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Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the 2007 edition of *The Park Place Economist*. This volume marks the fifteenth publication of one of the very few undergraduate economics journals published in the United States--or even the world. Although *The Park Place Economist* has evolved over the last fifteen years, the journal continues to uniquely showcase the best economics research produced by students at Illinois Wesleyan University.

This year we received many quality research papers spanning a wide variety of topics, and we are pleased to feature seven of these articles in the 2007 edition of the journal. Adding to the body of research on sports economics, Brandin Heidbreder explores the impact of participation in high school athletics on future income. Ian Cohen provides a fascinating look at obesity in the United States by testing both if socioeconomic status affects weight and if weight influences annual income. Reviewing issues in urban economics, Jessica Biro provides an analysis of the economic concerns surrounding urban gentrification, while Anna Konradi explores the costs and benefits associated with school vouchers. Ben Burry's article also addresses a topic of urban economics--the effect of urban amenities, such as air quality and commuting times, on wage differences between large American cities. The current focus on both immigration and health care in the United States is uniquely combined in Matt Goergen's study on the wage differentials between immigrant and native physicians. Finally, Biniv Maskay's research tests the validity of two competing theories on how changes in the money supply influence the overall performance of the stock market.

As in past years, the 2007 edition of *The Park Place Economist* represents the hard-work and commitment of many individuals, and I would like to thank all of the staff members who contributed to its publication. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Scott Swisher, Technical Editor, for the many hours he spent in Buck Memorial Library laying out the journal and making sure it looked great, and Elizabeth Taylor, Assistant Editor-in-Chief, for her help throughout the year in the various tasks I assigned to her. I would also like to extend my appreciation to Dr. Leekley, our faculty advisor, for his continued guidance and support, and to the entire Economics faculty for emphasizing research throughout the economics curriculum. This edition would also not be possible without the valued assistance of Gary Schwartz from Illinois Wesleyan's Printing Services.

I hope you enjoy the fifteenth edition of *The Park Place Economist*!

Todd J. Kumler
Editor-in-Chief

Submissions to *The Park Place Economist* are always welcome, and we encourage students to participate in the creation of the journal. If you are interested in submitting an article or becoming a member of the staff, please contact Dr. Robert Leekley, the faculty advisor, at (309) 556-3178 or at bleekley@iwu.edu. Written queries can be addressed to:

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