

Center for Urban Research and Learning

Information on CURL University/Community Partnerships



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO



Winter, 1998

First CURL Community Fellows Named

The Center for Urban Research and Learning announces four Community Fellow awards for 1998. The Fellowships, made possible by an endowment from the McCormick Tribune Foundation and a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, are designed to facilitate stronger collaborative relations between community leaders and university faculty and students, develop capacities of community-based organizations, and develop innovative solutions to pressing urban issues.

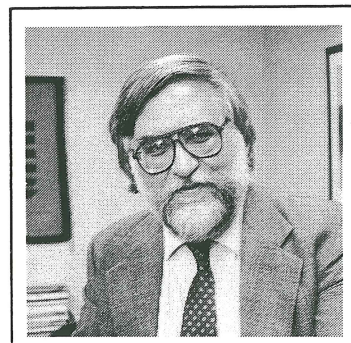
The four fellows will be affiliated with CURL, utilizing the Center as a base of operation to work with Loyola faculty and students on specific topics. Projects will vary. Fellows may be a co-researcher on a developing or expanding collaborative research action project, involved in teaching in the community or university, or conducting an analysis of a local, state, or national policy. The award of \$10,000 is one way Loyola/CURL can provide direct resources to community leaders and activists to assist them in developing and implementing collaborative projects. Fellows will be involved in frequent informal discussions and meetings with faculty, students, and other community leaders.

It is with great pleasure that we introduce the first CURL Community Fellow awardees:



Marrice Coverson, currently Executive Director of the Elliott Donnelley Youth Center, will develop a pilot teen television talk show, called "Open Book," to foster teen literacy and creative writing. The format will feature teens from low-income

communities who will discuss their favorite literature, interview authors, and introduce their own writing. Another component will be a discussion of teen issues. Marrice's deep community-based social service and youth development experience spans 26 years. Initial meetings are scheduled with faculty from psychology, education, communication, and social work. As her research develops, Marrice will have resources to investigate sites outside Chicago where similar programs may exist.



A lecture series, "Deal Making in Illinois," will be developed by **Doug Dobmeyer**, editor of *Poverty Issues*. . . *Dateline Illinois* and former executive director of the Public Welfare Coalition. The six public lectures and symposia will address issues of public policy and

will be co-sponsored by CURL, Political Science, Communications, and other departments. For each topic, one event will take place on campus and the other off campus in a community venue, as yet undetermined. Doug has devoted his life to addressing poverty, homeless, and welfare issues and has succeeded in attracting media and legislative attention to inequities. He will draw upon his experience, and in doing so, will teach how "deal making" is done. The lectures will be published by CURL. *Continued on p. 2*

Director's Corner...

During the first week of January, I was asked to make a presentation to a joint meeting of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Department of Education staff and project directors. It was apparent that news of the work of the Center for Urban Research, as well as the Policy Research Action Group (a collaborative network involving Loyola, three other Chicago universities, and numerous community groups), has spread beyond Chicago. CURL and PRAG are being held up as new models for policy development, community capacity building, and higher education. Efforts of hundreds of community leaders, faculty, and students have helped bring this new way of researching and learning into the national limelight.

As another way to strengthen community:university links and increase community capacities to address key community issues, we have inaugurated our CURL Community Fellows program. The mission of CURL is not only to facilitate university and community partnerships, but to build an understanding that the university does not have the corner on the knowledge market. Knowledge in the university complements the knowledge of experienced community leaders – who face challenges in their communities on a day-to-day basis. We are most effective in addressing key issues facing Chicago's communities when we combine our research, our practical experience, and our insights.

The awarding of our first four Community Fellows represents another way in which we can systematically combine university and community expertise both in educating each other and in working together for constructive solutions. All four fellows bring an impressive collective knowledge to CURL. This is a two-way street. On the one hand, we assume that Loyola faculty and students will gain new insights. On the other hand, we expect that more university resources will be made available to the new fellows and that the fellowships will help build personal and organizational capacity to affect positive change in Chicago.

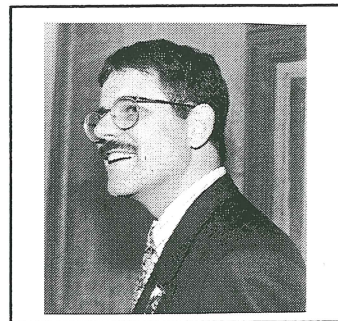
Phil Nyden
Director

Community Fellows Continued...



The Garfield Park Conservatory is one of Chicago's hidden treasures. Its preservation and "ownership" by West Side communities have been goals of the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, the community-based advocacy voice for the conservatory.

Gwen Griffin, a volunteer member of the Alliance steering committee, is a co-researcher with Laura Oswald, a marketing student in the MBA program in the Loyola School of Business. Their research will result in understanding how the conservatory can be more relevant and available to residents on the very doorstep of the conservatory. Gwen brings years of community experience and knowledge to the collaborative research while Laura, supported by the Business School as a Graduate Business Scholars Assistant, brings marketing skills and technical know-how.



Over the past 17 years, Mike Rohrbeck has earned respect in low-income housing circles in the city and beyond. Until 1996 he was the executive director of PRIDE (People's ReInvestment and Development Effort) located in Austin and served as

president of the Chicago Rehab Network. His interest and experience in tenant organizing and training, especially in the national Training for Trainers Cooperative, has led him to a further exploration of community capacity building models. He will be working at CURL with Dr. Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar (Social Psychology) and other faculty on ways to enhance capacity building, especially through participatory evaluation processes with community-based organizations.

Welcome the CURL Community Fellows

Join us for a reception
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1998
3:00 - 5:00 P.M. at the CURL office
RSVP by February 20, 312-915-8603

Developing Urban Semester Projects

With the beginning of the fall semester, fourteen undergraduates and ten graduate students began the Urban Semester which gives Loyola students hands-on experience in community/university collaborative research. The core course includes participation by each student in a community-based project. In most cases, students are members of research teams consisting of community researchers, faculty, graduate assistants, and undergraduates. We are currently supporting 15 projects; two are featured below:

Cristo Rey School-Based Health Clinic

CURL resources continue to support the planning process to establish and maintain a school-based health center for Latino children and youth at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School and St. Procopius Grammar School in Pilsen/Little Village. When fully established, the health center will be a site for clinical practice for Loyola's pediatric and women's health nurse practitioner students and graduate nutrition students. Two CURL graduate fellows, Geraldine Gorman (Nursing) and Beth Ascher (Law/Social Work), are working with Dr. Diana Hackbarth (Nursing), along with Urban Semester student, Katie Noonan (Social Work). Cristo Rey principal is Sr. Judy Murphy.

One of the first tasks was to organize a community advisory board in preparation for conducting a broad-based assessment of health needs of the schools' students, their families, and the community. The board has been organized, and the needs assessment will be a focus of the work in the spring semester. An opportunity for outreach occurred when the research team, in partnership with the School of Nursing and the Department of Food and Nutrition, conducted two health fairs in the fall. Over 600 residents were provided such services as flu shots, blood pressure screening, and nutrition information.

Initial funding to support a nurse practitioner, who has been hired, and the purchase of needed equipment and supplies has been secured from the Visiting Nurses Association. The needs assessment will help determine sources for on-going funding of the clinic.

Faith and Community Partners in Action

This project grew out of a dialogue between local religious leaders, food providers, and Loyola to address issues of need in Rogers Park and Edgewater. Since the summer, participants including representatives of five Loyola departments – CURL, University Ministry, Considine Chair, Government and Community Relations,



Cristo Rey Health Fair

and Food and Nutrition – have identified hunger as a first collaborative project. The workplan has included assessing the food and nutrition needs of individuals and families who use food assistance services in the designated area, measuring the impact of welfare changes, and identifying service gaps.

During September, the research team assisted the Greater Chicago Food Depository in conducting a survey as part of data gathering across the city. Because more indepth data were needed, a semi-structured survey was administered that more clearly defined the degree of change in food and nutrition needs, especially the levels of food "insecurity" brought about by actual and pending welfare cuts.

FCCA organized a successful food drive in all participating congregations during Thanksgiving week. The research team will continue its work in the spring semester

The Research Team: Religious leaders: Herman Schaalman, Sally Shiner, William Johnson, Henry Balsler, Iman Ahmed Rufai, Carl McKinzie, Jamal Husain, Mary Ann Collins; Food providers: Ida Galvan, Beatrice Royal, Anita Alcantara, Julie Massey, Paula Gomez, Dave Lazare, Tony Scott, Kevin Tuszynski, Carmel LaFontain; Community organizers: Valerie Busch-Zurlent, Fran Tobin, Ann Woelk; CURL: Kale Williams, Jacqueline Beale-del Vecchio (CURL Graduate Fellow), Sandi Reinardy, John Brander, Cindy Burquist; Loyola: Joanne Kouba, John Houghey, Marie Harrigan, Jim Zajakowski Uhil, Linda Englund.

Internship in Philanthropy

Offered for the first time at Loyola University, five students participated in the Internship in Philanthropy course during the 1997 fall semester. Through this graduate level course students worked 10 hours per week in a private, grantmaking foundation where they were exposed to a variety of activities including research, planning and grant evaluation. In addition, they attended biweekly class sessions with the instructor, Louis Delgado, in which supplemental readings on philanthropy were discussed.

In each instance students produced a research project that addressed a topic of programmatic interest to the sponsoring foundation. Student projects included the following:

- ✿ Mary Charles conducted a preliminary assessment of issues related to communications strategies of grantees for the Building Community Capacity staff at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation;
- ✿ Emily Drew conducted a review of the Technical Assistance Grants Program at the Crossroad's Fund;
- ✿ Antoine Rogers conducted an analysis of the grantee database at the Crossroads Fund;
- ✿ Kristienne Kattapong analyzed issues surrounding managed care's impact on women's healthcare, and conducted a survey to assess healthcare delivery issues among organizations receiving grants through the Women's Health Initiative Fund of the Chicago Foundation for Women;
- ✿ Brian Wunar, using evaluation instruments previously collected but not analyzed, developed a participant profile and assessment of the professional development activities sponsored by the Chicago Annenberg Challenge for their grantees.

The Internship in Philanthropy course will be repeated during the Spring 1998 semester.

Noted Author Leads Community/University Dialogue

In November, James Gilligan, M.D., well-known Harvard author and lecturer, met with Austin residents for a discussion of his new book, Violence: Our Deadly Epidemic and Its Causes. Dr. Gilligan was invited to Loyola as part of the Liebman Lecture on Law and Social Inquiry organized in the fall semester by Susan Mezey, Ph.D.

(Political Science.) CURL agreed to arrange a community venue for Dr. Gilligan. PRIDE, a low-income housing and community development corporation, agreed to host the informal breakfast meeting attended by 17 community leaders and university faculty.

Dr. Gilligan has an impressive background in clinical and forensic psychiatry, including work at Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts Prison Mental Health Services, and the Bridgewater State Hospital and Center for the Study of Violence. He has spent 25 years treating men who committed acts of violence.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Gilligan clearly articulated several points: He does not excuse violence but has concluded, based on numerous interviews with murderers, that "the emotion of shame is the primary or ultimate cause of all violence." He believes, like Gandhi, that "poverty is the deadliest form of violence." In an easy, engaging manner, Dr. Gilligan invited observations and an exchange of experiences among the circle of guests, many of whom represented block clubs, social service agencies, schools, and the police district. In the lively discussion, there was general affirmation of his conclusions based on residents' experiences, yet several pushed for clarification. The time together passed far too quickly!

We are especially grateful to Marion Coleman and her staff, Janet Hasz and Valerie Leon, for their hospitality. Because this kind of community / university dialogue is central to CURL's mission, we will seek similar opportunities in the future.



Dr. James Gilligan entertained questions about his views on violence and facilitated discussion at the Nov. 4 community/university dialogue at PRIDE.

English Colleagues Find Chicago To Be Their Cup of Tea

The ties between Loyola and the University of Birmingham were furthered strengthened the week of September 15 when CURL hosted six Birmingham faculty, accompanied by three "voluntary sector" (non-profit) practitioners and an economic development specialist from the Birmingham City Council. Prof. Ken Spencer, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Social Sciences, led the group. The link between the universities began last March when a Chicago delegation of Loyola faculty and community-based activists journeyed to Birmingham for a week-long visit.

The purpose of the exchange is to create university/community collaborative research that will have direct benefit and practical application on both sides of the Atlantic. Through the sharing of experience and information about a range of public policies and practices at the local level, joint interdisciplinary research will lead to recommendations to improve conditions for residents in Chicago and Birmingham, sister cities that share similar histories and many common urban issues. Through the interaction to date, specific research interests are being explored that will include community researchers, following the CURL model of university/community collaborative research.

One important outcome of the visit was an administrative decision to explore immediate ways to begin faculty and student exchanges between the two universities. It is anticipated that these exchanges will promote future research.

Being out and about in Chicago was where our visitors saw first hand how our city works at the street level. Several general sessions dealt with post-manufacturing/new service redevelopment patterns in Chicago; quite easily, comparisons were drawn between our two cities. One discussion on the involvement of philanthropy in community change was of particular interest of the Birmingham contingent in light of the declining role of central government in the UK.

Fun was not omitted from the agenda. Besides dining at some of Chicago's best ethnic eateries, including Edna's Soul Food Restaurant on Madison Street, our guests discovered Chicago's famous jazz and blues spots and marveled at our architecture. An appropriate conclusion for the week was afternoon tea hosted by the British Consul General and his wife in their penthouse suite overlooking the Loop and Lake Michigan.



"I didn't expect to like Chicago as much as I do . . ." was the sentiment expressed by Birmingham visitors during their September visit. Shown here are three colleagues, Declan Hall and Ken Spencer (U of Birmingham) and Susan Spencer (Birmingham Settlement), enjoying tea at the British Consulate with the Loop skyline in the background.

Special Thanks for Helping . . .

Community/Government:
 John Lukehart, Leadership Council
 Brian Banks, Maureen Hellwig,
 PRAG
 Nelda Todd, Elliott Donnelly
 Youth Center
 Roberta Buchanan, HACC, and
 Sarah Jane Knoy, ONE
 Shelley Harmon and Nancy
 Wilkin, South Shore Bank
 Edna Gibson, Edna's Soul Food
 Restaurant
 Greg Longhini, City of Chgo.,
 Dept. of Planning & Development
 Marion Coleman, Valerie, Leon,
 Thomas Mallard, PRIDE
 Susan Lloyd, MacArthur Fdn.
 Nicholas Goodban, Willie Cole,
 Denise Carter-Blank, McCormick
 Tribune Foundation
 Doris Saloman, Donor's Forum
 Steve Redfield, STRIVE
 Curtis Roeschley, Uptown Center
 Hull House
 John Plunkett, Suburban Job Link
 Marty Berg, CANDO
 Rosana Marquez, Mayor's Office
 Millie Rivera, Latino Institute
 Jim Capraro, Greater Southwest
 Development Corporation
 Miguel Palacio, Harriet Sadaukas,
 Cynthia Schmidt, Association
 House
 Gwen Griffin, Garfield Park
 Conservatory Alliance
 Guy Stuart, FaithCorp Fund,
 Partners in Community
 Development
 Carlos DeJesus, Latinos United
 Doug Dobmeyer, *Poverty Issues*
 ... *Dateline Illinois*
 Mike Hyatt, Tony Small, SLIC

Loyola:

Fr. John J. Piderit, Dr. Ron
 Walker, Dean James Brennan,
 Dean Kathleen McCourt, Dr.
 Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar, Dr. Jill
 Graham, Dr. Mine Cinar, Dr.
 Jerome Blakemore, Dr. Maria
 Vidal de Haymes, Dr. Joseph
 Walsh, Dr. Ed Gumz, Dr. Judith
 Wittner, Dr. Pam Andresen, Dr.
 Richard Block, Dr. Carol Harding,
 Dr. Ayana Karanja, Dr. Peter
 Whalley, Dr. John Pelissero, Dr.
 Art Lurigio, and Hugo Jackson.

Community Computer Lab In Development

Loyola's Science Linkages in the Community (SLIC), our sister organization housed with CURL, is taking the lead in developing a community computer lab. The purpose of the lab is to expand technology accessibility to community-based organizations (CBOs). At least initially, the primary users will be those who are part of the SLIC math, science, and technology education network, as well as those who are community partners in CURL and Policy Research Action Group (PRAG) collaborative research projects. CURL and SLIC are supporting three graduate students to assist Michael Hyatt, SLIC director, Phil Nyden, CURL director, other staff, and community-based practitioners in planning practical application and effective use of the new lab.

Supported by the Illinois State Board of Education Passport to Chicago Initiative, there are two components of the program now being planned:

1. The lab, consisting of a number of high quality computers, will be staffed by SLIC, PRAG, and CURL who will work with CBO staff, either at the Center or in the community, to increase effective operations, increase involvement in research and policy making activities that influence their communities, and provide a means of education and skill building

2. A second component is hands-on training in building computers for those CBOs who are loaned computers for a given period. The purpose is to de-mystify the technical side of computer construction, thus leaving behind confidence and basic "fix-it" skills.

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**FOR A LISTING OF CURL'S CURRENT
PROJECTS, SEE OUR CURL HOME PAGE --
<http://www.luc.edu/depts/curl>**



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