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### Has it Been Ten Years Already?

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## Has it Been Ten Years Already?

# Has it Been Ten Years Already?

George Coontz and  
Alexis Manning

Although each edition of the Park Place Economist represents a unique, valuable publication, this particular edition possesses a special significance. This edition is the 10<sup>th</sup> volume of the Park Place Economist, one of the few undergraduate economics journals in the nation. The journal has greatly developed over the past decade, and we would like to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the journal by exploring the origins of the *Park Place Economist*.

The idea for an undergraduate economics journal developed over a cup of coffee in the Dugout shared between various faculty members, including Professors Michael Seeborg, Margaret Chapman, and Robert Leekley, and Robert Aaron, Director of University Communications. The economics department felt that an academic economics journal would greatly benefit the student body and Illinois Wesleyan University alumni. The original goal of the journal was to develop critical thinking skills, encourage academic research, promote leadership abilities, and establish and maintain alumni connections within the economic department.

Although the original concept for the *Park Place Economist* originated from faculty, excited, motivated economics students quickly developed enthusiasm and passion for the project. These students transformed a great idea into a reality. This special group of students formed the original staff for the journal, and these individuals created a strong foundation for future economists of Illinois Wesleyan University. The founding staff included: Bruce T. Bennett as editor in chief, Christine Pol (Pinne) as managing editor, Risa Kumazawa as alumni editor, and Ossi Saarinen as technical editor. The advisory board consisted of a few key faculty members, including: Dr. Michael Seeborg as faculty advisor, Mr. Robert Aaron, and Barb Kube, Mercy Lukose, and John Goodnow as students advisors.

According to both the founding staff and faculty, the formation of the Park Place Economist was a challenging yet highly rewarding process. Although the editorial staff possessed considerable academic ability and knowledge, they lacked

experience in terms of the publication process. According to Risa Kumazawa, "None of us knew how to put a journal together." However, the staff remained determined and learned from a combination of trial and error as well as the journalistic experience of Mr. Robert Aaron. The actual publication process of the journal imparted students with a greater appreciation for the hidden editorial process and created a strong bond among the staff.

Although the first edition of the journal emerged as a very professional, sophisticated publication, the staff lacked many of the basic technological tools that students now take for granted. The staff only possessed a single computer, located in Shaw. Due to the relatively undeveloped state of computer technology a decade ago, the staff relied predominantly upon Word Perfect. Fortunately, the technical editor, Ossi Saarinen, put forth a tremendous amount of effort and late nights and endured many frustrating hours of converting and formatting the journal. The entire staff united in a joint effort to overcome various technical difficulties, though inevitably students had to retype and scan some papers into the journal. The strong team dynamic of the founding staff greatly contributed to the journal's success. Clearly, the staff faced considerable obstacles, though their determination and desire surmounted these impediments.

While the first edition of the journal was undoubtedly a milestone for Illinois Wesleyan University, the journal has progressed considerably during the last decade. The four fundamental goals of the journal, which include; improving analytical skills, promoting scholarly research, developing leadership, and expanding alumni relations, were more than achieved. The publication process of the journal is now a much smoother, efficient process, thanks to improved technology and methodology. Student leadership, teamwork, and cooperation have flourished. Consequently, faculty involvement has diminished as students become increasingly self-sufficient and innovative. Current students owe a lot of their success to the trials and tribulations of the founding staff. The founding staff formed a strong tradition within the Illinois Wesleyan University economics community by stimulating academic interests. Currently, the *Park Place Economist* receives an increasing number of paper submissions.

Although the *Park Place Economist* has transformed considerably in the last decade, the pride

the publication remains a paramount characteristic. Both the founding staff and faculty recall the tremendous gratification of holding the first journal issue hot off the press. The staff continues to take pride in the journal each year. Considering student enthusiasm, pride, satisfaction, and desire, the *Park Place Economist* will continue to be an integral component of the Economics department and Illinois Wesleyan University.

## Alumni Notes

Brendan Slade-Smith

### **Pritam Banerjee, '01**

Pritam is currently pursuing a masters in economics and diplomacy at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, at the Center for Studies in Diplomacy, International Law and Economics (CSDILE). Pritam is on track to graduate in May 2003. Pritam would like to ask if America could please get out of recession so the 3<sup>rd</sup> worlders can sell them stuff they don't need so they can finally get out of recession. Pritam has some advice for all economics majors that are planning on attending grad school; "Pay good attention to Dr. Leekley's econometrics class and try and do a research project."

### **Lisa Birr, '01**

Lisa is a Pricing Analyst for Caterpillar Inc. in Peoria, Illinois. She develops formulas and strategies that she uses to determine how Caterpillar prices the parts that go on Cat machines.

### **Julie Dusek, '01**

Julie is currently working at Andersen in the International Tax Department. She hopes things are going well with the *Park Place Economist* this year. After working on it for the past three years, she can't wait to see this year's edition.

### **Justin Etnyre, '99**

Justin is currently working as a Business Information Analyst in the Marketing department of the Consumer Lending Division of Household International. His job involves data management using SAS, OLAP cubes

and other technology to provide services for the Marketing users. Justin started at Household in October 2001.

### **Patrick Holly, '99**

Patrick is currently a Quality Assurance Manager at Hewitt Associates in Lincolnshire, Illinois. Hewitt Associates is the largest Human Resources Consulting and Technology firm in the United States. He currently lives in Bloomingdale, IL with his wife, Theresa (also an IWU alum). In terms of advice, Patrick wants all economics majors to learn the concept of opportunity costs (and any related aspects) well. He says students will be amazed by how far that kind of knowledge can take them in 'the real world'. The most analytical and reliable people he works with were either economics majors or minors who apply those concepts to their work successfully.

### **Kristopher H. Kaneta, '00**

Kristopher is currently the Manager for Wells Fargo Financial in Palatine, IL. He advises everyone to pick up research Honors in economics. His economics research helped him become more resourceful and thorough in his research and day to day analytical activities.

### **Esteban Lizano, '01**

Esteban is currently working for Merrill Lynch/Howard Johnson doing pension plan management and consulting. He passed course 1 of the Society of Actuaries Exam last November and will be pursuing the actuarial route alongside pension consulting for Merrill Lynch. His advice: remain flexible, experiences are what you make of them and everything can be of use in the future. Remember to enjoy the journey.

### **Bryan C. McCannon, '98**

Bryan is currently in his fourth year working toward a Ph.D. in Economics at Penn State University researching product quality choices by firms and labor raiding.

### **Guerric Russell, '97**

Guerric is a maritime attorney at a mid-sized law firm located in downtown Manhattan, four blocks from the World Trade Center. He is admitted to practice in both New York and New Jersey State and federal district courts. Guerric's experiences on September