

COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

ENGAGED TEACHERS/SCHOLARS WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 7 - Gospel Star
Search*
- March 9 - Gospel Festival*
- March 27 - COPC
Planning Meeting*
- April 5 - "UIS Cares" Day*
- Late April-
Community-Based Leader-
ship Development*
- April through May -
Improved Livability Efforts
to help houses in the
Mather Wells Neighbor-
hood of Springfield*

A WORD FROM THE COPC DIRECTOR

BY: PETER BOLTUC



The mission of the UIS Community Outreach Partnership Center is to work on "neighborhood revitalization and capacity building" by *conducting research, providing technical assistance and engaging in outreach activities leading to the solution of community problems on the East Side of Springfield, Illinois* (HUD approved Statement of Work FR-4340). As our COPC grant comes to an end this June we need to rethink this mission and to define it more precisely in the light of our experiences of the last five years. A new formulation of our mission statement will be crucial in selecting the main focus of our application for the New Directions grant from HUD that we intend to submit this Spring. To this effect I would like to invite all interested UIS faculty, staff and students to the Community Outreach Planning meeting to be co-hosted by the COPC office and the Continuing Education and Community Service Committee of the UIS Senate. The meeting will take place on March 27 at 2:00 p.m. A similar meeting with our community partners will follow in early April.

In addition to working on the mission statement the UIS meeting will explore the following areas in which we are or have been engaged in the past and which look like possible focus areas for New Directions. The *faculty champion* working on each of those areas has been identified:

Community Leadership Development aimed to enhance leadership skills of local activists [see *Community-Based Leadership Development* on page 2].

Education and Employability Skills En-

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UIS CARES

BY: SANDY MILLS

"UIS Cares" is the theme of an upcoming event, which is being coordinated by Karin Cotterman, Student Life, and Sandy Mills, Associate Director of COPC. The COPC is partnering with Student Life to provide volunteers from the UIS campus to the Mather-Wells Neighborhood for an extensive neighborhood enhancement effort to complete the final phase of the initial COPC revitalization effort. This event will be promoted throughout the UIS campus; students, faculty & staff are all encouraged to attend. The event will take place on Saturday, April 5th, with the goal of providing at least 50 volunteers to work on the blocks that have not been adopted by other community groups. This area is on the east side of town in the 1600 and 1700 blocks, bordered by Cook and Jackson Streets. Volunteers may also work on other areas of the neighborhood, but the major effort will be focused on areas not yet covered by past clean up and enhancement efforts. "UIS Cares" will be a half-day event, starting with beverages and donuts and finishing with lunch. Residents, students, staff, and faculty are encouraged to participate. Interested volunteers should contact Karin Cotterman at 206-7716. All other calls should be directed to the COPC office at 206-7819.



The Responsibles

Many in our community have the opportunity to be active, but not all will respond. Those who do respond will carry the burden and feel the competence high of knowing they have supported our free society. John Gardner coined the phrase "The Responsibles" for those who answer the call to service. These are the people who function as the keepers of the long-term agenda for the community.

John Gardner, Civic Partners

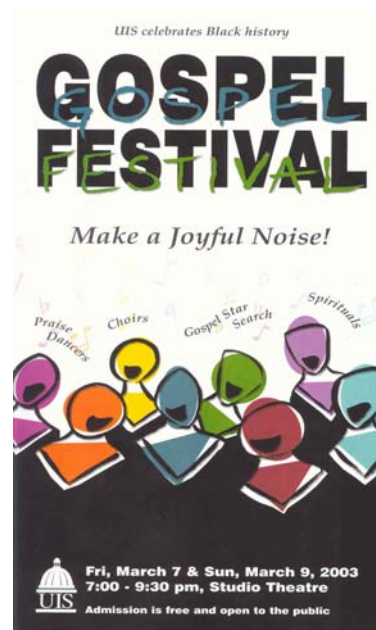
MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

BY: MARCELLUS LEONARD

The Community Outreach Partnership Center joins the newly formed UIS Gospel Choir to sponsor the first annual UIS Gospel Festival from 7 to 9:30 p.m., March 7 and 9, 2003, in the Studio Theatre at the University of Illinois at Springfield. The festival will feature The History of Black Gospel Music through song and narratives. Featured will be The Voices of Love, Joy and Peace (spirituals), The Corinthians (Jubilee Quartet), The Crawford Family Gospel (small group), Derrick Stapleton and DiAnna Thompson (singing songs written by Thomas E. Dorsey made famous by Mahalia Jackson and other early soloists), The James Cleveland Workshop of Central Illinois, Kuumba Dancers, and the UIS Gospel Choir.

Inspired by African melodies, chants, and per-

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HOMEOWNERS BENEFIT FROM COPC

BY: SISTER HELEN BECKER

Homeowners in the Mather Wells neighborhood, which consists of 11th Street to ML King Drive and Cook Street to Capital, are getting assistance from the COPC grant and UIS. Recently the porch at one home in the neighborhood and the fence around the yard of another home were painted from the help of funding from the grant. Plans are in place to make improvements on four additional homes. The improvements include: repair guttering, replacing two porch floors, and installing shutters. Preventative measures have taken

place with respect to several other homes. Dead trees in danger of falling on the homes have been cut and removed. Several trees growing so close to homes that the branches were brushing the siding and utility wires were cut and removed as well.

As new homes are built in our area it is important to maintain existing homes and stabilize the neighborhood. These achievements would not have taken place without the efforts and help from the Community Outreach Partnership Center Office.

COMMUNITY-BASED LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

BY: DYANNE FERK

The Community Outreach Partnership Center is planning a series of educational workshops for those interested in creating neighborhood solutions. We are considering the development of modules that will include: The Value of Citizens Working Together, Leadership Development including topics such as the attributes, skills, and competencies of the collaborative



leader; conflict resolution; relationship building; and networking. Other suggested topics include problem solving skill development, and working within the city system. If you are interested in attending or have a suggested topic for the program contact Dyanne Ferk, Associate Professor of Business Administration, at the University of Illinois at Springfield at 217-206-7929 or ferk.dyanne@uis.edu.

FORMER COPC DIRECTOR'S RECENT PROJECTS

BY: LARRY GOLDEN

Former UIS COPC director Larry Golden has been assisting in the development of a new national organization, the Association of Community and Higher Education Partnerships (ACHEP), to provide support for universities throughout the country to engage in revitalization efforts. Professor Golden is a member of a subcommittee that developed and implemented strategies to support the COPC appropriation in the Congress. After an intense struggle to retain the funding, we heard in mid-February that the appropriation passed. The committee will now look towards future efforts to expand the COPC appropriation and to develop new initiatives to support university/community partnerships.



Larry Golden, Former
COPC Director

During this spring Professor Golden is on sabbatical. As part of his sabbatical he will be looking at the relationship of UIS to The Springfield Project and how other compara-

ble universities have developed partnerships in the community. While in California he spent a day as a visiting consultant to the COPC at the University of Pacific in Stockton. They were particularly interested in any assistance UIS COPC could provide them regarding micro-enterprise initiatives. Professor Golden also visited one of the first community colleges to receive a COPC grant, the College of Santa Ana. Santa Ana is working on a program to provide training and support to residents interested in starting child-care centers in their apartment complex. He also visited with the University of California at Irvine, which has a COPC New Directions Grant, a follow-up to the initial COPC grant. UCI is the partner for Santa Ana and is working on many of the same initiatives, but in different geographical areas. While there is much to be learned from visiting these other schools, Golden has become even more appreciative of the achievements that UIS has gained, particularly in our partnership with The Springfield Project. Other schools look to us for our experience and successes.

A WORD FROM THE COPC DIRECTOR

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hancement aimed at helping neighborhood youth get through school and acquire skills necessary for steady employment, responsible family life and possibly college studies. This group will follow up on our submission of the Upward Bound grant as well as build upon our older programs such as *Buds to Flowers* and youth business and employability training (**Gary Trammell**, Professor of Chemistry). **Community Organizing** includes help in empowering neighborhood groups, associations and assisting them in various projects vital for particular neighborhoods (**Larry Golden**, Professor of Political Science and Legal Studies, Former Director of COPC). **Historic Sites Group** working with major community organizations in order to rescue historic sites on the East Side of Springfield in order to preserve local traditions and also to enable the community to become a part of the tourist book associated with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library (**Williams Siles**, Associate Professor of History and **Sandy Mills**, Professor of Social Work and Associate Director of COPC). Our work to clarify our mission statement will be a group effort of the faculty working with UIS COPC facilitated by **Don O'Neal**, Associate Professor of Management.

A broader function of the Community Outreach office:

The Community Outreach Partnership Center is an integral part of the Abraham Lincoln Center for Presidential Studies. As the Center reaches a new stage in its development our office serves as a home for a number of grants devoted to community outreach, apart from the original COPC grant from HUD. The first such grant has been devoted to The Best Practices in housing and community development [see *ICAA Newsletter* on p. 4].

A word about myself: I have worked with the COPC office as a Faculty Associate since the Fall of 1998. In April of 2002, I became Associate Director of the COPC office and the Director in January 2003. I was particularly interested in our programs in the area of small business development training and youth employability training. I also initiated our effort to apply for the Upward Bound Grant from the Department of Education which helps low-income first-generation college bound teenagers get proper training and encouragement to choose college. In the Summer of 2000 I was a member of the HUD panel evaluating New Directions Grants for the US Government.

In my university life I am an Associate Professor of Philosophy, teaching a broad range of classes from Ethics and Critical Thinking to Social Capital. I am an advocate of online education in philosophy, since this form of education gives access to people who are unable to come to the college campus due to a variety of reasons. I am serving my second term on the board of LLCC Community Technology Centers, an organization that combats the effects of the *digital divide* in Springfield and I am active with a number of other community organizations.

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ICAA NEWSLETTER

BY: SANDY MILLS

One of the new projects within the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Center for Governmental Studies deals with Best Practices in housing and community development and will result in training on conducting and reporting outcome measurements for Community Action Agencies.

The project, sponsored by the Illinois Community Action Association (ICAA), is being directed by Dr. Sandy Mills, COPC Associate Director. Lisa Roll, GA to the COPC Director, and Vicki Mudd, student worker in the COPC office currently are working with Professor Mills to develop a literature review on the topic, and the team anticipates the project training to be scheduled and conducted by ICAA early next fall.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

BY: MARCELLUS LEONARD

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cussion from drums to hand clapping and foot tapping, The Spirituals and Gospel Music are part of African-American's heritage, having in turn inspired The Blues, Jazz and all their derivatives. The Spirituals contributed their rhythm, joy and sorrow.

The UIS Choir in this gospel festival has programmed a historical recreation of select periods of this infectious music for your inspirational experience.

***Faculty, students and staff are
invited to attend the Public Ser-
vice Committee on March 27.
The meeting will be
devoted to enhancing public
service at UIS and to form
the team for the New
Directions application.***