jeremy Sandford looks at how English language proficiency affects wages of Mexican immigrants. Sam Kwainoe's paper studies the impact of unskilled immigrants in America. Our last two papers both have an international focus. Alexis Manning's paper develops a cost/benefit analysis of the Kyoto Protocol. Finally, Anisha Madan studies how economic freedom affects the socioeconomic development of various nations.

I want to thank all of the staff members who worked hard to help produce this year's journal. We had a very large staff so it is impossible to thank everyone individually. I do want to extend a special thank you to Jeremy Sandford, who spent countless hours putting this journal together. Also, I want to thank Kory Blumer for his help throughout the year and wish him the best of luck as next year's Editor-in-Chief.

Thanks to the Economics Department for their help and support throughout the year. We would not be able to produce such a high quality journal without their support. Also, thank you to Gary Schwartz in Printing Services for his help with the divider pages and the printing of the journal. Finally, I want to thank past Editors for working so hard to create such an amazing journal and for setting the standard for what we produce today. Without the dedication of those early staff members, *The Park Place Economist* would not be what it is today.

I invite you to sit back, relax, and enjoy this tenth edition of *The Park Place Economist*.

Katie Hampson
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. Those interested in submitting papers or becoming part of the editorial staff, and those with any questions or comments regarding *The Park Place Economist* should call Robert Leekley at (309) 556-3178 for more information. Written queries and responses can be addressed to bleekley@iwu.edu through email, or to:

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