



PPPM

Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management

Fall 2010

Student Internships

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PPPM Students Earn Prestigious Internships

Building on the early days of the Wallace School of Community Service and Public Affairs (CSPA) and the Department of Urban Planning, experiential learning is a core part of the current PPPM student experience. Alumni have played a big role in supporting these efforts—whether they are recent graduates from the department or long-term alumni from the CSPA program. Last year we used alumni funds to help support student conference travel, interviews for competitive internships, and stipends to support prestigious, unfunded internships. A key reason for the success of this program has been the tireless efforts of our internship director, Rhonda Smith. The students highlighted here demonstrate the value of these experiences.



Mark Nystrom and Nick Garcia

Oregon Fellows

For the past ten years, the Oregon Fellows Program has attracted students from Harvard University to the University of Oregon. It's a highly competitive program where a student's academic record, professional experience, and commitment to public service are carefully evaluated. This summer, fifteen Fellows were selected from a pool of 218 applicants. As Oregon Fellows, Nick Garcia, graduate student in planning, contributed to the management of Oregon's transportation assets and Mark Nystrom, MPA'10, studied the statewide feasibility of the electrification of transportation. Nick summed up his project with the Oregon Department of Transportation by explaining that "asset management is a method of saving time and resources by streamlining the organization of data." Mark said his fellowship gave him the opportunity to work with state and local community leaders and to meet graduate students from around the country.



Daniel Ronan

Obama Fellowship

One moment, planning, public policy and management major and Clark Honors College student Daniel Ronan was enjoying summer travels. The next moment a phone call had him racing to buy a suit and relocating to Philadelphia.

Daniel spent the summer of 2008 helping the Obama campaign as an Obama Fellow and stayed on for the fall with a paid position in Pennsylvania. Daniel worked on getting disadvantaged populations to vote, broke language barriers within the Latino community, and gave people agency to have a role in the political process. "Policy is nothing until you can really explain it to someone who has nothing to do with politics and then can make them understand," Daniel said of his work on the campaign.

As a result of his work, Daniel was invited to a September 2010 Presidential Personnel Office Open Door session in Washington, D.C. Five staff members from the Presidential Personnel Office offered professional development advice on how to obtain jobs within the administration. Daniel had the opportunity to attend one on his areas of interest—transportation policy.



Rosalynn Carter, Korrin Bishop, Jimmy Carter

Carter Center Internship

Korrin Bishop, a PPPM major and Honors College student, set her sights high for an internship that would enhance her studies. Korrin spent her summer interning with The Carter Center in Georgia.

"The application took a lot of hard work," she said, "but I remember that moment Mrs. Rosalynn Carter came up to me and shook my hand. I remember listening to President Jimmy Carter speak to us about how important the work we were doing was. I think of so many priceless moments from this summer and know that every bit of the effort was worth it."

She was one of forty-five students from undergraduate to doctoral programs from around the world to land the highly competitive position. Korrin got the chance to go behind the scenes of The Carter Center's work through an internship in the development department. "This internship was a wonderful complement to my studies in nonprofit administration."



From the Department Head The Future

The news these days is not encouraging to watch—the recession, jobless rates, and budget problems. So for our front-page story we chose to highlight the accomplishments of our students—our future leaders. Our students have always been impressive; not only what they do at the UO, but also what they do after graduation.

any funding. PPPM was able to use funds from alumni gifts and Rhonda was able to get this matched by the School of Architecture and Allied Arts and the UO President's office. In fact, UO President Richard Lariviere was so impressed by Korrin's work that he hired her to help his office raise additional funds for students awarded these kinds of prestigious, unfunded internships.

The other source of funding is coming from the new university budget model that rewards us for growing our enrollment and classes. Even before this new model was in place, PPPM was seeing a rapid increase in student numbers. This has continued with the growing interest in public sector employment, the increase in UO enrollment, and increasing applications as a result of the recession. Importantly, not only are we seeing an increase in student numbers, but we are also seeing continual improvements in quality and increasing student diversity.

I don't explain all of this to suggest that we are flush with funding. I emphasize this because we are seeing an exciting new generation of students enthused with their studies and contributing back to society to make good. I thank all alumni who contribute in a myriad of ways to help make this happen. Thank you.

Rich Margerum
Department Head
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Most exciting to me are the new opportunities they are competing for on an international level. This has not come about by accident. Part of it is the result of classes, speaker series and alumni—all of which lead students to the department with the strange acronym. Part of it is the result of encouragement and high expectations on the part of faculty in PPPM. But a big part of it is the hard work of people like Rhonda Smith, our Internship Director. Rhonda has worked tirelessly to support students, improve their professional skills, encourage them to apply for competitive positions, and coached them along the way. This is why I'm happy to announce that we have been able to increase Rhonda's position to full-time during the academic year.

Faculty Spotlight

Neil Bania is working with UO economics professors Jo Anna Gray and Joe Stone on "Public Infrastructure, Education, and Economic Growth: Region-Specific Complementarity in a Half-Century Panel of States."

Jessica Greene is on sabbatical in Australia in 2010-11 studying health care as the Commonwealth Fund's Australian-American Health Policy Fellow. Her article, "Teaching About Racial & Ethnic Disparities at the Undergraduate Level" came out this year in the Journal of General Internal Medicine.

Laura Leete and **Neil Bania** recently completed a study demonstrating that income instability is associated with a rise in food deprivation among U.S. households, even after accounting for their average income level. This has important policy implications for income stabilization policy as well as for the ways in which income eligibility is determined for a range of income support and social policies. "The Effect of Income Shocks on Food Insecurity" was published in 2010 in the Review of Economics of the Household.

Richard Margerum has completed a book manuscript entitled Beyond Consensus: Improving Collaboration to Solve Complex Public Problems (MIT Press). Due out in 2011, the book draws on fifteen years of research to highlight factors for evaluating consensus efforts and improve their implementation success.

Marc Schlossberg has been working on a project with Ken Kato from the UO's InfoGraphics Lab called Transportation Planning Through Mobile Mapping. This project transformed previously developed participator GIS tools for assessing the built environment into an iPhone application usable by every citizen in the world to spatially identify barriers and assets to their active transportation environment.

Yizhao Yang recently completed a research project funded by University of Oregon's Center for the Study of Women in Society. This fall she received a grant from UO's International Affairs for developing a global seminar course about eco-city development in China. Yizhao is also a co-principal investigator on a project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Active Living Research Center that will assess the effectiveness of Safe Routes to School programs in Oregon.

Robert Young has two articles published recently. "The Greening of Chicago: Environmental leaders and organizational learning in the transition toward a sustainable metropolitan region" was published in the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management. "Managing Municipal Green Space for Ecosystem Services" was published in the Journal of Urban Forestry and Urban Greening.

Department Spotlight

Judith Hibbard's role in shaping health care policy celebrated

A research symposium honoring professor Judy Hibbard was held May 3 at the UO Portland White Stag Block. Organized by associate professor Jessica Greene and with representative speakers from all over the health care industry, the symposium invited those who have been influenced by Hibbard. Oregon State Representative Mitch Greenlick, a mentor to Hibbard, provided opening comments.



Oregon State Representative Mitch Greenlick, who chaired the 2009-10 House Health Care Committee, speaks about Professor Hibbard.

Hibbard's work with helping consumers and patients make informed decisions about health care has gained widespread attention and has been the main focus of her work during her twenty-seven years at the UO. Her development of the Patient Activation Measure (PAM), a tool that assesses patients' knowledge, skills and confidence in managing their health and health care, has become internationally regarded and cited in leading health publications. PAM has helped tailor the needs of the individual and has been used by researchers to better understand patient behavior.

"The best-fit equivalent that I can compare ignorance in health care to is throwing someone who can't swim into the deep end of the pool," says Hibbard. "You can only hope for the best but you don't know what will happen. That's what this measurement process is about; helping people to make informed decisions about their health."

Although Hibbard is now retired, her next project will examine how to inform consumers about the problem of "overcare"; where unnecessary health assessments are provided too readily to patients, adding excessive cost with unneeded procedures.

Student Spotlight

Feast of Fools



PPPM students get festive and raise funds for Food for Lane County.

On May 21, 2010, graduate students gathered for an evening of fun, food and dancing to raise money for FOOD for Lane County (FFLC) at PPPM's annual prom. The "Feast of Fools" was the culmination of the Student Advisory Council's yearly service project that also included volunteer days at FFLC's dining room and youth garden. At the end of the night, PPPM raised over \$1,200 to help FFLC combat hunger in our community. The PPPM SAC would like to thank the following local businesses: Gervais Salon and Aveda Lifestyle Store, Brushfire, Buffalo Exchange, Collin's Cycle Shop, David Minor Theater and Pub, The Hilton, Kitsch, Kiva Grocery Store, Laughing Planet, McMennamins, Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO), New Day Bakery, Ninkasi Brewery, Pizza Research Institute, Sundance Natural Foods, The Duck Store, and Track Town Pizza.

Department Spotlight

Collaboration—Sustainable Cities Initiative

The Sustainable Cities Initiative (SCI) is in its third consecutive year. SCI began through a faculty partnership between PPPM and the Department of Architecture and has turned into a cross-campus effort to redefine the role of higher education to better serve the public good.

SCI partnered with the City of Salem for the 2010-11 Sustainable City Year and fourteen projects are underway throughout the city. About 500 university students are working on sustainability plans this year. Many PPPM courses are participating in this effort, as are courses in architecture, landscape architecture, law, business, journalism, arts administration, product design, and even civil engineering at Portland State University. SCI's initiatives in education build on a long PPPM tradition of applied student learning, but represent a scale of effort not heard of elsewhere.

SCI has gained increased local, national, and international attention for its interdisciplinary teaching methods and its success at tackling federal issues regarding sustainability. In August, the *New York Times* profiled SCI's Sustainable City Year program, calling it "perhaps the most comprehensive effort by a U.S. university to infuse sustainability into its curricula and community outreach."

In October, co-directors Marc Schlossberg and Nico Larco attended the National Transportation and Livability Conference in Washington D.C., where SCI was mentioned as a model for the nation in how to deliver multi-disciplinary, applied, and engaged education.

In December, Partners for Livable Communities presented SCI co-founders, Schlossberg, Robert Young, and Larco with the national Bridge Builders Award.

Looking forward, SCI is beginning to plan a series of Solution Summits with selected experts, researchers and implementers to identify and promote research that tackles specific real world barriers to sustainability.



City of Salem officials lead students on tour of sites that are focus projects for fall term.



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Save the Date

Spring Symposium honoring
**Mike Hibbard and his research on rural
and regional development.**

Friday, April 8, 2011

UO in Portland

White Stag Block

Afternoon symposium and alumni reception

The forum will include speakers focusing on rural communities in transition, the new natural resources economy, and the urban—rural split.

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Community Service Center tackles local food



For the past year, three programs within the Community Service Center (CSC) have been developing plans to support and grow the local food systems of communities throughout Oregon. The CSC views local food systems planning as an economic development tool and a strategy for environmental sustainability, community building, and food security.

Close to home, the Economic Development Administration University Center and the Community Planning Workshop partnered with Lane County, the City of Eugene, and the Eugene Water and Electric Board to conduct a local food market analysis for Lane County. "This study provides specific actions that local governments, businesses and nonprofits can take to help create a more complete local food system," said Bob Parker, director of the UO's Community Service Center.

Across the state, through the CSC's Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) Program, five AmeriCorps members served in a partnership with Oregon Food Bank this past year. At the end of this upcoming year, RARE members will have conducted local food assessments and implemented projects in eighteen of Oregon's 36 counties, from Astoria to Jordan Valley to Lakeview. All of these eighteen counties will have local food assessments. RARE members last year also implemented local projects, such as starting a farmers' market, developing a community garden and providing leadership training based around food systems.