

Western Undergraduate Economics Review

The *Western Undergraduate Economics Review* is an annual publication containing articles written by undergraduate students in Economics at Western. First published in 2002, the *Review* reflects the academic distinction and creativity of the Department of Economics at Western. It showcases some of the finest work of our students, and bestows on them a lasting honour and sense of pride. Moreover, publication in the *Review* is a tremendous asset as students continue their education or pursue a career in any field. For many, it is their first taste of professional academic experience – that of becoming a published author – and is the highlight of their undergraduate career. The *Review* is a collaborative effort of the students, faculty and staff of the Economics Department. Selections are made by the edition editor(s) in conjunction with a faculty advisor based on creativity, academic merit, and the written quality of the article.

Acknowledgements

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Editors' Comments

In order to have control over our present and future, we must understand why we, as individuals and as a society, make the decisions we do and how those decisions impact the world around us. Only with this self-knowledge can we hope to make ours a more livable world. Economics provides an important set of analytical tools for understanding the motivations behind and consequences of human behaviour. The insights gained from economic research offer practical solutions to many of the world's problems.

The articles featured in the following pages provide sophisticated economic analysis of some of the most pressing issues facing the economist today: corruption and rent seeking in growth-starved nations, provision of basic child-care for working class families in Canada, and the large and growing wealth disparity between urban and rural China. In each case, the author draws important insights on the issues based on sound economic reasoning. In so doing, they exemplify the academic vigor and creativity that the Western Economics Department aims to promote.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to co-edit the *Review* this year. This journal serves two important functions as I see it. It showcases outstanding students and recognizes their achievements, and it facilitates an exchange of ideas among students. In the latter function, the *Review* is invaluable to the academic growth of students – so much can be learned from one's peers. I hope that in future the value of the *Review* is better recognized and it takes a more prominent place in the academic lives of students. I have enjoyed working on the journal and gained a lot from it. I appreciate the hard work of everyone involved. This year's *Review* presents three exceptional academic works, and I am proud to have been a part of it.

Nicholas Charles Bedard, Co-Editor
Honours BA Economics (2007)

Economics provides us with a broad assortment of academic tools with which to analyze, to interpret and, hopefully, to understand human behaviour. Within this framework there are different vantage points from which to consider relevant issues, both domestic and foreign. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to co-edit the *Review* this year. The experience expanded my knowledge of economic issues by exposing me to many important areas of research and to the variety of perspectives my peers used to explore them. This year's *Review* includes three papers of high calibre. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I did.

James Nicholas Dadson, Co-Editor
Honours BA Economics (2007)
