



ISSUES IN POLITICAL ECONOMY

Undergraduate Student Research in Economics

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Issues in Political Economy began nearly a decade ago with the goal of developing a forum to increase the understanding of economics among undergraduate students. The original journal was conceived and cultivated by dedicated students and faculty at Bellarmine College in Louisville, Kentucky.

In 1999, Elon University and Mary Washington College inherited the sponsorship and editorial responsibilities of *Issues in Political Economy*. Since then, the *IPE* has gained international recognition, receiving submissions from all over the world. Many high quality economic papers were received from students in a wide variety of majors. Although faculty mentoring has played a significant role in the development of the *IPE*, all papers are refereed by student reviewers and editors. Over the past three years, the acceptance rate has been approximately 30%.

Issues in Political Economy greatly appreciates the patience and leadership provided by faculty and sponsors. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the work of Mary Lesser, Steven Greenlaw, Jerry Petr, Maurice Levesque, Miguel Ramirez, Tina Das, Li Pang, Steve DeLoach, and John Burbridge. We would also like to thank all those who have been acknowledged for being instrumental in past issues. This journal builds on the foundation carefully created by its thoughtful predecessors.

In addition, we would like to express special thanks to professors Steve DeLoach and Tina Das from Elon University and Steven Greenlaw from Mary Washington College. Their guidance and enthusiasm has been invaluable to the publication of this journal. They have actively promoted the awareness of a wide range of topics in economics.

In conjunction with this journal, *Issues in Political Economy* also continues to coordinate undergraduate student presentations at the Eastern Economic Association annual meetings. This year's meetings were held in New York, New York and consisted of six sessions. There was a diverse group of presenters and their participation sparked discussions and initiated thought about a variety of economic issues.

It is our hope that this issue of *Issues in Political Economy* will continue to aid the flow of ideas and research.

Julianne Treme and Heather Winnor