

About the Authors

Amy Cline ('02): Amy is a senior Economics major from Decatur, IL. In addition to studying Economics at IWU, Amy also earned both a French and an Environmental studies minor. Her interest in the environment led her to choose the topic for her paper. She wrote “The Effect of Prices on Oil Demand in the Transportation and Residential Sectors.” By reading her article, she hopes people will “realize the importance of making a switch to alternative energy sources in the near future.” She also hopes readers will have a better understanding of which price levels oil should be set at to encourage people to switch to alternative energy sources. After graduation, Amy plans to attend law school and specialize in Environmental Law.

Megan De Serf ('02): Megan is a senior Economics and Business Administration double major from Dalzell, IL. She wrote “The Effects of Familial and Social Variables on Children’s Educational Attainments”. Megan chose her topic because she enjoys examining the effects of economic theories on the family. She also hopes readers will see how important family background experiences are in determining a child’s educational attainment. After graduation, Megan would like to pursue a career in Marketing. She is currently looking for a job on the east coast where she would like to work for a couple of years before returning to graduate school.

Justin Leverton ('02): Justin is a senior Economics and Public Accounting double major from Bloomington, IL. He wrote “Bubble Mania” because of his lifelong interest in the stock market. He hopes readers will gain a different perspective on what makes stock prices fluctuate after they read his paper. After graduation, Justin plans to attend law school with a concentration in Merger and Acquisition Law. Eventually, he would like to start a mutual fund.

Sam Kwainoe ('02): Sam is a senior Economics major from Accra, Ghana. Sam finished up at Wesleyan a semester early and now resides in Buffalo Grove, IL. Sam wrote “The Truth about Unskilled Immigrants in America”. He chose to write on this topic because as a foreign student, he was interested in learning how immigrants fit into the American economy. Also, he wanted to study the impact immigrants in the US have on the US economy and on the earnings of Americans. Since he finished school in December 2001, Sam has been working as a Financial Analyst for Siemens Building Technologies.

Anisha Madan ('02): Anisha is a senior Economics and Management Accounting double major from Bombay, India. She wrote “The Relationship Between Economic Freedom and Socio-Economic Development”. She chose her topic after reading several studies that stated that economic freedom leads to economic growth. She felt that the human side of development gets ignored and people focus only on numbers and productivity. According to Anisha, “the main aim of economic growth is to improve the lives of people.”

Alexis Manning ('04): Alexis is a sophomore Economics major from Lake Forest, IL. She wrote “An Economic Analysis of the Kyoto Protocol”. She wrote this paper for her Environmental Economics class and chose the topic because she hopes readers will realize that the “failure to incorporate economic analysis into the decision-making equation results in ineffective, unrealistic goals and methods.” Also, she wants people to see that global climate change is an important issue that should be addressed now and in the near future. Alexis chose to major in Economics after taking Intro and discovering that Economics is interesting and that she loves working with graphs.

Mindy Mannlein ('02): Mindy is a senior Economics major from Decatur, IL. She wrote “The Effects of Malpractice on Medical Specialties” for her senior project. Mindy chose her topic because she wanted to incorporate the legal field into her Economics research. By reading her paper, she hopes people “will better understand that rampant lawsuits can have serious effects on the economy and job markets.” After graduation, Mindy plans to attend law school in Washington, D.C. where she hopes to concentrate her studies on international law. Eventually, she would like to get involved with developmental work and possibly pursue a career with the U.N.

Alison Oliver ('02): Alison is a senior Economics major from Lake Forest, IL. She wrote her senior project entitled “The Economics of Crime: An Analysis of Crime Rates in America”. Alison chose her topic because she is interested in going into law. Also, she knew that a lot of money is spent fighting crime each year and she wanted to test whether that money is being spent effectively. After graduation, Alison plans to attend law school.

Jeremy Sandford ('02): Jeremy is a senior Economics and Spanish double major from Elk Grove Village, IL. He wrote “English Language Proficiency and the Wage Rates of Mexican Immigrants”. Jeremy chose his topic because it interested him due to his Spanish major and because he spent a semester living outside of the U.S. Jeremy hopes his article will “cause people to reflect on the growing importance of Mexican immigrants (and immigration in general) in the US and to realize that the wage gap between US natives and Mexican immigrants, even if soundly explained by the English language deficiency of Mexican Immigrants, is large and unfortunate.” After graduation, Jeremy plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Economics at The University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Nicole Skalski ('01): Nicole was an Economics and Business Administration double major at IWU. She grew up in Flossmoor, IL and currently resides in Chicago. She wrote her research honors paper entitled “Explaining the Wage Gap Between Contingent and Noncontingent Workers”. She chose this topic after she learned that contingent workers are a growing segment of the workforce in her Labor Economics class. She wanted to better understand contingent workers and learn why they receive less pay