

Greetings from the Dean

Dear Friends of SOPA:

It is hard to believe that the school year is almost over, most of the snow is gone, and that SOPA is almost two! Back in 2011, SCSU launched its new organizational structure and we were faced with the daunting task of figuring out what our new “SOPA home” would look like. The reorganization gave us the frame, but we’ve had to figure out the interior design for our home! I’m very happy to tell you that we’ve made great progress in our building work and MnSCU’s only school of public affairs is establishing a strong identity and setting an exciting course for its future.

Since our last newsletter, we’ve continued to “plug away” at our strategic planning and foundation-building work. Here is what we have accomplished:

1. Our twelve-member SOPA Strategic Planning Task Force (8 faculty, 3 staff members in the dean’s office, and me) has completed a 5-year strategic plan for the school. The plan is an outcome of four intensive all-day planning sessions and



Örn Bodvarsson, Interim Dean

2. The SOPA Research Task Force, led by Professor Mary Clifford (Criminal Justice) has made great strides this semester in planning for the launch of our SOPA Research Office. The launch date will be July 1, 2013 and the center will come

already stocked with some active research assets, including the SCSU Survey, the Center for Economic Education, and the St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report. We are currently solidifying internal funding, as well as exploring external funding opportunities for the center. There are plans for the center to be led by a Research Director, who will be a SOPA faculty member granted release time from the classroom;

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Please contact
Dottie Seamans,
Director of Development
for Annual Giving at
dmseamans@stcloudstate.edu
Or at 320-308-4970

*Greetings from the Dean
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Upper Midwest Surveying Education Fund Gift

In late March, Land Surveying professionals in Minnesota and surrounding Midwestern states continued their high level of support for the Land Surveying and Mapping Science program at SCSU with the creation of a ‘Upper Midwest Surveying Education Fund’ through the SCSU Foundation.

Initial donation for the fund was in excess of \$25,000, and was received from State Land Surveying Societies in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Additional funds are

expected to be added as donations from the land surveying community are received by SCSU and the land surveying state societies.

The fund has been established to enrich the experiences of Land Surveying students and teachers by funding related purchases and providing financial assistance to students.



Left to right: David Wall (Chair, Department of Geography and Planning), Peter Jenkins (Director, Minnesota Land Surveyors Foundation), Örn Bodvarsson (Interim Dean School of Public Affairs) and Eric Fuller (Director, Land Surveying and Mapping Science program).



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Greetings from the Dean (Continued from Cover)

- The SOPA Graduate Program Task Force, led by Professor Steven Wagner (Political Science) is nearing the finish line in its due diligence and review of graduate degree offering opportunities for the school. This semester, we've been talking with non-profit and public sector leaders and surveying students for their feedback on the market for graduate degrees in the public affairs arena. We expect to be announcing within the next few months which degree product we will seek internal and system approval for;
- Our faculty searches are now wrapping up and we will welcome four new team members to SOPA this August. You'll be introduced to our newest additions in the next issue;
- As part of our investment in building new partnerships with overseas universities and expanding collaborations with existing partners, five SOPA faculty – Ming Lo (Economics), Shoua Yang (Political Science), Chuks Ugochukwu (Geography & Planning), Steve Hennessy (Criminal Justice) and Stewart Wirth (Criminal Justice) travelled to South Africa, China, and Ghana as follow-ups to visits last fall to universities in those countries.;
- We just completed a wonderful second year in the SOPA Colloquium Series;
- As examples of the accomplishments of our students, five SOPA students received the university "Excellence in Leadership" Awards, a group of Geography students were selected to present research papers at the American Association of Geographers Conference in Los Angeles this year, and, once again, the President of the Student Government Association is a SOPA major (Hannah Muerhoff);
- Professor Patricia Hughes (Economics) has been appointed Interim dean of Graduate Education and Associate Provost for Research beginning June 1. Congratulations to my fellow economist Patricia!

As always, I am grateful to the faculty for its support, dedication, and hard work. We are grateful to our students for choosing our programs and for the support of the senior administration. We are always so appreciative of the interest and loyalty of our alumni, community partners, and friends. We are always grateful for any financial support from SOPA friends.

Best wishes for the Summer!

Örn Bodvarsson
Interim Dean

MN Geographic Bee Held SCSU for Past Five Years

Alexander Conrad a 7th grade student from Valley View Middle School in Edina was the winner of the 25th Minnesota Geographic Bee held for the 5th consecutive year at St. Cloud State University and sponsored by the Department of Geography and Planning.

Alexander topped the 100 students from across Minnesota to win the right to compete for the National title in Washington, D.C. May 20-22. Alexander beat Francis Winter from Willmar Middle School by correctly answering this question: Niagara-on-the-Lake, which played a central role in the War of 1812, is located in which Canadian province? Ontario.

Faculty from the Department served as judges and students from the various programs within the Department volunteered in a variety of capacities. Every year that we have hosted this event many of the parents thank us for the high level of professionalism that we provide.



MN Geographic Bee Student Participants

SOPA/HBS & Criminal Justice Career Fair - Oct. 2!

SOPA is proud to announce Career Day on October 2, 2013 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on campus in the Atwood Ballroom. Career Day is one of the largest career fairs on campus and is held in conjunction with the SCSU Herberger Business School.

This is the first year in which the Criminal Justice Career Fair will be combined with Career Day. The combining of the fairs will allow students and employers more opportunities to network and connect with each other.

Career Day provides opportunities for students and alumni to connect and network with over 70 companies looking to hire for internship and part and full-time positions.



For job seekers the event is free and no registration is required. For employers wanting to be involved there is a registration process and a fee. Please contact Kristy Modrow, Experiential Learning and Outreach Coordinator at kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu

or 320-308-6080 for more information.

There will also be a Career/Job Fair Prep Party on September 23, 2013 in the Atwood Ballroom. The Career/Job Fair Prep Party will provide opportunities to learn what candidates need to know to impress employers and stand out from the thousands of other college graduates and alumni at a career fair.

Participants can get their resume reviewed and practice introductions with actual employers. For more information regarding the Career/Job Fair Prep Party, contact Andy Ditlevson at apditlevson@stcloudstate.edu or at 320-308-2151.

SOPA International University Partnerships

China Universities Partnership

Professor Ming Lo (Economics) visited Sichuan Agricultural University (Duijiangyan campus) and Southwestern University of Finance and Economics in the capital city of Chengdu.

Lo's mission was to connect with students, professors and administrators at both universities and showcase the best of SCSU, which included the Department of Economics and the School of Public Affairs.

Besides a potential 3+2 program in applied economics that is modeled after our collaboration with Nankai University Binhai College, Lo also discussed various opportunities for student and faculty exchange. SOPA hopes to welcome students and faculty coming from Sichuan in the near future.



Economics Professor, Ming Lo (third to left), enjoys dinner with Dean Li (Far right) and staff (at Sichuan Agricultural University)

Ghana Universities Partnership

Professors Chuks Ugochukwu (Geography and Planning), Jeff Torguson (Geography and Planning) and Merton Thompson (Information Media) received the Provost Action Grant that will facilitate collaborative work with faculty at three Ghanaian universities - the University of Ghana, Legon; Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Kumasi; and the University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast. The grant was given to further work on the conservation of slave trade routes in Ghana. Furthermore, to develop materials, insights for curricular and research initiatives work anchored around Ghana's slave trade route conservation.

Ultimately, a major objective is to facilitate a laboratory for active and experiential learning in such areas as sustainable development, capacity building, community and regional development, and internship opportunities for students.

Ugochukwu will contribute information towards conservation, Geo-tourism, and community development aspects; Torguson, the GIS/mapping aspects; and Thompson (Information Media), the information technology aspects of the project. Part of the plan is to create an interactive website platform, including GIS mapping, for educational and public access of the historic asset.

South African Partnership

Professor Shoua Yang (Political Science), participated in SCSU's spring short-term program to Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU).

The purpose of the trip was to continue to express SOPA's interest in collaborating with the Department of Governmental and Political Studies (DGPS) at NMMU especially in its graduate program of Public Administration.

Having met with the dean, the chairman, and faculty members of the DGPS, Yang was reassured that DGPS is interested in further collaboration. Later this year, Professor Masango and Professor Enaleen Draai of the DGPS will visit SCSU to further discuss the partnership.

In 2014, the DGPS, will co-sponsor the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration Conference. DGPS extends an invitation to SOPA faculty and staff members to participate in the conference.

SOPA and Hmong Nationalities Organization, Inc. Partnership

The Hmong Nationalities Organization, Inc., (HNO) is honored to have collaboration with SCSU. The collaboration stemmed from our common interests in community partnerships. The HNO, a Hmong-American national umbrella non-profit entity, was officially founded in 2011 with a mission of civic engagement and leadership development. To achieve this mission, the HNO has offered a seminar course on "Civic Engagement and Leadership Development" for the Hmong-American communities throughout the country. This program has been taught and supervised by the HNO under the teaching and supervision of SCSU Professor Shoua Yang, Political Science; Professor Neal Thao, a member of the Department of Social Work at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul Campus; and Dr. Xoua Thao, a physician and lawyer, who is the current chair of HNO.

Since the mission of the HNO is aligned well with the mission of SCSU and SOPA, the collaboration is now officially established to serve the common purposes of both institutions. Thanks to the leadership and efforts of Interim Dean Orn Bodvarsson of SOPA and Dean John Burgeson of the Center for Continuing Studies who made the collaboration possible.

On March 22, 2013, Interim Dean Bodvarsson was one of the guests of honor at the HNO's Annual Banquet in Brooklyn Park, where he spoke on the collaboration and the important contributions of immigrants in mainstream America.

In the spirit of collaboration, the SCSU-Center for Continuing Studies and the HNO will jointly sign Certificates of Participation for students who attended and fulfilled the

requirements of the seminars as set forth on the syllabus of the course.

Congratulations to the 2013 SOPA Student Excellence in Leadership Award Recipients

Stephanie Crandall, Woodbury,
Political Science

Rebecca Hodous, Manitowoc, Wis.
Criminal Justice

Walid Issa, Bethlehem, Palestine
Economics

Kelly Marie Olson, Oak Grove,
Criminal Justice

Oliver Tempel, Dresden, Germany
Business Economics

The SCSU Excellence in Leadership Program is a University-wide program which identifies and honors students who have made a difference in the quality of University and community life.

SOPA MPA/MPP Task Force Updates

The MPA/MPP Task Force continues its work toward the goal of creating a strong graduate program in public affairs. In the past year, the Task Force busied itself with many tasks.

A market study for a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) and Master's in Public Policy (MPP) program was completed. The study shows solid support for a new Minnesota-based MPA program. Program viability requires that a new MPA program differs in substantial ways from those currently operated. Thus, the Task Force envisions a program that offers students a solid core of public agency management courses and a robust set of concentrations. Both pre-service students and current practitioners will be targeted for enrollment. Importantly, to become viable, the program must meet the rigor of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration accreditation standards. The market study shows softer

support for a new Minnesota-based MPP degree. At the same time, a program that is price competitive with the University of Minnesota and is a solid program should be viable.

The Task Force initiated a web-based survey of SOPA students to assess their interest in these programs. The preliminary results showed student support for both degree programs. Because the response rate was low, the survey was distributed to the SOPA student population a second time. The results should be available the first of May.

Earlier this term, the Task Force began a deeper examination of central Minnesota and Twin Cities market need for MPA/MPP programming and curriculum requirements by engaging local government administrators and nonprofit agency leaders through lengthy elite interviewing. Early conclusions show significant interest and

need for the MPA program because of its focus on core management skills. The MPP degree has support because of a need for students trained in policy articulation, analysis and advocacy. In the middle of May, the Task Force is meeting with about a dozen additional nonprofit leaders and about two dozen additional government leaders to obtain further and more detailed input regarding the two degree options and necessary curriculum.

If all the moving parts come together, the Task Force intends to finalize the degree choices: free standing MPA and MPP degree programs; or a combination of the two degrees into a hybrid Master's of Public Policy and Administration program. The Task Force also intends to construct the curriculum and necessary administrative components for delivery to the faculty of the School of Public Affairs September 2013.

News from the Strategic Planning Task Force

Last Fall Interim Dean Bodvarsson formed the SOPA Strategic Planning Task Force, which comprises 8 faculty members (2 from each department), three staff members in the dean's office, and the Interim Dean.

The group was charged with writing a 5-year strategic plan for the school with a targeted implementation date of Fall Semester, 2013. The group began its work with a two-day strategic planning retreat in November, 2012, followed by three full-day retreats, the last retreat held on April 18, 2013. The retreats have been facilitated by Lisa Foss, Associate Vice President and Associate Provost, Office of Strategy, Planning, and Effectiveness. The April 18th retreat included a special guest, Dr. Alexander Cirillo, Jr., a Trustee for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities



Members of the Task Force: Top row left to right: Lisa Foss, Artatrana Ratha, Interim Dean Bodvarsson, MnSCU Trustee Alexander Cirillo, Jr., Lisa Spethmann, Stephen Hennessy, Randal Baker. Bottom Row left to right: Shoua Yang, Mary Clifford, Lynn MacDonald, Sarah Nelson. Not pictured: Mikhail Blinnikov, Linda Butenhoff, Kristy Modrow

(MnSCU) system, who facilitated the afternoon session.

The core of the plan consists of 5 strategic themes which provide the framework for our combined work as a school over the next half-decade. These themes are: (1)

Empowering student-centered-success; (2) Innovative, integrated curriculum; (3) Scholarship that drives collaboration and enhances the public interest; (4) School-wide human resource excellence and adaptability; and (5) Promoting internal and external collaboration. MnSCU Trustee Cirillo facilitated a group exercise around the second strategic theme. The task force has drafted sets of strategic objectives that must be completed to achieve the strategic themes, sets of desired results, a timeline for implementation, and fundraising priorities. A final draft of the plan is scheduled for completion in the late Spring, then it will be sent to the Provost and President for approval, and implementation is scheduled to begin Fall Semester, 2013. The plan will be posted on the school's website as soon as it has been approved.

Congratulations to Political Science Student Scholarship Recipients!

Student	Scholarship Received	Hometown
Jonathan Sibrian	Caldecott Scholarship \$400	Worthington
Sammuel Wanous	Ronald and Eleanor Riggs Scholarship \$800	Loretto
Alfredo Alberto Azevedo De Olibeira	Nick Begich Scholarship \$800	Itajai/SC, Brazil
Rebecca Kotz	Mike Foerster Scholarship \$500	Mendota Heights

51st Winter Institute Revisited

Almost 500 people participated in the 51st Winter Institute at SCSU on January 30 and 31, 2013.

members of the community to generate ideas that will foster growth and development in the greater St. Cloud area, central Minnesota and beyond.

The Winter Institute featured Professor Paul Zak of Claremont Graduate University, Bruce Wienstein, aka "The Ethics Guy" as well as the Economic Outlook Panel and a new Grow Minnesota Business Panel.



2013 Winter Institute attendees learn about the MN economic forecast

The Winter Institute is an annual summit hosted by the Department of Economics, the School of Public Affairs and SCSU. The Winter Institute is an important forum for the

SOPA Spring Events and Colloquium Revisited



SCSU alumni attend Tim Snyder's '08 Colloquia. Left to right: Kelsey Jorissen '09, Anna Gruver '08, Pat Bodelson, Professor of Political Science, Emily Nelson '08, Tim Snyder '08, Willie Swanson '08, Orn Bodvarsson, Interim Dean of School of Public Affairs, C. Earl Kearns '07

The spring 2013 SOPA event/ Colloquium line up consisted of three speakers and two major events. Over 800 people attended the spring SOPA events.

Events included the Winter Institute and the Criminal Justice Career and Internship Fair. Speakers included Jason Dittmer, Author and Reader in Human Geography at University College London, Melvin Bernstein, Founder of the American Revolution Roundtable at Minute Man Historical Park in Lincoln, Mass. And member

of the Executive Board of the Tufts University—Osher Lifelong Institute and Tim Snyder '08, Management and Budget Analyst for Maricopa County, Ariz.

Planning is underway for fall semester and events will be publicized in the fall 2013 SOPA newsletter. SOPA is always looking for great speakers. If you have any great speakers that you would like to suggest, please contact Kristy Modrow, Experiential Learning and Outreach Coordinator at kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu or 320-308-6080.

SOPA Alumni and Friends Stay Connected!

SOPA is always looking for ways to keep alumni and friends engaged and up to date with what is going on in the School and at the University.

Alumni: Stay connected by updating your contact information with the Alumni Office. You can easily do this online at www.stcloudstate.edu/alumni or by emailing alumni@stcloudstate.edu. SOPA email newsletters three times a year and uses the Alumni Office contact information to do so.

Join the SOPA Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/scsusopa. We try our best to post events and school/university updates on the sites without bombarding your Facebook newsfeed.

Join the Newsletter Email List: If you are not receiving an electronic copy of the SOPA Newsletter and would like to, please contact Kristy Modrow, Experiential Learning and Outreach Coordinator for the School of Public Affairs at kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu or at 320-308-6080.



Faculty/Student/Alumni Highlights

Al Amdahl '99 (Social Studies Alumnus), Albany High School Teacher, was named the Secondary Teacher of the Year by the MN Council of Social Studies (MCSS). The award was presented in March at the MCSS Conference held at SCSU.

Randal Baker (Geography and Planning) and **Cynthia Messer** (Tourism Centre, University of Minnesota) were invited to lead a workshop at the Annual Conference of the International Society of Travel and Tourism Education (ISTTE) in Freiburg, Germany in October, 2013. The workshop focused on the diverse learning styles of our students, and presented methods that could be used by post-secondary, college and university educators to teach travel and tourism theories, models and topics that facilitate learners in each style group or phase. During the full day workshop, participants were introduced to experiential learning theory, and were given the opportunity to identify their own particular learning style using the Kolb Learning Style Inventory before developing and presenting techniques and practices of presenting several fundamental travel/tourism principles, models and theories to each of the four learning style groups. This was the second time Baker and Messer have been invited to present at the ISTTE conference.

Jessica Brayman and **Lauren Carlson** (Geography and Planning Students) were elected as Student Members in the Society of Women Geographers.

Dane Carley '10 (Criminal Justice-PSEL Alumnus) was promoted to Battalion Chief with the Fargo Fire Department. He also participated in the North Dakota Fire Fighter's Leadership Conference as an instructor in developing a high performance company course.

Matt Eiden (Social Studies Student) was selected to participate in the Foreign Policy Research Institutes "History Institute for High School Teachers" in April. The Institute is held at a museum dedicated to the First Division (Army) in Illinois and brings in leading experts from across the nation to work with in-service teachers from across the country.

Robert Girtz '06 (Alumnus) was offered a tenure-track assistant professor of economics position at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, S.D. He will teach Principles of Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Managerial Economics (both undergraduate and MBA level).

Jill Hermanutz (Criminal Justice—PSEL Student) was promoted to Corrections Unit Supervisor of the Department of Community Corrections in Hennepin County.

Bel Kambach (Geography and Planning) oversaw a group of 13 Travel and Tourism students who passed the Cvent Certification. Cvent is a software company and is the market leader in web-based event management, venue sourcing, and strategic meetings management software. Cvent certified students are listed below:

- **Gabriel Bellorin Rodriguez**
- **Cassandra Erickson**
- **Kayla Gobin**
- **Kalen Graf**
- **Alexander Kwan**
- **Thomas Lyrek**
- **Rachel O'Kane**
- **Matt Poppen**
- **Megan Schmidt**
- **Tyler Schmidt**
- **Cady Streff**
- **Amy Xiong**
- **Emily Zniewski**

Ming Lo (Economics) recently published or will publish the following articles:

"Causes of nonlinearities in low-order models of the real exchange rate," with Yamin Ahmad and Olena Mykhaylova, *Journal of International Economics*, forthcoming.

"Volatility and persistence of simulated DSGE real exchange rates," with Yamin Ahmad and Olena Mykhaylova, *Economics Letters*, 2013, 119(1), pp.38-41.

"Social learning and innovation. Ice fishing communities on Lake Mille Lacs," with Kristof van Assche, Raoul Beunen and Jeff Holm, *Land Use Policy*, 2013, 39, pp.233-242.

Brian Maturi '11 (Criminal Justice-PSEL Alumnus) was promoted to Intensive Supervision Agent with the MN Department of Corrections. Maturi trains in other agents in safety.

Randy Mohawk '12 (Criminal Justice—PSEL Alumnus) is a full time instructor in the Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Department at Rochester Community College effective fall 2013.

Morgan Nyendu (Criminal Justice) and **Patience Togo Malm** (Social Work), received a \$10,000 SCSU Provost Action Grant for their research work in Ghana.

Jay Rasmussen '07 (Criminal Justice—PSEL Alumnus) received a \$75,000 grant from the City of Winona to implement a project for the Winona Police Department.

Jennifer Richason '98 (Social Studies Alumnae), Sartell Middle School Social Studies Teacher, was named the Social Studies Middle School Teacher of the Year by the MN Council of Social Studies (MCSS). The award was presented in March at the MCSS Conference held at SCSU.

Chuks's Ugochukwu (Geography and Planning) spring 2013 Internship class (CMTY 493) was selected as the "Most Inclusive Project" at the SCSU Internship & Community Engagement Celebration event. The award is selected via event attendee votes. Special congratulations to the students in the class who worked hard to present their internship work activities at the event:

- **Mohammed Abdi** – St. Cloud Downtown Council
- **Johannes Hovelson** – St. Cloud Downtown Council
- **Sean Lawler** – Xcel Energy (Siting & Land Rights)
- **Samson Mbaluka** – MN, Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) (Economic Development)
- **Obuuy Omot** – Her-Arts-In-Action (Access to Clean water & Sanitation)
- **Sankriti Thapa** – City of Hutchinson, MN (Economic Development)



CMTY Student Obuuy Omot (right) presents to President Potter (middle) and to Sarah Drake, Artist/Trainer HerArts in Action (left) at the SCSU Internship and Community Engagement celebration.

Adam Walkley (Criminal Justice Student) is the Criminal Justice recipient of the Olga B. Hart Giving Back Memorial Scholarship awarded from SCSU's School of Health and Human Services and the School of Public Affairs.