Dear Friends of the Great Cities Institute,

Welcome to the New Year and the new semester! For us the new year began on two auspicious notes: first, the front reception area has been completed and we are now awaiting artwork to give it a finishing touch, and second, on January 3 we welcomed the staff of the Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (ICPE) into the 4th floor space. These two changes make our environment both welcoming and lively. On January 11 the many people associated with GCI, IPCE, the Center for Urban Economic Development (CUED), and the Healthy Cities Collaborative gathered in our conference room for introductions and conversation. The room was jam-packed – exactly as we like it to be.

Beginning this month, our monthly newsletter will feature the current projects of at least one of GCI’s programs. This month, Professor Martin Jaffe describes the Metropolitan Sustainability program and the major initiatives it is undertaking this spring. With policy tensions rising over the inter-related issues of clean water provision, energy, climate change, and urban ecological sustainability, this program is a perfect expression of the Institute’s commitment to improving the lives of urban residents in Chicago and beyond.

We have a busy schedule of public lectures and other events coming up this spring, so please keep your eyes and email boxes open for the notifications. In February we have scheduled forums on Chicago urban politics and the Bloomingdale Trail, and in March we are sponsoring a series on the revitalization of the Chicago Loop and on Chicago’s urban infrastructure. In late April, GCI will be cosponsoring a Neoliberal Urbanism workshop. This is all in addition to four GCI Faculty Scholar seminars.

Finally, we are looking forward to reviewing the proposals for the 2012-2013 GCI Faculty Scholar Competition, and in February or March we will announce next year’s Faculty Scholars.

Best wishes for a happy and productive semester,

Dennis R. Judd
Interim Director, UIC Great Cities Institute
Professor, UIC Department of Political Science
CNM Offers New Courses this Spring


January 27, 2012 is the registration deadline for Introduction to Nonprofit Management and Civic Engagement, the most proximate new CNM course offering. This five-week course lays the foundation for an integrated approach to nonprofit management in the context of today’s complex and rapidly changing environment. Students will examine how the pursuit of high social impact expands the scope of nonprofit management practice beyond the boundaries of an organization. Capacity building for nonprofits has traditionally focused on the internal management of organizations, but effective leaders and managers today need a broader framework.

To see a full schedule of classes and to register, please click here.

Feature: Metropolitan Sustainability Program

Economic and population expansion creates many challenges to the physical and cultural environment. Metropolitan growth impacts the availability of clean air and accessible, clean water, the conservation of energy and natural resources, habitat protection, and more. Planning and management of the complex relationships that are affected by these forces can help mitigate and even prevent the environmental and ecological problems accompanying urban growth in the Chicagoland area and beyond.

Led by GCI Fellow and Associate Professor Martin Jaffe and supported by the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program, the Metropolitan Sustainability Program partners with local, state, and regional-level agencies on projects to do just that: enhance knowledge and shape environmental policy. Professor Jaffe is currently engaged in three initiatives: One is concerned with the development of winter climate adaptation policies and, working with NOAA’s Midwestern Regional Climate Center, the more accurate projection of climate change impacts within the southern Lake Michigan basin. Another focuses on water supply planning and improving its continued regional provision, in partnership with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). Additionally, Jaffe, the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC), and CMAP have teamed up to develop an integrated water management plan for Lake Zurich, Illinois.

Appealing to his especially strong interest in green infrastructure, Jaffe is on CNT’s advisory board on storm water management issues and was the Principal Investigator in a 2010 Illinois EPA-funded study on green infrastructure best practices as well. An expert on the ever-present challenges of regional planning and multi-scale/jurisdictional decision making, Professor Jaffe has been involved in land use and environmental planning for most of his career. His past affiliations include being the Regulatory Planner for the Martha’s Vineyard Commission and a research administrator for the American Planning Association.

For more information, feel free to contact Professor Jaffe at mjaffe@uic.edu.

Social Media

“Like” GCI on Facebook for another avenue to stay in touch with us and to keep updated on our public events, research, service, and educational programs by clicking here.

Research & Service

Fellow Tingwei Zhang Active in Chinese Urban Planning

Urban Planning Professor and GCI Fellow Tingwei Zhang continues to chair the International Advisory Council for the Municipal Government of Wuhan, a twenty-six member group made up of leading figures in academic, business and technology circles worldwide. The main task of the council is to provide the municipal...
**IN THE NEWS**

WBEZ radio quoted GCI Associate Director and UPP Associate Professor Rachel Weber on the tax credits and job-training subsidies the State of Illinois gave to Navistar International Corp. to move their headquarters to Lisle, IL. The company is currently undertaking mass layoffs in its Fort Wayne, IN location. While Weber explained that she doesn’t “think the Illinois incentives are causing Navistar to shift around its workforce,” it would be advantageous for both states’ economies to stop poaching jobs from one another; their economies are too intertwined and the money could be spent on other economic development activities such as workforce readiness and small business incubation. For the whole story, [click here](#).

Several media outlets quoted Nik Theodore, Director of the Center for Urban Economic Development (CUED), on the rising incidence of wage theft, including The Voice of America, The Florida Independent, In These Times, and Progress Illinois. Additionally, [click here](#) for a New York Times article that quotes Theodore on why small businesses may be more likely to underpay their workers than large employers.

In December 2011, Dr. Zhang also gave lectures at Tsinghua University and Renmin University in Beijing to interpret the evolution of planning theory in the United States and the construction of a Chinese planning theory based on China’s history, culture, economic and political structure, and planning practice. To learn more about Dr. Zhang’s research and his active involvement in China’s rapid urban development and planning practices, he can be reached here: tzhang@uic.edu.

**CUED Director Theodore has Two Publications Released**

Examining over a dozen examples of organizations working to combat wage theft (the illegal underpayment of wages), a new report by CUED Director Nik Theodore entitled “The Movement to End Wage Theft” explores local, state, and federal strategies to address violations of employment laws. This study, available by [clicking here](#), was commissioned by the Discount Foundation.

Professor Theodore has also co-authored the article “Towards Deep Neoliberalization?” with frequent collaborators Neil Brenner and Jamie Peck. This analysis of the broad range of forms of resistance to neoliberalism and the concomitant complexity of intertwined power relations that these forces are mobilizing against can be found in the edited compilation *Neoliberal Urbanisms and its Contestations - Crossing Theoretical Boundaries*, published by Palgrave Macmillan this month. For more information, [click here](#).

**Faculty Scholar Presents Her GCI Work at ISA Conferences**

GCI Faculty Scholar and Professor of Educational Policy Studies and Sociology Pamela Quiroz has had her co-authored abstract “School as Solution to the Problem of Place: Student Migration, Perceptions of Safety, & Children’s Concept of Community” selected for presentation at the International Sociological Association (ISA) Forum to be held in Buenos Aires in August of 2012. This paper focuses directly on Dr. Quiroz’s GCI project “Growing Up and Going to School in Difference Urban Spaces.”

Additionally, Quiroz presented at this month’s International Sociological Association (ISA) conference “Transitions,” which focused on age-status and educational transitions in different societies. This presentation complemented Quiroz’s GCI work and book project on “Marketing Diversity & the ‘New’ Politics of Desegregation: Implications for Teachers” Congratulations!

**GCI Monthly Snapshot**

GCI Senior Associate Kate Pravera, four distinguished nonprofit leaders serving as speakers, and dozens of community members gather to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the GCI Certificate in Nonprofit Management at the panel event “The Future of Nonprofits in Chicago: Practitioner Perspectives on Networking, Public Policy Advocacy, & Collaboration across the Sectors. Kelly LeRoux moderated. (UIC Student Center East, Chicago, November, 2011).