The Rivista di Politica Economica (RPE) promoted in 2006 the competition for the tenth edition of the «Angelo Costa» Economics Undergraduate Theses Award consisting in the publication of the five most deserving papers taken from undergraduate theses in economics written by students who graduated in Italian universities between May 1st, 2004 and May 30th, 2006.

This issue — also published separately in Italian — collects the five papers winning the 2006 competition. The «Angelo Costa» Theses Award aims at drawing attention to the most promising graduates in Economics in Italian Universities, awarding them with the publication of their paper in order to encourage studying and improve their post-graduate chances of admission to Master and/or Ph.D. programs. We also hope this Prize will bring the authors to the attention of a wider public, preventing that their works remain mere manuscripts with a limited and random circulation as it often happens.

The Award is named in memory of Angelo Costa, the first president of Confindustria (the Confederation of Italian Industry) in the immediate post-war period. He was elected president in 1945 and guided the organisation throughout the reconstruction period until 1955. Angelo Costa was again elected to chair the board of Confindustria from 1966 to 1970. A free-market advocate, on several occasions Costa firmly opposed the constraints imposed by statism and stressed the key role played by small-and medium-sized enterprises in Italy’s economic and industrial growth.

Even for the 2006 edition, the publication of the «Angelo Costa Lecture», held on the awarding day by a Member of the Internatio-
nal Scientific Committee or by an internationally renowned econo-
mist on a theme of particular economic interest enriches the volu-
me collecting the winning papers. The Eight Lecture held by Prof.
Hal R. Varian in January 2007 is entitled: «The Economics of In-
ternet Search».

Fifteen graduates from eleven Italian universities submitted pa-
pers for the tenth edition: three candidates were from the University
of Bologna, two were respectively from the universities of Macerata
and Rome «Tor Vergata»; one candidate was respectively from the
universities of: Catania, Cattolica del S. Cuore, Chieti, Florence, Ro-
me «La Sapienza», Lecce, Perugia, Turin.

Each paper was submitted in anonymous form — as envisaged
in the first stage of the competition — to the evaluation one of the
following Italian referees:

Mario Anolli, Leonardo Becchetti, Carlo Andrea Bollino, Robe-
to Cellini, Marco Corazza, Giuseppe De Arcangelis, Luca De Bene-
dictis, Giorgio Di Giorgio, Rodolfo Helg, Gianmarco Ottaviano, Raf-
faele Paci, Pier Carlo Padoan, Paolo Panteghini, Diego Piacentino,
Lucio Picci.

On the basis of their opinions the nine authors who qualified
for the second stage of the contest were (list in alphabetical order):

Davide Assalve, Università degli Studi di Bologna, Funds Perfor-
mance in a Conditional Context: Theories and Empirical Analysis
on Italian Equity Funds;

Luigi Bocola, Università degli Studi di Torino, Trade and Bu-
iness Cycle Comovement: Evidence from the EU;

Carmelina Bugnano, Università degli Studi di Firenze, The Tax
Competition Indicators: The Effective Tax Rates;

Roberta Fino, Università degli Studi di Lecce, Inflation and Re-
Iative Price Variability;

Carlo Frenquelli, Università degli Studi di Macerata, Pricing-to-
Market and Exchange Rate Dynamics: A Primer;
Silvia Galli, Università degli Studi di Roma «La Sapienza», Patents and Research Tools in a Schumpeterian Growth Model with Sequential Innovation;

Federica Liberini, Università degli Studi di Roma «Tor Vergata», Economic Growth and Infrastructure Gap in Latin America;

Alessandro Ludovici, Università degli Studi «G. D’Annunzio» di Chieti-Pescara, The Application of Neural Networks to the Pricing of Credit Derivatives;

Giampiero Torrisi, Università degli Studi di Catania, The Model of the Linear City under a Triangular Distribution of Consumers.

Each one of these papers was then submitted — again in anonymous form — to three different Members of the International Scientific Committee who finally defined the five winners of the 2006 competition. The Members of the International Scientific Committee for this edition were:

Prof. Michael Brennan (University of California in Los Angeles)
Prof. Ricardo Caballero (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
Prof. Phoebus J. Dhrymes (Columbia University)
Prof. Jean-Paul Fitoussi (Observatoire Français des Conjunctures Économiques)
Prof. Heinz Kurz (University of Graz)
Prof. Axel Leijonhufvud (University of California in Los Angeles)
Prof. Andreu Mas-Colell (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)
Prof. Robert A. Mundell (Columbia University)
Prof. Stephen A. Ross (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
Prof. Bertram Schefold (J. W. Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main)
Prof. Robert M. Solow (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
Prof. Mark P. Taylor (University of Warwick)
Prof. Jean Tirole (Université des Sciences Sociales de Toulouse)

The five authors who won the 2006 «Angelo Costa» Undergraduate Theses Award are the following:
Luigi Bocola, Università degli Studi di Torino, Trade and Business-Cycle-Comovement: Evidence from the EU;

Silvia Galli, Università degli Studi di Roma «La Sapienza», Patents and Research Tools in a Schumpeterian Growth Model with Sequential Innovation;

Carlo Frenquelli, Università degli Studi di Macerata, Pricing-to-Market and Exchange Rate Dynamics: A Primer;

Federica Liberini, Università degli Studi di Roma “Tor Vergata”, Economic Growth and Infrastructure Gap in Latin America;

Alessandro Ludovici, Università degli Studi «G. D’Annunzio» di Chieti-Pescara, The Application of Neural Networks to the Pricing of Credit Derivatives.

Once again our initiative received widespread and appreciative comments in Italian and foreign academic circles and we would like to sincerely thank all those who gave their contribution to spread information on the Award. A special thanks for their personal direct and considerable commitment goes to the Italian referees and to the Members of the International Scientific Committee. The positive comments they expressed on the Award and the notable skill of the candidates encourage us and testify that the prestige of the «Angelo Costa» Economics Undergraduate Theses Award is considered today among the important events capable of fostering and encouraging young Italian economists in their scientific studies by making them known to a broader public.

The final choice of the winners, based on a criterion solely related to the quality of the manuscripts, is implemented by a double-blind referee procedure, by Italian and international economists who have given important contributions to the science of economics and have acquired over the years a rigorous capacity to evaluate scientific work. Our guidelines for this Award can be summed up in two terms: merit and competition. We believe these two characteristics have been and can be assured in the future by the rigour and transparency of the procedures adopted in the selection.
This issue of the Rivista di Politica Economica also publishes the profiles of the five winners of the tenth edition, the announcement of the 2007 competition and a biographical update of the past-editions winners.

We take this opportunity to congratulate our young colleagues and wish them great success in their future studies and professional activities.

THE MANAGING EDITOR
PROF. GUSTAVO PIGA