

GCI Monthly

A Publication of the **Great Cities Institute** at the University of Illinois at Chicago

April 2011



Dear Friends of the Great Cities Institute,

Over the last couple weeks, I have been pleased to present the strategic rethinking report on the future of the Great Cities Institute. The roll-out process of meetings with those who are invested in the institute and with others who may contribute their helpful insights to the report's contents will serve as the jumping-off point as we take the first of many steps to implement the report's recommendations. If you would like to receive a copy of the report please e-mail Taryn McCook (tmccoo2@uic.edu). Please direct any comments and suggestions to Associate Director Rachel Weber (rachelw@uic.edu) and I (djudd@uic.edu). We are also eager to discuss the report with anyone who is interested, so please let us know if you would like to schedule a meeting. We will keep you in the loop as the process unfolds.

Our most important event this spring is being held on May 13 in the 5th floor Great Space of CUPPA. In honor of David C. Perry's 11-year service as the Director of the Great Cities Institute, Wim Wiewel, previous Dean of CUPPA and the College of Business Administration and the current President of Portland State University, will give a lecture on "Economic Growth and Social Equity: Dilemmas for the Urban University." This occasion will celebrate David's commitment to multidisciplinary research and engaged scholarship, which continues to be important to everything the Institute does. Please join us for this celebration to honor David's exceptional leadership and his scholarly contributions.

With the closing of the semester, we also must say farewell, congrats, and the most sincere thanks to eight graduating GCI research assistants. Anjali Alva, Sara Amaral, Rudy Flores, Tim Jeffries, Kathy Kaminski, Julie Langer, John Sheaffer, and Joshua Stillman. We at the Institute wish each of you the best as you continue your education and launch your careers.

Finally, we are excited to host Professor Stefanie Dühr from Radboud University in the Netherlands, who will be joining us as an international visiting fellow for the month of May. While in residence at the Institute, she will be looking at metropolitan-level planning and the power of maps in planning processes. She will give a talk during her one month visit, so please

IN THIS ISSUE

At a Glance

Upcoming Public Event

IRN Conference

Farewell to RAs

Featured Program: GCI Civic Leadership Program

Visiting International Scholar In the Media

Research & Publications

Podcasts

Social Media

Great Cities/Ordinary Lives

Conference

Quick Links

At a Glance:

Friday, May 13, @ 3pm

"Economic Growth and Social Equity: Dilemmas for the Urban University"

Special Event to Honor Professor Perry and his 11 years as Director of GCI.

Summer is almost here!



Graduating GCI Research Assistants

We wish you the best of luck!

Anjali Alva, MUPP
Sara Amaral, MUPP
Rodolfo Flores, MUPP
Tim Jeffries, MUPP
Kathryn Kaminski, MPA
Julie Langer, MPA
John Sheaffer, MUPP
Joshua Stillman, MUPP

keep alert for forthcoming details.

Best wishes for a productive and eventful summer.



Dennis R. Judd
Interim Director, UIC Great Cities Institute
Professor, UIC Department of Political Science

Upcoming Event

GCI Special Event in Honor of Professor David C. Perry and his 11 years of service as Director of the Great Cities Institute



A Lecture by Wim Wiewel “Economic Growth and Social Equity: Dilemmas for the Urban University”

Friday, May 13, 2011
3pm: Welcome and Lecture
5pm: Reception

Location: The Great Space
412 S. Peoria St, 5th FL
CUPPAH 500

RSVP to tmccoo2@uic.edu

Illinois ResourceNet Conference a Success

On April 28th, 2011 Illinois ResourceNet, in partnership with the University of Illinois Extension and the Association for Fundraising Professionals, Quad Cities Chapter, held the Collaborate for Collective Impact regional conference.



Over 85 participants attended the conference including federal and state agency representatives, local publicly elected officials, philanthropic representatives, and non-profit community and economic development practitioners. The conference conducted breakout sessions that included presentations from over 20 speakers from state and federal agencies and local organizations who provided expertise on potential sources of funding for initiatives, best practices on submitting applications and how to work locally to be most effective in securing and managing state and federal funds.

The conference focused on several key themes including the growing importance of collaborating across policy silos to increase the collective impacts in our communities to solve complex and multi-faceted problems. Participants also discussed the need to collaborate to survive and pool resources in these difficult financial times. Participants also learned more about the role of social entrepreneurship as an innovative strategy for social change in the development of partnerships among nonprofits, government, universities and corporations.

The conference was audio recorded and will be available for download in the first week of May at the IllinoisResourceNet website in the conferences section.

Social Media

“Like” GCI on Facebook for another avenue to stay in touch with us and to keep updated on our public events, workshops, research, and community engagement. [Click here!](#)



PODCASTS

We convert all of our public lectures into Podcasts for those of you who cant make it to the Institute in person. Visit our website for a complete list of our past [podcasts](#).

Recent Podcast (links):

Yue Zhang
“Governing Art Districts: State Control and Cultural Production in Contemporary China”

IN THE MEDIA

Rachel Weber Comments on New Engelwood TIF

Chicago Public Radio interviewed GCI Associate Director Rachel Weber on factors that could attract retailers to a TIF district on the former site of Kennedy-King College in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood. During the interview Weber discussed how TIF districts alone are typically not able to improve blighted areas. "You really need to have independent market interest in an area." However, she points out that many blighted neighborhoods have "many community assets to flaunt," such as public transportation, major institutions, and density that can be utilized to attract business development.

To view the article in its entirety, visit [Chicago Public Radio](#).

--

Rachel Weber comments on Suburban Big-Box Developments

In a piece on the challenges Glenview and Northbrook are experiencing in defining their downtown districts, GCI Associate Director Rachel Weber described the push back that auto-oriented strip malls and big box developments are experiencing as consumers react to the generic nature of shopping in many suburbs.

For the article, [click here](#).



Feature: GCI Civic Leadership Program

The Great Cities Institute and the Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement successfully launched the pilot for the GCI Civic Leadership Program this spring.

Consisting of five half-day meetings, readings, and assignments, this program is designed to offer young leaders from Chicago's neighborhood-based non-profit organizations the opportunity to grapple with complex urban political and economic challenges and begin to discuss, understand and propose policy solutions.



Through weekly readings, discussions, case studies, public speaking and political strategy exercises, the Civic Leadership Training Program instructs students to engage with the skills required of future political leaders. In particular, the learning goals for this program are for participants to possess a foundational knowledge about the most hotly debated topics in the City of Chicago, to be familiar with the basic definitions, existing legislation, and empirical research in each area, and to develop a confidence that allows them to take a stand on controversial topics in urban politics. The course topics for the pilot include foreclosures and sub-prime lending, youth violence and juvenile justice, and charter schools. Students work closely with leaders across disciplines around the City as well as with UIC faculty and policy experts.

For more information, contact Program Manager and GCI Associate Director for Research and Program Development, Rachel Weber at rachelw@uic.edu.

Scholar Visits GCI from the Netherlands

Professor Stefanie Duhr from Radboud University in the Netherlands is joining GCI as an international visiting scholar for the month of May. She is the co-author of "European Spatial Planning and Territorial Cooperation" and author of "The Visual Language of Spatial Planning: Exploring Cartographic Representations for Spatial Planning in Europe," among several other publications. Her research interests include metropolitan level planning, European spatial development, transnational cooperation, comparative planning, cartographic representations, polycentric territorial development, urban networks, and sustainable urban development. Stefanie will discuss her current research to GCI's public audience at a date later in the month, TBA.



Research and Publications

Research Team Presents on Privatization

GCI Associate Director Rachel Weber, GCI Fellow Phil Ashton, and Research Associate of UIC's Voorhees Center Marc Doussard presented the paper "Policy Bubbles: The Rise & 'Fall' of the High-Priced Infrastructure Lease" at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Seattle a few weeks ago. The AAG convenes scholars, researchers, professionals, and students interested in geography and related disciplines to discuss and present the latest in research and applications in geography, sustainability, and GIScience.



Rutgers' School of Management and Labor Relations and the In the Public Interest Conference on Privatization invited Weber, Ashton, and Doussard to discuss issues surrounding privatized infrastructure as well. In the Public Interest is a Resource Center on privatization and responsible contracting. For more information on this organization, [click here](#).

Grant Awarded to Collaborative Research Project

GCI Fellow Phil Ashton, GCI Research Assistant Glenda Garelli and former GCI Faculty Scholar Ralph Cintron have been working on a collaborative research project on the international person-to-person money transfers by migrant workers over the course of the last year. The project, titled "Captive Labor, Mobile Capital and Migrant Lives: Remittances as Global Commodities," has just been awarded a Faculty Scholar Grant by the UIC Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy. The purpose of the Grant is to encourage high quality, multidisciplinary, policy-relevant work on race and ethnicity across the UIC campus.

Garelli presented the first written output of the research in April at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington. Further work is scheduled to be presented at the annual conference of the Global Studies Association of North American at Loyola University Chicago in May. More information can be found on the upcoming conference [here](#).

Great Cities/Ordinary Lives Conference

SAVE THE DATE!

September 16 - 17th, 2011

Great Cities/Ordinary Lives Conference @ UIC
A look at the city and its residents from the bottom up

Sponsored by the Great Cities Institute, UIC College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, UIC Department of Sociology & UIC Department of Political Science

For more information, contact tmcco2@uic.edu.

IN THE MEDIA (cont)

Phil Ashton Comments on Local Homeownership Rates

GCI Fellow and Urban Planning Professor Phil Ashton commented on the inertia currently seen in local homeownership rates due to credit market conditions, high unemployment and erosion of housing prices since the housing crash.

To read the complete *Crain's Chicago Business* article, [click here](#).

Quick Website Links

[GCI's Mission](#)

[GCI's Programs](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Podcasts](#)

[GCI Working Papers](#)

[Past GCI Monthlys](#)

[Our Location](#)

[Giving to GCI](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[UIC Homepage](#)

[CUPPA Homepage](#)