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Letter from the Editor

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Letter from the Editor

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the 23rd edition of *The Park Place Economist*. As my personal experience as an Economics major at Illinois Wesleyan comes to a close, I have had the opportunity to reflect on what I have appreciated most about this important part of my education. At IWU, we are given the tools to conduct meaningful independent research, and are encouraged to use these tools to explore the topics we find most interesting. This academic freedom has always made me feel excited about economic research. Opportunities to publish and present via *The Park Place Economist* and the John Wesley Powell Research Conference are a testament to the fact that this excitement is shared by my peers.

This year's edition of the publication showcases the unique interests of IWU students. The articles are diverse both in the topics they explore and in the methodologies used to investigate them. This edition includes environmental, financial, labor, and international topics. The inclusion of Daniel Truesdale's experimental paper on incentives for cadaver organ donation provides the opportunity to discuss the experimental economics field in one of our news articles. Lisa Mishra's exploratory survey on LinkedIn use in China provides a look at the globalizing nature of social media. I hope a variety of interests will be entertained by this year's showcase of student research.

I have many to thank for making this edition of *The Park Place Economist* possible. Much appreciation is due to the Editorial Staff for reviewing and improving upon the papers we have selected this year, and especially to our Technical Editor and Assistant Editor-in-Chief, Ene Ikpebe and Joseph Bakke, for dedicating many hours of work. I would also like to extend my thanks to the faculty of the Economics department and to my fellow students for providing tireless motivation and inspiration. Thank you especially to Professor Robert Leekley for his support as the advisor to *The Park Place Economist*. Finally, I thank Gary Schwartz and the University's Printing Services for their work, and Student Senate for financing this effort.

I hope you enjoy the 23rd edition of *The Park Place Economist*.



Dominique (Nikki) Castle
Editor-in-Chief