

Western Undergraduate Economics Review

2009

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 Economics Department 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 a 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.

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Editors' Comments

The 2008-2009 academic year will undoubtedly go down in the minds of most economics students as the year of unprecedented financial collapse and the so-called 'Great Recession.' Although the history books are still being written on this collapse, much hay has been made on op-ed pages, blogs, and other media about the so-called failure of the economics profession - writ large - for failing to predict and warn about this economic calamity. While the validity of this charge is debatable, the extent to which it is believed by the broader public means that the economics profession faces a public relations challenge. With the publication of the 2009 Edition of the *Western Undergraduate Economics Review*, however, we feel we have put together a collection of student papers that demonstrates the importance, robustness, and value of the economist's toolkit.

The 2009 Edition features three empirical studies from Economics 4400E and one research paper. The papers cover a broad range of areas of economic inquiry – both traditional and non-traditional – and demonstrate the interdisciplinary nature of economic research. The topics include religious participation, exchange rates and the auto industry, urban sprawl, and household portfolio taxation.

We hope you enjoy reading the 2009 *WUER* and appreciate the hard work put into each of papers. Although this Edition does not offer predications for the future of the global economy, we hope you appreciate the diversity and contribution of each author's work.

Jordan Winter
Ryan O'Hare

Acknowledgments

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