

THE PUBLICSERVICE COLLEGE of SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

A Publication of the Department of Public Policy Studies

POLICYMAKER

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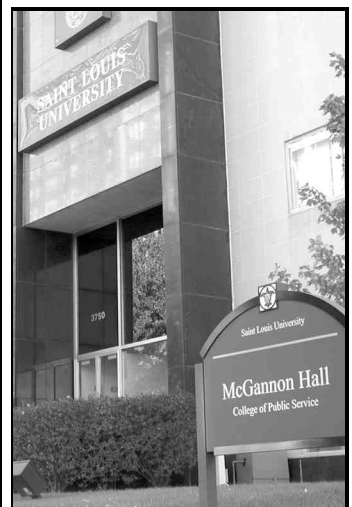
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SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

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Applied Research Forum elicits a proactive discussion

On April 4th, a cool and rainy Friday evening, our Department hosted an applied research forum for its alumni, students, and staff. The purpose of the event was largely to allow alumni to reconnect with each other and with our Department. More than thirty people were in attendance. Each of the Department's programs were represented by at least one or two alumni from each decade up to the 1960s. The evening began with about a half hour of socialization and networking, followed by a presentation by our Professor of Urban Affairs, **Scott Cummings**. During the presentation, entitled "Creating Public Policy Information Systems," Dr. Cummings spoke about his experience in creating a database about St. Louis City neighborhoods. In addition to addressing the needs of youth and the elderly of St. Louis, the database had been expanded to include a wide variety of data about population, crime, real estate, and economics. An information system such as this one may be a useful tool in making decisions about public policy as well as development. It can be utilized by government agencies, non-profits, and businesses concerned with real estate and local development matters. Though initial funding came from the City, this database will likely be maintained and distributed by the University. The central questions posed in the forum were how should this information be available and to whom? There are many options for distributing this information,



Community leader and early alum Lou Berra, MUA.

but the trick is to come up with the one that will provide the most utility for the City while ensuring that the University has enough resources to maintain the data. It could be made available on a website or sold to different entities, with the cost dependent on whether or not the buyer is a non-profit organization.

After Dr. Cummings's presentation, attendees brought up issues and ideas regarding how this information could be used. One of our original Urban Affairs alum **Lou Berra** thought that the information in the database might be useful to real-estate professionals, thus reducing the degree to which development in St. Louis is based on politics. Urban Affairs alumnus **Debbie Irwin**, director of the Dutchtown South Community Corporation, mentioned that the database, especially the information on day-care providers, could be useful to her organization. **Doug Rasmussen** (Masters of Arts in Urban Affairs) thought the information, particularly the crime data, might bring up questions about redlining and promote fairer insurance rates. The data from the system revealed where property crimes actually take place, debunking misconceptions of where crime was thought to be frequent. Others brought up issues of how power



Clockwise: College of Public Service Dean, James Gilsinan; Drs. of Public Policy Analysis Sheryl Foster-Gadkari and Tim Bagwell

VISIT US ON THE WEB
<http://publicservice.slu.edu/pps>

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A message from our Chairperson, Dr. Mary Domahidy

As you read this newsletter, you will experience just some of the energy of the Department of Public Policy Studies. Clearly our faculty and students are engaged in linking the research and policy communities. In doing so, we are building on a tradition that reaches back to our foundations in the Center for Urban Programs of 1968. On February 14th, 2003, I was reminded of what an extended learning community this department is. On that day, I attended a luncheon for The Learning Tree, an inter-generational day care program. A group of students from the Urban Issues Symposium presented their feasibility

study for expanding the facility, a project they undertook for their coursework. In the audience were alumni of our degree programs, including some who had previously completed projects for the same course! Our alumni are involved in building, consulting, fund raising, lending, organizing, planning, and other ways of serving across the region. Another way we can share what we are learning in the classroom or in the field is by visiting our newly revised website at publicservice.slu.edu/pps. Please take time to peruse it and share your comments and experiences with us!



Dr. Mary Domahidy

Public Policy Studies participates in the Third Annual Saint Louis University Atlas Week

Once a year, the Saint Louis University Provost's Office sponsors Atlas Week, a week of lectures, classes, workshops, and other activities that highlight the international aspects of education at SLU and celebrates our role in international education and service. This year's Atlas week took place during the week of March 31st through April 4th. Inside the theme of "Global Challenges," topics addressed multiple current world affairs, such as AIDS in Africa, Middle East conflicts, and terrorism.

Representatives from our Department addressed the topic of "Global Challenges of Urban Growth." **Dr. Joyce Ann Pressley** and Public Administration graduate student **Carrie Menendez** presented information on their experience with growth-related problems in developing countries. Dr. Pressley spoke about the problems of environmental stress, inadequate infrastructure, inequity in distribution of systems and services, and uncontrolled land use in poorer countries. Each problem relates to urban population growth and urban to rural migration. This overloads the unprepared cities and results in poor air and water quality and crowded and congested areas. This, in turn, makes these areas more vulnerable to natural disasters and disease and tends to lead to social and civil unrest.



Dr. Joyce Ann Pressley

Following Dr. Pressley's presentation, Menendez spoke about her experience in Nairobi, Kenya over the summer. She showed pictures of the slum of Kibera, where she and other students conducted a community development study during a summer class. Kibera is considered the second largest slum in the world and has numerous problems such as overcrowding, unemployment, inadequate health care, and poor housing. In fact, much of the housing is temporary and made up of mud and scrap metal.

Education is limited, with only 25% of residents ever receiving any education. Frequent flooding and social problems, such as tribal tensions, crime, and drugs, exacerbate the situation.

Both presentations raised many thought-provoking issues about international environmental problems and what kinds of policies may ameliorate them.

Center for Organizational Learning and Renewal gives conference

On March 19, the Center for Organizational Learning and Renewal, in partnership with the Nonprofit Services Consortium and McCormack Baron Salazar, Inc. presented an all day conference on community partnerships. The conference, entitled "Learning Through Partnering: How Business, Education, Faith-Based and Healthcare Institutions Learn from Community Partnerships," brought together over 80 participants from a variety of organizations around the Bi-State area to learn about how they may benefit from partnerships. The conference addressed several issues about the process of shared learning that may result from community partnerships, specifically focusing on three key questions: (1) What can organizations learn about themselves through partnering? (2) What can they learn about more effective partnering? (3) How can organizations change and renew themselves through partnering?

Richard Baron started out the conference with the keynote address about the dynamics of creating and sustaining partnerships. Three breakout sessions followed each with four options for attendees, depending on whether they came from healthcare, education, or faith-based organizations, or from businesses. The breakout sessions included 15-20 minute presentations, followed by a pre-assigned interviewer asking each presenter a standard series of questions about how partnering has helped their organization learn and grow. This kept the conference focused on the learning aspect of partnering and enabled them to address the above three key questions.

Presenters came from several well-known institutions around the St. Louis area, including several representatives from different departments at Saint Louis University. Our department chairperson, **Dr. Mary Domahidy**, and Neighborhood Program Coordinator, **Michael Johnson**, presented a session on their experience with the Neighbor to

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Stupp Foundation dedicates endowment to the GIS Laboratory

The Norman J. Stupp Foundation recently made a grant to our Department's GIS Lab. The grant provides \$250,000 for a five-year dedicated endowment fund that will help defray some of the maintenance costs for the Lab and allow it to be used for more community oriented projects, especially those that will serve community groups with limited resources. Of course, another main objective of the Lab is to train students in using GIS technology. This is a central component of our Department's Urban Planning and Real Estate Development Program.

The Stupp Foundation made the initial grant in 1998 that created the GIS Lab. The Foundation's grantors recently revisited the Lab, approved of the use of their previous grant, and decided that additional funding would enable the Lab to better serve the University and the community. "The opportunity for regional collaboration and access to better information to help make public policy decisions in the St. Louis area are two compelling reasons why the Norman J. Stupp Foundation, for which Commerce Bank serves as trustee, has chosen to support this endeavor," said **David**

W. Kemper, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Commerce Bancshares Inc. "Not only does the GIS Lab provide an invaluable teaching tool for students enrolled in a variety of degree programs at Saint Louis University, but it is also available to the community ... The graphical display of data has many uses that support planning and development initiatives by government entities, private developers and community organizations throughout the metropolitan area."

In recognition for this support, the GIS Lab was officially dedicated on February 24, 2003 as the Norman J. Stupp Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Lab. SLU President, **Lawrence Biondi, S.J.**, and Kemper unveiled a new plaque for the Lab. Also in attendance were College of Public Service Dean, **James Gilsinan**, and several representatives of St. Louis's real estate development and planning community.

The GIS Lab has already been involved in several community-oriented projects, such as the Safe City Website and the CIRA project, and is currently developing a number of projects. These collaborative projects are beneficial to the community, as well as the students who are learning through their participation.

Career Services provide outreach between students and employers

As another school year has drawn to a close, graduating students are looking for fulfilling activities and careers that will draw upon their new skills. Some Masters candidates in various programs of Public Policy Studies are planning to continue their education in St. Louis and elsewhere. For example, Public Administration student **Mike Schmid** hopes to attend either Georgetown or George Washington University next fall to pursue a Ph.D. in American Government and Diplomacy. Other students will be looking for jobs in the St. Louis area and around the country. Urban Planning and Real Estate Development student **Gwen Allen** is open to many possibilities for her future career. She would favor a position that relates to urban parks or community building, and is open to staying in either St. Louis or moving elsewhere. Allen has an open mind about where the future may lead her; "It's the last thing you'd expect," she said with her characteristic grin. Urban Affairs student **Jen Sieve** will also be looking for a job in St. Louis. She is open to a variety of possibilities -- although she would prefer a position in the non-profit sector.

One great resource that is available for these and other Saint Louis University student job-seekers is the Department of Career Services, located in the Academic Resources Center, 3840 Lindell Blvd., Suite 110. Their website address is careers.slu.edu. Offering services such as resume reviews, mock interviews, and a career

library, they aim to help students build the fundamental skills for seeking and finding fulfilling employment.

Another key resource for students is the eRecruiting system available through Career Services. This system attempts to match students electronically with jobs that have been submitted by employers. Students can also post their resumes and submit online applications for positions.

In supplement to and coordination with SLU's Career Services, our Department of Public Policy Studies offers "Career Outreach" by directly networking potential employers, students and alumni in order to cater to their specific needs. Employers may send information about job and internship opportunities specific to our Department. These opportunities will be then posted on our website as well as on bulletin boards that will be seen by our Public Policy students. Other opportunities for employers include: (1) setting up meetings with students on campus, either in a group setting or on an individual basis; and (2) requesting resumes of qualified students, which will then be provided to employers to create a pool of potential job candidates. Our new and improved Departmental website offers helpful information and guidelines for potential employers who are interested in taking advantage of our "Career Outreach." The website address is: publicservice.slu.edu/pps/career.html

All the avenues above will provide a clear and smooth employment process for employers, students and alumni alike.

Administrative assistant Iris Hampton receives women's award

The Women's Commission of Saint Louis University, in celebrating its 30th year, chose 5 women of the year to honor at a special luncheon on April 23rd. The women honored represent five different types of women's roles in the University -- administration, faculty, professional staff, support staff, and students. Our departmental administrative assistant, **Iris Hampton**, has been chosen as the honoree in the support staff category.

Hampton has been a SLU employee for 19 years and a member of the Women's Commission for 12 of those years. She has also



Iris Hampton

served as a board member of the Commission for 10 years. When Hampton heard that she had won the award she was concerned that it may be a conflict of interest because of her role as a board member, but she was assured that the nominations came from the general SLU community -- from which she received several. "I was just floored," said Hampton. "I couldn't believe it."

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Student presents at photogrammetry and remote sensing conference in Alaska

A small contingency from our Department traveled all the way to Anchorage, Alaska in May for a conference. This conference, sponsored by the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), took place during the week of May 5. The ASPRS is an organization of 7,000 professional members working to advance knowledge of mapping technologies, including photogrammetry, remote sensing, and geographic information systems (GIS), with the goal of expanding the use of this technology to the benefit of science, as well as society.

Urban Planning and Real Estate Development graduate student **Carey Bundy**, along with **Melissa Higgs** (primary photographer) presented a paper on their experience with The Crisis Intervention & Response Application (CIRA), a project developed by GIS students at SLU to provide images and floor plans of area schools for use by emergency first-responders and school administrators. Their presentation focused on the technical aspects of this project, which incorporated aerial photos, diagrams of school floor plans, and 360-degree images of building exteriors and interiors.

This was Bundy's first time in Alaska and with presentations of this

nature. She is glad to have benefited from this skills-building experience. It was exciting for her to venture to the northern climes, and sunlight at 11 o'clock at night has to be seen to be believed.

To prepare themselves for this presentation, the team previously presented at the recent Livable Communities Conference at UMSL. Although the general topic was basically the same, this presentation focused on the potential community benefits of this project and less on the technical aspects. Bundy and Higgs thought that this presentation went very well. Their presentation coincided with one presented by a group from Urban Strategies, thus complementing each other.

For more information on *CIRA*, visit gis.slu.edu and click on "Projects."



Carey Bundy

Student presents research at the Missouri GIS Conference

Urban Planning and Real Estate Development graduate student **Elizabeth Munden** recently presented a paper at the 8th Annual Missouri GIS Conference. Sponsored by the Missouri GIS Advisory Committee and the Missouri Spatial Data Information Service. The conference took place on March 24th and 25th in Columbia, Missouri and included a variety of topics in the realm of GIS and its many uses.

Munden presented her paper, entitled "GIS in Community Outreach Applications," for a session concerning the use of GIS in social issues. Her research derived from a project she did in the Stupp GIS Lab for seven local non-profit organizations. This project entailed producing a set of maps showing economic and social data for the City of St. Louis. These maps show socioeconomic data oriented geographically using dense point clusters. They also identify the location of community resources, such as schools and churches. Local organizations can use this information to identify the social issues that may affect area residents and the social service resources currently available to address those issues. This information can then be used to make policy decisions regarding the allocation of funds, thus helping to maximize

utility for community organizations.

Munden's paper also discusses how partnerships between universities and local community groups serve both students and the community. The students are provided the opportunity to use and develop their GIS skills in a real life situation, and the community groups are provided with information that might not otherwise be available to them.

Munden also won a scholarship from the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors (SIOR). This association of real estate professionals offers professional services and educational programs to the real estate community. According to their website, SIOR has more than 2,200 members in 450 cities in 20 countries. Munden applied for and won the scholarship through the St. Louis Chapter, which includes eastern and southern Missouri and southern Illinois.



Elizabeth Munden

Student is selected as a Visiting Scholar by APSA

Public Policy Analysis doctoral student **Laverne Carter** was recently selected as Visiting Scholar at the American Political Science Association's Centennial Center. She is in the Inaugural Class of Scholars working at this Center, which was established to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Association. These Visiting Scholars will be provided with office space and equipment at the Center in Washington D.C.; later, their work will be published in the APSA Journal.

As a Visiting Scholar, Carter will further develop her dissertation research, entitled, "Shifts and Reversal in Social Welfare Policies for the Poor: A Case Study of Federal Community Health Centers (1991-2000)." She appreciates the "excellent advice and counsel" that she has received over the past 10 months from her dissertation committee, made up of Dr. Todd Swanstrom, Dr. Steve Puro, and Dr. Heather Bednarek (Economics). Her proposal notes that "Social policy analysts are finding it difficult to predict the

direction of social welfare policies in the new millennium. This study will investigate how social welfare policies for the poor in the U. S. advance and rescind from the national policy agenda over time. The primary question of this research is what political determinants lead to shifts and reversals in social welfare policies that are targeted to low-income populations."

The Public Policy Department would like to congratulate Laverne Carter for her placement in the Visiting Scholars Program and convey our best wishes toward her continuing research.



Laverne Carter

Catching up with alumni across three degree programs

The *Policymaker* spoke with three alumni from different programs of our Department. All three attended the applied research forum that was held this past April.

Lou Berra graduated from the Urban Affairs program in its first year -- 1969. He was one of five graduates that year. Since that time he has held a number of positions including Director of the Model Cities program and Executive Assistant to Mayor Poelker. In April of 1977, he founded the Community Program Development Corporation (CPCD), which provides real estate and development expertise in program management, acquisition and relocation, economic development, transportation planning, among several other areas. The company has been involved in some large-scale projects such as the Darst Hope VI project, the acquisition and relocation for the airport, and program management for the East St. Louis Community Development program. In addition, the company has been involved with the cross county Metrolink.

Berra was very positive about his experience in the Urban Affairs program at SLU. He enjoyed the interdisciplinary program and would recommend it to anyone interested in the field. He appreciated the historical perspective that the program gave him, especially from the late **George Wendel**. According to Berra, "It set the stage and context for what I'm doing now."

In attendance with fellow alumni at the applied research forum, Berra enjoyed seeing old friends and acquaintances from his school days. Generally, he encourages this kind of interaction between academics and community leaders. "It is good to have a

convocation of people interested in the same subject matter," said Berra. He said he would be interested in attending similar functions.

Berra also had some advice for people working in the fields of urban affairs and planning. He encourages them to be tenacious and to persevere even when facing high levels of frustration. He believes that this kind of work can be very rewarding, especially in urban centers. For new graduates, he encourages starting out by working in governmental agencies since they usually offer a good learning environment, more decision-making opportunities, and greater growth potential. Berra believes that those working in the field have a great potential to make things happen. Says Berra, "Involvement in addressing the urban agenda is one of the most important things we need to do."

Sheryl Foster-Gadkari finished her Ph.D. in Public Policy Analysis in May 2002. She then started her own business called Strategic Impact, Inc. Her business is comprised of strategy consultation and community projects. She is working on several projects, including a digital empowerment initiative to address the "digital divide" between people who have access to knowledge and those who have not. This is a national project involving 25 metropolitan areas. The project will train school children in underserved communities in information technologies. This will enable them to be part of the "digital age," which will help them do well in school and, later, with their careers. She is also working on projects to help non-profit organizations. These projects include developing templates to provide guidance to community organizations

and providing strategic planning for community development organizations. In addition, she is working on developing an Internet radio program.

She appreciates her experience at SLU for giving her a "good, solid foundation." She said it allowed her to get involved in projects that "peaked her interest" and opened up her career options. Said Foster-Gadkari, "My studies in urban and policy issues enabled me to launch into other opportunities."

For people who are new to the field, she says to "network, network, network." She also recommends being courageous and persistent.

Foster-Gadkari enjoyed attending the Research Forum and believes we should do more of them. She has already agreed to attend the next one.

Marcella Palmieri graduated in May of 1993 with a degree in Public Administration. Since graduation, she has held a number of jobs in the public and non-profit sectors. In her first job since graduation she worked as Implementation Associate for Confluence St. Louis, a public policy citizens' league, which later merged with Focus St. Louis. She spent the next three years as a Housing Analyst for St. Louis's Community Development Agency and did that for three years. After that, she was Executive Director for Forest Park Southeast Housing Corporation for about five years.

She enjoyed her time in graduate school at SLU and felt well prepared for her career. She believes that the material she learned in class was valuable, honing skills that she will take with her throughout her life. Said Palmieri, "It helped shape my career and led

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Applied research forum

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brokers could abuse this information and how it could lend itself to a greater degree of social planning, as opposed to primarily architectural planning.

In general, the discussion was lively and proactive; those who attended enjoyed the opportunity to get together and discuss policy issues in an academic setting. The evening didn't end with the presentation, as many people stayed around afterward to socialize and partake of the refreshments. The Department is planning to host another similar event during the 2003 Fall Semester. We will keep you posted!

Staff member's award

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Hampton is very proud of her involvement in the Women's Commission, which she feels has done "wonderful things" for women at the University. Established in 1973, the Commission serves as a forum for women's issues and provides a mouthpiece for concerns about the role of women at SLU and in higher education, in general. Hampton enjoys being part of this group so much that she doesn't feel right accepting an award for it. Said Hampton, "I feel like I'm cheating since I love doing the things I get recognized for." We at the Department of Public Policy Studies believe she is highly deserving of her award. We have been lucky to have such a generous, dedicated individual on our staff.

Information for Prospective Students

Every fall semester, the Department of Public Policy Studies hosts an information session so prospective students can see for themselves what we have to offer. For more information, or to make a reservation, contact:

Mary Wendel
(314) 977-3923
wendelm3@slu.edu

Or visit us online at:

<http://publicservice.slu.edu/pps>

Conference

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Neighbor Program which has explored how universities form interdisciplinary partnerships with community institutions.

Doctoral student **Chris Luebbert**, who works for the Center and helped organize the conference, was very positive about how the conference went. She said that everyone seemed to enjoy it and thought the discussions about organizational learning were very helpful to the participating organizations. The Center is planning to share some of the information brought forth by this conference. The sessions were each recorded and the Center hopes to write up the conference proceedings and submit it to a journal for publication. In addition, the Center will post the lessons learned from the conference on their website. This conference seems to have been a positive experience for all, and the Center is excited about holding similar events in the future. For information about this conference or future conferences, please visit this website: publicservice.slu.edu/colr.

Alumni

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to who I am today." She recommends a degree in Public Administration to those who are interested in the field. She especially praised the program for giving students a broad set of skills that can enable them to find a job in the public, nonprofit, or private sectors. "It gets you in the door," said Palmieri.

For new graduates in the field, she said, "Be open-minded." New students might have a role or a job in mind, but Palmieri recommends not closing the door to opportunities that may end up being worthwhile.

In attending the Applied Research Forum, Palmieri said that she had a good time getting together with others who are connected with the Department, and looks forward to enjoying a more social setting for future events.

THE POLICYMAKER

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Public Policy Studies Alumni: How has your experience at SLU contributed to your career?

Fill out this form, attach a note if you like, and include a nonreturnable photo, if possible. Mail to:

Department Chairperson
Public Policy Studies
Saint Louis University
3750 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108-3342

Or, contact us online at:
<http://publicservice.slu.edu/pps>

Name _____

Name at graduation, if now changed _____

Degree(s)-BA, MAPA, MAUA, MUPRD, JD/MAPA, JD/MAUA, PhD /
Year(s) graduated _____

Home address _____

Home telephone _____

e-mail address (will be published) _____

Employer _____

Title or position _____

Business address _____

Business telephone _____

Other (List responsibilities, special projects or interests) _____

