

The Institute of Public Policy continues to provide research, evaluation and training for Missouri's public and non-profit organizations. Some examples of our most recent work are highlighted in this newsletter.

Student Workers with an International Flair

Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs) work part-time at the Institute while attending MU full-time. They help out with a variety of projects, assisting with research, analysis, and other office functions. Currently, the Institute is fortunate enough to have three international students as GRAs.

Biserka Ivanovic is working on her Masters of Public Affairs with a focus on public policy and public management. She is from Kosovo and previously worked for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Harin Woo is a Master of Public Affairs student at the Truman School of Public Affairs, concentrating on public policy. She is from Seoul, South Korea, and has a Masters

of Public Policy degree from Seoul National University of Technology in South Korea. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Public Affairs.

Ying Huang is a Master of Public Affairs student at the Truman School of Public Affairs with a concentration on nonprofit management. She is from Chengdu, China and has a Law degree from the Southwest University of Political Science and Law in Chongqing, China.

All three have brought a great deal of insight and have helped all staff appreciate the value of their unique talents. The knowledge and experience that our international GRAs have gained by working at IPP will hopefully translate into great success when they move back to their home countries, or wherever they may land.



From left to right: Harin Woo, Ying Huang, Biserka Ivanovic

*Faculty Research
Fellows*

Dr. Jason A.
Grissom

Dr. Colleen
Hefflin

Dr. Lael
Kaiser

Dr. Jill
Nicholson-
Crotty

Dr. Sean
Nicholson-
Crotty

Dr. Lilliard E.
Richardson, Jr.

Boone County Issues Analysis

The City of Columbia, County of Boone (CCCB) and the Heart of Missouri United Way (HMUW) contracted the Institute of Public Policy to conduct a Boone County Issue Analysis as a part of a three year strategic social services funding framework. This issues analysis focuses on five social services funding categories in Boone County: Basic Needs and Emergency Services, Children and Family Services, Mental Health, Economic Opportunity and Independent Living.

Using secondary data, the analysis demonstrates need, inventories resources, prioritizes needs among the issue areas, and inventories evidence-based programs to address the needs. Under the strategic framework, data are reviewed by CCCB social services commission and the HMUW community impact teams to set priorities for targeted RFPs that address social issues and at-risk populations in the community. The first report in this series is expected in April 2011.

State Senator Schaefer speaks at Truman School of Public Affairs

Senator Kurt Schaefer (R., 19th District) spoke to faculty and students of the Political Science Department and the Truman School on January 21, shortly after the opening of the legislative session.

Senator Schaefer, elected in 2008, had just been appointed as the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He discussed at length the fiscal challenges facing the state and the role of the Senate Appropriations Committee in structuring the response to those challenges for the forthcoming fiscal year (July 2011 – June 30, 2012).

Pictured on right: Senator Kurt Schaefer



IPP has Redesigned Website



We've upgraded! Please visit the new and improved Institute of Public Policy site at: ipp.missouri.edu. You'll find information on current evaluation and research projects conducted by Institute staff as well as current policy briefs on a variety of issues facing Missouri. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact us at ipp@missouri.edu or (573) 882-1739.

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The Truman School of Public Affairs Social Innovation Project

The Truman School of Public Affairs has officially launched its Social Innovation Project (SIP). Through a workshop series and one on one mentoring this project provides the tools to help transform some of our most promising undergraduates into the next generation of leaders who will tackle society's most intractable social problems. Eric Greitens, Truman School Senior Fellow and director of The Mission Continues, and Bart Wechsler, Director of the Truman School, are leading the workshops.

Students from five participating colleges and universities (University of Missouri, Lincoln University, Columbia College, Stephens College, and Westminster College) were nominated by faculty and advisors to participate in the Social Innovation Workshop Series. More than 40 students attended the first workshop in which they were given a brief history of the social innovation movement and presented with information about current social innovations. Students were

then guided through an exercise to define the social issue they are most passionate about. In the second workshop, students were given the tools to outline a business plan for their social innovations and in the final workshop began to develop an action plan. The students will submit their action plans for follow-up in the Fall of 2011. Throughout the workshops, participants had an opportunity to network, receive peer feedback, and benefit from the technical support of the SIP team. The Social Innovation Project team looks forward seeing promising students rise to the challenge of fostering positive social change.

A social innovation workshop series will take place annually at the University of Missouri. Participants must initially be nominated by faculty or staff for participation then invited by the SIP team. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Pafford at 573-882-1739 or siproject@missouri.edu.



Dr. Bart Wechsler leads a discussion at the Social Innovation Workshop

Christian
Arment

Caren
Bacon

Emily
Johnson

Elizabeth
Pafford

Kenneth
Sevcik

Dr. David
Valentine

Dr. Bart
Wechsler

Department of Corrections Policy Brief

The criminal justice system is tasked with protecting the public from crime but Americans are conflicted about the best way to deter criminal behavior, protect the public and provide justice for victims. Some argue that the correctional system must rehabilitate offenders in ways that will equip them for a life without crime, thereby enabling them to reenter the community successfully. Others argue that these objectives can be met through punishment that is severe enough that it serves as a deterrent both for the offender and for others in the community. The US criminal justice system draws upon both of these philosophical strands but the deterrence model has been popular with policy-makers, especially in the last three decades. This is evidenced by “three-strikes” laws, as well as stiffer penalties for illegal drug use and other drug-related crimes. As a result, the U.S. incarceration rate increased by 338% from 1980 to 2008. The U.S. incarcerates about 750 inmates per 100,000 residents, a rate far greater than any other country. This incarceration rate comes with a very large price tag. States have increased their corrections budget by 303% in the last 20 years. This surpasses the budget increases in all other categories except Medicaid (492%).

A recent policy brief by the Institute of Public Policy examines the extent to which the U.S. has adopted incarceration as the answer to

criminal behavior and highlights research that demonstrates the minimal impact these policies have had on reducing crime. It also examines the unintended consequences – both budgetary and social – of contemporary incarceration policies. It concludes with a discussion of policy options that could enhance the effectiveness of the criminal justice system. This includes the use of alternative sentencing for many nonviolent offenders and the expanded use of evidence-based community reentry programs.

Reducing the number of people being sent to prison benefits more than just state coffers and public safety; reductions can also stabilize families and improve the communities that have been most affected by increased incarceration rates over the last 30 years. Public safety should always remain a priority, but as in all policy areas, there is a constant need to reexamine our approaches and determine the effectiveness of those policies as well as their social and financial consequences. To make the necessary improvements, policy-makers must be willing to challenge the misperceptions of the past.

To view the full policy brief visit http://ipp.missouri.edu/files/ipp/attachments/04-2011_is_incarceration_still_the_answer.pdf

About the Institute: The Institute of Public Policy is a research and public service entity committed to increasing knowledge and understanding of issues facing Missouri state and local governments.

The Institute sponsors forums, including symposia on transportation, education, and challenges in higher education as well as training programs for government officials and leaders of nonprofit agencies. It also conducts program evaluations, provides technical assistance and publishes policy briefs addressing critical issues facing Missouri. If you are interested in a particular topic or service, please contact us at 573-882-1739 or ipp@missouri.edu.