

THE CENTERPIECE

A regular publication of the Center for State Policy & Leadership

University of Illinois Springfield

October 10, 2013

- Public administration professor **Gary Reinbold** will be presenting a paper at the November conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, in Washington, DC, showing how the benefit phaseouts that occur in means-tested transfer programs as a low-income household's income increases are not as bad as other research has indicated. Using panel data that track household circumstances over time, Reinbold finds that as household income rises, there is a period of time before benefits are adjusted to reflect the increase, and those excess benefits mitigate the loss of benefits due to the phaseout itself.
- **Beverly Bunch**, professor of public administration, is co-editor of the Winter 2013 double issue of the *Municipal Finance Journal* in memory of John E. Petersen. Often referred to as the “dean” of the municipal bond market, Petersen was a leader in establishing many of the standards, practices, and policies that are now the foundation of the market. Written by leading experts in the field, the articles in the double issue pay tribute to Petersen by examining topics in which he made significant contributions, such as municipal bond disclosure guidelines, state roles in local government financial management, pensions, international municipal finance, and implications of the Great Recession for state and local finance. Bunch is co-author of one of the articles, which looks at the important role Petersen played in the development of the municipal bond market, especially during the Reagan presidency.
- Using recent survey results, **Ashley Kirzinger**, director of the Center's Survey Research Office, and researchers at Louisiana State University find that people dissatisfied with their medical care and choice of providers have an easier time than others finding online information about healthcare quality and costs. Also, those with a chronic medical condition are more motivated to use a website providing health information, and going online to search for medical information is more likely among those who are better educated, wealthier, and younger. The findings from the survey are reported in an article in an upcoming 2013 issue of *Social Science Journal*, which can be reached at the following link: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0362331913001274>.
- WUIS' **Bill Wheelhouse's** recent Harvest Public Media story on crop insurance, featuring Livingston County, Illinois as the top beneficiary of insurance payments in 2012, received a lot of play from other news outlets. It was carried on air by National Public Radio's *Hear & Now*, and turned into a print story by both the *Kansas City Star* and Springfield's *State Journal-Register*.

- National Public Radio's **Kelly McEvers** will be the featured speaker at WUIS' October 31st fundraising event. McEvers just returned from several years at NPR's Middle East Bureau, where she covered the Syrian civil war, among other important stories.
- As the Centerpiece often reports, Graduate Public Service Interns get to do real work in behalf of the public interest. GPSI **Zach William-Michael Dolbeare** is part of a team at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency that investigates Superfund and Brownfield sites to determine if they are actually polluted and, if they are, the degree of hazard they represent. So far, Dolbeare has investigated three Superfund sites, an abandoned railroad tie treatment facility, an inactive landfill next to a river, and an old agriculture chemical distributor located in the middle of a small town.
- Bridging the gap between local public managers and public administration scholarship is the subject of an article in the September 2013 *State and Local Government Review* by **Beverly Bunch** and **Junfeng Wang** of UIS and Chris Stream of the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Drawing on a panel discussion with local government managers, the authors suggest a number of options for narrowing the divide between research and practice, including more faculty-practitioner research collaborations, more practitioner input into the development of research agendas, a journal targeted to practitioners, and wider dissemination of research findings through professional organizations, open sourcing, and other types of public media.
- Professor of public health **Sharron LaFollette** presented the results of a preliminary investigation into graduate-level competencies in environmental health at the recent Annual Education Conference of the National Environmental Health Association. LaFollette's talk initiated a dialogue on identifying competencies that can be used in evaluating graduate programs in environmental health.
- The **Graduate Public Service Internship** program just placed 23 new interns in state agencies through its "late hire" process, bringing the total current number of interns to 204. The agencies taking on new interns include the Departments of Healthcare and Family Services, Public Health, Children and Family Services, Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Human Services, Transportation, and Agriculture, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and Illinois State Board of Education.
- This year's **Lincoln Legacy Lectures** will be delivered by Martin P. Johnson of Miami University of Ohio and Joseph Fornieri of the Rochester Institute of Technology on Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address. The event will be held November 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in Brookens Auditorium at UIS, with opening remarks by **Michael Burlingame**, UIS professor of history and Naomi Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies. It is free and open to the public, with no reservation needed. For a preview of the lectures, visit the Center's website:
<http://cspl.uis.edu/OfficeOfExecutiveDirector/LincolnLegacyLecture/index.htm>.

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