

# GCI *Monthly*

A Publication of the **Great Cities Institute** at the University of Illinois at Chicago



Great Cities Institute / 412 S. Peoria Street, Suite 400 / Chicago, IL 60607 / 312.996.8700

May 2010 Issue

## In This Issue

[Covering the City Event](#)

[Community Engagement](#)

[Engaged Research](#)

[Media Attention / Publications](#)

[Congrats to our Graduates](#)

## Covering the City *Urban Reporting and Researching in the New Information Environment*



Thursday, June 3rd 2010

9-11:30am  
UIC Student Center East  
Cardinal Room  
750 South Halsted Street

The channels used by researchers to gather information about cities have changed dramatically over the last

Dear Colleagues and Friends of GCI,  
The signature piece of UIC's Great Cities Commitment is the Great Cities Institute, a research center that was founded for the purpose of supporting "institutional engagement in urban research through the creation, dissemination, and application of interdisciplinary knowledge that will improve the quality of life in metropolitan



Chicago and other urban areas. GCI aims to be a unique and responsive center of urban research that will help UIC achieve its larger goal of being the premier public urban research university." Founded in 1995, GCI has operated with only two directors, the first of whom was Wim Wiewel. The second director of GCI, David Perry, has served in the position for more than 11 years and has guided its growth and influence across the campus, region, state and nation. In June, David will return to the faculty and resume his research and teaching as a full-time Professor of Urban Planning and Policy. Before resuming his teaching responsibilities in UPP, David will be taking a sabbatical in AY2011 and also maintaining his position as Associate Chancellor for the Great Cities Commitment.

Provost R. Michael Tanner requested that I assume the

decade. Local-issue blogs now provide access to public records that researchers once had to request from government agencies. Social networking sites and news aggregators publish an endless stream of daily observations by citizen journalists.

This exhilarating array of data sources and outlets creates new possibilities for both urban reporting and civic engagement. However, it also poses many challenges - how accurate, reliable, or biased is the information circulating through these channels? How deep is the coverage of the neighborhoods and issues often ignored by the mainstream press? Which information is less consistently available?

Join us for a morning of expert commentary and frank discussion of the effects of new media on the every day practices of scholars and journalists covering the city.

[Click here](#) to view event flyer.



Professional Education's  
*Certificate in Nonprofit  
Management Program*



position of Interim Director while the GCI and its vast network of supporters, beneficiaries, and friends engage in a conversation about the future direction of GCI. And as the process of thinking through the future direction of GCI gets underway, I invite your active involvement.

As a Great Cities Fellow since 2001 in my role as coeditor of *Urban Affairs Review*, I have been an active participant in and an avid supporter of the GCI....as I suspect are you. Whether you were involved as a Great Cities Scholar, a participant in the annual Great Cities Winter Forum (until 2005 when it was ended due to declining state budgetary support), a member of the many panels and workshops conducted by the GCI, or an observer from afar of the variety of GCI activities, you have benefited from the campus' and the state's investment in the Great Cities Initiative. You have benefited from exposure to the production and exchange of ideas. You have reaped the benefits of being involved in high impact, engaged and interdisciplinary research-- the hallmarks of the Great Cities Institute. In short, you have benefited from the visionary leadership of David Perry. GCI and UIC are a better place for urban, engaged, interdisciplinary research because of his belief in the outstanding intellectual work of the institute, his building the ever-expanding network of connections to manifold communities, his tireless advocacy for the cities of the world, and his passion for the mission of the Great Cities Institute. It would not be an exaggeration to note that GCI would not be where it is today without David Perry at the helm. He has left an indelible mark on its work, its value to the various communities, its future.

It is now to the future that we turn our attention. I have asked Rachel Weber, the Associate Director for Research and Program Development, to begin planning an exercise in strategic thinking by convening meetings with several of the critical stakeholders of GCI, including the GCI staff, former Great Cities Scholars, the Administrative Council of GCI, and external observers and interested parties. At the same time, the full panoply of programs, workshops, and activities will continue as always.

So, please stay tuned to the periodic updates to the events of the Great Cities Institute and join in the excitement of UIC's center for engaged, interdisciplinary



### Calendar of Events



and high impact research, the Great Cities Institute. Feedback is certainly welcomed and appreciated. I look forward to working with you to enhance UIC's Great Cities Commitment as embodied in the Great Cities Institute. Please let me know your concerns, thoughts, ideas by contacting me at MAPagano@uic.edu. In the meantime, be sure to congratulate David on all of his accomplishments as Director. He would be certainly embarrassed by all the attention, but also deeply flattered. We owe him a great deal.

With appreciation,

Michael A. Pagano  
Great Cities Fellow, Coeditor of Urban Affairs Review  
Dean, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs  
Professor of Public Administration

## Community Engagement

### *UICNI Hosts Youth Summit*

The UIC Neighborhoods Initiative (UICNI) partnered with the Brighton Park Neighborhood Council (BPNC) and the Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement to host a youth violence prevention summit for school age youth who attend schools in the Brighton Park Chicago communities. The summit will include topics focused on civic engagement, gang violence, intimate partner violence, self-harm and suicide, substance abuse, and the link between abuse of animals and humans. For more information on this press release, click [here](#).



### *IRN Grant Writing Workshop*

## PODCASTS



Have you wanted to attend a GCI lecture but were unable to fit it into your schedule? You're in luck! We convert all of our presentations into Podcasts for your listening pleasure. Just visit our [website](#) for a list of past lectures available on podcast.

### Quick Links...

[Our Website](#)

[About Us](#)

[What We Do](#)

[Giving To GCI](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Illinois ResourceNet (IRN) technical assistance providers Jay Readey and Deborah Minor-Harvey presented at the Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration



earlier this month at the Dominican University in River Forest, IL. Jay Readey's presentation covered topics relating to the federal grant writing process and Deborah Minor-Harvey conveyed concepts important in developing strong collaboratives and partnerships. More information on the conference can be found [here](#).

### **Montreal Students Visit GCI**

Fifteen students and two professors from the Urban Studies Program at the Urbanization, Culture and Society (UCS) Center, part of the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique (INRS) in Montreal, visited GCI during their tour of Chicago in early May. David Perry, Michael Pagano, Rachel Weber, Karen Mossberger, and the Montreal group discussed GCI activities, a variety of local and regional urban planning practices, and the students' unique perceptions and interpretations of their experiences in Chicago. The students study a variety of subdisciplines within urban studies, represented by the diversity of their questions about Chicago tourism, culture, housing, engaged research, place-based institutions, the role of the university, and more. We look forward to staying connected with our friends from USC in the future.

### **Engaged Research**

James J. Stukel Professor Michele Kelley and respondent Professor José E. López, Executive Director of the Juan Antonio Corretjer Puerto Rican Cultural Center in Chicago, discussed an aspect of



collaborative research that is not often studied or written about yet is at the core of the Great Cities Institute emphasis on engaged research; specifically, Kelley and Lopez explored the roles and activities of researchers in

communities that transcend boundaries of "research," and the meaning of these behaviors.

In their presentation "The Significance of Extra Researcher Roles and Commitment in Engaged Scholarship" Kelley and Lopez reflected on their work over the past decade and referred to current national scholarship investigating the roles of researchers in collaborative research. Outcomes of Community Based Participatory Research were discussed as well as how researchers can contribute to community development as an outcome that transcends individual health behavior change and contributes to sustainability of interventions and local programs. Furthermore, researchers can access nuanced local knowledge in extended, engaged roles and therefore apply this knowledge to making interventions more acceptable and meaningful. Opportunities for mutual learning and co-creation of knowledge are enhanced when researchers make themselves more available to learn and when they witness and participate in activities related to everyday life in communities of interest.

For more information on this work and a podcast of the event , click [here](#).

---

### **Media Attention and Publications**

GCI Fellow Michael Pagano, Dean of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, has recently had two chapters published in books regarding city property taxes.



### **The Property Tax and Local Autonomy**

*Edited By: Michael Bell, David Brunori, and Joan Youngman*

This new release examines the consequences of a declining property tax base and the ability of local governments to fulfill the functions preferred by local residents, whether schools, parks, or public works. Michael Pagano co-authored the chapter "States and the Fiscal Policy Space of Cities," with Christopher Hoene. For more information on this publication click [here](#).

## **Challenging the Conventional Wisdom on the Property Tax**

*Edited by Roy Bahl, Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, and Joan Youngman*

This book suggests ways to achieve greater voter confidence and more robust property tax systems in both developed and developing countries. Michael Pagano and Benoy Jacob co-authored the chapter "Framing the Political Economy of Property Taxation and Land Taxation." For more information on this publication click [here](#).

---

Richard R. John, a 2004-2005 GCI Scholar, has recently completed his book *Network Nation: Inventing American Telecommunications*, published by the Belknap Press of Harvard University Press in 2010. As a GCI Faculty Scholar, John's proposal titled "Telecommunications in the Industrial City" earned him time and support to work on this burgeoning project at GCI. His research that began several years ago has now culminated in this captivating account of the political economy of development and implementation of new telecommunication technologies.

---



### **GCI Congratulates Graduate/Research Assistants**

GCI would like to congratulate the accomplishments of our student graduate assistants graduating this semester. Meng Sun and Ratoola Kundu successfully defended their dissertations, respectively titled "The Production of Art

Districts and Urban Transformation in Beijing" and "Examining Gray Spaces of Urban Development: The Role of 'Formal-Informal Nexuses' in the Contested Production of Peri-Urban Kolkata, Rajarhat" earlier this month. Additionally, three of our other research assistants, Caitlyn Costello, Pritesh Karia, and Rinrada "Bo" Thongrubkaew, completed their corresponding programs. Congratulations!

