Greetings from the fourth floor of Eggers Hall. The 2018-19 academic year has ended, and I am writing to pass along some of our highlights since the last newsletter. As I have mentioned a few times in the past, the Maxwell X Lab was launched in January of 2017 as a component of CPR and was designed to complete two functions. First, the lab provides the infrastructure necessary for our faculty and students to conduct field experiments for their research. Second, the Maxwell X Lab will work with local government agencies and nonprofits to help them offer their services while improving efficiency. The demand for the lab has been extraordinary. To date, we have over 30 projects at various stages of completion from discussions to closed contracts. Given this demand, we recently hired Michelle Kincaid as a senior associate in the lab. Michelle is a 2018 SU graduate who earned the Chancellor’s Award for Public Service Engagement and Scholarship for the great work she has done in Syracuse. We are excited to have her join us.

In addition, through the generosity of Kathleen Walters, the new Chair of the Syracuse University Board of Trustees, we have established the Walters Community Partnership Fund. This fund allows us to work with governmental agencies throughout the U.S. who may not have the discretionary funds to pay for the lab’s services. Our first project using the Walters Community Partnership Fund is with St. Paul, MN. We also have started a new project with the City of Syracuse. To learn the results from these projects, as well as all other Maxwell X Lab work, please see the X Lab website.

We had several outstanding CPR guests this past spring semester. In the CPR Seminar Series, Ying Shi (Stanford University) started us off in January presenting her research on governing boards in school districts. In February, we had two CPR fellows lead seminars: Michael Wasylenko discussed regional divergence in New York State, and Alexander Rothenberg gave a seminar on national building in Indonesia. In March, Christopher Ruhm (University of Virginia) described his recent work which asks about the link between mortality and educational attainment. In April, James Ziliak (University of Kentucky) gave a talk on the EITC and its effects on poverty, and Anna Haskins (Cornell University) described the interactions created by schools between formerly incarcerated parents and their children. In addition, Yoonseok Lee (Syracuse University) offered an econometrics workshop on nonparametric regression in March that was very well attended.

Finally, we hosted two sensational public lectures. Deirdre Nansen McCloskey gave the 2019 Volcker Lecture in Behavioral Economics in April titled “What Might Be Wrong with Behavioral Economics.” Eugenia Toma, Wendell H. Ford Professor of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Kentucky, was the 2019 Jerry Miner Lecturer, and presented “Rural School Policy: Focus on Kentucky School Reform” in April as well.

We have several CPR graduate associates who have finished their doctoral programs and have started (or will shortly) new positions: Yusun Kim (PAIA), Judith Liu (ECN), and Iuliia Shybalkina (PAIA). Yusun will be an assistant professor at the University of Connecticut, Judith will be an assistant professor at the University of Melbourne, and Iuliia will be an assistant professor at the University of Kentucky. We are really happy for and proud of them! Congratulations, Yusun, Judith, and Iuliia!

Please check the CPR website regularly for more details on past and future seminars and lectures. You will learn more about the research the faculty, graduate students, and our CPR Visiting Scholars are producing. Don’t forget to follow us on Twitter and “like us” on Facebook to receive the most current updates.

-Len Lopoo
Grad Bag

Krushna Ranaware (SOC) received a NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement grant for her dissertation project, "(In)visible Work: Gender, Labour, and Agricultural Markets in India."

David Schwegman (PAIA) won one of the graduate school’s pilot Summer Dissertation Fellowships. The Fellowship supports a select group of outstanding doctoral students to facilitate progress towards completion of the dissertation.

From the Field

Shawn Rohlin (Ph.D., ECN) is an Associate Professor of Economics, as well as the Director of the Center of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation at Kent State University. His business research primarily focuses on the determinants of businesses such as agglomeration, displacement, and effects of government policies. He also continues racial profiling research with Bill Horrace, which Shawn started when he was a graduate student in CPR.

Nadia Stanley-Greenhalgh (Ph.D., ECN) was promoted (and tenured) to Associate Professor of Economics at Kent State University in 2015. Her work on the elderly and social insurance has been published in the Journal of Law and Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, and Journal of Regional Science, among others.

Nadia and Shawn met while they were both graduate students in CPR. They are now married and have two children, Claire, 4 and Madeline, 6.

Faculty Focus

Doug Wolf (PAIA), Shannon Monnat (SOC), and Jennifer Karas Montez (SOC) were awarded a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Policies for Action Program for their project titled "Local Initiatives, State Preemption, and Public Health."

Yilin Hou (PAIA) won a joint Best Research Award from the Deng Ziji Foundation and the Journal of Trade and Finance Economics in China for his co-authored paper titled "Public Service Capitalization and House Value: Empirical Analysis of Sales Data and School Reputation in Beijing."

Pete Wilcoxen (PAIA) was awarded the Meredith Professorship Medal for Teaching Excellence at the annual One University Awards ceremony.
Pillars of CPR

featuring Jan Ondrich

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to CPR faculty or CPR staff members who have been a part of the Center for 20 or more years. In this issue, we feature Jan Ondrich, who has been a faculty member here in Maxwell and a part of the Metropolitan Studies Program (Metro)/Center for Policy Research (CPR) family since 1999. Jan is a Professor of Economics and a CPR Senior Research Associate. We had the opportunity to delve into the history of Metro/CPR through the eyes of someone who has been here to see it morph into what it is today. We appreciate Jan giving us this opportunity.

What brought you to Syracuse University and CPR?

I was hired by Econ ABD. I worked really hard to get my dissertation done - there were no graders in those days. But then an urban economist, Jim Follain, and I had an article accepted at the Review of Economics and Statistics. Jim recommended to Roy Bahl, the Director of the Metropolitan Studies Program, as CPR was called at the time, that I be made a Senior Associate.

When you joined what is now CPR, it was called the Metropolitan Studies Program. What has changed over the years as Metro has evolved into the CPR we know today?

There are a lot more faculty, students, and staff.

You have helped so many faculty and graduate students with their work/research throughout the years. Are there any particular projects or grants you helped with that stand out in your memory?

I have had several amazing students, but two of them became successful beyond belief. The first, Vivien Huang, is the CEO of VWH (her initials), a mortgage company with $100 million in capitalization. The second, Qing Yang, develops the accounting programs for several Fortune 500 companies. Qing, together with C. Katharina Spiess and me, worked on several projects which ultimately got parental leave legislation changed in Germany and several other countries in Eastern Europe. Previously, protected leaves were too long and firms treated mothers returning to work badly. We recommended shorter leaves with the same amount of benefits. Once the new legislation was enacted, fertility rates sky-rocketed, as the government(s) desired.

What is your favorite story or memory from your time in Metro/CPR?

There are at least a couple. Like the time Esther Gray, my long-time secretary (who by the way was on President Clinton’s Christmas card list) corrected the theoretical math error that I had made in an integral equation. Or the nine years in a row that Peggy Austin held the CPR picnic on a miserable rainy day. When Tim Smeeding was leaving for Wisconsin, I suggested to him that he buy Peggy a Farmer’s Almanac.

Is there any advice you would give to new staff, faculty members, or graduate students who are joining CPR?

Sit back, relax, and get ready to be able to do great work in a fabulous environment.
Staff Stop

Peggy Austin traveled for vacation to Punta Cana in March. She got away for a week while we battled snow and cold weather. Peggy recently attended the SRA Regional Conference in Chicago. While she was there, she was able to catch up with Chris Himes, former Director & CPR Senior Research Associate.

Katrina Fiacchi is still in her position as Administrative Specialist in CPR. In March, she attended her first conference, the National Conference of University Research Administrators (NCURA), which was held in Las Vegas. It was an interesting and fun experience and Katrina was able to meet and learn from research administrators from all over the world.

Katrina and her husband are looking forward to moving into a new house this summer and plan on spending most of their free time making it feel like "home."

Emily Minnoe continues her position as an administrative assistant at the front desk of CPR. She enjoys interacting with the students, faculty, and staff on a daily basis. This summer, her and her husband, Alex, plan to do more DIY home improvement projects. They are also working towards getting their dog, Leevie, certified as a therapy dog.

When Candi Patterson first started working at CPR, the department was upgrading their computer systems to Windows XP. We’ve gone through many generations of computing, and have recently upgraded to Windows 10. During these years, the technology for storing data has also evolved from tapes, floppy disks, and CDs to new technology like flash drives and the cloud.

This summer, Candi will be traveling to Chicago with some friends from high school. She is looking forward to going to the Taste of Chicago while she is there.

Laura Walsh has settled back into her position after being out for maternity leave. Her son, Mack, is 10 months old and loves going for walks, playing with his furry “siblings,” and splashing in any kind of water he can find- including the dog dish. Laura and her family are enjoying the summer and love taking the baby on new adventures!

Camp Econometrics

Camp Econometrics XIV was held April 12-14 at the 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel in Clayton, NY.

The conference, hosted by Professor Badi Baltagi (ECN), drew scholars and researchers from across the country, as well as Europe and Canada. The keynote speaker at the event was Elie Tamer (Harvard University).

Stay tuned for more details on next year’s Camp Econometrics, which will be held in spring 2020.
"During spring break, I traveled to England, where I met with Professor Debi Street (University of Buffalo) in London, and Professor Pam Herd (Georgetown University) in Oxford. We are developing a project on the Social Security early retirement penalty vs. the late retirement credit.

In March, Cornwall is carpeted with daffodils. While we expected rain (there was plenty), we did not expect the wind. It hovered near 60 MPH for much of the week and made some of our plans impossible.

In Cornwall, we stayed near Penzance, a small town in England. The highlight is St. Michael’s Mount. The island is a civil parish and is linked to the town of Marazion by a causeway of granite setts, passable only at low tide. People live there year-round. It is topped by a ruin, which was unfortunately closed during our visit.

Cornwall is known for its pasties; a baked pastry traditionally filled with meat and vegetables - they are a delight!

Madonna is University Professor of Sociology, Meredith Professor of Teaching Excellence, Senior Research Associate at the Center for Policy Research, and Faculty Affiliate at the Aging Studies Institute.“

Co-editor: Grandparenting in the United States with Ynesse Abdul-Malak (2016)
Gerontontology: Changes, Challenges, and Solutions with Elizabeth Daniele (2016)

Author: Grandmothers at Work: Juggling Families and Jobs (2014)
Market Friendly or Family Friendly? The State and Gender Inequality in Old Age with Pamela Herd (2007)

**Both books have won the Gerontological Society of America’s Kalish Book Award.

Editor: Care Work: Gender, Labor, and the Welfare State (2000)
The Lerner Center

The Lerner Center welcomed Alexandra Punch as the new Associate Director at the end of January. Alexandra comes with experience in both non-profit and government public health entities, and is responsible for developing and fostering internal and external relationships and funding opportunities, assisting in research related programming, managing all fiscal aspects of the center, and coordinating the Population Health Research Brief series.

The center recently disseminated a Health and Wellness App survey to a randomized selection of Syracuse University students, faculty, and staff. Response rates were six times what had been anticipated, and results will allow Lerner staff to develop Healthy Monday Campaign quests in their new social media app called "DIEMLife" - which will be piloted this summer.

In partnership with the Transforming Communities Initiative (TCI), Lerner Center fellows and staff developed and conducted an observational assessment of tobacco free signage and evidence of tobacco and drug use at all 36 administrative and school sites within the Syracuse City School District. The results of the observational assessment will be used to inform the Syracuse City School District Administration and TCI partners of areas in need of improvement and opportunities to increase sign visibility across properties.

National Public Health Week was celebrated by the Lerner Center on April 1 with a workshop on the Disease of Busyness. Jamie Weisberg of Northbound Coaching and Consulting led the workshop, allowing participants to explore how the busy mindset is detrimental to our work, relationships, and health while providing research-backed strategies to build resilience and create an up-shift in positive culture.

Save the Date

The 31st Annual Herbert Lourie Memorial Lecture on Public Health

This year’s guest speaker will be Dr. Keith Humphreys, Professor and the Section Director for Mental Health Policy in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University.

Dr. Keith Humphreys' research addresses the prevention and treatment of addictive disorders and the formation of public policy. For the 2019 Lourie Lecture, Dr. Humphreys will speak about the marijuana legalization movement, which states are getting it right and wrong, and what the research says about the implications of legalization for public health.

For more information about the 2019 lecture or to RSVP to this event, visit our website or contact Laura Walsh at lcwalsh@syr.edu/315-443-9929.