



2011

Letter from the Editor

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Recommended Citation

Maynard, Paige '11 (2011) "Letter from the Editor," *The Park Place Economist*: Vol. 19
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/parkplace/vol19/iss1/5>

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Letter from the Editor

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Welcome to the 2011 edition of The Park Place Economist. This volume is the nineteenth publication of one of the nation's few undergraduate economics journals. While The Park Place Economist has certainly changed over the last nineteen years, with a range of research topics and a change in staff members, the purpose has remained to publish the best economics research conducted by students at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Michael Como combines topics from Economics and Psychology to examine if happier people make more money. Samantha Eads' research focuses on current events to investigate the effect of oil spills on futures prices of crude oil and gasoline. Adam Law's research is concerned with the political issue of capital punishment and the associated deterrent effects. My own paper examines immigrants who enter their ethnic "niche" occupations to see if there is an effect on those individual's standards of living. Next, Jake Nord analyzes firm's investment into research and development to see if there are profitability incentives. Ade Olayinka, also studying immigrants, examines factors influencing the educational attainment of second generation immigrants. Deming Payne, taking an educational approach and looks at the impact of teachers and schools on student achievement. Kyle Portnoy uses time series analysis to explore the effects of trade volume on stock price changes. Finally, Ted Richards combines environmental issues with Economics to address the question as to whether or not hazardous pollution is distributed equally between individuals of different race and ethnicities in Illinois

This edition of The Park Place Economist would not have been possible without the efforts of a number of people. First, I owe a great deal of thanks to the staff. Ted Richards, the Assistant Editor-in-Chief and Technical Editor, specifically deserves praise for all of his help (including keeping me sane). Ted's technical expertise and great insights are evident in this year's journal. I also need to thank the many article editors and reviewers for an abundance of help in selecting and refining each article. Next, I am thankful for Dr. Robert Leekley's expert advice and support throughout this long process. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Gary Schwartz and Illinois Wesleyan's Printing Services for handling the production of the journal.

I hope you enjoy this edition of The Park Place Economist!

Paige Maynard
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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