

THE CENTERPIECE

A regular publication of the Center for State Policy & Leadership

University of Illinois Springfield

November 20, 2013

- Inductees into the 2013 class of the Samuel K. Gove Illinois Legislative Intern Hall of Fame were announced in October by **Illinois Issues** magazine. The Gove Hall of Fame honors former interns of the Illinois Legislative Staff Intern program whose careers exemplify distinguished public service. Previous inductees have included former Governor Jim Edgar and current Illinois Auditor General William Holland. The 2013 class includes: Congresswomen **Cheri L. Bustos**; Assistant Secretary of the Illinois Senate **Scott L. Kaiser**; **Mona B. Martin**, independent contract lobbyist; **Scott A. Reimers**, Chief of Staff to the Illinois House Republican Leaders; and **David A. Sykuta**, retired Executive Director of the Illinois Petroleum Council. A reception and induction ceremony for the Class of 2013 will be held November 21, 2013 at the Illinois Executive Mansion.
- Community action agencies, the network of organizations throughout the country that fight poverty locally, are having to become more entrepreneurial in their efforts to attract resources to make up for declining federal funding, according to a paper presented by public administration professor **Beverly Bunch** at the annual conference of the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management in early October. Bunch and her research team at UIS are conducting a study of community action agency leadership in the Midwest for the Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies. In her paper, Bunch reports on a number of innovative income generating activities undertaken by community action agencies, including providing cleaning services, setting up thrift stores, operating community gardens, housing rehabilitation, and recycling. In addition to creating revenue when successful, many of these programs also provide jobs for low-income people. While such efforts have the potential to help the bottom line, they may also, as Bunch notes, lead to mission creep within community action agencies.
- The Center's **Survey Research Office** recently released the results of its fall economic outlook survey, showing that Sangamon County employers are not expecting significant changes in the local employment rate. The outlook survey is part of a series that have been conducted since 2008, in which employers are asked to gauge the immediate period ahead. The fall 2013 survey shows that, while most employers do not anticipate much change in employment levels, their general view is positive for both their own firm and their firm's sector of the economy. They are not as sanguine about the overall

Sangamon economy, which has been a fairly consistent finding in these biannual assessments. For complete results, use the following link:

http://cspl.uis.edu/SurveyResearchOffice/documents/Fall2013_Report_Final.pdf.

- For the new Common Core Learning standards being applied in Illinois elementary and secondary schools to be effective, classroom teachers will need to change what they do, not just what they know, argued Center Executive Director **David Racine** in a keynote address to school-university professional development teams attending a statewide conference in Bloomington on October 17. The conference was sponsored by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University. Racine laid out a series of guidelines for constructing professional development that promotes the learning and improvement of skills and encouraged participants to create “communities of practice” to help teachers translate what they learn into effective classroom practice. The full address can be accessed through the IBHE website:
<http://www.ibhe.org/conferences/cvsg/Dr%20David%20Racine%20Presentation%20Common%20Vision%20Common%20goals%20Oct%2017%202013.pdf>.
- The staff of the **Papers of Abraham Lincoln** has just published a short book, On Lincoln’s Mind: Leading the Nation to the Gettysburg Address, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Lincoln’s delivery of the Gettysburg Address. The book includes 26 letters written to or by Lincoln between the end of the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3 and Lincoln’s iconic speech on November 19, with brief historical commentary. Free copies will be available to all visitors to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum from November 18-24 and a digital version can be accessed at: <http://papersofabrahamlincoln.org/>. Another look at the time between the battle and Lincoln’s speech is provided in a new book by **Michael Burlingame**, Naomi Lynn Distinguished Chair of Lincoln Studies at UIS, with photographer Robert Shaw. A Day Long to be Remembered: Lincoln in Gettysburg is a 220-page, over-size volume of photographs and text that brings this critical period in the nation’s history to life. The book is available for purchase (\$34.00) in the UIS bookstore or from Firelight Publishing (309) 473-2994.
- The Center’s **Office of Electronic Media** is producing several training videos for the Township Officials of Illinois, which represents nearly all of the state’s 1433 townships. The videos will cover common trends and issues in township governance and the impact of the Affordable Care Act on townships.
- Public health professor **Sharron LaFollette** and colleagues Ken Runkle and Josiah Alamu, also on the UIS public health faculty, are co-authors of an article on improving water quality in Liberia in the upcoming issue of World Medical and Health Policy. LaFollette and her fellow researchers sampled well water in West Point, Liberia in January 2011. They found elevated levels of nitrates, nitrites, coliforms (a type of bacteria), and E. coli. Policy options to improve drinking water quality include installing community latrines in

areas below and away from community wells, use of concrete lined and covered wells with hand pumps, or the provision of public water.

- **WUIS** Statehouse reporter **Brian Mackey's** report November 14th on Springfield Archdiocese Bishop Joseph Paprocki's call for "prayers of exorcism" on same sex marriage is setting new traffic records for the local public radio station, a unit of the Center. Mackey's story got picked up quickly by social media and was likely the basis for coverage in the Chicago Sun-Times and on HuffingtonPost.com. Within less than a week, there were more than 3,000 page views of the story on wuis.org, the second highest this year behind a report on Illinois' concealed carry policy. The story has also drawn the largest number of viewer comments since commenting first became available on the website in July.
- The **Graduate Public Service Intern Program** has published a new brochure with full information on the program. The digital version can be accessed by clicking on the following link:
<http://cspl.uis.edu/graduateinternprograms/GraduatePublicServiceInternshipProgram/documents/GPSIRecruitmentBrochureJuly2013.pdf>.

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