

PACE NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Welcome to PACE's first newsletter! You may wonder why it has taken us so long to get around to one. It's been a few years since that glorious inauguration in October of 1999 when the Kerr Fund enabled us to implement a vision we had been developing for years. A quick but obvious answer is that we've been too busy! As this inaugural issue demonstrates, there are lots of exciting things going on at PACE...and that's just for this year!

The stories you will read here speak for themselves. But let us give you something of the flavor of being engaged with PACE this past year.

- After Senator Sarbanes inaugural address of his new SU speakers series, a colleague gushes in reference to the Senator's discussion of hawks and doves: "He's an owl!" Indeed... as the 400 people in attendance who gave him a standing ovation could attest to.

PAUL S. SARBANES LECTURE SERIES

Salisbury University's Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE) has begun a yearly lecture series named in honor of Maryland's distinguished senior senator, the Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes. The purpose of the lecture series will be to bring distinguished public figures who will speak to the University and the

- A student asks Richard Lugar in the seminar the Senator from Indiana led after his thoughtful address to over 700 people: "What one thing do you recommend most to someone contemplating a life in the political arena?" The Senator's reply: "Tell the truth."

- On the local scene, after the PACE student team delivers its report to the Salisbury Housing Task Force, one member, speaking for the group, lavishly and extensively praises our students for their research and thoughtful recommendations.

These vignettes all point to one thing: PACE's mission to convince our students that a life engaged in the public arena is challenging, worthwhile, and, above all, ethical is working! Now, if only we could be assured that what we believe has begun so well will continue. But that's another story for our next newsletter! For now, enjoy this one.

community on issues of public life as well as issues of deep concern to our students. The lectures will be



Senator Richard Lugar and students

Students, faculty/staff, and community are all encouraged to attend the lectures, which are open to the public. We have seen enormous student involvement through volunteering, dinners, and discussions with the Senator.

During the spring semester 2003, Republican Senator Richard Lugar presented the second lecture to the series. Senator Lugar's lecture, titled "The Changing World" addressed issues in foreign affairs, particularly the volatile situation in the Middle East and terrorism. Senator Lugar's lecture gave our students the opportunity to hear from a politician whose life of devotion to the public offsets the often negative image of politics. An enormous turnout of over 700 people were in attendance for Senator Lugar's lecture.

On October 22nd, the senior senator from Maryland addressed Salisbury University and the community on the "Crisis in Corporate America: the Legislative Response", in which he spoke on the process and the delicate balance of creating the most far-reaching reform of business practices in the last six decades. Utilizing his considerable political skills to draft a law that had bi-partisan support, the "Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002" has become the law of the land. The lecture series, a cooperative endeavor between Senator Sarbanes and PACE will seek to counter the often stereotyped images young people have about politics and politicians.

PACE'S ADVISORY BOARD

PACE's Advisory Board's first meeting was held on November 18, 2002. PACE's mission, goals and activities as well as the role of the Advisory Board were discussed. Our organizational structure, operations and financial situation were reviewed. Several PACE students were introduced and a tour of the offices was conducted. The following people are members:

Greg Bassett (The Daily Times)
 Brad Bellacicco (Salisbury Chamber of Commerce)
 Elizabeth Bellavance (Salisbury University)
 Talmadge Branch (Md. House of Delegates)
 Jerry Bruno (Political Consultant (retired))
 Norman Conway (Md. House of Delegates)
 Adelaide Eckardt (Md. House of Delegates)
 Len Foxwell (Downtown Business Improvement-District, D.C.)
 Jeannie Haddaway (National Audubon Society)
 Barbara Hawk (Institute for Governmental Services, retired)
 Marion Keenan (Maryland Coastal Hospice)
 Daniel Kuennen (Univ. of Maryland, Eastern Shore)
 Richard Pollitt (Fruitland, Md. City Manager)
 Alan Rosenthal (Eagleton Institute of Politics)
 Paul Sarbanes (United States Senator)
 Tony Sarbanes (Wicomico County Council)
 Barrie Tilghman (Mayor, Salisbury, Md.)

JOHN R. HARGREAVES DISTINGUISHED LEGISLATIVE FELLOW PROGRAM

On Thursday, January 23, 2003, Maryland Delegate Howard "Pete" Rawlings was honored by PACE with the second John R. Hargreaves Distinguished Legislative Fellow Award. At Salisbury University Day in Annapolis, President Janet Dudley-Eshbach presented the delegate with the award which recognizes outstanding state legislators. Several PACE students and staff attended a brief press conference.

Delegate Rawlings went to Morgan State University and graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics. He continued his education at the University of Wisconsin



(L-R): Dr. Harry Basehart, Delegate Howard Rawlings, President Janet Dudley-Eshbach, Dr. Francis Kane

and received a masters of science in mathematics. As he pursued his doctoral studies, Rawlings became interested in politics and gained experience in coalition building and legislative advocacy. Rawlings was elected to the Maryland House of

Delegates in 1979 to rep-

resent the the 40th district in Baltimore City.

The John R. Hargreaves Distinguished Legislative Fellow Program allows a renowned member of the Maryland General Assembly to engage Salisbury University students in civic education. The award is presented annually to a legislator who demonstrates strong leadership qualities and who has worked tirelessly on behalf of the public good so that our students will be able to see real models of civic engagement.

INTERNS

PACE recently announced Brian Young of Bel Air, Md., as the third student to receive the Thomas E. Bellavance Intern Award. Given to an upperclassman who has demonstrated a commitment to civic engagement and the public good, the award provides the intern with the opportunity to interact with government officials and play an integral role in PACE's programs. The honor is made possible by a donation from family of the university's sixth president, Dr. Thomas E. Bellavance.

Young is an SU senior with a double major in political science and history. Active in his community since the age of

six, Young has been involved in numerous facets of civic engagement, ranging from his service as an Eagle Scout to his work in the offices of Congressman Wayne Gilchrest and Delegate Barry Glassman. Young's leadership experience and past volunteer work include the founding of the Union for Community Action at Salisbury University in the fall of 2002.

"There are many concerns that I have with government and local, state, national and international affairs today," Young said. "With these concerns, however, I see a great potential for improvement and good."

"Brian brings a wealth of experience in the political arena with him. He will be a stellar addition to PACE's projects and programs," said PACE co-director Dr. Francis Kane. "Once again, we thank the Bellavance family, especially Liz, for its faithful support," continued Kane. "We know that getting students engaged in public service was one of Thom's great passions. We're glad to be able, in the words of the old civil rights song, 'to carry it on.'"

SALISBURY HOUSING FACULTY/ STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECT

PACE recently sponsored a faculty/student research team that conducted research in support of the City of Salisbury's newly formed Healthy Housing Ratio Task Force. The task force was formed in light of the ongoing concerns about maintaining viable residential neighborhoods in Salisbury.

The team of students, led by Ruth Baker (Managing Director of B.E.A.C.O.N), carried out research to:

1. Determine the actual ratio of rental to owner-occupied housing in selected City neighborhoods;
2. Identify if there is a "healthy" ratio;
3. Investigate how similar localities have dealt with the issue of rental vs.owner-

4. Develop written recommendations for the City for the promotion of safe and stable neighborhood.

During the semester, the group attended the biweekly meetings of the task force, conducted research and reported back to the task force on a regular basis. At the end of the semester, they presented their findings and recommendations to the task force and wrote a final report, which was submitted to the task force.

The group concluded that while there was no defined "healthy ratio" of rental to owner-occupied properties, each neighborhood and sometimes each



(L-R): Ruth Baker, Sara Chaconas, Derek Tully, Christy Weisner

area, needs to address their own specific problems and needs (including crime and blight, locally unwanted land uses and parks, schools, mass transportation and community activities). They also found that overall neighborhood indicators could be used in planning and monitoring neighborhood health.

PACE HAS RECEIVED TWO GRANTS

The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore awarded PACE \$3,471 to explore possible data sources and begin to design an overall study to examine the impact of tax limitations in Wicomico County. Dr. Harry Basehart, co-director of PACE, and Amy Liebman, a PACE consultant, are working on this project with Lauren Hauck, a student research assistant. The project runs from April through the end of September 2003. The comprehensive study will be designed to collect and analyze economic development data, budget data, information on service levels and quality of life indicators.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources awarded PACE \$25,000 to assist them in developing a Maryland Coastal Bays Aquatic Sensitive Areas Management Plan and holding a number of citizen interviews and forums. The outcomes will be a review of current policies and regulations and a management plan defining management regulation and policy gaps. This project runs from May through the end of December 2003. Pauline Gehrich, PACE's Managing Director, is working on this project with a student project assistant.

SURVEY RESEARCH



Since opening its doors in October of 1999, The Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement at Salisbury University has completed eleven extensive projects in survey research. With the acquisition in 2000 of the Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing system (CATI), survey research has become one of the

stellar programs offered by PACE.

This past summer, Dr. Harry Basehart, co-director of PACE, and Melissa Cirillo, an SU student who is the CATI project coordinator, worked with Dr. Darrell Mullins in collecting and analyzing data for the Perdue Corporation survey of its mid-level management. Basehart and Cirillo also designed a questionnaire and coordinated student interviewers in the administration of a citizen satisfaction survey of Vienna, Md. residents. Subsequent data analysis was performed for use by the town commissioners

of Vienna. In the fall, PACE was involved with a study of how teenagers in Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties obtain alcohol.

Survey research is conducted by PACE on a paid contractual basis using CATI equipment. A wide variety of survey services are available including opinion polls and data analysis for government agencies, professional associations and non-profit organizations.

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VOTER REGISTRATION TEAM

PACE was actively involved during the fall semester in a continuation of its voter registration project. The students who composed the main team were working through a service learning course directed by Barry King, Vice President of Student Affairs and were advised by Dr. Harry Basehart. Heading this team as well as a group of approximately 20 volunteers, student Ron Cirillo

In addition to new voter registrations, volunteers helped students who were currently registered in another area to apply for absentee ballots. PACE co-director Dr. Harry Basehart said that the tables set up by the students were a much needed service, especially considering the amount of paperwork involved in such an endeavor. In all, the drive yielded 202 new



(L-R): Brian Young, Ron Cirillo, Tony Cirillo, Rachel Laurie, Elizabeth Hays, Melissa Cirillo, Alice Wilkerson, Haley Hurson

also recruited professors to invite representatives into their classrooms in an effort to spread the word about the registration drive. The involvement of the faculty has increased significantly over the previous years.

registrations and 418 absentee ballot applications.

ECI DISCUSSION GROUP

PACE was helpful again this year in assisting the ECI Discussion Group. The purpose of the program is to provide inmates at the Eastern Correctional Institution with an outlet for thoughtful discussion and intellectual stimulation. Sparked by an idea of a group of philosophy students, the initiative has since grown into a solid example of the University's involvement in civic engagement. The most notable characteristic of its evolution is the fundamentally student-borne nature it exhibits. The interaction between the facilitators (the students) and the inmates serves both sides with the opportunity to engage others in the exploration of ideas. Selected read-

ings are discussed on a particular topics spanning from political philosophy to African American studies, which are provided for the inmates to read prior to discussion. The aim of the program is to provide such a forum in a place where intellectual stimulation and personal reflection may be hindered. "This process of examining our lives," the program's mission statement reads, "will, we hope, make us into more responsible and better citizens and people, and direct more towards the way in which we can pursue the good life." The program is supervised by Dr. James Hatley and Dr. Grace Clement of the Philosophy Department.