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Newsletter

lewis center is
...established to promote the study, understanding and solution of regional policy issues, with special reference to Southern California, including problems of the environment, urban design, housing, community and neighborhood dynamics, transportation and economic development.

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JANUARY 15, 2004

THE LEWIS CENTER AND THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY PRESENT

Panel: The Future of Southern California's Economy

The Lewis Center, along with the School of Public Policy and Social Research, hosted a panel on the Future of Southern California's Economy, focusing on major trends and challenges facing this region. The November 19th event featured Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation's Senior Vice President and Chief Economist Jack Kyser and the Milken Institute's Director of Regional Economics, Ross DeVol. The discussion was moderated by Dean Barbara J. Nelson and included commentaries from Professor Cecilia A. Conrad (Stedman-Summer Professor of Economics at Pomona College), James Gosnell (Deputy Executive Director of the Southern California Association of Governments), and Dr. Barry Wallerstein (Executive Officer of the South Coast Air Quality Management District).

Mr. Kyser's presentation, entitled "Growing the L.A. Economy," focused on Southern California's unusual economic base and its potential for growth as a result of its good growth prospects in an increasingly global economy. Mr. Kyser also pointed to a variety of challenges facing the region.

Mr. DeVol's presentation, entitled "Technology as an Economic Engine for Southern California," focused on the role



that technology and innovation is playing in determining the economic performance of regions. He presented that knowledge-driven innovation has a critical role to wealth and income creation in this new economics of place.

The presentations were followed by panel comments from Dr. Conrad, Dr. Wallerstein and Mr. Gosnell on the need to improve the education system, to provide more affordable housing, to improve transportation, and to address economic inequality. All panelists acknowledged the

enormous and complex challenges facing this region and the need for leadership, but they also pointed to many of the region's strengths. Charting a better future for the region will require a more informed public, and the event played a role in promoting the much needed public discourse on critical economic issues.

The presentations given by Mr. Kyser and Mr. DeVol are available to download as PDFs on the Lewis Center's website at <<http://lewis.sppsr.ucla.edu/events/spcialevent.htm>>.

Proposal Development Resource

The Ralph and Goldy Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies is offering a new resource for Lewis Center-affiliated researchers. Upon request, proposal development staff will be assigned to work with researchers in writing and developing research proposals of at least \$250,000 and above. The intent is to develop large proposals that cut across disciplines and create joint collaborations between campus researchers. The development staff will either be Lewis Center staff or graduate students affiliated with the proposal P.I. or co-P.I.'s. If appropriate, we can provide a modest sum to cover the salary of a graduate student.

The Lewis Center will continue to assist affiliated researchers, or Executive Committee faculty and faculty with active contracts, grants or projects at the Center, with a variety of services and resources. These include preparation of proposals, budgets, financial and personnel forms, monitoring deadlines, supporting special events, providing access to space and computers (upon availability), and maintaining secured data rooms for research utilizing confidential data. The Lewis Center will also continue to provide modest amounts of project funding to cover what agencies will not cover on a case-by-case basis. In addition, we can make access to our televideoconferencing facility available to active affiliated faculty based on availability. The Director would be more than happy to talk to you if you are interested in becoming an affiliated faculty.

If you are considering either a large contract or grant proposal (\$250,000 or above) or any project or event and are interested in using this Lewis Center resource, please contact either Paul Ong at pmong@ucla.edu or Margaret Johnson at mcjohnso@ucla.edu or call 310.206.0573.

Meet the Staff . . .



ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

J.R. DE SHAZO

and urban infrastructure.

"It is an honor to teach. I take it very seriously," said De Shazo on his work as a professor.

Since taking on the associate directorship in 1999, De Shazo has participated in several of the Lewis Center's events, including the recent UC-sponsored conference that evaluated the effectiveness of marketing incentives in environmental policy in the summer of 2003.

As the associate director, De Shazo acts as an advisor to Director Paul Ong.

"I would like to see the Lewis Center play a bigger role in projects dealing with environmental policy concerning Southern California," said De Shazo.

In attaining his goal for the Lewis Center, De Shazo uses his associate directorship as an opportunity to develop environmental and local public finance projects that have the potential to affect Los Angeles.

However, De Shazo's passion for his research is palpably heartfelt.

"My areas of research are environmental and health policy regulation and local public finance.

I live it. It's what I think of when I wake up in the morning and what I think of when I fall asleep at night."

De Shazo is currently managing several research projects that investigate prevention health care investment, evaluate the impact of

the endangered species acts, and study environmental policy implementation.

"I currently have a big project to evaluate the consequences of re-licensing hydropower dams on the environment and how [the policy] incorporates environmental concerns into the licensing," explained De Shazo.

De Shazo exercises and spends time with his four-year-old daughter Abigail in his free time.

He has also participated in Olympic-distance races as a triathlete.

Lewis Center Associate Director J.R. De Shazo teaches courses in microeconomics, political science, and statistics at the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research.

The Department of Policy Studies' 2001 Professor of the Year also teaches specialized courses in environmental policy, public finance, privatization, regulation,



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

MARGARET JOHNSON

conferences, assisting in proposal and report preparation, and managing space and equipment.

Despite the myriad duties that Margaret must oversee, she delights in her work at the Lewis Center.

"I enjoy the diversity of this job and that no two days are alike. Also, one of the nice things here is the students. It is always more energizing with the students here—they teach me to see things from a different perspective," said Margaret.

Working at a policy research center has also helped her to become more aware of people and the issues unique to the Southern California region.

Although Margaret rarely has

as much time as she would like to enjoy the finer things of life, she still devotes time to her family and stress-releasing activities.

This grandaunt to twenty-four grand nephews and nieces volunteers at both daughters' schools in Los Angeles and is a former president of the UCLA Administrators and Supervisors' Association. Margaret is also an enthusiast of tennis, yoga, travel, and reading in her free time.

Yoga helps Margaret to relax before a full day of work and reorient herself to what is important in life.

"I do yoga in the morning. I like to do it because it's a quieting, focusing time. It gives me a time to concentrate on life."

Little known is that this thirty-year UCLA veteran is a Harry Potter fan, thanks to her youngest daughter's love of the ponderously large Harry Potter books.

"I'm still reading the fifth Harry Potter book. I've just been trudging along, a few pages a week. My daughters make fun of this all the time," said Margaret.

This Boston University and UCLA alumna has worked at the UCLA Psychology Department, Survey Research Center, School of Education, Office of Systems and Procedures, Administrative Vice Chancellor's Office, and Medical Center prior to joining the Lewis Center staff.

Assistant director Margaret Johnson has dedicated her time and energy to the Lewis Center since first assuming the position in 1995.

As the assistant director, Margaret manages the Lewis Center's day-to-day operations: hiring and supervising casual staff, supervising endowment and contract and grant funds, organizing

Staff Updates

Shannon McConville, MPP '99, is now employed with the Department of Health Research and Policy at Stanford University. Shannon worked as a research associate for the Lewis Center for 4 years and focused her work on health care and insurance issues.

Doug Miller, MA, Urban Planning '99, is now employed with the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy at Columbia University. Doug worked as a research associate for the Lewis Center for 3 years and focused on transportation and demographic issues.

Amy Thoma, BA Political Science '04, is an intern at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington D.C. for the winter quarter through UCLA's CAPPP program. Amy worked as a student assistant at the Lewis Center for over 2 years.

Paula Castro is currently enrolled in the Urban Planning Doctoral program at UCLA. She was a graduate student researcher on the Caregiver Training Initiative from 2001 - 2003 as a master's student in Urban Planning.

Project Reports

Access to Employment-Based Insurance Among Welfare Recipients in Los Angeles County: Offering, Eligibility and Participation

Shannon McConville and Paul Ong

This report combines analysis of firm-level insurance data with welfare and employment information to explore the availability of employment-based insurance for welfare recipients who are transitioning into the labor market in Los Angeles County. To understand the complex and dynamic nature of this issue, multiple data sources are utilized to provide information from the perspective of both welfare recipients who are transitioning into the labor market (labor-supply side) and the firms that employ them (labor-demand side).

The primary data sources include an employer benefits survey completed in 2000, administrative welfare and employment data covering a period from 1996 to 2001, and a survey of recent welfare recipients conducted in 2002/2003.

This report and accompanying policy briefs were supported by the California HealthCare Foundation. The report is available at <http://lewis.spsr.ucla.edu/research/publications/reports/CHCReport.pdf>. The policy briefs are available at <http://lewis.spsr.ucla.edu/research/publications/policybriefs.cfm>.

California Transportation Needs Assessment: The Transportation Barriers and Needs of Welfare Recipients and Low-Wage Workers

Evelyn Blumenberg, Douglas Miller, Mark Garrett, Lisa Schweitzer, Karen Kitsis, Michael Manville and Bravishwar Mallavarapu

The purpose of this report is to aid policymakers, planners and administrators in using available funds to effectively plan for the transportation needs of welfare recipients and other low-income adults in California.

More specifically, the objectives of this project are:

- To identify the transportation obstacles facing welfare recipients and other low-income individuals in California;
- To provide transportation options to better enable CalWORKs recipients and low-income individuals find and keep employment;
- To provide information and county-specific data to better assist local welfare agencies, transit providers, workforce development boards, state agencies, and the private sector in planning and implementing welfare-to-work transportation programs; and,
- To develop a statewide strategy for applying for and allocating funding through the Job Access and Reverse Commute program.

The report is available at <http://lewis.spsr.ucla.edu/research/publications/reports/CalTransReportEB.pdf>.

Evaluation of the California Caregiver Training Initiative

Ruth Matthias and A.E. (Ted) Benjamin et al.

The intent of the Caregiver Training Initiative (CTI) is to increase the number of health caregivers in the State of California. This initiative, part of the Governor's Aging with Dignity Initiative, provided \$25 million through competitive grants to twelve Regional Collaboratives statewide for an 18-21 month period from early 2001 through late 2002. The goals of the CTI project are to address urgent workforce shortages through innovative approaches for recruiting, training, and retaining employees in the healthcare industry, and also to enhance the earning potential of health caregivers.

Two reports are related to this project:

The first, **Caregiver Training Initiative Process and Implementation Evaluation**, describes CTI's first year of implementation and assesses program activity in recruiting, training and retaining caregivers. Available at <http://lewis.spsr.ucla.edu/research/publications/reports/CTIPProcessReport2002.pdf>.

The second report, **California Caregivers: Final Labor Market Analysis**, addresses labor market issues and program outcomes, including the effectiveness of CTI in developing career ladders and improving work environments. Available at <http://lewis.spsr.ucla.edu/research/publications/reports/LMAFinalReport2002.pdf>. The final report is pending.

UCLA in LA Workshop on Gathering and Using Census Data

The Lewis Center and the Asian American Studies Center (AASC) conducted a workshop on September 16, 2003 in conjunction with the project "The Socioeconomic Status of American Indians and Asians in Los Angeles: Educational Attainment, Employment and Home Ownership" funded by the Center for Community Partnership's UCLA in LA program.

The workshop aimed to improve the skills of the AASC and Lewis Center's project partners, United American Indian Involvement Inc. (UAI) and National Coalition Asian Pacific American Community Development (NCPACD), in the use of data published by the U.S. Census Bureau. The workshop targeted both Asian Americans and American Indians.

"The workshop was set up to serve the

census needs of our community partners and to familiarize their members about healthcare and human services and community development," said Melany dela Cruz, AASC representative at the workshop.

Representatives from the Census Bureau, UCLA Neighborhood Knowledge California (NKCA), and Healthy Children/Healthy Families presented three web resources important to the work of the centers' community partners.

Dela Cruz and Census Bureau representative Jerry Wong presented the use of the Bureau's American FactFinder website in grant-writing while Charanjeet Singh, project manager of the



UCLA Advanced Policy Institute, demonstrated the various data available on the NKCA website. Singh also presented the Healthy Children/Healthy Communities web resource, which provides information on healthcare, civil rights, schools, and art programs available to the public.

Pilot Study: Museum Membership and Visitation Rates

The Lewis Center partnered with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) to conduct a pilot study of museum membership and visitation rates in early 2003.

This pilot study marks the beginning of a research initiative, headed by Doug Houston of the Lewis Center, to understand the ways that Los Angeles residents use arts and cultural institutions and suggest strategies for these institutions to maintain and expand their community outreach programs.

"In the pilot study we began to develop a baseline understanding of museum usage. As expected, more affluent and highly educated neighborhoods had higher usage rates. We also

identified areas that represent opportunities for further outreach.

We demonstrated for LACMA that their school-based museum programs are conducted in neighborhoods that are more ethnically and economically diverse than neighborhoods that form their membership base," said Houston.

The pilot effort has been expanded for 2003-2004 thanks to a seed grant of about \$19,000 from the UCLA Center for Community Partnerships.

"This grant is allowing us to develop a more complete, county-wide understanding of museum usage by incorporating the visitation and membership patterns of other institutions," Houston said.

The research team has established collaborations with the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) and the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens to expand their analysis.

The project could be expanded in the future to include performing arts centers as well as more specific arts and cultural institutions. The researchers are now recruiting the Japanese American National Museum, the Skirball Cultural Center, and the Museum of Tolerance.

"We're very enthusiastic about expanding the research project and excited to find ways that cultural institutions provide resources to communities," said Houston.

Graduate Research Support Program

The Lewis Center initiated a graduate research support program this fall to support second-year master's students with their thesis or client projects. This program is open to those enrolled in the master's program in the School of Public Policy and Social Research, the School of Social Sciences or other professional programs. The program will assist in the costs of data, software, travel, and undergraduate research assistance. Students also have the option of access to a computer and space at the Lewis Center. Recipients will submit a paper based on their thesis or project to the Lewis Center Working Paper series at the end of the academic year.

The Lewis Center implemented this program in response to the budget cutbacks and increasing costs for graduate students. The program may be renewed for the next academic year dependent on available funds. A committee met and reviewed the applications and nine awards were made to the following students:

- Stephanie Cheng
Early Childhood Education for Los Angeles
- Jenny Yang
*Cultural Consumption as Downtown
Redevelopment Strategy: The Role of Los Angeles
Business Improvement Districts*
- Kate O'Hara
*How Neighborhoods use Power: The
Effectiveness of Grassroots Groups to
Influence Public School Facility Sitting
Decisions*
- Kevin Holliday
*An Evaluation of West Hollywood's
Commercial Parking Permit Program*
- Amy Ford
*Who's Driving Taxi Policy at Southern
California Airports?*

- Rafael Yaquian-Illescas
*Concentrations of Poverty: Testing Causal
Theories in Two Southern California
Metropolitan Areas*
- Lisa Gallegos
*Organizing Workers and Building a Career
Ladder in the Residential Real Estate Industry*
- Demetrius Chapin-Rienzo
*Analyzing the Effectiveness of Inclusionary
Housing Ordinances*

More information can be found at <http://lewis.spsr.ucla.edu/research/gradsupport.htm>.

Post Doc Fellows

The Lewis Center is happy to announce the appointment of two post-doctoral fellows. Michela Zonta and Kim Haselhoff will be joining the Lewis Center in January to study housing issues and needs in Southern California.

Dr. Zonta is an alumna of the Urban Planning program at UCLA and has done extensive research on housing policies, residential segregation, and poverty and urban labor markets. Her dissertation was entitled, "The Role of Ethnic Banks in the Residential Patterns of Asian Americans: The Case of Los Angeles."

Dr. Haselhoff joins us from UC Irvine's Political Science program. Her research interests include housing, urban politics, and public policy. Her dissertation was "The Use of Redevelopment Housing Set-Aside Funds in Southern California: A New Look at Cities and Redistributive Spending."

Both Post Docs will be in residence at the Lewis Center through the end of Spring quarter 2004.

Lewis Center Staff

Director: Paul Ong
Associate Director: J.R. De Shazo
Assistant Director: Margaret Johnson
Administrative Analyst: Julia Heintz-Mackoff
Project Director: Ruth Matthias
SRA Supervisor: Douglas Houston
Staff Research Associate: Jordan Rickles
Student Assistants: Anna Chan, Moe Lwin & Lucy Tran

HIV Early Detection Organizational Factors

Principal Investigator: Oscar Grusky
Co-Principal Investigator: Naihua Duan
Project Director: Aimee Swanson

Newsletter Staff

Chief Writer: Lucy Tran
Supervisor: Julia Heintz-Mackoff

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