Douglas Wolf, the Associate Director for the Aging Studies Program, gives us a little insight into the program and how it is making its mark in the community.

It has been five years since I last wrote one of these “Director’s Corner” pieces, and I find myself gravitating to the same theme that I last wrote about—“Aging Studies is alive and well”—although the details are, of course, a bit different. Under the vigorous leadership of Madonna Harrington Meyer, the University Gerontology Center is displaying all sorts of signs of new life.

Next year will be the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Gerontology Center. As one of the key activities to mark this life-course transition, the Gerontology Center, with sponsorship from CPR, the Aging Studies Program, and other sources, will host a conference on Aging and Disability to be held May 3-5, 2007. Historically, the aged and the disabled have not worked together, although these groups share much common ground. Similarly, scholars and policy-makers who concentrate on the elderly and the disabled have not worked together in their efforts. Given that the US and EU nations are experiencing growing numbers of aging people who are becoming disabled, and disabled people who are aging, this conference seeks to bring together scholars on the challenges and opportunities these trends present. We’ll hear from scholars doing cutting edge work on aging and disability with regard to employment, family care, housing, civil rights, and policy options. In another new initiative, this past summer, we awarded two research pilot-project grants, and, for the first time, a Student Paper Competition prize. For further details about these developments, please see the Center’s new website at http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/cpr/gerontology/.

Mark V. Pauly, Ph.D., Bendheim Professor, and Professor of Health Care Systems, Business and Public Policy, Insurance and Risk Management, and Economics at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, spoke on “Risk Segmentation and Moral Hazard in Health Insurance Markets: What Role for Policy?”

Professor Pauly’s lecture will be published in an upcoming issue of the Center’s Policy Brief Series.

David Casarett, MD, MA, of the Division of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, will deliver the second lecture in this new series on Thursday, October 12, 2006, from 4:00 until 5:30 pm, in the Public Events Room, 220 Eggers Hall.

His speech is titled “Is It Time to Redesign Hospice? A Consumer-Focused Approach to End-of-Life Care in the United States.” Dr. Casarett’s clinical work focuses on the care of dying patients, and his scholarship addresses the ethical challenges of informed consent for research and clinical care in patients near the end of life and other vulnerable groups.

This event is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the lecture. Visitor parking is available on campus. For more information on this event see our website at: http://www-cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/aging_ltc/
The Center says goodbye to three faculty members as we welcome three new CPR faculty. Stacy Dickert-Conlin (Economics) left the Center in 2005 to accept a position at Michigan State University, along with her husband, Mike Conlin, also from the Economics department. John Moran (Economics) has left the Center after accepting a position at Pennsylvania State University, while Tom Krebs (Economics) has accepted a position in Mannheim that has allowed him to return to his native Germany. We wish them all the very best.

At the same time, the Center has also welcomed some additions to our faculty. Badi Baltagi (Economics) joined the Center in August 2005. In February 2006, Badi organized and hosted the first SU Camp Econometrics in Saratoga Springs, NY. In January 2006, David Popp (Public Administration) made CPR his new home. David’s research interests lie in environmental economics and the economics of technological change. We also welcome Christopher Rohlfs (Economics), who recently completed his PhD at the University of Chicago. Chris specializes in public sector applied microeconomics, with a focus on national defense. Deborah A. Freund, Distinguished Professor of Public Administration, has stepped down from her position as Vice Chancellor of the University to pursue new academic and professional opportunities here at the Center starting in July.

During the course of the previous year, our faculty have been busy with numerous projects. William Horrace (Economics), along with Shawn Rohlin, is conducting a racial profiling study for the city of Syracuse to determine if police use race as a basis for stopping or searching citizens. Based on six months of policing data, they have determined that differential treatment based on race may exist in the Syracuse police force. They have plans to improve and expand their analysis, and are currently collecting the data to do so.

Len Lopoo (Public Administration) has received two prestigious awards in the short time he’s been at the Center. Len was awarded the 2005 Birkhead-Burkhead Teaching Excellence Award and Professorship and the 2006 Syracuse University Meredith Professors Teaching Recognition Award. Congratulations, Len!

David Popp (Public Administration) was also approved for tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor. In addition, David received the 2006 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Award for Outstanding Teaching, Research and Service by an untenured faculty member at the Maxwell School.

Grant Reeher (Political Science) has been very busy in the last year, publishing a new book, First Person Political: Legislative Life and the Meaning of Public Service, published this year by New York University Press. Grant has also appeared in the media on the “Faith Middleton Show,” Connecticut NPR; “Sundays with Steve,” a public affairs show on WSYR, a Syracuse ABC affiliate; and on “Hour CNY,” a daily public affairs show on WCNY, a Syracuse PBS affiliate, regarding the recent publication. He is also the co-author (with Joseph Graf, Michael Malbin, and Costas Panagopoulos) of an important report about donations to the 2004 presidential campaign, Small Donors and Online Giving: A Study of Donors to the 2004 Presidential Campaigns, for the Institute for Politics, Democracy & the Internet, at George Washington University.

In September 2005, Ross Rubenstein (Public Administration) and Stacy Dickert-Conlin (Economics), organized and hosted a two-day conference spotlighting higher education. The conference “Economic Inequality and Higher Education: Access, Persistence, and Success” was funded by the Russell Sage Foundation in conjunction with CPR. Papers addressing everything from access to the application process to the role of community colleges in higher education success were presented during the conference. A conference volume of the presentations will be published by Russell Sage in late 2006.

Our director, Timothy Smeeding (Economics/Public Administration), became a Distinguished Professor of Economics and Public Administration in August of this year. He was also honored by winning the Lawrence R. Klein award for the best article in the Monthly Labor Review in 2005. His article was entitled “Economic Inequality through the Prisms of Income and Consumption,” with David S. Johnson and Barbara Boyle Torrey. The Klein Award was established by Lawrence R. Klein, editor-in-chief of the Monthly Labor Review from 1946 to 1968. The purpose of the award is to encourage Review articles that exhibit originality of ideas or method of analysis, adhere to principles of scientific inquiry, and are well written.
FACULTY FOCUS (cont.)

Janet Wilmoth (Sociology) has also been keeping busy throughout the last year, co-authoring two articles, “Military Service and (Dis)Continuity in the Life Course: Evidence on Disadvantage and Mortality from the HRS and AHEAD,” (with Andrew London) and “Changing Demographics, Stagnant Social Policies, Research on Aging,” (with Madonna Harrington Meyer), both appearing in Research on Aging in 2006. Janet is also co-editing a book, The Fountain of Gerontological Discovery. Gerontology: Perspectives and Issues, 3rd Edition, with Kenneth Ferraro, which is forthcoming in October 2006 from Springer Publishing, New York. Janet has also been awarded a grant (with Andrew London) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Center for Demography of Health and Aging, Wisconsin Longitudinal Study Pilot Grant Program, to research “Military Service and Men’s Health Outcomes in Midlife”.

Douglas Wolf (Public Administration) has had a grant funded by the National Institutes of Health, entitled “The Social Value of Becoming a Parent,” which he is doing in collaboration with Ron Lee, an economist-demographer from the University of California-Berkeley. The purpose of the project is to calculate the age-profile of taxes paid and benefits received from governments at all levels (federal, state, local), separately for parents and childless people, and by comparing these to determine the fiscal impacts of becoming a parent.

The Center for Policy Research and the Maxwell Dean’s Office will be hosting the March 23-25, 2007, conference: New York Camp Econometrics II

The 2nd Syracuse University Econometrics Camp will be held on March 23-25, 2007, again at the Gideon Putman Resort in Saratoga Springs. This event is a gathering of noted econometricians and empirical economists. The primary goal of the camp is to bring together econometricians/empirical economists from the participating universities and their guests to discuss issues in econometrics, both applied and theoretical. The second goal is to stimulate student interest in econometrics and help students develop their technical presentation skills by encouraging the participating universities’ students to join in the meetings and present papers. View the Camp Econometrics website for more information at: http://www-cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/CampEconometrics/index.htm

Welcome Tammy Tanner!
Tammy joins the CPR staff from the SU National Security Systems Program. She coordinates the front desk and works with Peggy Austin on the CPR budget/expenses and is the CPR librarian. In March, she replaced Karen Cimilluca, who is now CPR Director Timothy Smeeding’s new staff support person, replacing Kim Desmond. Kim has moved to an academic year position with the Nutrition Department here at the university. Kim is missed by all. We wish the best to all the staff moving in new directions.

STAFF STOP

In March, the CPR staff was honored by the University Recognition Resource Council for Exemplary Achievement as the 2005 Exemplary Achievement Award recipient for Community Service. Through a staff member’s personal loss, the CPR staff, along with CPR graduate students and faculty, first came together to knit, crochet and sew blankets for the Crouse Hospital Bereavement Center. This event initiated the creation of the CPR Community Calendar and website, the staff’s way of organizing and carrying out a different group activity each and every month involving all those affiliated with CPR who wish to participate. A different staff member leads each event. While some monthly events are strictly social gatherings, the CPR family has done much work as a team in the Syracuse community with outreach to the following organizations: Francis House, Vera House, Food Bank of Central New York, Ronald McDonald House, Book drives, Rescue Mission, Holiday Families, and Maxwell Blood Drives. Congratulations CPR Staff. We look forward to the fall Community Service program of events. Find the entire listing at: http://www-cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/Community_Events/index.htm.

View the CPR website at: http://www-cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/
Staff Highlights

Administrative secretary, Kelly Bogart joined the CPR staff in July 2001 after many years in the corporate world. Kelly’s responsibilities include staff support for 13 of the CPR professors, as well as assisting Peggy Austin with the Center’s research proposals, which can keep them both very busy if there happen to be several submissions due at the same time. There are also many other activities that keep her busy. Kelly coordinates the annual donation drive for Vera House women’s shelter and Rape Crisis Center for the CPR community calendar. She also participates in the annual “On My Own Time” art exhibit at SU, even submitting some of her own work on occasion. Initially, like many people who work at SU, Kelly came in the hopes of one day sending her three children to school here. While this is still one of her goals, it is not the only one. It only took one question from a co-worker to set things in motion. “Are you going to be taking any classes this fall?” and that was it. Kelly enrolled in her first two classes in August of 2001 and hasn’t stopped since. “I never thought to take classes for myself until someone asked me. I had come for my children’s benefit. It hadn’t occurred to me to take advantage of it for myself.” That was 80 credits ago. Kelly takes 2-3 classes each semester and hopes to complete her bachelor’s in History by the end of 2008. “I have been incredibly fortunate to work in a place that allows me time away from the office for my studies. Even within SU, it’s a rarity. The time I put into my classes isn’t simply tolerated or accepted, its encouraged. Peggy works with me each semester and she juggles my work schedule to fit my classes. It’s the ultimate in flextime.” When you ask what’s next after graduating, Kelly will say “possibly graduate school.” If you ask Kelly what’s next, “working harder at CPR, of course.” Kelly will tell you that the real answer lies somewhere in a combination of the two, but for now she is happily celebrating her 5-year anniversary at SU, and with CPR.

“...The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up.” - Paul Valery

Grad Bag

Cheers for CPR grad students who have been awarded dissertation fellowships. The BC-SSA Center for Retirement Research has awarded a Dissertation Fellowship in Retirement Research to Joseph Marchand. He was also nominated to attend the National Science Foundation’s 2nd Meeting of Winners of the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel this August in Lindau, Germany. Yue Hu has been awarded a Dissertation Fellowship by Lincoln Institute of Land Policy for 2006-2007. This spring she also presented “The Effect of Class Size on Student Achievement-Improved Estimates Using Propensity Score Matching” at the 31st American Education Finance Association meeting in Denver.

Locally, Maria T. Brown presented at the 33rd Annual Meeting of the NY State Society on Aging on “Older Adults with Dementia and a History of Mental Illness.” In February, Javier E. Báez presented “Disasters, Income Shocks and Children’s Outcomes: Hurricane Mitch in Nicaragua as a Natural Experiment” at the Third Annual Grad Student Conference on Latin American Studies, Cornell University. Keep up the great work!

Feedback from the Field

Two spring graduates, Ana Dammert and spouse Jose Galdo, both presented conference papers at the Econometric Society World Congress at the University of College London, UK; the Latin American Economics Association Meeting at the University of Paris, France; and the Canadian Economics Association Meeting at McMaster University, in Canada this year. Jose is presently a Research Affiliate to the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA). Starting in September, Ana and Jose will both be postdoctoral research fellows in the Economics Department at McMaster University.

CPR grads Anna Amirkhanyan and Bo Zhao have started up new careers. Anna teaches at American University and Bo is working for the Federal Reserve of Boston.

Two other CPR grads, Yong Chen and spouse Liqun Liu (Lily), are both economists working at Fannie Mae, in the Credit Risk Department. They are enjoying their new jobs and spending time with their daughter, Lucy. Our good wishes to all our CPR alumni and their new adventures.
Professor **Madonna Harrington Meyer**, this spring, took a class of undergraduates to Italy for 10 days as part of a DIPA short course, called Food and the Family. At the end of the semester, they traveled in Italy for 10 days. Madonna found that one of the most interesting things about contemporary Italian society is the low birth rate. In many parts of Italy the birth rate is below 1.0. For a country to maintain its current size, the birth rate must be 2.1. Young Italian women and men are not marrying, and not having children, for a variety of reasons. Women are eager to take professional positions and do not want to stay home and make fresh pasta; men remain eager to live at home where their mothers are indeed making fresh pasta as well as doing their laundry and housekeeping. In most other western nations, including the United States, women are having increasing numbers of babies outside of marriage. In Italy, however, few babies are born outside of marriage. In an attempt to encourage more babies, many village leaders are offering cash rewards to women who marry and have a child. What an incentive to make a lifestyle change!

This spring CPR staffer **Mary Santy** traveled to Strasbourg, France, to visit her daughter, Anna, who was studying abroad in the SU DIPA program in Music Education. Mary found Strasbourg to be breathtakingly beautiful and full of old world European charm. “They recreated the streets of Strasbourg and called it Epcot in Disneyland.” The people were friendly as long as you tried to communicate in French first. The food was surprisingly appealing to the German palate as opposed to the French. Strasbourg is part of the French area of Alsace. It was a part of Germany till after World War II. The German influence is still very predominant in this area, especially in the foods of this region. It holds the title of the official “Sauerkraut capital of the world.” The weather is similar to Syracuse, without as much snow, and they speak French with a hint of German mixed in. One thing that Mary noticed was very different from our own American culture was the love and acceptance of classical/operatic music by the masses in Strasbourg. Everyone, regardless of age or social stature, attends the opera or symphony two or three times a year.

Young people go to the symphony in groups in the same way our teens go to rock concerts. There is a greater appreciation of the fine arts in general in Strasbourg than here in the United States. Everyone travels by train or bus and it’s no more than a two hour train ride to over six bordering European countries from Strasbourg. Traveling country to country is as simple as going from New York to Pennsylvania. Everyone you meet in shops and restaurants wishes you well as they send you off on your way. Au revoir et bien venue!

**Staff member, Kelly Bogart** traveled to Italy while taking a course on the life and work of Michelangelo through the SU DIPA program. Kelly spent eight days in Florence and Rome visiting the most famous works of the artist, including the David, the Rome Pietà, and the Sistine Chapel. During her travels, Kelly was constantly amazed by the extraordinary churches and art galleries. “Florence appeared to be a never-ending collection of museums, churches, and tombs, each filled floor to ceiling with paintings and sculptures. The most striking thing about Florence was that the most ordinary and plain buildings would contain the most beautiful places. One of the plainest buildings in the city was used by everyone as a landmark to help us find our hotel each day. On our last day in Florence, we found that the building was actually the tombs of the Medici family, the ruling family of Florence in the 15th century, and they are richly decorated with sculptures by Michelangelo and other artists.” In Rome, Kelly visited the Vatican and many other churches around the city, as well as the Colosseum, the Pantheon, and the Roman Forum, dating as far back as 72 A.D. “As a history major, seeing these incredible old buildings and sites was like being a kid in a candy store. What I will remember most about Italy is the Sistine Chapel, the single most beautiful room on earth where you can only stare at the ceiling in complete silence and absolute awe; and gelato, Italian ice cream. Gelato should be made its own food group. There is no American ice cream that can compare to it.” Kelly hopes to return to Italy one day with her family to show them the rich history of the country.
DIPLOMATIC POUCH
(cont.)

In June 2006, CPR research assistant Michael Eriksen traveled to South America and visited the countries of Peru and Ecuador. Eriksen, who is a fourth year PhD student of Economics studying low-income housing policy. He was originally encouraged to visit the region by former CPR resident Deborah Bailey-Whitman (Econ., Ph.D. '97) who had a similar journey during her time at Maxwell. While in South America, he climbed the Inca Trail to Macchu Picchu, fished for piranha in the Amazon, and swam with sea lions among the Galapagos Islands.

Mike also had the opportunity to visit former CPR residents Jose Galdo and Ana Dammert (both Econ., Ph.D. '06) who were spending the summer in their native Lima, Peru, before starting their jobs at McMaster University in the fall. Eriksen contends “There really was not one specific highlight of my trip, as each experience would be significant and life-changing by itself.”

Happy 45th Anniversary Metropolitan Studies

This August, we raised our glasses to toast the 45th anniversary of the Metropolitan Studies Program at the CPR annual picnic. “Metro,” the predecessor of CPR, was established in 1961 by the legendary Alan K. “Scotty” Campbell. From 1968 to 1973, Guthrie Birkhead, who like Campbell went on to become Dean of the Maxwell School, led the program. From 1973 to 1985, Roy Bahl, presently Dean of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University, took over as director. He was followed by Larry Schroeder, who directed Metro from 1985 to 1987. Larry is still teaching Public Administration and holds the rank of Maxwell Professor of Teaching Excellence. Next came the unforgettable David Greytak, who headed Metro from 1987 to 1993. Tim Smeeding became director of the newly created Center for Policy Research in January 1994 and continues to lead the Center in new and exciting research areas. Tim has three associate directors, Douglas Wolf, John Yinger, and Peggy Austin.

The Center’s faculty explore the impact of government policy on housing markets; racial and ethnic discrimination in housing and mortgages; the interaction of social welfare programs and employment; and empirical research about education finance. They are also researching people vs. place policy; urban locations and low incomes; social services and jobs; and government policy’s effects on personal decisions to start a small business, consume alcohol or tobacco, choose among employment options, or even to marry. The Center continues to conduct incisive policy-relevant research about urban issues and the impact of development and urbanization on populations. It still maintains its traditional focus on public finance, the structure of tax systems, intergovernmental relations, governmental accounting and financial reporting, and municipal fiscal conditions. Happy Anniversary Metro/CPR!

FOOTNOTES

Baby News. Former CPR staffer Mindy Tanner has a new son, Nathan James, born January 24, 2006. He joins Shelby as the family adventure from Oregon to Spokane, Washington, where the family will be settling in a few months. Mindy was instrumental in starting the CPR Community Calendar. And, PhD Economics ’06, Claudia Smith, gave birth to little Zachary on Saturday, May 13th. Welcome to the CPR family!

We say farewell to faculty member, Douglas Holtz-Eakin, who is the new Paul A. Volcker Chair in International Economics and Director of the Maurice R. Greenberg Center for Geoeconomic Studies in Washington, DC. Doug is the former Director of the Congressional Budget Office and Chief Economist of the White House Council of Economic Advisers and was a faculty member here at SU since 1990. We will miss his wit and charm in the halls of CPR and his rubber band wars.

Aging and Disability Conference

May 3-5, 2007
Hosted by
Madonna Harrington Meyer

The Conference will mark the 35th anniversary of the Gerontology Center at Syracuse University
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

CPR has undertaken the task to have a good time and build community spirit within the center. Follow our progress with our calendar of events at: http://www-cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/Community_Events/index.htm

January - SU Basketball game

February - Syracuse Stage production

March - Vera House

April - Bowling

May - Rescue Mission/CPR Intramural Basketball

June/July - Food Pantry

July/August - Danforth & Delaware Schools - school supplies, books

August - CPR Picnic

September - Ronald McDonald House

October/November - Warm Children’s Clothing Drive, Delaware Elementary School and Danforth Middle School

November - Volleyball

December - Holiday Families and Holiday Party

Let’s get to know each other better, have fun, and do good things!!!!

Visit the new CPR website at http://www-cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/
Like our new look?
Send us any information you’d like to see in the newsletter we may have missed.

CPR Pulse editors: Kelly Bogart and Mary Santy