

Volume 1
Issue 2

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Greetings from the Dean

Dear Friends of SOPA:

Summertime greetings from the School of Public Affairs! It's hard to believe that SOPA is now in its second year. It has been an exciting and, at times exhausting, year and much work lies ahead. I'm more excited than ever before about the school's future and the value it can bring to both the SCSU and global communities. We were so busy last year that we didn't have the time to get a Spring, 2012, issue out. Back then, I had no support staff hired yet, so the day-to-day operations in the dean's office were looked after by just me and my office manager, Betty Schwarzkopf. Betty was out on medical leave for over 6 months last year and she was replaced by several temporary office managers, but I'm very happy to report that Betty is back for good and doing very well! I am also very happy to report that the dean's office now has three full time staff support persons – Lisa Spethmann (Administrative Director), Sarah Nelson (Student Relations Coordinator), and Kristy Modrow-Ullah (Experiential Learning & Outreach Coordinator). You'll learn more about our three new talented hires, and the work they are doing, later in this *Newsletter*, but suffice it to say that I am thrilled to have Lisa, Sarah, and Kristy in my office.



Örn Bodvarsson, Interim Dean
School of Public Affairs

Kristy will coordinate the production and distribution of the *Newsletter*. She brings valuable experience from her previous positions doing this kind of work and that, combined with her energy and resourcefulness, will result in the *Newsletter* going out on a regular, quarterly, basis from here on out. Note that future issues will be electronic-only and, in addition to being e-mailed to our alumni and other friends, will be posted on our website at <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/SOPA/default.asp>.

You'll learn more in the following pages about all the work taking place in SOPA, from meeting our new hires in the dean's office and our new faculty members, as well as learning about our planning for a school-wide graduate program, a research center, our different community partner projects, and other activities. I welcome your questions and feedback and always love to hear from alumni and other SOPA friends. I am grateful for financial support of our scholarships, programs, and other activities and always delighted to explore ways in which you can lend a helping hand. Please do let me know if you're coming to campus and I will be happy to host you (if you come during the lunch hour, lunch is on me!).

Best,

Örn Bodvarsson
Interim Dean

SOPA FALL COLLOQUIA

Event	Date	Time	Location
Constitution Day	September 17, 2012	11 a.m. to Noon	Atwood Mall
Anne Mahlum '02	October 2, 2012	2 p.m.	Atwood Theatre
Ernest "Rip" Patten	October 10, 2012	2 p.m.	Atwood Voyageurs
Mark Ritchie	October 16, 2012	11 a.m. to Noon	Atwood Voyageurs
Voter Registration	October 16, 2012	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Atwood Mall
John Dalton	October 16, 2012	2 p.m.	Atwood Alumni
Nancy Johnson	November 5, 2012	3-4:30 p.m.	Atwood Glacier

Introducing New SOPA Staff



Kristy Modrow-Ullah is joining SOPA as the Experiential Learning and Outreach Coordinator. She will be assisting SOPA faculty and students with experiential

learning experiences (internships, service learning, education abroad, capstone projects etc.) along with fostering and forging new relationships with SOPA constituents. "I am excited to work with students to give them opportunities to be successful beyond the classroom," states Modrow-Ullah. Modrow-Ullah brings nine years of experience to SOPA. Previously, she served in the offices of Alumni and

Constituent Engagement and the University Program Board (UPB) at SCSU as well as in Student Life and Development and Century College. She received her bachelors in Mass Communication and Travel and Tourism as well as a masters in Mass Communication from SCSU. Modrow-Ullah is currently working on her doctorate in Higher Education Administration at SCSU.



Sarah Nelson grew up in Green Bay, Wisconsin (Go Packers). She is married to her husband Brice, of 3 years and resides in Rogers. SCSU is not unfamiliar to Nelson, prior to joining as Student Relations Coordinator in SOPA she completed her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Master's degree in College Counseling and Student Development at SCSU.

While completing her Master's degree she served as Graduate Assistant and Intern in Career Services Center. She also worked at the Richard Green House/Multicultural Student Services as a tutor and Graduate Assistant. Nelson is joining SOPA most recently from Anoka-Ramsey Community College where she served as Academic Advisor and Career Services Coordinator for both of their campuses. Nelson will be helping our faculty with programmatic, liberal education and transfer curriculum advising by working

closely with the Undergraduate Advising, Student Life & Development and Career Services. Nelson stated, "I will work hard to be a resource to students." Along with faculty, Nelson will be the SOPA representative at Admissions and general advising events to assist new students with orientation and advising. Furthermore, she will assist Dean Bodvarsson by coordinating the processing of academic petitions, grade appeals, student complaints and other types of student inquiries.



Lisa Spethmann was raised in Grand Rapids and earned a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She was

employed at the Department of Human Services in St. Paul as a budget analyst and for the past few years has been a

stay at home mom. She stays active in the community, currently serving in her second term as President of the St. Cloud Youth Hockey Association. Spethmann enjoys staying active in fitness and athletics, from golf to competing in sprint triathlons.

She has four children. Mary, her oldest child is currently attending the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Her three sons, Peter, David and Michael are all attending Cathedral High School in St. Cloud. "I look forward to being a part of the School of Public Affairs," states Spethmann. She will be assisting the Dean's office budgeting, personnel evaluation process and hiring, class schedules and various other duties.

Student Highlights

James Anderson (Criminal Justice) presented three sessions at the 15th Annual International Gang Specialist Training in Chicago from July 23-25, 2012. The sessions that Anderson presented were "Gang-Related Arson in the United States," "Gang-Related Arson Motives and Profiles" and "Fire Cause and Determination."

Howard Copeland (Criminal Justice) presented, "Who Taught you That?" at the 15th Annual International Gang Specialist Training in Chicago from July 23-25, 2012. The session presented the relationship between audiovisual media and values/beliefs among present day high school youths in an at-risk, inner-city neighborhood.

John Smith (Criminal Justice) presented, "Making Prevention Models Work" at the 15th Annual International Gang Specialist Training in Chicago from July 23-25, 2012. The session focused on Collaborative and Promise Neighborhood prevention models which are nonprofit community based organizations that connect people with needs to organizations who provide their needs and offer in-house programs that target youth, their families and their neighborhoods.

Introducing New SOPA Faculty



Kevin Ahlgren is joining the Land Surveying & Mapping Sciences program in the Department of Geography and Planning in a

tenure track position. He has a MS in Geodetic Science and Surveying from Ohio State University and a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Minnesota. His Ph.D. dissertation is an investigation of the gravity field of the Altiplano Plateau in the Central Andes. Ahlgren's other areas of

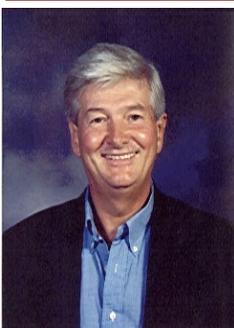
interest include GPS, crustal deformation geodesy, and the measurement and modeling of Earth's gravity field. He has conducted extensive GPS and gravity surveys throughout Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile and spent a few years in the private land surveying industry.



Luis Estevez has accepted an offer to serve as a Fixed Term Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography & Planning. Previously, Estevez taught at Texas A&M's College of

Architecture, Dominican Republic and Mexico. Former experience includes coordinator and professor of a master program in urban planning in Dominican Republic and Mexico, and as a private planning consultant. Estevez's current research focuses on the effects of land use regulations in housing values. His other areas of expertise include housing Markets, regional planning, quantitative meth-

ods, and international planning. Estevez has also been involved with planning and housing projects in Mexico and Latin American countries. He received his doctoral degree in urban and regional science from Texas A&M University, and his two master degrees in urban planning from Texas A&M University and the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico.



Steven Hennessy has been appointed for a second consecutive year as a Fixed Term Associate Professor of Criminal Justice. Hennessy began his law enforcement

Texas and Newark, New Jersey. In 1973 he joined the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, until 1977, when he was appointed Deputy Superintendent in charge of Investigations for the Criminal Apprehension Division. In 1984 Steve became responsible for the laboratory, information systems, finance, budget and planning areas of the division until his retirement in 1991. After his retirement, he joined the Phoenix

Police Department as their Training Administrator until his retirement in 2003. He holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of St. Thomas. He is the author of "Thinking Cop - Feeling Cop, A Study in Police Personalities", the lead author of "A Cultural Awareness Trainer's Manual for Law Enforcement Officers."

Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and served in Houston,

Stephen Nicar has accepted an offer to serve as a Fixed Term Assistant Professor in the Department of

Economics. Nicar recently completed his Ph.D. in Economics from University of Colorado-Boulder and will teach

classes in the macroeconomics and forecasting areas.



Stewart Wirth has accepted an offer to serve as a Fixed Term Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. Wirth has served as an adjunct faculty member in the department for the

last few years and brings to Criminal Justice students many years of experience in the law enforcement field. He holds Bachelors and Masters degrees in Criminal Justice from SCSU. He also served as SCSU's lead investigator for a period of time. He will teach classes in interview and interrogation, patrol operations, and public safety executive leadership. Wirth began his law enforcement career

with the Wright County Sheriff's Office where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant of Criminal Investigation Division and was responsible for management of internal investigation unit and the major crimes investigation unit. He also supervised the narcotics, detective unit and the emergency response team among other functions. His peace officer career spanned a total of 34 years.

SOPA Fall Colloquia 2012

Constitution Day

September 17, 2012 – Atwood Mall 11 a.m. to Noon

Come and celebrate Constitution Day at SCSU on September 17, 2012! Constitution Day is a federal day of observance that commemorates the adoption of the U.S. Constitution and recognizes those who are born in the U.S. or by naturalization, have become citizens. SCSU Constitution Day will include “Who is Smarter than a Founding Father” game as well as a speaker to be announced.

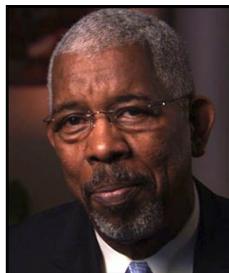


Anne Mahlum '02, CEO and President, Back on My Feet

October 2, 2012—Atwood Theatre 2 p.m.

In 2007, SCSU alumnus Anne Mahlum founded Back on My Feet (BoMF) in Philadelphia, Pa. BoMF is a national nonprofit organization with chapters around the U.S. that is dedicated to creating independence and self-sufficiency within the homeless and other underserved populations.

Mahlum has been recognized around the country for her efforts and has been honored as the ABC World News Person of the Week and CNN’s Top 10 Heroes of the Year in 2008. She also hosted MTV’s “The Break,” a documentary following less fortunate young people through their everyday daily lives, their struggles for food, shelter and the overwhelming obstacles holding them back.



Mr. Ernest “Rip” Patten, Jr. Freedom Rider Presentation

October 10, 2012 – Atwood Voyageurs Room 2 p.m.

Learn about Ernest “Rip” Patten, Jr.’s freedom ride experience and explore the freedom rides from the institutionalized and culturally-accepted racism of Jim Crow South to the adoption of nonviolent direct action to inspire social change.



Mark Ritchie, Minnesota Secretary of State
October 16, 2012 – Atwood Voyageurs Room 11 a.m. to Noon

Mark Ritchie will speak to the community about civic engagement. Ritchie’s responsibilities include partnering with township, city, and county officials to organize elections on behalf of Minnesota’s 3.7 million eligible voters.

Voter Registration Drive

October 16, 2012 – Atwood Mall - 10 a.m. –2 p.m.

Avoid the long lines at polling places and register to vote right on campus! This event is focused on educating, registering and helping the campus community become active and engaged voting citizens.



“Why is polygyny more prevalent in Western Africa? An African slave trade prospective.”

John T. Dalton, Assistant Professor of Economics, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC

October 16, 2012 – Atwood Alumni Room 2 p.m.

John T. Dalton has taught courses at the University of Minnesota and served as a research analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. His areas of expertise include international trade, growth and development and macroeconomics.



Nancy Johnson, Executive Vice President of Midscale Development, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group

November 5, 2012 – Atwood Glacier South 3-4:30 p.m.

Nancy Johnson oversees business development efforts for Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group’s midscale brands in the Americas including Country Inns & Suites by Carlson and Park Inn by Radisson.

Johnson was recently inducted as chair of the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA) board of directors for 2012. She is the founding chair of the Women in Lodging Council for the AH&LA and was named one of the 200 Most Powerful Women in Travel by Travel Agent magazine.

For more information, contact Kristy Modrow-Ullah, Experiential Learning and Outreach Coordinator in the School of Public Affairs at SCSU at kkmdrow@stcloudstate.edu or 320-308-6080.

SOPA is always looking to add speakers and events to the Colloquia. If you have a great idea of a speaker or event you would like to suggest for spring 2013 or later, feel free to contact Kristy Modrow-Ullah, Experiential Learning and Outreach Coordinator in the School of Public Affairs at SCSU at kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu or 320-308-6080.

Caux Roundtable: A New SOPA Partner



SOPA is pleased to welcome the **Caux Roundtable** as a partner of SOPA. Based in St. Paul, the Caux Roundtable (CRT) is an international network of experienced business leaders, who work with business and political leaders to design the intellectual strategies, management tools and practices to strengthen private enterprise and public governance to improve our global community. Our partnership with CRT creates new connections and opportunities for SOPA, including getting high quality speakers to campus, employment opportunities for our students, important research and outreach connections for our faculty, new avenues to pursue in our engagement with the American Democracy Project, the formation of an Academy of Elected Officials, and many other possibilities.

Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program & Master of Public Policy (MPP) Program Update

The Master of Public Affairs (MPA) Task Force continues working toward the goal of creating a graduate program in public affairs. The rules for SCSU and MnSCU approval of new degree programs have changed in the past year or so.

Today, a market study that shows need of the degree is required, as is a thorough analysis of financial cost and expenditures to launch and manage the degree. We are working with a Boston-based group to conduct the market study.

We have expanded the study to include both public administration and public policy degree programs. Colleges, schools and

A 2013 launch of new graduate programming remains a goal of the Task Force.

departments that offer the MPA degree, are offering side-by-side graduate degrees in public administration and public policy with increasing frequency.

The MPA focuses on management of public and nonprofit organizations, while the MPP focuses on skills necessary to analyze, evaluate and solve all sorts of aspects regarding public policies. The members of the task force will be focusing on curriculum this fall once the market study is completed. A 2013 launch of new graduate programming remains a goal of the Task Force.

American Democracy Project (ADP) Update

This year, the university's commitment to the American Democracy Project (ADP) will deepen. Dr. Kyle Ward has been asked to

The ADP is a multi-campus initiative focused on higher education's role in preparing the next generation of informed, engaged citizens for our democracy.

serve as the Director of ADP with the School of Public Affairs taking the leadership role with the project.

The ADP is a multi-campus initiative focused on higher education's role in preparing the next generation of informed, engaged citizens for our democracy. ADP is currently organizing its campus-wide committee and will be holding meetings starting as soon as the school year begins. The cur-

rent ADP committee is made up of Dan Wildeson, Debra Japp, Linda Butenhoff, Rex Veeder, Marla Kanengieter-Wildeson, Beth Knutson-Kolodzne, Isolde Mueller and Tami Spry.

If you are interested in working with ADP or would just like more information about this program please contact Dr. Kyle Ward at Kward@stcloudstate.edu

SOPA Research Center Update

The School of Public Affairs has created a task force comprised of faculty from each department to discuss and explore options for creating a Research Center to be housed in the School of Public Affairs.

On July 24, John Bartle, Acting Dean of the College of Public Administration and Community Service and David Scott Diamond, Professor of Public Affairs both from the University of Nebraska-Omaha led

a strategic planning retreat for the SOPA research center task force members about possibilities for the emerging School of Public Affairs Research Center. To date, the task force has been researching Research Center models, and considering the connections to be made with other programs on campus and across the state. The focus of the work so far has been centered on basic questions about what

such a research center will do, who the research center will serve, and how to secure resources.

The committee will be working through the fall term with a goal of a January 2013 launch date.

If you have any thoughts or specific ideas about the mission and vision of the SOPA Research Center, please contact your department representative to the committee.

SOPA RESEARCH CENTER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Political Science

Pat Bodelson, 51B 300
302-308-2038 pbodelson@stcloudstate.edu
Steve Frank, 51B 302
320-308-4131 sfrank@stcloudstate.edu

Geography

Ben Richason, SH 311e
320-308-3019 bfrichason@stcloudstate.edu
David Wall, SH 359b
320-308-2095 dlwall@stcloudstate.edu

Economics

Mana Komai, SH 356
320-308-2072 mkomai@stcloudstate.edu
Rich MacDonald, SH 385
320-308-4781 macdonald@stcloudstate.edu

Criminal Justice

Dick Andzenge, SH 244
320-308-5345 dtandzenge@stcloudstate.edu
Mary Clifford, SH 257b
320-308-4051 mcclifford@stcloudstate.edu

Faculty Highlights

Mikhail Blinnikov (Geography and Planning) recently returned from Russia, where he travelled for 16 days in July with a study abroad GEOG 410 SCSU class to Moscow, St. Petersburg, and the Altay Republic. Mikhail continues his research on the emergence of new green movement in Russia focused on contesting corrupt land privatization schemes of road building through suburban forests.

Mikhail Blinnikov (Geography and Planning) published four peer-reviewed articles in the past year, including:
Blinnikov, M.S., Wooller, M., Zazula, G., Gaglioti, B., 2011. Arctic grasslands in the Pleistocene. (Invited review.) *Quaternary Science Reviews*.
Wooller, M.J., Zazula, G.D., Blinnikov, M., Gaglioti, B., Bigelow, N., Sanborn, P., Kuzmina, S., La Farge, C. The detailed paleoecology of a mid-Wisconsinian interstadial (ca.32,000 ¹⁴C a BP) vegetation surface from interior Alaska. *Journal of Quaternary Science*.
Yost, C. and Blinnikov, M. 2011. Locally diagnostic phytoliths of wild rice (*Zizania palustris* L.) from Minnesota, USA: comparison to other wetland grasses and usefulness for archaeobotany and paleoecological reconstructions. *Journal of Archaeological Science*.
Blinnikov, M., Bagent, C., and Reyerson, P. 2012. Phytolith assemblages and opal concentrations from modern soils differentiate temperate grasslands of controlled composition on experimental plots at Cedar Creek, Minnesota. *Quaternary International*.

Mary Clifford (Criminal Justice) is presenting a keynote address at the “Environmental Crime and Its Victims” conference in Delft, The Netherlands, September 17 and 18, 2012. She will be presenting from her work on the 2nd edition of Environmental Crime (2011). Billed as one of the first international interdisciplinary conference on environmental crime, the topics discussed include green criminology, sociology, law enforcement, community wellbeing, environmental activism, and victimology. For more information please review the link <http://www.environmentalcrimeseminar.com/home.html>

D. Lee Gilbertson (Criminal Justice) attended and presented at the 15th Annual International Gang Specialist Training in Chicago from July 23-25, 2012 with 20 SCSU students (6 Grads and 14 Undergrads). The training was hosted by the National Gang Crime Research Center (NGCRC). Gilbertson is on the NGCRC Staff, and is a co-Executive Editor of the NGCRC’s “Journal of Gang Research.” He also entered into an oral agreement with Dr. George Knox (internationally known gang expert and NGCRC Director), and Drs. Greg Etter and Carter Smith to write a textbook in the next 8 months under Wiley publishing.

Bel Kambach (Geography and Planning) has lectured on three cruise ships since December 2011. The cruise ship destinations included the Eastern Caribbean and the Mediterranean Greek Isles. Kambach speaks to sea travelers on a variety of topics, focusing on the region’s geography, ecotourism, wildlife viewing and sealife topics. She also discusses native culture and history and practical sea traveler information about ports of call, offering a glimpse of some of the most exciting and unusual ports.

Bel Kambach and Chuks Ugochukwu (Geography and Planning) had a successful research trip to Ghana over the summer 2012 (June 6 –30). SCSU granted Kambach and Ugochukwu a \$10,000 research grant to help facilitate work towards identifying and mapping slave trade routes in Ghana. Both look forward to other funding sources to continue the work.



Professors Bel Kambach (third from right) and Chuks Ugochukwu (right) pictured with members of the Geography & Travel & Tourism Department at the University of CAPE Coast, Ghana.

Jason Lindsey (Political Science) received a Fulbright award to teach at the “Yaroslav the Wise Law Academy of Ukraine” (Юридична академія України імені Ярослава Мудрого) which is located in Kharkiv, Ukraine. The Law Academy is an autonomous institution of the National University. Lindsey will be teaching both an undergraduate and graduate course starting in January until June in political theory. Lindsey has visited the Ukraine twice in recent years and hopes to spend more time to improve his understanding of its current politics. Lindsey’s wife, Holly Evers, who works in the SCSU Office of Strategy, Planning, and Effectiveness will take a leave of absence to accompany Lindsey.

Aspa Rigopoulou-Melcher (Geography and Planning) travelled to Italy and Greece in May with students on study abroad CMTY 466/566. Students experienced and observed sustainable city building and organization, alternative forms of transportation, economic/business practices, preservation efforts, tourism departments, and other innovative practices that have allowed these places to survive the passing of time.

Chuks Ugochukwu (Geography and Planning) travelled to Ghana in June with students for study abroad CMTY 466/566. The study trip offered opportunities for students to acquire in-depth, first hand knowledge and experience how culture, tourism, development and globalization impact the lives of people and communities in Ghana and other African countries.