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Alumni Notes

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tainty, both politically and economically. If the United States withdraws, there are numerous factions in the country that would love to be in control, which could create great economic unrest in Iraq and the entire region.

Also, any attack against Iraq by the United States is most likely going to create great unrest in the Arab world. It is conceivable that the deaths of thousands of Iraqi citizens could lead to yet another generation of America hating terrorists. It does not even take that much resentment toward the United States to cause a great disruption to our economic system. There are numerous unforeseen costs that could come as a result of this.

In addition to these uncertainties the United States will be faced with huge back-end costs, such as the reconstruction effort following the war. The United States will be undertaking bombing campaign over Baghdad that will nearly demolish the city. Sure the United States now operates precision guided missiles, but even they will cause "collateral damage" to underground and surrounding infrastructures. If the U.S. plans on establishing a friendly post-Saddam regime it will be forced to supply assistance for the reconstruction of this city and many others through-

out the country. In addition to the structural collateral damage the United States will be faced with the possibility of thousands of civilian casualties. Again, if the United States plans to prevail as the good guy it will be forced to spend billions of dollars nursing the injured back to good health.

These are just a few of the uncertainties and back-end costs that the United States faces in its decision on whether or not to go ahead with war. However, war should never be decided solely on economic costs and uncertainties. There are sure to be many Iraqi lives lost in the conflict, as well as the lives of brave young men and women serving the U.S. and its allies, which the government must consider before moving ahead. It must also look at the political ramifications; can the United Nations survive a "slap in the face" from the United States and the United Kingdom, two of its most important players? All of these things and much more should be considered and openly debated before the United States moves against Iraq.

Even as economists we must occasionally come to the realization that not everything in life should be dictated by the strict laws of supply and demand or economic costs and benefits.

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Jeremy Sandford, '02

Jeremy is in the first year of an economics Ph.D. program at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, and working feverishly to prepare for his preliminary exams in July. After that, he hopes to do research in labor or public economics. He suggests that anyone interested in doing graduate work to take as much math as possible, even at the expense of economics if necessary. He also advises everyone to enjoy themselves while still at Illinois Wesleyan, because his brief experience with the real world has not been as nice as his memories of IWU - a lot more walking involved, for one thing.

Justin Etnyre, '99

Justin is working at Household International as a Busi-

ness Information Analyst in the consumer lending business unit. His position lies between the business users and technology services, and he uses tools such as SAS and SQL to ensure that reporting and data requirements are met. He is also working on his MBA at Roosevelt University with a concentration in MIS, which he plans to complete in August of 2003.

Bryan C. McCannon, '98

Brian has been at Penn State working on his Ph.D. in Economics since he graduated from Illinois Wesleyan. He will be defending his dissertation on strategic product differentiation and labor raiding this spring. Starting next fall, he will be an assistant Professor of Economics at Elmira College. His areas of specialization are industrial organization and micro theory/game theory. Along with his work in economics, he is also

working on a series of papers in plant physiology which apply economic models to plants' allocation decisions, such as choice of root depth in various environments and competition between plants.

Faizal Chaudhury, '96

After spending almost 6 years in public accounting, Faizal is now a Senior Internal Audit Consultant for Stepan Company, a global chemicals maker based in Northfield, Illinois. His current position involves identifying opportunities to improve operating efficiencies and internal controls at Stepan Company's facilities in Europe, Asia, North and South America. He hopes to begin a part-time MBA program this fall. One of his most memorable moments from economics classes was Dr. Seeborg taking students on a tour of the Cabrini-Green housing projects in Chicago. Faizal thinks that gentrification is changing the landscape and demographics of this area and that it would probably allow for a great labor economic lesson.

Diana Imaka, '96

Diana received an MBA from City University Business School in London in 1999, and is in her fourth year working as a business consultant with Deloitte & Touche in Latvia. Her specialties are cost control, business process re-engineering and implementation of European Union legislative requirements to introduce competition into traditionally monopolistic industries in order for Latvia to join the EU in 2003-2004. She sends huge thanks to Dr. Chapman, Dr. Seeborg, Melinda Carlson, Jack Fields and many, many others for all their help during her time at Illinois Wesleyan. She would also like to share two philosophical lessons: 1. Things that you do and say make an enormous difference in other people's lives, so don't hesitate. 2. You never know when life will give you that big chance, so make sure you do the most to be ready for that moment.

Ming Sun Wan, '96

Ming Sun is currently working in Hong Kong as a director of equities sales trading for hedge funds at UBS Warburg. One of his most memorable moments from economics classes was when a bee stung Dr. Seeborg on the nose. He looks forward to seeing this year's edition of the *Park Place Economist*.

Gnanika Suriarachchi-Wijayarathne, '94

Gnanika graduated from Texas A&M University with an MS in Human Resource Development in May 2000 and a MS in Human Resource Management in May 2001. She and her husband Ravi had their first child Niviru in 2001, and moved to California in 2002. She works for ChevronTexaco Corporation in their Human Resource Development Program, where she is currently finishing her third rotation in the Overseas Petroleum Division. Gnanika says this has provided her with some wonderful opportunities to work with a diverse group of people from all over the world. She has one more assignment in the program, after which she will be placed in a specific job within the HR function. She wishes good luck to everyone working on this year's *Park Place Economist*.

Thomas M. Smith, '92

Thomas is currently the assistant director of the Center for Economic Education and a visiting assistant professor in the economics department of University of Illinois - Chicago. He has a monograph coming out this spring called "Raising the Barre: The Geographic, Financial and Economic Characteristics of Nonprofit Dance Companies", which is the culmination of a project that he worked on with the National Endowment for the Arts. He is currently examining the economic conditions of nonprofit theater companies in the U.S. and coordinating the on-site activities for the Association of Cultural Economics International Conference 2004. He is also playing electric and upright bass with jazz and rock bands all over the Chicago area.

Sabeen Ali, '01

Sabeen has been working as a consultant for Ernst and young in New York City since she graduated from Illinois Wesleyan. This spring she has changed jobs, becoming a Program Coordinator for the Council on Foreign Relations.