Three outstanding graduate students in the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management were selected for the highly competitive 2014 Oregon Fellows Program, which attracts students from major universities across the country. Applicants are evaluated on their academic records, professional experience, and commitment to public service. This year, 20 fellows were selected from a pool of more than 200 applicants. Fellows receive a $5,000 stipend for the 10-week program and an array of professional development activities.

Master of public administration student Luis Sandoval expanded his career interests as a result of his fellowship with the City of Portland Audit Services Division. He discovered that performance auditing is in alignment with his commitment to public service. Sandoval contributed to four audit projects, which included conducting background research and in-person interviews, gathering best-practices information, and comparing common practices across jurisdictions. He noted that his supervisor and coworkers made a special effort to maximize his experience.

Master of community and regional planning student Aniko Drlik-Muehleck was selected to serve as a consultant for a food security research project at Home Forward, the public housing authority in Multnomah County, Oregon. She assessed the agency’s current infrastructure and services, researched approaches to address hunger among residents in public housing, and made recommendations for strategic and operational changes that will improve Home Forward’s ability to assist food-insecure residents. The experience prompted Drlik-Muehleck to expand her career focus to include food justice and to think about ways to address the root causes of food insecurity.

Master of community and regional planning student Andrew Dutterer, who is also pursuing a concurrent master’s degree in environmental studies, was selected to work in the Focused Investments and Policy Program at the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). Dutterer has long admired the mission of OWEB and its capacity in collaborating with salmon- and river-restoration efforts. This past summer, he supported a new direction in restoration policy by facilitating strategic partnerships among watershed councils, land trusts, soil and water conservation districts, and other nongovernmental organizations to address large-scale and long-term restoration efforts.

Sandoval, Drlik-Muehleck, and Dutterer were outstanding fellows and will be part of the next generation of managers, analysts, and policymakers.
Linda Dent retires

Our newsletter often focuses on the accomplishments of our faculty and students, but we seldom take time to recognize the hard work of our staff. We are grateful to have two wonderful classified staffers working for us in the department: Linda Dent and Susanne Zudegi Giordano. For many students, Linda and Zudegi are their first points of contact and a great source of help for all kinds of questions. For faculty members, they are vital to supporting our teaching and research. As department head, I am highly dependent on their support and great work. With our enrollment growth over these past 10 years, their workloads have increased significantly. I often get complimented from administrators about how well our department runs, and I am quick to point out that this is largely due to the excellent work by Linda and Zudegi.

As noted in this newsletter, Linda Dent will be retiring this fall. We are happy that Linda can enjoy more leisure time, travel, and camping. We are also very sorry to see Linda go, because her positive attitude, eternal patience, and work ethic have been so important for this department. She has served the department for 22 years and been at the UO for 37 years, and her knowledge of the university, school, and department has been an amazing asset.

By the time you get this newsletter, we hope to have a new person in Linda’s position. We have also been able to make additional changes that will help the department handle the growth we’ve experienced. First, we have hired Bob Choquette full time as an instructor and graduate coordinator for the department. Bob has been an instructor in PPPM for more than 20 years, and for the past two years he has been program director for the Sustainable Cities Initiative. In his new role, he will have additional teaching duties and will coordinate graduate recruitment and advising. Linda played a big role in helping students with advising questions, but with 60 new graduate students in our three programs this fall, we needed more support in this area. Bob will also help coordinate recruitment across all of our graduate programs including outreach efforts and working with applicants.

We have also been able to increase the FTE work load of Jessica Mathiesen, our undergraduate internship director, so she can assume the duties of undergraduate program director. This position has been held by a tenure-track faculty member in the past, but we believe having a full-time employee in this position will serve our students better. A new faculty undergraduate committee will oversee curriculum, policies, and assist with admissions. If you would like to send Linda a note, please feel free to send it to the department and we will make sure she receives it.

As always, we appreciate your support of PPPM in whatever form you can give, and have enclosed a gift envelope with this newsletter.

Rich Margerum, PhD
Professor and Department Head
rdm@uoregon.edu

Linda Dent retires

Linda Dent has retired after 37 years in service. Along with her work in PPPM since 1992, she worked in Business Affairs and the College of Human Development and Performance. Tributes include:

“Linda Dent is AMAZING. [She] really cares about our students. I’m not sure what more you can ask for in a colleague.”
– Amy Cubbage, recent alumni, MPA

“She always has time to stop her work to answer students’ questions.”
– Leah Davis, PPPM ’14

“She has always been patient and resourceful. She has the most infectious laugh that will forever resonate with the PPPM community.”
– Robert Morris, recent alumnus, MCRP

Choquette receives 2014 Outstanding Teacher award

Bob Choquette, the new graduate program coordinator, has been an instructor in the department for twenty-three years, teaching classes ranging from “Introduction to the Nonprofit Sector” to “Project Management.” PPPM students presented him the Outstanding Teacher of the Year award in June.

Choquette’s experience adds a real-world perspective to course content. “Bob is one of the most professional but at the same time easy-going teachers I have ever met,” says Ross Peizer, community and regional planning student.

As Kayla Bowcutt, MNPM ’13 and MPA ’13, remarked, “He is the very best kind of teacher—the kind who cares about each student as a pupil and also as a person.”

Staff

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2014–15

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Schlossberg research on sprawl, walkability, and street transformation continues

Professor Marc Schlossberg has two publications forthcoming: a chapter in an upcoming book called Fixing Sprawl, titled “Rethinking Residential On-Street Parking” and coauthored with Dave Amos, MCRP ’13, MArch ’13, and “Refining the Grain: Using Resident-Based Walkability Audits to Capture What Conventional GIS Data Misses” in the Journal of Urbanism, with colleagues from the Oregon Research Institute. In addition, Schlossberg’s 2014 book, Rethinking Streets: An Evidence-Based Guide to 25 Complete Street Transformations, has now been downloaded more than 5,000 times in 20 countries in addition to the 1,000 print copies distributed around the US. An additional 1,000 print copies will be available for distribution by the end of 2014. Schlossberg was also video-interviewed by the Register-Guard for the October 22, 2014, issue. As one of the founders of UO’s Sustainable Cities Initiative, he commented on SCI’s latest project to start a research hub on sustainability to distribute implementable solutions to today’s biggest environmental, social, and health problems in climate, transportation, and population centers.

Stephens to lead international planners organization

Adjunct Instructor Ric Stephens has recently been named president-elect of the International Society of City and Regional Planners. The ISOCARP network brings together individual and institutional members from more than 80 countries worldwide. Members are planners and other stakeholders involved in the development and maintenance of the built environment. Stephens teaches

UO recognizes Margerum with Fund for Faculty Excellence Award

Brook Muller, acting dean for the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, announced in October three outstanding A&AA faculty members who would receive the Fund for Faculty Excellence award for the 2014–15 academic year. Once again, PPPM’s faculty excellence was recognized as Department Head Rich Margerum was chosen as one of the recipients. This award is given on the basis of “scholarly impact within their respective fields, their contributions to program and institutional quality at UO, and their academic leadership.” The Fund for Faculty Excellence is designed to further the university’s strategic commitment to improving its academic quality and reputation by recognizing, supporting, and retaining world-class tenure-track faculty members. In 2007, PPPM faculty members Renee Irvin and Marc Schlossberg received this award.

Sandoval wins Chester Rapkin Award

Gerardo Sandoval, assistant professor, has been selected to receive the Chester Rapkin Award for best paper in the Journal of Planning Education and Research. Sandoval’s “Shadow Transnationalism: Cross-Border Networks and Planning Challenges of Transnational Unauthorized Immigrant Communities” was selected from volume 33, issue 1 (2013). The award committee members—Matt Siemiatycki (chair), Dick Klosterman, and Ayse Pamuk—were unanimous in the decision. In the award selection, the committee said, “The paper shines a spotlight on an important public policy issue that is of particular relevance for planners.” Sandoval’s paper identifies the deeply intertwined networks of immigrants, employers, and state actors that support unauthorized immigration, while forcing migrants into the shadows of society where they are especially vulnerable. It is based on a case study of the transnational networks that link together migrants from El Rosario, a poor rural village in Guatemala, with Postville, Iowa, and the promise of jobs in a meatpacking plant there. Despite being in the shadows, unauthorized migrants are present in towns and cities across America, shaping housing and labor markets, public service demand, and local community culture. By understanding the powerful confluence of interests that support unauthorized immigrants in the United States, planners can implement policies that reduce their vulnerability. The selection committee learned a great deal from this paper and recommends it highly to members of the planning faculty, students, and practitioners.

Welcome, new faculty members

Dyana Mason joined PPPM this fall as an assistant professor after a national search. Her research interests include nonprofit governance and leadership, fundraising, charitable giving, and public management. In 2013, she was the recipient of an Emerging Scholar Award by the Association of Research in Nonprofit and Voluntary Associations (ARNOVA), and received her PhD from the Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California. Mason also comes to the department with extensive nonprofit experience, adding a new dedicated faculty position to our growing nonprofit program.

Stephan Lindner joins the department this year as a visiting assistant professor while Associate Professor Laura Leete is on sabbatical. Lindner, PhD, is a research associate at the Urban Institute. His research examines how government programs can support vulnerable population groups, including people with disabilities, unemployed workers, and families with young children. He has written about a number of government programs, including Social Security disability insurance, unemployment insurance, and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. More recently, Lindner has been working on topics related to long-term care, Medicaid, and implications of the Affordable Care Act for people with disabilities.

Promotions

Two PPPM professors have been promoted. Yizhao Yang has been promoted to associate professor with tenure and Marc Schlossberg has been promoted to professor. Both Yang and Schlossberg continue outstanding teaching and research projects and have been taking on new leadership roles.
Gregg Kantor, MUP ’81, generously gave back to his alma mater by establishing the Kantor Family Internship. Kantor, president and CEO of Northwest Natural, dedicated this endowed fund to provide resources each year to help support a PPPM student selected for an energy-related internship in Oregon. Mariah Acton, a graduate student in public administration and conflict and dispute resolution law, was the inaugural recipient of the Kantor Family Internship Fund for summer 2014.

Acton, a second-year master’s student, used the Kantor fund support toward her internship with Oregon Solutions, a State of Oregon initiative that develops sustainable solutions to community-based problems through public-private collaboration. Her internship focused on the Lower Columbia Solutions Group, which has worked closely with the Bonneville Power Administration on river restoration and management to optimize hydropower and ecological services.

As a collaborative governance intern, Acton conducted 30 filmed stakeholder interviews and will write a series of reports and manuals. The experience proved to be the perfect match for her academic and career interests. “I see my internship . . . as only a stone’s throw away from directly influencing future energy policy and community collaborations around sustainability initiatives in the Northwest.”

PPPM is grateful to Gregg Kantor and his family for the gift of support that helps students to take advantage of such important, experiential learning opportunities.

The Kantor Family Internship Fund award may be used to help fund internship-related expenses including travel, supplies, materials, tuition and student fees, and living expenses. The primary selection criteria are academic performance and the merits of the student’s internship plans.

Student News

Interns demonstrate active learning

Clare Murphy, a PPPM major and economics minor, interned at Mercy Housing in San Francisco, California. An asset management intern, Murphy focused on the financial side of nonprofit affordable housing development, ensuring that Mercy Housing properties were in compliance with regulatory entities and government agencies. She expanded her skills and learned about the financing and budgeting processes involved in the development, construction, rehabilitation, and management of housing for low-income families and individuals.

Murphy received funding for her internship through the PPPM Public Service Award, which helped to offset some of the costs of tuition, housing, and travel.

Murphy plans to pursue a career in affordable housing and community development. She said she was given “the opportunity to observe, interact, and learn from all departments instrumental in affordable housing development.”

Yanely Rivas, a PPPM and ethnic studies major, interned with Causa, Oregon’s immigrant rights organization. A civic engagement intern, Rivas participated in community outreach events, collaborated with partner organizations, registered voters, and reached out to individuals via canvassing. The internship allowed her to work broadly in the field of community development and increase her knowledge of issue-based electoral organizing and civic engagement within marginalized communities.

Rivas received the Gregory R. Pulliam Student Assistance Award to offset some of her internship expenses.

The internship allowed her to expand her skills by aiding “Causa’s outstanding success in defending and advancing immigrant rights at the state level,” she says. Rivas’ career goals are to work with Latino youth in a nonprofit agency or in education.

Marcus Arends, a PPPM major and computer information technology and business administration minor, interned with the City of Sisters, Oregon. As a paid planning intern, Arends researched sign codes in other cities, helped rewrite the city’s sign code, and collected data to support revising a campground master plan. Arends’ internship allowed him to participate as a member of a city committee, experiencing firsthand what it is like to work as a planner in a government office.

Highlights included working with others who “care about the image of the town,” and being interviewed and featured in the local newspaper. Arends says he was inspired by the staff’s dedication to “making the city a vibrant place to live,” and is enthusiastic about pursuing a career in planning.

Ben Novak, a PPPM major, works with the City of Eugene’s Waste Prevention and Green Building program as the sport and sustainability analyst. His work includes training Eugene businesses how to compost—using the city’s Love Food Not Waste commercial compost program—and developing a carbon footprint tool for major sporting events that will be part of the Council for Responsible Sports’ resources for sustainable events worldwide. “Ben is eager to learn and takes initiative. He is an asset to our team and his work is advancing the city’s role as a leader in sustainability,” says his supervisor and PPPM alumna Stephanie Scafa.

Student News

UO student wins $16,000 Oregon Sea Grant award

Oregon Sea Grant has selected Sarah Allison as the recipient of the 2014–16 Resilience and Adaptation Graduate Fellowship. The $16,000 award will support research for her final project, “Keeping Local Economies Safe: The Role of Economic Development Plans in Natural Hazards Resilience.”

Allison is interested in helping communities prepare to withstand natural disasters and recover from them. Those disasters could include an earthquake or tsunami, but also include annual hazards such as flooding and winter storms. She is pursuing a master of community and regional planning (MCRP) degree and the Oregon leadership in sustainability (OLIS) graduate certificate. The fellowship will support her research, travel, and conference attendance.

“This is a big deal. It’s the biggest student award I’ve seen in the 25 years I’ve been here,” said Robert Parker, codirector of the Community Service Center (CSC).

Building on earlier projects with the CSC, Allison developed a research project, focused on Oregon South Coast communities, to identify specific opportunities for increasing economic resilience to hazards through economic development plans.

As part of her research, Allison will develop outreach materials such as handouts aimed at planners, economic development professionals, and emergency managers that identify strategies for increasing economic hazards resilience and strategies for collaboration.

Story by Rhonda Smith and Marti Gerdes
Community Service Center

CSC provides assistance to Oregon’s south coast

Economic struggles. Decreasing public safety services. Failing infrastructure. Aging medical buildings. These issues plague many rural communities, but they are especially difficult on the southern coast of Oregon. For the past five years, the Community Service Center (CSC) has worked with the communities of this region to address these issues and more. The projects featured here span the entire range of CSC programs, including individual student research projects, focusing the energy and expertise of the University of Oregon on the state’s south coast. Without the assistance of the CSC, and the engagement of our students, interns, and AmeriCorps members, these communities may not be able to pursue these projects.

Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience (OPDR)
The OPDR is tackling issues of disaster resilience from two different angles in the three-county area. It is helping each county update its Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. These plans are required by FEMA to address hazard projects and to attract certain pools of funding for disaster mitigation and recovery. In a more cutting-edge project, OPDR is partnering with the Ford Family Foundation, an organization committed to rural vitality in Oregon, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to develop systems and networks that empower citizens to improve the resilience of their own communities.

Economic Development Administration University Center (EDAUC)
The EDAUC is wrapping up a project in Coos County with the Oregon Wave Energy Trust that approaches economic development from an exciting new perspective. The Coos County coast has been identified as having promising qualities for the development of wave energy in terms of ocean conditions and topography. The EDAUC tailored a model called the community readiness assessment to explore the capacity of the community to support this type of industry. Research areas included infrastructure, public and private organizations, civic structures, and other metrics. The results of this study provide insights that can be used to lay a solid foundation if the community decides it wants to pursue ocean energy as an industry.

Resource Assistance to Rural Environments (RARE)
In 2013–14, RARE AmeriCorps placed five members in the south coast region. Each addressed community-identified projects to improve the economy and environment of the region. Through RARE’s partnership with Oregon Food Bank, two members—one placed with South Coast Development Council and one placed with Curry Watersheds—addressed local food systems, looking at both food security and the local food economy. These placements were also in partnership with the Wild Rivers Coast Alliance. Two other placements, one in Coos Bay and one in Port Orford, worked toward improving the local economy, specifically through the Oregon Main Street Program. In the fifth placement, the member addressed a variety of issues in the City of Myrtle Point.

Sustainable Cities Initiative

Grant to spread SCI Year Program model across US

Five years ago, the Sustainable Cities Initiative (SCI) developed its groundbreaking model to link the sustainability projects of an Oregon city to existing student class work at the UO. Now the Sustainable City Year Program model (SCYP) is being replicated at 17 universities nationwide and the National Institute for Transportation and Communities has awarded a grant to implement the model in even more communities. The grant will fund the creation of training materials that will teach cities and university administrators the nuts and bolts of running an SCYP program.

UO SCYP city partners have included Gresham, Salem, Springfield, and Medford.

Speaker series focuses on contemporary urban China

The department and SCI China sponsored a contemporary urban China speaker series during fall 2014. The series promoted interdisciplinary discussions on the topic of urban development in China. Visiting scholars from China as well as campus scholars presented the lectures with a research focus on China. Topics include ecocity development, anticorruption campaigns, rail transportation expansion, small town planning, and ecological land protection.

Currently, SCI China is working with the Chinese Academy of Urban Planning and Design and the Suzhou Urban Planning and Design Institute on strategic comprehensive planning for Suzhou City.

Community Planning Workshop (CPW)
CPW is in the beginning stages of an assessment of historic theaters in Oregon, including three along the south coast. The CPW team will assess needs and coordinate marketing for the Savoy Theater in Port Orford, the Egyptian Theater in Coos Bay, and the Liberty Theater in North Bend, among others. Strategies may include preservation or renovation, as well as integration into cultural tourism outreach. These theaters have the potential to serve their communities as tourist destinations, downtown attractions, and historic landmarks.

These projects give a sense of the tremendous variety of ways that the CSC supports communities in Oregon, and particularly the communities of the south coast. Whether in preparation for hazards, support of local economic development and planning, or providing other needed services, the CSC is helping communities meet their goals while training the next generation of public servants.

RARE celebrates 20th reunion with gathering

In July 2014, the Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) AmeriCorps program celebrated 20 years of placements by holding a reunion in Creswell, Oregon. More than 150 former members, supervisors, and partners gathered for a day of service and an evening of food, music, and fellowship. Visit csc.uoregon.edu to learn more about the RARE program. The 2015–16 RARE AmericaCorps community preapplications are now available and member applications are due by April 24, 2015.
Student News

LiveMove continues to be a leader

LiveMove, the UO’s transportation and livability student group dominated by PPPM students, continues to translate their knowledge and passion into action. After a year of fundraising and working the administrative structures of the university, LiveMove has helped install Oregon’s first university-based permanent bicycle counter and only the second counter overall statewide. Located at the entrance to campus on 13th Avenue, this counter will record every single bike trip in and out of campus at this heaviest-in-Eugene bicycle transportation gateway. As of this printing, LiveMove is still searching for about $3,000 to also have an onsite visual display of the count data as is common in world-class bike cities such as Copenhagen. LiveMove’s 2013 project to create an evidence-based redesign of the 13th Avenue corridor between campus and downtown Eugene with a two-way separated bikeway has been formally adopted by city staff, received $150,000 from private citizens Susan and John Minor, and received another $150,000 pledge from the city’s bicycle and pedestrian advisory committee. In early October, the governor’s office asked for an update about this specific project and a forum of city staff members, including the mayor, university representatives, various community leaders, and members of US Senator Jeff Merkley’s office all participated. The event was organized and led by Professor Marc Schlossberg.

Travel award aids City Club of Portland

With his spring PPPM travel award, graduate student Alex Macfarlan traveled frequently to Portland to work as a research assistant to the City Club of Portland’s ballot committees. The nine committees made up of City Club member-volunteers spent several months investigating all proposed and possible 2014 Oregon ballot measures. The committees and City Club publish an easily readable summary of each issue and a yes or no recommendation to better inform Oregonians headed to the ballot box in November. Macfarlan worked with several committee chairs and conducted research to assist the committees. Macfarlan is from Sydney, Australia, and specializes in migration and labor policy issues.

He was also awarded the UO Centurion Award this year, one of 100 students honored. The award recognizes dedication and outstanding service as a student leader in the past year.

Department News

PPPM student awards and alumni news celebrated

Erik Thorbeck, current sophomore majoring in PPPM and Chinese, has been awarded the David L. Boren Scholarship, a prestigious study-abroad award that focuses on national security and linguistics. As a Boren Scholar, Thorbeck will study in China from January to September 2015, spending one semester at Nanjing University and another semester completing an internship in the country. The scholarship is part of the National Security Education Program and is administered by the Institute of International Education.

Sarah Weber, a concurrent student in the master of nonprofit management and master of public administration programs, received the Gregory A. Chaille Public Service Scholarship.

Alumni News

Marcus Kauffman, MCRP ’99, held his first photography show, Variations on a Dream! The show ran November 7–December 3 at In Eugene Real Estate in Eugene. Kauffman serves as the biomass resource specialist for the Oregon Department of Forestry.


Briana Orr, BS ’11, was awarded the Emerging Leader Award by the Bicycle Transportation Alliance. As an undergraduate student, she started a highly successful program at UO matching discarded bicycles with incoming international students who needed transportation. The program quickly expanded due to high demand. Orr’s pilot program was an inspiration and led to the creation of the Bike Program at UO.

Kala Haley, MPA and MNPM ’13, has accepted a new position as the disaster information coordinator for the California Department of Public Health.

A. J. Bernhardt, MCRP ’14, was recently selected as a real estate services representative at CBRE in Portland. He will be the representative at the OHSU Center for Health and Healing.

Amy Cabbage, MNPM ’14, accepted the position of director of programs and volunteer engagement with Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Willamette Valley. She will be serving the Salem, Keizer, Polk County, and Canyon areas.

Leah Davis, BA ’14, started her new position in November as associate planner in the Resource Stewardship Department for Thurston County, Olympia, Washington. She says Professor Margerum’s collaborative leadership class provided one of the key reasons she was hired as well as the practical help and support from Assistant Professor Lewis. She also provided two work samples from Lewis’s Smart Growth course for her initial interview requirements.

Megan R. Falkenstein, BA ’14, is the resident services coordinator for Cornerstone Community Housing.

Amy Keir, MNPM ’14, was selected in September as the family services and volunteer coordinator for Springfield-Eugene Habitat for Humanity.

Rebecca Langham, BA ’14, is the volunteer coordinator of Outdoors for All Foundation.

Scarlett Philibosian, MCRP ’14, was recently selected for a compliance analyst position with the City of Seattle. She will focus on shoreline habitat protection and code enforcement. In the coming year she will be involved in developing new policies to protect coastal areas within Seattle, including bringing houseboats and floating homes into environmental compliance.

Robert Morris, MCRP ’14, started his new position in October as assistant project manager for Yorke and Curtis in Portland.

Nyssa Rivera, MPA ’14, was selected as a Hatfield Fellow at the City of Forest Grove, Oregon. Her position is similar to a management analyst.

Sarah Sprague, BA ’14, is grants and contracts analyst for PeaceHealth.

Faculty News

Maradel Gale: Emeritus activism

Maradel Gale, associate professor emerita, is still working to protect the environment and enforce land use regulations. After four years of work by citizens, the Planning Commission, and the City Council of Bainbridge Island, Washington, the city submitted the update to the area’s shoreline master program to the state Department of Ecology. However, the state agency responsible for protecting the shorelines of Puget Sound instead mandated a change that allows nearly unlimited intensive development of these shorelines around the island.

Current intensive aquaculture practices in the south Puget Sound include removing existing near-shore animals (sea stars, sand dollars, crabs, burrowing shrimp) and implanting 43,500 PVC tubes per acre, seeded with four to five geoducks per tube. This monoculture of hungry shellfish, which is much like a confined animal feeding operation on land, depletes the water column of phytoplankton and zooplankton needed for baby salmon and the forage fish on which the salmon feed. There are many other environmentally detrimental impacts as well. A petition to review the actions of the Department of Ecology has been filed by a coalition of environmental groups and will be heard in early 2015.
Tuition-free community college, reforming toxic chemical regulations, and energy efficiency rebates were the issues addressed in September by students in the 48-Hour Policy Analysis Project, now in its sixth year. Second-year graduate students from the master of public administration (MPA) program were asked to research specific public-sector problems and present their findings, all within 48 hours.

“This exercise . . . pushes people into a realistic, messy situation where they have to cope with the timing restraints, muddle through, and do the best they can,” says Associate Professor Renee Irvin.

The project allows MPA students to take a practical approach in policymaking with a time constraint familiar in a workplace. To simulate a real work environment, the students are also given less guidance than for a normal class assignment.

Student Liz Rickles, who was among those assigned the topic of reforming toxic chemical regulations, said the experience will allow her to tackle relevant challenges in the future. “If a potential employer in an interview ever asks, ‘Tell me about an example where you worked on a deadline,’ I’ll have a really solid demonstration of that skill,” says Rickles, a graduate teaching fellow for the Sustainable Cities Initiative.

Jonathan Bennett says the 48-hour deadline helped prepare him for his professional ambitions as an environmental policy analyst. “The tight time constraint put me out of my comfort zone, but being able to overcome that difficulty with my group was very rewarding,” he says.

Katie Gatlin says the project allowed her team to work dynamically and focus on strengths they developed during the first year of the program. The presentation also promoted her confidence in conveying personal research before a critical audience. “We knew going into the presentation that people would ask us hard questions to make sure our analysis is strong, which makes you work harder and consider all angles,” she says.

Story and images by Emerson Malone.
Give to PPPM

PPPM uses alumni contributions to support student travel and research, special events, and alumni activities.

You can send checks payable to the University of Oregon Foundation to PPPM, or visit our website, pppm.uoregon.edu, and click on “Give Now” for access to the secure online contributions site.

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Community Service Center

Inventory of Oregon’s historic theaters is joint effort with UO, Oregon Main Street, Travel Oregon, and Pacific Power

Travel Oregon, the State’s tourism commission, has awarded the Community Service Center (CSC) $18,000 in matching grant funds to support an inventory, needs assessment, and strategic marketing campaign for historic theaters throughout Oregon. The CSC will work with Oregon Main Street and Pacific Power for the next year to identify issues facing Oregon’s historic theaters and suggest an effective preservation, renovation, and cultural tourism outreach strategy.

This project comes at a particularly critical moment for downtown theaters. The rising cost of maintenance and operation has dealt a hefty financial blow and forced many theaters to close their doors. In response to these challenges, theater enthusiasts have come together to advocate for their local cinemas and performance halls. At the same time, discussions with community leaders surrounding downtown revitalization have revealed a common interest in preserving historic downtown theaters.

This study builds on the momentum of preservation and restoration projects across the state. The impressive façade of Portland’s Hollywood Theater offers just one example of many grassroots efforts to restore these downtown cultural gems. The CSC and its partners hope that documentation, needs assessments, and tourism coordination will generate some of the resources theaters need to thrive as they adapt to changing conditions.

Currently, the CSC is in the process of gathering names of historic theaters across the state. Visit http://goo.gl/0fg7wV to find the most up-to-date list and map of locations. If you know of a theater we have not yet captured, fill out our brief inventory form: http://goo.gl/Ku5fbQ. Theaters must be at least 50 years old to qualify as historic buildings.

The 1,500-seat Hollywood Theater, opened in 1926, was the last venue in Portland built as both a vaudeville house and a movie theatre. Photo courtesy Doug Whyte.