September Greetings!

The new academic year is well underway! The COVID-19 Environment has impacted higher education just like every other aspect of life. But I am pleased to say that administrators, faculty, staff, students and stakeholders have all come together and UIS has enjoyed a successful launch to the 2020-2021 academic year. There were a few bumps in the road but we did it! There are some classes in person, online and in remote formats. Fall enrollments have been steady and both graduate and undergraduate students seem to be fully engaged. Faculty are conducting their research and scholarship, and the College and University continue to offer services and programs. All health and safety precautions are in place and everyone (including visitors) are required to practice social distancing, wear face coverings and submit to a COVID-19 saliva-based test. It’s quick and easy and harmless. But it’s required if you are going to be on campus!

For my Dean’s Message this semester, I’d like to offer an aspirational look ahead into this next year and beyond for the College and University. Higher education must be agile, responsive and engaged in the years ahead. It must meet current educational needs, be cognizant of workplace and employment trends, impart the knowledge, skills and abilities for students to flourish in the 21st Century, and be leaders in engaging in the many public policy problems and issues facing society. The College of Public Affairs and Administration is poised to do that. As always, external factors and enrollment and fiscal considerations must be part of that equation. However, serving students and delivering a premier educational experience must be on the front burners of this forward looking effort!

This College intends to embrace and reinforce its role as the University in the State Capital. The Charter of our University calls on this University to be the Public Affairs University of the State of Illinois. We intend to fulfill and expand that role in the years ahead. We want you to know and we want you to be part of that effort. Simply put, there are too many public policy and social problems facing Springfield, the State of Illinois and our Nation to not jump to the head of the pack to address these issues and problems. If not now, when? This College has the expertise, the experience and the enthusiasm to make a difference in society. In the months and years ahead you will see that and experience that commitment. Again we encourage you to support and join us in that endeavor. To pave the way, efforts are underway to restructure our College, bolster our College and empower our College to fulfill its aspirational role in public policy formulation and implementation in the State of Illinois. This is an exciting time and a challenging time. But the focus is on growing our College in scope and impact. This College is prepared to elevate its stature, its relevance and its profile in Springfield and the State. We ask for your support in this journey and want to assure you the public affairs focus of this University and College will only grow in importance and influence. To get there, change is required. As a renowned philosopher once stated, “The most effective way to cope with change, is to help create it!”

Stay tuned for exciting changes in the year ahead!!

Best wishes for fall and everyone stay healthy and safe!

Dean Smith
Illinois Municipalities Face Difficult Decisions during COVID-19 Pandemic

By Brad Cole, Illinois Municipal League Executive Director and Public Administration Affiliated Faculty

Six months ago, the world was a completely different place. The American economy was growing. Families were regularly coming together for birthdays, weddings and other special occasions. The 1,298 cities, villages and towns throughout Illinois were providing regular and critical services to support the health, safety and welfare of their residents.

However, in March, all but one of those came to a screeching halt. Municipal officials and employees never stopped working. Through state-issued stay at home orders, remote work and a drastic economic downturn, municipal officials across the state immediately transitioned into a state of never-before-seen flux and triage while providing critical services to their communities.

Stay at home orders led to structural strains on the day-to-day operations of a municipality. Public works crews were still repairing and maintaining municipal infrastructure. Public safety personnel were protecting our communities. Many municipalities closed their city halls to the public and, in some instances, municipal employees were directed to work from home. Elected and administrative officials were making vital decisions to keep their communities functioning with no guidebook from which to plan.

Municipalities also acted to support those who needed help during the economic shutdown. Many municipalities halted utility shutoffs and waived late fees for municipal-owned utility services. To this end and due to significant revenue shortfalls overall, municipalities will now have to make difficult financial decisions to prioritize critical services while maintaining the fiscal stability of their communities.

Municipal officials are still facing more uncomfortable decisions. On June 30, the Illinois Municipal League (IML) provided our membership with a survey to chronicle the impact of COVID-19 on municipal governments. There were 227 municipalities that completed the survey. Results showed that 87% of responding communities expect to experience a revenue shortfall due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The median revenue shortfall estimated by responding municipalities is 20% - 30% when compared to last year. Municipalities across the state watched locally-owned small businesses shutter their doors, possibly forever, dealing a social and economic blow to their communities. How those business recover is unknown and remains a significant work in progress.

COVID-19 has had an extreme impact on municipalities throughout the state that will be felt for years to come. Every elected and appointed municipal official is ready to ensure that, despite the financial hardships created by this pandemic, their community continues to be a place where people want to live, work and play for years and decades to come.
The Economic Impact of COVID-19

By Dr. Kenneth Kriz, Distinguished Professor of Public Administration and the Director of the Institute for Illinois Public Finance

The coronavirus (SARS-CoV2) and associated COVID-19 disease pandemic have wrought tremendous damage to the world’s health. But the pandemic, and the public health mitigation policies brought on by it, have wrought an equally large amount of economic carnage.

As the virus began to spread at the start of 2020, the economy showed signs of slowing. But the consensus among economists was that the nation should expect slow growth during the year, but no recession. However, the pandemic’s first weeks saw individuals restrain from visits to retail outlets, recreation facilities such as gyms, and bars and restaurants. “Mobility” data provided by companies like Google and Apple showed visits to these locations slowing as early as the first week of March. This data is based on location pings on cell phones. When the virus spread started to accelerate, governments worldwide started to “lockdown” their economies, closing “non-essential” businesses and putting restrictions on essential ones. The predictable fall in economic activity started soon after that. By the depth of the crisis in April, between 14% and 23% of the nation’s workforce was unemployed. The civilian employment-to-population ratio, which we follow because it is a much more stable measure of the labor market’s health, fell to an all-time low of 52%. In Illinois, the unemployment rate peaked at 17.2% in April, with 810,000 jobs lost. Regionally, the Springfield metropolitan area saw a peak unemployment rate of 14.2%, with 10,000 jobs lost. Looking at the economy’s production side, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted at an annual rate of 31.9% in the second quarter of the year. And the Industrial Production Index measure reported by the Federal Reserve fell by an all-time record in April. Manufacturing output had contracted by an amount unseen since the index started being measured in 1919, ironically during the last major pandemic to hit the United States.

A slow recovery started during the late spring. Once again, the forerunner was mobility. Visits to retail, recreation, and restaurants began trending up in May. By July 1, they had recovered to levels that were only 10% to 15% below the pre-COVID trend. Consumer spending likewise recovered, reaching similar levels. Unemployment rates have started to fall, with national and Springfield area estimates now under 10% and the state rate being around 11%. GDP growth is also forecast to recover. At the Institute for Illinois Public Finance (IIPF), we have developed a tool to combine many national economic forecasts into a single prediction. Our forecast captures the forecaster’s past forecasting accuracy and their current estimates. This “nowcast” of economic growth shows a consensus forecast of 25% for the third quarter.

Locally, we are also tracking the recovery. Using “high frequency” data released by private companies, we have developed an index to track the Springfield area’s economic recovery. The index is based on the growth of several important data aggregates such as mobility, consumer spending, employment, and small business revenue and closure data. We combine this data statistically using methods similar to those used by the Federal Reserve banks in tracking national and regional economic activity. Our index shows that the Springfield economy has been recovering since the middle of April. However, the recovery has slowed since mid-to-late June. The timing of the slowing coincides with a rise in the number of confirmed COVID cases.

Where will the economy go from here? There are many different opinions, but we think that the disease and associated mitigation policies will have a disproportionate effect on the recovery’s speed and depth. As we see in the Springfield high-frequency index, case counts show a strong correlation with economic activity. In a recent presentation about the pandemic and the economy, we heard a speaker comment that “Good public health policy is good economic policy during pandemics.” Given the data thus far, we agree. Stopping the spread of SARS-CoV2 and mitigating the impact of COVID-19 are vital to restoring the economy and ensuring public health.
Can you see me?
Children in the Shadows of the Pandemic

By Dr. Betsy Goulet, Assistant Clinical Professor of Public Administration and Director of the Child Advocacy Studies Program

To report Child Abuse and Neglect: https://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/safekids/reporting/Pages/index.aspx

In Illinois, 57% of the calls to the hotline are initiated by school personnel acting in their capacity as mandated reporters. As children lost in-person contact with their teachers, school social workers, and coaches, we watched in dismay as calls dropped, concerned that this did not signal an actual drop in abuse but rather the loss of a lifeline for many children, now living isolated in homes where they were not safe. The correlation between the quarantine and the drop in calls continued to gain even greater significance as researchers and the media reported a frightening increase in the number of domestic violence incidents nationwide and internationally. Child advocates immediately recognized the troubling co-occurrence that researchers have long understood – children and mothers at higher risk of interpersonal violence in their own homes. Researchers estimate that children who reside in homes with some history of domestic violence “are as much as 60 times the risk of child abuse or neglect compared to the general U.S. child population” (Campbell, 2020, Thackeray et al. 2010). The pandemic has exacerbated this risk by creating several other situations for many families that are the underlying conditions for domestic violence and child maltreatment: unemployment, reduced income, alcohol abuse, and stress.

When Illinois moved into Phase 4 and there were opportunities for more interactions for children, we breathed a sigh of relief, hoping that mothers and their children could seek assistance if necessary, speaking safely for the first time in many weeks. We also anticipated an increase in calls to child abuse hotlines when schools re-opened, with many school districts preparing teachers for disclosures and offering additional training for recognizing signs of trauma. Unfortunately, the majority of districts had to reconcile safety and risk, with many school boards voting for either hybrid or entirely remote instruction for the foreseeable future. The safety net schools offer at-risk children has again been reduced to virtual encounters with teachers who are making every effort to read between the lines, searching for any sign of distress or fear. Until that time when our children can once again be seen and heard we need to be those extra eyes and ears, intervening whenever possible. The village it takes to raise and protect a child may not be the size it once was but each of us can be a lifeline in a child’s life.

References:

The High Expectations of Police De-escalation Training

One of the more important developments in the history of policing has been the community policing reforms implemented in the 1980s and 1990s. The impetus of community policing was that police could not possibly fight crime by themselves and that they had to rely on productive interactions with the community in order for their social control efforts to be successful. Departments across the country adopted “community policing” as their mantra and with the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, hundreds of millions of dollars were funneled into police departments. Today it is quite evident that a prolonged national war on crime and the criminalization of mundane behaviors via a “broken windows” philosophy of law enforcement has done little to change community views of policing as intrusive and illegitimate. Not surprisingly, over the last few years a new reform has emerged as the newest potential panacea for repairing the harms of the past; de-escalation training.

Put simply, de-escalation training encourages officers to use the least amount of force possible to calm down an emotionally and/or physically volatile interaction. De-escalation training became a popular refrain from both sides of the political spectrum in 2015 when it was included in President Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing as the only action item related specifically to police use of force. De-escalation training has received intense support by both politicians and the general public as a common-sense approach to help reduce the unnecessary use of police force. Similar to community policing reforms, the popularity of de-escalation training partly lies in its ability to retain the “bad apple” philosophy regarding the use of excessive police force, preserving the focus on individual officer decision-making, while fundamentally upholding the existing structure and goals of American policing.

Today there is a seemingly unstoppable push toward de-escalation training as the unarguable solution to all our policing problems. It is almost impossible to find a list of proposed police reforms where de-escalation doesn’t make an appearance. The truth however, is that there is currently no reliable or consistent scholarly evidence that de-escalation training is effective at reducing police abuses of force. To be fair, there is also no scholarly evidence that it isn’t effective. We simply know very little about the creation, impact and delivery of de-escalation training for police. While there have been numerous studies of the impact of de-escalation training for nurses, social workers, and psychiatrists, any current decisions to fund and implement de-escalation trainings for police can simply not claim to be evidence based.

The criminal justice system has a long list of promoting policies that may well have seemed to be common sense at the time, yet eventually led to unforeseen and unintended consequences, making them not only expensive, but often harmful in the long run. The questions we should be asking during the push for more police training, are what valuable policies, programs and resources will be ignored in order to fund more police training, do police departments truly believe de-escalation training is beneficial, and what are the best ways to measure their effectiveness going forward?
New Faculty Highlights:

Matthew Geras, assistant professor of political science in the College of Public Affairs and Administration, is expected to earn a doctorate in political science from the University of Oklahoma this year. His research and professional interests include American politics—elections, political parties, congress and representation. His personal interests include reading, running, hiking and sports.

Tess Dooley is an Assistant Professor of Legal Studies in CPAA at UIS. She holds a Juris Doctor degree from the William H. Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas, and has practiced as an ERISA attorney for over a decade. Prof. Dooley’s research interests include U.S. health policy and social justice, ERISA, and the impact of the Affordable Care Act on business.

Jose Luis Irizarry joins the faculty of the University of Illinois Springfield as a Doctoral Dissertation Fellow in the Department of Public Administration for the 2020-2021 academic year. He successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in public administration at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in August. His research interests include: public service, public administration, nonprofits, human resources, organization studies, criminal justice policy and management, community engagement, and diverse and inclusive pedagogy.

Daniel Platt, assistant professor of legal studies in the College of Public Affairs and Administration, earned a doctorate in American studies from Brown University. His research and professional interests include legal history and political economy. His personal interests include bicycling and chess.

Student Highlights

Undergraduate Student

Dr. Meghan Rogers (CCJ’07) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology & Criminology at the University of Iowa. She received her PhD in Criminal Justice from Indiana University. Her dissertation on the association between social protection and homicide victimization across nations won the Richard Block Dissertation Award from the Homicide Working Group. She spent 2015-2017 as a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University at Albany School of Criminal Justice, and 2017-2020 as an Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Dr. Rogers’ research interests include cross-national homicide research, measurement of crime and its correlates, and social structures and crime. She has published in journals such as Justice Quarterly, Journal Research in Crime and Delinquency, Homicide Studies, Drugs and Alcohol Dependency, and the Sociological Quarterly.

Graduate Student

Erik Motyll (PSC’19) reports, “Since graduating from the Political Science program in May 2019, I worked at the University for a short period before starting a position at the Illinois State Capitol as a Legislative Assistant. It has been an interesting start to say the least. I started in mid-February and by early March almost everything has been focused on COVID related work! UIS and the College of Public Affairs and Administration really has prepared me well to start my career. From writing skills that I use to respond to constituents, to research skills that help prepare for debates and issues surrounding different legislation, and analytical skills to help summarize various bills, I could not be more pleased with my education from UIS and the CPAA.”
Criminology and Criminal Justice

**Dr. Williams** published a chapter entitled: “The Use of Mixed Martial Arts Techniques for Police Officer Training in the United States”. That examines the current popularity of martial arts training for police officers in a book (published by the University of Toulouse Press, translated to French) entitled Combat Sports and Martial Arts Training. The paper discusses the positive and negative effects mixed martial arts (MMA) training might have on shootings by police in the United States and the use of physical force by police on citizens more broadly.

**Keldan Chick** has been inducted into UIS’s chapter (Epsilon Chi) of Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society. He is a senior majoring in Criminology and Criminal Justice, currently has a 4.0 GPA at UIS, and is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success. Keldan is also a member of his local fire department that runs around 500 calls a year.

Environmental Studies

**Dr. Judith Sclafani** has joined the ENS department as an adjunct faculty member teaching earth science and paleoecology in Fall 2020. Judi holds a Ph.D. in Geosciences from Penn State University and an M.S. in Geology from the University of Georgia and was a Visiting Assistant Professor at Pomona College prior to teaching at UIS. She has previously taught lab courses, lecture courses, and an online course, and she has served as a student advisor for undergraduates completing senior theses at Penn State. Her research focuses on understanding the evolution of organisms in response to ecosystem change. Read more about Dr. Sclafani here: [https://www.judisclafani.com/](https://www.judisclafani.com/).

**Dr. Brandon Derman** has been making media appearances with the launch of his new book, “Struggles for Climate Justice: Uneven Geographies and the Politics of Connection”. Listen to one of his radio appearances at: [https://www.ijpr.org/show/the-jefferson-exchange/2020-08-19/thu-9-am-what-it-will-take-to-bring-climate-justice-with-climate-change](https://www.ijpr.org/show/the-jefferson-exchange/2020-08-19/thu-9-am-what-it-will-take-to-bring-climate-justice-with-climate-change)

Legal Studies

Political Science

- The Department is proud to highlight that graduate enrollment in the Master of Arts in Political Science continues to increase to record levels.

- Faculty members Dr. Matthew Geras and Dr. Magic Wade recently contributed to a SJR segment on the importance of the upcoming 2020 presidential race.

- Professor Roberto Rincon is co-teaching UNI 101 College for First Year Students.

- Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, is kicking off the year with a series of events to be launched this semester! Stay Tuned for PSA updates.

- Plans are in the works for a remote faculty roundtable on the upcoming Presidential Race to be held in October.

- Keep your eyes and ears open for a brand new intersession course reflecting on the 2020 Presidential Campaign. Catch up on classes, make good use of the break, and take a fun course looking back on this exciting 2020 campaign for President.

Global Studies

Dr. Adriana Crocker,
Professor of Political Science and Co-Director of the Global Studies Program, was on sabbatical leave during the Spring 2020 semester and had many research and travel plans. Among them, a month-long trip to Argentina, and a conference presentation in Guadalajara, Mexico. Yet, both trips were cancelled due to COVID-19 and the travel restrictions that ensued. Dr. Crocker had planned meetings with policy-makers in Argentina to conduct research on the effects of gender parity laws for legislative candidates in Argentina at both national and subnational levels. She was also scheduled to present her research with a colleague from the University of Buenos Aires at the University of La Plata (UNLP) at the end of March. Being unable to travel, her UNLP presentation was postponed for next year, and with some limitations, she was able to conduct research electronically, using websites from Argentina’s national and provincial legislatures.

Furthermore, the cancelled on-site Latin American Studies Association (LASA) conference, provided the alternative of presenting papers remotely (via zoom), which she did. Her paper titled “Gender Quotas and Gender Parity in Argentina: Descriptive Representation and Substantive Outcomes” included her most recent research findings. Finally, as one of the UIS Public Voices Fellow with the OpEd Project (2019-2020), I was able to publish three OpEd articles in the Spring - one for Ms. Magazine titled “Women and Politics: The Uphill Battle for the Top Job” and two others co-authored with Dr. Anne Marie Hanson for the Hill and Truthout.

Overall and despite major obstacles, Dr. Crocker’s sabbatical research went fairly well. Her work on women and politics deals with inclusion, diversity, and mechanisms to achieve them. Gender quotas and parity systems have been implemented throughout the world, in some cases more effectively than in others, depending on institutional and cultural factors. More significantly, women legislators have been involved increasingly in developing and adopting women-friendly legislation in countries with quotas. She thinks it is very important, for our students, colleagues, and community members to learn about what other countries are doing regarding gender inclusion in politics and perhaps institute similar mechanisms at home where we lag behind, and even beyond politics.
Public Affairs Reporting

This year's Public Affairs Reporting cohort includes 11 motivated journalists who are spending the fall semester furiously preparing to start in January as professional state government news reporters for newspapers and broadcast outlets serving audiences throughout Illinois. The enrollment for PAR's 49th class is an increase from the seven students admitted in each of the previous two years. The program conducted a successful crowdfunding campaign this summer to raise more than $1,200 to send the entire PAR class to this fall’s weeklong virtual Investigative Reporters and Editors conference. Thank you to the PAR alums and friends who contributed.

Public Administration

Funderburg Back from Appointment in California Government.

Associate Professor Richard Funderburg has returned to UIS from his leave of absence. Dr. Funderburg had been working this last year as a senior research economist for the California Department of Finance. Finance serves as the California Governor’s chief fiscal policy advisor. Under the state’s chief economist, Dr. Funderburg prepared California’s economic forecasts that form the basis of the Governor’s Budget. He also guided the estimation of economic impacts for a myriad of proposed regulations, ranging from rules governing cannabis appellations, to NOx emissions from heavy-duty diesel trucks, to rules determining tax liabilities. He provided consultation to state departments and local government agencies on methods to use in economic impact analyses. Professor Funderburg was recruited to estimate economic impacts of land use and building restrictions in helping address the state’s housing crisis and to advise the Governor’s Office accordingly.

The coronavirus pandemic redirected his work to examine the economic effects of the crisis. In January, he expanded an investigation of the impacts of the Wuhan lockdown on California’s supply chain, work that was already underway to understand the effects of the trade war with China. That work consumed a greater share of his responsibilities as the disease spread to additional trading partners and eventually to the U.S. Soon Dr. Funderburg’s forecasting unit was estimating substantial declines in California state revenues from its enviable $21 billion surplus only two months earlier. Dr. Funderburg’s research at UIS estimates the economic impacts of governmental interventions on housing, jobs, tax revenues, economic growth, and equity. This fall, Dr. Funderburg is teaching budget and finance, information for decision making, and community economic development. Perhaps we can get him to teach a future class on the regulatory process and economic impact assessment.
Public Health
The Department of Public Health faculty have been busy in response to the COVID 19 Pandemic, including:

Dr. Dorine Brand and Dr. Brian Chen collaborated on the Health Education Infographic for the UIS Diversity Center (https://go.uis.edu/4).

Dr. Egbe Egiebor has been working with the National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC) to address student safety concerns during the pandemic.

Dr. Kathy DeBarr will be making a presentation on the pandemic at the Annual Illinois Department on Aging Conference in October.

Clinical Professor Lenore Killam is a member of the Sangamon County Public Health Task Force. Dr. Junu Shrestha is a Faculty Fellow with the UIS Center for Online Learning, Research, and Service (COLRS) providing support and technical assistance to faculty members who are beginning to work with the new Learning Management System CANVAS and shifting their courses to remote delivery necessitated by COVID-19.

Be sure to check out the CPAA Blog at uis.edu/capitolconnection
Call for Alumni Engagement

Whether you just graduated or it has been many years, we want to extend a warm welcome to our alumni and friends of the College of Public Affairs and Administration (CPAA) at the University of Illinois Springfield. We’re proud to support a strong alumni network that extends across Illinois, the United States, and abroad. CPAA alumni work in government, nonprofits, international relations, and business. They are connected by a strong sense of civic engagement, a commitment to social responsibility, and an understanding of democratic values.

We view our alumni as strategic partners, and we want them to be active participants in the life of the college.

We hope that you will choose to be an active member of the CPAA community. There are many ways to get involved:

- Join the CPAA Professional Mentorship Network and invest personal time and energy in advising our students and helping them develop essential skills
- Volunteer by giving guest lectures, hosting a networking event, or overseeing an internship experience
- Attend and promote CPAA Events
- Give to support our college

Your involvement strengthens the CPAA. It helps us maintain our commitment to training the next generation of public service professionals by inspiring them to lead, equipping them to serve, and connecting them to opportunities to make a difference. It also improves our ability to lead and advocate for change on a host of pressing social and public problems.

Please take the time to join us on LinkedIn and Facebook and begin connecting with your fellow alumni and our current students.

To get involved, please contact Travis Bland, Associate Dean, at jblan7@uis.edu.