

# Humphrey Institute *News*

EVENTS AND PEOPLE AT THE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

May/June 2006

## Capstone workshops crown students' coursework

*Each year, Humphrey Institute instructors select research projects in partnership with local public and nonprofit organizations to be completed by small teams of Humphrey Institute students. Known as capstone workshops, these courses link the skills and services of second-year graduate students with the real-world needs of clients.*

*This past spring, students were engaged in public policy and planning issues that required research, analysis, and innovative thinking. Below are a few examples of the projects on which students worked.*

### **“Engaging the Public in Revitalization” led by Anne Carroll (MP '79), Carroll, Franck & Associates**

Students in this capstone course worked with the Hamline Midway Coalition (a local district council) to engage local business leaders and residents in a neighborhood revitalization effort. Their goal was to guide the community through a planning process for economic development along the Snelling Avenue corridor that runs through the Hamline–Midway neighborhood. Students analyzed stakeholder needs and synthesized development plans from the last 10 years. They worked with the council board and neighbors to develop a community vision, along with an action plan and recommendations. They presented their work to the Hamline Midway Coalition and the community to positive reactions.

### **“Metropolitan Design Workshop” led by Professor Ann Forsyth, director of the University's Metropolitan Design Center**

The capstone team was charged with preparing a new precinct plan—a development plan for a particular entity that considers physical, social, and economic factors—for the University's Academic Health Center (AHC), which includes the University's Medical School and the schools of nursing, dentistry, and public health, as well as allied health and other academic and research programs. Students were given the opportunity to contribute their ideas on such questions as: Should the research, clinical, and teaching facilities be together or separate? What design elements will produce public spaces that provide a healthy and healing environment? How will AHC link to each of the University's campuses and connect with surrounding neighborhoods? The students presented their final report to the

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## Humphrey Institute News

Published periodically by  
the Hubert H. Humphrey  
Institute of Public Affairs  
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The Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, the University of Minnesota's professional school of public affairs, prepares leaders for public work and designs institutions of governance that accomplish public purposes. The institute offers four graduate degree programs and is home to several research/outreach centers and programs.

While hospitable to a wide range of viewpoints, the Humphrey Institute does not take positions on issues.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

 Hubert H. Humphrey  
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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

### **CAPSTONE**, *continued from page 1*

AHC task force, and their ideas were well received.

#### **“Land Use Planning” led by Senior Fellow Emerita Barbara Lukermann**

Students in this capstone workshop served as consultants to community planners and economic developers in Minneapolis and Richfield who are working to create “a vision for managing change” for two major city arteries. In Minneapolis, students analyzed the city’s strategic plan for the Hennepin Avenue corridor from Franklin Avenue to Uptown. The Richfield project focused on Penn Avenue from the Crosstown (Highway 62) to 68th Street. In each case, capstone students evaluated the corridors and developed recommendations to meet the goals of the cities and the priorities of the surrounding neighborhoods, as well as upgrade the appearance and functionality of the roadways. Students researched the local communities, reviewed the goals set by the city planners, and met with neighborhood groups to gain their input. Each team presented proposals to city officials and community members, with positive responses.

#### **“Economic and Community Development” led by Senior Fellow Lee W. Munnich, Jr., director of the State and Local Policy Program, and Kris Nelson, program director with the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs**

The Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development asked students to analyze the location mismatch of jobs, housing, and transportation in the Twin Cities area. For example, low-wage jobs may be located many miles from public transportation and affordable housing, making it difficult for those without cars to get to work, or low-income housing may be more available in urban areas where

other living expenses are higher. The capstone team analyzed current and future conditions in the metropolitan area and developed a report that lays out a regional vision and action plan to better align employment, housing, and transportation options. Students had to consider political implications and personal lifestyle choices, as well as practical planning issues, as they crafted their report.

#### **“Investigating Innovation in Rural Minnesota Public Schools” led by Senior Fellow Joe Nathan, director of the Center for School Change**

Like most rural communities throughout the United States, many of Minnesota’s rural school districts are rapidly losing students and funding. The Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA), an advocacy group that represents more than 150 rural schools, asked Humphrey Institute students to examine current education trends and offer recommendations for increasing educational opportunities in rural schools. Specifically, students were asked to determine the importance of distance learning and the use of technology in rural areas. They surveyed several MREA member schools and compared the results to a national survey on similar issues. The students’ final report gave MREA a comprehensive overview of what its member schools offer, how those schools compare with the national scene, and what offerings rural schools should provide to better prepare their students.

#### **“Nonprofit–Government Relationships” led by Associate Professor Jodi Sandfort**

The director of research for Minnesota’s Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) asked a student team to analyze local use of federal Medicaid funds. Students put together a comprehensive analysis of how federal funds are used to provide health and social services and made recommendations to

**CAPSTONE**, *continued on page 3*

**CAPSTONE**, *continued from page 2*

state and local nonprofit agencies on how to use Medicaid more effectively. CDF was very pleased with the professionalism of the report and the students' insights into the Medicaid program. Not only did CDF use the analysis to

inform its work, but the organization also used the research to build bridges with state government staff members.

## Personal and professional notes

On May 8, Dean **J. Brian Atwood** testified in front of the Commission on Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People Around the Globe or HELP Commission. The members of the HELP Commission examine the delivery of U.S. development and humanitarian assistance around the world. Atwood offered his perspective on the status of foreign assistance and aspects of U.S. aid programs that could be improved, based on his long experience in the field.

Professor **John Bryson** led a two-day workshop on strategic planning for senior Polish civil servants in Mikolijke, Poland, March 17–18. He also offered a workshop on strategy mapping to the Minnesota Evaluation Studies Institute on March 23. In April, Bryson presented a paper (with five coauthors) on “Integrating Modes of Strategic Thinking into Public Strategic Management” at the Tenth International Research Symposium on Public Management in Glasgow, Scotland.

Associate Professor **Barbara Crosby** led a session on “Evaluating Results and Planning for the Future” in April as part of the Advocacy Leadership in Vital Aging certificate program in the University's College of Continuing Education. Crosby spoke on “Tackling Public Problems for the Common Good in a Shared-power World” at the March 27 meeting of the Minneapolis branch of the American Association of University Women. Crosby described leaders—from students protesting rigged elections in Belarus to Minnesotans in the vital aging movement—who help diverse groups tackle public problems in ways that benefit society.

On May 10, Professor **Nancy Eustis** participated in a panel discussion inspired by the Minnesota Opera's American premiere of *Joseph Merrick, the Elephant Man*. The opera tells the real-life story of Joseph Merrick, who in the 1880s became a famous charity case—and ultimately a celebrity—while his debilitating condition stumped his doctors. Eustis and other panelists explored the interaction of policy, public perception, and people with disabling diseases.

Professor **Katherine Fennelly** has been selected as the 2006–07 holder of the Fesler-Lampert Chair in Urban and Regional Affairs. This endowed chair was established in 1999 through the generosity and vision of David and Elizabeth Fesler. Fennelly will use the research funds for her continued study of support groups in suburban and rural Minnesota



*Katherine Fennelly*

that help integrate immigrants into local communities.

In May, Fennelly conducted two sessions on immigration with reporters and staff at the *Star Tribune* newspaper. According to Fennelly, among the ways that the media could improve coverage of immigrant issues is to help the public put immigration into historical perspective and by portraying new Americans in their roles as parents, employees, business owners, and individuals who contribute to the community.

In June, after 20 years at the Humphrey Institute, **Marsha Freeman** and the **International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP)** program will move to the Human Rights Center at the Law School. IWRAP has become internationally recognized for both technical expertise and facilitating access to United Nations human rights information and processes.

Professor **Lawrence R. Jacobs** kicked off the 2006 Health Law Institute on June 8 by leading a panel discussion on consumerism and the future of health care. The topics for discussion included the adequacy of information available to consumers to make informed choices regarding price and quality; the impact of consumer choice models on the evolution of managed care organiza-

**NOTES**, continued from page 3

tions; and the consequences of declining employer health insurance and worsening financial capacity of many working individuals to afford genuine choice in health plans and medical services.

Professor **Kenneth H. Keller** will take a two-year leave of absence effective August 1 to serve as director of The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Bologna Center. Keller will continue to be affiliated with the Humphrey Institute through his work with the **Center for Science, Technology, and Public Policy**.

Professor **Sally J. Kenney** conducted a workshop at the Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting in Chicago on her case studies on women and public policy project.

**Jacques Koppel** has joined the **Center for Science, Technology, and Public Policy** as a research fellow. Koppel holds a bachelor's degree in political science and history from New York University and a master of science degree in international history from the London School of Economics. He is president of the Koppel Group, LLC, a strategic management services company specializing in technology and economic competitiveness issues.

In March, Assistant Professor **Kevin Krizek** participated in an invitation-only roundtable on transportation, economic growth, and the environment sponsored by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. His article on the proximity to trails and retail and the effects on urban cycling and walking, co-authored with Pamela Jo Johnson, appeared in the winter 2006 issue of the *Journal of the American Planning Association*.

Director of Development **Lars Leafblad** received a 2006 President's Student Leadership and Service Award from the University at a May 1 ceremony. Leafblad, who recently completed the part-time MBA program at the Carlson School of Management, was recognized for his leadership in founding Common Grounds, a student organization that brings together graduate students from the Humphrey Institute, the Carlson School, and the Law School to explore the intersections of policy, business, and law.

Professor **Ann Markusen** has been elected a fellow of the Regional Science Association International. She will be recognized at the association's annual meeting in Toronto in November.

**James Matheson** joined the Humphrey Institute office of development on May 15 as assistant director of development. Matheson comes to the Institute from the Amherst

H. Wilder Foundation, where he led the fundraising campaign for the supportive housing and employment services division. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Gustavus Adolphus College and has received fundraising and fund development certification from the University of St. Thomas. In his free time, Matheson is the associate director of the Hardcover Theatre.

Governor Tim Pawlenty recently announced the appointment of Senior Fellow **Joe Nathan**, director of the **Center for School Change**, to the board of directors of the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation (MELF). MELF was established in 2005 to identify cost-effective ways to ensure that children under five years of age from low-income or challenged families are ready for success in school. Nathan is one of 11 appointees to the organization's board of directors.

Concordia University in St. Paul awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters to **Kwame McDonald**, the associate director of the St. Paul High School Reform Project in the **Center for School Change**, at Concordia's commencement exercises on May 13. McDonald was honored for his advocacy for educational opportunities for students who may lack confidence or access.

Associate Professor **Jodi Sandfort** gave a talk on "How Grantmaker Strategy Effects Nonprofit Grantee Performance" at the Grantmakers for Effective Organizations conference. She discussed the importance of philanthropic investors analyzing public sector investments and keeping abreast of changes in public policy.



*Carissa Schively*

Assistant Professor **Carissa Schively** and **Frank Douma**, assistant program director for the **State and Local Policy Program**, presented research on planning for multimodal transportation corridors at the American Planning Association Conference on April 24. Mark Garner from the City of Minneapolis and Larry Blackstad from Hennepin County joined them to discuss local examples of how this research has influenced their work.

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On February 15, Schively and Assistant Professor **Elizabeth Wilson** spoke at the Minnesota Air, Water, and Waste Environmental Conference. Schively discussed risk perception and communication in her presentation on “Public Perceptions of Risks from Air Toxics.” Wilson’s presentation, “Energy in a Carbon Constrained World,” focused on geologic carbon sequestration.

*Elizabeth Wilson*

Wilson gave a talk on regulatory and liability issues at a March 30 Department of Energy Wye Workshop on Strategic Initiatives for Coal and Power. She also spoke at the department’s Fifth Annual Conference on Carbon Capture and Sequestration, May 8 to 11. Her paper, “Squaring the Long View: Regulatory and Geological Considerations for Establishing Future Research Agendas for Carbon Capture and Sequestration,” was co-authored by Julio Friedmann from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.



*Public Affairs Student Association President David Uejio was one of 157 graduates to receive degrees at the Institute’s May 14 commencement exercises as the faculty looked on. (Photo by Christopher Mitchell.)*

*Dean J. Brian Atwood (left) congratulated James A. Johnson on receiving an honorary doctorate at the Institute’s May 14 commencement ceremony. Johnson’s keynote address and other commencement speeches can be found at [www.hhh.umn.edu](http://www.hhh.umn.edu). (Photo by Christopher Mitchell.)*



## Inaugural Advisory Council Tuition Scholarship recipients honored guests at public leadership awards dinner

In 2003, Dean J. Brian Atwood established the Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Awards to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Institute by honoring individuals, organizations, or projects that contribute to the common good through public leadership and service. Each year at an awards dinner, recipients who embody Humphrey’s integrity and passion for serving the public good are recognized.

To support future leaders, the gala dinner also is a scholarship fundraiser. Proceeds from the event benefit a student scholarship initiative of the Humphrey Institute Advisory Council. Since its inception, the awards event has raised more than \$100,000 for student scholarships. Below are profiles of the first four recipients of the Advisory Council Tuition Scholarships who were honored at the May 30 Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Awards dinner.

*Stephanie Devitt*

### Stephanie Devitt, first-year Master of Public Policy student

Born and raised on a farm just south of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Stephanie Devitt earned a B.S. in sociology from the University of Minnesota. Following graduation, she returned to South Dakota to work in Senator Tom Daschle’s constituent service office as an outreach coordinator. In this role, Devitt had the opportunity to visit with citizens throughout the

**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**, *continued from page 5*

state, an experience that helped to shape her understanding of politics and policy. During the final month of the 2004 election, Devitt directed get-out-the-vote efforts for Daschle on the Yankton Sioux Reservation.

Following the 2004 campaign, Devitt moved to Minneapolis and began working in communications, public affairs, and grant writing for ServeMinnesota, administrator of the state's AmeriCorps program. Most recently, she joined M+R Strategic Solutions as a technical assistance and training provider for Blue Cross & Blue Shields' "Prevention Minnesota" clean indoor air campaign. Devitt's goal is to lead public affairs campaigns to help support effective environmental and health care policies. She is building on her previous experiences by gaining skills in communications, negotiation, and leadership at the Humphrey Institute.

### **Catherine Eichers,** first-year dual Master of Public Policy and Master of Social Work student



*Catherine Eichers*

Catherine Eichers grew up in New Brighton, Minnesota, but left her home state to study psychology and sociology at the University of Notre Dame. There she was able to participate in a number

of community-based learning experiences, ranging from a 48-hour "Urban Plunge" in Chicago to an eight-week service internship in Poughkeepsie, New York. These formative experiences led her to Amate House, a faith-based post-graduate volunteer program. She spent two years living in community with other volunteers while working with immigrants and high school students on Chicago's West Side.

Eichers returned to Minnesota last fall to attend the Humphrey Institute and the University's School of Social Work. Beyond her coursework in economic and community development, she tutors children in the Powderhorn Park and Jordan neighborhoods and works as a research assistant on an asset-mapping project of North Minneapolis. Eichers also has taken her studies abroad, returning recently from a two-week tour of Vietnam focused on social policy and services.

### **Dustin Finke,** first-year Master of Public Policy student

Dustin Finke received a B.A. in law and society and history from Winona State University, completing a senior seminar paper on Vietnam-era protests in Winona. As an undergraduate student, he became concerned about accelerating tuition increases and



*Dustin Finke*

student loan burdens and diminishing access to higher education, becoming heavily involved in student advocacy and governance. Finke helped to organize an online book trading/selling website that saved students hundreds of dollars and advocated for students in the planning and budget processes at the university system, state, and federal levels.

Finke is pursuing a concentration in public and non-profit leadership and management. He hopes again to become active in higher education or financial aid policy or administration when he completes his degree at the Humphrey Institute.

### **Amber Shipley,** first-year Master of Public Policy student



*Amber Shipley*

Amber Shipley graduated from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, in 2000 with a degree in politics and a concentration in women's studies. She spent the years after graduation working with a handful of nonprofit women's organizations in Seattle and New York. She

also managed the reelection campaign for a state representative in Washington State and participated in a nine-month program for future Democratic leaders. These experiences helped Shipley refine her interest in women and politics, which she pursued last year as a graduate

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS, *continued from page 6*

student in the women's and gender studies program at Rutgers University.

Shipleigh came to the Humphrey Institute to complement her studies in women's issues with practical policy skills. She enjoys the opportunity to work with Sally Kenney, the director of the Center on Women and Public

Policy, and has participated in the Institute's mentoring program, as well as serving her community as a board member of two local feminist organizations. Shipleigh hopes to work on women's policy issues in Washington, D.C., when she completes her degree.

## Center for School Change sponsors essay contest

A winner of a statewide essay contest says that her school saved her life. That student and other winners of the competition for students from Minnesota public charter schools read their essays on the south steps of the State Capitol on May 5 as part of Minnesota's celebration of National Charter School Week. The essay contest was sponsored in part by the Humphrey Institute's **Center for School Change**.

An essay written by Nicole, a 14-year-old student at St. Paul's Community of Peace Academy, was named "most inspiring" among almost 150 essays written by Minnesota public charter school students.

"My school has changed my life by saving my life," Nicole wrote. Nicole's essay explains in part, "In fifth grade, my parents divorced, my beloved dog was killed, and I was forced to deal with

an alcoholic father. I was so stressed out about friends, grades, and the situation at home that I was contemplating suicide...My teacher at the time, Ms. DeMunck, was the only thing that saved me..."

While Nicole's essay was judged most inspiring, "many excellent essays were submitted," according to **Joe Nathan**, director of the Center for School Change. Students from throughout Minnesota submitted essays. The winners received modest cash awards, courtesy of Twin Cities Federal.

Other first-place winners included Kayla Bailey, New Century School, Hutchinson (high school); Elizabeth Maakestad, St. Croix Prep, Stillwater (middle school); and Kimberly Xiong, Community of Peace, St. Paul (elementary school).



*Essay contest winner Kimberly Xiong with Senior Fellow Joe Nathan*



*Humphrey International Fellows Dragan Paunovic of Serbia and Montenegro and Sanjay Kundu from India, both of whom work in the security field, met with members of the Minneapolis Police Department this spring to learn more about local crime-fighting efforts. The tour included visits to the crime lab, criminal investigation department, and organized crime unit, as well as meetings with personnel from the SWAT team and Violent Offender Task Force.*

The Policy Fellows program has extended its application deadline to June 30. Now in its 15th year, the Policy Fellows program is a leadership development program at the **Humphrey Institute Policy Forum** that prepares individuals to assume leadership roles in public affairs. Through a nine-month educational experience that includes conferences, seminars, and leadership development activities, policy fellows examine national and international issues confronting the United States. The program is part-time and not for course credit. Applicants may be nominated or may self-apply. The program description and application materials are available at [www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/policy-forum](http://www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/policy-forum).

## Leadership development programs grow apace

In April, the Humphrey Institute won an ongoing, multi-year contract with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) to deliver a leadership and management professional development program for Mn/DOT managers through July 2008. The **Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center** will host the program, with associate professors **Barbara Crosby** and **Jodi Sandfort** as lead coordinators.

“Building upon our past work with counties and cities, our partnership with Mn/DOT represents an exciting step forward to a larger, sustained leadership development program,” explained Crosby. Combining workshops with “action learning projects” that benefit the department, the training program will prepare new managers for the challenges of leadership in the public sector.

The Mn/DOT award comes on the heels of the center’s first annual leadership academy for the Association of Minnesota Building Officials, conducted in February. The center will sponsor a similar program open to the public next winter.



*William Darity, Jr., a professor of economics and sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, spoke on “Racism, Colorism, and Redress” at a graduate student conference held April 7–8 at the Humphrey Institute. The conference was a follow up to work by the American Political Science Association Task Force on Inequality and American Democracy chaired by Walter F. and Joan Mondale Chair for Political Studies Lawrence M. Jacobs.*

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