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About the Authors

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Ketan N. Amin, ('01), is an economics and biology double major from Mattoon, IL. He wrote "Income Distribution and Health: A Worldwide Analysis" for his senior project. He chose this topic because he wanted to somehow incorporate the field of medicine into his project. He hopes that readers "will gain a better understanding of how important income inequality is to not only the economy of the country but to the overall health levels as well."

Lisa M. Birr, ('01), is an economics and business administration double major from Elgin, IL. She wrote "Before and After the FDICIA: A Look into Commercial Banking Risk Behavior and Profit" for her senior project. She chose to look into banking because she is interested in finance and how it affects society and the economy.

Alicia M. Lange, ('01), is an economics and psychology double major from Orland Park, IL. She wrote "The Family Gap: Do Mothers Earn Less?" for her senior project. She chose this topic because she likes labor economics and it incorporated a little bit of psychology. She hopes that "readers' interests will be sparked in my area of research because it impacts everybody."

Amber L. Munday, ('01), is an economics major with a minor in sociology from Creve Coeur, IL. She wrote "Neighborhood Effects and the Acquisition of Human Capital" for her senior project. She chose this topic because the arguments presented in The Bell Curve anger her every time she thinks about them and the damage that their propagation can do. She felt an obligation to show that The Bell Curve may not be right. She hopes that readers "realize that economic models can be important tools in fighting important sociological and political battles."

Kenneth A. Perry, ('01), is an economics and political science double major from Orland Park, IL. He wrote "Professional Sports Attendance as a Proxy for New Stadium Spillover Benefits" for

his senior project. He chose this topic because sports has been something he's always been interested in and this was a way to study something he's always enjoyed but never been able to examine academically. He hopes that "people will better understand the idea that rates of return and benefits that come from state and local investment in stadiums comes from more than economic growth."

Dave Rasho, ('01), is an economics and business administration double major from Forsyth, IL. He wrote "The Possibility and Feasibility of a 100% Reserve Gold Standard" for his senior project. He chose this topic as an extension of an independent study he had completed the previous semester on Austrian Business Cycle Theory. He wanted to find an example of how the theory could be used. He hopes that "readers will gain insight into a school of economic thought often overlooked by the mainstream."

Jeremy A. Sandford, ('02), is an economics and Spanish double major with a business minor from Elk Grove Village, IL. He wrote "Government Debt" for Dr. Stumph's macroeconomics class. He chose this topic because it was often in the news, and he was interested in what to do with the budget surpluses that started to appear in the last couple of years. He hopes that readers will "gain a better understanding of the costs of public debt."

Nathan J. Taulbee, ('00), was an economics and business administration double major. Nathan wrote "Influences on the Stock Market: An Examination of the Effect of Economic Variables on the S&P 500" for research honors. He chose this topic because he wanted to analyze how shifts in certain economic indicators affected the stock market. He hopes that readers "will have a better understanding of the relationship between the economy and the overall stock market as well as the relationship between the economy and various sectors." He is currently working as a financial business analyst for State Farm Insurance Companies.

Yuet Wen Wan, ('01), is an economics major from Malaysia. She wrote "A Case of the Philips Curve in the Formation of a Monetary Union" for her senior project. She picked this topic because she thought it was an interesting and current issue.

Amanda J. Watson, ('01), is an economics and political science double major from Normal, IL. She wrote "Wage Differentials Between the States: The Effect of Region and Unionization" for her senior project. She chose this topic because she became interested in the economics of the South and Right-to-Work laws after reading a book by Peter Applebome called Dixie Rising. She hopes that readers will "see the great expanse of interesting, domestic economic problems that are out there. I hope they see that our 50 states remain unique despite the proliferation of federal law."