

# The CPR Connection

Fall 2009

Center for Policy Research | Maxwell School | 426 Eggers Hall | Syracuse University | Syracuse, NY 13244-1020

## Director's Corner



**Douglas A. Wolf** (PA), Gerald B. Cramer Professor of Aging Studies, was the Interim Director of the Center for Policy Research until July 1, 2009.

Hello all CPR alums! We're reaching the end of one transitional year and the beginning of another one. I'm finishing my one-year term as Interim Director, following **Tim Smeeding** (PA, ECN), who went off to do bigger and better (or at least different) things at the University of Wisconsin's Institute for Research on Poverty.

We have completed the process through which a new, permanent, director has been named, **Christine Himes** (SOC). Join me in welcoming her!

CPR continues to build its track record as a first rate place for training doctoral students and conducting externally sponsored research that makes its way into the best journals and academic venues. This past academic year is transitional in more than one way: 9 newly minted (or soon to be minted) PhDs recently launched their careers in research or teaching positions around the country (for details see **Grad Bag** on page 4).

We're also happy to welcome a major new faculty hire, **Leonard E. Burman** (PA, ECN), who will occupy the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Chair of Public Affairs starting this fall. Those of you with a long memory may remember the "medium conference room," which (after the small conference room was converted to an office) became the "small conference room" – and which will soon be known as "Len's office." It's a sign of our continued success that we have

to figure out new ways to fit ever more people into the same basic floor plan.

Finally, I can report that we submitted grant applications for a total of about \$4.4 million over the last 12 months, and have so far received (or been told we will receive) around \$2 million in awards. All in all, another good year. Of course (as always) that means we'll just have to be working harder next year.

### Quote for the day

"There are obviously two educations. One should teach us how to make a living and the other how to live."

James Truslow Adams

## *21st Annual Herbert Lourie Memorial Lecture on Health Policy:*

### *Moving Towards Universal Health Insurance Coverage*

Friday, October 2, 2009, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Sheraton University Hotel, 801 University Avenue

**Jonathan Gruber** is Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he has taught since 1992. He is also the Director of the Program on Children at the National Bureau of Economic Research, co-editor of the *Journal of Public Economics*, and Associate Editor of the *Journal of Health Economics*. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 2005 and in 2006 was appointed to the board of the Massachusetts Insurance Connector. His research focuses on public finance and health economics. Contact Martha W. Bonney at: (315) 443-2703 or [mwbonney@syr.edu](mailto:mwbonney@syr.edu) if you need more information.

## Faculty Focus

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**Leonard M. Lopoo** (PA) won the 2009 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Award for Teaching and Research. He became the 27th outstanding untenured Maxwell School faculty member to win the award since its establishment in 1985. Senator Daniel P. Moynihan (D-NY), who taught political science at the Maxwell School from 1959 to 1961, and again from 2000 until his death in 2003, endowed the annual award. Past recipients include current CPR faculty **Christine Himes, Jan Ondrich, David Popp,** and **Doug Wolf.**

**Badi Baltagi** (ECN) has a new book in print, *A Companion to Econometric Analysis of Panel Data*, John Wiley and Sons, Chichester, 2009.

**David Popp** (PA) was recently nominated to be a member of the Center for Economic Studies IFO (CESifo) Group's Research Network's Energy and Climate Economics Research Group. CESifo is Europe's third largest and the world's fourth largest international economics research network. CESifo brings together leading economists from around the globe, creating an ideal platform for the discussion of current applied and theoretical themes in economics, with an emphasis on public policy issues. Popp is among the first group of economists invited to join the newly formed Energy and Climate Research Group.

**Christine Himes** (SOC) presented her paper "The Effects of Obesity on Functioning and Recovery in Later Life" at the University of Albany in April and at the REVES network meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, in May. REVES is an international network of researchers studying healthy life expectancy. Himes also participated in a research workshop in Sundance, Utah, sponsored by the BYU Family Studies Center, on "Obesity and Family" in May.

**Thomas J. Kniesner** (ECN) presented his paper, "Policy Relevant Heterogene-

ity in the Value of a Statistical Life: Evidence from Panel Data" (with James Ziliak, University of Kentucky, and W. Kip Viscusi, Vanderbilt University), at the Heterogeneity of the Value of Statistical Life Conference at Vanderbilt University Law School in March. The conference was sponsored by the Ph.D. Program in Law and Economics at Vanderbilt and organized by Professor Viscusi.

**Amy Lutz** (SOC) had her research (with Pamela Bennett of Johns Hopkins University) published in the *Sociology of Education* 82(1), January 2009, and featured in the article, "Black (Immigrant) Admissions Edge," *Inside Higher Ed*, this past March 17, 2009.

**Douglas A. Wolf** (PA) is part of a team (headed by Judith Kasper of Johns Hopkins University) that recently received five years of funding from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) to develop a new "National Study of Disability Trends and Dynamics." This project includes two years of design, pretesting, and sampling work followed by three annual interviews with about 12,000 individuals age 65 and older. The new survey will replace, but maintain longitudinal consistency with, the earlier National Long Term Care Survey (1982-2004, funded by NIA and Duke University).

**Wolf** and **Janet Wilmoth** (SOC) have recently received funding through the Boston College Retirement Research Center to conduct a study of "Social Security Income, Housing Consumption, and Housing Adjustment." Over the last several decades there has been a lot of research on late-life living arrangements (e.g., living alone versus living with others) and type of residence (e.g., community versus institutional living). One well-established conclusion is that rising income levels, and in particular the increasing generosity of Social Security benefits, have contributed to the increased tendency of older people to live alone.

Their study, however, will examine the effects of income on the quantity and quality of housing, and whether income influences the tendency to adjust one's housing consumption in reaction to major life events such as the death of one's spouse.

## Community Calendar

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CPR announces the following calendar of events:

**January** - SU Basketball game

**February** - Vera House



**March** - CPR Game Night

**April** - Bowling

**May** - Volleyball

**June** - CPR Picnic



**July** - Baseball game

**August** - MLK School Supplies: Art, Music & Literature

**September** - Basketball



**October** - CPR Game Night

**November** - Hats, Mittens, Scarf drive for Dr. King Elementary School

**December** - Holiday Families and Holiday Party



## Staff Stop

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With the ardent support of CPR, SU found its way into the record books for the 2009 JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge held June 23, 2009, at Onondaga Lake Park. **Peggy Austin, Kelly Bogart, Martha Bonney, Karen Cimilluca, Kitty Nasto, and Mary Santy**, along with **Jeffrey Weinstein** (ECN), helped SU take 1st place for the most participants (450). The record total is the most ever for a single team in the 27-year history of the 3.5 mile running and walking event.

In January **Martha Bonney** attended a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteer training program sponsored by the IRS and PEACE Inc. She then spent Friday afternoons in February and March filing electronic tax returns, both state and federal, for low-and middle-income people in Onondaga County. Martha is also a volunteer tutor in English as a Second Language (ESL) with Literacy Volunteers of Greater Syracuse. Over the summer of 2008 she helped her student, a young Somali Bantu refugee who arrived in Syracuse in 2003, prepare for the citizenship test. In October she witnessed her student become a citizen and vote in the 2008 Presidential election just a few weeks later.

**Candi Patterson** is actively working in her community as a member of the Virtuous Women on the Rise! & Reclaiming our African Pride (R.A.P.) Organization and its subsidiary, the Syracuse Community Action Network which was involved in was a community LOVE campaign barbecue in July. Presently she is coordinating a group of girls to attend the Expanding Your Horizons Program at Cornell University this April, 2010.

CPR Connection Editors:

Kelly Bogart, Roseann DiMarzo,  
and Mary Santy

## *New York Camp Econometrics*

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<http://www-cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/CampEconometrics/index.htm>

The 4th annual New York Camp Econometrics, hosted by Badi Baltagi was held on April 3-5, 2009 at the Mirror Lake Inn, Lake Placid, NY. This year, the Camp featured the JAE Annual Lectures and the Keynote Speaker was Jerry Hausman (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). This annual spring conference is moving to a new season next year and will be held in the fall on October 2-3, 2010 at the SU Minnowbrook facility in Blue Mountain Lake, in the Addirondacks. Check the NY Camp Econometrics website for additional information.

## Staff Spotlight

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Many of us hope that when we start working we'll find a vocation we can be proud of and enjoy. For **Peggy Austin**, who is marking her 26th year at SU, the anniversary is a chance to look back on a remarkable and ever-changing career. "Twenty-six years... the length of time I have worked in these halls amazes me. I started in the chemistry department in July 1983 as a purchasing coordinator and was later promoted to financial administrative assistant.

When I began at SU, research papers, proposals, and journal articles were typed on IBM Selectric typewriters. Then the department purchased a Xerox Memorywriter and people were amazed that you could actually save a document in it. If there was a mistake you didn't have to start all over. If an equation was wrong it could be fixed.

In 1988, I accepted the administrative assistant position in the Metropolitan Studies Program, in Maxwell Hall. I just missed the asbestos fiasco (the Maxwell School was closed for two or three weeks when asbestos was discovered in the ceiling tiles. Two faculty had to shave off beards to don the masks required to get back in to retrieve their class exams and grades).

Metro had the first laser printer in the school and the only fax machine, both of which were locked up after hours. All the little pink telephone message slips from those days are gone now; if an individual

doesn't have voicemail the phone message is sent in an email. There was no Eggers Hall, no SciTech Building, no Carrier Dome. The initial grumbling about where the Dome should have been built (the State Fair grounds, everyone thought, due to parking issues) has finally subsided. During my tenure there have been three SU chancellors, two Maxwell deans, and three CPR directors (does that show my age?).

I have been very fortunate in my time here at SU; I have had dinner with Garrison Keiler, seen Neil Diamond drop his pants at a concert in the Dome (the sound stopped working and he had to find a different way to entertain us), front row seats to hear Salman Rushdie and David McCullough speak, gotten a ride for my daughters and me from Chancellor Shaw to our car in his golf cart.

I've had the opportunity to travel to San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, DC, Pittsburgh, and many other places representing SU. I have worked with many wonderful people and still enjoy coming to work. When I started at SU I was the youngest person on the staff (I can't say that anymore). The one challenge I have yet to overcome is obtaining a parking spot in Quad 1. I still have time though to figure that out before retirement." And even though 26 years is an entire career for anyone, we hope that Peggy is here with us for many years to come, even if it's just to finally get a good parking space.



**Jesse Bricker** defended his dissertation, “Three Essays in Labor Economics,” in April. He has taken a job as an economist with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve. Jesse was also awarded the Maxwell Dean’s Doctoral Award for Economics this year. His paper, “Measurement Error in Earnings Data in the Health and Retirement Survey” (with Gary Engelhardt), is forthcoming in the *Journal of Economic and Social Measurement*.

**Qu Feng** defended his dissertation, “Testing for Cross-Sectional Dependence and Estimation of Change Points in Panel Data Models,” in July. He is teaching economics as an Assistant Professor at Nan-yang Technical University in Singapore.

**Katie Fitzpatrick** defended her dissertation, “Behavioral Responses to Public Policy Reforms,” in April. She was hired as a research social science analyst at the Economic Research Services of the USDA, in Washington DC. Katie was also awarded a Filene Research Institute Ph.D. Research Grant (2008-09), an FDIC, Center for Financial Research Fellow (2008-09), a Summer Economics Fellowship at the Brookings Institution (2008), and a Syracuse University Eggers Fellowship (2008-09).

**Julie Anna Golebiewski** defended her dissertation, “Three Essays on Education Finance and Policy,” in April. Shortly thereafter she began work as an associate staff analyst in the Office of Tax Policy at the NYC Department of Finance.

**Nadia Greenhalgh-Stanley** defended her dissertation in April. It was titled “Three Empirical Papers on Medicaid, Medicare, and Long-Term Care Insurance.” Nadia is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Kent State University.

**Jerry Kalarickal** defended his dissertation in January 2009. It was titled “Three Essays in Urban and Housing Economics.” He is currently working for USAID.

**Larry Miller** defended in June 2009. His dissertation is titled “Three Essays Concerning the Relationship between Public Budgeting Policies, Resource Equity, and Organizational Efficiency.” He has joined the faculty of the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University-Newark, as an assistant professor of public budgeting and financial management. Larry was awarded the New Scholar Award by the American Education Finance Association for his dissertation. He also published an article, “Examining the Nature and Magnitude of Intradistrict Resource Disparities in Mid-Size School Districts” (with **Ross Rubenstein**), in the Winter 2008 issue of *Public Budgeting and Finance*.

**Shawn Rohlin** defended his dissertation, “The Impact of Government Policies on the Location of New Business,” in April. He is now an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Akron.

**Jeff Thompson** defended his dissertation, “Differential Effects of Economic Policy Across Local Labor Markets,” in March. He is now teaching at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

In addition,

**Maria Brown** was inducted into the Syracuse University Chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society; served on the ESPO Student Paper/Poster Award Committee for the Gerontological Society of America; invited to and given a travel grant for the 2009 meeting of the MacArthur Foundation’s Research Network on an Aging Society – Intergenerational Issues in an Aging Society, in Miami, Florida; presented “Factors Affecting Cognitive Function in Later Life” at the 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS), as well as “Are Age-62 Retired Worker Beneficiaries at Risk?” (with **Eric Kingson**) and “Variation in Men’s Later-Life Cognitive Trajectories by Veteran Status” (with **Janet Wilmoth**

and **Andrew London**) at the 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA).

**Wendy Parker’s** paper (with **Andrew London**), “Incarceration and Living Arrangements: Findings from the National Health and Social Life Survey,” was published in the *Journal of Family Issues* 30(6): 787-812.

**Ryan Yeung** recently presented three papers: “The Cost of Race” at the American Education Finance Association annual conference in Nashville, “Does a Leviathan Change Its Skin?” at the National Tax Association in Philadelphia, and “What Is Paratransit Worth?” at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management in Los Angeles. Another article, “Does Health Insurance Reduce School Absenteeism?” is forthcoming in *Education and Urban Society*.



As some of our graduate students have graduated and others are diligently working on their Ph.Ds, we take a moment to welcome the new CPR graduate assistants joining us this fall: **Charles Alamo, Matt Baer, Christian Buerger, Qianqian Cao, Katie Francis, Andrew Friedson, Douglas Honma, Jing Li, Wael Mousa, Leslie Powell, Ryan Sullivan, and Can Zhao.**

## Alumni News

We look forward to including your *alumni* news in this newsletter. If there is something you would like to see appear in the next issue, please send it to Mary J. Santy at:

[mjsanty@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:mjsanty@maxwell.syr.edu)

## Diplomatic Pouch



Throughout the year, there are opportunities for members of our faculty or staff to travel abroad to study or teach.

Some turn these opportunities into annual events. This is true of **Andrew London** (SOC). For the second time in as many years, Professor London traveled to Madrid, Spain, to teach during our summer break. London taught a course entitled “Sexualities and Social Life in Spain” at SU Abroad’s Madrid Center from May 21 to July 4, 2009. This is the third time the course has been taught and his second time teaching it since he originated it two years ago.

This summer, London had 17 students from around the country enroll in the course. Most of the students attend Syracuse University, but about a third came from other colleges and universities, such

as University of Pittsburgh, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Muhlenberg College, and Loyola Marymount University. This course is offered through the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Studies Program and Minor at Syracuse University, which London co-directs with Margaret Himley.

In addition to introducing students to the burgeoning interdisciplinary field of LGBT studies, with a focus on Spain through the course readings and the projects in which they engaged, London also spent time meeting with academics working on LGBT-related research and teaching at Spanish universities. Such networking is part of the three-year Chancellor’s Leadership Project Award for Transnationalizing LGBT Studies, which was awarded this past year to the LGBT Studies Program.

On a personal level, London was thrilled to have the opportunity to go back to Madrid for another six-week stay, and he is looking forward to returning again in two years with another group of students.

Some might think that returning to the same place over and over again would be boring. But not for London, at least as far it concerns Madrid and Spain. “Madrid is an amazing city, and a great home base for exploring Spain and other parts of Europe. Being able to make friends, explore the rich histories of Spain in depth, revisit favorite paintings in the museums, go again to Barcelona, Sevilla, Granada, develop language skills, learn more about the cuisine, and engage deeply over multiple visits in some of what this incredible country has to offer is a huge privilege. I have learned so much during my time in Spain. I truly cannot wait to go back.”



### 2009 Syracuse Seminar on Aging Our Grandparents, Our Parents, Our Future Selves: Optimizing Function in Old Age

Thomas Gill, MD, Yale University



This event was held on:

Thursday, September 10, 2009/4:00 - 5:30 pm, Global Collaboratory, Maxwell School

This event was free and open to the public, with a reception following.

Dr. Gill is a Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology, and Investigative Medicine and the Humana Foundation Professor of Geriatric Medicine at Yale University. He is also Director of the Center on Disability and Disabling Disorders and Co-Director of the Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center at Yale.

The 2009 Syracuse Seminar on Aging was co-sponsored by the Finger Lakes Geriatric Education Center of Upstate New York, the Center for Policy Research, and the Syracuse University Gerontology Center. Three of the past lectures have been published online as CPR Policy Briefs and can be found at:

[http://www-cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/aging\\_ltc/](http://www-cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/aging_ltc/).

If you need more information, or to be added to the mailing list please contact

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