

Western Undergraduate Economics Review

2012

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.

Editors

Marc Corbeil

Rachel Fridhandler

Faculty Advisor

Desmond McKeon

Administrative Support

Jennifer Hope

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<i>A winner of the Mark K. Inman Senior Essay Prize, 2011</i>	

Editors' Comments

This year's edition of the *Western Undergraduate Economics Review* presents moments of technical brilliance and insightful analysis of modern discussions in economics.

The *Review* begins with Ross Weber's proposal of an alternative asset allocation model, which makes use of information on regime volatility that is left out of preceding works. Next, Linan Bi examines wage determination in the Chinese coastal province of Guangdong. He reveals that the demand side plays a dominant role in price setting and predicts the continuation of this trend. The Chinese growth story is explored further by Chenlu Wu. With an emphasis on comparing rural and urban areas, Chenlu Wu's paper investigates the rapid expansion of China's post-secondary education system and its effects on income distribution in China. The *Review* closes with Shahar Rotberg's prize-winning paper. Rotberg impressively tackles the relationship between income and fertility. Using both open and closed model economies, he examines the decisions made by poor and rich individuals in determining their quantity and quality of offspring. The depth and quality of research in this piece make us pleased to congratulate Rotberg on his receipt of the Mark K. Inman Senior Essay Prize.

We hope that you enjoy reading the 2012 edition of the *Review*. These four papers represent a fine selection of the work done by undergraduates in the Department of Economics at Western. It has been an honour to work with individuals who aspire to contribute to the Economics field, and we thank them for continuing the tradition of sharing their work in the *WUER*.

Marc Corbeil
Rachel Fridhandler

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