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Letter from the Editor: Time to Change and Adapt

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Letter from the Editor: Time to Change and Adapt

Hi everyone,

Welcome to Volume XXVIII of the Park Place Economist!

With a global pandemic stopping and altering what is considered normal, the word 'unprecedented' has been utilized more than ever before. A lack of precedent in environment and circumstances serves as the perfect impetus for change. In this fashion, Illinois Wesleyan has seen so much change. Illinois Wesleyan students rose to the challenge by honoring the Titan Pledge on campus while navigating remote, hybrid, and in-person learning methods. Similarly, professors and staff have tirelessly worked to provide a substantial learning experience remotely, utilizing technology and services new to them.

The Economics department at Illinois Wesleyan University experienced some of the most change. The departure of knowledgeable and wonderful professors Amit Ghosh and Ilaria Ossella-Durbal meant many new faces for students in the classroom. I am very thankful for Professor Michael Seeborg for sharing his wealth of research knowledge as senior seminar professor - and delaying his retirement no less. The quality of research in the journal is deeply connected to his great instruction.

In the same way, the Park Place Economist (PPE) looks different than ever before. For the first year ever, the publication is exclusively online. While this was a hard decision to make, this streamlines the publication process, saves the Economics department's financial materials, and mimics many top professional Economics publications. By employing the University's Digital Commons framework, we transition seamlessly into the diverse catalog of Illinois Wesleyan publications online.

These changes came with challenges, but all of them were met head-on by the Park Place Economist's staff. I am very grateful for the editors and publication staff who were patient and resourceful as we transitioned with this new software. Their hard work is appreciated and evident in the quality of this year's edition. I am especially appreciative of Assistant Editor-in-Chief Rayaan Kapoor for his diligence, tenacity, and hard-work in the putting together of this year's issue.

This edition is also different because of the work it features. Due to the pandemic, there was no 2020 edition of the PPE, therefore seniors from two classes - 2020 and 2021 - were invited to submit articles for publishing. This is the first year two senior classes are represented in a volume of the Park Place Economist. Despite the changes everyone has endured, I am so proud of the research produced by my friends and peers. Their grit and intelligence have resulted in fresh, compelling, and tactful academic research that is a testament to their hard work.

I am grateful once again to the editorial staff; their thorough and efficient work ensured the publication is academically sound and grammatically clean. Similarly, the alumni/faculty relations staff – Chizembi and Anna – did fantastic work to demonstrate our thanks to professors Ilaria Ossella-Durbal and Amit Ghosh for their long-time commitment to students in

the Economics department at Illinois Wesleyan University. I am additionally grateful to faculty advisor David Marvin for trusting me to undertake this task and giving me the freedom to make tough decisions. My thanks also go out to Dora Guo for her talent, creativity and professionalism in creating a fantastic cover design on short notice. Finally, I am ever-thankful for University Librarian Stephanie Davis-Kahl for her expertise, hard work, and patience with me in the publication process. Finally, huge thanks are in order for Aaryan Morrison, former Editor-in-Chief Heidi Luu, and faculty Dr. Phillip Oberg for their personal help during this process.

It is with immeasurable honor I present to you Volume XXVIII of the Park Place Economist.

Editor-in-Chief

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keagan James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Keagan James