ZACH FAIRLIE
Economic Development Strategy: The Creative Capital Theory

JOSLYN SAILER
Explaining Differences in Unemployment Rates across Iowa Counties in the Early Stages of the Great Recession

JULIE LANG
The Most Influential Factors in Determining the Happiness of Nations

JORDAN VOSS
Why do Firms Repurchase Stock?

AARON STRIKE
What is the Source of the Male Marital Wage Premium?

Funding for *Major Themes in Economics* was provided in full by a contribution from Ron Rolighed, ‘89.
**Table of Contents**

**Volume 14, Spring 2012**

Economic Development Strategy: The Creative Capital Theory  
*Zach Fairlie*  1

Explaining Differences in Unemployment Rates across Iowa Counties in the Early Stages of the Great Recession  
*Joslyn Sailer*  13

The Most Influential Factors in Determining the Happiness of Nations  
*Julie Lang*  33

Why do Firms Repurchase Stock?  
*Jordan Voss*  55

What is the Source of the Male Marital Wage Premium?  
*Aaron Strike*  77