

St. Louis Metropolitan Research Exchange (STLMRE)

Newsletter, September 2005

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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. We have no desire to institutionalize ourselves. Our mission is 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 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.

Where Are We Going?

By Todd Swanstrom, Managing Editor

The St. Louis Metropolitan Research Exchange continues to work to promote research on St. Louis and facilitate exchanges among researchers. After years of loyal service, John Farley of SIUE has left the board. John's droll sense of humor will be missed. John is the one who gave the board its most important warning: AVOID MISSION CREEP! This is probably an injunction that every board made up entirely of volunteers should carefully obey.

John has been replaced on the board by Andy Theising, professor of political science at SIUE. His first book, *Made In USA: East St. Louis--The Rise and Fall of an Industrial River Town* was published in 2003 by [Virginia Publishing](#) of St. Louis. *Made In USA* was named 2003 Best Book by a Local Author by the [Riverfront Times](#). *Made In USA* was also a [public television documentary](#), which won a 2004 regional Emmy Award for writing and the 2003 Excellence in Public Affairs Journalism Award from the Greater St. Louis Association of Black Journalists.



In an effort to stimulate face-to-face interactions among St. Louis researchers, STLMRE sponsored a book discussion last Spring. The book we chose to discuss was *St. Louis Metromorphosis: Past Trends and Future Directions*, ed. by Brady Baybeck and Terry Jones (Missouri Historical Society Press, 2004). We met at Schlafly's Brew Pub, with the author of the chapter chosen for the night summing up the work and then throwing it open for discussion. We had between 10 and 20 participants each night and the discussions were lively. Unlike talk radio, we showed that people can disagree without being disagreeable.

This year we have decided to put on a Young Scholars Brown Bag Lunch Series. Each week a young scholar will present his or her research on St. Louis and lead the discussion. (By the way, from the perspective of Terry Jones and I just about everyone one looks like a "young scholar.")

The first presentation features Andy Theising on "Thinking About Industrial Suburbs and Institutional Design." The event is free and open to anyone who is interested. Bring your lunch and we will provide some liquid refreshment. The event will be on **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6TH, 11:30 AM– 1 PM, in the SEMINAR ROOM OF THE HARRIS STOWE LIBRARY**. The Library is located near the corner of N. Compton and Laclede on the Harris Stowe campus, just east of the Saint Louis University campus. If you turn east off of Compton into the Harris Stowe campus (between Olive and I-40) you will see the library on your left at the far end of the parking lot.

The other dates we have set for the fall are **Nov. 3rd and Dec. 1st**. **Mark them on your calendars.** We will announce the speakers soon.

Finally, enjoy our latest newsletter that reports on twenty new research projects and seven new publications on St. Louis, along with a range of events of interest to urban scholars.

Conferences, Meetings, Talks, and Exhibits

Wednesday, September 28, 2005 4:30-6:00 p.m: Community Concerns, Forum-Affordable Housing for the Region's Workforce. Last year, FOCUS St. Louis convened a citizen task force to examine the issue of workforce housing in the St. Louis region. They have recently completed their 10-month study and released a set of recommendations to the community. Now, work begins to implement the recommended changes. Come hear more about the task force's findings and join the conversation about how to improve affordable-workforce housing conditions in our community. Panelists are David Laslo, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Ivetta Williams, Old North St. Louis Restoration Group, and Joe Cavato, Community Program Development Corporation Location: FOCUS Board Room, 1910 Pine Street, Suite 200. **Free.** Please call (314) 622-1250 x101 to RSVP.

Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at 8:00am: Federal Reserve economist Tom Garrett and a panel of experts will discuss ways that governments can support entrepreneurship in their communities. Garrett will present the latest research on the effects of state and local government policies on entrepreneurs. He also will discuss government programs that have a poor track record. Those attending will learn how Missouri and Illinois fare in

creating a policy environment that is helpful to entrepreneurs. Location: One Financial Plaza, Broadway at St. Charles, in Downtown St. Louis. To register online, go to the Federal Reserve website: <http://stlouisfed.org/community/conferences.html>

Thursday-Friday, October 20-21, 2005: What is a City? Exploring the Roles and Contributions of Women in the City. The conference focuses on women in the arts, architecture, environment, education, business, and the economy. Registration is free and open to the public. Registrants are encouraged to bring canned food donations for a local women's shelter in conjunction with the conference. The conference will take place at the J. C. Penney Conference Center at UMSL. For more information, call 314-516-5974.

Thursday October 27, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.: David McCullough will speak at SIUE at the Meridian Ballroom. He has been called a "master of the art of narrative history," something demonstrated again in his new runaway New York Times #1 best-seller, *1776*. Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author of the biographies, *Truman* and *John Adams*, historian David McCullough will offer an evening of scholarship and insight into American life! http://www.siue.edu/ARTS_ISSUES/flashhome.html

Tuesday January 10, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. Steve Forbes will speak at SIUE at the Meridian Ballroom. Influential pro-growth advocate, domestic and foreign policy speaker and writer, and two-time Republican primary Presidential candidate, Steve Forbes, President and CEO of Forbes, Inc. and Editor-in-Chief of *Forbes* magazine, will explore with the *Arts & Issues* audience some of the most compelling global business issues of the day. http://www.siue.edu/ARTS_ISSUES/flashhome.html
Tickets for the McCullough and Forbes talks are \$20. (\$10 for students)

The St. Louis Metropolitan Research Exchange is sponsoring a brown-bag young scholars speakers' series. The discussions will be on **Thursdays from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm**, tentatively scheduled for the seminar room at the Library of Harris-Stowe. When finalized, we will send out a schedule to all STLMRE subscribers.

Research Projects (in alphabetical order by principal investigator)

What influences rates of physical activity among African Americans within St. Louis and what are we going to do about it?

Elizabeth Baker, Jennifer Strayhorn, Cheryl Kelly, Ellen Barnidge, Chris Smith, Cheryl Poynter, Mandy Lemes, Saint Louis University School of Public Health

As part of the Garden of Eden project (a collaboration between HopeBuild and Saint Louis University School of Public Health) we assessed the factors that influence rates of physical activity among African American men and women in St. Louis. The assessment included observational audits of street segments within the city and qualitative interviews with community members. The results indicate that there are several factors influencing rates of physical activity that are particularly important for St. Louis residents including: social and community norms, involvement of faith communities, availability of parks and recreation, lack of transportation, not knowing your neighbor, lack of access to facilities, and creating a safe and inviting environment. A community forum allowed for discussion of these issues and identification of specific strategies to address them. For example, as

part of these efforts one group decided to work with National Night Out in one community to emphasize the importance of being physically active and getting to know your neighbors. We are continuing to work together to determine other strategies that will help increase physical activity. Contact: Professor Baker: bakerpa@slu.edu

Gated-Community Emergence in the Metro East: The Politics of Growth and Development in St. Clair, County, Illinois

Roger Boyd, Ph.D. Dissertation, Public Policy Studies, Saint Louis University

This study examines the emergence of gated communities in the Metro East and finds to evidence of a growth machine pushing gated community development. Indeed, the study found substantial resistance to gated communities. Historic and cultural norms, hyper-segregation of municipalities, and the emergence of the term "quasi- or semi-gated community," not previously found in the gated-community literature, may explain why gated communities did not enjoy the success in the Metro East that has been noted in other regions in the United States. Contact: Roger E. Boyd: reboyd@slu.edu

Anti-predatory Lending Policy and Community Organizations: Making Credit Available?

Colleen Casey, PhD Candidate, Public Policy Studies, Saint Louis University

For decades, community organizations have mobilized to pressure lending institutions and public officials to provide access to equitable credit. Forty years ago, the predominant fight was for access to credit and to reverse the trends of disinvestment. However, now the challenge is not only mere access to credit, but also it extends to a debate regarding access to equitable credit. The purpose of the research is to evaluate the role of the third sector in providing more desirable public policy outcomes. Specifically, the research seeks to answer the following questions: Can an effective organizing entity and public sector involvement help deliver more equitable credit in low- and moderate-income and minority communities? Does the involvement of an effective organizing entity increase access to credit in low- and moderate- income and minority communities? Where equitable credit exists, what is the relationship between the public, private and third party sectors? In order to answer the questions, both quantitative and qualitative methods will be used. The quantitative analysis will be utilized to identify the significant impacts of community organizing entities on equitable credit and access to credit using the new HMDA data. The third question will be explored by a qualitative analysis of Cleveland, Indianapolis, St. Louis, and Chicago. Contact Colleen Casey at caseycl@slu.edu

TIF Funding- Benefits to Missouri region?

Dr. Robert Cropf, Dr. Sarah L. Coffin, and H. Douglas Adams, MPA, Department of Public Policy Studies, Saint Louis University

The Missouri statute's loose definition of blight generates enables municipalities to designate certain areas as "blighted" and these designations often appear to run contrary to the intent of the TIF legislation. The debate thus far has focused on whether TIF legislation is accomplishing its stated objectives and whether those objectives have been defined clearly enough to avoid misuse. There has been little research to date on the relationship between the socio-economic characteristics of municipalities and the use of TIF. Blight, according to the TIF statute primarily considers physical conditions such as buildings and street layout. There appears to be little concern for any of the standard

socioeconomic blight factors like housing quality or poverty level in making the determination to use TIF. In light of this complexity, we examined TIF-using communities in St. Louis County (where the largest number of TIF projects are located in Missouri) using a series of fiscal and socioeconomic blight measures to develop an understanding of how these TIF districts are performing based on standard community revitalization indicators rather than on the broad blight definition found in the TIF statute. Additionally, we compared TIF using communities to each other to characterize the intra-regional relationships among these TIF locations. Our preliminary results show that TIF is marginally effective in stemming the flow of socioeconomic blight in specific areas but that aggregate total blight, as defined by our research, increased between the years 1980 to 2000. As poverty levels increase in certain communities there appears to be no corresponding level of infrastructure investment. Larger investment appears to be happening primarily in the wealthier communities in the county. Investment dollars are not going to where they are needed most, leading to serious inequities across the region. Contact: cropfra@slu.edu or <mailto:coffinsl@slu.edu>

Retail Opportunities in the City of St. Louis

Matt Bauer, Masters Capstone Project, Saint Louis University

In the past, retail stores have been following the steady migration of residents from the urban core of cities to the suburbs. The City of St. Louis is typical of this trend. However, many suburbs are already saturated with retail stores, so finding sites for successful retail locations is proving to be more difficult. At the same time baby boomers, and younger generations have discovered a preference for the experiences offered in an urban environment. Some retailers are capitalizing on the income and spending density that still exists in urban areas. Demand in some urban areas is two to six times greater than in surrounding suburbs. There is also a lack of competition in these markets. The resulting gaps between consumer demand and the supply of retailing space represents an opportunity for savvy retailers to profit. The gap is also a missed opportunity for cities to capitalize on the economic development potential of local demand. To determine the retail spending gap in St. Louis a macro level gap analysis was performed. By collecting data from the US Census, real estate data and industry surveys, supply and demand data was compiled at the ZIP code level. Resulting maps and data tables display a comparative geography of retailing in the St. Louis City and County region. Overall the city compares favorably to the county in terms of retail demand. Yet, the city's retail infrastructure does not have the capacity to fulfill this demand. In addition to the gap analysis, the project provides methods and best practices for city planners, developers and retailers attempting to maximize retail spending in the city. Contact: Matt Bauer: <mailto:matt.bauer@earthlink.net>

Toward Determining Patterns of Residential Blight and Blight Mitigation in St. Louis County, Missouri.

H. Douglas Adams, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Public Policy Studies, Saint Louis University

This dissertation seeks to determine the extent of residential blight conditions in an urbanized county: St. Louis County, Missouri. The geographic distribution of blight conditions and the change or redistribution of such blight from 1980 through 2000 will be examined. Using U.S. census data an index of residential blight will be developed. The index will include components relating to land use in terms of housing stock as well to the social economic status of residents. The index is intended to measure variance from

the mean values of the county and, thus, will be a measure of relative blight. The resulting index should be an objective quantitative tool for determining blight in residential areas. In addition, economic development activities of the county over the same time period will be examined to determine any relationship between the geographic placement of development activities and the location of blight. Of special interest will be the use of Tax Increment Financing as a development tool in the county. Contact: Doug Adams: hdadams@sbcglobal.net .

Housing Market Trends in City Of St. Louis

Barbara Holmes, RegionWise, Saint Louis University

The Public Policy Research Center at UMSL and RegionWise at SLU are collaborating in an effort to track housing market trends in the City of St. Louis. This involves integrating administrative files at the parcel level and developing protocols to aggregate the data to census geographies, neighborhoods, and wards. Their plans include archiving the files. This information will not only help individual Community Development Corporations plan redevelopment projects, it will also help them quantify project impacts, and improve marketing to developers and housing consumers. Contact person: Barbara Holmes: holmesbj@slu.edu

Prenatal Mental Health of Poor Women: Services and Costs

Deborah Hwa-Froelich, Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders; Cynthia A. Loveland Cook, Professor in the School of Social Work both from Saint Louis University; and Louise H. Flick, Professor in the School of Nursing at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

This project is analyzing data collected from African American and Caucasian mother-child dyads living in the St. Louis region. This study followed a subset of depressed women and their offspring recruited from a cohort of 745 pregnant women who participated in a large-scale National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) study entitled *Prenatal Mental Health of Poor Women: Services and Costs* and was funded by a grant from the University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research. The subjects in this study were drawn from all women in the original study, from the city of St. Louis, who fell into two groups: 1) those who experienced major depressive episodes during their pregnancy and 2) women who did not experience any psychiatric disorder before or during their pregnancy. This study aims to compare the mother-child communicative interactions between mothers with and without depression. This information will help early childhood educators identify and provide support services to facilitate positive mother-child interactions. Investigators may be contacted at: Deborah Hwa-Froelich (hwafroda@slu.edu), Cynthia Loveland Cook (cookca@slu.edu), and Louise H. Flick (lflick@siue.edu).

Play behaviors and the communicative interactions among African American Head Start children

Danai Kasambira, University of North Carolina and Deborah Hwa-Froelich, Saint Louis University

A recent study was completed focusing on play behaviors and the communicative interactions among African American Head Start children by Danai Kasambira, a doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina and Deborah Hwa-Froelich, Associate Professor in the department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Saint Louis

University. All children were recruited from two inner city Head Start centers in the city of St. Louis. Significant differences between male and female children's play behaviors and communication styles were evident. This information will help early childhood professionals culturally and linguistically relevant information to guide assessment and intervention decisions for African American preschool children. The manuscripts for submission are in process. Investigators may be contacted at Danai Kasambira (kasambir@fpg.unc.edu) and Deborah Hwa-Froelich (hwafroda@slu.edu).

Relationships between religious meeting houses and neighborhood stability

Nancy T. Kinney, Ph.D., Political Science and Public Policy Administration, UMSL
Will Winter, Public Policy Research Center, UMSL

Using an impact study design, the presence of religious meeting houses in three high poverty St. Louis neighborhoods was assessed for possible relationships with measures of neighborhood stability. The study utilized one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) to compare measures of structural permanence, residential tenure, and property valuation from a sample of two types of church (free-standing and storefront) and non-church areas or "clusters." The findings provide limited support for the conclusion that storefront churches, while modest and often regarded as less architecturally significant, may contribute more to creating the sort of stable urban space where investment is maintained. Contact: Nancy Kinney: ntkinney@umsl.edu

Religious congregations as incubators of community development

Nancy T. Kinney, Ph.D., Political Science and Public Policy Administration, UMSL
Based on data from three U.S. cities (St. Louis, MO; Cleveland, OH; Pittsburgh, PA), this ongoing study has investigated the role played by religious congregations as incubators of new community development initiatives. Many community development organizations, start out as initiatives of churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of worship. These organizations become autonomous, separate entities gradually through a "spin-off" process of emancipation. Despite the visibility of these groups in efforts to make communities stronger and more livable, there is little published research about this spin-off process, the reasons it occurs among religious groups and the relationship of assumed nurturance provided to fledgling organizations by the host or parent congregation. Structured by concepts drawn largely from the literature on commercial spin-offs, the study explored data along such dimensions as resource provision and acquisition, skills transfer, market familiarity, innovation, leadership development, and risk perception. The study was funded by a U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Urban Scholars Fellowship. Contact: Nancy Kinney: ntkinney@umsl.edu

Evangelical churches and community service

Nancy T. Kinney, Ph.D., Political Science and Public Policy Administration, UMSL
John McClusky, Ph.D., Nonprofit Management and Leadership Program, UMSL, Mary L. Carver, Political Science research assistant

Analysis of data from the extensive records of the Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis have provided new insight about the community service activities of conservative evangelical Christian churches. The Foundation provides substantive funding to its member churches for neighborhood outreach and charitable services, and ongoing research examines aspects of the "social potency" of religious congregations. In addition, the Lutheran Foundation presents a most interesting philanthropic phenomenon, as it stands alone

among faith-related hospital conversion foundations because it has directed most of its funding toward congregational action and well-being.

Contact: Nancy Kinney: ntkinney@umsl.edu

A crisis of Care: Health care access and quality in St. Louis

Darcy Scharff and Rick Kurz, Saint Louis University School of Public Health

A study was done to assess the perspectives of St. Louis residents and health-related professionals regarding health care access and quality in the city of St. Louis. A total of thirteen focus groups were conducted over a three-month period. The findings were organized to identify barriers and enablers for access quality around six categories, both related and unrelated to health services delivery.

Category 1: Aspects of Social and Economic Structure and Culture

Category 2: Health System Structures, Culture, and Processes

Category 3: Health Services Delivery Organization Structure, Culture, and Processes

Category 4: Social Support System Structure, Culture and Processes

Category 5: Impact on the Family

Category 6: Individual Behaviors, Knowledge, Attitudes and Beliefs

Contact: Scharffd@slu.edu or kurzrs@slu.edu

Missing the News: The St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Women's Contraception

By Kimberly Wilmot Voss, PhD, Dept. of Mass Communications, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

I have just completed a study of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch's* failure to cover major legislation impacting women's access to birth control. On April 1, the state of Illinois made national news in when the governor signed 90-day emergency legislation to ensure that birth control pills are available to women. This legislation was put into place after several pharmacists refused to fill the prescriptions based on their religious views. I found that the *Post-Dispatch's* opinion and news sections largely overlooked the story, despite the story meeting three of the top news values: proximity, impact and conflict. Over the 90 days that the legislation was in place, only a few news stories ran – each written by an Associated Press writer rather than a staff reporter. There were two news briefs, also written by the Associated Press. The newspaper ran one editorial – which failed to take a stand on the issue; there was one responding column. Numerous studies have found a lack of coverage of issues pertaining to women. The findings of this review of the *Post-Dispatch* show that the lack of coverage continues. Details about this research will be published in the *St. Louis Journalism Review*. The study is part of a larger report on metropolitan newspapers' coverage of women's access to contraception.

Contact: Kimberly Voss: <mailto:kvoss@siue.edu>

Green Roof Technology

Dr. Bill Retzlaff, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE)

G.R.E.E.N. (Green Roof Environmental Evaluation Network) is a St. Louis metropolitan area research collaboration between Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) and Green Roof Blocks™ a subsidiary company of St. Louis Metalworks Co. Our goal is to evaluate the performance of green roof technology in the Midwestern United States.

Green Roofs are vegetated roof covers that help to reduce energy consumption and costs, decrease storm water runoff, and preserve the life of roof materials. Green Roof Blocks™

are self-contained portable units that cover four square feet of roof surface and contain a growth medium with drought resistant plants and provide an affordable/flexible solution for green roof installations.

Green Roof Facts (determined by ongoing University research programs):

- * More than 13% of all flat roofs in Germany are covered by green roofs.
- * Green roofs may reduce the quantity of storm water runoff by as much as 75%.
- * Green roofs may reduce the urban heat island effect by as much as 10%.
- * Green roofs may reduce the heating and cooling cost of buildings by as much as 5%.
- * Green roofs may extend the life of roofing systems by as much as 300%.

Members of G.R.E.E.N. include: Mr. Kelly Luckett – St. Louis Metalworks Co. ; Dr. Bill Retzlaff – SIUE Environmental Sciences Program; Dr. Susan Morgan – SIUE Civil Engineering; Dr. Terry Yan – SIUE Mechanical and Industrial Engineering; Mrs. Krista Forrester – SIUE Environmental Sciences Graduate Student; Ms. Julie Gibbs – SIUE Environmental Sciences Graduate Student;

Mrs. Sam Kaufman – SIUE Environmental Sciences Graduate Student

Additional information about the G.R.E.E.N. research project can be located at:

<http://www.green-siue.com/pages/1/index.htm>

For research information: Dr. Bill Retzlaff (618-650-2728; wretzla@siue.edu)

For Green Roof Block™ information: Mr. Kelly Luckett (314-972-8010; green-siue@sbcglobal.net)

To donate to the project: Ms. Marilyn Marsho (618-650-5048; mmarsho@siue.edu)

Spatial Mismatches Between Jobs and Housing in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area

Tara Vansell, Saint Louis University

Preliminary research has focused on St. Louis City, St. Louis County, St. Charles County, and Jefferson County in Missouri and Madison and St. Clair counties in Illinois.

Data has been collected and analyzed at the zip code geography. Dissimilarity Indexes and maps have been created showing where retail jobs in the region are located as compared to the location of apartments renting for less than \$500. A map has also been created with FOCUS STL that shows where jobs with wages ranging from \$30,000-\$39,999 are located as compared to housing valued between \$75,000-\$125,000. Contact: Tara Vansell: vansellt@slu.edu

SIUE Ozone Study

Mark L. Hildebrandt, Department of Geography , SIUE

While some past climatological studies address ozone transport various spatial scales, few studies address the linkages between meteorological processes at multiple spatial scales and their role in ozone transport. This proposed study will employ a method for analyzing the linkages between ozone transport and multiscale processes on days that violated the U.S. EPA standard (0.12 ppm over one hour) from 1990-2000 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. Contact: Mark Hildebrandt (618) 650-2765

Metro East tax increment financing

Andrew J. Theising, Nicholas Guehlstorf, Department of Political Science, SIUE

TIF projects represent risky social and financial investments for local and state governments. Although local officials often propose TIF projects, project success is often tied to the actions of other officials or entities. Previous academic literature has addressed some general concerns, but there is a dearth of specific case studies that have attempted to explain social effects and contextual impacts of TIF districts and projects. This project provides the most comprehensive research on economic development patterns motivated by TIF laws in the St. Louis MSA. It compared the quantitative data of St. Louis TIF effects from the Brookings Institute with Illinois data and a series of elite level interviews with Illinois state and regional economic development officials. It examined the other factors at work in TIF development and the specific hurdles facing TIF development in the counties of Metro East. It is our finding that successful TIF development is tied strongly to institutional capacity and political culture, and that outside forces and conditions play critical roles. Contact: Andrew Theising www.siue.edu/~atheisi 618-650-2308 or Nicholas Guehlstorf www.siue.edu/~nguehls 618-650-3852

Educational Quality at East St. Louis and Brooklyn High Schools: A Survey of Recent Graduates in 1999-2000

Principal Investigator: Yuliang Liu, Ph.D. School of Education, SIUE

This study sought to uncover the assets and liabilities of the educational experiences for students by surveying all recent graduates in 1999 and 2000 in East St. Louis and Brooklyn-Lovejoy. Around 800 surveys that had nine items were mailed to recent graduates' home addresses in East St. Louis in January 2001. Only 40 responses, about 5%, were received. The overall results indicated that (1) the schools did not have enough resources available for instruction and students' use and (2) the schools did not provide a good basis for life-long learning and employment. Specifically, a majority of them did not rate their overall education and overall student services they received very positively; although they considered "friends", "classes", and "teachers" as most valuable in their high school lives, they thought that the schools did not provide enough opportunities for "athletic" and "student activities"; students liked to see their instruction improved through a variety of ways. Since the return rate of the survey was very low, care has to be taken when the above findings are generalized to the real school situations.

Note:

- a. The study of recent graduates (1999-2001) in the public high schools of East St. Louis and Brooklyn-Lovejoy, Illinois was commissioned by House Resolution Number 728 of the Illinois General Assembly in 2000.
- b. A detailed report is available at request via yliu@siue.edu.

SIUE Metro East lead poisoning study

Laura W. Bernaix, Cynthia A. Schmidt; School of Nursing, SIUE

Lead poisoning has been, and continues to be, a significant health problem for adults and children in the United States. Studies, now however, have indicated that the hormonal changes of pregnancy cause a release of "harmless" stored lead and permit lead exposure

to the fetus, thereby causing insult to the fetus, pregnancy, and later the infant. More research is needed to determine critical blood lead levels in pregnant woman. This descriptive, correlational study will conduct prenatal lead screening in an Illinois county that has low and high-risk lead environments. A total sample of 400 prenatal clients (funding for 275 participants was received already from AWHONN; funding from the Institute would permit testing for the remaining 125) will be asked to complete a lead exposure survey at the time of their first prenatal visit at a health department. Blood lead levels during each trimester, and pregnancy and fetal outcome, will also be measured. Besides determining the incidence of elevated prenatal lead levels, this study will help to provide data to the developing body of knowledge aimed at determining prenatal blood lead levels capable of causing fetal and neonatal morbidity and mortality. Contact: SIUE Institute for Urban Research, 618-650-6370; www.siu.edu/IUR

Nuclear legacy project

Denise De Garmo, Department of Political Science, SIUE

Since the beginning of the Atomic Age, 2.5 million cubic yards of radioactive wastes have been dispersed through out the St. Louis areas. The focus of the local community has been primarily on clean up efforts. The story behind the generation of these wastes has been forgotten. What we do know is that in the 1940s-1950s, the US government secretly hired private companies to process nuclear weapons materials. Two of the three largest processing sites in the US were located in the St. Louis vicinity. Additional sites were located in the Metro-East. Dr. DeGarmo has accumulated thousands of files from the National Archives, federal agencies, and nuclear work sites. Contact: Denise DeGarmo, 618-650-3375 www.siu.edu/~ddegarm

S.A.V.E. Evaluation

Roslyn K. Sykes, Mary de Meneses, Department of Nursing, SIUE

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of a community health youth 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 programs (abstinence and experimental). Contact: SIUE Institute for Urban Research 618-650-6370 www.siu.edu/IUR

The following electronic research documents are provided by the SIUE Institute for Urban Research: (618) 650-6370.

ILLINOIS LINC'S HIV PROGRAM FINAL REPORT ISSUED:

<http://www.siu.edu/IUR/pdfs/HIVfinal.pdf>

JACKIE JOYNER KERSEE FOUNDATION PROGRAM STUDY CONTINUES:
<http://www.siue.edu/IUR/pdfs/jjk%20foundation.PDF>

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Bibliography - Recent Publications with a St. Louis Connection

Dr. Joseph Heathcott and Dr. Maire Murphy won the Biennial Catherine Bauer Wurster prize for best article on the history and theory of city planning. The prize is awarded to an article without geographic or temporal restriction, appearing in any journal in the world. The winning article is: "Corridors of Flight, Zones of Renewal: Industry, Planning, and Policy in the Making of Metropolitan St. Louis," published in the *Journal of Urban History*_ 31,2 (January 2005, pp. 1-39. The article is both an effort to re-examine the postwar spatial and design history of industrial cities, and to rethink the historical study of "metropolitan" scale and formation.

Partnerships For Smart Growth: University-Community Collaboration for Better Public Places (Paperback) by [Wim Wiewel](#) (Editor), [Gerrit-Jan Knaap](#) (Editor)

The potential of urban universities to address challenges of the places they serve has been recognized in federal legislation, promoted by developers, and scrutinized by neighbors. In one of the articles in this volume, Scott Cummings, Mark Rosentraub, Mary Domahidy, and Sarah Coffin of Saint Louis University consider the involvement of three universities in revitalizing their downtown areas, specifically Indianapolis, Louisville, and St. Louis. The universities' role in addressing political and financial risks provides the focus for the case studies. Each city shared the challenge of population and business loss beginning in the 1960's, and leaders in each have attempted to revitalize their urban centers. The consolidated city and county government of Indianapolis developed a plan for redevelopment anchored by Indiana University – Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI). Meanwhile, in contrast, Louisville has redeveloped in a less coordinated manner and without fully engaging the University of Louisville, which pursues an independent development agenda particularly regarding sports and entertainment venues. In St. Louis, private institutions have exerted considerable impact on the region's economic development.

Joseph Heathcott, "*Racial Achipelago: Politics and Civic Life in a Jim Crow City,*" *Journal of Social History* (Summer 2005), pp. 705-736. Examines the Strange Career of Jim Crow in the context of industrial St. Louis, showing how segregation "was the tragic precondition for a flowering of black civic life" that eventually dismantled legal apartheid.

Scott Cummings, Allan Tomey and Robert Flack, "*Workforce Development Policy in the St. Louis Metropolitan Region: A Critical Overview and Assessment,*" in *Workforce Development Politics: Civic Capacity and Performance*, ed. By Robert P. Giloth (Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2004), pp. 176-211. Documents the obstacles to coordinated regional job training programs in fragmented St. Louis.

John Farley, "Race, Not Class: Explaining Racial Housing Segregation in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area," *Sociological Focus* Vol. 38, No. 2 (May 2005), pp. 133-150. Using census data for the St. Louis metropolitan area, Farley demonstrates that racial segregation cannot be explained by differences in income.

Robert Cropf and Todd Swanstrom of St. Louis University, "Déjà vu All Over Again: Charter Reform Fails in St. Louis," (forthcoming) *National Civic Review*). In November 2004 the voters of St. Louis rejected proposals to reform the city charter. The defeat of charter reform in 2004 was remarkably similar to other defeats in 1911, 1950 and 1957. For nearly a century reformers in St. Louis have followed a debilitating pattern. In particular, the downtown elite has stubbornly persisted in viewing city government as basically a poorly run business and has been unwilling to negotiate in good faith with party politicians and elected officials. As a result, reform is viewed (for the most part wrongly, the authors argue) as injurious to the interests of minorities, as well as the poor and working classes. In order to succeed, reformers in St. Louis, and in other cities around the country, must be willing to bargain and compromise with the politicians (or "feeder pigs" as the *Post-Dispatch* derisively called them) and expand the reform agenda beyond efficiency to embrace the values of transparency, civic participation and minority rights.

Bin Zhou, Department of Geography, SIUE, "THE RISE AND FALL OF ST. LOUIS AS A REGIONAL INTERSTATE BANKING CENTER IN THE UNITED STATES," *Papers of the Applied Geography Conferences* Vol. 27 (2004), pp 430 – 438.

This paper examines the rise and fall of St. Louis as a U.S. regional interstate banking center in the last two decades amid fundamental banking restructuring and consolidation. For the entire 1980s, the interstate banking space of the St. Louis metropolitan area was largely confined to Illinois, Kentucky, and Indiana. The growth of the St. Louis metropolitan interstate banking from the early 1990s up to 1996 was significant both in spatial extent and in the magnitude of controlled bank assets. Interstate banking space expanded from the Midwest to the Southwest. The role of the St. Louis metropolitan area as a regional interstate banking center began to end in 1997 when NationsBank and Boatmen's merged. This caused a significantly weakened interstate banking space for the metropolitan St. Louis in Texas and Kansas, and the loss of interstate banking space in New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. The role of the St. Louis metropolitan area as a regional interstate banking center has come to an end in an era of nationwide interstate banking and banking consolidations dominated by the largest banking firms in the nation. Author phone: (618) 650 5763; E-mail: bzhou@siue.edu; Web address: www.siue.edu/~bzhou.

FOCUS-St. Louis, *Affordable Housing for the Region's Workforce* (August 2005). This study documents a mismatch between the location of many jobs in metropolitan St. Louis and the location of housing that is affordable for workers who fill those positions. Entry-level and low-wage earners in particular often have a difficult time finding housing close to work. Choices for these workers include commuting long distances or spending too much of their take-home pay to live closer to work. Other options are to move in with relatives or friends, or even stay in substandard housing or a homeless shelter, although they have steady jobs. Affordable-workforce housing means people who are gainfully employed are able to find decent, safe homes for their families within a reasonable commuting time frame and within their economic means. It is housing that is paid for by the working occupants. The full report can be downloaded from the FOCUS website: <http://www.focus-stl.org/prog/initiatives/infr-hous.cfm>