State Policy and Leadership Monthly

Center for State Policy and Leadership
University of Illinois at Springfield

GEAR UP Project Receives Grants Totaling $99,500

The UIS Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) Project has received two supplemental grants from the SBC Corporation. The first grant was awarded for $49,897 for the "Enhancing the Teaching and Learning Functions through the Use of Instructional Technologies in GEAR UP Classrooms: A Capacity-Building Program for Teachers." The second grant, totaling $49,636 is for "Preparing Students for College Attendance and the Workplace by Supporting After-School and Summer Academic Enrichment Programs in Math, Science, Reading, and Technological Literacy."

GEAR UP is a nationwide initiative funded through the U.S. Department of Education designed to promote the partnering of educational and community organizations in providing college preparation services for at-risk youth. The Springfield partnership is administered through the Center for State Policy and Leadership. The local partnership includes Springfield School District 186 (Washington Middle School and Lanphier High School), the Springfield Urban League, Lincoln Land Community College, and the UIS College of Education and Human Services.

Geri Marion, UIS Project Manager of GEAR UP.

UIS is entering its sixth year of the GEAR UP Project in FY2005. In FY2004, GEAR UP served over 1,000 Lanphier High School students, providing tutoring, college campus visits, ACT preparation, and leadership training. A series of workshops were also held for parents and students on topics ranging from financial aid to campus life, serving between 150 and 400 individuals at each workshop.

Dean Larry Stonecipher of the College of Education and Human Services and Carol Esarey, Interim Director of the Institute for Legal and Policy Studies are the project co-directors, while Geri Marion is the project manager. Ms. Marion can be reached by telephone at 206-7570. Congratulations to the GEAR UP project for receiving this significant amount of grant funding!

Dr. Kent Redfield Updates "Sunshine Database"

The Sunshine Database can be used by anyone to search for Illinois political campaign contribution and expenditure information. When asked the origin of the name of the database, Dr. Redfield stated that it was named the Sunshine Database because it was created to allow everything to be out in the open, like sunshine. The information contained in the Sunshine Database is public information, taken from the Illinois State Board of Elections' database of electronically filed campaign finance reports. The information is standardized, coded and organized in a user-friendly fashion and updated every six months in the Sunshine

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- Institute for Legal and Policy Studies
- Institute for Legislative Studies
- Office of Electronic Media
- Office of Graduate Intern Programs
- Papers of Abraham Lincoln
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- Survey Research Office
- WUIS/WIPA Public Radio

Dr. Kent Redfield Updates "Sunshine Database"

"Illinois has the best electronic filing and disclosure system in the country..."

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Database at www.ilcampaign.org. Dr. Redfield observed that "Illinois has the best electronic filing and disclosure system in the country. The Sunshine Project takes that data and makes it more accessible and meaningful to the public."

Campaign contributions can be broken down into election cycles and the database includes information from 1993 through 2004. Now that there is over a decade of data for the contributions, it is easy to look at how much money was given over the past ten years, or look at top contributors for each cycle. Expenditure information is available from 1999 through 2004. For example, in 2001-2002 there are 113,000 expenditure records and 136,000 receipt (contribution and interest statement) records in the database, for a grand total of 249,000 records. Gone are the days of having to access paper reports to inspect the records, now information can be accessed on the web within seconds.

Some UIS students are using the database for classes, lobbying seminars, and even for master's theses and projects. If you have not had the opportunity to look at the Sunshine Database, click on the internet address above.

Illinois Issues September Edition Explores Regional Debate Over Gun Laws

With the 10-year-old federal ban on assault weapons headed toward extinction, *Illinois Issues* explored the regional debate over gun laws that divide the state and the nation. The September cover story, "Under lock and key" was written by Pat Guinane, the magazine's Statehouse bureau chief. The piece focuses on how the politics of gun policy play out in Illinois, especially for statewide candidates, as this November voters will choose a new U.S. Senator.

That debate unfolded in the General Assembly last spring, as downstate lawmakers advanced measures that would have relaxed some gun laws. The discourse should roll forward into the November veto session as Governor Rod Blagojevich, a Chicago Democrat who generally supports gun control, recently said the legislature should reconsider a state ban on assault weapons to replace the federal law, which lapsed on September 13, 2004.

If you would like subscription information for *Illinois Issues*, call 1-800-508-0266 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time, Monday-Friday (except holidays).

An Afternoon of Music & History Sponsored by WUIS

WUIS Public Radio expects more than 100 guests to savor music, art and architecture in Elkhart, Illinois during its Classics on the Hill event Sunday, October 3, 2004. With help from the Elkhart Historical Society, the village and merchants of Elkhart, WUIS' guests will enjoy the unique shops downtown, several of the four historical tours offered, a dinner, and the beautiful music of The Cavatina Duo. The Cavatina Duo consists of Eugenia, who plays flute, and her husband Denis, on classical guitar. These two world-renowned performers will perform a passionate repertoire.

This event benefits WUIS' local classical music programming and student outreach. Karl Scroggin, host of *Classics* from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. weekdays recently celebrated his 20th year broadcasting the program. The event also benefits the Elkhart Historical Society, to further its mission of preservation and education. A listing of upcoming public radio events can usually be found at www.wuis.org.

WUIS WIPA
91.9 Springfield 89.3 Pittsfield

Public Policy High School Initiatives Program Awarded $33,000 McCormick Tribune Foundation Grant

Peggy Dunn looks forward to working with this new group of high school students.

The Public Policy High School Initiatives Program was awarded a $33,000 grant from the McCormick Tribune Foundation, one of the nation's largest charitable organizations. The grant will fund the participation of seven Illinois high schools for the 2004-2005 school year. The following high schools have been selected to participate: Riverton Community High School, Riverton, IL; Dr. Martin Luther King Prep School, Chicago, IL; Chicago Vocational High School, Chicago, IL; Barry Community High School, Barry, IL; Hutsonville Community High School, Hutsonville, IL; Danville Community High School, Danville, IL; and, Porta High School, Petersburg, IL.

The Public Policy Initiative, in its third year, provides a unique hands-on civic education program that engages high school teacher teams and students in community activism and leadership by facilitating identification of problems that impact their local communities and to research alternatives that may provide solutions to these problems. Students learn to create, develop and influence public policy at the grassroots level while working closely with their teacher team and local and state government to effect real change. The students will be working closely with their community newspapers, editors, and reporters. Part of this year's grant will require regular newspaper articles developed by the students, in addition to completing the public policy-making requirement of the program.

Congratulations to Peggy Dunn, Director, for her hard work in securing this grant award, and her enthusiasm for working with high school students.

Hilary Frost-Kumpf Teaches Career Development for 2nd Year Interns

Dr. Hilary Frost-Kumpf explains a career assessment tool to her GPSI Seminar class.

Professor Hilary Frost-Kumpf of the UIS Department of Public Administration teaches the Career Development Seminar for second year Graduate Public Service Interns (GPSI). This course is one of a series of four seminars that the GPSI students take during their two year appointment. Dr. Frost-Kumpf's seminar provides students in the GPSI program with information and resources about career development and assists them in building skills to enhance their chosen careers. Topics covered include professional development, skills assessment, employment outlook, job search strategies, networking, information interviewing, resume development, cover letters, interviewing skills, offer negotiation, employment law, and business etiquette. Hilary is in her third year teaching the GPSI seminar course on career development, and she enjoys assisting students in preparation for realizing their career goals. Students who complete her seminar class will have an updated professional resume, experience writing cover letters, as well as polished interviewing skills.

Other seminar topics in the series include Organizational Environment in the Public Sector, Conflict Management and Interpersonal Communication Skills, and Facilitation and Presentation Skills. The seminar classes meet five times per semester for three hours, and students earn 1.0 credit hour, for a total of 4.0 credit hours upon completion of all four seminar classes. Other GPSI seminar classes will be featured in upcoming newsletters.

The Downstate Illinois Innocence Project Fights for Julie Rea-Harper

The Downstate Illinois Innocence Project, housed in the Institute for Legal and Policy Studies at UIS, has been working with Julie Rea-Harper and her family since spring 2003 to overturn her murder conviction. UIS students worked during spring and summer semester 2004 with investigator Bill Clutter and UIS Professor Larry Golden to find new and corroborating evidence of her innocence and build political pressure to get the Governor or Attorney General to intervene in her case.

In early June, an appellate court ruled that Julie's conviction was procedurally flawed. Instead of heeding the new evidence and allowing her to be released, the local state's attorney immediately reinstated an arrest warrant and removed Julie from the Dwight Correctional Center to the local jail so that she could be rearraigned. The judge set bail at $750,000, which was $250,000 more than in her first trial despite compelling arguments that Julie was not a flight risk and there was new evidence to assure that she did not commit the crime. National support for Julie aided the family in raising the necessary $75,000 bond, which allowed Julie to leave prison for the first time in over two years.

The project is continuing to work with the Northwestern Center on Wrongful Convictions, which has taken over litigations for the new trial. A preliminary hearing was set for September 29, 2004.

UIS students have formed an Innocence Project Club on campus. A Public Affairs Colloquium (PAC) class on wrongful convictions/actual innocence was taught by Larry Golden during spring semester 2004, and will be repeated spring semester 2005. Eight students volunteered to work on this case from that PAC course. Many students are still volunteering on this case, even after the course was completed. Golden was recognized by the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs in Chicago with their annual "Courageous Voices" Award in part for his work with the Innocence Project. The Project will continue its work this year on Julie's case, as well as on the Slover case in Decatur where a husband and his mother and father were convicted and sentenced to 65 years in prison for the brutal killing of Karyn Slover despite the lack of any physical evidence to tie them to the crime.

Professor Nancy Ford is co-director of the Project. She has been working with students on legal research, grant submission and also may teach the PAC course in the future.

John Lupton Publishes Chapter on "Lincoln the Lawyer"

John A. Lupton, Assistant Director and Assistant Editor of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, published a chapter in Norman Gross's new book entitled, *America's Lawyer-Presidents: From Law Office to Oval Office*. Lupton's chapter, "Selected Cases of A. Lincoln, Esq., Attorney and Counsellor-at-Law" is one of two chapters on Abraham Lincoln. Lupton provides examples of the various cases that Lincoln handled while practicing law in the courts of central Illinois.

The book, published by Northwestern University Press, contains a foreword by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and highlights the legal careers of the twenty-five presidents who practiced law before and after their terms in the White House. Other notable historians who contributed chapters include Robert Johannsen, professor emeritus at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Lawrence Friedman, who is regarded as one of the foremost legal historians in the country. The book is in bookstores now and sells for $39.95.

"Lupton's chapter is one of two on Abraham Lincoln."

Statewide Survey Conducted on Issue of "Spam"

Richard Schuldt, Director, Survey Research Office, presents "Spam" survey results at the Policy Summit on Issues in Cyberspace.

Richard Schuldt, Director, Survey Research Office, provided the following findings. When conducting the Illinois statewide telephone survey for the June 2004 Policy Summit on Issues in Cyberspace between May 23 and June 14, 2004, three-quarters of all respondents were aware of the "spam" concept. Awareness was, not surprisingly, much higher among email/Internet users (89%) than non-users (54%). The most common adjectives used to describe spam were those indicating it is "irritating" (40%) followed by those indicating it is "junk/junk mail" (24%).

Respondents were asked to rate how irritating they found 19 different types of email messages. Those rated most irritating were five which were all either deceptive or offensive in nature. The next six types all involved senders whom the respondent did not know. The least irritating eight kinds were those email messages for which respondents knew the sender or had requested the message.

The average number of spam messages received was reported to be 70 a week. One quarter of the respondents reported receiving *at least* 210 spam messages a week. At the same time, another quarter reported receiving no more than 21 spam messages a week. The average time spent "dealing with spam" in a week was 15 minutes at home and 10 minutes at work. One quarter reported they spent *at least* 40 minutes at home dealing with spam in a week, and one quarter of those using email at work reported spending *at least* 30 minutes a week at work dealing with spam.

Almost four of ten (38%) reported that spam interfered "not at all" with their ability to send and receive email, while only one in ten (10%) reported it was an "extreme interference." When asked whether they had taken nine selected actions to deal with spam, the average number reported was 2.5, with only 17% saying they had taken none of them. Almost half (46%) had taken four or more actions. The most common actions taken were unsubscribing to a particular spam message (51%) and changing settings to filter more spam (49%). One-third (34%) had downloaded or bought software to filter spam, while nearly three in ten indicated they had complained to their ISP (29%) and quit using a particular email account (28%). Of those who had taken actions to deal with spam, just over half (53%) said that at least some steps seemed to work. The steps most often identified as working were changing email filter settings and downloading/buying software.

Additional survey findings on spam and Internet sales tax will be highlighted in the next newsletter.

Springfield Public Television ACCESS 4 Wins National Award

ACCESS 4, operated by the University of Illinois at Springfield's Office of Electronic Media and funded by Insight Communications, has been selected as the winner in the Overall Excellence in the Public Access category of the Hometown Video Festival, which is a national contest sponsored by the Alliance for Community Media. This is the third win for ACCESS 4 in this category.

ACCESS 4 provides an opportunity for local residents and non-profit organizations to produce programs to air on Channel 4 and to promote events via the channel's community calendar. Area residents produced over 400 hours of local programming in 2003 and ACCESS 4 currently has 68 regular series producers. Technical assistance from the staff and students in the Office of Electronic Media is provided to the local producers at no charge.

Congratulations to the staff of the Office of Electronic Media for winning this prestigious award!

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Upcoming Events

October 6, 2004:
GPSI 30th Anniversary Alumni Dinner
By invitation in the Sangamon Auditorium Lobby.

October 7, 14, and 21, 2004:
2004 Lincoln Legacy Lecture Series: Ethics and Power
Held at UIS in Brookens Auditorium, lower level of Brookens Library at 7:30 p.m. The lectures are free and open to the public. No registration is required. Seating is first come, first served. For more information, contact 217-206-6576.

October 15, 2004:
Illinois State Budget: Tax and Spend 101 Workshop
Sponsored by UIS Institute for Legislative Studies and *Illinois Issues* at UIS, Public Affairs Center, Level 1, Conference Room C/D. For registration information, please contact Lorrie Farrington at 217-206-6574.

November 12, 2004:
Election 2004 Wrap-Up
Join us for the second in this year's Policy Luncheon Series from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For registration information, please contact Scott Koeneman at 217-333-3340.

Meet Our Students!

Nathan Myers, GA in the Institute for Legal and Policy Studies is working on a Master of Public Administration degree and would like to work on public interest research.

Nathan Myers was interviewed in late September, having spent about one month on the job as a Graduate Assistant (GA) in the Institute for Legal and Policy Studies. He has completed 24 hours toward his master's degree. Following are his answers to provide insight into Nathan's role as GA.

Where did you earn your undergraduate degree, and what was your major?
I attended Knox College in Galesburg and received my degree in Political Science, with a minor in History. My junior year I was the research assistant for the Political Science department. I also interned with Representative Don Moffitt of Galesburg, and Senator Bill Brady of Bloomington. Senior year I participated in the Washington Semester Program at American University in Washington, D.C. and interned with U.S. Representative Tim Johnson.

What is your major in grad school?
I am working on my M.P.A. – Master of Public Administration.

What are your career plans?
I am looking at conducting public interest research at a research institution. Also, I am interested in working for the federal or state government.

How long have you been a GA in the Center?
I began as a GA in August. Last year I was a student worker in the UIS Conference Services office, and a volunteer at the Hope School in Springfield.

Could you describe the types of assignments you are working on as a GA?
I have assisted with the needs assessment for Illinois law enforcement by conducting a literature review for the proposal. I entered data for both the DUI assessment tool, and the GEAR UP Project. I will be assisting with the Innocence Project and Probation Training in the future.

How did you spend your summer vacation?
I was an intern in the Michael Curry Program, appointed to the newly created Illinois Office of Internal Audit, where I assisted in audits of the Illinois Departments of Agriculture, Human Services, and Revenue, as well as the Capital Development Board. I worked full-time and learned about a variety of state agencies. I found this experience to be very valuable, especially as an MPA student.