

UNIVERSITY
OF OREGON

PPPM Circle

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND ALLIED ARTS

NUMBER 12 FALL 2007

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LOOKING FORWARD



Welcome to another edition of our PPPM newsletter. We are pleased to welcome two new faculty members to our community. **Robert Young** has recently finished his Ph.D. at Cornell and brings to us a focus and passion on sustainable cities. Prior to his doctorate work, he helped establish and was the first director of the New Jersey Office of Sustainability. **Laura Leete** (Ph.D., Harvard) also joins us this year after teaching and researching at Willamette University for the last several years. Her area of work is in social policy, poverty, and nonprofit management, and she has recently published a book, which you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have a great new group of students. Their energy and commitment toward improving the world is inspiring, and is a reminder of why we came to PPPM in the first place. Working with these students is our new internship coordinator, **Rhonda Smith**. She would love to hear of your interests in sponsoring internships, and can work with you to set them up.

We are establishing a departmental speakers series, and we hope to have speakers every other week on Fridays, and possibly more often. If you are interested, please contact Christy Desermeaux, cdeserme@uoregon.edu, a student organizing the series for the year. Students hunger for a connection with current professionals, and this could be a great way for you to meet the next generation of students.

In other news, **Ed Weeks** has returned to us from his sabbatical and **Rich Margerum** has left us for a sabbatical in Australia. And in closing, yours truly was recently promoted to associate professor with tenure and was “rewarded” with the position of acting department head for the year.

There is a great forward-looking energy in the department, and we are thankful for your continued interest and support of our efforts in making the world a better place.

Sincerely,

Marc Schlossberg

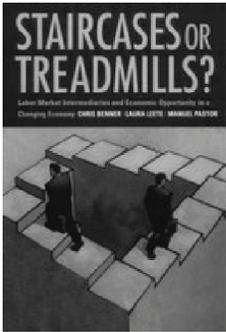
HOW CAN I PROVIDE FEEDBACK?

This fall we contacted alumni by e-mail to ask them to help provide feedback about professional training needs and over 261 completed the survey. However, some of you could not be contacted because we didn't have up-to-date e-mail addresses. If you would like to complete the survey or just give us your contact details, visit our home page, pppm.uoregon.edu, and look for the quick links heading. Click on alumni survey for the survey and volunteer forms and click on volunteer for ppm to volunteer.

*Vision
Leadership
Community*



FACULTY NOTES



Laura Leete, newcomer to the PPPM faculty this fall, is the coauthor of a book recently published by the Russell Sage Foundation: *Staircases or Treadmills? Labor Market Intermediaries and*

Economic Opportunity in a Changing Economy. This book reports on the first comprehensive study—conducted by Leete and coauthors Chris Benner (UC Davis) and Manuel Pastor (USC)—documenting the prevalence of labor market intermediaries in the U.S. economy and investigating how these organizations affect workers' employment opportunities.

In recent years, the U.S. job market has become increasingly competitive

as a result of globalization, technological change, and deregulation. For many workers, the transition to a “new economy” has been marked by rising job insecurity, lower wages, and reduced access to benefits. As the job market has grown more volatile, the role of labor market intermediaries—private, public, or nonprofit organizations that assist job seekers in finding work—has grown. The list of such organizations includes temporary and permanent placement agencies, government employment and training centers, welfare-to-work agencies, community-based organizations, and unions, among others.

Leete, Benner, and Pastor compared the intermediaries in the “old economy” of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with those of the “new economy” in Silicon Valley (San Jose, California). They investigated which approaches were most effective in helping workers secure jobs with decent

wages and benefits. The most effective organizations (often unions, community colleges, and local nonprofits) were found to be those that worked to make contacts between workers and employers, and made long-term investments in training for career development. However, they also found that disadvantaged workers were far more likely to rely on private temporary agencies and other organizations that offer fewer services and place participants in jobs with low wages and few benefits. *Staircases or Treadmills?* argues that to become more effective on behalf of disadvantaged workers, intermediaries need to focus more on training, networking skills, and working to transform the nature of career ladders themselves.

The publication of *Staircases or Treadmills?* is the culmination of a multiyear research project generously funded by the Ford, Rockefeller, and Russell Sage foundations.

The PPPM department is proud to introduce UO alumna **Rhonda Smith** as our new internship director. Rhonda participated in two internships during her studies at Oregon. Her first was with the City of Eugene in the human resources and risk services department, after which she went to Magdeburg, Germany, for an international



internship. After graduating from Oregon in 1996 with an M.A. in public affairs, she worked for the City of Eugene as an employment analyst, assisting with their recruitment and selection process, coordinating the Career Development Assistance Program, conducting outreach services, and presenting employment-

related trainings. In her spare time she enjoys working in her vegetable garden, volunteering at a local youth farm, and biking around town. Rhonda would like to express her deepest gratitude for the warm welcome she received from everyone in the PPPM department when she started her position in September. Alumni who have possible internship positions available should contact Rhonda by e-mail at rhonda@uoregon.edu.

Nonprofit Highlights

The chapter “Collaboration vs. Competition in the Nonprofit Sector,” written by **Renee Irvin**, will be published in the forthcoming book *Nonprofit Economics and Management: The State of Research*, edited by Bruce Seaman and Dennis Young. Renee was also invited to be a featured speaker at a national conference for nonprofit professionals, the National Center on Nonprofit Enterprise, held September 2007.

Leete Pub

Laura Leete is coauthor of an article published in the spring-summer 2007 issue of the *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, the flagship journal of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. The article, titled “Helping Legislatures Legislate: An Executive Education Program for State Senators,” summarizes the authors' experiences organizing pre-session training sessions for Oregon's state senators.

Presentations in China

Michael Hibbard presented his paper, “Economic Development in the Capital of Good Planning: Planning, Public Policy, and the Transformation of the Regional Economy of Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.,” twice on a trip to China in June 2007—at the International Conference on Sustainable Urban Development in Shenzhen and the International Forum on Urban Development and Planning in Beijing.

YIZHAO-SCHLOSSBERG GRANT

Assistant Professor Yizhao Yang and Associate Professor Marc Schlossberg have recently received a \$75,000 research grant from the Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium to study children's behavior during travel to school. Under the supervision of Bob Parker and Bethany Johnson, this project will be integrated into the curriculum of the Community Planning Workshop, making it a good example of combining learning with research and community service experience.

This research project will investigate the issue of school travel and residential-location preference on a comprehensive scale. Insight gained through the proposed research will shed light on the issues surrounding coordination among urban development, school siting, and transportation planning.

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS



Kate Alexander is a second-year M.P.A. graduate student interested in collaborative processes for natural resource management. This past summer, with aid from the PPPM travel grant and the Al Frazier award program, she had the opportunity to use the Copper River watershed of Cordova, Alaska, as a case study for investigating both challenges and opportunities for consensus-based management of the watershed.

Kate coordinated interviews with twenty stakeholders throughout the watershed who have a wide range of interests, including commercial, sport, and subsistence fishing, Alaska Native culture, and community development. Her interview adventures ranged from tasting smoked salmon to touring a sockeye salmon hatchery.

Kate has hope for the future of the Copper River watershed and the ability of the stakeholders to work together to find an effective way to maintain the integrity of the watershed for salmon. Kate looks forward to returning to the area after graduation to help take advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead and assist in overcoming the challenges the region faces.



Phil Carroll is a part-time master's student focusing on local government administration. He moved with his wife and two daughters to Eugene in 2001 and became involved in local issues—including his passion, trees. Phil is a certified arborist and has served for five years on the board of directors for the Eugene Tree Foundation and for two as president. Through this work he became interested in land-use planning and local government, which led to his appointment to a four-year term on the Eugene Planning Commission in fall 2005 and to admission to the UO M.P.A. program in winter 2006.

Phil works as a groundskeeper on campus, which not only enables him to enjoy the beautiful landscape of campus but also reduces his commute to class! In addition to work and study, he currently coordinates a Eugene matching grant project he initiated to improve the neighborhood crossroads at the intersection of Eight Avenue and Monroe Street by adding tile art and landscaping to the new Monroe-Friendly Bikeway.

School gets good grades

Geneva Wortman, '00 has had great success recently as the founding director of the Klamath River Early College of the Redwoods. On May 7, 2007, the school received the highest level of accreditation possible from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Klamath River Early College of the Redwoods is located in Klamath, California, on the Yurok Indian Reservation.

The school offers a broad array of classes, including an advanced video course in a 3-D virtual classroom. Students are able to sit side-by-side with biologists, planners, and tribal leaders. The students develop their own projects that help to revitalize the local community through activities such as a community garden and a computer-repair-and-recycling program. The students are also involved in extracurricular activities including poetry slams, nature walks, and video production.

"We use an individualized academic plan," Geneva said. "It is not about their age, but their ability." Innovation in the classroom has even attracted *Smithsonian* magazine. The school was featured in the October 2007 issue. The early college high school has operated for two years, and will have its first graduation in 2008. Students will walk with a high school diploma and college credit.

Judith Hibbard continues to work with groups around the country on ways to make information on health-care quality useful to consumers. She is currently working with the National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH) on approaches for reporting to consumers comparative-performance information on their health-plan choices. She will also help with the new value-exchange initiative coming from the office of Mike Leavitt, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. The value exchanges are community coalitions that will foster transparency in health-care cost and quality. Judith will provide the communities with written guides and "webinars" on communicating this information to consumers.





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School of Architecture and Allied Arts

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HOW CAN I SUPPORT PPPM?

Annual gifts from alumni and friends are important for the department. Your financial support helps us to maintain a high standard for academic excellence. Some of our funding needs for 2007–8 include the following:

- Student scholarships
- Student field trips and research
- Small research and community service projects
- The annual PPPM awards ceremony
- Upgrades to the PPPM Seminar Room 100

NEW JOBS LIST SERVE

Alumni! Want to browse only the job announcements passing through PPPM students' e-mails? We have a new subscription mailing-list server that will only send you job announcements! E-mail pppm@uoregon.edu to request a subscription to pppmjobline@lists.uoregon.edu.

PPPM Circle

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