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## Letter From the Editor- Finding Familiarity in the Unfamiliar

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## Letter From the Editor- Finding Familiarity in the Unfamiliar

Welcome to version XXIX of the Park Place Economist!

It's hard to believe that four years at Illinois Wesleyan have flown by in the blink of an eye- it feels like yesterday that I was just a freshman becoming familiar with campus and getting used to the college lifestyle. And suddenly, I'm walking across the stage to collect my diploma along with the rest of my class. The journey has been riddled with incredible highs and unique lows- I mean, for one, who before 2020 can say they graduated during a global pandemic?

The repercussions of COVID-19 weren't allowed to permeate through campus for long- students, staff and faculty collectively rose to honor the Titan Pledge and take the necessary precautions to create a safe and healthy campus environment. It was all about finding familiarity in the hitherto unfamiliar and naturally, this meant widespread changes- changes that were evident in all facets of campus life. Two of the biggest changes we faced as an Economics department was a reshuffle of the economics faculty and a digitization of the Park Place Economist.

These changes didn't come easy- because there wasn't an edition of the Park Place Economist in 2020 due to COVID, the journal was digitized in 2021 to allow future versions to be distributed to readers more efficiently. I'm very thankful for Keagan James, last year's editor-in-chief, who I was able to learn so much from prior to taking over the journal myself.

I'm also deeply grateful to faculty in the economics department-past and present- they taught me, challenged me, helped me grow my skillset and as a person. I wanted to give Professor Durbal and subsequently Professor Marvin a massive thanks for always being a beacon of support. I also wanted to thank Professor Marvin for trusting me with this amazing opportunity and Professor Seeborg for being a mentor and giving me creative license to make the tough decisions.

I also wanted to acknowledge university librarian Stephanie Davis Kahl- who was so instrumental in making this a seamless process. Lastly, I wanted to thank the authors of the submissions- my classmates from a very small cohort of seminar

students- for their incredible dedication in writing and editing excellent research papers.

It is with overwhelming pride and honor that I present to you edition Volume XXIX of the Park Place Economist.

Editor-in-Chief

Rayaan Kapoor