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The Graduating Class

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be respected. In my classes, the environment between student and professor, as well as among the students was cooperative, not adversarial. That nuance is what I liked best about IWU.”

If Dave had his college experience to do all over again, he would pick up a major in accounting. Additionally, he wishes he had studied abroad for a whole year rather than for only one semester. He took a great deal from his experience studying abroad. “Basically, I would [try] to squeeze more into the four-year period.” Nonetheless, he is glad that he had the good sense to become an economics major.

In short, whether you are a freshman just starting out or an upperclassman, it is never too late to put these good words of advice from a successful graduate to use: “enjoy college, get good grades, never procrastinate, put yourself in challenging situations, STUDY ABROAD! Focus on school and put the working world on hold until graduation.”

The Graduating Class

By Kristopher Kaneta

Melissa Arms, from Marion, IL, enjoyed an early graduation last semester with a double major in economics and international studies. She is currently working as a Management Consultant with Ernst & Young. She reports that she is slowly adjusting to the real world, but for fun she is in the midst of figuring out a way to hike Maccu Piccu. Melissa has previously served on *The Park Place Economist* as an Articles Editor and News Editor.

Andrew Beath is an economics major from New Zealand. He graduated early and can currently be found in India, where he is doing volunteer work. Andrew’s senior project measured how much political and economic freedom leads to a prosperous economy. After India, Andrew plans to start graduate studies in the United States.

Jaynanne Calaway, from Bethalto, IL, is a double major in economics and international studies with a minor in business administration. Jaynanne is

planning to attend a joint degree program with the University of Illinois’ College of Law and the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations. She plans to practice labor law. For her senior project, Jaynanne analyzed gender wage differentials and several aspects of its decomposition. She is currently an Articles Editor for *The Park Place Economist*. She has enjoyed working for the Economics Department as a Research Assistant because there is a close interaction among faculty and students. Her advice to future economics graduates is to do whatever you have a passion for, and everything else will soon follow.

Justin Etnyre, from Casey, IL, is a double major in economics and international studies with a development concentration. His senior project predicted foreign direct investment using macroeconomic and social indicators. Justin has served as the Articles Editor for *The Park Place Economist* and worked on *The University Avenue Undergraduate Journal of Economics* for the past two years. After graduation, Justin plans on beginning a career in econometric modeling and then returning to school for an advanced degree.

Patrick Holly, Jr. is the current Web Administrator for the Economics Department and is finishing a two-year term as Technical Editor for *The Park Place Economist*. Pat is a double major in economics and business administration, and will work for Hewitt Associates as a Business Analyst after graduation. This Downers Grove, IL, native advises future IWU economics students to take advantage of the CLA Economics Lab because it is a valuable resource that few students on this campus are provided with. Patrick’s senior project involved technology’s effect on the supply and demand for money. He eventually plans to return to school to earn either his MBA or a graduate degree in economics.

Jaclyn Hood is a double major in economics and math from Normal, IL. Over the past three years, she has participated in *The Park Place Economist* as an Alumni Editor and as an Assistant Editor. During her time at Wesleyan, Jackie has studied in

Washington D.C. for a semester, as well as in England, China and Southern Europe through May Term travel courses. She advises future economics students to participate in off-campus study programs to complement the IWU liberal arts education. To complete her economics major, Jackie has conducted a senior project explicating the determinants of home ownership through a combination of Human Capital Investment theory and a logistic regression. After graduation, she will join Hewitt Associates as a Business Analyst.

William Schaub is a double major in economics and business administration from Deerfield, IL. For the past few years he has served on *The Park Place Economist* as an assistant editor. In his senior project, Bill evaluated the characteristics of hard work and the determinants of a caring employee. After graduation, Bill plans to work in the consulting field.

Jennifer Van Dyke, from Waukegan, IL, is a double major in economics and business administration with a minor in math. Jenny has enjoyed being the Editor-in-chief for *The Park Place Economist* and tutoring Introduction to Economics students. Her senior project examined the income gap between male and female college graduates. Her advice to future economics majors is to get involved in the department's activities. The benefits of doing so are endless. Following graduation, she will be working for Arthur Andersen as a Business Consultant.

Seniors Present Research in Memphis

*By Mandy Watson &
Jaynanne Calaway*

On the weekend of February 27 and 28, 1999, three IWU seniors had the opportunity to present their senior research projects at the Missouri Valley Economic Association Conference in Memphis. Roughly 150 participants at the conference presented papers and exchanged views

on issues of importance in economics. Professional conferences are usually open only to faculty, Ph.D. students, and professionals in the field of economics. However, this conference devoted two sessions to undergraduate research. Of the 150 participants who presented their research, only seven were undergraduate students including IWU's Jaynanne Calaway, Patrick Holly, and Jennifer Van Dyke.

At a professional conference such as this one, sessions are generally focused on a particular subject. Presenters in one session may be discussants in another. Most conference participants also usually attend a number of other sessions. Prior to their presentations, Jaynanne, Pat and Jennifer viewed other sessions that they found interesting. For instance, Jaynanne and Pat attended a session on Religion and Economics, while Jennifer joined Professor Michael Seeborg at another session on Education. These sessions served to ease the seniors' minds. The seniors were pleased that they could not only understand the methods presented by the professional economists, but also that they could critique their findings.

After critiquing the professional economists' presentations, the seniors wondered if these well-seasoned economists would be too critical of their research. Much to their delight, the economists were not. In fact, Professor Seeborg affirmed that the seniors' presentations were well received by an audience of mostly Ph.D. economists. The students also felt they stacked up well against the other undergraduates presenting projects. Jaynanne was pleased with IWU's presentations and said, "We appeared to be the most comfortable with our topics and methods, and we generated some of the more interesting aspects of the discussions." Pat added that most of the other students at the conference had done research in conjunction with their professors or research pertaining to their particular university. "We seemed unique in that our papers tackled broader issues and were a bit larger in scope." Jaynanne, Pat, and Jennifer all had faculty members from other universities who were interested in their particular projects approach them and ask for copies of their work. In turn, each received valuable advice from many of these economists.

All three seniors give credit to the