



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO

Center for Urban Research and Learning

Information on CURL University/Community Partnerships

Off to a Fast Start

As many of you already know, the Center began operation in January. During the past few months we have been meeting with faculty, deans, and community leaders to get a sense of the many impressive existing collaborative university/community projects. We are seeking ideas for new projects and initiatives, some of which we are starting to develop. Our work involves linking the university and community in research partnerships. Because issues raised by the community outside the university know no disciplinary boundaries, our work also involves linking various departments and schools to projects. As described below, our new Web Page will serve as a location for sharing information within the university and between the university and community. We plan to publish this bimonthly newsletter to keep everyone up-to-date with the latest developments.

Through the creation of the Center, Loyola University has greatly increased its commitment to university/community partnerships in the rebuilding of Chicago's neighborhoods. This partnership has been integrated in CURL through its staffing. Phil's background in teaching and social science research, much of which has been based in Chicago neighborhoods, and Lin's 20 years of community development experience brings a complimentary blend of skills, perspectives and ideas to the Center's efforts.

Our job will be to facilitate relationships between Loyola faculty and students and community-based organizations and residents to conduct community-initiated research and action projects. These may take the form of individual faculty or student projects and/or involvement of graduate and undergraduate classes in community-based or interdisciplinary projects. "Research" is broadly defined and includes the production of information related to improving the quality of life for all city and suburban residents. We are nurturing an environment where research with the community not to the community becomes the norm. Our philosophy is partially modeled after the successes of the Policy Research Action Group—a citywide university/community collaboration involving Loyola, DePaul, UIC, and Chicago State and over 30 community organizations. Loyola has provided a supportive home to PRAG for the past eight years and will continue to provide leadership for this important collaboration.

The heart of learning in universities is the sharing of knowledge and perspectives among faculty and students. Understanding

different perspectives, questioning the status quo, and developing new ideas is at the center of much of our work as teachers and students. CURL invites groups from the community outside the university to become active participants in this process. Through involvement in collaborative research projects, participation in roundtable discussions looking for new models to address pressing issues such as increased violence, and the involvement of teams of graduate and undergraduate students in community-based research and action projects, we hope to expand research and learning beyond the traditional boundaries.

While the Center is working throughout the city and suburbs where productive linkages can be made, initial efforts will focus on strengthening existing ties and establishing new relationships with communities adjacent to the Lake Shore Campus (Rogers Park, Edgewater, and Uptown) and the Loyola Medical Center (Maywood, Bellwood and Chicago's West Side). Beginning in January, for example, we will be working with the new Urban Semester developed by the College of Arts and Sciences in creating student-faculty-community leader teams in research and action projects on issues ranging from understanding local housing needs to examining the role of religious congregations in the future of the local community.

We are indeed grateful to the **Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation** for its generous support of the Center. The \$1.5 million in endowment and operating support will underwrite faculty and graduate student fellows (see subsequent profiles) and Center activities in the years to come. The glue that holds the operation together is **Maureen Abraham**, Phil's secretary for 7 years in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. She is assisted by two work study students, **Angel Lampkin** (School of Nursing) and **Claudia Morales** (School of Education).

We would like to invite anyone with interest in the Center's work to call us. Not only can we share information on new initiatives, but as a place where new ideas can find a home, we are always listening.

Phil Nyden

Lin Von Dreele

A much different kind of community analysis was the assignment for **Anita Jayaraj**, a graduate student in the Department of Psychology. Anita conducted a comprehensive inventory and analysis of community demographics for **Bethel New Life** in West Garfield Park. Bethel asked for computerized graphs and charts indicating community change over time that will be helpful in making organizational decisions and presentations to outside groups. Because of the competent job she did over the summer, she has been hired as Bethel's full-time research director. Congratulations to Anita -- and to Bethel for hiring such a capable and committed person.

On the Web

Being on the Web is really important now days. Corporations, universities, communities and individuals are creating a bold new world of information and connectivity that is growing at an astounding rate. The Center is utilizing the latest in computer technology to produce important linkages identifying collaborative Loyola/community research projects related to urban and suburban communities.

Over the summer, the Center's McCormick graduate fellow, **Trevor Bechtel**, has been developing the prototype for a Web Page which is constantly changing and contains or will contain:

- ✦ searchable data bases providing information on past and present collaborative research and learning projects and faculty interests
- ✦ a community organization "needs list" of projects that represent potential collaborative research with Loyola faculty and students
- ✦ a list of university and citywide conferences and meetings of potential relevance to faculty and students interested in urban issues
- ✦ links to other relevant web pages

Other features planned are a listing of articles and reports generated by Loyola projects related to Chicago metropolitan area communities and a listing of datasets and other information already collected by Loyola researchers and available to the community and other Loyola faculty and students. You can visit CURL on the Web at <http://www.luc.edu/depts/curl/>.

Advisory Board Named

On April 30, the Center's newly formed Advisory Board held its inaugural meeting. We are extremely fortunate to have attracted such a gifted and committed cross-section of university and community activists who have agreed to guide the Center in meeting its mission. **Ken O'Hare**, the Center's evaluator, remarked after the meeting, "There was enormous positive power in the room today."

Advisory members have agreed to semi-annual meetings with the understanding that Center staff will call upon them for advice and direction informally between meetings. Those who will serve in this important capacity are:

Pam Andresen, School of Nursing
Barbara Bacon, School of Social Work
Jean Butzen, Lakefront SRO
James Capraro, Greater Southwest Development Corporation
Carlos DeJesus, Latinos United
Pat Dowell-Cerasoli, MidSouth Planning and Development Commission
Allen Frantzen, Department of English/Loyola Adult Literacy Center
Fran Gamwell, Faith College
Jill Graham, Department of Management, School of Business
Gwen Griffin, Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance
Carol Harding, School of Education, Center for Children, Families, and Community
Keith Harley, Chicago Legal Clinic
Kirk Harris, Center for Fathers, Families, and Public Policy
Rev. Janet Hopkins, Old Masters United Methodist Church, (Rockford, IL)
Cheryl Johnson-Odim, Department of History
Ayana Karanja, African-American Studies Program
Yvonne Lau, Asian American Studies Program
Ralph Leischner, Department of Pathology, Medical School
Mark McKelvey, Development Office
Sr. Judy Murphy, Cristo Rey High School
Timothy O'Connell, Institute for Pastoral Studies
John Pelissero, Department of Political Science
Hank Rose, Loyola Law Clinic, School of Law
Dennis Sakurai, SouthEast Asia Center
Guy Stuart, Partners in Community Development
Yolanda Suarez, Department of Psychology
Steven Redfield, STRIVE/Chicago Employment Service
Marta White, White and Associates
Jonathan Wilson, Theater Department

The First McCormick Fellows

The Center has announced its first faculty and graduate fellows for the academic year. Supported by the endowment from the McCormick Tribune Foundation, two faculty fellows began their community/university work in September.

Pamela Fenning, Ph.D., from the School of Education, is collaborating with **Alternatives, Inc.**, a community-based youth and family service agency operating in Lakeview, Uptown, Edgewater, and Rogers Park. Pam and the Alternatives' staff are examining the psychological assessment practices for youth and families of diverse ethnic backgrounds. In a 6-month study, a written interview procedure will be developed and recommendations will be made for community agencies and professionals to increase the involvement of parents in school staffings for their children.

Dr. Yolanda Suarez of the Department of Psychology brings unique skills in the area of participatory evaluation. Trained by Dr. Stephen Fawcett from the University of Kansas, she will partner with **PRIDE** (People's Reinvestment and Development Effort), the community development organization specializing in multi-unit, low-income housing in a 20-square block of Austin, to plan and undertake a multi-year evaluation of the impact of its development over its 15-year history. The goal will be to design a participatory process with tenants and staff that will lead to meaningful programmatic and organizational evaluation and planning.

Two graduate researchers are joining the Center as well. **Lucia Orellana**, a student in the Department of Psychology, will work closely with Dr. Suarez on the **PRIDE** project. In the initial stages, Lucia will spend time at the **PRIDE** sites interviewing staff and tenants in preparation for intensive sessions where reasonable objectives will be set for the next nine months. She and **PRIDE** staff will manage the process under the supervision of Dr. Suarez.

The Department of Theology's **Trevor Bechtel** worked over the summer at the Center to jump-start the Center's entry into the World Wide Web. Trevor will continue his work throughout the academic year. Part of Trevor's work to date has been to formulate a questionnaire for faculty to determine the range and scope of

community/university projects that currently exist throughout Loyola's four campuses. Data from that survey will be posted on the Web Page. In addition, staff is collecting a list of community projects in need of student and/or faculty involvement. The community "needs list" will be posted on the Web Page so that Loyola faculty and students are aware of opportunities to link with community organizations.

Two undergraduate fellows have joined the research teams. **Betsy Mahler**, a sophomore in the School of Social Work, and **Hellen Antonopoulos**, a senior in the Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, will work on a data collection project for Rogers Park, Edgewater, and Uptown. Betsy is a work study student, and Hellen is *volunteering her time to CURL*.

Summer Student Researchers at Work

Three Loyola graduate students worked over the summer in community organizations on significant research projects.

Cassandra Cooper's work took her to a small non-profit citywide agency, the **Anti-Racism Institute (ARI)**. Cassandra, who is from the School of Education, utilized her computer skills to conduct an extensive search on instruments to determine change in behavior and attitude after the completion of anti-racism training. Although Cassandra found little existing information, she and the **ARI** staff developed an instrument that she field tested. The **ARI** staff will use the tested instrument to conduct a more thorough survey in the fall.

Australian **Pauline Morgan**, a Ph.D. candidate in clinical psychology, worked closely with tenants and staff at **PRIDE** to conduct a needs assessment of tenant services and maintenance. After refining an existing inventory instrument, Pauline and the community researchers conducted interviews with tenants. The final product for the summer's work was an analysis for the tenant building leaders, staff, and **PRIDE's** board. Pauline worked with tenants and staff to plan and conduct a one-half day retreat at the end of August. Much of the work completed over the summer will guide immediate organizational decision making and will be the basis for the on-going evaluation described above.

Urban Semester to Begin in January

The College of Arts and Sciences, working closely with CURL, is launching the Urban Semester beginning in January. The program is designed to foster a critical understanding of urban issues through direct, hands-on experience in Chicago's community-based organizations and lively, discussion-oriented coursework. The aim of the program is to give undergraduate students experience in understanding the city around us. Through team projects, students will work with faculty and community leaders in completing community-based research projects aimed at improving the quality of life in the city. In the first year, as many as fifty students will enroll in a six credit hour core course from which teams of students will emerge to work on a community research project. In addition, students will enroll in a three credit hour course on urban topics such as urban environmental issues, intercultural communication, history of Chicago, or Chicago politics.

The Latino Voter Registration Project

The Center is supporting the work of the Midwest/Northeast Voter Registration Education Program which will conduct the 1996 Chicago Latino Political Survey. Two graduate assistants, Davis Jesuit (Political Science) and Angela Nircchi (Social Work) will be working with Dr. Maria Vidal de Haymes from the School of Social Work and Dr. Peter Sanchez from the Department of Political Science to conduct a telephone survey to determine the level of Latino participation in the democratic process. The graduates will train 30 volunteers to administer the survey in mid-October. The analysis will be complete before the November election and a report will be completed by December.

CURL Conversations begin at Lake Shore Campus

CURL announces a new Friday afternoon program, CURL Conversations, to be held alternately at Loyola's Lake Shore, Water Tower, Mallinckrodt and Medical Center campuses. The discussions will be informal dialogues about community based research. Involving students, community members, faculty and staff in lively discussion about community issues these conversations will also provide a way for CURL to get feedback on continuing collaboration with these groups.

Community as Partner or Community as Laboratory

Friday, September 20, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Room 334A-B, Crown Center, Lake Shore Campus

Collaboration and the Politics of Research

Friday, October 18, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Room 510, Lewis Towers, Water Tower Campus

Piecing the Puzzle Together: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Community-Initiated Collaboration

Friday, November 22, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Room 147, Damen Hall, Lake Shore Campus

The Role of Undergraduates in Urban Research

January 17, Room 510, Lewis Towers



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