

PACE ANNUAL REPORT July 2000 – June 2001

The academic year 2000-2001 was the first full year of operation for the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE). In August, the staff of PACE moved into its first home, the Community Outreach Center on College Ave.

In the fall semester, PACE, in partnership with the Office of Student Affairs, launched the most extensive and successful voter registration drive in the history of the university. Nearly three hundred registrations and over six hundred and fifty absentee ballots were processed by PACE during its intensive two-week drive. In conjunction with the drive, PACE sponsored or co-sponsored a wide range of educational activities that focused on election 2000. Such noted speakers as Jim Hightower, Patrick Buchanan, and Dr. Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich were invited to campus, along with John Willis, Maryland's Secretary of State, and Ellen Shearer from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern, who spoke on: "Y vote 2000." Most significantly, perhaps, was the involvement of students in the *Your Voice, Your Vote* drive. The voting initiative team, composed of student leaders, got their fellow students across the campus involved in the drive. Some members of the committee were sent to the National Conference on Civic Responsibility at Hampshire College and some were involved in both the national and our local Undergraduate Research Conferences. Two student-faculty research teams studied students' voting difficulties nation-wide and argued for local registration and voting in an extensive eighteen-page report. Plans for continuing and institutionalizing the voter registration drive are now being studied.

In the last year, PACE involved thirty-three students in its projects, in faculty-student research teams and in internship courses, and in survey research. Thirteen faculty and staff were involved in PACE projects, from the Fulton, Henson and Seidel Schools and the Offices of Student Affairs and Multi-Ethnic Affairs.

Several new initiatives were announced this year. *The John R. Hargreaves Distinguished Legislative Fellow Program* honoring an outstanding state legislator is funded by the Hargreaves memorial fund. Representative Mike Miller, President of the Maryland Senate, will be our first honoree. The *Thomas E. Bellavance Internship* awarded a stipend of \$2,500 to a student intern, Carson Friedman. Thanks to the generosity of Dean Dotterer, we were able to offer a competitive stipend to a faculty member to develop a seminar around a local public policy issue. Kit Zak from the English department won the stipend and will investigate with her students the problem of getting driver's licenses for non-documented immigrants.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the addition to our staff of Pauline Gehrich, who has a masters degree in Management from the Perdue School of Business at Salisbury University, and was hired as PACE's managing director in August. Besides overall responsibility for managing the Institute's operations, Ms. Gehrich also manages our programs, research team projects and internships. We have

also been fortunate to hire Amy Liebman, who has a Masters degree from the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs, the University Texas, at Austin, as a consultant on grants and our new public affairs seminar.

We are now in the second year of funding by the Kerr Fund five-year grant, the principle economic source of our operations. We are within our budgetary projections and continue to operate within University Foundation and Kerr guidelines. We also received a substantial gift from the Bellavance family to inaugurate a new internship and received some modest donations from alumni. We have finally installed our long-awaited Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing system (CATI), which will enable us to do sophisticated surveys for the university and the region. The CATI system was funded in part from the University's John R. Hargreaves fund and a Fulton School of Liberal Arts grant. Already, the survey research arm of PACE has begun to generate some income. Our efforts to acquire an endowment were put on hold this year and we are concerned about the future of PACE after the Kerr Fund monies run out in three and a half years. Critical to the long-term existence of PACE would be getting a state funded PIN position for the Managing Director. That addition would signify to all, especially potential donors, that the University is committed to continuing PACE's mission.

Next year, we will be exploring faculty-student research options with Church Creek, Easton, Ocean Pines and Ocean City. New internships are developing also and we are forecasting growth in usage of our CATI system. We continue to do regular planning sessions to insure that our priorities are reflected in our operations.

We believe that PACE is continuing to fulfill its own and the University's mission of civic engagement. Our new home and the staff additions of a managing director and policy consultant have greatly increased our efficiency and range of operations. Student and faculty assessment of our efforts has been most positive and encouraging. Community leaders, particularly town managers, have been very positive in their assessments of our work. We would like to get more faculty and students involved in PACE work but are somewhat hampered by our budget and staff limitations and our own self-imposed limits; that is, we have made a commitment to only undertake projects that we know we can do well. While concerned about the long-term future of the Institute, we nonetheless forge ahead knowing our efforts are making an impact on the civic good of the region and of Salisbury University.

DETAILED ACCOUNT

YOUR VOTE, YOUR VOICE INITIATIVE (Cf. separate report for further details)

- Registration drive: 294 registration forms and 667 absentee ballots were completed and mailed from PACE's office. Intensive two-week drive with the Office of Student Affairs Assistant Vice President, Barry King, covered the entire campus and involved students from various organizations and Service Learning. Faculty volunteers also offered their class time to inform students.
- Educational initiatives: Speakers brought to campus were Ellen Shearer, Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, who spoke on "Y Vote 2000: Politics of a New Generation"; John Willis, Secretary of State for Maryland, spoke to Dr. Basehart's "Campaign Management Course"; and "Election 2000: A Panel Discussion" organized by Dr. Michael O'Loughlin of the Political Science Department and sponsored by PACE. PACE partnered with various campus groups to bring Patrick Buchanan, Jim Hightower, and Dr. Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich to the University for speeches on the campaign.
- Student panel titled "Addressing College Student Political Apathy" presented their research at the University's Undergraduate Research Conference (April 27).

FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH TEAMS

- City of Salisbury Recycling: Team led by Dr. Joan Maloof from the Biology department and six students studied educational strategies for recycling and presented their findings to the Mayor and her staff.
- College Student Voter Registration Law: Two teams led by Dr. Michael O'Loughlin and Dr. Erin Fitzsimmons of the Political Science department and two students studied the laws in this country in terms of whether or not they facilitated student voting and argued for a policy which allows students to register and vote in their higher education community. The report was selected for presentation at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in the spring and Dr. O'Loughlin and student Mike Haslip presented.

SURVEY RESEARCH: PACE installed its new Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing System (CATI) in the spring semester and has already completed two contracts.

- Maryland Coastal Bays Public Opinion Survey (Spring, 2001): PACE team of students directed by Dr. Basehart surveyed citizens' environmental attitudes in Worcester County. This was the first extensive use of the new CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system.

- Talbot County Resident Telephone Survey: Dr. Lindy Lewis of the Social Work department directed this study using PACE's CATI system.
- Lower Shore Private Industry Council (LSPIC) Survey: Dr. Basehart and Ms. Gehrich of PACE directed this telephone follow-up study.

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS: PACE increased its number of interns working in towns, in non-profit organizations and in PACE to seven.

- Salisbury, Mayor's Interns: student Laura Dennis worked on organization and running of neighborhood town hall meetings and John Staiger assisted with various civic projects.
- Fruitland, Manager's Intern: student Rebecca Mitchell assisted in organizing town's ordinances.
- Ocean City, Mayor's Intern: student Shannon Lancaster assisted with development of All-American Cities Program.
- Maryland Coastal Bays, Program Intern: student Shannon Lancaster assisted with conducting survey of marinas for grant application.
- Government Relations Committee Intern, Salisbury University: student Carson Friedman assisted with management of this committee.
- Writing Interns, PACE: students Beth Plevyak and Kelly Edgeington developed a student handbook and publicity packets for PACE.

NEW PROGRAMS

- *The John R. Hargreaves Distinguished Legislative Fellow Program:* This program recognizes the accomplishments of an outstanding legislator in the Maryland General Assembly and brings the honoree on campus for our students to have the opportunity to get to know and understand the difficult and important work of legislating. This year's first honoree is Senator Mike Miller, President of the Senate.
- *The Thomas E. Bellavance Internship:* Recognizes the contribution of a distinguished student to public service and offers the student honoree a \$2,500 stipend and the opportunity to work with a distinguished legislator. This year's first honoree is Carson Friedman.
- PACE announced a competitive stipend award to a faculty member who could design a course in the fall semester and teach it in the spring around a local public policy issue. We received seven proposals and selected Kit Zak's (from the

English department) to study the public policy implications of undocumented immigrants who cannot get drivers' licenses. Ms. Liebman, who has extensive experience with immigration problems, will serve as consultant to the project.

PRESENTATIONS

- Shore Leadership 2000 (Sept. 14): Co-directors and Managing Director organized and led a luncheon workshop about PACE to distinguished community and business leaders from the upper shore.
- Town Manager's Luncheon (Feb. 6): PACE offered its first regional town managers' luncheon for purpose of informing local officials about PACE and hearing from them about their specific regional needs.
- PACE's Managing Director gave a presentation to the Managers Association of the Lower Shore (April 20).

CONSULTATIONS and APPOINTMENTS

- Dr. Basehart was a consultant to the Wicomico County Charter Review Commission on forms of county government and was appointed to the Governor's Special Committee on Voting Systems and Election Procedures.
- Dr. Kane was designated, along with Barry King, to write the mission statement for the University's civic engagement programs.

PARTNERSHIPS

- PACE worked with the *Institute for Governmental Service* at Univ. of Md., College Park to assess the economic impact of tourism in Worcester County.
- PACE co-sponsored with the League of Women Voters a presentation by "Maryland Health Care for All" on providing health care for all of Maryland citizens (April 25)
- PACE partnered with the Institute for Service Learning and the Leadership House for purposes of developing a vision statement that explained the university's commitment to civic engagement.
- Partnered with the Undergraduate Research and the Human Subjects Committees in bringing in Dr. Julie Padroni of the Poynter Center at Indiana University. She delivered the pre-conference lecture, "Emerging Issues in Human Subjects Research" on April 26. (Dr. Kane was responsible for getting speaker.)

PUBLICITY

- *Your Voice, Your Vote Initiative*: several news stories and television coverage of the campaign appeared in local media.
- Handbook for students interested in working for PACE was printed.
- Articles appeared in local newspapers on Dr. Basehart's award and on the new Bellavance Internship.

CONFERENCES

- Dr. Kane and Ms. Gehrlich attended the *Institute for Student Values Conference* (February 8-10) at Florida State University.
- Dr. Kane and Ms. Gehrlich attended the *Southern Colleges and Universities Public Service Organization (SCUPSO)* annual meeting (April 4-6) in Gulfport, Mississippi.
- Dr. Basehart attended the Mid-West Political Science Conference in April.

AWARDS

- Dr. Basehart received the Maryland Board of Regents Award for outstanding public service. He was one of two so honored throughout the state system.
- Dr. Kane was nominated and selected from Salisbury University to attend the Wye Institute Faculty Seminar, a national week long seminar on "Citizenship and the American Polity," sponsored by the Aspin Institute.

BUDGET (Cf. appendix for details)

- We drew down our second year installment from the Kerr Fund (\$50,000).
- We were given \$66,847 from the Hargreaves Fund.
- Income from project fees was \$4,643.30.
- Donations this year were \$3,500 from the Bellavance family and \$2,110 from alumni.
- The Fulton School donated \$20,000 for the Center's exterior cabling and \$5,000 for the Public Policy Seminar.

- Total expenditures for the year came to \$154,285.

PLANNING

- Organizational needs: Acquire PIN position for Managing Director and hire student to be Survey Research Project Coordinator. Also, establish Board of Advisors.
- Funding needs: Continue search to locate donor in conjunction with new Advancement Vice President.
- Faculty and Students: diversify the pool by attracting faculty and students from more disciplines.
- Programs: continue developing faculty-student research teams and internships. Look into possibility of a Professional Ethics program for the community.