The CPR Connection
Summer 2012

Director’s Corner

Christine L. Himes is the Director and Senior Research Associate of the Center for Policy Research, and Maxwell Professor of Sociology.

In August, the Maxwell faculty welcomed their new dean, James Steinberg. Jim joins us after three years serving as Deputy Secretary of State under Hillary Clinton. Prior to that service, he was dean of the LBJ School at the University of Texas. His leadership experience in international affairs and public policy, combined with an appreciation of the range of social sciences included in the Maxwell School, made him an ideal choice for the position of Dean of the Maxwell School.

The arrival of Dean Steinberg has brought many exciting opportunities for the faculty in Maxwell and CPR. Conversations are beginning about new and renewed emphases on environmental issues, international affairs, and urban studies. Most immediately, however, his arrival coincides with the announcement of the Aging Studies Institute (ASI). Prompted by the availability of new space on campus and the creation of the Marjorie Cantor Professor of Aging, a joint appointment between the School of Social Work in the Falk College and Maxwell, the ASI will bring together many of the faculty on campus with interests in aging issues. Janet Wilmoth, professor of sociology and senior research associate in CPR, will direct the new institute. Other CPR faculty members joining the ASI are Doug Wolf, Gary Engelhardt, Madonna Harrington Meyer, Andrew London, and myself.

Those with long ties to CPR might find some irony in the formation of a “new” institute for aging studies. Interest in gerontology has a long history in Maxwell and SU more broadly. In fact, when it was established in 1994, CPR encompassed the Metropolitan Studies and Aging Studies Programs of the Maxwell School, established in 1961 and 1990 respectively. The All-University Gerontology Center, founded in 1972, was housed in the School of Social Work before coming to Maxwell as the Aging Studies program under the leadership of Vernon Greene. ASI will coordinate and promote aging-related research, training, and engagement at Syracuse University. Its thematic areas will include: age-based public policy and well-being; population aging; health and functioning; family dynamics, care work, and intergenerational support; and aging design, engineering, and technology.

The departure of six faculty members provides CPR associates with an opportunity to reexamine our areas of emphasis and work with the Dean to build on our existing strengths. With my departure to ASI, I will be stepping down as director at the end of the academic year. I am confident that a new director will continue to build and maintain the reputation of CPR as one of the premier social policy research centers in the country.

Jerry Miner Lecture Series

This lecture series, sponsored by EFAP (Education Finance and Accountability Program) and named in honor of Emeritus Professor Jerry Miner, was held on April 5, 2012. The guest speaker was Henry Levin, who is the William Heard Kilpatrick Professor of Economics and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. He presented “The Utility and Need for Incorporating Non-Cognitive Skills into Large Scale Educational Assessments.” Visit the website for upcoming news on the 2013 speaker at http://cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/efap/about_efap/lectureseries.html
Faculty Focus

Andrew London (SOC) has coauthored a Research Innovation and Development in Economics (RIDGE) brief, “Going Digital: The Pros and Cons of Promoting Online Food Assistance Applications,” based on the study “Clients’ Perspectives on Technology-Based Food Assistance Application System.”

Badi H. Baltagi (ECN) was named the Inaugural “Advances in Econometrics Fellow” for his many contributions to the Advances in Econometrics at the February 2012, 11th Advances of Econometrics Conference, held at Louisiana State in Baton Rouge, LA. The conference is a companion to the volume Advances in Econometrics: Essays in Honor of Jerry Hausman (Volume 29, 2012) to be published by Emerald Group Publishing Limited in which he was a conference leader and editor of the volume. Badi was also co-editor for a Special Issue on Health Econometrics: Editors’ Introduction for Empirical Economics. http://www.springerlink.com/content/ww66164p80563606q/

Madonna Harrington Meyer (SOC) and Christine Himes (SOC) have accepted positions as co-editors of Baywood Publisher’s Society and Aging Series. Authors and editors interested in submitting full-length manuscripts for the series should contact mhm@maxwell.syr.edu or clhimes@maxwell.syr.edu.

Madonna Harrington Meyer (SOC) has been busy this year with five new articles: “The Role of Public Policy in Meeting the Needs of Diverse Aging Populations”, “Long Term Care Policies and Challenges for the Elderly”, “Changing Social Security in the US: Rising Insecurity?”, “Social Security Policy” and “US Grandmothers Juggling Work and Grandchildren.”

Perry Singleton (ECN) has two new papers that have been accepted for publication. “Earnings of Rejected Applicants to the Social Security Disability Insurance Program,” in Economics Letters and “Insult to Injury: Disability, Earnings, and Divorce,” in the Journal of Human Resources.

Amy Lutz (SOC) has received the Russell Sage Foundation Fellowship for the 2012-2013 academic year to work on her project, “Parenting and Schooling in Diverse Families, in New York City.” The Russell Sage Foundation has established a center where Visiting Scholars can pursue their writing and research. Each year, the Russell Sage Foundation invites a number of scholars to its New York headquarters to investigate topics in social and behavioral sciences. The Foundation particularly welcomes groups of scholars who wish to collaborate on a specific project during their residence at Russell Sage. While Visiting Scholars typically work on projects related to the Foundation’s current programs, a number of scholars whose research falls outside the Foundation’s active programs also participate.

Congratulations Bill Duncombe, (PAIA) Johnny Yinger (PAIA/ECN) and Wen Wang (PAIA) for being presented the Richard Musgrave Prize for 2011!

Congratulations to Amy Lutz (SOC) who welcomed another baby girl in February, Sonja Bergin Ford weighing 6 lbs 6 oz and 20 inches long. As well as Len Burman (PAIA), who in January, became a proud Grandfather of a baby girl, Reagan weighing 6 lbs 5 oz and 20 inches long.

From the Field

Amy Crews Cutts (ECN) (former Assistant Professor and CPR Senior Policy Researcher, 1994 – 1997, is currently the Senior Vice President and Chief Economist at IXI, an Equifax company. An industry expert, Cutts brings to her role 17 years of economic analysis and policy development experience. Previously, she served for eight years as the Deputy Chief Economist at Freddie Mac. Often quoted in national print and broadcast media, Cutts has published numerous studies in academic journals and books.

Anna Amirkhanyan (PA) (former CPR Graduate Associate) in one week’s time, was notified she had been awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor at American University and welcomed her second daughter into the world.

Kristina Lambright (PA) (former CPR Graduate Associate) has been awarded Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor of Public Administration at SUNY Binghamton University.

Quote for the Day:

“TO AVOID CRITICISM, SAY NOTHING, DO NOTHING, BE NOTHING.”

-ALBERT EINSTEIN
Ryan Yeung (PA) accepted an Assistant Professor position at SUNY Brockport in their Public Administration Department.

Solomon Tesfu (ECN), former Post Doctoral of the Upstate Health Research Network, accepted an Assistant Professor position at Mount St. Mary’s University in Maryland.

Congratulations to Phuong Nguyen-Hoang (ECN) for winning the AEPF Outstanding Dissertation Award!

Grad Bag

The hours and persistent work that our MPA and Ph.D. graduate students here in CPR put in at the office truly does pay off with their long list of accomplishments. Congratulations are in order for all their achievements!

Allison Marier’s (ECN) most current solo work “Revealing Quality: The Effects of Financial Incentives on Publicly-Reported Hospital Scores” will be presented at the American Society of Health Economics Conference in Minneapolis this June.

Jing Li (ECN) is the recipient of American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association (AREUEA) Doctoral Session Grant. Her solo-authored work “Agglomeration and Health Care” has been presented at the AREUEA 25th Annual Doctoral Session and her solo paper “The Influence of State Policy and Proximity to Medical Services” was presented at the AREUEA Mid-Year conference in Washington this May. She also presented her poster “Agglomeration and Health care.”

Andy Friedson (ECN) defended his dissertation, “Three Essays on Unintended Consequences of Public Policy,” in December, and recently accepted an Assistant Professor position at the University of Colorado Denver in their Economics Department.

Kanika Arora (PAIA) did a poster presentation in her Public Administration-class on “Where Do Care Hours Come From?”

Welcome our newest CPR Graduate research assistant, Mallory Vachon (ECN). She will be working with Gary Engelhardt during her time here in the center.

Congratulations to Andy Friedson (ECN) and Alissa Dubnicki (ECN) on both their engagements!

Alumni News

We look forward to including your alumni news in this newsletter. If there is something you would like to see appear in the next issue, please send it to Mary J. Santy at: mjsanty@maxwell.syr.edu

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Herbert Lourie Memorial Lecture

The Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel and Conference Center

Friday October 12th, 2012 at 2pm

This year’s speaker is Dr. Diane E. Meier, Director, Center to Advance Palliative Care; Vice Chair for Public Policy, Hertzberg Palliative Care Institute; Mount Sinai School of Medicine Professor; Geriatrics and Internal Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Look out for the title of her lecture, coming soon!
Yet again, it has been, and continues to be a very busy year for the staff of CPR.

After becoming a new mother in July of 2011, to beautiful Lily, our front desk liaison, Roseann Presutti, moved from the Center in November, to a part time position for SU Advance in Academic Affairs. Her new position allows her to spend more time with Lily. We wish her much happiness in her new position and life as a busy mom.

A mainstay of the Center for Policy Research, Martha Bonney, left CPR this past July for a much-desired retirement. She is currently working on her home and keeping very busy with her puppies and all her community service projects.

Peggy Austin’s daughter, Michelle, was accepted into The New School to work on her Master’s degree in Creative Writing and will be moving to NYC in August.

Congratulations Candi Patterson on 10 years at CPR!

Mary Santy is a grandmother again welcoming another grandson, Anthony Salvatore. Also, this past April, after many months of planning, her youngest daughter Anna got married.

Kelly Bogart’s daughter, Brittany, was married on Christmas Eve and she welcomed her first grandson, Teagan Ori-on, on January 2nd. He weighed in at 9 lbs. and is a beautiful, attentive little boy. Kelly has been very busy not only with Teagan, but she has temporarily taken on the staff responsibilities of the Gerontology Center while beginning work on her Master’s Degree.

Kitty Nasto’s daughter, Roberta, welcomed her 3rd daughter, Grace, in June. Her daughter Rochelle got engaged in February and their wedding date is set for Summer, 2013. The CPR extended family just keeps growing!

This past August, we welcomed a new member to our CPR staff team, Alison Kirsche.

Alison originally came to CPR as a temporary replacement for Roseann while she was on maternity leave. However, everyone soon realized she was a perfect fit for CPR. Upon Roseann’s exit, Alison took over the permanent position of Administrative Secretary and front desk coordinator.

Alison was born and raised in Syracuse, NY only to move to Buffalo when she graduated high school to attend Canisius College. Alison graduated from Canisius in Spring 2011 with a Bachelors of Art in Psychology and two minors in Adult Clinical psychology and Industrial Organizational psychology.

After graduation, she moved back home to Syracuse in search of employment and was thrown into the pool with other recent graduates desperately searching for a job in a difficult economy. After a whole summer of searching and many tiring interviews and dead ends, to her relief we asked her to join the Center for Policy Research. Alison has adapted well to the center and fits right into our CPR Family. On top of her daily tasks at CPR, she will begin her Master’s degree this summer in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program. Join us all in welcoming Alison.

New York Camp Econometrics VII

This event, hosted by Badi Baltagi (ECN) took place on April 13-15 at the Otesaga Resort in Cooperstown, NY. Donald W.K. Andrews from Yale University was the Keynote Speaker of the weekend. The conference was a gathering of econometricians and empirical economists whose successful goal was to: (1) Bring together a group of econometricians/empirical economists and guests of host universities to discuss issues in econometrics, both applied and theoretical; (2) Present papers for comments by participants; (3) Stimulate student interest in econometrics; (4) Help students develop their technical presentation skills by encouraging the students of host universities to participate in the meetings and to have them present papers. We are looking forward to next Spring’s conference. Visit our website for upcoming date and time information for the 2013 NY Camp Econometrics conference and other CPR supported events at http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/cpr/events/Activities_and_Events/
Diplomatic Pouch

Jan Ondrich (ECN) attended the annual conference of the European Society for Population Economics in Hangzhou, China last June. It was an interesting trip. He had decided to link the end of the trip with a family vacation with wife Mia, and son, David, in Beijing and Xi’an. Here is his tale of this colorful, cultural experience...

“Mary Lovely had recommended we get a tour guide and put us in touch with Duke Chen in Shanghai. We followed Mary’s advice and had a great time. I flew into Beijing from Shanghai mid-afternoon where I met Mia and David. Our Beijing tour guide, AJ, and his driver, met us at the airport and drove us to our hotel.

My student, Can Zhou (ECN), was also very helpful in the planning of my trip. He arranged for a colleague to take us out for dinner the first evening. Since Can knew that I was an aficionado of Mongolian history, his colleague took us to eat at a Mongolian ger, which is not to be confused with a yurt. It was amazing food.

The next morning, AJ drove us to Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. Tiananmen Square appears to be the main meeting place in Beijing. It is across the street from the government buildings, and is connected to the Forbidden City (the principal residence of the emperors). The Forbidden City was built by the first Mongolian Emperor Kublai Khan of Marco Polo fame. It was originally designed as a Mongolian ranch and was forbidden to his Chinese subjects because Kublai, probably correctly, felt that his subjects would ridicule how he lived. The Forbidden City has evolved however, and is now an agglomeration of palaces.

Our tour continued to the Great Wall. From the parking lot to the Wall itself, tourists had to run a gauntlet of souvenir stand owners.

That afternoon, we saw Bei Hai Park, which was built by Kublai Khan and became a model for his pleasure dome, Xanadu, which is the title of a famous poem by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, which isn’t in fact about Xanadu at all. Xanadu is to the north of Beijing, and its modern Chinese name is Shendo, which I’m told means “northern capital,” to distinguish it from Beijing.

That evening we dined in one of the most exclusive restaurants in Beijing, the Jaguar. We were the only ones there. It was a hot pot restaurant and we had a gigantic geoduck (look it up). The hostess brought it live to our table for inspection, and stayed to boil and slice it for us piece by piece.

The next day we were lucky to fly out to Xi’an to see the terra-cotta warriors. Our plane took off 45 minutes before a major flood in Beijing closed all transportation services. Both the history and the actual visualization of the thousands of terra-cotta warriors protecting the deceased Emperor are astounding. The Emperor was a despot and upon his death the peasants revolted before giving his offspring a chance, smashing the terra-cotta warriors to get the authentic weapons that they held in their arms. That night we ate Szechuan, which, though tasty, defined our gastroenteritis experience for the remainder of the trip.

The next day, back in Beijing, we toured the Hutongs, a spectacular array of housing communities dating back to the 17th century. We then traveled to the Pearl Market, where we failed to negotiate a purchase of pearls. To conclude our trip, on our final day, while Mia was sick in bed (remember the Szechuan), David took me to the Silk Building to buy those pearls. Now, with Mia feeling better, we finally, had our last meal at McDonald’s, took a taxi to the airport and flew back home. This was probably the most amazing experience I’ve ever had!”