Students in the Policy Analysis and the Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies programs continue to contribute to innovative community-oriented projects.

In 2004-2005, returning Peace Corps volunteer Leah Kral has worked as a Duquesne Community Development Fellow in the planning and information systems department of the Pittsburgh Partnership, the City of Pittsburgh’s workforce development agency. Leah helps decide where to target the agency’s limited funds, which come from federal block grants. The projects help displaced workers and at-risk youth receive job training or placement. Leah also works to create job-skills training opportunities for participants in welfare-to-work programs, and recently facilitated a group meeting to assess proposals for youth employment programs in the city. She observes, “Sometimes there are really tough prioritization decisions when budgets are limited. For example, which program should receive more funding: job readiness programs that target disabled youth, or at-risk inner city youth?”

She notes, “I work in the City-County Building, alongside planners, budgetary specialists and data specialists.” Overall, Leah concludes, “I have learned so much from the Pittsburgh Partnership staff. I am grateful to both the professionals that I work with as well as Duquesne for providing me with a meaningful work experience while completing a master’s program.”

Anisa Shaydullina’s internship at the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance (PRA), a non-profit organization affiliated with the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, has involved marketing Southwestern Pennsylvania and supporting regional employers in creating jobs and increasing investment. Anisa, who comes to Duquesne from Russia, helps to create business incentives, prepares for international investment and trade missions, and helps create international business alliances. The Business Investments Team on which she participates carried out a trade mission to Denmark and Germany in March. Anisa arranged itineraries for the delegates of the mission and created briefing books, presentation slides, and presentation documents.

Kristy Krivickas participates in three educational/training programs at Goodwill Industries of Pittsburgh. She teaches adult students who are trying to obtain their GEDs, assists with the Customer Service Supply Chain training program that trains individuals about aspects of customer service, and teaches basic literacy skills to a group at Family Resources in East Liberty. Kristy also gives the agency new ideas about how to tutor the children who are Family Resources’ clients.

Monica Montoya works with the Development Division of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh. She researches the “brownfields” redevelopment areas, and compiles and analyzes data about the Uptown redevelopment project, and other proposed and existing redevelopment target areas throughout the city. Monica, who comes from Colombia, comments, “These projects have been a wonderful opportunity to get knowledge about the Public Policy field while being involved in Pittsburgh-area community redevelopment programs.”

Working and Learning in the Community

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Conference Features

Student Presentations, Guest Speaker

In April, the Policy Center hosts its second annual Graduate Student Conference, featuring presentations on public policy and on conflict resolution and peace studies by students from the Policy Center and from other graduate programs. This year’s conference is accompanied by a presentation by Dr. Amatai Etzioni, University Professor at George Washington University, Director of the Institute for Communitarian Policy Studies, past President of the American Sociological Association, and former adviser to President Jimmy Carter. Dr. Etzioni’s address, “Global Policy in the 21st Century,” will include his views of contemporary international issues and problems and will emphasize the challenges of achieving social justice. The talk reflects ideas from his recent autobiographical work, My Brother’s Keeper, about balancing academic research with a commitment to issues of practical social justice.
Dr. Mary Fran Antolini: Inspiring Scholar and Colleague

Members of the Policy Center rejoice with Dr. Mary Fran Antolini as she looks forward to retirement, even as they anticipate the void her departure will leave. Her selfless devotion to the goals, committees, and activities of the Policy Center since its inception, as well as her compassionate, competent, and generous mentoring of our students (and not a few faculty!) have enriched us beyond measure.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” These words from 2 Timothy 4:7 summarize Dr. Antolini’s assessment of her 36 years of service to the Duquesne University community. “If you can positively touch the lives of people,” she maintains, “then you have made a contribution.”

What does Dr. Antolini have to say about the contributions of the Policy Center? “We attract students with different academic, cultural, and national backgrounds. The international dimension has enhanced the Center and the faculty’s learning. We graduate students who become part of the community as scholars, policy makers, and implementers, and we give them a really strong background to do that.”

A teacher’s teacher, a wise and wonderful mentor and friend: Dr. Antolini, we honor you!

New Faculty Join Policy Center

Dr. Chikako Usui, who specializes in the areas of comparative social and public policies, sociology of aging, Japanese political economy, and gender studies, has joined the faculty of the Policy Center. She received her Ph. D. in sociology from Stanford University in 1988. Before coming to Duquesne University in the Fall 2004, Dr. Usui taught at Tulane University (1987-91), University of Missouri-St. Louis (1991-2004), University of Tokyo (1997-1998), Imperial University (London) (1999), and University of Zurich (2000). Dr. Usui is currently President of the Association of Japanese Business Studies, serves on the editorial board of Asian Business & Management, and is an editorial associate for Theory and Society. She is also on the board of Pennsylvania’s Japan-America Society. Her current research examines labor migration in East Asia (particularly China, Korea, and Japan). Her recent publications include Amakudari: The Hidden Fabric of Japan’s Economy (Cornell University Press) and articles in Asian Business & Management, Asian Perspective, and Asia Program Special Report. She is also at work on a chapter titled, “Sociology in Asia,” for the Handbook of 21st Century Sociology.

Dr. Norman Conti has joined the faculties of the Policy Center and the Sociology department, and is teaching courses in criminology and criminal justice policy. Dr. Conti comes to the policy center from West Virginia University, where he spent four years as a visiting assistant professor after receiving his doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh. His principal research area is occupational socialization in policing. He has published articles on police socialization and public safety in Policing and Society. He is currently at work on a study of neighborhoods and policing styles on Pittsburgh’s North Side.

Students Form New Graduate Organization

Students at the Graduate Center for Social and Public Policy came together in 2004 to create the Center’s first graduate student organization and to foster academic and social community. Calling themselves the “Policy Center Organization,” or PCO, the graduate students elected an executive board, have begun planning events such as socials and student workshops, and, with the election of two PCO members to the graduate-student council, have already taken a prominent role in the larger Duquesne graduate community. “We’ve really just started the ball rolling for this organization, but I think that in the years to come it will become extremely active on campus. I also think it’s important that we encourage all the students in our program to get to know each other better, and this organization has already started to do that,” says PCO President Heather Marie Dorsey. She is joined on the executive board by Gabrielle Rebottini (vice president), Kristy Krivickas (treasurer), and Kristine Liebner (secretary). All of the student officers have been busy writing a constitution for the organization, creating objectives, and polling other students about their ideas and goals. “The PCO has helped me feel a greater sense of fellowship with my classmates. I am glad to be involved,” Kristine Liebner commented. The PCO looks forward to spreading this feeling among all students at the Policy Center in the future.
Faculty Focus

Assistant Professor Clifford Bob presented two papers at the 2004 meeting of the American Political Science Association: “Contesting Transnationalism: Anti-NGO Mobilization and World Politics” and “From Repression to Negotiation: The Dynamics of Mexican State Responses to the 1994 Zapatista Rebellion.” Dr. Bob also presented a paper entitled “Dynamics of Power in Global Civil Society” at the International Studies Association annual meeting.

Professor Douglas Harper’s recent publications include “Wednesday-Night Bowling: Cultures of a Rural Working Class,” in Imagining the Social Landscape (Routledge), edited by Caroline Knowles and Paul Sweetman; and an entry on “Visual Methods” in The Sage Encyclopedia of Social Science Research Methods. Dr. Harper also gave several university lectures on visual sociology and documentary work.

Associate professor Joseph Yenerall was the invited speaker at the annual induction banquet of Pi Gamma Mu, National Honorary Social Science Society, at California University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Yenerall’s address was entitled “Policy Implications of the Surge in Rural Suicide Rates in the U.S.” In his presentation, Yenerall reviewed the increases in suicide rates, particularly in western states, during the past 50 years. Using Census data, Dr. Yenerall compared suicide rates in rural and urban counties of various states during the 1990s and early 21st century. He then outlined needed policy initiatives in the areas of mental health and education. Dr. Yenerall also gave a workshop for undergraduate sociology majors at California University on “The Application of Durkheimian Theory to the Study of Recent Developments in Suicide Rates in the U.S.”

Assistant Professor Lew Irwin, a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, was ordered to active duty in October 2004 and has assumed responsibility for training Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers before their deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. Dr. Irwin’s main mission has been overseeing a training base that tries to replicate what deploying soldiers will experience in Iraqi and Afghan battle zones, including simulated nightly mortar attacks, interactions with hostile and friendly Iraqi citizens (using actual Iraqi citizens brought over for training purposes), how to subsist in the field, and adjusting to the pace, or “battle rhythm,” of life in a combat zone. His battalion has so far helped train more than 5,000 Reserve and National Guard Soldiers. About 40 percent of U.S. soldiers currently in Iraq come from the Reserves and National Guard.

Professor Richard Colignon, along with Dr. Chikako Usui, published “Continuity and Change in Paths to Political Office: Ex-Bureaucrats and Hereditary Politicians in Japan” in the journal Asian Business and Management. Dr. Colignon also presented papers on “Two Paths to High Political Office” at the American Sociological Association’s annual meeting, and, with Dr. Usui, on “Japan’s Aging Problem: Is Immigration a Cure?” at the Association of Japanese Business Studies annual meeting in Stockholm.

Center Sponsors Talks on Sweatshops and on U.S.–Vietnam Relations

In October, the Policy Center co-sponsored a presentation on “Revealing the Human Face Behind the Global Economy.” The featured presenters, members of the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity (BCSW), spoke about their fight for a labor union and humane working conditions. Two of the speakers, who work for Wal-Mart factories in Bangladesh, described, through a translator, how the nearly 1.8 million Bangladeshi women textile workers have struggled for paid maternity leave, fairer wages, and economic development for their communities. Michelle Gaffey of the Pittsburgh Anti-Sweatshop Community Alliance introduced the group.

The Vietnam War’s effects on the culture, politics and economy of Vietnam, and on current U.S.-Vietnam relations were the subject of a presentation by Professor Kenneth Herrmann, Director of the State University of New York (SUNY)-Brockport’s Vietnam Program, and a Vietnam-era veteran. Dr. Herrmann’s overview provided a context for introducing the SUNY-Brockport program of study in Vietnam, which is now available for Duquesne University students. The program offers a one-semester, 15 credit course of study in DaNang. Duquesne’s Office of International Programs and the Center for Qualitative and Interpretive Research (CIQR) co-sponsored the event with the Policy Center.

Former State Treasurer Barbara Hafer Addresses Year-End Celebration

The year-end celebration is a chance to honor Policy Center students as they receive their certificates. This year, Barbara Hafer, Pennsylvania’s state treasurer from 1997-2004, addresses the gathering. This is a homecoming of sorts for Hafer, who was an original member of the Policy Center’s Board. The Center will present Hafer with an Honorary Service Award for her contributions during the founding of the Policy Center in 1988-89. She will give a short talk outlining the most significant public policy issues facing Pennsylvania.

Hafer earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Duquesne and began her professional life as a public health nurse and health care administrator. Concern with victims’ rights led Hafer to found the Allegheny County Center for Victims of Violent Crime in 1973. She continues to serve on the boards of organizations concerned with public health issues and with violence against women. She has worked on issues of corporate governance and reform, and on a committee to monitor the progress of Swiss banks in returning deposits to Holocaust victims and their heirs.
Dr. Norma Feinberg Computer Lab Dedicated

In March, Policy Center faculty, students, and alumni joined with the family of founding member Dr. Norma Feinberg to celebrate the naming of the Center’s computer laboratory in her memory. Dr. Feinberg, along with Drs. Eleanor Fails, Kent Moors, Joseph Yenerall, and then-Provost Michael Weber, established the Policy Center in 1987. From 1992 until her retirement in 1995, Dr. Feinberg served as Director of the Center. The computer laboratory was opened in 1989 with the assistance of a grant from Westinghouse Electric.

At the ceremony, Dr. Richard Calignon noted that “much of what the Center and the computer laboratory are today is because of Dr. Feinberg’s tireless contributions.” As the door plaque was unveiled, Dean Francesco Cesareo commented to those gathered, that Dr. Feinberg’s “spirit will continue to give life to this Center.”

Prof. McIntyre Wins Ethics Award

Dr. Moni McIntyre received the University’s Beard Award for Leadership in Ethics. In addition to her professorship, Dr. McIntyre is priest-in-charge at The Church of the Holy Cross (Episcopal) in Homewood and serves as a spiritual advisor to inmates in area prisons. In that position, she has made finding transportation for needy family members who wish to visit prisoners a top priority. Dr. McIntyre also opens her church for regional ecumenical Peace Day services and conducts monthly worship at an alternative school in the Bloomfield section of Pittsburgh.

Dr. McIntyre’s commitment to ethical leadership is also exemplified by her military service. As a Captain in the Naval Reserve, she gives monthly presentations on ethics and serves as Ethics Consultant to the Navy Surgeon General. In this capacity she is the Navy’s representative on the Department of Defense Ethics Committee and teaches health care ethics to military personnel around the world.

Her teaching at the Policy Center includes courses on conflict resolution and on religion and ethics. She has also been a volunteer ethics instructor for older adults at Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. McIntyre also has provided ethics courses at a retirement village, and presented many talks on ethics-related issues to community groups.

Established by Eugene P. Beard, the annual Beard awards are given to one faculty member and one graduating student whose actions exemplify ethical leadership in their service to the community as well as to the University.

Kudos to our Talented Staff Members

Policy Center master’s-degree student Gabrielle Rebottini, who is also a valued assistant in the program’s office, continued to follow her artistic muse with performances in the musical Jesus Christ Superstar. This is the third time she has played Mary Magdalene (the first time in Superstar, and twice before in Godspell), but she insists that she was not type-cast for the part. Most recently she portrayed Lily in The Secret Garden at Duquesne and at Comtra Theater in Cranberry. “I always seem to come back to musical theater,” she notes. “After a day of figures and research, it’s delightful to relax with a song.”