

GCI Monthly

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

February/March 2012

Dear Friends of the Great Cities Institute,

With a very mild winter behind us (but this is Chicago; is this statement courting fate?), we at the Institute are looking forward to the warmth and excitement of the second half of the spring semester.

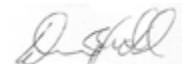
We have several public events planned for the next two months that we hope you are able to attend or listen to via podcast. On March 1, as part of the GCI Comparative Urbanisms Series, Rachel Weber, Igal Charney, and Ty Tabing led a panel discussion on "A Tale of Two Downtowns: Core Area Development and Diversification in Toronto and Chicago"; the recording is available for download on our website. The Real-Time Chicago Series' second installment will take place on March 8th when Louise Nelson Dyble from Michigan Technical University gives a presentation on "The Chicago Skyway and the Future of Urban Infrastructure." We are also looking forward to three Faculty Scholar seminars this month: Larry Bennett and Stephanie Riger will discuss their ongoing research, "Cook County Domestic Violence Court: Policies and Procedures When Substance Abuse and Intimate Partner Violence Co-Occur" on March 6, Faculty Scholar team Betsy Abrams and Crystal Patil will present their research on March 13 on innovative antenatal care in sub-Saharan Africa, and Pamela Anne Quiroz will discuss her research on diversity in high schools on March 27.

Last week, Rachel Weber and I met with the GCI Faculty Scholar Review Committee members, who generously offered their time to help select the 2012-2013 GCI Faculty Scholars. We were able to consider several excellent proposals and will announce the names of the next years' scholars shortly.

We also would like to announce an important administrative change. Recently, the Dean's office of the College of Urban Policy and Public Affairs announced that Joy Pamintuan, our Associate Director of Business and Finance, has accepted a 50% buyout from the college to work on financial management issues in the college until at least July 1. In the interim I have asked Yibing Li, Assistant to the Director in the Center for Urban Economic Development, to assume some of her responsibilities.

As always, we are open to all suggestions, comments, and questions. Please visit our website for more details on our upcoming events and the current operations of GCI's programs and projects.

Best wishes for a productive semester,



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



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"Cook County Domestic Violence Court: Policies and Procedures When Substance Abuse and Intimate Partner Violence Co-Occur"

March 6, 2012, 2:00pm

GCI Real-Time Chicago Seminar

Louise Nelson Dyble
"The Chicago Skyway and the Future of Urban Infrastructure"

March 8, 2012; 3:00pm

Center for Faith and Community Health Transformation Quarterly Meeting (UICNI)

Family, Faith and Health:
Preventing HIV/AIDS

March 8, 2012; 5:30pm

[Click here](#) for more info.

NEW PODCASTS

We convert all of our public lectures into MP3 Podcasts, made available on the GCI website.

Rachel Weber, Igal Charney, & Ty Tabing, 3/1/2012

“Tale of Two Downtowns: Core Area Development and Diversification in Toronto and Chicago”



Open World National Award Given to GCI Partner

Supporters of Civil Society in Russia and the Moscow School of Political Studies, organizations with whom GCI partnered last October in order to bring emerging civic and political leaders from Russia to Chicago for a week long seminar, received the 2012 Open World National Grantee of Merit Award. The Open World Leadership Center, the Congressional agency working to increase U.S.-Eurasian understanding and partnerships, gives these awards. GCI looks forward to continuing to contribute to such high quality and high impact programming.

[Click here](#) for the press release.

Social Media

“Like” GCI on Facebook to keep updated on our public events, research, service, and educational programs by [clicking here](#).



Upcoming Events

GCI Faculty Scholar Lecture

“Cook County Domestic Violence Court: Policies and Procedures When Substance Abuse and Intimate Partner Violence Co-Occur”

Larry Bennett, PhD
Professor, UIC Jane Addams College of Social Work

Stephanie Riger, PhD
Professor, UIC Departments of Psychology, Gender & Women’s Studies

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

2:00 - 3:30pm

**Great Cities Institute
412 S. Peoria St, 4th FL
CUPPAH 400**



In this talk, GCI Faculty Scholars Larry Bennett and Stephanie Riger will discuss their ongoing research on the interface between Cook County Domestic Violence Court and community-based agencies focusing on substance abuse treatment and domestic violence intervention.

Responding to their presentation will be Leslie Landis, J.D., Administrator, Cook County Domestic Violence Court; Pamela Rodriguez, M.S.W., President, Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities; and Jennifer Welch, J.D., Deputy Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services.

GCI Real-Time Chicago Seminar

“The Chicago Skyway and the Future of Urban Infrastructure”

Louise Nelson Dyble
Assistant Professor of History
Michigan Technological University

Thursday, March 8, 2012

3:00 - 4:30pm

**Great Cities Institute
412 S. Peoria St, 4th FL, CUPPAH 400**



In the history of toll roads, the Chicago Skyway’s financing and administration is unique and in some ways it may anticipate their future. In this talk Louise Nelson Dyble will juxtapose the history of the Chicago Skyway with current trends in urban transportation and infrastructure policy. She will consider the implications of greater local initiative and responsibility as well as close public/private collaboration in the context of financial pressure and scarce funding.

Louise Nelson Dyble specializes in urban history with a focus on twentieth century politics and policy, infrastructure and the built environment, and metropolitan government and governance. Dyble’s research includes a book project on road and highway financing in the United States, concentrating on turnpikes and toll roads. Her book, *Paying the Toll: Local Power, Regional Politics, and the Golden Gate Bridge* won the Abel Wolman Award of the Public Works Historical Society in 2009. Dyble earned a PhD in history at the University of California, Berkeley.

IN THE MEDIA



The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette quoted GCI Associate Director Rachel Weber on the ramifications

of Allegheny County property reassessments that appear to overestimate the values of low-priced properties and undervalue the highest priced properties in proportion to each other. For the full story, [click here](#).



Sharon Haar, member of the GCI community and former GCI Faculty Scholar, is featured on the Zocalo Public

Square offering her perspective on the question: What responsibility does a university have to its local urban community? [Click here](#) to explore her answer alongside those of other scholars and university presidents.

Publications

Nik Theodore, Director of the Center for Urban Economic Development (CUED), had two new articles published last month.

Nik Theodore and Jamie Peck *"Framing Neoliberal Urbanism: Translating 'Commonsense' Urban Policy across the OECD Zone"* European Urban and Regional Studies 19(1): 20-41.

Jamie Peck and Nik Theodore *"Follow the Policy: A Distended Case Approach."* Environment and Planning A 44(1): 21-30.

Contact Nik at theodore@uic.edu for more information.

Feature: Neighborhoods Initiative Introduces MEND Program to School Based Health Centers

GCI's Neighborhoods Initiative program (UICNI) is introducing an exciting new family approach weight-loss program named MEND (Mind Exercise Nutrition Do it!) into two of their school based health centers. MEND is the world's largest evidence-based, community-centered obesity intervention. Founded in the United Kingdom in 2004 as a social enterprise, MEND's mission is to reduce obesity through innovation, partnership and practical action by providing a range of



training, prevention and intervention programs specifically designed to be delivered in local communities in a cost effective manner.

The program is multi-component in design, combining nutritional education, physical activity and behavior change strategies. CPHP will coordinate MEND activities through Neighborhoods Initiative's school based health centers at National Teachers Academy and Drake elementary schools. Both will serve as delivery sites for this exciting project.

This programming is made possible by a determined collaboration of representatives from the international MEND office, Chicago Park District, Namaste Charter School, Acts of Faith, and Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention, UICNI staff from the Chicago Partnership for Health Promotion (CPHP) that together applied for several grants to establish a multi-venue system to introduce MEND programming in Chicago. One of these grants has been awarded. Funded by the Chicago Community Trust and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, UICNI hosted the initial training of all the partners on February 10th, 2012, and curriculum training for each of the partners will begin the March 21st. The project will officially kick off the week of April 8th.

For additional information, please contact Anastasia McGee, UICNI Associate Director, Community Nutrition, and Director of the Chicago Partnership for Health Promotion (CPHP): apmcgee@uic.edu.

Chicago Cultural Planning Begins Via Public Engagement

In November 2011, Julie Burros, Director of Cultural Planning for the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), gave a talk at the Great Cities Institute on the City of Chicago's intention to create a new cultural plan for the city. The process is now underway; City Hall is soliciting ideas and other input from the public via neighborhood meetings and social media outlets. According to the DCASE website, 'the plan will ultimately deliver a set of recommendations to support the arts and artists throughout the city, as well as enhance economic growth and Chicago's reputation as a global cultural destination.' To listen to Burros' talk at GCI, [click here](#). For more information and to participate in this process, [click here](#).



Have Questions or Suggestions? Email us at gcities@uic.edu.