

Dean's Message

»

Money & Public Affairs: Impossible to Disentangle

It is no surprise that during this longest and deepest recession since the 1930s, most Americans are obsessed with money issues: jobs, mortgages and savings.

On the public affairs side, that translates into concerns about public budgets, taxes and expenditures, short- and long-run, at the local, state and federal levels.

Our distinguished alumnus, **Michael Hancock** (MPA 1995), was elected mayor of Denver in June after campaigning on a pledge to balance the city's budget and boost economic development across the region. The hard work of fulfilling that promise is just beginning for the new mayor, but we are confident he will continue to personify the SPA motto:

Lead. Solve. Change.

Budgets are always important at any time in the economic cycle mainly as signals of public priorities and values. At least in theory, we should fund collectively what we value the most. (The reality

may be somewhat different—budgets are also a function of history, path dependence, past legal and political mandates etc.)

Of course, we are also interested in budgets at the School of Public Affairs. We care about our own university and school budget, and Colorado unfortunately ranks near the bottom of states in supporting higher education.

We also care about the state and local budgets, and try to play a role in making Colorado's governance more efficient. For example, over the past year, our Buechner Institute for Governance held four well-attended public events about Colorado fiscal policy, culminating in a comprehensive report about trends, how Colorado compares to other states and possible ways to address chronic budget imbalances.


And in spring 2011, SPA also hosted a federal fiscal event supported by **U.S. Senators Mark Udall** and **Michael Bennet** that featured important input about the defense budget from the SPA scholar-in-residence, **former U.S. Sen. Gary Hart**.

Budgets are closely related to other stories in this issue of *Views*. The Buechner Institute is finishing a major evaluation of ProComp, Denver's innovative pay-for-performance plan for teachers, which is all about aligning incentives and budgets. Solutions, our website for health policy discussions in Colorado (www.healthpolicy-solutions.org), focuses many of its stories on health care costs, which will be among the most significant elements of state and federal budgets going forward.

Our featured PhD alum, **Jamie Van Leeuwen**, who is **Gov. John Hickenlooper's** policy advisor for education and health issues, must constantly focus on budgetary issues. And our Wirth Chair scholar, **Alice Madden**, was one of four former legislators invited by the *Denver Post* to weigh in on possible state budget fixes.

Beyond the arena of public finance, our faculty members have been particularly successful this year with new grants, many published articles and new editorial roles. As one measure of that, the downtown CU Denver campus each year recognizes the top faculty researcher, teacher and service provider from the pool generated by each of the seven colleges or schools nominating their top candidate. This year, for the first time ever, SPA faculty members won all three of these awards—a true trifecta—and a pretty remarkable outcome because our faculty members only make up about 5 percent of the eligible faculty on this campus.

As you read this new issue of *Views*, we look forward to your help and support as we expand the scope of our activities, and we welcome your ideas about how to better serve our students and our state, nation and planet.



Paul Teske
Dean, School of Public Affairs



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The Web & Environmental Affairs

Robyn Scrafford helped develop the sustainability website

When **Robyn Scrafford** was researching graduate school programs before she applied to the School of Public Affairs, she kept wishing she could connect with students, alumni and faculty members who shared her keen interest in environmental policy and sustainability. Websites and blogs exist for everything from ferret breeders to fans of Glenn Beck, after all. It seemed like a no-brainer.

So after she enrolled in the master of public administration program at SPA last fall, she went to work as a research assistant for Professor **Lloyd Burton** to develop the Environmental Affairs Working Group, a website packed with resources for students, prospective students, alumni and anyone interested in ideas on such issues as climate change, natural resources management and environmental protection.

“Dr. Burton had a vision for a community focused on environmental issues at SPA and I was asked to help make it a reality,”

Scrafford says. The site is designed to be a “one-stop shop” for information on faculty members, student and faculty research, events in the environmental community and job openings in the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

Scrafford came to Colorado from Boston, where she worked for the Environmental Defense Fund.

“I’ve always been interested in the environment,” she says, “but when I started here, I never thought I’d be building a website for SPA.”

The project became a crash course in the programs and personalities at SPA, and as a result, she quickly became immersed in the culture of the school.

“I’m talking with **Alice Madden**, the Wirth Chair, about how to make our sites complementary,” she says. “She is working to develop new content around issues and opinions from experts, while our site offers the perspective of the students, faculty and alumni.”

Scrafford is building an archive of research on the site, including material on environmental justice, water policy and sustainability.

“The newest and biggest contribution will be student work,” she says, which will give outside observers an opportunity to see what SPA is producing and to identify emerging experts in the field. She also plans to add an interactive element to allow blogging and the posting of relevant stories each week.

“Her work for the Environmental Affairs Working Group is a great example of how students regularly apply their creativity, initiative and skill sets to helping SPA fulfill its mission,” says Burton.



When she’s not studying or managing the website, Scrafford spends her free time sampling the outdoor recreation opportunities Colorado has to offer.

Not long after she arrived, she ran the Denver Half Marathon, which was an intense introduction to high-altitude impacts and adaptation. She also does a lot of cycling and took two backcountry hut trips last winter.

“Those were the coolest,” she says, even though one involved a rugged initiation to Nordic skiing, which, with a full backpack and plenty of gnarly downhills, was a lot harder than she anticipated.

“I grew up skiing in New England,” she says, “but it’s a lot different here.”

Scrafford expects to graduate in 2012 and ultimately would like to lead an environmental nonprofit.

In the meantime, she’s enjoying the close working relationships she’s developed with her fellow students as well as with Associate Professor **Tanya Heikkila**, Assistant Professor **Chris Weible**, Associate Professor **Paul Stretesky**, Assistant Professor **Danielle Varda**, Burton and others.

A link to the Environmental Affairs Working Group site is available on the SPA website, or access it directly at: www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/SPA/research/eawg/Pages/EAWG.aspx



Student Notes

Kevin Ward



SPA PhD candidate **Kevin Ward** accepted a tenure-track position as assistant professor in the political science department at Georgia Southern University. The department has a public administration program. Kevin's appointment began in the summer/fall term of 2011.

Josh Brand and **Hilary Weimer**, both MPA students, were finalists in the Presidential Management Fellows Program. They attended a job fair in Washington, D.C., in April and will have enhanced opportunities in federal civil service as a result.

SPA PhD candidate **Pat Dahl** accepted a position as assistant professor at Washburn University in Topeka, Kan., beginning this fall.

Saba Sidiki, a SPA PhD student and one of the members of the initial class of students in the IGERT (Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship) program, has accepted a tenure-track position as assistant professor at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis. The appointment begins in January.

PhD student **JoAnn Shoup** received the Public Health Systems Research Interest Group's \$1,000 student scholarship to attend the group's meeting and AcademyHealth's annual research meeting in Seattle in June. Shoup's poster was featured during the networking breakfast at the meeting.

- ▶ *Kevin Ward, top, joined Georgia Southern University. Saba Sidiki (left) joined Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis, JoAnn Shoup (right) was awarded Public Health Systems Research Interest Group Scholarship.*



Active Alumni

Michael Hancock, MPA 1995, was elected mayor of Denver on June 7. He is scheduled to take office July 18.

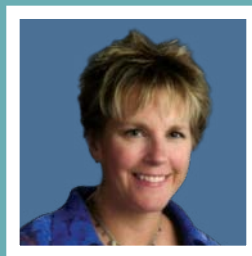
Michael Hancock



Ryan Kloberdanz, AMPA 2010, recently was named contract specialist and partnership coordinator with the U.S. Forest Service in Golden.

Natasha Dadabhoy, AMPA 2010, joined the UCD Office of Policy and Fiscal Analysis as a legislative aid.

Leanne Emm



Leanne Emm, MPA 2010, has been named director of school finance for the Colorado Department of Education.

Kristen Johnson, MPA 2010, joined the staff of the Colorado Legislative Council.

Matthew Urkoski, AMPA 2010, has joined the accounting firm of Clifton Gunderson as utility billing supervisor.

Gloria Schoch, MPA 2008, was selected as a 2011 American Marshall Fellow and has been promoted to director of public affairs for First Data.

David C. Walcher, MCJ 2009, was named Arapahoe County undersheriff.

David C. Walcher



Got news?

Please send us details about your achievements so that we can include them in *Views from the West* and on our website, www.spa.ucdenver.edu. E-mail us at SPA.alumni@ucdenver.edu.

the buechner institute TAKES OFF



Ambitious agenda for forums, research, leadership

The fledgling Buechner Institute for Governance (BIG), just a year old in April, already has taken flight with audacious civic-engagement forums, research projects, leadership development programs and vital facilitation and community organizing programs.

“We’ve had some early successes,” says Associate Professor **Brian Gerber**, who assumed the position of executive director of BIG in January.

Among the achievements of the institute, which is the applied public policy arm of the School of Public Affairs, were two research projects completed last winter.

“Changing the Way Colorado Votes,” a report commissioned by the Colorado secretary of state, analyzed the costs as

well as the advantages and disadvantages of mail ballots.

The research was done by Associate Professor **Allan Wallis** and **Peggy Cuciti**, research analyst for BIG, and was a key element of the debate in the legislature on measures to expand all-mail balloting to more elections across the state.

“Colorado’s Fiscal Future: We’ll Get What We Pay For” by Mark Fermanich, research analyst for BIG, offered important data and analysis of the state’s fiscal crisis to inform the debate on budget and revenue priorities.

The civic-engagement component of the institute “has really made great strides,” says Gerber, citing the successful first year of Buechner Breakfast forums, a series of events focused on fiscal policy, candidate debates, a networking event for local nonprofit organizations working in Africa and a range of other programs.

“We’re working to provide timely and important information,” Gerber says, “and creating opportunities for people to exchange ideas and to consider issues without an ideological lens.”

In addition, he says, the Solutions news platform at www.healthpolicysolutions.org “has been an enormous success. It is truly innovative and provides extremely relevant and timely information to Coloradans about health policy issues in the state. The folks who do the work there are creating an incredible resource for the people of Colorado. It is a great example of how the university can provide a valuable service to the community.”

The long-standing leadership development programs—the Denver Community Leadership Forum and the Rocky Mountain Program—are “going strong,” Gerber says, and the recently created Certified Public Manager program provides professional development and training to local-government officials in the trenches and facing tough choices every day.

The fourth component of BIG involves a range of technical assistance, from facilitation to coordinating complex collaborations across communities and sometimes across competing agencies.

“The Buechner Institute is rapidly becoming a vital element of the School of Public Affairs,” Gerber says. “We’re making the knowledge and expertise of the faculty accessible to the community so people can utilize it to improve decision-making and public management.”

A formal collaboration was negotiated last winter between BIG and the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, and discussion is under way with the Colorado Municipal League, the National Civic League, the National Association of Regional Councils and other organizations to provide research, evaluation and analysis.



► Attorney General John Suthers, (bottom right), speaking at a Buechner Breakfast forum. Guests (top right) attend breakfast forums on an array of topics. Brian Gerber, (bottom left) the new executive director of the Buechner Institute for Governance.



“By university standards, I’d say we made significant steps in short order,” says Gerber, especially since there was no reliable revenue source for BIG at its outset.

“It was a tall order to take this on without a substantial endowment,” Gerber says of Dean **Paul Teske’s** vision for BIG. “It took a lot of work to make this happen without some major external support built into the process.

“But the Buechner Institute and SPA have great researchers, faculty

organizations; and a valued partner in the complex process of creating and implementing effective public policy.

To achieve these ambitions, Gerber says BIG needs to elevate its profile with timely policy reports and lively, topical public forums that continue to grab attention from the governor’s office to neighborhood community centers.

As fiscal pressures increase on higher education across Colorado and the nation, programs such

BUECHNER BREAKFAST FORUMS TO CONTINUE

Another season of Buechner Breakfast forums will begin in September. The highly successful program began Oct. 1, 2010, with a provocative panel discussion on the tax-cut measures that appeared on the November ballot, and continued with an array of topics, from the multistate lawsuit against the federal Affordable Care Act to the debate over medical marijuana in Colorado.

The 2011-12 season will include a discussion of food policy, rethinking term limits, water policy insights and a debate on the ballot measures to appear in the November election. See the announcements at www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/SPA for schedule updates throughout the year.

As always, the forums will be held on the first Friday of each month at 7:30 a.m. The event has been relocated to the Terrace Room on the second floor of the Lawrence Street Center, 1380 Lawrence St.

“We’re providing as much community outreach as we can to help people become aware of the valuable resource the School of Public Affairs is to Colorado.”

— BRIAN GERBER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BUECHNER INSTITUTE



members and a great staff,” he says. “Along with a great deal of support from Dean Teske and Associate Dean **Kelly Hupfeld**, it means there are a lot of people working very hard so that the institute can reach its important objectives.”

Gerber envisions BIG becoming a well-recognized resource for the policymaking community, providing objective, timely information, evaluation and analysis; a relied-upon organization that convenes people in the community to debate issues vital to the state and the nation; a go-to place for practical training and service for public officials and community

as the Buechner Institute become vitally important.

“The privatization of public education is a dangerous long-term trend,” Gerber says. “We’re providing as much community outreach as we can to help people become aware of the valuable resource the School of Public Affairs is to Colorado. The Buechner Institute is a nice vehicle for that message.”



Changing

THE WORLD



The trip from undergraduate work at Creighton University, where he planned to become a surgeon, to policy director for Gov. John Hickenlooper, was long and strange indeed. Nothing about it is surprising for anyone who knows Jamie Van Leeuwen (PhD 2007), however.

The guy's a whirlwind of activity, Blackberry always at the ready, with a schedule that would break the backs of most hard-core networking, facilitating, always-brainstorming workaholics. All this happened, Van Leeuwen says, because he has chosen to "leave the door open a crack" as he navigates a life of passionate commitment and unbridled enthusiasm.

Research
 education
 commitment
 poverty
 Service
 community
 prepared
 Health

Looking back, there were pivotal moments. “I was working on my master’s in international public health at Tulane when I had my first really great exposure to poverty,” Van Leeuwen says. He was doing a capstone in Ghana on a malaria project, and “fell in love with Africa and issues around urban poverty.”

After earning his MA in 1997, he returned to the campus for a second master’s degree, in sociology. This time, he became involved in a Centers for Disease Control study on hepatitis C and did a series of three-hour intensive interviews with heroin addicts.

“I was sitting across the table from a kid who was 21—the same age I was—and he had been shooting heroin for probably a decade,” Van Leeuwen says. “He was smarter and more charismatic than I was, and I realized right then that if I had been born into his family and he into mine, there’s a good chance I’d be shooting heroin and he’d be doing interviews for the CDC.”

“It was in that moment that I realized that poverty is so situational. I realized that I was very fortunate growing up.”

That’s when he got hooked on working with street kids. He finished his MA in sociology in 1999 and was recruited by Roxane White, then CEO of Denver’s Urban Peak, to be outreach coordinator for the organization, which provides services to homeless young people. His decision to pursue a PhD at the CU School of Public Affairs at the same time was logical, he says.

“It allowed research to inform programs, and I learned how to actually do that,” Van Leeuwen says. “The work at Urban Peak informed my work in the classroom, and vice versa,” he says. “The PhD was the culmination of my passion for learning.”

Obviously, Van Leeuwen is a man of many passions, so while he was working on his PhD and producing articles for peer-reviewed journals, he was climbing the administrative ranks at Urban Peak, where he ultimately served as director of development and public affairs.



▶ Gov. John Hickenlooper and Jamie Van Leeuwen (right), Jamie (bottom) working with the youth in Africa to address rural and urban poverty.



In 2006, he was appointed by then Mayor Hickenlooper to be the executive director of the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness (Denver’s Road Home) and chair of the city’s Drug Strategy Commission.

Oh, and he also was traveling the world to study issues around poverty. A Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Livingston Fellowship in 2005 helped support that work.

While at Denver’s Road Home, Van Leeuwen sharpened his skills at leadership, mediation and collaboration. “I learned that if we got all the perspectives at the table, we might find eight things we disagreed on and five things on which we agreed. The next question was, ‘How do we move forward on those five things so you can have a meaningful impact on how you do business?’”

A key role model was Roxane White. “I have benefited from great mentors,” Van Leeuwen says.

So it seemed only logical that the one-time aspiring surgeon would move to dissecting public policy for the Hickenlooper for Colorado campaign and then for the new governor. He is focused on economic development, education, health care and human services.

“I am very committed to the agenda that the governor is working on,” says Van Leeuwen.

A typical day on the job? “There is no typical day,” he says. “But it’s the most fun job I’ve ever had.”

Policy work at this level requires looking at issues from every angle: constituent, business, legislative, political and economic. This is where his PhD training comes in, he says. “If you’re going to be prepared, you have to make sure you have all the information you need to be flexible, responsive, quick and well informed.”

Just like with Denver’s Road Home, one of Hickenlooper’s signature initiatives as mayor, the governor wants “as many feet under the table as possible,” Van Leeuwen says.

economy Poverty
collaboration Leader

"I feel very fortunate to be working under the leadership of the governor. I've learned a lot about the process of building a coalition of community will."



Gov. Hickenlooper cites Van Leeuwen's training as an important element of his success. "Jamie's intellectual versatility, which helps the state every day, clearly reflects the benefits of a good liberal arts education. He is fast becoming a master craftsman of public policy."

At the same time, with so much of his energy devoted to Colorado, Van Leeuwen is still drawn emotionally and professionally to Africa. He negotiated his job with the governor's office as 80 percent of full time, reserving 20 percent of his time each

year for his international commitments. He's working closely with another Coloradan, Shane Gilbert of Steamboat Springs, on a nonprofit called Come Let's Dance, in Uganda.

In the past five years, he's helped bring more than 60 students and community leaders to work in the slums of Kampala to build partnerships for sustainable development. It's not about "fixing Africa," he says, but about building a global community.

The next chapter in Jamie Van Leeuwen's life is anybody's guess. International activities are definitely on his must-do list. Digging deeper into state policymaking and building connections between polarized constituencies is important to him. And he won't rule out a career in politics.

"I keep the door open a crack," he says.

"I've always gravitated to people who challenge me and make me better. Rox moves the needle. She thinks about things differently and really works hard."

White, who is Hickenlooper's chief of staff and has worked side by side with Van Leeuwen since their Urban Peak days, knows him as well as anybody. The two policy gurus

clearly thrive in the high-energy, 24/7, no-excuses environment that is their life.

"Jamie is a whirlwind of activity," White says. "He can attend multiple events ... and still treat everyone with respect, all while juggling and texting."

Another one of his mentors lives at an entirely different pace. She's an African religious woman who runs a jungle clinic in the northern Ugandan village of Lira. "One of my heroes is Sister Jovita," he says. "She operates with no support whatsoever."

"When I met her, the medical supply shelves in her clinic were empty, and yet she was serving the needs of women and infants every day. I told her I would definitely come back and that I would bring supplies, and she looked at me and said, 'That's great.' What she really was thinking was, 'If you do, awesome, and if you don't, we'll be all right.'"

"She's an extraordinary woman," he says. "She's beautiful and I love her. She doesn't have a PhD, but what I can learn from her is far more than she could ever learn from me."

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS goes global

Jamie Van Leeuwen's work with the nonprofit Come Let's Dance and his relationship with the School of Public Affairs have led to an extraordinary collaboration to share knowledge, explore study-abroad programs, create faculty exchanges and do research at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.

Associate Professor Brian Gerber has made two trips in the past year to Uganda to develop the program with officials at Makerere, and AMPA student Sam Bowersox-Daly is in Uganda for a month this summer working on a project to evaluate non-governmental organization service delivery there. He will travel and work with Van Leeuwen, then write his capstone on the research.

"I've been talking to Jamie for a long time about taking a trip with him to Uganda, and this summer presented a golden opportunity," Bowersox-Daly says. He plans to look

closely at the work under way in the slums of Kampala to see what elements are successful and identify strategies for improving the program. His colleagues in the AMPA program also pitched in to support his Uganda project by collecting \$486 to help defray expenses.

Van Leeuwen is excited about the potential for Bowersox-Daly's evaluation. "Our research ideas really came from the people working in the slums," says Van Leeuwen. "They said, 'We want to know how we can do our work better.'"

Gerber and Van Leeuwen say they aren't sure what the global collaboration ultimately will look like. "It's a bold partnership," says Van Leeuwen. "We aren't setting out to fix Africa. We'd like to see more ideas coming to the table."



New Wirth Chair: RESULTS ORIENTED

— Alice Madden brings sense of urgency to new job —

As the new Wirth Chair in Sustainable Development at the School of Public Affairs, Alice Madden is all about getting results. The former House majority leader brings a track record of



accomplishments, from coordinating a turnover of power in the state Legislature to helping Colorado become a leader in the new energy economy. Madden fully intends to maintain this momentum.

“Working under term limits as an elected official created a sense of urgency; I have become very results oriented,” Madden says. “My commitment to sustainability comes from a desire to preserve what makes the American West so special.”

The Wirth Chair provides a forum for research, dialogue and education

on environmental policies. It is named after former U.S. Sen. Timothy E. Wirth, who now serves as president of the United Nations Foundation. As chair, Madden will collaborate with community leaders and policymakers engaged in work focused on sustainability issues, from research projects to organizing educational forums. She will teach political advocacy in the fall.

Madden was elected to the state House in 2000 representing Boulder County and was majority leader from 2005 to 2008. Madden later became a senior fellow on climate change for the Center for American Progress, and in 2009, Gov. Bill Ritter chose her to be his climate change advisor and deputy chief of staff. Since 2004, she has focused on elevating Colorado’s status as a global leader in clean energy and coordinated passage of numerous pieces of legislation that provide a more diverse and secure energy portfolio and create green jobs.

Among the many projects on her plate, Madden will focus on creating successful environmental leaders for the future. She is working on initiatives to train scientists on how to talk about climate change research.

“While other countries are proceeding with aggressive clean-energy technologies, divisive politics stall our progress by questioning the science and attacking the messengers,” Madden says. “The world has seen this before. Galileo was ruthlessly attacked

for his discoveries that proved inconvenient for some.

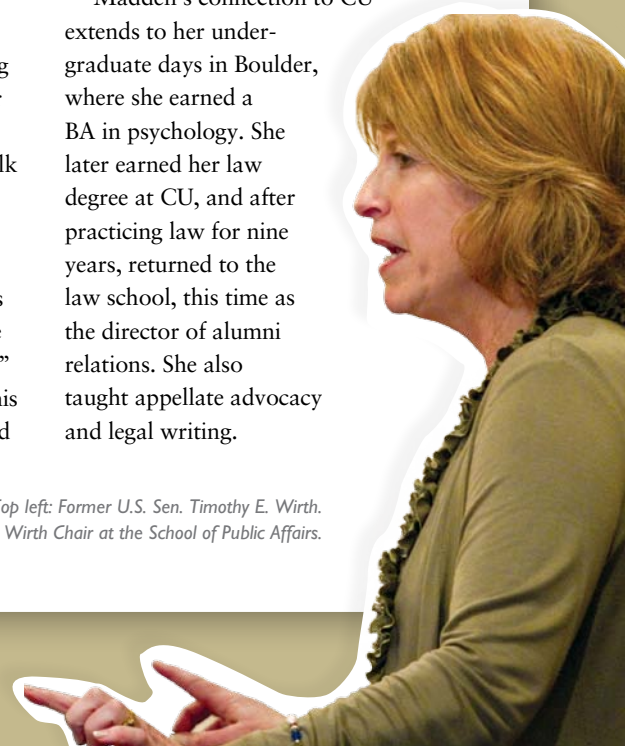
“Curtailing needless divisiveness with more effective communication will also allow faster commercialization of innovative technologies, hastening the growth of a green economy,” Madden says. “Climate change is very real and its effects are imminent; we simply can’t afford to waste any more time dithering.”

Another initiative concerns fostering broader awareness of sustainability issues among our youth. “There is a worry that America is going to have a shortage of professionals specializing in the sciences and engineering, and there are a number of programs aimed at addressing this issue in our K–12 schools. I believe there are creative ways to educate our future scientists, engineers and researchers that will also create stewards of our planet Earth.”

Madden’s connection to CU extends to her undergraduate days in Boulder, where she earned a BA in psychology. She later earned her law degree at CU, and after practicing law for nine years, returned to the law school, this time as the director of alumni relations. She also taught appellate advocacy and legal writing.

Top left: Former U.S. Sen. Timothy E. Wirth.

Bottom right: Alice Madden, new Wirth Chair at the School of Public Affairs.





Terry Schwartz Receives Jefferson Award

Prestigious prize honors UCCS associate dean



Terry Schwartz has come a long way since her days teaching children with behavioral and emotional challenges in Florida. She's built a distinguished career working to improve education and services for children and vulnerable communities in executive positions across the private, nonprofit and public sectors. Today, Schwartz is back in the classroom. The associate dean of the University of Colorado Colorado Springs School of Public Affairs (UCCS SPA) is teaching the public service administrators of tomorrow: graduate students who are dedicated to improving their communities just like she has been for decades.

Her commitment to public service and excellence in education and the arts earned Schwartz one of the most prestigious awards in the University of Colorado system: the 2011 Thomas Jefferson Award. The Jefferson Award recognizes faculty, staff and students who advance the third U.S. president's commitment to the arts, sciences, education and public affairs.

Schwartz was recognized for expanding the UCCS SPA in 2007 to include an undergraduate program for criminal justice. She also sponsors an annual leadership training event in Colorado Springs, while continuing a long-standing commitment to community service, volunteering and supporting the arts, as well as teaching. In short, Schwartz earned the award because she embodies the values of Thomas Jefferson, both on campus and off.

"Thomas Jefferson once stated that 'action will delineate and define you.' In other words, if you want to

know who you are, you should act," Jenenne P. Nelson, dean of the UCCS Graduate School, wrote in her letter of support for Schwartz's nomination. "I believe that Dr. Schwartz has acted and her actions have defined her life, resulting in making the world a better place."

Schwartz credits her philosophy degree from Oberlin College for shaping her thinking about success, career moves and life in general. No matter how difficult the challenge, she remains optimistic and committed to progress.

"I think what motivates me is the fact that I have seen firsthand that change is possible, whether it's individual change or community or family or systems change," Schwartz says. "It's not easily achieved, or always achieved, but it's possible."

Schwartz's career began in special education classrooms in Florida and Colorado Springs. During those years, she saw issues in public policy and management that affected the children and families with whom she worked. She shifted her career into public administration, seeking ways to help children and families at an administrative level. Schwartz became known as an effective coalition builder through her work as executive director for Joint Initiatives for Youth and Families. She also served as senior vice president at the Community Partnership for Child Development, which implemented Head Start and other early childhood and family programs in El Paso County.

Schwartz's return to the classroom was a bit accidental. The then UCCS SPA dean asked her to fill in for a professor who was on sabbatical. Schwartz found that she enjoyed teaching SPA students because of their passion for public service. That turned into additional teaching assignments and then being named associate dean in 2004. She helped establish the criminal justice program to meet a growing demand in southern Colorado, which has a high concentration of prisons, courts and law enforcement agencies.

"I think what motivates me is the fact that I have seen firsthand that change is possible, whether it's individual change or community or family or systems change."

Schwartz lives in Colorado Springs with her husband. She has been volunteering as a cook for low-income and homeless people for more than 20 years. Her cooking is even recognized on her Jefferson Award plaque:

"For her enduring concern for the advancement of education from Head Start to the post-graduate level ... her lifetime of public service in support of community-based public agencies in Colorado ... and her renowned culinary skills."

In Print

1



The journal *Landscape Research* published an article on coal strip mining, mountaintop removal and the distribution of environmental violations across

the United States by Associate Professor **Paul Stretesky** and Professor **Michael J. Lynch** of the University of South Florida. They also co-authored "Does Self-Policing Improve Environmental Compliance?" in *Compliance and Enforcement in Environmental Law: Toward More Effective Implementation*, which was part of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Series.

2

Associate Professor **Angela R. Gover**, student **Dagmar Pudrzynska** and Associate Professor **Mary Dodge** were co-authors of the article "Law Enforcement Officers' Attitudes About Domestic Violence," published in the May edition of the periodical *Violence Against Women*.

3

Associate Professor **Christine Martell** contributed a chapter to *The Handbook of State and Local Government Finance*.

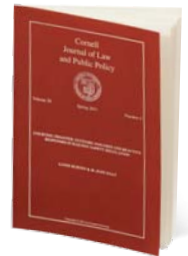
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The Journal of Education Finance has accepted "Money for Music Education: A District Analysis of the How, What and Where of Spending for Music Education,"

an article co-authored by **Mark Fermanich**, a research analyst for the Buechner Institute for Governance.

5

Professor **Lloyd Burton** was co-author with **M. Jude Egan**, assistant research professor at Louisiana State University, of "Courting Disaster: Systemic Failures and Reactive Responses in Railway Safety Regulation," which was published in the *Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy*.



HONORS & AWARDS



Mary Dodge



Angela Gover



Chris Weible



Mary Lou Kartis

Faculty members in the School of Public Affairs won three major campus awards for 2011. Associate Professor **Mary Dodge** received the Excellence in Service award; Associate Professor **Angela Gover** won the Excellence in Teaching award; and Assistant Professor **Chris Weible** was honored for Excellence in Research and Creative Activities.

The number of faculty members at the School of Public Affairs represents only about 5 percent of the downtown campus faculty. Both **Gover** and **Dodge** have won the campus awards in the past. **Gover** won the Excellence in Research award in 2009, and **Dodge** was honored for Excellence in Teaching in 2007.

SPA/UCCS staff member **Mary Lou Kartis** received the system staff council Service Excellence Award for 2011.

Associate Professor **Paul Stretesky** has been named North American editor of a new international journal called *Green Criminology*. He also is editor of a new Ashgate Publishing series of books in this emerging field.

Assistant Professor **Todd Ely** was awarded an American Educational Research Association/National Science Foundation grant to analyze a national longitudinal database on parental school choice decision-making.

Assistant Professor **Danielle Varda** and PhD student **Mark Davis** were honored in a national simulation competition sponsored by Syracuse's Maxwell School Collaborative Governance Initiative. They submitted a teaching simulation ("Mapping Network Structure in Complex Community Col-

laboratives") and a teaching case study ("The Indiana Household Hazardous Waste Task Force") and got honorable mentions and \$1,000 awards for each.

Denver's Department of Environmental Health named Associate Professor **Brian Gerber** to the Board of Environmental Health.

Dean **Paul Teske** presented a summary of his research on how families actually make school choices and how districts can improve their information outreach programs to the project directors' conference of the Voluntary Public School Choice program in Washington, D.C., in February. The program is supported by the Office of Innovation and Improvement of the U.S. Department of Education.



green

CRIMINOLOGY



Paul Stretesky on the cutting edge

At age 14, Paul Stretesky spent a summer working alongside Hispanic migrant workers at a greenhouse in Aurora that grew carnations. One of their jobs was to put their hands in large sacks of powdered chemicals to make pesticides to spray over the flowers. Paul knew from the skull and crossbones symbol on the bags that the powders were toxic. Against the orders of the bosses, he used a stick to mix the chemicals. The other workers used their hands.

While attending Colorado State University as an undergraduate, Stretesky worked for a nationally acclaimed forensic anthropologist, Dr. Michael Charney, who conducted facial reconstruction and bone identification from evidence found at crime scenes.

Those two experiences put Stretesky on a path of academic study that few have followed. Stretesky has become a pioneer in a new field called green criminology, which focuses on environmental harm, crime, law, regulation, victimization and justice. Since his graduate school years at Florida State University, Stretesky has focused on the causes and impact of environmental hazards and crime, what is being done to prevent future harm and how all of this affects historically marginalized communities. Today, the associate professor at the School of Public Affairs is nationally known for his prolific work and expertise. His publications include two books and more than 50 peer-reviewed studies and book chapters.

“I want to understand better how environmental enforcement is carried out, what we can do to improve it and what we can do to increase equality in terms of enforcement,” Stretesky says. “It’s clear that not everyone suffers from environmental crime equally.”

One study that received widespread attention was a 2001 analysis of lead contamination and homicide rates. Stretesky and his research partners obtained data from the Environmental Protection Agency about lead contamination

“We should put money into cleaning up the environment as a crime prevention technique.”

across the United States and looked at the effect of lead on homicide. Their study controlled for all other air pollution sources as well as social factors, including poverty and race.

“If you look at medical literature, it’s full of descriptions about the relationship between lead and aggression, that lead lowers IQ, which may lead to aggression in children,” Stretesky says.

The study determined a strong correlation between areas of high lead contamination and high homicide rates. For Stretesky, there was a clear message from this study, that “we should put money into cleaning up the environment as a crime prevention technique.”

That work led to analyzing how environmental crimes were committed in the first place. He began studies of corporate environmental crime, funded in part by a grant from the EPA. He studied corporations that came forward to report environmental violations. What he found was that the majority of self-policing activity involved minor violations, such as failing to file reports. Stretesky also studied the factors that relate to clean water law violations associated with mountaintop removal operations by corporations doing surface mining.

More recently, Stretesky has turned his focus on efforts to prevent environmental crime. He looked at scores of environmental advocacy groups across the United States, how they were created and where they are located in comparison to environmental hazard sites. He found that these organizations are generally located in major urban cities, like New York and San Francisco, where major resources and civil rights organizations already exist. The study found that there was little correlation between the location of these groups and the areas where there is the most need for advocacy.

He recently was named North American editor of the international journal *Green Criminology* and is editor of a new series of books to be published on the topic by Ashgate Publishing.

Stretesky teaches a graduate course in environmental crime and justice and an undergraduate course in statistics.

The Challenge: Give Away \$1,000

Foundation experiment reaps greater understanding of funders' motives

Imagine you suddenly had \$1,000 to give away. What would you do?

This was the situation University of Colorado Foundation Development Associate Liz Lenz found herself in. At a recent meeting, foundation staff members talked about their personal passions and how they connected with CU programs as an exercise to help the staff relate to the mindsets of donors.

The meeting concluded with an exciting but daunting assignment for one of them: Give away \$1,000 to a University of Colorado unit of your choice, and return to tell the 180-person staff about the experience. A drawing was held, and Lenz was randomly chosen. (A former trustee donated the sum for this purpose, outside the purview of the foundation operating budget.)

"How do people find their passion? What's their personal path to reaching a philanthropic decision?" asks CU Foundation President and CEO Wayne Hutchens. "We figured a real-life experience, told by an employee, could be a great route to talk about that."

Lenz's decision wasn't easy. As a Boulder alumna currently serving Denver campus development efforts, she has allegiances to two CU campuses, and the CU Foundation manages nearly 4,000 funds composed of gifts toward specific allocations at CU. But then she had a chance meeting with Sam Cole of the Center on Domestic Violence in the School of Public Affairs. "He said that when it comes to this issue, most people think of giving to the service providers, but they don't think of giving to the research that drives their work," Lenz says.

Lenz's talk with Cole and his center's work particularly resonated with her. Before joining the CU

Foundation in 2008, she had been a therapist working with families affected by domestic violence and substance abuse. Lenz recalled one family she had worked with for several hours a week. Day by day, she watched a mother struggle to choose between the safety of her five children and the attention of the children's abusive and criminal father, who nonetheless exerted a pull on her. Fortunately, the mother eventually chose her children. "It's amazing to see a family grow and move past that," Lenz says.

After the discussion with Cole, Lenz decided to give the \$1,000 to support the center, whose activities include a degree program in domestic violence—one of the few of its kind in the United States—that credentials public service and criminal justice leaders to work to end violence in the lives of women and children. The gift is among the larger individual gifts the center has received; it must raise its \$700,000 budget predominantly through public grants and private gifts.

As CU and the foundation approach a critical period for raising and inspiring private gifts, Hutchens says, it becomes ever more important for those working on the university's behalf to put themselves in the shoes of the donors who support their work.



Trust-Worthy

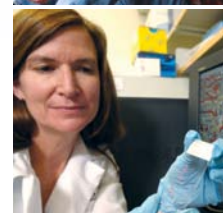
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ABOUT THE COVER

Jamie Van Leeuwen (PhD 2007) has dedicated his career to confronting poverty in Denver and around the world and to nurturing effective public policy to enhance the lives of all Coloradans. He is policy director for Gov. John Hickenlooper and is working with the School of Public Affairs to develop a student/faculty exchange program with Makerere University in Uganda. Cover photo by Glenn Asakawa.

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SPA and the UC Denver Alumni Association sponsor a full schedule of events for alumni, the campus and the community. In the past few months, SPA has hosted career panels, lectures, a film series, issues forums and high-profile speaking events. We promote these events through our website, www.spa.ucdenver.edu; our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/schoolofpublicaffairs; and in e-mails to alumni.

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