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Letter from the Editor

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Letter from the Editor

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the 2008 edition of *The Park Place Economist*. This year we are proud to present the sixteenth volume of one of the few undergraduate economics journals in the nation. As always, this year's staff has worked hard to maintain the high quality that has come to be expected of *The Park Place Economist*.

This year we received many diverse articles, which display the unique interests of our students. Quentin Brummet explores the effects of gender inequality on a country's economic growth. Keeping the IWU students in mind, Lane Coonrod looks at how the amount of financial aid affects the academic performance of our students. Chris Davis examines how divorce and parental discord affect children's adult socioeconomic attainment level. Everyone is concerned with the housing market and so is Bryan Duling in his article investigating the determinants of foreclosures on single-family homes in the US. Next, Kunaey Garg looks at the effect of federal fund futures and changes in Federal Reserve monetary policy on stock markets. Then, Jim Kjelland analyzes two competing theories concerning the economic returns of higher education, focusing on signaling theory versus human capital theory. After her semester abroad, Stephanie Panozzo loves all things Chinese, and her paper, which examines capital investment and rural-urban migration in China, proves her continued interest. Scott Swisher takes us through a very intensive investigation in examining the efficient market hypothesis. Finally, Elizabeth Taylor examines socioeconomic factors that contribute to illicit drug demand.

The 2008 edition of *The Park Place Economist* represents a collaboration of the hard work and dedication of many individuals, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff. Specifically, I would like to thank Dan Wexler, Assistant Editor-in-Chief, for all of his help with the tasks I asked him to complete. Thank you very much to Scott Swisher, Technical Editor, who taxed over the arduous task of making the journal look its best. Aside from thanking the Department of Economics for sponsoring the journal, I would also like to thank Dr. Robert Leekley for his advice and guidance this year. Finally, special thanks are given to Gary Schwartz and Illinois Wesleyan's Printing Services.

I hope that you enjoy the 2008 edition of *The Park Place Economist*!

Elizabeth Taylor
Editor-in-Chief



General Information:

Submissions to *The Park Place Economist* are always welcome, and we encourage students to participate in the creation of the journal. If you are interested in submitting an article or becoming a member of the staff, please contact Dr. Robert Leekley, the faculty advisor, at (309) 556-3178 or at bleekley@iwu.edu. Written queries can be addressed to:

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