

Greetings from the Dean

Dear Friends of SOPA:

Greetings from the dean's office! I was delighted to see some of our alumni and community partners who work for various non-profit, public, and private sector organizations in the region at the "SOPA Alumni and Friends Gathering," which was held at the St. Cloud Country Club last month. A great time was had by all and I plan to host another such event sometime in the new year.

Since our last newsletter, we've been very busy both in the dean's office and in the faculty ranks with our strategic planning and foundation-building work for the new school. Here's what is currently in progress:

- A strategic planning task force, consisting of faculty and staff, was formed and has attended two full-day retreats to work on the drafting of a strategic plan for the school. We've made excellent progress on this work and plan to have a strategic plan written and approved by the Provost and President at the end of the school year;
- The SOPA Research Task Force, led by Professor Mary Clifford (Criminal Justice), has been doing great work drafting a plan for a SOPA Research Center. The task force will present to the school during Convocation Week next month. This is an exciting proposal and our plan is to launch the research center before the school year is over;
- The SOPA Graduate Program Task Force, led by Professor Steven Wagner (Political Science) has been working hard on a proposal for a school-wide graduate program. The task force is advising me on three degree options – the MPA, Master of Public Policy (MPP) and a "hybrid" Master of Public Policy and Administration" (MPPA), the third a relatively new type of credential gaining national interest. We retained a higher education consulting firm earlier this Fall to do a market analysis. If everything goes according to plan, we will announce early in 2013 which degree option we will propose to senior administration and MnSCU to offer;
- I am very excited to announce that SOPA will welcome four new permanent faculty members -- 3 next Fall and one more the following Fall. Tenure-track hires have been authorized in the departments of Geography & Planning (Planning and Community Development group), Economics (that hire will start in Fall, 2014), Political Science, and Criminal Justice. We also will be welcoming three fixed term faculty next year – two in Criminal Justice and one in Economics – along with a new director of the Center for Economic Education;
- I have been on the road this Fall, traveling twice to China and once to Ghana to explore international partnership opportunities for SOPA. I travelled to visit three Ghanaian universities -- University of Ghana (Accra), University of Cape Coast (Cape Coast), and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Kumasi). We discussed student and faculty exchange and collaborative programming possibilities for both SOPA and SCSU. I held similar conversations at two Chinese universities -- Southwestern University of Finance and Economics (Chengdu) and Sichuan Agricultural University (Duijiangyan). The outcome of these overseas travels is that we have some very promising opportunities in China and West Africa, both in terms of building up further pre-existing partnerships and nurturing new ones. I expect to be making some significant announcements about international collaborations during 2013. I am very pleased to announce that we have formed a partnership with the Zhou Enlai School of Government at Nankai University in Tianjin, China. Our partnership with the Zhou Enlai school will start out with faculty exchanges next Summer;



*Örn Bodvarsson, Interim Dean
School of Public Affairs*

2013 will be a very exciting year in SOPA, as the above initiatives turn into new programs and services for students, faculty, and other stakeholders. I am grateful to the faculty for its support and hard work, the loyalty of our students, and the support of senior administration. We are always grateful for the interest and support of our alumni and community partners.

Best wishes to you and your loved ones for the new year.

Örn Bodvarsson
Interim Dean



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Renowned Neuroeconomist & Business Ethic Expert at the Winter Institute

SOPA invites you to attend the 51st Winter Institute on January 30 at the SCSU Atwood Memorial Center and January 31 at the St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center! The Winter Institute is an annual summit hosted by the Department of Economics and the School of Public Affairs at SCSU. Minnesota is famous for its winter season and every year we use this opportunity to gather the best minds in the region and the country to share their thoughts and ideas on various economics issues with audiences from Minnesota and the Midwest. The Winter Institute is an important forum for the members of the community to generate ideas that can foster growth and development in the greater St. Cloud area, central Minnesota, and beyond.

Featured programs include::



"The Moral Molecule: Improving Economics"

Paul Zak, a Claremont Graduate University professor, will discuss recent findings in neuroeconomics and their importance to our understanding of economic behavior.

Neuroeconomics is an emerging field that examines human decision making, focusing in particular on how neuroscientific discoveries can inform economic models. Zak's address, which is free and open to the public, is titled "The Moral Molecule: Improving Economics."



Panel Presentation with Experts on their Economic Forecasts of National, Regional and Local Economies

Featuring:

King Banaian, Professor of Economics, SCSU; Steve Hine, Director of Labor Market Information, MN Department of Employment and Economic Development and Tom Stinson, MN State Economist.



"Ethical Intelligence: Five Principles for Untangling Your Toughest Problems in Business and Beyond"

Bruce Weinstein, The Ethics Guy, believes that the key to professional and personal success is having not just emotional intelligence but ethical intelligence, too. He is the creator and host of 60-Second Ethics and a select contributor to Bloomberg Businessweek's Online Management Blog.

Also featuring: **Grow Minnesota! Business Panel** in collaboration with the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce!

Learn about what we can do to help businesses expand locally, who is creating jobs, what those jobs look like, and the role of innovation in job creation. Join us as we hear from the businesses that are creating and expanding the local job market and discover what is in store for Central Minnesota's economy in 2013.



Registration is required for January 31, 2013 but not for January 30.

(Registration closes at 3 pm on 01/21/13)

Early Bird: \$30 by 3 pm on 01/10/13

Regular: \$40 after 3 pm on 01/10/13

Register online at: www.stcloudstate.edu/winterinstitute

Criminal Justice Career Fair

The SCSU Criminal Justice Association and the Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) Student Services Committee are excited to host the 13th Annual Criminal Justice Career and Internship Fair on Wednesday, February 20, 2013 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Atwood Center Ballroom.

Students from all Minnesota State Universities, private universities and several bordering universities from Iowa, Wisconsin and the Dakotas and SCSU alumni are welcome to attend.

The Criminal Justice Career Fair offers agencies and students opportunities to network and connect with each other. Typical past participating employers have included: detention centers, group homes, residential facilities, electronic monitoring companies, various probation agencies, halfway houses, chemical dependency treatment programs, Department of Corrections, Federal Prisons, FBI, sheriff and police departments and private security agencies.

The cost for students and alumni to attend is free. The cost for employers is a tax-deductible fee of \$50.

For event questions or to register your agency - please contact, Shannon Marks at: 763-279-4584 or Shannon.K.Marks@state.mn.us.



SOPA Research Center Proposal

Background:

In May 2012, Dr. Orn Bodvarsson, Interim Dean, SCSU School of Public Affairs, commissioned a task force to explore the establishment of the School of Public Affairs Research Center (henceforth SOPARC). The task force was ultimately requested to write a proposal for the establishment of SOPARC for review and comment by the four academic units within SOPA. This draft proposal is informed by the task force's considerable review of similar programs around the U.S., as well as by the presentations of Dr. John Bartle, Dean of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service at the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO) and Dr. Steven Smith, Director of the Murray Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy at Washington University (Wash U). Dr. Smith is an alumna of SCSU.

Proposed Structure of SOPARC:

Central to the long-term success of SOPARC is effective leadership by a director who is professionally committed to the center. We expect the SOPARC director to report to the Dean of SOPA. We recommend the establishment of a SOPARC Advisory Board, consisting of key stakeholders in the private for-profit and non-profit sectors. Members of this board will also include state and local government officials and a faculty member from each of SOPA's four units, however, the composition of the Board will be clarified as the SOPARC design process moves forward.

Proposed SOPARC Tracks:

Program/Product Track:

This track identifies existing programs and products within SOPA that are central to applied research and outreach and have potential to be the school's most visible offerings.

Examples of existing programs include, but are not limited to:

- The SCSU Center for Economic Education
- The Winter Institute
- Spatial Analysis Research Center (SARC)
- The St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report (QBR)
- The Criminal Justice Research Center
- The SCSU Survey*
- The Immigrant Work Group*

In addition to existing programs and products, it is expected that the program track will also serve as the launch point for additional programs that expand the applied research and outreach offerings of SOPA. Such additional programs have the potential to create collaborative opportunities of engagement across student degree and content interests, among faculty from the four SOPA academic units, and external stakeholders.

In addition, it is suggested that the program track may also develop a speakers' series that includes periodic presentations by public policy experts, business leaders, non-profit executives, government officials, etc.

Faculty/Student Research Support Track:

In this track, SOPARC will support the SOPA mission by: conducting a research profile of SOPA faculty; identifying collaborative research opportunities, including opportunities involving students, across SOPA disciplines; disseminating grant information to faculty researchers and graduate students; maintaining software and datasets for use by faculty and student researchers; serving as liaison between SOPA researchers and institutional and external stakeholders; serving as a key contact in the grant search process.

Among the many core functions offered to SOPA faculty through this program track are: grant writing services, budget oversight, arrangement of matching grant resources, overall project management, grant reporting, meeting grant deadlines, grant follow-up, oversight of Institutional Review Board compliance, assisting with grant partnerships across departmental units and in collaboration with other regional and national universities, organizing ongoing research-centered-student service-learning experiences, organizing a resource clearinghouse for faculty, undergraduate, and graduate student research in Public Administration, public policy, and any of the individual unit areas in SOPA.

Curricular Track:

While most SOPA majors currently have a statistics requirement, the coursework suffers from a lack of applied theme with little application exercises connecting the work more directly to the social sciences. Given the applied nature of the departments within SOPA and the experiences and activities central to the SOPA mission, the Research Center task force thought the offering of a common course to replace the diversity of existing statistics and/or

methods courses offered outside SOPA for use by SOPA majors makes good sense. Ultimately the SOPA must decide to what degree a common theme makes sense.

Support for SOPARC:

The task force recognizes that the long-term success of SOPARC will depend on both internal and external financial and resource support from key stakeholders. After a pre-determined start-up period, the research committee task force expects the SOPARC will ultimately adopt responsibility-centered budgeting practices currently being applied across the university to other similar efforts. Institutional support for a start-up period, however, must be provided. SOPARC will also require a physical space on campus and will need to be staffed by professionals, who with the assistance of graduate/undergraduate students, provide office support services. An extended commitment to providing institutional budget support to the center during this start-up phase, at a minimum, will be essential to its long-term success.

SOPA Department Representatives to the School of Public Affairs Research Center Task Force are:

- Rich MacDonald, Economics
- Mana Komai, Economics
- Ben Richason, Geography
- David Wall, Geography
- Mary Clifford, Criminal Justice
- Steve Hennessy, Criminal Justice
- Ed Greaves, Political Science
- Pat Bodelson, Political Science

Inquiries:

For more information, contact: Dr. Mary Clifford at 320.309.1589 or mcclifford@stcloudstate.edu

ANNOUNCING POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUB!

The SCSU Political Science Club is committed to the academic success of students by providing free weekly study sessions for core Political Science courses. Plans for spring 2013 include; distribution of a newsletter aptly named "The Muckraker," increasing study sessions to encompass more courses, and participating in other political activities. We invite all students to join our club and attend our weekly meetings.

More information can be found at: <https://stcloudstate.collegiatelink.net/organization/POLIS> or by email at: polisciclub@stcloudstate.edu.

Faculty/Student/Alumni Highlights

King Banaian and **Rich MacDonald** (Economics) co-authored the St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report in September 2012. According to the report, local employment grew 3.5 percent in the year ending July 2012 and local private-sector hiring grew 4.2 percent in the same period suggesting that the Central Minnesota economy experienced strong growth.

Mikhail Blinnikov (Geography & Planning) published an article co-authored by Matt Julius, Biology and Chad Yost, a former graduate student in Geography, entitled, "Detecting ancient wild rice (*Zizania* spp. L.) using phytoliths: a taphonomic study of modern wild rice in Minnesota (USA) lake sediments." *Journal of Paleolimnology*. DOI 10.1007/s10933-012-9670-x. The article presents results of research pioneered at SCSU aimed at detecting presence of wild rice in the catchment area of lakes based on microscopic silica phytoliths preserved in lake sediments. The research already generated much interest in the paleolimnological community and resulted in better understanding of where wild rice was in lakes at Kathio State Park and on other sites in Minnesota.

Edward Greaves and **Aref Hassan** (Political Science) will be presenting a paper on the process of regime change in Egypt at the Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago this April.

Mario L. Hesse (Criminal Justice) and **Jan C. Kircher** (Social Work) co-instructed a course at MCF-STC. This course was designed around two major philosophies: restorative justice and stoicism. The objectives, in part, were for the twenty-three enrolled men to explain and evaluate restorative justice from social work and criminal justice perspectives. A major tool used for this objective was the incorporation of two textbooks: Jeff Traylor's *The Epictetus Club: Lessons from the Walls* (2004) and Howard Zehr's *The Little Book of Restorative Justice* (2002). A seminar format was used for the course in order to enhance learning by the use of intensive discussions. The final course project was a literary work based on *It's Never Too Late*, a literary project produced by inmates at Stillwater and Shakopee prisons.

Gareth John (Geography & Planning) published a chapter entitled "Image/Text/Geography: Yellowstone and the Spatial Rhetoric of Landscape" in the book *Observation Points: The Visual Poetics of National Parks*, edited by Thomas Patin (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press; 2012), pp. 140-164.

Belkis, Kambach (Geography & Planning) and six students were awarded grants to attend a workshop at the Ritz-Carlton Leadership Center in February 2013. The workshop topics encompass: Ritz-Carlton key operating procedures, employee and customer engagement and empowerment.

Chukwunyer Ugochukwu (Geography & Planning) and his Community Heritage (CMTY 450/550) students created a park planning proposal for a recently acquired Elk River nature reserve park at Bailey's Point where the 1772 and 1773 historical Ojibwe-Dakota battles took place. The proposal was presented on December 10, 2012 at a joint meeting of the Elk River Heritage Preservation Commission and the Elk River Parks and Recreation Commission. Students also researched other historical significance at Bailey's Point and envisioned a "You Are Here" type marker detailing some of the historical events.



Pictured:
Back Row left to right: Sean Lawler, Scott Johnson, Samson Mbaluka, Reva Mische, Chanda Knoof, Jennifer Russell, Elizabeth Holmbeck, Marie Pflipsen, Marcia Pohl, Dr. Chuks Ugochukwu (Professor)
Front Row left to right: Nathan Keller, Raymond St Germain

REGISTER TODAY!

51st Annual Winter Institute

January 30 & 31, 2013



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Paul Zak

Grow Minnesota! Business Panel*
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Economic Outlook Panel*
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"Ethical Intelligence: Five Principles for Untangling Your Toughest Problems in Business and Beyond"
Bruce Weinstein, "The Ethics Guy"

Registration: (Registration closes 3 pm on 01.21.13)
Early Bird: \$30 by 3 pm on 01.10.13
Regular: \$40 after 3 pm on 01.10.13

*CPAs may earn CPE credits for attending these sessions, visit our website for more information.

For more information and to register, please visit
stcloudstate.edu/winterinstitute



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