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PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTER UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

MARK TRANEL NAMED PPRC DIRECTOR

In January 2003, Dr. Mark Tranel was named the new Director of the Public Policy Research Center. The position opened when the Center's previous Executive Director, Dr. Alan Artibise, became the dean of the College of Urban and Public Affairs at the University of New Orleans.

Mark joined the Center in 1990 as Senior Research Analyst. In 2000 he became the Director of the Center's Division of Research. Over the past decade Mark has been the principal investigator or research project manager on over 40 applied research projects in the metropolitan St. Louis area.



Mark is an active participant in a number of housing and community development organizations including serving as a member of the Board of Directors of North County, Inc. In 1999, the Center exhibited his photographic work, "Street Banners,

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SAVE THE DATE! APRIL 14-15, 2003

On April 14-15 2002, the Center will host the 2nd Annual Creating Livable Communities Symposium: Linking Research, Policy and Practice. This innovative symposium promotes the sharing of information, research and best practices on a broad range of issues that impact the St. Louis Region.

This year's keynote speaker is Victor Rubin from PolicyLink, a national

nonprofit research organization. Rubin has more than 25 years of experience as a community planner, consultant, university researcher and teacher.

The symposium is designed to give researchers, policy makers, community leaders, institutional representatives and students the opportunity to share information,

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LIVABLE communities don't just HAPPEN.

They are CREATED by the PEOPLE who LIVE in them.

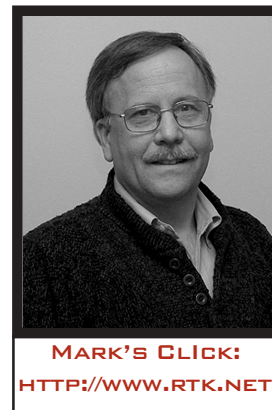
STAFF CLICKS

Finding good information on the web can be a tricky task. If the numerous sites devoted to research methods, community development and public policy leave you feeling overwhelmed, let our offerings help you navigate the great world of electronic information.



This month's pick is the Right To Know Network, at <http://www.rtk.net/>. It is a website that addresses environmental policy issues, and also keeps you updated on current decisions and upcoming events. Visitors can obtain free access to numerous databases, text files, and conferences on the environment. One of the most useful features of this site is its capability to identify specific factories and their environmental effects and the people and communities affected.

This month's pick was chosen by Mark Tranel, the Center's Director. "This website is a valuable resource for examining environmental hazards at the community level. It connects residents to databases on air, land and water pollution emissions, permits, and regulations," said Mark.



Be sure to check out all of our staff's web picks. Visit us at <http://pprc.umsl.edu>.

CENTER STUDY EXAMINES IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING

Not everyone is treated equally in the housing market, and the Applied Research division of PPRC is looking at why. Under the direction of Mark Tranel, Applied Research is nearing completion of an analysis of impediments (AI) to fair housing for the five Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement jurisdictions in the Missouri portion



of metropolitan St. Louis. Separate reports will discuss impediments to fair housing in the five jurisdictions - the City of St. Louis, the City of St. Charles, the City of St. Peters, the City of Florissant, and St. Louis County.

Federal fair housing law identifies six protected classes, prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, family, and disability. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires CDBG recipients to periodically examine compliance with fair housing law in their communities. The Center's study examines the current impediments to fair housing for members of the protected classes and describes the impact of these impediments. Research staff collected

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES DOWN, BUT LIFE AND PLANT SCIENCES SECTOR PROMISING

The MIDAS division recently completed two massive job surveys, and the results indicate that jobs are down in the St. Louis region. However, during the research period, the Life and Plant Sciences (LPS) sector had more than 600 full time jobs available.

A regional Job Openings Survey was completed in May 2002. The survey is conducted twice a year, in October and May, and this was the second study of this on-going series. The survey allows MIDAS to estimate the number of job openings in the region by county and by industry. It provides specific information about the wage rates, benefits, and incentives, as well as required skills, education, and experience.

In comparing the results of the two Job Openings Surveys, MIDAS found that the number of jobs in the St. Louis metro area fell 44% from the same time a year ago. Says David Laslo, Director of MIDAS,

“We were not surprised to learn that the job openings had dropped in the last year. This parallels what we know about the economy.” The study also shows that the largest percentage of available jobs is in retail, and that employers are having difficulty finding qualified workers in all sectors.

The LPS study was conducted as a separate study to complement the regional Job Openings Survey and to provide a more complete understanding of this specific industry. This was the first survey of the LPS, and it indicated that the industry is likely to grow at a sustained pace over the next five years. In this sector, too, employers are struggling to find qualified workers.

To read the full reports and to find other employment information, visit MIDAS' Workforce Information System at <http://pprc.umsi.edu/wis/>.

UNEARTHING HISTORY IN OLD NORTH ST. LOUIS

Many residents of Old North St. Louis are unaware of their neighborhood's past, or they don't appreciate how it impacts their own life experiences. The Old North Neighborhood Partnership (ONNP) hopes to change that.

During Fall 2002, ONNP initiated a multi-year archaeology project to help residents uncover and interpret their neighborhood's past. On Saturdays from October through December, University faculty and students partnered with neighborhood residents, school students and Boy Scout troops to explore the neighborhood's

history from an archaeological perspective. The weekend archaeological field school was conducted on Hebert Street in Old North St. Louis. The excavations uncovered portions of a razed alley house, a stable, a shed, and a fence. Many artifacts were collected, including ceramics, toys, bottles, and other household items.

A second field school is being planned for the summer of 2003 that will provide new opportunities for uncovering the past of Old North St. Louis. This field school will focus on a household



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COMMUNITY LEADER RECEIVES PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTER FELLOWSHIP



In October, the Public Policy Research Center named Rachelle L'Ecuyer as its 2002-2003 Community Fellow.

Ms. L'Ecuyer currently serves as the Project Manager for the Regional Housing and Community Development Alliance. Her primary focus has been management of the North Market Redevelopment Plan, encompassing

a 30-acre area of Old North St. Louis. Ms. L'Ecuyer also serves as the Vice-Chair of the Affordable Housing Commission. During her fellowship with PPRC, she will be researching housing strategies for inner-ring suburban municipalities. The emphasis of her work will be to identify strategies to maintain population stability and housing values in Jennings.

The Center's Community Fellows program is an innovative initiative that connects experienced members of community-based organizations working to improve the region with UMSL faculty and

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APPLIED RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES, SPRING 2003

There's something for everyone this spring at the PPRC's Applied Research Seminar Series. Speakers will cover a wide range of subjects, from inner urban historic preservation, to methods for measuring spiritual integration.

PPRC sponsors this series each semester. The series allows PPRC fellows to discuss their new research projects with faculty, staff, students, and other individuals interested in public policy. It provides an opportunity to get the latest findings on on-going projects and to learn about upcoming work.

The series is free and open to the public. Light

All presentations will be in the PPRC Conference Room, 430 Social Services Building. Seminars are from noon - 1:00 p.m.

February 19, Wednesday	Teen Employment and the 1996 Welfare Legislation	Presented by Anne Winkler, Assoc. Professor, Economics
March 10, Monday	The Arts and Municipal Regeneration: A Wise Path for St. Louis?	Presented by Lana Stein, Professor, Political Science
March 17, Monday	New Refugees in St. Louis: Integrating Them Into the Workforce	Presented by Uma Segal, Professor, Social Work
April 16, Wednesday	A Methods Tour of the Spiritual Integration Measurement Project	Presented by Van Reidhead, Assoc. Professor, Anthropology
April 28, Monday	Toward a Typology of Criminal Retaliation	Presented by Bruce Jacobs, Associate Professor, Criminology & Criminal Justice

refreshments are served, and you are invited to bring a brown bag lunch. You can read a description of the seminars at <http://pprc.umsl.edu>.

AMERICAN LINES: PHOTO GALLERY AT PPRC TO AIR CLEAN LAUNDRY

What are you wearing? Do you know what it tells the world about you? A lot, according to Joe Kirkish, a photographer and retired professor from Michigan Technical University in Houghton, Michigan. A photo exhibit by Joe Kirkish extends the metaphor “you are what you eat” to “you are what you wear”. The exhibit, called American Lines, will open next month in the Public Policy Research Center Gallery.



In this photographic exploration, Kirkish and his students capture images from the clotheslines across America. As part of the project, they closely study clotheslines and then write reflectively on what the clothes reveal about their wearers. In this way, Kirkish and his students are exploring a concept that Madison Avenue has relied upon for decades: your “look” cannot help but reflect your truest identity. This unique use of photography illustrates the way that the medium is used for communication, preservation, and documentation as well as for art.

The Center will host an exhibit opening and reception from 12-1:00 p.m. on February 10, 2003. The event is free and open to the public, and light refreshments will be served. George J. McCall, Professor of

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PPRC PUBLICATIONS

The Center is actively engaged in the community at all levels, and it is through communications that we create our strong presence. Below is a brief list of our latest publications and project reports. You may read a full report of any of these at the PPRC website, or request a hard copy by emailing us at pprc.umsi.edu.

Streets and Neighborhood History: A Handbook for Researchers in St. Louis by Andrew Hurley. This 32-page book is a guide for identifying and deciphering the physical remnants of the past by studying city streets. The book is full of beautiful pictures of early 1900's St. Louis.

Survey of Job Openings in the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area: May 2002 by the MIDAS unit of PPRC. A full report on the employment climate in the St. Louis region during Summer, 2002.

Economic Impact of the Closing of the Hazelwood Ford Plant on the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area by Angela Holden, MIDAS Research Associate.

For information about the Center's outreach, or for copies of publications, contact Rebecca Pastor at pprc@umsi.edu, or call 314.516.5277.

TRANEL NAMED DIRECTOR (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Urban Identity and Information” and “Metamorphosis” in 2001.

Mark’s focus for the Center will be to maintain the integrity of its mission while exploring new growth potential. “Change must remain constant if the Public Policy Research Center is to remain a vital component of the University and a valuable resource for the

metropolitan community. While I will draw on the experience of the past (the Center has a strong operational structure and a talented and motivated staff), I believe there are a number of new opportunities that should be pursued for the future.

Please join us in congratulating Mark on his new appointment.

SAVE THE DATE! (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

expertise and tools regarding key local and regional issues. Concurrent sessions will cover a wide range of policy research affecting the St. Louis region, including community organizing, education, environment, governance, health, housing, immigration, land use, and workforce development.

The Center is currently seeking presentation proposals. If you are interested in submitting a proposal or attending the seminar, please visit our website at <http://pprc.umsl.edu>.

CENTER EXAMINES IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING

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information from an advisory board established for the study, from focus groups and extensive interviews, and from 2000 census data. The Equal Housing Opportunity Council, the St. Louis University School of Law Civil Clinic, and Gateway Legal Services assisted with the study. These organizations examined the fair housing practices of the jurisdictions, compiled the record of fair housing complaints in the region, and reviewed fair housing ordinances.

The objective of the study is not only to document impediments but also to identify appropriate action to redress discrimination against protected class members. For example, the Center conducted a previous AI study, completed in 1993. It found that there was no available resource providing a listing

of accessible housing for people with disabilities. The study assessed the impact of this barrier, and an action plan was developed to establish a clearinghouse of accessible housing information. The resource is managed by Paraquad. The current study finds the clearinghouse to be functioning effectively in part of the St. Louis region, but it needs to be expanded to include more of the jurisdictions participating in the analysis. “Housing is an issue that is larger than political boundaries,” says Tranel. “Many of the obstacles uncovered by the research are not jurisdiction-specific, and so the implications and uses of this study will be far reaching.”

Research staff plans to submit a draft report early in 2003. Watch our website for more information about the study and resources available.

UNEARTHING HISTORY IN OLD NORTH ST. LOUIS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

near the former Dessaline School, the second African-American public school in St. Louis, and a nearby German-American household once occupied by the owner of a St. Louis German newspaper.

Old North St. Louis remains home to a diverse mix of residents. Though the population and culture has shifted over the years, Old North still has its original street grid west of I-70, the original three development circles, and the well-known Crown Candy store. The archaeological research will yield a better understanding of Old North St. Louis' diverse heritage, as well as the social relationships between the African-American and German-American communities before and after the Civil War.

The ONNP's archaeology project has four phases. The project is expected to last for three years. The

four phases are:

1. Develop a master plan for the project to determine the research themes and implementation plan.
 2. Implement an archaeological testing program on up to five sites.
 3. Conduct intensive archaeological testing at one site selected from the original five.
 4. Analyze the data collected from the excavations.
- Archaeological discoveries will be reported as they relate to the major research themes. The results of the archaeological work will be used to develop historic preservation and tourism programs. It is also hoped that this project will help build social bonds, promoting community stability and harmony.

The ONNP has just launched a new website. For in-depth information on this or other ONNP projects, visit our website at <http://pprc.ums.edu/onnp>.

COMMUNITY LEADER RECEIVES FELLOWSHIP

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

students. The program, now in its second year, is designed to foster partnerships that will strengthen the St. Louis metropolitan area. During the coming year, L'Ecuyer will develop a collaborative project that will benefit her organization and the greater St. Louis community. This program is coordinated by Kay Gasen, the Director of the Center's Community

and Neighborhood Development section. Support for this program is provided by the E. Desmond Lee Endowment at the University of Missouri – St. Louis and the Outreach Development Fund, University Outreach and Extension.

GALLERY EXHIBIT AIRS CLEAN LAUNDRY

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Sociology at UMSL will speak informally about the project at 12:30 p.m. If you miss the opening, feel free to stop by the gallery anytime between February

10 and March 21, 2003. The gallery is located in Room 362 of the Social Sciences Building, and is curated by Jean Tucker.

GET YOUR NAME ADDED TO THE PPRC LISTSERVE, AND RECEIVE UPDATES REGARDING ALL OF OUR FORUMS, GALLERY EXHIBITS, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES, WEB PICKS AND PROJECTS. SEND A BLANK EMAIL CONTAINING THE SUBJECT HEADING "SUBSCRIBE" TO PPRC@UMSL.EDU.

The **PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTER**

has a new look on the Web!

Catch up with the latest policy news, read our recent reports, check out funding opportunities, and meet our newest staff members. New features include Community and Neighborhood Development Toolkit, links to community partners, and a list of all of our upcoming events and seminars.

Drop by when you're in the neighborhood:

[HTTP://PPRC.UMSL.EDU](http://pprc.umsl.edu)

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