

PACE NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Talk about winter flurries...what we describe for you here is a veritable snowstorm of activities at PACE.

But in early fall, like the gently falling leaves, something more quiet but ultimately quite nurturing happened to us. President Janet Dudley-Eshbach, Provost David Buchanan and Fulton Dean Timothy O'Rourke generously contributed funds that help insure PACE's future. This has helped us as we search for funds for our many worthwhile programs.

Our annual Board of Advisors meeting in late October focused on some avenues of funding and thanks go out to all of you who came and showered us with ideas! We were hard at work, in a sort of January hibernation, brainstorming how we might promote civic learning opportunities across the campus. What springs forth from that effort will be shared with you in the near future.

For now, if you see our President or Provost or Dean, tell them how much you appreciate their efforts to continue our good work.

Pro Bono Publico!
The Directors

ECI PROGRAM WINS MAHE AWARD

The Maryland Association For Higher Education recently ranked Salisbury University's Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI) Book Discussion Program as one of the best in higher education, bestowing it with a 2003 Distinguished Honor Award.

Hosted by Salisbury University's Philosophy Club, the program has received accolades throughout the state. The Baltimore Sun calls it "one of the bolder town-gown ventures a college has ever tried."

Founded by Dr. James Hatley of the Philosophy Department, the program had humble beginnings. Hatley invited a colleague, Dr. Drew Leder of Loyola College, to speak to students about his experience discussing philosophy with inmates.

Under the tutelage of Hatley and Salisbury University alumnus Patrick Karsnitz and with the cooperation of Dr. Francis Kane and Pauline Gehrlich of PACE, Salisbury University students inspired by



An ECI discussion group pauses for a photo.

Leder's work partnered with education staff at nearby ECI to form a discussion group.

During the program's second year last spring, inmates enrolled in the program met with 20 Salisbury University students, divided into groups of four, for two hours each week at the state prison in Somerset County to discuss the works of philosophers from Plato, Shakespeare and Nietzsche to Frederick Douglas, W.E.B. DuBois and Gandhi. While students received no course credit for the program, both they and the inmates gained something from their experiences.

"The ECI program provides an opportunity for very different

people with very different backgrounds to come together to learn from one another," said Karsnitz. "A volunteer in one of these discussion groups has the chance to come into contact with people who have lived drastically different lives than a typical college student."

"There are often assumptions about who the inmates are, what they can do and what it's all about to be in a prison," Hatley said. "The students have really learned a lot from sharing a community of learning with people from backgrounds different than theirs."

PACE'S ADVISORY BOARD

The second meeting was held on October 28, 2003. PACE's recent activities and current status were discussed. 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 (Greater Washington Board of Trade)

Jeannie Haddaway (Md. House of Delegates)

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.)

SURVEY RESEARCH PROJECTS

This fall PACE conducted two telephone survey research projects. The first was a survey of Caroline County family needs for the Salisbury University Center for Family and Community Life.

The second survey examined the political attitudes of Worcester County democratic voters. This survey was conducted for the Democratic Central Committee of Worcester County, Maryland. Our telephone survey assistant, student, Anthony Cirillo worked in conjunction with



Dr. Harry Basehart on these projects. They were aided by student, Justin Ready and several other student phone interviewers.

Plans are already underway for a Spring 2004 survey

working on the Wicomico County family needs project with the Salisbury University's Center for Family and Community Life.

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.

COLLEGE STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION PROGRAM

PACE was actively involved during the fall semester in a continuation of its voter registration project. The three students who composed the team were lead by student Brian Young and advised by Dr. Harry Basehart.

Young recruited professors to invite representatives into their classrooms in an effort to spread the word about the registration drive. Faculty involvement was up significantly from last year with approximately 30 professors participating.

In addition to new voter registrations, volunteers helped students who were currently registered in another area to apply for absentee ballots. In all,



Above (l to r) Dr. Harry Basehart, Teresa Dawson, Justin Ready, Brian Young

the drive yielded roughly 100 new registrations and absentee ballot applications.

"Political interest really increased this semester, especially for an odd year when there are no national or state elections" said student group leader and Bellavance Intern Brian Young. "I think that campus activism

will continue to build through the Presidential elections in the fall, giving Salisbury an even more successful drive next year."

PACE is currently organizing a subsequent Voter Registration Drive for February, which will allow students to register for and vote in the upcoming Primary Election on March 2, 2004.

WICOMICO REVENUE CAP PROJECT

Wicomico County residents voted to amend the County Charter by implementing a property tax limitation in November 2000. This tax cap prohibits the County Council each year from increasing property taxes by more than two percent or by the consumer price index (whichever is less).

With funding from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, PACE developed a proposal to monitor and analyze the effects of Wicomico County's tax limitations over the next three years.

In developing the proposal, PACE examined indicators of economic development as well as the ability of the County to generate revenue and to provide services in order to assess the limitations' overall impact.

PACE identified relevant data sources, interviewed several key stakeholders, and conducted a preliminary analysis of some of the information. PACE plans to use this report to leverage additional funds to conduct the larger study that is required to understand fully the impact of the revenue cap.



Lauren Hauck, a Senior Communication Major, worked on this project in conjunction with Amy Liebman, PACE consultant, and Dr. Harry Basehart.

FALL 2003 INTERNSHIPS

Brian Young, (Senior Political Science /History Major) PACE Thomas E. Bellavance Intern (2003–2004).

Brad Diver (Senior Communication Arts Major) was an intern with the City of Salisbury. He assisted the Mayor with research and special projects.

Stacy Godfrey (Senior Political Science Major) was an intern in Congressman Wayne Gilchrest's Salisbury, Maryland office.

Justin Huebner (Senior) was an intern with the City Manager of Fruitland, Rick Pollitt. Justin had the opportunity to work with the police and finance departments as well as the city clerk, town works, water and waste management.

Stephanie Stotler (Senior Communication Arts Major) was a public relations intern for PACE. She wrote press releases about our programs and events. She also wrote articles for this newsletter.

Michele Vinbury (Senior Philosophy/Psychology Major) was an intern working on the Maryland Coastal Bays Aquatic Sensitive Areas Initiative. She assisted with event planning, preparing spreadsheets and with creating a report describing changes in policies, regulations and educational activities for this issue.

Cara Wynne (Senior Political Science Major) was an intern with the law firm of Hearne and Bailey. She worked with Phil Smith.

MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS AQUATIC SENSITIVE AREAS INITIATIVE

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 hold a number of citizen interviews and forums.

Pauline Gehrich, PACE's

Managing Director, along with student project assistant Michele Vinbury compiled a review of current policies and regulations in order to help develop and institute a management plan defining current regulation and policy gaps on local, state and federal levels.



SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES' DEBATE

Candidates Lynn Cathcart, Gary Comegys, Michael Dunn, Patrick Hannon, Frank Himmelright and Donald Long took part in the Salisbury City Council Debate that was held on October 20, 2003 at Salisbury University.

The debate was organized by PACE and moderated by the Tri-County League of

Women Voters. Salisbury University students were involved from preplanning to production at the event. The debate went smoothly due to students' participation, PACE interns, and the lighting and sound crew. "The debate was great and well organized" commented candidate Gary Comegys.

In addition to coordinating the debate, many students were also in attendance. "My understanding of political issues was raised by attending the debate," said Tim Cookie, a senior communications major. "I think it was a great way to learn about politics on a city level and I would go to a debate again."

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EVENTS THIS SEMESTER

Hargreaves Distinguished Legislative Fellow Program



On Wednesday, January 28, 2004 Maryland Delegate Norman Conway will be honored by PACE with the third John R. Hargreaves Distinguished

Legislative Fellow Award. During Salisbury University Day in Annapolis, President Janet Dudley-Eshbach will present the delegate with the award which recognizes outstanding state legislators.

The award is presented annually to a legislator who demonstrates strong leadership qualities and who has worked on behalf of the public good so that our students will be able to see real models of civic engagement.

The Civic and Government Leadership Academy (February 17–March 31, 2004)

This Academy is jointly sponsored by the Greater Salisbury Committee, Salisbury University's Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE), the Center for Professional Development (CPD) and the Tri-County League of Women Voters.

The purpose of this Academy is to inspire and encourage local people from all segments of the population to participate in civic affairs in an effort to facilitate positive change and innovation in our community and to promote better government at the local level. The intensive seven-week evening program designed for future community leaders will run every Tuesday evening, 7-9 PM, from February 17th until March 30th.

Faculty will be drawn from respected leaders in the community, university professors and nationally known speakers.

The Paul S. Sarbanes Lecture Series

In the fall of 2002, Salisbury University's Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement began a yearly lecture series named in honor of Maryland's distinguished senior senator Paul S. Sarbanes.

The purpose of the lecture series is to bring distinguished public figures who will speak to the University and the community on issues of public life as well as issues of deep concern to our students. Past speakers have been Senator Paul S. Sarbanes of Maryland and Senator Richard G. Lugar of Indiana.

The third lecture in this series will given by U. S. Congressman John Lewis on Monday, March 29, 2004.in the Holloway Hall Auditorium at Salisbury University at 7:00 pm.

U.S. Congressman, John Lewis
March 29, 2004 at 7 p.m.
Holloway Hall Auditorium at SU