

THE CENTERPIECE

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University of Illinois Springfield

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- To better understand Illinois' future transportation needs, the **Survey Research Office**, under the direction of **Dr. Ashley Kirzinger**, is working with the **Illinois Department of Transportation** on a dual-frame telephone survey (both landline and cell) to gauge residents' attitudes toward long-range state transportation improvements. Aiming to reach 1,000 respondents, the survey will ask about airport improvements, traffic congestion, and alternative modes of transportation, including bike lanes, public transit, and high-speed intercity passenger trains. UIS graduate and undergraduate students will assist in conducting the survey. Results will be available in December 2012.
- Public administration professor **Beverly Bunch** has received, through the **Institute for Legal, Legislative, & Policy Studies**, a nine-month grant to study and prepare a book manuscript on community action leadership. Community action is a network of governmental, nonprofit, and community organizations that work together to alleviate poverty, to help families and individuals become self-sufficient, and to revitalize communities. The project, funded by the **Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies**, will address leadership and related topics, including building organizational capacity, managing for performance, and evidence-based practice. The aim is to document what has worked well in community action leadership and the opportunities that exist for improvement, by focusing on the efforts of organizations in not just Illinois, but also Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. In addition to Dr. Bunch, the research team consists of public administration assistant professors **Travis Bland** and **Junfeng Wang**, **Lorena Johnson**, director of the Certified Public Manager Program of Illinois based at UIS, and graduate research assistant **Aaron Itulya**.
- **The Center** will mark the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation with a special presentation of the 10th Annual **Lincoln Legacy Lecture Series** on October 11, 2012 at 7:00 PM in Brookens Auditorium at UIS. In the first lecture, Professor **Allen Guelzo** of Gettysburg College will discuss the Emancipation Proclamation. In a new feature this year, the second lecture that evening will describe a contemporary problem related to a dilemma Lincoln faced. Author **Ron Soodalter** will discuss human trafficking and slavery in modern America. Dr. **Michael Burlingame**, Lynn Chair in Lincoln Studies at UIS, will serve as moderator. The lectures are free and open to the public, with a reception and book signing afterward. For more information and the link to a live webcast of the lectures, visit the Center's website <http://cspl.uis.edu> and click on 2012 Lincoln Legacy Lectures, or contact **Barbara Ferrara**, bferr1@uis.edu.

- **WUIS** Statehouse Bureau Chief **Amanda Vinicky** covered the recent Democratic and Republican national conventions for public radio stations statewide. While at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, NC, Vinicky was granted a sit-down interview with Illinois House Speaker and state Democratic Party Chair **Michael Madigan**. Much of the interview focused on the ongoing efforts to overhaul state public pension systems. Madigan said he favors making workers pay more and work longer before retiring. But he cast doubt on getting a deal done in 2012. Lawmakers will return for a veto session after the November election. Madigan said that an attempt to pass pension legislation could take place in the first few weeks of January 2013. Known as a “lame duck” session, when departing legislators are still in office, it could make approval of a controversial plan a bit easier. Changes would also need fewer votes to pass then, requiring only a simple majority, in contrast with the veto session when passage requires two-thirds. Democrats used a similar strategy to pass an income tax increase in the 2010 lame duck session.
- The October cover story for **Illinois Issues** looks at how a state agency charged with scrutinizing abuse and neglect reports of disabled residents – the Office of the Inspector General for the Illinois Department of Human Services – failed to investigate at least 53 deaths. The agency said that it no longer has responsibility after a person dies.
- In the coming year, the **Institute for Legal, Legislative, & Policy Studies**, under the direction of **Dr. David Racine**, will evaluate an effort to replicate a model Illinois program in four other states. In 2009, the **Illinois State Library** (ISL) received funding from the federal **Institute of Museum and Library Services** (IMLS) to test a program to train Illinois librarians in how to use Web 2.0 to help their libraries respond to the evolving needs of their users. Hired to evaluate this initiative as it unfolded, the Institute found that librarians not only learned new skills but were able to apply that learning in helping their libraries make better use of participatory technologies to engage community members. The replication project, also funded by IMLS and operated by ILS, will work with teams of librarians in Colorado, Iowa, Ohio, and Utah, as well as a new cohort of librarians in Illinois. The project steering committee is chaired by Dr. **Jane Treadwell**, Dean of the UIS Brookens Library and University Librarian.
- **Graduate Public Service Interns** (GPSI), in a UIS program operated by the Center, get to do a lot of interesting work through which they not only gain experience and skills for their careers, but can have an impact in the here and now. Ann Coultas, a GPSI intern with the Energy Education Council and a master’s student in liberal and integrative studies, recently wrote a press release for her employer about a central Illinois woman, Tamara Pandolph-Peary, who survived a lightning strike. The release, picked up by newspapers and TV and radio stations around the country, described how Pandolph-Peary has coped with the adverse effects of the strike on her brain and been motivated to work with the organization, Safe Electricity, on educating people about storm safety.
- The **Certified Public Manager Program of Illinois**, a unit in the **Institute for Legal, Legislative, & Policy Studies**, has been awarded a contract by the Illinois Association of

Community Action Agencies to provide strategic planning help to the **Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County (CEDA)**. CEDA is the largest community action agency in the country with an annual operating budget of \$235 million. CEDA operates more than 40 programs and employs over 600, serving more than 375,000 individuals and families each year in the Chicago Cook County region.

- The **Center's** New Media Working Group, chaired by Associate Director **Barbara Ferrara**, held its first meeting on September 7th. The purpose of the group is to generate ideas for how the Center can make better use of new media to increase the impact of UIS's public affairs efforts. Among challenges and possibilities being considered by the group are the need for digital storage space to accommodate a growing volume of digital records, breaking up video and audio programs into shorter segments to post on social media outlets, generating more local content to engage local audiences, creating content for multiple platforms, methods for updating websites and blogs daily, use of smart phone apps instead of websites for information seeking, shaping content to target specific audiences, engaging students through social media opportunities, and monetizing products published on the web. In addition to Center staff, working group participants included **Mike Cavanaugh**, UIS Assistant Professor of Communication, **Michelle Green**, Director of Marketing for UIS, **Munindra Khaund**, Director of Web Services for UIS, **Peter O'Brien**, General Manager of Fox Illinois, **Ray Schroeder**, UIS Associate Chancellor for Online Learning, and **Lisa Clemmons Stout**, member of the **Center's Advisory Board**.
- **Tom Layzell**, a long-time leader in higher education and member of the **Center's Advisory Board**, will become Interim President of the University of Louisiana System in mid-October. The UL System includes Grambling State University, Louisiana Tech University, McNeese State University, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and the University of New Orleans. Layzell earned his Law and Master of Arts in public administration degrees at UIUC.

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