

# THE CENTERPIECE

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- The multiple ways in which state governments “borrow” money to finance their current operations is not well understood, according to an article in the April 12 issue of *Public Administration Review* co-authored by UIS professor **Beverly Bunch** and colleagues at Syracuse University and the University of Connecticut. States issue bonds to raise funds for current use, but they also shift costs into the future, and often onto future generations, in other, less obvious ways, including deferred payment of bills, restructured debt, deferred capital maintenance, sales of government assets (e.g., buildings, toll-ways), and transfers of money out of special purpose funds to cover general fund deficits. Bunch and her co-authors argue that states need to do a more transparent, coherent, and comprehensive job of accounting for the full array of debts they incur.  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1540-6210.2012.02533.x/full>
- Previous research has found a relationship between where candidates for political office get their campaign funds and electoral outcomes. But the studies have not been able to establish the direction of the relationship: whether candidate qualities attract particular funding sources or whether funding sources represent information voters use to form their opinions. A new paper by UIS political scientist **Michael Miller** and Conor Dowling of Yale University, using three different experiments with survey data, finds that voters evaluate a candidate more negatively if his or her campaign is funded mostly by interest groups compared to other funding sources. Their research also shows that it matters whether self-funded candidates earned or inherited their money: voters judge candidates more favorably if the money was earned.
- **Gwen Jordan**, a UIS legal studies professor who works with the Illinois Innocence Project, has been accepted as a participant in the Institute for Constitutional History’s Interdisciplinary Summer Workshop, which will look at how the 21<sup>st</sup> century responds to the 18<sup>th</sup> century assumptions built into the U.S. Constitution. The week-long workshop in July, co-sponsored by the Stanford Constitutional Law Center and located at Stanford University, will be led by Sanford Levison, a well-

known constitutional scholar who holds the W. St. John Garwood Jr. Centennial Chair in Law at the University of Texas in Austin.

- Even though their terms are not quite done, some of the **Illinois Legislative Staff Interns** for 2011-2012 have moved onto their next role. Two interns on the House Republican staff have shifted into regular full-time jobs with the caucus: **Alec Laird**, an attorney, has joined the legal staff and **Meredith Van Kampen** has taken a position on the communication staff. **Catelyn Anderson**, also on the House Republican staff, will be leaving shortly to attend John Marshall Law School in Chicago. **Rebecca Racine**, an intern in the Legislative Research Unit (LRU), the administrative office for the internship program, has returned to New York University to work in its Office of Residential Life and Housing Services. **Jennifer Le**, also in LRU, will be leaving later this week to become an intern in the Legislative Reference Bureau of the Wisconsin Legislature.
- The **Graduate Public Service Internship** (GPSI) held its annual recognition breakfast at the end of April for some 230 interns, their agency supervisors, and UIS staff and faculty. **Christina Assmus**, who has been an intern at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, came away with the top internship award. Assmus' main project at the agency has been compiling and updating the national multistate reciprocity document that 34 states and other U.S. jurisdictions, along with Canada, use to track their environmental inspection and maintenance programs. The top supervisor award went to **Kelly Cunningham**, who is the deputy medical administrator for programs and chief of the bureau of long-term care in the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, the state agency that runs Medicaid.
- The theft and replacement of the sword from Lincoln's Tomb in Springfield gave **WUIS** public affairs reporting intern **Rachel Otwell** the national spotlight this past weekend. Otwell produced a piece on the sword for National Public Radio a couple of weeks ago, and then last week the network came back and asked for a longer story for Morning Edition on Sunday.  
<http://www.npr.org/player/v2/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&t=1&islist=false&id=153132102&m=153132347>
- The **WUIS Health Desk** presents its next in-depth report on the federal government's efforts to try to nudge Illinois along with implementing certain parts of the federal healthcare reform law. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Statehouse bureau chief **Amanda Vinicky** will examine moves made to pressure Governor Pat Quinn to use his executive powers to create a marketplace where the uninsured can get

coverage. The state has suspended its efforts while waiting on the U.S. Supreme Court to rule on the constitutionality of the law. Financial support for the WUIS Health Desk is provided by **Springfield Clinic**.

- As the number of news reporters who cover the Statehouse dwindles, the question arises: Are the media shirking their watchdog mission? Look for the June edition of **Illinois Issues**, which examines both sides of that debate, with some news organizations saying they're refining and focusing their coverage better than in the past, while others say there's just too much to cover with limited staff.
- The Center's **Survey Research Office** is currently in the field with annual the Illinois Motorist Opinion Survey, which is being conducted by mail with a random sample of about 4,000 Illinois households for the Illinois Department of Transportation. IDOT uses the survey to track satisfaction with key aspects of driving on the state's highways and with the Department's performance. The current survey also includes questions about Amtrak train service, including high-speed rail, a recently controversial topic. The Survey Research Office has been doing the annual motorist survey since 2001.
- The last issue of The Centerpiece carried the story of **The Papers of Abraham Lincoln's** visit to Meisei University in Japan to examine the largest known collection of Lincoln documents outside the United States. The story was picked up last week by **The State Journal-Register**, which subsequently, in its Cheers and Jeers column on Monday this week, gave The Papers and Director **Daniel Stowell** a "cheers" for its Japan expedition.

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