

March 2009

Great Cities Institute Newsletter



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Dear Friend,

Welcome to our new version of the Great Cities Institute Newsletter (formerly known as the GCI Monthly). As you know, at the Great Cities Institute we seek to address the leading issues of cities through the very best urban scholarship. One way we do this is to provide you, our friends, colleagues and partners, with up to date information on GCI and our activities. We hope you will enjoy the new Newsletter and more importantly see it as an invitation to join us at GCI for our seminars and workshops, our conferences and meetings, and our engaged research. You are every bit a part of who we are and how we seek to build new useful knowledge about the great cities of the world, beginning with Chicago.

Please take a moment to read about what we are up to and put as many of the upcoming events here at GCI on your own calendar as you can. If you have ideas, projects or criticisms -- let us know. Or if you have a free moment and would like to discuss them with us, come on by -- the coffee pot is on and we would love to visit with you. In particular, let us know what you think of our new Monthly and our refreshed website, complete with links to all our exciting programs and projects.

All the best,

-David

David C. Perry
Director



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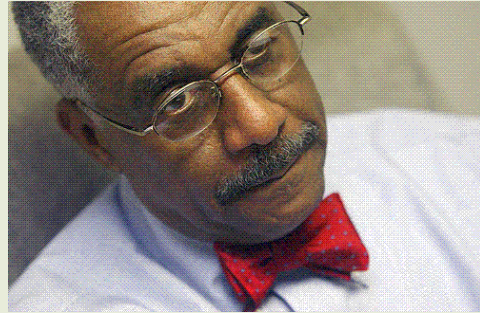
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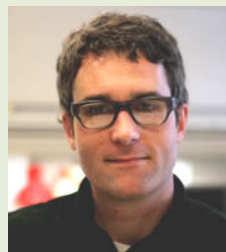


GCI's Vernon D. Jarrett Senior Fellow Program presents: Rev. Dr. Leon D. Finney, Jr.

Vernon D. Jarrett 2008-2009 Great Cities Senior Fellow James Compton's program on the state of the African American Male presented Rev. Dr. Leon D. Finney, Jr. who discussed the *'Challenges for the African American Male in the 21st Century'* on Thursday, March 12 at 3:00 p.m. at GCI.



Dr. Finney has fostered the revitalization of densely populated urban centers of large cities all over America. As chairman of the Woodlawn Organization and president of the Woodlawn Community Development Corporation, he currently oversees the planning and development of over \$150 million in real estate projects, both new construction and rehabilitation throughout the Woodlawn community of Chicago. As president of Lincoln South Central Real Estate, Dr. Finney has developed over \$27.5 million in real estate projects. Dr. Finney's knowledge of real estate development, community economic development, and planning is both profound and timely.



Race & the Subprime Mortgage Market

Philip Ashton, current GCI Faculty Scholar and Assistant Professor in the UIC Department of Urban Planning and Policy presented a lecture titled *Differential Citizenship in the Subprime Mortgage*

Market.

The lecture looked at the historical progression of the racialization of risk and describes the four premises of Mr. Ashton's research framework. He also explored the federal regulatory structures and roles for risk mitigation and risk intensification and their relationship to the institutionalization of sub-prime mortgage lending. The lecture finished with Professor Ashton's interpretation of the high significance of these trends in terms of the differential citizenship that ensues from minorities' higher exposure to risk and constrained claim's making capability. The relationships were examined in connection to the current financial crisis.

The full lecture was captured and can be heard and viewed through a flash presentation on the GCI website: [See Lecture](#)

GCI Faculty Scholar News

GCI is proud of our Faculty Scholars. The following is exciting news about some of the great things they are up to.

Eric (Rico) Gutstein, a part GCI Faculty Scholar, is featured in a Huffington Post article. The article also publishes an editorial by his students, which was written following a math lesson, which investigated social reality using mathematics: [see article](#)

Irma Olmedo, a 2003 GCI Faculty Scholar recently had an article published in the Journal of Latinos and Education. The article features the research she did under during her GCI Faculty Scholar year.

Olivia Gude, a 2006 GCI Faculty Scholar has been named recipient of the 2009 Viktor Lowenfeld Award by the National Art Education Association. Established in 1960 by friends and former students of Viktor Lowenfeld, the Lowenfeld Award honors an individual who over the years has made significant contributions to art education. Professor Gude will present the 2009 Lowenfeld Lecture at the National Art Education Association Conference in Minneapolis.

Professor Gude was a Great Cities Scholar in 2006, leading a community-based public art project at the refurbished public housing site, the Hilliard Apartments. Also serving as a Great Cities Scholar in 2001, Professor Gude began the Contemporary Community Curriculum Initiative and founded the Spiral Art Education website, resources for public school teachers to develop curriculum through which students engage contemporary art practices and investigate significant issues in their lives.

Great Cities Institute brings the metropolitan commitment of the University of Illinois at Chicago - known as the Great Cities Commitment - to first-class research in and for the "great cities" of the world - with a particular emphasis on Chicago.

**University of Illinois at Chicago – Great Cities Institute
College of Urban Planning & Public Affairs**