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## Letter from the Editor

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# Letter from the Editor

I'm incredibly pleased to present this year's volume of the Park Place Economist. Now in its 26th edition, this journal has gone through many structural and design changes throughout the years. The biggest push this year was to digitize all reference documents to make it easier for the staff next year to produce a quality journal. This idea of leaving something behind for the next generation is to me what the Park Place Economist is all about. Sure, the journal is great in that it allows any student of economics at Illinois Wesleyan University to submit and publish their own original work, but the true value of the journal lies in its ability to inspire future students.

I remember when I was first thinking about transferring to IWU and I was being shown around campus, I asked my tour guide if there was anything unique or different about the economics department at this university. He told me the standard things I had heard before from other university tour guides about how accessible the professors were and about the economics club on campus, but what really stood out to me was when he told me that there were two undergraduate journals published every year. Now there was something that truly was unique. After I finished my visit, I looked up both the Undergraduate Economic Review and this journal online and was impressed with the level of quality and attention to detail in both. It

cemented my decision to transfer to IWU, and piqued my interest in pursuing my own economic research.

Beyond my own experience, I know other students have been just as inspired by the published papers in this journal, and much of this is thanks to the current faculty advisor. Dr. Leekley will be featured in a short piece later in this edition, but I wanted to give my personal thanks to him here. Not only has he been a wonderful classroom professor, but he has been a staple of this journal for many years. This publication has benefited greatly from having him as an advisor, and as much as I wish him a happy retirement it will be sad to see him go.

This journal was one of the reasons I decided to come to IWU, and I will forever consider myself blessed to have been able to act as its Editor-in-Chief for the 26th volume. I hope those reading this edition will find inspiration among its pages, whether it be to pursue their own research as an undergraduate, continue education as a graduate student, increase their involvement as an alumni, or in any other endeavor they so choose.



Raymond Bolton  
Editor-in-Chief