FEEDBACK FROM THE FIELD

The first annual Jerry Miner Lecture was held on April 19th. Howard S. Bloom, Chief Social Scientist for Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation presented “Measuring the Impacts of Whole School Reforms: Methodological Lessons From an Evaluation of Accelerated Schools.”

John Yinger (Director) and William Duncombe (Associate Director) spearheaded the Education Finance and Accountability Program, or EFAP. EFAP promotes research, education, and debate about fundamental issues in the system of elementary and secondary education in the U.S. It also sponsors research and debate on issues related to elementary and secondary education. Regular seminars with speakers affiliated with EFAP and outside speakers are held throughout the academic year. Look for upcoming information on both these presentations.

Michael MacLeod (PA) is off to a tenure track faculty position at the Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado. Anna Lukemeyer (PA) is a co-winner of the Jean Flanagan Outstanding Dissertation Award for 2001 and is currently an assistant professor at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Alumni. Please take a minute to fill out the informational form at our web address: http://www-cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/alumni/alumniform.htm

An Alumni Thought
Potential...It is the challenges and hardships of life that bring out the Mighty Giant within us.

FOOTNOTES

Au revoir Esther! After 25 years with CPR Esther Gray made a major career move in June and is wearing a new hat as the “Special Assistant for Academic Programs in the Office of Academic Affairs.” We’ve always known that Esther was very special, now she’s even got the word in her new title to go with it.

Director Timothy Smeeding’s administrative secretary, Debbie Tafel, is making a position change from CPR to the New College of Human Services and Health Professions. She will be the administrative assistant to Michael Olivette, the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at HSHP. Best of luck. We will all miss you!

Goodbye Breeze and hello Frank! CPR’s computer consultant, Breeze (Lobrenzo) Wingo, received his master’s degree this May from SU and has taken a new position in the private sector in Boston. Frank Ruiz joined the CPR staff as our new computer consultant just in time to attend the CPR summer picnic! In case you were wondering, the picnic at Green Lakes was held in the rain again. But all still had a good time.

The Pulse Editors: Karen Ciminilla and Mary Santy
DIRECTOR'S CORNER
On Behalf of the entire faculty at CPR, Madonna Harrington Meyer, Director of the University Gerontology Center, extends a warm welcome to our many friends and colleagues. Though located in CPR, the Gerontology Center actually represents the activities of faculty affiliates throughout the University who emphasize gerontology in their research and curriculum. To celebrate the strength of this multi-disciplinary team of scholars, and to lay the groundwork for continued growth in this work in the future, Harrington Meyer hosted a conference May 2, 2001. Those who presented recent research projects included CPR's economist Stacy Dickert-Conlin, "Widows Waiting to Wed" (Re)Marriage and the Economic Incentives in Social Security Widow Benefits*; sociologist Assata Zerai, "Making a Way Outta No Way": Grandparenting Cocaine Exposed Grandchildren*; and policy analyst Doug Wolf, "Substitution, the Woodwork Effect and Long Term Care." In addition to coordinating research efforts in aging, the Gerontology Center oversees a well-respected undergraduate and graduate gerontology certificate program. Nearly 1000 students have received these certificates. Syracuse University offers a great and constantly changing array of aging-related coursework from which students may choose. The multi-disciplinary nature of this curricular effort bridges departments and colleges, which in turn leads to new collaborations and research opportunities. One of our Aging Center goals is to expand our links to other universities and to area communities as well. Toward this end, we’ve hosted two national workshops for faculty with the goal of “Introducing Public Policies Issues in Aging into the Curriculum.” We hope to offer this and other sorts of conferences in the future.

The thirteenth annual Herbert Lourie Memorial Lecture on Health Policy will be on Friday, October 19, 2001, at 2:00 p.m., at the Sheraton University Hotel and Conference Center on University Avenue. The topic is: “Pharmaceutical Coverage, Pricing, and Cost Containment.”

The featured speakers will be Patricia Danzon, Professor of Health Care Systems, and Insurance and Risk Management at the Wharton School of Health Care Management, and Stephen Soumerai, Professor of Ambulatory Care and Prevention at the Harvard Medical School. They will share the podium and their different perspectives on the topic. A reception will follow. This event is free and open to the public. For more information: http://www.cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/gerocnt/louie.htm

FACULTY FOCUS
CPR Associate Director and Economics Chair Douglas Holtz-Eakin (ECN) has been appointed as the Chief Economist of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. This is Doug's second tour of duty on the CEA. He served in the first Bush administration also. Have fun in Washington! Welcome back Dan Black (ECN) from Canberra, Australia! Dan was a visiting Professor at the Social Policy Evaluation, Analysis And Research Centre (SPEAR). While there he presented papers at the Growth Lecturer and also to the Department of Families and Community Services of the Australian Government. This fall, he will be taking the reins as Interim Chair of the Economics Department. Goodbye to Jodi Sandfort (PA) and Jacqueline Johnson (SOC). Jodi left us in June to pursue a consulting career with the McKnight Foundation in Minneapolis. Jacki will be working this summer, as a consultant/researcher at Catalyst, a research and advisory organization in NYC. Then in the fall she is off to Fordham University, Rose Hill Campus, as an assistant professor of sociology. We all wish Jodi and Jacki but wish them well in their new adventures. Khanh Do to CPR Associate Directors, Douglas Holtz-Eakin (ECN) and John Yinger (PA/ECN) who were honored with Syracuse University's Inaugural Trustee Professorships this spring. Yinger was named Trustee Professor of Public Administration and Economics and Holtz-Eakin Trustee Professor of Economics. They were recognized by the University's board of Trustees as faculty members of worldwide distinction, known internationally for their scholarship and research.

STAFF STOP
“The Indispensable Assistant” is what the sign reads outside of Karen Cimilucchi’s office at the Center for Policy Research. Her official title is Office Coordinator III but that does not sum up all of her responsibilities. In addition to co-editing the CPR Pulse Newsletter, she also coordinates the CPR seminar series, maintains the CPR library, and assists Peggy Austin in the day-to-day operations of the Center. She also helps organize the Maxwell Blood Drive. Karen came to CPR in December of 1997, replacing Tina Mucci. Previously she worked for 5 years in Steele Hall at the Housing, Meal Plan and ID Card Services Office. “It was a big adjustment coming from the auxiliary student services part of the University into academia,” states Karen, “but it was a very good move for me. I really enjoy working with such a diverse group of people. It has been a great learning experience for me both professionally and personally.” Karen lives in Brewerton, New York, with her husband Mike and their two children Jonathan, 4 and Samantha 2. She has a long way to go for that remitted tuition benefit to pay off.

GRAD BAG
CPR grad are making the grade in the professional/academic world. Robert Bifurco (PA) has accepted a position at Duke as a research scholar for the Center for Child & Family Policy in the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy. Don Marples (ECN) defended in May & will be working in Washington, DC as an economist to the Tax Administration & Justice Division of the U.S. General Account Office. On June 5th, three CPR grads defended. Mehmet Tousm (ECN) will be working as a research assistant professor at the Bureau of Business & Economic Research, West Virginia University. August 1st, Reagan Baughman (ECN) starts as a Research Fellow at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. And Seth Giertz (ECN) will be working with the Congressional Budget Office’s Tax Analysis Division as an associate analyst. CPR research assistants have been busy this year. Neddy Mathshalaga (SOC) published an article in the Development Southern Africa Journal & in April received an SU Fellowship & the Jacob Dissertation Fellowship-Switzerland award. In May, The Network On Social Interactions & Economic Inequality, awarded a “Fellowships for Younger Scholars” fellowship to CPR’s Andrei (Andrew) Grodner (ECN).

DIPLOMATIC POUCH
As most everyone knows, Director, Tim Smeeding, often travels to Luxembourg where the other folks who run the Luxembourg Income Study project live. To report on that is like going to work. Indeed, Tim had the opportunity this spring for a whirlwind three-day trip to Tokyo, Japan, to attend the National Institute of Population & Social Research seminar on population followed by a seminar for the National Institute for Labor & Population Studies. Tokyo is the largest city in the world, so the adventure began with the train from the Nanta Airport, on a Monday, to downtown Tokyo after a 12-hour plane ride over from San Jose. Easy you say? Not when you cannot read the language & need to change trains three times, once in the largest train station in the world! Three hours later & without taxis, he made it to the Green Hotel! Weather was fine as were the people & the fellow attendees. But, Tim found out his first day in Tokyo, “Lots of restaurants were closed on Monday night just like in the USA.” By Wednesday, when he was just into the swing of things, time wise, he ran into a 37 hour day: the 24 in Japan plus the 13 hour difference between Japanese & United States eastern time. After his talk he caught the train from Tokyo Central to Nanta & boarded his plane. After a very nice 9 hour plane ride (he slept laid flat across 5 seats in row 33) he landed in San Jose at 12:50 p.m.; six hours earlier on the same day. Talk about lost time?? Anyway, he made it home at midnight & on time for his 8:30 lecture the next day. Japan was big, energetic & fun—"I just wish I could have stayed longer." In December, Tim will go on a 6-month research leave to Australia. More about down under later!