Department of Economics
Senior Thesis Prize Winners
Class of 2011

The Walter C. Sauer ’28 Prize
Awarded annually to the student whose thesis on any aspect of the United States foreign trade is judged to be the most creative.

Liutong Li
Advisor: Faruk Gul

The Wolf Balleisen Memorial Prize
The best thesis on an economics subject written by an economics major.

Bilkan Erkmen
Advisor: Yuliy Sannikov

Joshua Alexander Rosner
“The Build America Bond Program”
Advisor: Burton Malkiel

The John Glover Wilson Memorial Award
The best thesis in international economics or politics.

Rufeng Xing
“Simple Policy Rules and Model Fit: Bayesian Estimation of a Small Open Economy DSGE Model in the Case of Morocco”
Advisor: Iqbal Zaidi
The Senior Thesis Prize in Economics (gift from Beth Bogan):  
Awarded annually for the best thesis in health, education or welfare.

Alex Ryan Rosen  
“Hospital Ownership: An Empirical Study of Its Effect on the Quality and Cost of Medical Care in the United States”  
Advisor: Nancy Reichman

Dion Kyle Lehman  
“A Better System? The Impact of Year-Round Education on Student Academic Achievement in Chicago”  
Advisor: Jordan Matsudaira

The Senior Thesis Prize in Finance (gift from Burt Malkiel):  
Awarded annually for the most outstanding thesis in the field of finance.

Vishal Chanani  
“Are Payday Loans Usurious”  
Advisor: Henry Farber

Christian Joseph Blake  
“Family Firm Performance: Evidence from the S&P During the Financial Crisis”  
Advisor: David Sraer

The Daniel L. Rubinfeld ’67 Prize in Empirical Economics  
Awarded Annually for the best thesis in empirical economics.

Devon James Ryan  
“Physician Response to a Change in Payer Mix: The 2006 Massachusetts Health Care Reform”  
Advisor: Nancy Reichman

The Halbert White ’72 Prize in Economics  
Awarded annually to the most outstanding senior economics major, as evidence by excellence in departmental coursework, and creativity in the junior papers and senior thesis.

Vishal Chanani