

About the Authors

Syed Iftekhar Ahmed

Year in School: Senior, Class of 2004

Hometown: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Majors: Economics and Public Accounting

Title of Paper: *Alcohol Advertising and Adolescent Alcohol Consumption in the U.S.*

About the paper: My interest in this research topic developed through general curiosity to discover any plausible explanation for the increase in adolescent drinking in the U.S. in recent times. Digging deeper into the research problem revealed that past research in this field is largely inconclusive. This encouraged me to modify and thereby extend previous studies by incorporating several key variables in my paper that prior researchers ignored. The results were quite interesting. Having said that, this paper does not provide a comprehensive picture of the research problem; social indicators might be a step towards achieving that goal. I believe there is a lot of work yet to be done on this topic before we can establish the true relationship between adolescent alcohol consumption and advertising and marketing expenditure in the U.S. Only then can policy makers tackle this grave issue which contributes to the death of so many youths every year. I would like to acknowledge Ames Librarian Lynda Duke for her help in finding data for this research paper and special thanks to Zaina A. Shahnawaz for her thoughtful remarks and encouragement.

Post Graduation Plans: I will be working as an Associate Auditor at Pricewaterhouse Coopers in Peoria, IL.

George Thomas Coontz, Jr.

Year: Senior, Class of 2004

Hometown: Springfield, IL

Majors: Economics and Business Administration

with a concentration in Finance

Title of Paper: *Economic Impact of Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions on Acquiring Firm Shareholder Wealth*

About the Paper: I chose this topic because mergers and acquisitions really interest me. Previously, in our economics department, there have not been many papers relating to this topic. It is also interesting to me because I aspire to be a corporate lawyer specializing in mergers.

Post Graduation Plans: My plans for the future are to attend Loyola University Chicago and earn an M.B.A. with specializations in Economics and Finance. I will then attend Law school for a J.D. I am also contemplating a Ph.D. in Business Economics later in life.

Robbie Gallagher

Year in School: Senior, Class of 2004

Hometown: Darien, IL

Majors: Economics and Business Administration with a Management specialization

Title of Paper: *The Unemployment Cost of Canada's Inflation Target: A Phillips Curve Analysis*

About the Paper: My interest in this particular research topic stems from my general curiosity with the Phillips curve. Originally, the aim of this project was to explore productivity and unemployment. However, I stumbled across Canada's inflation target early on and decided to address the potential implications of implementing such a policy with respect to the unemployment costs. Not only did this project enable me to address inflation targets with a specific focus on the Canadian experience, but it also presented

me with the opportunity to further explore my curiosity with the Phillips curve, as applied to a real world scenario.

Post Graduation Plans: Law school.

Mahi Garg

Year: Senior, Class of 2004

Hometown: Calcutta, India

Majors: Economics and Art

Title of Paper: *Wage Differentials for Immigrant Women in the United States: The Heightened Effect of Ethnic and Gender Interaction*

About the Paper: My paper focuses on earning inequities for immigrant women in the United States. Despite the fact that immigrant women outnumber immigrant men in the U.S., there is very little research on the economic performance of these immigrant women. The question of how gender and ethnicity interact remains especially understudied. Therefore, my paper aims at expanding previous research and providing more insight into the field of female immigration.

Post Graduation Plans: I plan to work in an economics-based or residential life position.

William R. Irwin

Year: Senior, Class of 2004

Hometown: Belleville, IL

Majors: Economics and Biology

Title of Paper: *Racial discrimination in Major League Baseball, can it exist when productivity is crystal clear?*

About the Paper: I chose this topic because I believe racial discrimination is a problem in almost every aspect of society. I knew that one problem with measuring discrimination in most industries is that most of the variables, like education and on-the-job training, used in discrimination-finding regressions are intrinsically biased, so I thought using professional base-

ball data would be a good way to eliminate some bias from the equation.

Post Graduation Plans: I will attend law school, and I am currently deciding between Duke, Vanderbilt, and Washington University in St. Louis.

Satish Lohani

Year: Senior, Class of 2004

Hometown: Kathmandu, Nepal

Majors: Economics and Mathematics

Title of Paper: *The Effect of Foreign Aid on Development: Does More Money Bring More Development?*

About the Paper: This is a significant topic because every year developing countries receive billions of dollars in foreign aid. However, various economists and policy makers have argued the effectiveness of aid. Researchers of foreign aid have come up with conflicting results.

Post Graduation Plans: I am going to attend graduate school in economics at Washington University in St. Louis. My long term goal is to pursue a career in biostatistics or econometrics.

Alexis Manning

Year: Senior, Class of 2004

Hometown: Lake Forest, IL

Majors: Economics and Hispanic Studies; minor in Environmental Studies

Title of Paper: *Human Capital as a Transmission Mechanism of the Resource Curse*

About the Paper: Natural resources play an integral role in the economies of developing countries. I, therefore, wanted to investigate how natural resource dependence affects these economies. As I began my preliminary research, I found some studies that suggested that resource-rich developing countries experience slower growth rates than resource-poor developing countries – a relationship known

as the *resource curse*. This counter-intuitive relationship shocked me, and I wanted to investigate whether this correlation actually exists and if so, why this relationship exists.

Post Graduation Plans: I will go to Nicaragua as a Peace Corps Volunteer where I will teach environmental education in primary schools.

Ana Maria Romero

Year: Junior, Class of 2005

Hometown: Barranquilla, Colombia

Majors: Economics and Accounting

Title of Paper: *The Positive Externalities of Historic District Designation*

About the Paper: I chose to write about historic district designations because my favorite place in Colombia is Cartagena, a historical city that was the epicenter of trade during colonial times. At the time I wrote the paper, Cartagena had recently been declared a historical patrimony of society, and the city passed several ordinances that designated the “old city” as a historical district. There was a lot of debate as to whether this would help commerce. It was a very hot topic at home.

Divya Soni

Year: Junior, Class of 2005

Hometown: Palos Park, Illinois

Majors: Environmental Studies and Sociology

Katie Wehr

Year: Senior, Class of 2004

Hometown: Grinnell, Iowa

Major: Sociology

Title of Paper: *Factors Affecting Environmental Concern in Bloomington-Normal Residents*

About the Paper: While there has been a lot of research done on environmental attitudes, there has not been research on factors affecting environmen-

tal action, particularly in Bloomington-Normal. We chose this topic in order to fill in this gap and to have a better understanding of these factors affecting environmental action in Bloomington-Normal. Hopefully this data can be used to guide Bloomington-Normal in their pursuit of environmental action.

Amanda Thorson

Year: Junior, Class of 2005

Hometown: Cornell, IL

Majors: Economics and Accounting

Title of Paper: *The Polish Banking System: A Case for Bank Consolidation and Foreign Participation*

About the Paper: This paper developed out of my interest in the political economy of the former Soviet Union. Economic research into the banking system of these economies in transition has been limited in scope. Poland is a particularly interesting case because of its bid for European Union membership. Bank consolidation and foreign participation in the banking industry, I argue, are necessary to prepare Poland for entry into the European Union.