

# St. Louis Metropolitan Research Exchange (STLMRE)

## Newsletter, September 2002

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## Welcome to the St. Louis Metropolitan Research Exchange (STLMRE)!

STLMRE is an effort to put researchers on St. Louis in touch with one another. The goal is to share knowledge and encourage scholarly collaboration. The first issue has four sections. First, there is an article by the Managing Editor about the genesis of STLMRE. The second section lists some events of interest to scholars studying St. Louis. This followed by reports on almost fifty scholarly research projects on St. Louis. The last section lists published and unpublished recent scholarly works on St. Louis.

We trust that, like us, you will be impressed with the breadth and depth of the research being conducted on the St. Louis region. We think we have only scratched the surface, however. There is even more research out there that we have not heard about. We need your help. Tell us about your research, reports, and conferences. And give us your reaction to our website. We welcome your criticisms and suggestions for making it better.

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## Where We Came From And Where We're Going

By Todd Swanstrom

The story of the Metropolitan Research Exchange is quite simple. In the summer of 2001 I accepted a professorship at Saint Louis University (SLU) in the Department of Public Policy Studies. I soon linked up with Joseph Heathcott, a simpatico urbanist in the American Studies Department at SLU. Joseph was already involved with a small group of urbanists who met and exchanged news over an e-mail list. Both Joseph and I noted that St. Louis had an impressive collection of urban scholars, but often they worked alone or in small groups, without any common forum for the sharing of resources and information. Scholarly pursuits sometimes mimicked the region's fragmented governance structure.

At relatively little cost, we felt, a "virtual" urban center could begin to open up lines of communication between urban scholars in the region and around the country. We decided to establish a website where urbanists studying St. Louis--wherever they lived--could share their work. The College of Public Service and Department of Public Policy Studies at Saint Louis University generously gave us a small grant to hire Alan Lamberg, a graduate student in public administration, to help us with the technical issues of web development.

Next, Joseph and I asked scholars from five universities in the area to volunteer to serve on the Governing Board. No one turned us down; everyone agreed that there was a niche that needed to be filled. We also decided to reach out to non-university researchers by inviting someone from outside the academy, specifically from the Missouri Historical Society, to join the effort.

At the first meeting of the Board in June, Terry Jones came up with a name: the St. Louis Metropolitan Research Exchange (STLMRE). The name seemed to fit because our goal is simply to inform people about scholarly research on St. Louis and hopefully

encourage more scholarly collaboration. We have no desire to institutionalize ourselves. Our mission is simple: *to exchange information about past, present, and future research on the St. Louis region that is of interest to urban scholars and concerned citizens.*

We invite all scholars doing research on St. Louis to join STLMRE and send us articles, no more than 200 words, describing their research for our next newsletter, which will come out in February. It is important to note that we are interested in research that is of general scholarly interest and that has a St. Louis dimension. Research that could be conducted in any city, but happened to have been conducted in St. Louis, would not qualify. For directions on submitting articles, see our Submission Policy on the website.

Please also tell us about upcoming events, such as speakers and conferences (but remember that we will only be publishing the newsletter three times a year: September, February, and May). We also encourage you to submit your vita and course syllabi that incorporate St. Louis examples for posting on the STLMRE website. Finally, we would like scholars to submit citations for recent published and unpublished research on St. Louis. We plan gradually to build up researchable bibliographies of St. Louis research on the STLMRE website – research that would not show up in standard computer searches.

The ultimate goal of STLMRE is not just to report on research but also to encourage scholars to get together face-to-face, to form a St. Louis research community. It won't happen without your help.

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## Conferences, Meetings and Talks

### **The Urban Kaleidoscope: Healthy Institutions & Healthy People**

Illinois Sociological Association, October 10-11 in East St. Louis. The conference will have a special urban theme, The Urban Kaleidoscope. Have you ever wondered whether or not there is any hope of renewal for our blighted, economically depressed urban areas? Perhaps an area such as East St. Louis? If so, and if you enjoy the stimulating environment provided by students and colleagues at this year's annual ISA meeting in East St. Louis on Oct. 10-11. New pricing this year is available only for students, or for groups of students (only \$25 per group). We also have two sessions (one on each conference day) where students may participate by sharing their own research papers. Lastly, of special interest to all conference participants, we are organizing an informative tour of the Metro East area for Friday afternoon. e-mail: Greg Sanders, 2001-02 ISA President: [gsanders@greenville.edu](mailto:gsanders@greenville.edu) or for information: <http://www.siue.edu/SOCIOLOGY/isa.htm>

### **Break Word With the World**

Illinois Sociological Association, SIUE. Stimulating discussions are held on Thursday nights by a local literary club, Break Word With the World, which is interdisciplinary in nature and has a special focus on urban topics. e-mail: [gsanders@greenville.edu](mailto:gsanders@greenville.edu) or visit the ISA: <http://www.siue.edu/SOCIOLOGY/isa.htm>.

### **What is a City? Sustainable Environments and Healthy Living**

Eighth Annual Conference put on by the Center For the Humanities at UMSL, October 17-18, 2002, J. C. Penney Conference Center. The conference features 21 speakers discussing what makes a healthy city – all the way from the physical environment to

health care to social justice. The conference is free and open to the public. information: call 314-516-5974.

### **Rays of Hope: A New Day for America's Distressed Urban Areas**

Community Affairs Office of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, University of Illinois East St. Louis Action Research Project, October 22-23 at the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Center in East St. Louis, Illinois. The conference will examine successful approaches to urban redevelopment. information: <http://www.stlouisfed.org/community/>

### **Social Science History Association Annual Meeting**

St. Louis, Millenium Hotel, 200 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street. October 24-27. This is a major international conference of scholars who apply social science techniques to the study of history. It has a substantial urban component with many papers on St. Louis. Also featured is a three-hour tour of the city by Joseph Heathcott of Saint Louis University. For information about registration, call 1-800-933-9330 or e-mail [iuconfs@indiana.edu](mailto:iuconfs@indiana.edu).

### **Forest Park Forever**

Lee Anna Good, Director of Capital Campaign and Marketing for FOREST PARK FOREVER, discuss the renovation of Forest Park, the park's history, and the importance of preservation. The luncheon event is hosted by the St. Louis Metropolitan ASPA Chapter but non-members are welcome. The date is October 8, 2002 from 11:30-1:00, and the location is Clayton City Hall, 10 Bemiston Avenue, Clayton, MO, 63105, Room 201. If you choose to order lunch (cost \$10.00), you will need to RSVP by October 4. Please contact [caseycl@slu.edu](mailto:caseycl@slu.edu) if you are interested in attending and ordering lunch. If you do not want a lunch, you are welcome to just show up!

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## **Research Projects (in alphabetical order by principal investigator)**

### **Tower Grove Heights**

Mark Abbott, Harris-State State College

Mark Abbott is conducting research on Tower Grove Heights—a neighborhood south of the park. He is particularly interested in the factors that have made the community so stable over the past century. e-mail: Mark Abbott: [abbottm@hssc.edu](mailto:abbottm@hssc.edu)

### **Center For Neighborhood Affairs, Harris-Stowe State College**

The mission of the Center is to pair the resources and expertise of the College with the needs and concerns of St. Louis neighborhoods. The first major activity of the Center has been the formation of the Lucas Heights Partnership. Lucas Heights is a neighborhood in midtown St. Louis bound by Compton, Olive, Jefferson, and Martin Luther King. The purpose of the Partnership is to join together the major stakeholders of the community in renovating and stabilizing this strategically important neighborhood. The Center has received a \$224,000 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for three primary activities: 1) a \$130,000 expansion of the Vashon / Jeff Vander Lou Initiative's home improvement loan program into Lucas Heights, 2) a Youth Business Initiative where faculty and students in HSSC's Business Administration program work with Carver House teens and preteens to start their own businesses, and 3) a collaborative

effort between faculty and students in HSSC's Department of Urban Specializations and the staff of St. Louis's Department of Urban Planning and Design to develop a comprehensive plan for the neighborhood. The Center is also contracted to do the evaluation of the Community Support Services component of the HOPE VI project in the St. Louis Housing Authority's Blumeyer complex. e-mail: Mark Abbott: [abbottm@hssc@slu.edu](mailto:abbottm@hssc@slu.edu)

### **School Reform in St. Louis**

Marvin Berkowitz

The Caring School Community Project is a project of the Cooperating School Districts of St. Louis, which is piloting a new school reform model, developed by the Developmental Studies Center of Oakland CA, in about 25 elementary schools. The research is assessing outcomes on school climate and student development. information: Marvin W. Berkowitz, Ph.D. Sanford N. McDonnell Professor of Character Education College of Education Marillac Hall 402 University of Missouri-St. Louis 8001 Natural Bridge Road St. Louis MO 63121-4499

### **Lead Project.**

Venessa Brown, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, SIUE.

The purpose of the SIUE Institute for Urban Research Lead Project is to create and maintain a Longitudinal Data Base on blood lead levels in school-age children (two to 18) in East St. Louis and other St. Clair County communities. The study will extend and build upon existing data from four major sources (St. Mary's Hospital of East St. Louis, East St. Louis School District 189, Illinois Department of Public Health and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).

### **Workforce Development Policies And Politics**

Scott Cummings, Alan Tomey, and Robert Flack (SLU Public Policy Studies)

The Annie Casey Foundation has invested \$30 million to improve workforce development policies across the nation. Cummings is preparing an article on the difficulties of reforming job training and workforce development policies in the St. Louis region. The article will be published in a book edited by Bob Giloth and published by Temple University Press. The other five cities studied are New Orleans, Philadelphia, Denver, Milwaukee, and Seattle. The focus is not on evaluating the Casey initiatives but on the politics of local reform, utilizing Clarence Stone's concept of a "performance regime." e-mail: Scott Cummings: [sbcumm01@slu.edu](mailto:sbcumm01@slu.edu)

### **Economic Restructuring And Race**

Scott Cummings (SLU Public Policy Studies)

Writing two chapters for a book on St. Louis edited by Brady Baybeck and Terry Jones. One will explain how regional economic restructuring is related to racial and income disparities in the St. Louis region. The second chapter will focus on African American businesses in the region. Particular attention will be given to the difficulties they face when they locate within poor central-city neighborhoods. Cummings will also examine the recent suburbanization of African American firms in the St. Louis region. e-mail: Scott Cummings: [sbcumm01@slu.edu](mailto:sbcumm01@slu.edu)

## **Needs Assessment Of St. Louis Elderly**

Scott Cummings and Charles Marske (SLU Sociology)

Scott Cummings conducted a needs assessment of the elderly for the City of St. Louis. Currently, they are finalizing a needs assessment of families and children at risk, coordinating with the Mayor's initiative focused on children up to the age of five. The extensive database will assist the city target neighborhoods with the highest risk factors and help identify neighborhoods with the greatest accumulations of social capital. Cummings and Marske are in the process of writing articles based on the data. e-mail: Scott Cummings: [sbcumm01@slu.edu](mailto:sbcumm01@slu.edu)

## **Journal Of Urban Affairs**

The *Journal of Urban Affairs* is published out of Saint Louis University. The Editor is Scott Cummings and Angela Spies is the Assistant to the Editor. The offices are located in McGannon Hall on the Saint Louis University Campus. The *Journal of Urban Affairs* is published by the Urban Affairs Association (UAA) that sponsors a conference every spring. Next March it will be held in Cleveland. information: [www.udel.edu/uaa](http://www.udel.edu/uaa)

## **The Geographic Distribution of the Metro-East Region's African American Population and Racial Housing Segregation in Relation to the Geographic Distribution of Health Care Providers in the Metro East Region.**

John E. Farley, Professor, Department of Sociology, SIUE.

The purpose of this proposed research is tri-fold. First, it examines the geographic distance between the Metro-East area's African American population and the locations of health care providers, using several different approaches to estimating this distance. Second, it uses the index of dissimilarity to examine the degree of unevenness between the geographic distribution of the area's African American the geographic distribution of health care providers. Third, it will develop a methodology for and generate a proposal for external funding for studies to compare the patterns that I find in the Metro East area to patterns in other metropolitan areas. Preliminary findings from this study will be presented at the annual meetings of the Illinois Sociological Association to be held in East St. Louis October 10 and 11, 2002. This research is funded through the SIUE Institute for Urban Research. e-mail: Professor Farley: [jfarley@siue.edu](mailto:jfarley@siue.edu).

## **Racial Housing Segregation in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area, 2000.**

John E. Farley, Professor, Department of Sociology, SIUE.

This study involves measurement of the level of racial housing segregation in the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and its constituent parts, as well as an examination of trends in segregation in different parts of the metropolitan area. Results from the initial phase of the research project can be found at <http://www.siue.edu/SOCIOLOGY/journal/FARLEYV2.HTM>. A second phase of the research project will involve the use of two methods to examine the role played in racial segregation by economic disparities between whites and African Americans in the area. This phase will involve computation of racial housing segregation indices within income levels in the area, and the use of indirect standardization to estimate what the area wide index would be if only economic factors were involved in segregation. Past research has shown that economic disparities account for a relatively small proportion of the total segregation in the area. This research was funded in part by the SIUE Graduate School.

e-mail: Professor Farley: [jfarley@siue.edu](mailto:jfarley@siue.edu).

### **Interracial Exposure Indices: A Case When “Average” is Not “Typical”?**

John E. Farley, Professor, Department of Sociology, SIUE.

Interracial exposure indices are often interpreted as representing the typical neighborhood racial composition experienced by people in a particular racial group. However, these indices are mean indices, and when the distribution of racial compositions is skewed, the mean composition experienced by people in a racial group may be quite different from the composition experienced by the median person in that group. It is demonstrated using 2000 census data from the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area that 1) differences between mean and median exposure are substantial and that 2) the exposure indices in common use today significantly overstate the level of interracial exposure that the majority of people actually experience in their neighborhood. A median exposure measure is proposed as an alternative to the mean exposure indices now in common use, because the median measure understates the actual degree of racial separation and isolation that the typical individual experiences. Research is now under way to examine the extent to which these findings for the St. Louis metropolitan area can be replicated in other metropolitan areas. e-mail: Professor Farley: [jfarley@siue.edu](mailto:jfarley@siue.edu).

### **Historic Images of St. Louis: 1850-1950**

Louis S. Gerteis and Andrew Hurley, UMSL.

The Virtual City Project is an innovative application of three-dimensional imaging technology to history instruction. Electronic models of downtown St. Louis for each decade from 1850-1950 function like a three-dimensional Tic-Tac-Toe game. Thematic pathways run "horizontally" across the city in a given decade and "vertically" through time to other decades. Along these pathways lie points of convergence, exchange and conflict that constitute the building blocks of historical narration. Funded by NEH. UMSL hosts the site at <http://www.umsl.edu/~virtualstl/phase2> e-mail: [gerteis@umsl.edu](mailto:gerteis@umsl.edu)

### **Military Base Closings and Defense Industry Restructuring in St. Louis**

Andrew Glassberg, Political Science, UMSL.

Cited by the Defense Department's Office of Economic Adjustment as a national model, the project examined how St. Louis has adjusted to base closings and changes in the defense industry. e-mail: Glassberg: [Glassberg@umsl.edu](mailto:Glassberg@umsl.edu)

### **Housing Development Accounts: Investing in the Lives of Low-Income St. Louisans**

Gena Gunn, William Rainford, Michael Sherraden, Margaret Sherraden, Trina Williams, Center for Social Development, Washington University and the Department of Social Work, University of Missouri-St. Louis.

The City of St. Louis currently has a significantly large population of citizens who work hard and are, at the same time, unable to realize the core American dream of home-ownership. City leadership, working with private for-profit and non-profit corporations, can change the lives of its low-income citizens through a housing development savings-and-investment program. In so doing, the leadership will be able to first transform impoverished families in the city, then neighborhoods, and ultimately, the City of St. Louis itself. e-mail: William Rainford: [rainfordw@msx.umsl.edu](mailto:rainfordw@msx.umsl.edu)

### **Analysis of Subprime Lending in the St. Louis MSA.**

Rik Hafer, Professor, Department of Economics and Finance, SIUE.

There is a growing concern over subprime lending, defined as making loans to borrowers with past credit problems often at higher rates than available through traditional lenders. Several states now restrict such practices. Project will statistically examine subprime lending activity in the Illinois counties of the St. Louis MSA. The objective is to measure and analyze the distribution of subprime lending across economic and social groups. Previous work makes simple comparisons of subprime incidence with the income and racial make-up of an area. Using loan-origination data collected by census tract, the research will statistically test for independent effects of such variables as race, gender, and income. The analysis will determine whether subprime lenders unfairly target certain groups. This research is funded through the SIUE Institute for Urban Research. e-mail: Rik Hafer: [rhafer@siue.edu](mailto:rhafer@siue.edu)

### **Negotiating Work and Everyday Life: Labor Market Experiences and Familial Obligations of Low-Income Black Men in East St. Louis, Illinois.**

Jennifer F. Hamer, Associate Professor, Sociology, Wayne State University (formerly of SIUE)

This study is about black men, work, and families. More specifically, it is about the employment experiences of those African-American men who live at or below the margins of the workforce. The study focuses on those who have few marketable skills. These men most often work at or below living wage jobs, have more than one employer, or move regularly from one poorly paying job to another. Some have quit searching for legitimate means of employment altogether. The study looks at how these men negotiate a living and carve out a quality life for themselves and their families under increasingly dismal economic and social circumstances using a sample of men living in East St. Louis, Illinois. This research is funded through the SIUE Institute for Urban Research.

### **The Projects and the People: Public Housing in the Life of an American City.**

Joseph Heathcott, Assistant Professor in the Department of American Studies, SLU

Heathcott is currently writing a book-length manuscript on the infamous Pruitt-Igoe public housing project. His work makes use of extensive archival research, oral histories, visual documentation, government publications, and sociological studies. The book will provide a fine-grained social history of a major public housing project between 1950 and 1980. Through a close study of the massive Pruitt-Igoe complex in St. Louis, and the lives of the people whose paths crossed there, the book will expand existing scholarship on race and public housing in America, and challenge conventional narratives of design, policy, and the urban crisis. The main focus of the work will be on the relationships between tenants, housing officials, architects, social workers, researchers, clergy, and civic groups. The book will examine Pruitt-Igoe and the projects in St. Louis as a locus of working class Civil Rights action, from early protests over segregation to Model Cities to the great Rent Strike of 1969. e-mail: [heathcje@slu.edu](mailto:heathcje@slu.edu)

### **St. Louis Remade: The City after World War II.**

Joseph Heathcott, Assistant Professor in the Department of American Studies, SLU

St. Louis made extensive use of federal funds to reinvent itself in the decades following World War II. Planners intended this great spate of slum clearance and reconstruction to

open up the congested old city, to give it lungs to breathe. Urban Renewal, public housing, and expressway construction literally redrew the urban map in the 1950s and 1960s, at the same time that FHA-enabled suburban expansion took its profound toll on the physical city. Heathcott will be working with a group of graduate students to mount an exhibit on the history of post-WWII redevelopment in St. Louis. The exhibit will focus on the years between the passage of the 1949 Housing Act and the termination of Urban Renewal program funds in 1972. "St. Louis Remade" will display planning maps, photographs, and other graphic images from a range of sources, with video loops of the pro-urban renewal propaganda films made by the city in the 1950s. The exhibit will open in conjunction with the November 2003 meeting of the Society for American City and Regional Planning History in St. Louis. There will be a full day of bus tours, plenary sessions, and a reception held at the exhibit venue. e-mail: [heathcjt@slu.edu](mailto:heathcjt@slu.edu)

### **Analysis of the Climatic Mechanisms Contributing to Lower atmospheric Ozone Exceedances with Metropolitan St. Louis.**

Mark L. Hildebrandt, Assistant Professor, Geography Department, SIUE.

While some past climatological studies address ozone transport across various spatial scales, few studies address the linkages between meteorological processes at multiple spatial scales and their role in ozone transport. This study will employ a method for analyzing the linkages between ozone transport and multi-scale processes on days that violated the U.S. EPA standard (0.12 ppm over one hour) from 1990 to 2000 in St. Louis. The dominant presence of high pressure at the synoptic scale and variability in air temperature and wind speed at the microscale complicate forecasting ozone exceedances in the St. Louis metropolitan area. The results of this proposed study may help local scientists to improve ozone forecasts for St. Louis and other cities dominated by similar meteorological conditions. This research is funded through the SIUE Institute for Urban Research. e-mail: [mhildeb@siue.edu](mailto:mhildeb@siue.edu).

### **The Historical Relationship Between St. Louis and the Mississippi River**

Andrew Hurley, UMSL.

Like many other cities that rose to prominence as commercial centers and then made the transformation to industrial hubs, St. Louis has been accused of turning its back on the river that once made it great. Tracing the origins of this phenomenon to the early nineteenth century and shows how the city's relationship to the great river flowing by its doorstep was characterized by ambivalence. The Mississippi was simultaneously a source of anxiety and fear as well as an object of awe and veneration. Floods, ice gorges, and shifting sandbars both frustrated and fascinated St. Louisans. The human element made an equally powerful impression on visitors and residents alike as the levee teemed with wealthy travelers, rowdy boatmen, busy draymen, and casual onlookers. Between 1830 and 1970, engineering attempts to regulate the river's hydrology proceeded in tandem with planning efforts to sanitize the social environment of the waterfront and restrict public access. The ultimate effect of this regulatory process has been to transform St. Louis's relationship to the river from one characterized by passionate but mixed feelings of love and hate to one characterized by indifference. e-mail: Andrew Hurley: [ahurley@umsl.edu](mailto:ahurley@umsl.edu)

## **St. Louis Metromorphosis: Past Trends and Future Directions**

Terry Jones and Brady Baybeck, Public Policy Research Center, UMSL.

A team of thirteen scholars from SIUE, SLU, UMSL, and WUSTL are preparing a book. Taking advantage of numerous data sets about the St. Louis region, some extending back as long as a century, the project will analyze key demographic, economic, social, and governmental trends. The book will be published in Spring 2004 by the Missouri Historical Society Press. Other contributors include Scott Cummings (SLU), Scott Decker (UMSL), John Farley (SIUE), Daniel Keck (SLU), Deborah Kiel (UMSL), David Laslo (UMSL), Donald Phares (UMSL), Lois Pierce (UMSL), Michael Sherraden (WUSTL), Mark Tranel (UMSL), and Richard Wesenberg (WUSTL). e-mail: Terry Jones: [terry.jones@umsl.edu](mailto:terry.jones@umsl.edu)

## **The Problem of Unrecorded Votes**

David Kimball, UMSL

In the 2000 general election, roughly one of every fifty voters failed to cast a valid vote for president, and the numbers were much higher in Illinois. This can produce a number of legal and political disputes in a close election, and it raises questions about representative democracy in the United States. In the 2000 presidential election, Illinois had the highest rate of unrecorded votes in the country while Missouri's was below the national average. Part of my research will be to explain these differences and identify the precincts in the St. Louis area that have high levels of spoiled ballots in recent elections. My research will also examine the racial and economic disparity in unrecorded votes. It is well established that high rates of unrecorded votes are concentrated in areas with large minority and low-income populations. I will examine whether high rates of unrecorded votes are found only in poor and minority precincts in the St. Louis area. Finally, I will identify voting equipment and other ballot features that can reduce the frequency of unrecorded are disparate impact of unrecorded votes. This may be a timely study given that Congress is close to passing a major election reform bill and state legislatures are considering many election changes as well. e-mail: David Kimball:

[kimballd@msx.umsl.edu](mailto:kimballd@msx.umsl.edu)

## **Faith-based Welfare Reform**

Nancy T. Kinney, UMSL.

The state of Missouri authorized the setting aside of TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) funds to promote the involvement of faith-based groups in aiding individuals in their transition from welfare to work. Through interview data this study examines the experiences of program leaders from 21 faith-based mentoring sites in the St. Louis region and across the state. The study explores questions of collaboration and inclusion in the state's implementation efforts. e-mail: Nancy Kinney:

[KinneyN@msx.umsl.edu](mailto:KinneyN@msx.umsl.edu)

## **Policy Changes and Immigrant Organizations in St. Louis**

Nancy Kinney, UMSL.

Changes in public policies that affect immigrant populations also have consequences for the organizations that serve them. Institutional analysis suggests that other factors like vertical and nonlocal organizational linkages have as much or greater effect than policies alone. Drawing largely from the collection of materials about the city's International

Institute held by the Mercantile Library at UMSL, this study examines the interplay of policy and organizational change at several points in the 20th century. e-mail: Nancy Kinney: [KinneyN@msx.umsl.edu](mailto:KinneyN@msx.umsl.edu)

### **The Jefferson Bank Civil Rights Demonstrations**

Gretchen Lockett, Harris-Stowe and Vetta L. Sanders, Thompson, UMSL.

In 1998 and 1999 this project documented the participation, memories and perceptions of persons involved in a watershed civil rights event in St. Louis. The Jefferson Bank movement was organized in 1963 by the St. Louis Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and was an effort to break down barriers to employment of African Americans in banks, stores and other businesses. Using a structured questionnaire, oral histories were obtained from 32 participants, 20 males and 12 females, to explore the impact of the experience on their lives. The events, ideas and people who encouraged and supported participation, the impact of participation on employment, racial identity, social relationships and community and societal change were explored. The research demonstrates the influence of experiences of discrimination and the understanding of the dynamics of race in an oppressive society on the desire to participate in political or social action. The research also examined media coverage.

### **Studies of the St. Louis Labor Force**

David Laslo, UMSL.

Project is developing a Workforce Information System providing primary labor demand data twice a year. This will be complimented by industry/cluster-specific studies (that will produce primary data) such as Life and Plant Science and Advanced Manufacturing. We also will be attempting to analyze the civilian labor force in the region in the coming year with the research goal of providing a profile of its skills, education, and experience. This will be complemented by a series of monographs with topics ranging from impacts of the Ford Plant closing to an assessment of the "diversity" of the regional economy. We are currently developing an analysis of the impact/contribution of selected industries in the region with the idea of determining the relative value to the region. The project also includes an analysis of the migration pattern of individuals in the region using IRS and Driver's License data. Analyzing the destination and departure points of migrants into and out of the region, the research will address the issue of the "brain drain." e-mail: David Laslo: [laslod@msx.umsl.edu](mailto:laslod@msx.umsl.edu)

### **Tale of Two Cities Course Project**

Paula Lupkin, American Culture Studies Program (AmCS) in Arts & Sciences (A&S) at Washington University

In the Spring of 2003 professors Paula Lupkin (Architecture) and Margaret Garb (History) will offer a new interdisciplinary course, Tale of Two Cities. The course focuses on the interconnections between the built environment and social relations in Chicago and St. Louis from approximately the mid-nineteenth to the late-twentieth centuries. AmCS will support faculty research and construct a digitized collection of images linked to a searchable database for use by faculty and class. Collaborating faculty will teach the course at least three times, offered every second year. e-mail: [lupkin@architecture.wustl.edu](mailto:lupkin@architecture.wustl.edu)

## **Transportation and Disability**

Ray Mundy, UMSL.

In coordination with the Greater Cities Universities Transportation Initiative Program, CTS is involved in a project entitled: "Measurement Standards for ADA Services", with extensive participation from the St. Louis Bi-State Development Agency. The objective of this project is to investigate what ADA standards exist in the 17 communities served by GCU members and determine what processes might be utilized in establishing these standards. This would not be a defined set of standards, but rather the "processes" a community might want to utilize in framing a united set of ADA standards and their compliance measures for its public transportation providers. Another project sponsored by the Greater Cities Universities Transportation Initiative Program entitled: "Technology Transfer From Private to Public Transportation Providers", involves the focus on the provision of public transportation by the private sector - taxicabs, limousines, vans and buses, the technology and practices they utilize in providing these services, and what application they may have for the public sector. CTS is again working with the Bi-State Development Agency on this project. e-mail: Ray Mundy: [MundyR@msx.umsl.edu](mailto:MundyR@msx.umsl.edu)

## **Teacher Salaries in St. Louis County**

James Murray, Education Leadership and Policy Studies, UMSL.

This study examines teacher salaries in St. Louis county school districts. How are teacher salary schedules developed? What is the role of the Human Resource director in local school districts? Which factors have influenced the historical development of the single salary schedule, and what would bring about changes in the way districts view teacher salaries as school reform strategy? e-mail: James Murray: [jem34d@studentmail.umsl.edu](mailto:jem34d@studentmail.umsl.edu)

## **Advanced Manufacturing: Developing an Approach for St. Louis**

David Paulsmeyer, Public Policy Consultant.

This project is an analysis of the how best to define and measure advanced manufacturing clusters involving an analysis of the literature. Funded by the Public Policy Research Center at UMSL, the project also examines existing studies that have identified industry clusters in St. Louis. e-mail: David Paulsmeyer: [dpl@empowering.com](mailto:dpl@empowering.com)

## **Women and Economic Development Accounts**

Cynthia Sanders, UMSL

This study examines the participation of battered women in economic education classes and an Individual Development Account (IDA) matched savings program. The program is administered through Redevelopment Opportunities for Women's Economic Action Program (REAP). The research (both quantitative survey data and in-depth qualitative interviews) is being done in collaboration with REAP and the Center for Social Development at Washington University. The study began in Summer 2002 and is expected to continue for about a year and a half. Qualitative interviews focus on the role of financial/economic issues in domestic violence as well as the women's experiences and thoughts about economic education and savings. e-mail: Cynthia Sanders: [csanders@umsl.edu](mailto:csanders@umsl.edu)

## **Refugees in St. Louis**

Uma A. Segal, UMSL

Refugees are an untapped resource in many communities, yet they bring with them a wealth of experience, a desire to reestablish themselves, and a belief in the American Dream. This 5-year project seeks to determine (1) the demographic profile of new refugees (those who have been in the U.S. for less than a year), (2) their level of education, (3) their English language competence, (4) work skills that may be transferable to St. Louis based business/ industry, and (3) their ability to work. Findings of the first two years suggest that St. Louis area businesses may find it beneficial to collaborate with resettlement agencies in filling gaps in the St. Louis workforce. e-mail: Uma Segal: [umasegal@umsl.edu](mailto:umasegal@umsl.edu)

## **Asian Americans in St. Louis**

Uma A. Segal, UMSL

Asian Americans are stereotypically perceived as a single homogenous group that constitutes a "model minority." These perceptions have masked the range of differences among groups as well as the needs a large segment of the population evidences. While as a group they are financially more secure than most other minorities, there is a bi-modal distribution of success. Furthermore, since most shy away from assistance from those outside the family, most do not access available social service and support services they may sorely need. This project began with 13 focus groups of seven Asian American subgroups (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Indian, Vietnamese, and Thai) in the St. Louis metropolitan area with an aim to identifying their unique needs. Analyses are underway, and preliminary findings suggest that the social service needs are more extensive and varied than anticipated. Future plans are to seek federal/state funding to establish a clearinghouse, an information and referral service, or a small community agency to address the needs of this population. e-mail: Uma Segal: [umasegal@umsl.edu](mailto:umasegal@umsl.edu)

## **Economic Segregation In The St. Louis Metropolitan Area**

Todd Swanstrom, SLU Department of Public Policy Studies

This project is funded by a grant from the graduate school at SLU to study economic segregation in the St. Louis metropolitan area using GIS maps. The goal of the project is to determine if different economic classes are moving apart from one another in the region. The units of analysis will be census tracts and municipalities and the time frame is 1970-2000. Besides mapping spatial inequalities, another goal of the research is to test measures of economic segregation that could be applied to any region in the country. e-mail: [swansttf@slu.edu](mailto:swansttf@slu.edu)

## **Economic Segregation In Top Fifty Metro Areas**

Todd Swanstrom and Robert Flack, S.J., (SLU Department of Public Policy Studies), along with Peter Dreier of Occidental College

Funded by a grant from the Brookings Institution to study economic segregation in the 50 largest metropolitan areas from 1980 to 2000. Colleen Casey, a Ph.D. student in Public Policy, has been hired to help collect and analyze the data. Indices used to measure racial segregation will be applied to economic segregation, using both census tracts and municipalities, to determine if economic inequalities are widening in U.S. metro areas. One of the research questions is whether certain areas have reached a "point of no return"

where they are locked in downward cycles of economic decline. A written report will be prepared by next summer. e-mail: Todd Swanstrom: [swansttf@slu.edu](mailto:swansttf@slu.edu)

### **Evaluation of the Effectiveness of a Community Health Youth Service Program, S. A. V. E., Self-Awareness, Values, and Esteem.**

Roslyn Sykes, Professor, School of Nursing, SIUE.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of a community health service program, S.A.V.E. (Self Awareness, Values, and Esteem) for reducing sexual risk behaviors and unplanned pregnancies among urban teenagers in East St. Louis between the ages of 12 and 19. We will evaluate an experimental and usual education prevention pregnancy program that will be offered in two local churches (one in East St. Louis and one in Lovejoy) and two public housing sites. The principal hypothesis will look at the two community training programs administered to low-income, African-American adolescents to see what effect they will have on (a) improving levels of self-esteem and (b) increasing the self-reported number of safer sex practices. We will use a quasi-experimental, four-group, abbreviated, interrupted time series with switching replication research design to assess cognitive and behavioral outcomes associated with the teenage pregnancy prevention program (abstinence and experimental). This research is funded through the SIUE Institute for Urban Research.

### **De-urbanization: the case of St. Louis**

Jacqueline Tatom, School of Architecture, WUSTL.

The St. Louis region has an area of dis-investment that encompasses roughly a third of the central city of St. Louis, concentrated in the north side of the city. It also includes the greater part of East St. Louis. The research examines the resistances and potentials for development that exist within the morphological structure of property in de-urbanizing areas. It is conducted on two fronts: documentation and design. On the one hand the project maps the size, shape and configuration of aggregated vacant parcels and deteriorated buildings, documenting the form of de-urbanization. On the other hand, it examines the resistances and potentials that exist in the nature of land tenancy and the structure of ownership. The premise of the research is that the analysis and projection of the morphological structure, which includes the street and block layout, the parcel configuration, the building mass and the structure of ownership, are essential first steps in any scenario of change and formulation of policy, whether for re-densification or de-densification. These issues are examined in architecture and urban design studios that Tatom teaches, and serve as a basis for programming the re-use of vacant land, with scenarios developed by her students.

### **Decision-Making In Industrial Suburbs**

Andrew Theising, Assistant Professor of Political Science, SIUE.

An ongoing examination of the effect of industry on local decision-making structures, especially as it pertains to the greater East St. Louis area. For this project, an extensive archive of East St. Louis primary and secondary material, images, and artifacts has been developed.

### **Multi-Level Brownfield Reclamation Study**

Andrew Theising, Assistant Professor of Political Science, SIUE.

A beginning study of the management of brownfield sites in the greater St. Louis/East St. Louis area, examining the brownfield policy process and determining to what degree defined outcomes are achieved.

### **The Economy of Metropolitan St. Louis**

Mark Tranel, Public Policy Research Center, UMSL.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Public Policy Research Center prepared a report on the economy of metropolitan St. Louis. The report included an examination of the structure of the economy and its development over the past decade. In order to compare the St. Louis economy to other metropolitan areas, three groups were identified: 1. A factor analysis was conducted to identify those metropolitan areas most comparable to St. Louis; 2. A factor analysis was conducted to identify those metropolitan areas in the Midwest region that showed particular strength but were comparable to St. Louis; 3. A literature search was conducted to identify those metropolitan areas most noted over in recent years for their economic growth.

information: <http://www.umsl.edu/services/pprc/index.htm> or call 314-516-5273.

### **Offenders as Crime Victims**

Richard T. Wright and Bruce Jacobs, UMSL.

Extended interviews with local offenders who have been victimized by other criminals were conducted with a view to understanding how they perceive and respond to such encounters, given that they seldom can invoke police protection and are effectively "on their own" when it comes to dealing with their assailants. All of the offenders interviewed are currently active and were recruited from the streets of St. Louis. e-mail: Bruce Jacobs: [JacobsB@msx.umsl.edu](mailto:JacobsB@msx.umsl.edu)

### **Urban Archives**

Barbara Woods has been named the archivist of Harris-Stowe State College and is preparing to work with the recently acquired Wolf Jazz Collection and the William Clay papers. She is also trying to secure funding to renovate the former Vashon Community Center (Compton and Market) into the College's permanent archives.

### **Missouri School Finance Policy**

Frank Wood, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, UMSL.

An analysis of Missouri's school finance policy that gives a philosophical and historical context for school funding in U.S., Missouri, and St. Louis. Also identifies issues for future revision of the state's school finance policy.

### **The SIUE Institute for Urban Research**

The Institute for Urban Research of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is one of the four organizations on the campus dedicated to researching issues that are important to the region but that also have implications for the nation as a whole.

The Institute for Urban Research is dedicated to the investigation of problems and issues that affect the quality of life of those who live and work in urban or metropolitan areas. The agenda of the institute is set through discussions with the constituencies that represent the diversity that characterizes the Illinois counties (Metro East) of the St. Louis metropolitan area. The Constituency Advisory Council works with the Executive Director of the Institute to formulate a list of questions and problems that the constituents would like to see addressed. The Coordinating Council, a group of SIUE faculty, uses this list to formulate research questions that become the subject of projects sponsored by the Institute. While the questions are generated by concerns of the residents of Metro East as well as other parts of the St. Louis metropolitan area, many of the projects sponsored by the institute include other metropolitan areas, for the institute emphasizes work that compares and contrasts metropolitan areas. The results of the research are then reported back to the Advisory Board to serve as the basis for the development of public policy to address the problems and concerns raised by these constituents. By basing the research agenda of the institute and its fellows in the problems and concerns that are uppermost in the minds of those most affected by public policy, the institute believes that its work can and should have significant input into the development of public policy that affects the quality of urban life. For more information see: <http://www.siue.edu/IUR/>.

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