

# Major Themes in Economics

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## Introduction

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## Introduction

Welcome to Volume 17 of *Major Themes in Economics*. All papers in *Major Themes* are written by senior economics majors at the University of Northern Iowa.

Years before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League baseball, “light-skinned” players from Latin America appeared on the rosters of Major League teams. There is well-documented evidence of discrimination against these players, but did the discrimination include lower salaries? **Tom Cullen** finds no evidence that it did.

Would you be happier if you had more money? Economists routinely assume the answer is yes. The empirical evidence, however, is decidedly mixed. **Jon Heinzman** examines the question. His recommendations may even help you to be happier!

**Parash Upreti** undertook the ambitious task of identifying the factors that contribute to economic growth in the poorest countries. His findings are broadly consistent with previous research. He also discovered that research is hindered by a lack of quality data, and that good data on poor countries is especially hard to find.

The conventional wisdom is that college graduates make more money than people who do not have as much education. But how much more do they make? And do people who attend college but do not graduate gain financially from their time in college? **Jennifer Lewis** investigates these questions.

Ken McCormick  
Professor of Economics