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Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

It is a pleasure and a privilege to write to you, for the second time, in the second-ever issue of the *Penn Journal of Economics* (PJE). Much has happened in the past year, as you can see from our successful calls for papers, our greatly enlarged team of editors and referees, and our new website. Moving forward, our top priority remains the effective and efficient evaluation of submitted work. We are proud of the efforts we undertook in this issue and will continue to undertake. All papers we received were looked over by both myself, the editor, and an associate editor, Ryan Byun. Of those passing our initial inspection, all received a thorough and diligent review by a referee or by a member of our editorial board. All accepted papers received at least two such reviews, which would later form the basis for authors' revisions of their papers. And every reviewed paper was discussed and voted on by the entire assembled editorial board.

These editorial discussions have been one of the highlights of my undergraduate career. They are why I would advise any of my fellow academically-oriented undergraduates to get involved with their local undergraduate journal, either by sharing their expertise as a referee or engaging actively in an editorial board. While I can only speak from my own experience, I imagine that there are few types of student organizations that draw smart peers with common passions in their field in the same way as a journal. Not only does this service benefit all of us, but it can be a lot of fun.

This semester also marked the beginning of the PJE as an independent student organization. With my retirement rapidly approaching, I am pleased that we managed to begin the process of building our organization and our reputation at Penn. Having started with three coffee chats and two informational panels - organized by associate editors for our next issue, Anshuman Reddy and Katrina Truebenbach - I can only hope that we will earn our role as the indispensable place for students interested in economic thought.

Ultimately, however, our success will be measured by the intensity with which we facilitate the fresh ideas of new generations. Inviting your favorite eminent economist as a speaker? Sure. A seminar series run by and for undergraduates? Sounds great. A behavioral lab for senior thesis experiments? It is a bit out there, but why not? A way to get in touch with Penn alumni in graduate school or working in economic policy or research? It is mind boggling that this has not happened yet. Penn should be, without question, the best place for a college-bound student to study if they are serious about economic research. We can honor our school and our experiences here by helping to make that happen.

In line with that principle of honoring our school, we would like to thank the Department of Economics for sponsoring several of our events this semester, and in particular, Kristin Nestor for her help in making that possible. We remain indebted to the Undergraduate Economics Society at Penn for their role in our founding, and look forward to many years of fruitful collaboration. We thank all the staff and faculty at various universities who forwarded our call for papers. Most of all, we thank our very talented authors, whose enlightening work you will now be able to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Modibo K. Camara

Editor, *Penn Journal of Economics*

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