Dr. Stuart Henry, Director
School of Public Affairs

For those of you who may have blinked, I was away from the School for 2010-2011 at the University of Texas at Arlington. The original plan was to leave SDSU for good on account of the State of California budget crisis, the diminishing portion of the state budget allocated to higher education, and its impact on the quality of higher education in California--a pattern that only got worse during the year I was gone. So, what on earth was I thinking when the faculty and the administration invited me to consider returning to the School as Director? After some tough negotiating we agreed on a set of issues that needed to be fixed and then, as Stuart 2.0, I came back as Director in July 2011.

It’s been a tough year, with a 10-year School Review to conduct and major budget cuts, losses of faculty, increased student enrollment and the resultant dramatic increases in class sizes. We now have 1000 students in our criminal justice program but class sizes have grown from an average of 44 in 2005 to 80 in 2012. In spite of the challenges, the External Reviewers were “impressed by the degree to which faculty members from different programs . . . interact and share ideas” and with their commitment to teaching, research and community service. The year was capped off by news in April that our NASPAA accredited MPA program rose 20 point in the 2012 U.S. News and World Report Best Graduate Schools rankings putting us at #73 of 264 schools, and ranking us 5th in the State, and highest ranked among the CSUs.

As the state support for higher education diminishes, now accounting for only 14% at SDSU, we are increasingly becoming a public-private partnership, the new buzz words on campus are cost-shifting, “enhanced revenue,” entrepreneurial projects, and donor support. In that regard this year also saw one of our highest donations which came from alumni and graduate faculty member Jack McGrory who donated more than $400,000 to the School to fund our enhanced newly hired internship and careers advisor, Patricia Froso. The year also saw the formation of a revitalized Task Force, chaired by Jack. They will be hard at work building community connections and exploring ways to enhance on our growing reputation. So despite the shift in funding for “state” higher education, I think we are on the cusp of rethinking our approach to providing quality programming at SDSU. I am looking forward to the challenge.

San Diego State’s School of Public Affairs, in the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts, has risen from #90th in the nation to #73rd of 264 PA Schools, according to the just released U.S. News and World Report Rankings 2012 (3-14-2012). It is now the 5th ranked School of Public Affairs in the State of California, ranked higher than PA Schools at Pepperdine, SFSU, CSU-LA and San Jose State. And it is the top ranked School of Public Affairs in the CSU, ranked equal to the Graduate School of International Policy Studies at Monterey Institute of International Studies, and the prestigious Naval Postgraduate School - Graduate School of Business and Public Policy in Monterey, which is ranked #46 in the nation.

The vision of the SDSU’s School of Public Affairs is to improve its national ranking to be in the top 50 in the nation by 2020, and it is well on its way. Interestingly, the top three ranked schools in CA are all named with major donors, including San Diegan Sol Price (USC).

SDSU’s School of Public Affairs ranking is helped by the fact that its faculty themselves come from top ranked schools including the top two: Syracuse University (Maxwell) - Department of Public Administration & International Affairs Syracuse, NY (National rank #1); Indiana University--Bloomingston - School of Public & Environmental Affairs Bloomington, IN (National rank #2); University of Southern California - Sol Price School of Public Policy, Los Angeles, CA (National rank #6); American University - School of Public Affairs Washington, DC (National rank #12); University at Albany–SUNY (Rockefeller) - Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy Albany, NY, (National rank #16); The University of Pittsburgh - Graduate School of Public and International Affairs Pittsburgh, PA (National rank #33) and UC Irvine.
Jack McGrory

Former City Manager Donates to the School of Public Affairs

Former San Diego City Manager and long-time SDSU supporter, Jack McGrory has pledged funds to support the School of Public Affairs. The donation will fund a staff position to support undergraduate and graduate students in obtaining internships to promote student development, education and career growth. Additional funds will create internship scholarships for students in the School of Public Affairs. The internship scholarship provides a stipend for students to enter into an internship that otherwise would not provide an income. This will enable all students equal access to professional experience, ensuring they are workforce-ready upon graduation.

The School is one of the top 15 accredited programs in its classification nationwide, and develops future leaders for careers in criminal justice, public administration and city planning. McGrory has taught part-time in the School for nearly 20 years, he knows first-hand the importance of a professional internship for all students.

McGrory, who earned his MPA at SDSU, served as the city manager for San Diego from 1991-1997. Afterwards, he served as chairman and CEO of Price Legacy Corporation, COO of the San Diego Padres, manager of the Price Group and executive vice president and director of Price Charities. McGrory also currently teaches a graduate-level course at SDSU in public administration.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Fritz Wagner and Roger Caves (eds.)
Community Livability: Issues and Approaches to Sustaining the Well-Being of People and Communities

What is a livable community? How do you design and develop one? What does government at all levels need to do to support and nurture the cause of livable communities?

Using a blend of theory and practice, experts in the field look at evidence from international, state and local perspectives to explore what is meant by the term “livable communities”. Chapters examine the various influencing factors such as the effect and importance of transportation options/alternatives to the elderly, the significant of walkability as a factor in developing a livable and healthy community, the importance of good open space providing for human activity and health, restorative benefits, the importance of coordinated land use and transportation planning, and the relationship between livability and quality of life.

While much of the discussion of this topic is usually theoretical and abstract, Wagner and Caves use case studies from North America, Brazil and the United Kingdom to provide substantive examples of initiatives implemented across the world. Published by Rutledge, 2012.

Paul Kaplan

Murder Stories engages with the current theoretical debate in death penalty research on the role of cultural commitments to ‘American’ ideologies in the retention of capital punishment. The central aim of the study is to illuminate the elusive yet powerful role of ideology in legal discourses. Through analyzing the content and processes of death penalty narratives, this research illuminates the covert life of the ‘American Creed.’ (a nexus of ideologies—liberty, egalitarianism, individualism, populism, and laissez faire—said to be unique to the United States) in the law.

Murder Stories draws on the entire record of California death sentence resulting trials from three large and diverse California counties for the years 1996—2004, as well as interviews with 26 capital case-workers (attorneys, judges, and investigators) from the same counties. Employing the theoretical framework proposed by Ewick and Silbey (1995) to study hegemonic and subversive narratives, and also the ethnographic approach advocated by Amsterdam and hertz (1992) to study the producers and processes of constructing legal narratives, this book traces the ideological content carried within the stories told by everyday practitioners of capital punishment by investigating the content, process, and ideological implications of these
Outstanding Graduate Students

MCJC

Nicholas Berretta grew up in the heart of New York, Brooklyn, so his background is obvious; he is a city kid, plain and simple. Everything he has ever really known is in the dense city environment, and he has experienced the good, the bad, and the ugly. As cliché as that may sound, it being a big city, even ugly has its beauty and he really became fascinated in its planning and how it is able to tie in with both the diversity of such a built environment and the natural fabric of the environment.

Being from arguably the largest city in the world, Nicholas’s undergraduate program was based in the State University of New York at Binghamton University. What he had coming out of Binghamton was both sides of the spectrum. On one hand, New York City is the epitome of a city. Everything he learned here at SDSU’s Masters in City Planning program could, in one way, shape, or form, trace its roots back to New York. On the other hand, Binghamton, New York was not, both in regards to its urban structure and the environmental detriments. It was the lower tier of cities, but it was perfect for him, both in his experience there with environmental planning and geography, and when it came time to be prepared for graduate school and the future.

With New York City and Binghamton, Nicholas had both sides of the spectrum covered. What he did not have was any experience in the middle ground. For him the middle of that spectrum, and that big city, was the City of San Diego. Now, he would be lying if the beautiful weather was not a factor in his decision, but it, along with SDSU itself, was the perfect balance he had been looking for. Coming straight out of his undergraduate, his enthusiasm for New York City helped him decide to go directly into graduate school and begin to get his foot in the door of the City/Environmental Planning profession. SDSU has provided him that experience and more.

Keryna Johnson and Nicholas Berretta

MPA

Shannon Jackson received her B.F.A. in Dance from Arizona State University, where she was recognized as Outstanding Dance Major. In addition to a successful performing career in New York and California, she also worked in the administrative and non-profit development aspects of the field, as well as working in management in the private sector. Shannon is now in her second year as a graduate student in Public Administration with an emphasis in Public Policy, and plans to pursue her Ph.D. She is a recipient of the 2011-2012 John Fowler Endowed Scholarship, and currently serves on the Executive Board of the Student Public Administration Association. In addition to serving her second semester as a Graduate Assistant for Criminal Justice professor Dr. Paul Kaplan, Shannon also works with Dr. Kaplan on the Capital Judicial Sentencing Project. This research is a comprehensive study of judicial sentencing in capital cases, seeking to trace the ideological aspects of what judges say when sentencing persons to life or death, and also to identify possible sources of bias.

Keryna Johnson

Keryna Johnson is a native and resident of Southeastern San Diego with a vested interest in helping her community reach its full potential. She currently works with several non-profits in her neighborhood, including Project New Village, where she helps to develop a sustainable farmers market incorporating local growers and micro-businesses. Keryna also works with Groundwork San Diego Chollas Creek, with the goal of increasing recreation opportunities for local families and building a network of connected pedestrian trails throughout the watershed. Keryna received her B.S. in Business Management from San Diego State University, with a specialization in Entrepreneurship.

Keryna Johnson and Nicholas Berretta

Adrienne Ehrlich began her education at the University of California, Santa Barbara majoring in Sociology with an emphasis in Women's and Gender's Studies. Adrienne graduated in May with a Master's in Criminal Justice and Criminology. Her research interests involve the use of pet assisted therapy within correctional institutions and prison reform methods. She has a goal of beginning a dog therapy program within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation similar to the Puppies Behind Bars program that operates in the New York State Department of Correctional Services. Adrienne has completed internships at the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego, and the Western Criminology Review, an academic journal. Additionally, Adrienne is the President of Eta Psi, San Diego State’s chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor’s Society. Adrienne is currently pursuing career opportunities in the criminal justice field.

Shannon Jackson

Outstanding Graduate Students

MCJC

Adrienne Ehrlich began her education at the University of California, Santa Barbara majoring in Sociology with an emphasis in Women's and Gender's Studies. Adrienne graduated in May with a Master's in Criminal Justice and Criminology. Her research interests involve the use of pet assisted therapy within correctional institutions and prison reform methods. She has a goal of beginning a dog therapy program within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation similar to the Puppies Behind Bars program that operates in the New York State Department of Correctional Services. Adrienne has completed internships at the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego, and the Western Criminology Review, an academic journal. Additionally, Adrienne is the President of Eta Psi, San Diego State’s chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor’s Society. Adrienne is currently pursuing career opportunities in the criminal justice field.

MPA

Shannon Jackson received her B.F.A. in Dance from Arizona State University, where she was recognized as Outstanding Dance Major. In addition to a successful performing career in New York and California, she also worked in the administrative and non-profit development aspects of the field, as well as working in management in the private sector. Shannon is now in her second year as a graduate student in Public Administration with an emphasis in Public Policy, and plans to pursue her Ph.D. She is a recipient of the 2011-2012 John Fowler Endowed Scholarship, and currently serves on the Executive Board of the Student Public Administration Association. In addition to serving her second semester as a Graduate Assistant for Criminal Justice professor Dr. Paul Kaplan, Shannon also works with Dr. Kaplan on the Capital Judicial Sentencing Project. This research is a comprehensive study of judicial sentencing in capital cases, seeking to trace the ideological aspects of what judges say when sentencing persons to life or death, and also to identify possible sources of bias.

MCP

Keryna Johnson

Keryna Johnson is a native and resident of Southeastern San Diego with a vested interest in helping her community reach its full potential. She currently works with several non-profits in her neighborhood, including Project New Village, where she helps to develop a sustainable farmers market incorporating local growers and micro-businesses. Keryna also works with Groundwork San Diego Chollas Creek, with the goal of increasing recreation opportunities for local families and building a network of connected pedestrian trails throughout the watershed. Keryna received her B.S. in Business Management from San Diego State University, with a specialization in Entrepreneurship.

MCP

Nicholas Berretta grew up in the heart of New York, Brooklyn, so his background is obvious; he is a city kid, plain and simple. Everything he has ever really known is in the dense city environment, and he has experienced the good, the bad, and the ugly. As cliché as that may sound, it being a big city, even ugly has its beauty and he really became fascinated in its planning and how it is able to tie in with both the diversity of such a built environment and the natural fabric of the environment.

Being from arguably the largest city in the world, Nicholas’s undergraduate program was based in the State University of New York at Binghamton University. What he had coming out of Binghamton was both sides of the spectrum. On one hand, New York City is the epitome of a city. Everything he learned here at SDSU’s Masters in City Planning program could, in one way, shape, or form, trace its roots back to New York. On the other hand, Binghamton, New York was not, both in regards to its urban structure and the environmental detriments. It was the lower tier of cities, but it was perfect for him, both in his experience there with environmental planning and geography, and when it came time to be prepared for graduate school and the future.

With New York City and Binghamton, Nicholas had both sides of the spectrum covered. What he did not have was any experience in the middle ground. For him the middle of that spectrum, and that big city, was the City of San Diego. Now, he would be lying if the beautiful weather was not a factor in his decision, but it, along with SDSU itself, was the perfect balance he had been looking for. Coming straight out of his undergraduate, his enthusiasm for New York City helped him decide to go directly into graduate school and begin to get his foot in the door of the City/Environmental Planning profession. SDSU has provided him that experience and more.

Keryna Johnson and Nicholas Berretta
CJ Outstanding Student

Nicole Sherman graduated in May with a B.S. in Criminal Justice, a B.A. in Sociology, and a minor in Anthropology. She is employed by the Western Criminology Review, the official peer-reviewed journal of the Western Society of Criminology as the Editorial Assistant. In Fall of 2011, she interned with the National Insurance Crime Bureau, working alongside their crime analyst and gaining experience in crime trend analysis, data interpretation, and database management. She has also worked as a Student Services Technician for the Defense Acquisition University, assisting students, faculty, and administrative personnel. From 2011-2012, she has begun research as an assistant to Dr. Paul Kaplan (SDSU) on a project that involves using a county-level approach to examine capital punishment, and whether the tenets of parochialism and libertarianism have an effect on judicial sentencing. She also served as a research assistant to Dr. Alan Mobley (SDSU) on a project that examines the effects of incarceration on inmates, such as PTSD, and why inmates may be unwilling to participate in research to better their conditions. Her interests in grad school lie in sentencing and corrections, with an emphasis in influences of sentencing procedures and implications of those procedures.

Ultimately, she cannot take all the credit for what she has been able to achieve. There were many who played a key role in impacting her life experiences, especially her family who instilled in her, core values of dedication, determination, and discipline. Values of which she is confident will help her succeed in her future endeavors. Nicole has been accepted into the University of California Irvine Ph.D. program in Fall 2012.

CJ Most Influential Faculty
Associate Professor

Dr. Paul Kaplan began his work on death penalty related causes before entering graduate school; he worked as a mitigation investigator in capital cases. Continuing his emphasis in capital punishment, Dr. Kaplan focused his graduate school research on that subject, and has continued in his post-doctoral, academic career to do so. His current research is on judicial override in capital cases, focusing on its consequences for death penalty decisions.

In the near future, Dr. Kaplan is moving into research based in cultural criminology, examining the relationship between art and crime, investigating their similarities. He will also be researching comparative criminology, detailing criminal justice systems in other countries, including their corruption.

In addition to this research, he will continue to teach in the subject area of crime and behavior, and crime and law.

Written by Nicole Sherman

CJ Outstanding Part-Time Faculty
Judge Blaine K. Bowman

Judge Blaine K. Bowman

San Diego County Superior Court

Civil Engineer, Business major, Professor of Lawyer...would the real Blaine Bowman please stand up? How different our SDSU Criminal Justice program would be had Judge Bowman followed his original career path of Civil Engineering. Lucky for us he made a change to business then proceeded to law school in the late 80’s. So how was it that an aspiring engineer would some day become a well known judge in San Diego and the part time lecturer of the year at San Diego State University? Judge Bowman is one of our own, graduating from SDSU in 1986 with a degree in Business and Finance, minoring in Psychology. He then went on to earn a Juris Doctorate from USD. Over the next few years while working in the local DA’s office Judge Bowman began to teach at local police academies including Southwestern College. He quickly realized that if he was going to continue teaching he would want to return to his Alumni SDSU and teach his fellow Aztecs. In 1996 Judge Bowman filled in for Professor Cleary, who was abroad in Russia for the year. He has been an intricate part of this program ever since. Currently Judge Bowman oversees Juvenile Dependency cases here in San Diego as well as teaches Criminal Law CJ 320 as well as Constitutional Law CJ 420. When asked what he likes about teaching he said he enjoys seeing his student year’s later working in the field. He has seen many of them come back as attorneys, probation officers, police officers and parole Agents. It’s rewarding to see students use what they have learned.

There is more to this amazing person than being a successful judge and professor. When Judge Bowman isn’t proceeding over cases or teaching young Aztecs he is a family man. He is the proud father of two young daughters and active with their softball teams. Judge Bowman is also an avid photographer that loves to shoot nature and the great outdoors.

Judge Bowman is involved in lots of things in and out of SDSU but one thing is for sure we are lucky to have him here.

Written by RanDee McClain

Written by RanDee McClain
Natsanet Keleta
Life Experiences Leading to This Moment

An accumulation of life experiences and key people have helped shape Natsanet Keleta’s life, making her who she is today. The academic successes she has achieved thus far was made possible by a great support system comprised of family, friends, coworkers, and SDSU faculty members.

Her parents immigrated to America from their native country, Eritrea, in hopes of providing a better life. Both her mother and father took up blue-collar occupations in a foreign land and worked long, hard hours not only to support their family but also their relatives back home. With minimal formal education, her parents actively worked to improve their quality of life. Witnessing hardships they have endured throughout their lives, having to leave family behind in their homeland, her parents’ experiences have been a motivating factor in her life. One of the reasons she has worked as diligently as she has is because she does not want their efforts to be in vain.

Born in 1991, she was named “freedom” in her family’s native language, signifying the freedom of being able to pursue any career path with many opportunities made available in America. Also, it was a tribute to the independence achieved by their native country that same year. She is the fourth of five children and also the fourth in her family to earn an SDSU bachelor degree. Altogether, she can attribute her academic successes to continuous family efforts to support one another and never taking any opportunities for granted.

Overall, her time here at SDSU has been the most enriching experience, where she has been able to absorb a great deal of knowledge from both faculty members and peers. She worked as a part-time intern at the District Attorney’s office during half of her college career, where she has been exposed to real world situations. The public administration bachelors program here at SDSU has provided her with the tools and skills necessary not only to carry out tasks in the administrative setting but to also be cognizant of relevant issues in the workplace. Throughout her college years, she has also joined four honor societies, Phi Eta Sigma, Golden Key, Phi Kappa Phi, and most recently, Pi Alpha Alpha. Moreover, through attending summer sessions she has achieved bachelor candidacy for Summer 2012 after three years of college.

Following graduation, she plans on obtaining a second bachelor degree in nursing through an accelerated program at CSU San Marcos. In addition to this, she seeks to earn a masters degree in healthcare administration. Her fascination with the healthcare setting was prompted by experiences of volunteering in a hospital throughout high school and seeing the direct impact the staff and faculty had on their patients and their families. Primarily, she wants to focus her efforts in low-income, minority environments to assist disadvantaged populations in receiving necessary health education and services essential to everyday living while assisting newcomers acclimate to their new communities; assistance her family once benefited from.

PA Outstanding Student

PA Most Influential Faculty Member
Louis M. Rea
Professor of Public Administration/City Planning

Louis Rea has served as both a professor and director in the School of Public Affairs during his 37 years here at SDSU. He grew up in Central New Jersey and later moved to upstate New York where he earned post-secondary degrees in Economics and Social Sciences at both Colgate and Syracuse Universities. It was through the Social Science, interdisciplinary graduate program offered at Syracuse that Dr. Rea was able to focus on various subjects that interested him, such as City Planning, Public Administration, Urban Studies, and Economics. Upon earning both his masters and doctorate degrees, he took his first job as an assistant professor at SDSU in 1975. Having always been comfortable around academia, the idea of becoming a professor came naturally to him and SDSU was a perfect fit, as the program offered subjects he specialized in. Aside from teaching courses at SDSU, Rea also works as an active consultant for both private and public agencies and incorporates his professional expertise into his courses. In doing so, he demonstrates important concepts and relevant issues in the field, helping better prepare students for the workplace. Moreover, he describes the most rewarding part of teaching as seeing his students become successful in their professions. This year, Dr. Rea is retiring after a distinguished career at SDSU. Throughout the years, he has made an impact on many students. I also had the pleasure of being a student in his courses where I was able to gain practical skills and knowledge that will help me in my future experiences. The School of Public Affairs and students would like to thank Dr. Rea for his contributions and dedicated involvement in the program.

Written by Natsanet Keleta

PA Outstanding Part-Time Faculty
Jill Serrano
Chief Financial Officer, SD County Sheriff’s Department

Jill Serrano is the Chief Financial Officer of the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department. She is responsible for administering the fiscal and financial functions of the department, including the development and monitoring of the department’s $600 million annual budget. She is a member of the Sheriff’s Executive Management Team and advises the Sheriff, Under-sheriff and Command Staff on financial matters.

Serrano has been with the County of San Diego for over 20 years, working in the County of San Diego’s Public Safety Group, Probation Department, and the former Department of Social Services. Prior to joining the Sheriff’s Department, Ms. Serrano was a Project Manager for the County of San Diego, Chief Administrative Office, Public Safety Group. In this role, she was the principal assistant to the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, focusing on justice system policy and operations. She also served as an Administrative Officer for the Juvenile Justice Commission. Prior to her position as Project Manager, she was Finance Director. Ms. Serrano is a member of the Government Finance Officers’ Association. She serves as a lecturer at San Diego State University teaching both Criminal Justice and Public Finance. She also teaches in the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Management Course.

Ms. Serrano has been the Chief Financial Officer of the "Women and Power: Leadership in a New World" program at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government and the Senior Management Institute for Police, sponsored by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). Ms. Serrano was recognized as Finance Manager of the Year for 2010 by the California State Sheriff’s Association and was awarded the 2011 Donald B. Leifler Outstanding Alumni Award for Distinguished Service in the fields of Criminal Justice and Public Administration by the School of Public Affairs at San Diego State University.
The School of Public Affairs hosted its first group of 7 exchange students from the University of Kent (UK), Criminology Program. The students (Becky, Tom, Wayne, Rhianna, Parmis, Nicola, and Kirsti), were with us for the Spring semester and took classes in sociology and criminal justice. After a culture shock on arrival, issues with the university’s zero tolerance alcohol policy and some housing gaffes, they were welcomed at an orientation lunch provided in their honor by the faculty. According to the instructors, "the Brits" were a delight to have in the classes and faculty were impressed by their level of knowledge of the material. As one of our faculty said: "The Brits rock. I so enjoy reading their work. It’s thoughtful, well-written and critical...that last one is something I so rarely see.” As well as study for exams both here and when they got back to the UK, the Brits managed to visit sights beyond San Diego, taking in classic tourist attractions from San Francisco and Santa Monica, to the Grand Canyon etc. We’ll miss this pioneering group but look forward to another fresh crop of Brits next year.

Dr. Colleen Casey
Assistant Professor
School of Urban and Public Affairs
University of Texas, Arlington

Dr. Colleen Casey received her Ph.D. in Public Policy Analysis and Administration, emphasis Urban and Community Development, from Saint Louis University of Texas at Arlington in the School of Urban and Public Affairs. From January—August 2010, she served as a visiting scholar for the Federal Reserve Bank Atlanta in the Community and Economic Division. Her efforts focused on research related to disparities in access to credit for low-wealth, minority entrepreneurs, as well as conducting research on emerging concerns related to access to credit for small businesses. Her current research focuses on access to credit, specifically, the effects and implementation of policies and programs designed to stimulate reinvestment in low-income, urban communities with a particular emphasis on the role of social capital and networks. Her work has been published in journals such as the Journal of Planning Education and Research and Critical Sociology, and has also co-authored reports for the Brookings Institution. Currently, she is collaborating on a project funded by the United States Department of Transportation (DOT), which draws upon a network framework to understand and address institutional barriers to collaboration between public health agencies and transportation agencies. She primarily teaches courses in public administration and policy, including organization theory, decision-making and public policy, and has previously taught program evaluation and social policy analysis. A central element in many of her courses is the inclusion of a local group or organization facing a particular challenge or need, which provides students with practical experience, fosters greater university-community relations and enhances the work of the partner organization.
City Centered

A quick glance at the image above tells you you’re not in San Diego anymore—or anywhere else remotely close to home. (In fact, you’re in La Spezia, Italy).

Given the intrinsic differences between American and European cityscapes, can urban development officials in Italy or Finland learn anything from San Diego’s track record of community revitalization? Possibly so.

In August, SDSU will host more than 10 European university faculty members as they tour San Diego neighborhoods, meet government and civic leaders, talk to community members and gather data on commercial centers and tools for urban regeneration.

A few months later, Ph.D. students from four universities in Italy, Finland and the United Kingdom will visit for up to six months to conduct targeted research in the School of Public Affairs. The results will inform their future work on the redevelopment of European urban centers.

SDSU faculty have asked city managers in the San Diego region to submit redevelopment projects for teams of SDSU and European students to pursue.

“This initiative advances SDSU’s efforts to grow as a global university while still serving our local community,” said Mounah Abdel-Samad, assistant professor and director of SDSU’s Institute of Public and Urban Affairs.

“We think the European students will bring a fresh perspective to the projects as they learn from their American partners.”

The visiting European faculty and students are supported by a three-year Marie Curie Excellence Grant from the European Commission, designed to support European research teams working on cutting-edge and interdisciplinary research. The two American institutions involved—SDSU and Northeastern University—will lead the grant’s steering committee.

“The advantages San Diego brings to the table are our proximity to the Mexican border and our extremely diverse nature as a kind of resettlement center for many different peoples,” said Abdel-Samad.

The European universities participating are the Aalto University in Finland, the University of Salford Manchester in England, and the universities of Reggio Calabria and Rome in Italy.

International Universities Collaborate Research

The School of Public Affairs at San Diego State University is one of only two U.S. universities selected to work in collaboration with four European Universities to execute the Marie Curie Grant to research and teach in the area of urban regeneration with a focus on Commercial Local Urban Districts. SDSU, along with Northeastern University of Boston and universities in Italy, England and Finland, will study urban regeneration from a comparative perspective, exchange faculty, and disseminate their findings to both the European and American Communities.

The grant aims to examine tools to renovate degraded public spaces and improve the attractiveness and accessibility of deprived urban areas by focusing on local commercial activities over the period of three years. During these three years, SDSU and Northeastern University will play a leading role as the steering committee for the grant.

The project entails exchange of students as well as researchers to benefit from the experience of both European and American universities. Faculty researchers will come to San Diego in August 2012 to tour communities, meet with government and civic leaders, talk to community members and gather data on commercial centers. Students from the four European universities will come to San Diego in January 2013 for up to six months to conduct targeted research with SDSU Public Affairs faculty. The School of Public Affairs and the Institute of Public and Urban Affairs researchers will explore research project such as food systems and administrative local capacities, among a variety of issues related to urban regeneration. For instance, Università degli Studi di Roma in Rome, Italy is interested in how business funds can be used to build regional capacity. Researchers from Rome will likely spend time in San Diego examining the extensive Business Improvement District structure to learn how public-private partnerships can be used to increase business and regenerate urban communities.

“The grant brings experts from around the world to examine urban centers in San Diego. We will learn from their examination of and experience in San Diego, then we will go to their cities to research and learn more about our own initiatives,” said Mounah Abdel-Samad, assistant professor in the School of Public Affairs and director of the Institute of Public and Urban Affairs. The grant will also provide an excellent opportunity for SDSU to build permanent connections with European Universities as well as European policy makers.
**Student Looks to Start Prison Puppy Program**

*Written by: Jobeth Devera*

Earning her undergraduate degree in sociology with a concentration in women’s and gender studies, Adrienne Erhlich is now a second-year graduate student at San Diego State University studying criminal justice in the School of Public Administration.

As the president of the National Criminal Justice Honor’s Society, Alpha Sigma Phi, Adrienne promotes academic and professional excellence amongst her peers, preparing them for a profession in criminal justice.

In spring of 2011, Adrienne completed an internship with the San Diego Chamber of Commerce. Working at the Chamber enhanced Adrienne’s education in criminal justice by giving her insight to a world of lobbying and government-related issues.

Adrienne now interns at Donovan Prison in Otay Mesa, Calif. and is also the editorial assistant for the Western Criminology Review, a scholarly journal.

Outside of academics and internships, Adrienne also participates in Relay for Life San Diego where she displays her support for the American Cancer Society.

Adrienne is interested in jump-starting a program in prisons that is based off the *Puppies Behind Bars* program in New York. The program would involve prison inmates training puppies to eventually become service animals for people with disabilities.

“This program would be a type of therapy that could potentially lower recidivism of inmates by having them look after the pets teaching the inmates responsibility,” Adrienne says. “They’d also be taught respect for another life, compassion and how to be loved unconditionally.”

In order to be qualified for the program, inmates would have to be recommended, go through interviews and have no violent history or any behavioral issues while in prison within a given time frame.

Ultimately, Adrienne would like to work for the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections in an administrative position.

“I believe that there is a lot to be changed and updated with our prison system in California,” Adrienne says. She would like the chance to make those changes.

**Little Saigon Wins Award for Neighborhood Plan**

*Community Organization One Step Closer to Realizing Vision*

San Diego, CA – Little Saigon Foundation was recently awarded the 2012 San Diego Neighborhood Planning Award by the American Planning Association for its neighborhood design guidelines plan.

The plan, which focuses on a six-block stretch of El Cajon Boulevard in City Heights, includes guidelines for small plazas, seating nooks, lanterns, public art, outdoor seating for popular Vietnamese eateries, and other features that will make the neighborhood more attractive for walking and shopping and further elevate this culturally-influenced business corridor.

The Little Saigon Foundation, as well as its partners, the El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association and AECOM, a local design and planning firm, received the award from the American Planning Association for developing design guidelines that will help revitalize the neighborhood and support it as an attractive cultural destination for locals and visitors alike.

The foundation and its partners engaged local residents, business owners, youth, and non-profit and agency representatives at festivals and through community photography exercises to help shape the plan over the past year.

Marti Emerald, San Diego City Council Member representing City Heights, called the plan, “bold and comprehensive,” adding that the plan is, “a stunning vision of a transformed streetscape that realizes the potential for a vibrant and culturally-influenced business corridor.”

The plan is part of a larger effort by the Little Saigon Foundation to establish a formal “Little Saigon District” along a commercial stretch of El Cajon Boulevard, between Highland and Euclid Avenues. Seventy percent of the 120 businesses in this neighborhood are Vietnamese owned.

“The key element here is community identity and ownership,” said Frank Vuong, Co-Founder of the Little Saigon Foundation, “By branding a business sector as ‘Little Saigon’ District, we give everyone in that area a sense of pride and ownership.”

The foundation is currently working with its partners to develop an urban design document that would help implement the guidelines and move the community one step closer to its vision.

Since Little Saigon Foundation has won the San Diego Chapter Award for planning, the organization is work is now eligible for submission to the statewide section of the American Planning Association awards program. The statewide awards are conferred in October.

Beryl Forman, a student of the Masters of City Planning Program as SDSU provided oversight to this project. As a staff of the El Cajon Boulevard BIA, she was in charge of working with AECOM and the Little Saigon Foundation to organize community outreach programs. To gain feedback from people regarding a redesign of the Little Saigon District, hundreds of participants voiced their opinions at the Little Saigon New Year’s festival. The second form of outreach entailed photo documentation of the district, whereby Beryl recruited ten participants from the community to explain what they do and don’t like about the district through the lens of their camera.
Top 10 Degrees for 2012

According to the SDSU News Center (May 18, 2012), San Diego State undergraduates receive their degrees in 85 different areas. The School of Public Affairs is proud to have two of SDSU’s most popular bachelor degree programs for the class of 2012. The Criminal Justice program is ranked #2 with more than 300 graduates earning degrees. Public Administration is ranked #10 with 140 students earning degrees.
Three short years ago, I began my law school journey. In August 2009, I moved from San Diego, California to Columbia, South Carolina, where I began my studies at the University of South Carolina School of Law. My law school experience has been both challenging and rewarding, but I have never doubted my decision to go to law school. I have taken courses on a variety of legal subjects and I have also been blessed with several opportunities to gain valuable experience in the field.

During the summer between my first and second years of law school, I worked for a plaintiff's employment law firm where I worked to represent people who experienced discrimination in the workplace. During my second year, I earned prestigious spots on the South Carolina Law Review and the Mock Trial Team. I also had the distinct opportunity to work for the South Carolina Senate Judiciary Committee, where I drafted legislation to enhance government ethics, protect the integrity of elections within the state, and strengthen the environment. I got to see first-hand how South Carolina's legislature operates.

Just this last summer, I began working for a large litigation firm where I honed my litigation skills by drafting legal documents, conducting research, and attending hearings. I liked working for this firm so much that I continued working for the firm during the school year.

Throughout my law school experience, I have worked hard to maintain the highest grades. I am in the top 15% of my class; I have received several scholarships and awards; and I have cultivated a strong educational background that I hope to build upon after graduation. I am currently interviewing with several firms in South Carolina and Georgia and I am excited to see what else God has in store for Adam and I as we build our future together.

It is with great joy that I write you today! On May 4, 2012, I will graduate from the University of South Carolina School of Law with a Juris Doctorate degree. After graduation, I will begin studying for the South Carolina bar exam, which is at the end of July.

Kindest Regards,
Jacqueline M. Brown

John G "Greg" LaHue
Master of Public Administration

Greetings, I am a lifetime member of the SDSU Alumni Association (MPA 1980) and recently read that the School of Public Affairs had moved up in comparative School rankings. I was happy to see that. If my story could ever help the cause please let me know what I can do. You see, I owe my Federal Gov't career to SDSU. The Dean at the time nominated me for a Presidential Management Internship. During the summer of 1980 I traveled to LA and spent an entire day competing for a spot with other graduate students from throughout the state. I was selected and moved to Washington, DC to begin an internship with the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) as a budget analyst. I stayed in Washington, DC for 10 years and had rotational assignments to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). I also had the opportunity to serve as the DLA Comptroller Congressional Liaison to the Appropriations/Armed Services Committees. During my time in Washington, DC I was selected as a Sloan Fellow at MIT where I graduated with a Masters in Management Science in 1987. Moreover, I spent a large part of my career in San Antonio, Texas with the United States Air Force (as a civilian) and retired last December having served as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment. Prior to my Federal Gov't career I had served as a San Diego County Probation Officer, so it was a big change to move across the country and begin work in government financial management. I am also a Veteran and used the GI Bill for my education. I served in Vietnam with the Air Force and at my retirement ceremony was presented the Distinguished Flying Cross which I had earned back in 1969 but which had never been formally presented to me. The bottom line is that I've had an amazing Federal Gov't career that started with a nomination from SDSU, so if you think there's anything I can do to help the school, other than send money, please let me know.

Regards,
John G "Greg" LaHue

James W. Messerschmidt is Professor of Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies, and Chair of the Criminology Department, at the University of Southern Maine. He is the author of over thirty academic articles and book chapters as well as ten books, most recently *Gender, Heterosexuality, and Youth Violence: The Struggle for Recognition* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2012). Professor Messerschmidt teaches courses on gender and crime, white-collar crime, and introduction to women's and gender studies, and he is the recipient of the 2011 Outstanding Feminist Faculty Award by the Women’s and Gender Studies Program.
Upcoming Events

School’s Undergraduate Student Orientations
July 21–August 15, 2012

School’s Graduate Student Orientation
August 22, 2012

Keep in Touch

This is your newsletter! Your news is important. Please share your professional achievements, travel plans, research interests, and special events. Your questions, concerns, and suggestions are always welcome. Please email submissions to Julie O’Connor-Quinn @ joconnor@mail.sdsu.edu

To make a donation please visit our website at www.spa.sdsu.edu
For help with making a gift to SDSU, please contact: donations@sdsu.edu or call (619) 594-0586