

Spring 1997

# Center for Urban Research and Learning

Information on CURL University/Community Partnerships



LOYOLA  
UNIVERSITY  
CHICAGO



## New Mural Symbolizes CURL's Mission

As seen above, CURL has a new masthead. The background is a photograph of a spirited work of art commissioned by the Center. It is the creation of The Tile People, a micro-enterprise based in Rogers Park with a mission to train low income Chicagoans in decorative ceramic tile making.

The mural was crafted by Kay Hauck, the artist-educator and founder of the non-profit organization, and two of Kay's students, Angela Nelson and Melvin Hamlin.

The mural, entitled "*Vital Signs and Urban Symbols*," was dedicated January 28 in the new Center space. Fr. John J. Piderit, President of Loyola, made brief remarks, and Fr. Larry Reuter, Vice-President for University Ministry, offered the dedication prayer at the ceremony.

The tiles visually symbolize the dynamic partnership between all facets of the university and Chicago's community residents. The physical city is recognizable with its skyline structures as well as its neighborhoods. More prominent, however, are the three-dimensional tiles which focus on the daily lives of Chicago's diverse residents. The participation of the university throughout the city is captured in the rays emanating from and returning to the Loyola University shield,

illustrating the character of the two-way knowledge exchange fostered by the university.

The Center is very proud of its identifying hallmark. We encourage visitors to see and appreciate the craftsmanship of The Tile People.



The Tile People, Angela Nelson, Kay Hauck and Melvin Hamlin, join Father Piderit and Phil Nyden at the CURL Tile Dedication, January 28.

## The Urban Semester Begins

The College of Arts and Sciences and CURL have initiated a new undergraduate Urban Semester at the Water Tower Campus. Emphasis is placed on integration of learning and involvement in community-based action research projects.

The semester consists of a six-hour seminar and a choice of one additional course focused on Chicago. In the seminar students discuss key Chicago policy matters, such as economic development, education, community-based cultural preservation, and housing. Outside the seminar they work for 7 1/2 hours a week with a research action team comprised of undergraduates, McCormick Graduate Fellows, community leaders, and faculty.

Giving students experience in community capacity building and

providing actionable research results are at the heart of the Urban Semester. Through a close mentoring relationship, faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates are exploring policy areas of increasing importance to Chicago communities.

The current special focus courses are: Chicago Politics (John Pelissero), Gang Activity and Control (David Plebanski) and Building a Metropolis: Architecture and the City in History (Timothy Gilfoyle). Phil Nyden and teaching fellow Mike Leachman are teaching the seminar.

Under the guidance of CAS Dean Kathleen McCourt and Water Tower Campus Assistant Dean Greg Hamill, the Urban Semester will continue next year. Some of the policy research action projects in which students are now involved (described below) will continue into the next academic year.

## Director's Corner...

### **Loyola's Support of Community/University Collaboration Increases**

In early December, the 10th floor of Lewis Towers on Loyola's Water Tower campus became the new home of the Center for Urban Research and Learning (CURL), the Policy Research Action Group (PRAG), and Science Linkages in Community (SLIC). The renovation represents a major capital investment by the university in the principles and goals of community/university collaborative efforts in the Chicago metropolitan area.

The three programs share a common mandate to link resources of the academic community with Chicago's grassroots organizations and their constituents. The complimentary missions will be enhanced by the cooperation among the three programs in the shared space in this central city location.

CURL, in its second year of operation, has a broad collaborative agenda, some of which is reported on in this newsletter. The new office provides more space for faculty and student fellows and a classroom for the Urban Semester and other classes, as well as for general meetings.

Loyola has been the fiscal agent for PRAG, a collaboration of four universities (DePaul, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago State, and Loyola), since its formation in 1989. PRAG continues its important university/community collaborative work under the leadership of Maureen Hellwig, the newly appointed coordinator, who has years of community development experience in Chicago.

SLIC works with community-based organizations and parents across the city to bring math and science enrichment to Chicago youth, grades 3 - 8. The director of SLIC is Michael Hyatt

The January 28th dedication of the tile mural (see page 1) was the first occasion for the Loyola community to celebrate the opening of the newly rehabbed space and meet fellow faculty, staff, and students active in our work. If you missed the dedication, you are invited to our April 9 open house (4:30 - 7:00 p.m.) Or better yet, drop by anytime to pay us a visit.

Phil Nyden, Director

## **Six New Projects Begun Around Lake Shore Campus**

In January, the Center initiated six new collaborative projects with community-based organizations (CBOs) and institutions in Rogers Park, Edgewater and Uptown.

The projects grew out of dialogues with CBO staff who proposed specific research issues of major concern to their organizations. CURL, in its role as broker, matched university resources to each project based upon faculty and student expertise, interest, and availability.

The Center's staff is working on a plan to systematically expand capacity to undertake partnerships in other Chicago and suburban neighborhoods to ensure CURL's metropolitan mission. Five of the six projects currently underway are attached to the Urban Semester (see page 1). The five projects and lead agencies are:

\* Edge/Up, School-to-Work evaluation at Lake View H.S. and Senn Metro Academy -- Alternatives, Inc.

\* Rogers Park Defensible Space project -- Rogers Park Community Council

\* Assessment/Refinement of a Continuum of Care Model for the Homeless of Uptown and Edgewater -- Lakefront SRO

\* Impact of Welfare "Reform" on Economically Diverse Communities -- Howard Area Community Center and Organization of the North East

\* Affordable Housing Stock Inventory along the Kenmore/Winthrop Corridor -- Edgewater Community Council

\* Peer Intervention in Risk-Taking Among Youth -- Peirce School/ faculty & students, School of Education.

For more detailed information about each project, visit CURL's Web page. In the next issue of CURL's newsletter, there will be a review of the status of each project.

## **Non-traditional class, non-traditional teacher, and non-traditional students**

A new graduate course, Philanthropy, Public Policy, and Community Change, cross-listed by the Sociology and Anthropology Department and the Political Science Department is combining a unique subject focus with a non-traditional set of students. The course is taught by Louis Delgado, a former program officer of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, who has familiarity with a range of social change projects including Native American educational initiatives.

The focus on linking philanthropy to community-based social change is a relatively new development. Foundations are becoming more proactive in their focus on change at the grassroots level.

Another non-traditional facet of this course is the involvement of faculty as well as graduate and undergraduate students in this course. Making it difficult to distinguish between who is learning from whom, three Loyola faculty are taking the course as "students." Supported by McCormick faculty fellowships, Carol Harding (Counseling Psychology), Bren Murphy (Communication), and Paula Pfeffer (History) are enrolled in the course.

Through seminar discussions and participation in program site visits by more than six area foundations, participants hope to get a better understanding of the relationship between philanthropy and social change in Chicago. CURL is particularly interested in explorations into the new role of institutions of higher education in this changing world.

## McCormick Fellows Named for Spring Semester

Faculty and graduate fellows were named to continue or begin work at CURL in January. Supported by the McCormick Tribune Foundation endowment, the fellows will work on a number of projects.

### The faculty fellows, who receive course reductions from their departments, are:

- \* Dr. Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar (Psychology) -- continuing PRIDE and beginning Edge/Up School-to-Work evaluations;
- \* Dr. Elizabeth Vera (Counseling Psychology) -- Peirce School
- \* Drs. Carol Harding (Education), Bren Murphy (Communication), Paula Pfeffer (History) -- "Philanthropy, Public Policy, and Community Change"
- \* Dr. Richard Block (Sociology) -- Rogers Park Defensible Space project.
- \* Dr. Lee Artz (Communication) -- Collaboration with St. Gregory School.

### Graduate students are:

- \* Lucia Orellana (Community Psych.) -- PRIDE evaluation;
- \* Trevor Bechtel (Theology) -- University/community inventory of projects & CURL web site;
- \* Denise Rose (Sociology) and Chris Payne (Counseling Psychology) -- Welfare reform project;
- \* Wendy Garrard (Community Psych.) -- Edge/Up evaluation;
- \* Jacqueline Beale-del Vecchio (IPS/Social Work) --

Lakefront SRO/Homeless project;

- \* Laura Herrin (Criminal Justice) -- Rogers Park Defensible Space project.

In addition, several undergraduate students have workstudy appointments at the Center. Two, Betsy Mahler (Social Work) and Angela Baker (History), are assigned to support research projects. Angel Lampkin (Nursing) and Gloria Mojarro (Social Work) work with Maureen Abraham, CURL's administrative assistant, and help with many clerical needs.

## Collaboration in Theory and Practice

Three Loyola sociologists, Phil Nyden, Anne Figert, and Mark Shibley, along with community organization leader, Darryl Burrows, have co-edited a book examining how social science theory and research can be used in successful collaborative work with community groups. In addition to chapters discussing the overall process of university:community partnerships, Building Community: Social Science in Action, provides more than 25 case studies from around the country. The examples look at research and community-based action in the areas of racial, ethnic and economic diversity; environment; education; health; and community control. The book will be available late in February and is being published by Pine Forge Press, a new offshoot of Sage Publications.

For more details on this book and other community-based research activities at CURL look at our home page under the Chicago section of Loyola's main homepage. CURL encourages all Loyola faculty and students to provide us with information on ongoing projects and that might be of interest to publications by others. We will list these resources on our homepage and make them available to others inside and outside the Loyola community

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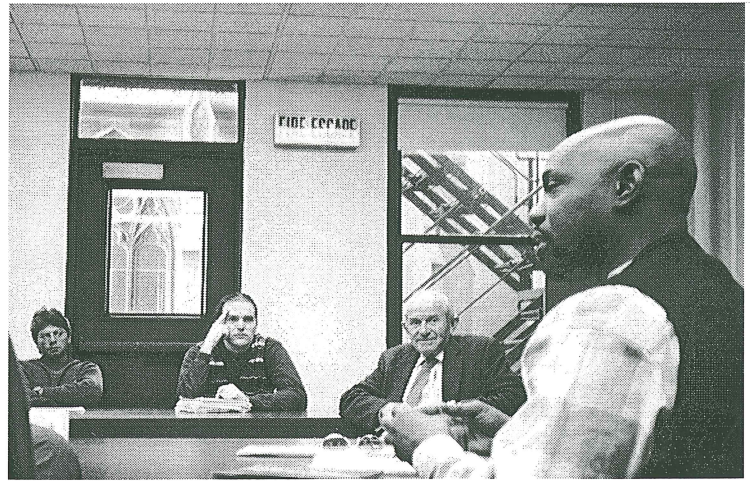
## Friday 'Conflabs' - Or what's in the name?

It's hard to know what to call CURL's Friday morning meetings. Last summer, we began with 'staff meeting,' but we soon left out all the administrative stuff when it became more important to talk about issues students were facing in their community research projects.

Our 10 a.m. to noon 'conflabs', 'get-togethers', 'gatherings, or whatever we end up calling them, have become significant times to explore ideas, concepts, views that have some relationship to community/university work. It is a practical discussion for students, faculty, and staff from SLIC, PRAG, and CURL.

We have had visitors, and we welcome more from both the community and university. Phone (312) 915-7768 for a voice message update on topics and presenters. (Please note that we skip some Fridays, so please call in advance to be sure we are meeting.)

Join us soon!



**Talking "Ideas:"** Oba William King of JUSTUS, a community-based arts education program, joins Loyola graduate assistants, Asif Raza and David Van Zytveld, and Senior Scholar, Kale Williams, at a recent Friday discussion concerning 'poetic facts' and 'theoretical facts'. Trevor Bechtel (not pictured) was the co-discussant with Oba.

## Save the Date:

**CURL, PRAG, SLIC Open House, Wednesday, April 9, 1997, 4:30-7:00 p.m.**



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