State Policy and Leadership Monthly

Center for State Policy and Leadership
University of Illinois at Springfield

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Illinois Issues Gets New Statehouse Bureau Chief

Illinois Issues has a new Statehouse bureau chief.

Pat Guinane began his duties in March. His first State of the State column, an assessment of the financial impact of riverboat gambling, appears this month in the magazine.

Pat comes to *Illinois Issues* from the Capitol bureau of Lee Enterprises, which owns newspapers in the Quad Cities, Decatur and Carbondale.

Last summer, he earned a master's degree through the Public Affairs Reporting program at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

New Statehouse Bureau Chief Pat Guinane

He earned his bachelor's from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, where he was an editor of *The Daily Eastern News*.

Pat has put in reporting stints at *Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* in Chicago, the suburban *Tinley Park Star* and the *Beverly Review* in Chicago, near the neighborhood where he grew up on the city's Southwest Side. As a Public Affairs Reporting intern last spring in Copley News Service's Statehouse bureau, he got an education on the interplay of policy and politics. "That's what's so interesting about Illinois officials," he says. "As a citizen, you might question why they're doing what they're doing. As a reporter, you get to delve more deeply into it."

He replaces Aaron Chambers, who now covers state government for the *Rockford Register-Star*.

E-government Study Presented

Dr. Patricia Byrnes and Dr. Ethan Bernick presented the findings of their study about e-government on the local municipal level. Based on results from a survey they sent out to local governments over the course of a few months, the two were able to analyze the effectiveness of e-government on the local level.

The team has completed a paper about the study titled *"Success or Failure of E-Government Initiatives in Local Government"* and presented their findings at the American Society for Public Administration national conference in late March, in Portland.

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Legislative Shadowing Program Commences

The Office of Graduate Intern Programs and the Illinois General Assembly have once again teamed up to provide a two week "Legislative Shadowing Program" for first year Graduate Public Service Interns. The program is designed to give interns an inside view of the way the General Assembly works as well as an opportunity for the interns to build relationships with legislators.

This year 20 interns and legislators were matched up for the program. Intern Omair Haq was paired with Rep. Careen Gordon of District 75, Coal City. He says, "I asked her if I could go with her onto the house floor. After her great efforts and a little bit of luck, I was able to go inside the chamber." Here he saw how the House works when Representatives are trying to pass bills. Omair even shook hands with the Speaker of the House, Michael Madigan, a highlight of his experience.

All in all, Omair had a wonderful experience and was very grateful to the program for his time in the legislature. He hopes that all the interns' experiences were as great as his was.

Public Policy High School Participants Meet With Legislators

Certain students will be providing testimony on their project issues to the committees.

The 23 high school classes participating in the Public Policy High School Grant program are making field trips to the State Capitol to meet with their legislators and to experience state government first hand.

Certain students will be providing testimony on their project issues to the committees, discussing in detail the research they have been engaged in over the past several months. They will then present the results of their projects to their home district legislators.

If you would like to learn more about the Public Policy High School Grant program or the kinds of projects being done please visit http://pphsp.uis.edu/. If you would like to see the project done by Farragut Career Academy, please see http://www.farragutca.com/legalclinic/intro.html .

Taste of UIS Broadcast by OEM

The Office of Electronic Media taped and will be airing another segment of the ongoing series "Taste of UIS" which is sponsored by the University of Illinois Alumni Association.

This month the Taste was held at Maldaner's on March 24. Barbara Ferrara introduced Brad Swanson, General Manager of WUIS/WIPA, who spoke of the station's thirty year history, and where he sees the radio station's place in the future. Brad's presentation was aired three times in April on Public Access Channel 4. Next month's "Taste of UIS" will feature former Springfield mayor Karen Hasara on April 28 at Maldaner's.

Boys & Girls Club First Round Research Complete

The Institute for Legal and Policy Studies has been researching the Illinois Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs program that has them partnering up with 13 schools in northern and central Illinois to provide after school programs for academically at-risk children.

The schools had been on the Illinois State Board of Education's watch list for low academic achievement. Collaborating with the Boys & Girls Clubs, these 21st Century Community Learning Centers each served approximately 125 children in the first to eighth grades. For 15 hours every week, the center provided these children with academic tutoring, study groups, and recreation with goals of increased academic achievement, academic involvement, behavioral changes and other benefits to families and communities.

Principal Investigator Martin Martsch and Scott Day just completed the first round of data collection and look forward to analyzing the results of the program.

An Evening with the Illinois Poet Laureate

WUIS Public Radio will be hosting an evening of Illinois Poet Laureate, Kevin Stein, reading his poetry in Brookens Auditorium on April 27, 2004.

Stein has written five books of poetry, three scholarly books of literary criticism and has received many awards as well as a nomination for the Pulitzer Prize in 2001. He is also the Caterpillar Professor of English at Bradley University.

The general public is invited to attend this night of beautiful poetry as well as hearing Professor Stein's vision for Illinois. *An Evening with Kevin Stein* is co-sponsored by the Friends of Brookens Library, the Culturazzi and Writer's repertory through the Office of Student Life, and the UIS Speakers' Awards Committee. It will be recorded for future broadcast on 91.9 FM and 89.3 FM.

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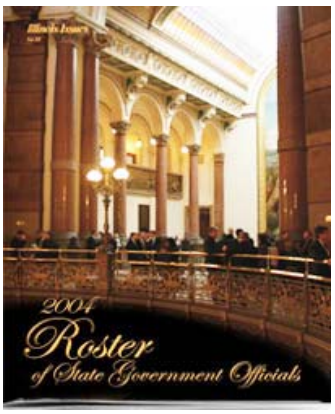
Roster of State Government Available

The *2004 Roster of State Government Officials* is now available to purchase. The *Roster* lists members of the 93rd General Assembly. Completely updated for 2004, it includes listings for the governor and all other statewide constitutional officers, as well as major executive agencies and their directors. You'll find all Illinois legislators and their district addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers, e-mail addresses, Web sites, and photos. Also includes the Illinois Supreme Court, the Illinois congressional delegation, media/ reporters who cover state government, and the phone numbers of scores of executive boards and commissions. Plus, hundreds of key staff members who work with these officials. For information about Roster prices go to: http://illinoisissues.uis.edu/ roster/roster.html. To order a Roster online go to: http://cspl.uis.edu/CentersOnlineStore/Reportsandotherpublications/Roster/.



New Documentary for WUIS to Begin

WUIS will begin to air *The Changing World*, a documentary series that examines global trends, issues, and events with direct connections to national concerns. The show, hosted by Lisa Mullins, examines the leading global concerns every week. Each program will cover one concern in an in-depth manner with topics ranging from gunrunning to cultural globalization.

Neil Curry, the show's creator says, "What you get is an extraordinary journey around the world. We carefully commission a range of documentaries and then carefully thread them to make the parts complement one another. That adds up to an impressive whole."

The show will be replacing *The Savvy Traveler* which has ceased production due in part to the fledgling travel industry in a post 9/11 world. *The Changing World* will begin airing Saturdays in April at 3:00 pm.

College Counseling Day set for May 12

Students from Lanphier High School are going to be attending a college counseling day here at UIS on May 12, 2004. Peggy Dunn, Director of the Public Policy High School Initiatives, in collaboration with the GEAR UP program, have developed the program to help students gain direction and begin to think about their possible studies in college.

Peggy Dunn will be offering a half day class for the students entitled "A Ride on the Underground Railroad in Illinois." The class is designed to engage the students in an in-depth study of this topic with extensions that the students will take back to their classrooms to complete. Some of the things they will learn about include the Fugitive Slave Laws, conductors on the Railroad', maps of the routes through Illinois, and the white and black abolitionist newspapers. This combined with a speaker and a workbook designed specifically for this experience will help the children learn about Illinois' part in the route to freedom.

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Office of Electronic Media Teaches Young Women About Technology

The Office of Electronic Media recently participated in the Expanding Your Horizons in Math, Science, and Technology conference. This event was sponsored by the American Association of University Women's Springfield branch. This hands-on experience educated 40 young women that they could be involved in such career paths as TV producer, scientist, and mathematician.

OEM held a workshop called "Lights, Camera, Action." It included a tour of OEM's production studios as well as opportunities to learn about careers in the media. The young women each got a chance to operate camera equipment and host a TV program.

OEM's workshops were hosted by Ann Nimaron, Rachel Rubin deCelis, and Jan Morrow.

Several young women got the chance to see what working in a television studio is all about

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
HTTP://CSPL.UIS.EDU

Upcoming Events

Policy Summit on issues in Cyberspace: Cyberethics, E-Commerce, and Spam
June 17, 2004 at UIS
Deadline to Register is June 10, 2004!
For more information or to register call 217-206-6502 or visit us online at http://cspl.uis.edu/OfficeOfExecutiveDirector/PublicPolicySummit/

Society, Slavery, and the Civil War 2004
June 25 at UIS
For more information please go to http://pphsp.uis.edu/societyslaverycivilwar2004.htm or call at 217/206-7398.

Meet our students!

Christina Luning Tang is a research assistant for the Executive Director's Office in the Center

This month I got the opportunity to interview Christina Luning Tang. She is a research assistant in the Center's Executive Director's Office. Here's what she had to say.

~Alexi Madon

Q. How long have you been working for the Center?
A. Since October, so about 5 months.

Q. What have you liked best so far?
A. I enjoyed the research that I was doing on the quality of life in Illinois.

Q. Now a little about you: What are you getting your degree in?
A. I am getting my Doctorate in Public Administration with an emphasis in budgetary policy.

Q. What do you want to do after you graduate?
A. I would like to work either researching budgetary policy, work for a budgeting office, or become a professor.

Q. Would you ever want to work in the private sector?
A. Yes. I already did for a year and a half and then decided to come back to school. I think it is really important that you know how to work with both sectors because they do intermingle regularly in the world of finance and budgeting.

Q. What do you like to do for fun?
A. I like to go to dinner with friends, watch movies, read, or shop.