Do Catholic Schools Offer Better Education?

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development has awarded first-year funding of $100,000 to IPR Acting Director Joseph Altonji and Christopher Tabor (IPR-Economics) for a three-year study that may help determine whether private elementary and high schools provide a better education than public schools.

The running national debate over school choice heated up in June when the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that the City of Milwaukee could use state-funded vouchers to send pupils to religious schools.

While the effects of Catholic schools on achievement scores and other outcomes have been heavily researched, “there is no consensus on the relative effectiveness of Catholic and public schools, or on the factors that influence the relative effectiveness of those schools,” said Altonji. He will serve as principal investigator for the new study and Tabor as co-principal investigator.

Earlier research by the two economists showed that effects of family background on test scores and post-secondary education are different for Catholic and non-Catholic students who attend public schools. This was also true in pooled samples of students attending Catholic and public schools. That work was based on data from the

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IPR Lecturers Tackle Top Social Issues

Simon Touts Education As Key To Future Employment

A diminished demand for unskilled labor is widening the disparity between rich and poor and creating a psychological divide that rivals the nation’s racial chasms, according to former Illinois Senator Paul Simon.

“The great division in our society is not between black and white, or Hispanic and Anglo, but between people who have given up and those who have hope,” he told a packed Northwestern audience at Hardin Hall on February 6.

Despite a U.S. unemployment rate of 4.6% that sank to a 24-year low in February, Simon noted that the upper one-fifth of Americans is moving up the income scale much more dramatically than the lower one-fifth whose incomes have remained fairly static. “That’s long-term dynamite,” he predicted.

Simon delivered these remarks in the first of IPR’s 1998 Distinguished Public Policy Lectures on the topic “Public Policy and the American Labor Market.”

Simon retired from the U.S. Senate in 1996, after four decades in public service. He currently heads the Public

Porter Offers Plan To Save Social Security

Declaring that “you can’t trust government with a surplus,” senior Republican Congressman John E. Porter has introduced sweeping new legislation that would privatize social security with a government safety net, and allow workers to control their own “retirement destinies.”

Porter outlined his views at Northwestern’s Hardin Hall on May 8 in a public lecture on “The Future of Social Security: True Retirement Security for All Americans.” It was the second in IPR’s 1998 Distinguished Public Policy Lecture series (see story, column 2).

“For today’s retirees, social security is as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar, but it is in trouble in the long-term,” he told an involved audience of academics, students, seniors, and other community members. “Consequently, young people no longer believe there will be anything in that program for them.”

By most estimates, the large currently accumulating surplus in the social security trust funds will begin to be drawn down in the year 2013, after
the first of some 76 million baby boomers start retiring, and it will be depleted by 2032. Nonetheless social security payroll taxes paid by year 2032 employers and workers would be sufficient to pay 75% of retirees’ benefits.

How to keep social security strong and able to pay 100% of benefits in 2032 is the subject of a heated national debate. President Clinton made the issue a key ingredient of his State of the Union address in January and has promoted a series of national town meetings this year to seek solutions.

Porter, who is a senior member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee and chairs the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee, has taken a leadership role on social security. Last November, he introduced reform bill HR 2929 that would create Individual Social Security Retirement Accounts (ISSRAs) to replace the current government-controlled system.

“We can now create the social security system we would have created in 1935 if we had had the resources to do so,” Porter explained. Under his plan, American workers would own individual ISSRA accounts managed by a trustee (insurance company, stockbroker, money manager, etc.) of their own choosing. Trustees would be criminally and civilly liable to invest each individual’s funds prudently and pay them out at retirement.

For a worker who opts for an ISSRA account, the current 12.4% social security payroll tax (6.2% of wages paid by both employer and worker) would be redistributed. Five percent of wages each from employer and worker would be placed in that person’s retirement account. The remaining 2.4% current payroll tax would continue to be paid into the social security trust fund for 10 years and then cease. According to Porter’s calculations, this would amount to a payroll tax cut of 20%.

People under the age of 30 who elect to participate in ISSRA would relinquish their claims to the old system. Workers over 30 who opt for the new individual accounts would receive federal government recognition bonds guaranteeing them a portion of retirement benefits based on their contributions to the old system.

Among other features of the Porter plan:

- The government would guarantee workers a minimum benefit of 95% of what they would have received under the current system.
- At the retirement age of 59 1/2, the worker could purchase a lifetime annuity or make periodic withdrawals from the account balance to provide minimum benefits.
- If the worker dies, the ISSRA funds are treated as an asset in the deceased’s estate. Under the current system, the social security benefit is paid only to a surviving spouse.

Porter believes the ISSRA plan can be put into effect without a tax increase and could pay potential benefits three to four times greater than under the current system. Though he acknowledges there would be significant transition costs, he expects those deficits to disappear within 14 years, sometime after which the plan would generate a surplus.

Though the social security reserve currently totals $700-$800-billion, “it exists in IOUs,” said Porter, money that is destined for retirement benefits. Of course, the reserves could be replenished through massive borrowing—which would drive up interest rates—by cutting benefits, or raising the retirement age further, “none of which are politically viable alternatives,” he said.

Underscoring his reputation as a fiscal conservative, Porter believes “we cannot trust government with reserves or a surplus of any kind. It is irresistible for political bodies to leave resources in place for the long term. The solution is to put the reserve into the hands of American workers who earned the money in the first place.”
Social Security Forums Offer Public a Voice

Thanks to President Clinton and the Pew Charitable Trusts, the American public may be getting a real shot at participant democracy.

Concurrent with the president’s town meetings, Pew is underwriting its own series of public forums this year about the future of social security. It hopes these sessions will educate the public, stir debate, and elicit ideas about what, if any, reform is needed.

“This ambitious effort should be seen as an experiment in civic education and engagement that, if effective, might be replicated again and again with other public policy issues,” said IPR Director Fay Lomax Cook. Pew recently awarded Cook and Lawrence Jacobs of the University of Minnesota a grant to evaluate Pew’s “Americans Discuss Social Security” forums held this spring in Des Moines, Phoenix, Buffalo, Austin, and Seattle. Cook’s and Jacobs’s analysis will concentrate on the content of the forums, their impact on participants and community residents, the extent and content of media coverage, and how that coverage has affected public opinion. It also will pinpoint social security issues that were most salient and of greatest concern to participants, and the types of people who spoke and interacted at the forums.

In one component of the study, the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) has been interviewing forum participants before and after the forums to determine whether their concerns about social security, their beliefs about appropriate responses, and support for different policy actions have changed as a result of their involvement in the discussions. These results will be compared to views of a random sample of community residents who did not attend the forums.

The study’s content analysis will include both print and broadcast coverage of the forums by the Associated Press, The New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, ABC, CNN, and the leading newspaper in each forum city. It will compare this reporting with actual transcripts of the forums.

Cook believes that up to early 1998, the public have been mere spectators as policy elites debated social security. “But,” she argues, “the public as simply the audience in the play of democracy is not what normative political science theory describes as the public’s role.” According to Cook, the Americans Discuss Social Security forums are important “because they provide an opportunity to observe deliberative democracy in action.”

A final report will be completed by September. IPR graduate fellow Jason Barabas and Patrick Dorsey, a political science graduate student, are research assistants on the project.

Mixed Blessings Of Welfare Reform For Poor Children

Two nationally known poverty scholars predict that state and federal welfare reforms will increase the dispersion in the economic circumstances of children in low-income families. The deepening poverty of the subset of children whose families’ fortunes decline could profoundly and negatively affect their early development and later-life achievement.


Their research suggests that close to half the current welfare families, nearly two-million families and four-million children, will eventually hit the five-year time limit mandated by the welfare reform of 1996. This is more than double the number that states can exempt for hardship under the new Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) laws. They anticipate that as many as half of these families will see their incomes fall well below the poverty line.

Sanctions and categorical restrictions, such as denying cash assistance to children born to underage unmarried women are likely to hit hardest. The researchers have previously demonstrated how family economic conditions in early childhood can have large and rather selective effects on children’s development, particularly in shaping ability and achievement.

Duncan and Brooks-Gunn have found, for example, that for children in low-income families a $10,000 increase in income averaged over the first five years of life is associated with nearly a three-fold increase in the odds of that child’s finishing high school. This effect is much larger than for income increments occurring later in childhood.

To forestall harmful effects on child development, the authors suggest states act to prevent situations of deep poverty for young children by exempting their parents from time limits, sanctions, and categorical restrictions, at least until the child’s second or third birthday. They also recommend a more general reconsideration of policies such as child allowances and refundable tax credits geared to children’s ages, with the bulk of benefits for families with young children.

For families least able to take advantage of welfare reform and the booming economy, some combination of cost-effective job training and other skill-building programs would help prepare some long-term recipients for the work force. States might also expand their existing service delivery programs, such as nutrition education and supplements, medical care, early childhood education, and housing.
Study Finds Complex Links Between Domestic Violence and Women’s Employment

Does domestic violence affect employment status and other job-related experiences of women who have been victimized by their male partners?

There are no simple answers, according to initial findings from a three-year study by Susan Lloyd on the “Effects of Violence on Work and Family.” Instead, she found “multiple associations between male violence and female labor force participation.” In many cases, there were strong negative effects of verbal and physical abuse and coercion, especially for younger women and mothers on public aid. But in some cases, the outcomes were either positive or ambiguous.

To explain these results, Lloyd suggests that the impact on employment probably reflects differences in women’s responses as well as differences in the resources available to them. Some are motivated to seek paid employment to end abusive relationships while others are prevented by coercive male partners from even getting to their jobs.

The findings also suggest that women’s experience with violence may influence their labor market experiences over time rather than at any given moment in time. While Lloyd found evidence that current employment status appears unaffected, human capital characteristics, such as physical and psychological health, and past spells of unemployment do appear to be significantly affected.

Lloyd reports these findings in “Domestic Violence and Women’s Employment,” the lead article in the Spring 1998 issue of NU Policy Research, IPR’s electronic journal. Lloyd is currently a director of the Program on Human and Community Development at the MacArthur Foundation, and a research affiliate at the Joint Center for Poverty Research.

Lloyd gathered data from a random household survey of 824 adult women in the predominantly black and Hispanic community of Humboldt Park in Chicago. She followed this up with 24 in-depth interviews with respondents. The average annual wage of respondents was $3570 and nearly half were the primary source of their household income.

Many told stories of intimidation and fear. They described husbands and boyfriends who disrupted their childcare or transportation arrangements, caused them to go to work bruised and broken, or harassed them at work with phone calls. Forty percent of the respondents reported male aggression, and 28.4% told of severe aggression over the course of their adult relationships with men. In the previous 12-month period, 40% of the women reported attempts by their male partners to control them; nearly 20% had experienced physical abuse, and 12% a more severe form of aggression.

Impact on Employment. In addition to being predominantly younger women, mothers, and AFDC recipients, victims of domestic abuse and coercion were more likely to have experienced unemployment, held more jobs, and endured more health problems than non-victims, Lloyd found. They also had lower incomes and greater reliance on public assistance.

According to the study, “those who reported being controlled, harassed, or threatened in the past 12 months reported average incomes $215 lower than those who did not.” Average income was $211 lower for victims of pushing, shoving or grabbing, and beating or rape victims reported income $997 lower than those who had not experienced severe aggression.

Lloyd also found that more than half her sample had been unemployed during a period when they wanted to work. Victims of male violence were far more likely to suffer bouts with depression, anxiety, and anger. And they said the physical and psychological problems stemming from their abusive relationships affected their performance on the job.

Striving Harder. On the positive side, some female victims viewed employment as a safety valve to improve their lives. They shared a strong belief that personal finances could help extricate them from abusive relationships. Many carefully planned and executed their departures. They also recognized that employment enabled them to be more selective in their choice of a partner and to negotiate fairer, safer arrangements.

Given these findings, Lloyd recommends that policymakers adopt a “nuanced approach” to low-income victims of domestic abuse. She cautions that some AFDC recipients may find it especially difficult to meet the work and other requirements mandated by the new federal and state welfare regulations and “for safety’s sake” may require exemptions from labor force participation or requirements to establish paternity.

Noting that some low-income women have used public assistance money to avoid or exit abusive relationships, Lloyd recommends that policymakers consider preserving this option for women at risk of violence. And she suggests that job training programs that emphasize both immediate and longer term employment may offer benefits for welfare recipients well beyond simple compliance with the time limits on eligibility.

The NUPR article may be accessed at www.nwu.edu/IPR/publications/nupr/nuprv03n1/lloyd.html. See the Poverty Center web site at www.jcpr.org to order the working paper.
Community Policing Weaves Into City’s Fabric

Chicago’s community policing program, underway for more than four years, has become a part of the city’s fabric, according to a report issued in December by an IPR-led research team that is evaluating its progress.

Two-thirds of Chicagoans are aware of the community policing effort and 30% of these have attended at least one beat meeting. About 4,500 residents attend these meetings each month and the vast majority find them useful. Officers in the Chicago Police Department’s Patrol Division—the 9,000-member unit that handles day-to-day operations on the street—have begun to accept the program as the standard for policing in the city.

These encouraging findings have emerged from IPR’s ongoing evaluation of the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) program they are conducting in conjunction with researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Loyola University, and DePaul University. “Chicago is grinding through the long period that it takes to change the culture of any large organization,” notes principal investigator Wesley G. Skogan (IPR-Political Science).

The multiyear study is funded by grants from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), the National Institute of Justice, and the MacArthur Foundation. “These advances are encouraging, because complex programs such as this take substantial time to mature,” adds Susan Hartnett, IPR research associate and project director of the evaluation.

The report issued by ICJIA is the fourth in a series examining the progress of community policing in the city. The latest study also looked at community activists’ attitudes about CAPS, residents’ satisfaction with their interactions with the police, the effectiveness of the city’s marketing campaign to raise awareness of CAPS in the neighborhoods, and the success in implementing various components of the community policing strategy.

CAPS was instituted in 1993 in five experimental police districts. In autumn 1994, elements of the program, such as the coordination of city services, officer training, and new dispatching procedures, began to be introduced in police districts throughout the city.

Among the major findings of the 1997 CAPS study:

♦ Community activists were extremely optimistic about the program’s progress. They were most satisfied with beat community meetings, their district commanders’ efforts to implement CAPS, program marketing efforts, and the quality of service that beat officers were delivering.

♦ During the past year, more than half of Chicago’s residents had contacted the police. More than 80% thought police were helpful and polite, and 70% were satisfied with the outcome. Among adults stopped by police during the year—nearly all for traffic offenses—about 62% thought they were treated fairly and 61% were satisfied with the outcome. Males, African-Americans and poorer respondents were less satisfied than others. Only 10%-13% of respondents found the police excessively aggressive.

♦ About 90% of people who attended beat meetings said they were useful for finding solutions to neighborhood problems. And 72% said that actions were taken or they saw a change in their neighborhood following the meetings.

♦ An aggressive program to market CAPS resulted in a large increase in awareness, from 53% of adults the previous year to 68%. Awareness increased in nearly every social group but remained linked to education and income. Levels of CAPS awareness (70%) were nearly identical for whites, African-Americans, and those Latinos who were most comfortable being interviewed in English. However, recognition stood at only 52% among Latinos who preferred to be interviewed in Spanish. Most people who knew about CAPS reported hearing about it on television. Many Spanish-speaking respondents said they learned about CAPS on the radio.

♦ Among 15 beats that were examined in depth, four have made excellent progress, and five more have good programs. Two beats were struggling to implement CAPS, and four had not made much progress. Differences between them were primarily attributable to leadership at the most local level.

Is CAPS effectively supplementing the efforts of the neediest communities, or is it doing the best in better-off areas that traditionally work well with police? The study found that about half the beats with little capacity to defend themselves have vigorous programs, but that CAPS was poorly implemented in the other half of high-need beats.

The report highlighted several CAPS initiatives that were introduced in 1996-97. Among them:

♦ A new planning process that begins with the formal identification of beat problems and the resources required to attack them, and culminates in the formulation of district and area plans that respond to those needs.

♦ The first citizen training effort, which fielded an organizing and education program in nearly all 279 police beats.

♦ New technology that included a more advanced crime mapping system, installation of mobile data terminals in patrol cars, and experiments with voice mail and cellular telephones for beat cars. The police department has made progress in developing a modern database management system and made significant improvements in emergency dispatching, both of which should increase its analytic capacity.

The researchers are now looking at implementation of CAPS citywide while continuing to monitor training and assess advances in technology. They are also focusing on grassroots initiatives by community organizations and organizers hired by the city to facilitate the joint solving of local problems.
A Toolbox for Welfare Relief

A new ABCD Institute publication shows how five “tools” successfully used for community-building activities may be adapted to help former welfare recipients move toward economic independence and more fulfilling lives:

- **The Capacity Inventory** is designed to elicit information about the skills, talents, and interests of individuals, which may be utilized to reconnect them to community life and economic opportunities.
- **The Associational Inventory** helps discover the many small-scale voluntary groups that exist within a community and to which a formerly isolated recipient of services may connect and contribute.
- **The Business Inventory** gathers information about local economic opportunities from interviews with local business owners.
- **Self-Help Peer Groups**, such as Alcoholics Anonymous or “loan circles” such as the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, provide support for everything from eating disorders to microenterprise development.
- **Circles of Support**, invented in Canada to reconnect people with disabilities to the larger community, assemble a group of friends to support a person’s vision or plan for the future.

The guide also offers sample capacity inventories, documents associational support for community-building activities, and supplies questions for interviewing local business owners.

Building the Bridge from Client to Citizen: A Community Toolbox for Welfare Reform, by **John P. Kretzmann** and Michael B. Green (1998), is available from IPR’s publications department for $5.00. It also can be downloaded from IPR’s web site at: http://www.nwu.edu/IPR/abcd.html.

**John McKnight (R) at a book signing in Albi, France, where a new French translation of The Careless Society (La Société Négligente) was unveiled. The book was published by Taget, a Swiss economic cooperative comprised of formerly mentally ill people who found McKnight’s collection of essays especially relevant. Members of the cooperative have opened groceries, bakeries, print shops, and other local enterprises throughout Switzerland.**

How Six Communities Put Assets To Work

**In Seattle, an 84-year-old man has created a phone circle in which 70 elderly, housebound participants get a few friendly calls each day. In New York, a not-for-profit corporation is developing the city’s largest new manufacturing plant in 50 years with plans to employ 1500 local residents.**

These disparate cases share two main ingredients—a belief that local skills and talents can be marshalled to improve community life, and a malleable “tool,” the capacity inventory, to help locate those assets. How six vastly different community organizations utilized this tool is spelled out in A Guide to Capacity Inventories: Mobilizing the Community Skills of Local Residents (1997).

The guide is the fourth in a series of six workbooks published by IPR’s ABCD Institute. Co-directors **John McKnight** and **John Kretzmann** wrote the guide with Geralyn Sheehan, an ABCD associate from Atlanta.

McKnight’s research group created the original capacity inventory with a local Chicago community group that wished to discover the skills and talents of its residents. The new guide describes how six groups, diversified in size, geography, constituency, and purpose, adapted the inventory. Though there is no one “correct” model, the book offers insights about goal-setting, data collection, and what has or hasn’t worked in the past.

The six case studies include:

- **The Family Support Network** of Seattle, which fosters supportive relationships between individuals and families. One successful project connected a family residing in public housing with people skilled in carpentry who built them some badly needed shelves.
- **Interfaith Action** is a church-based community group in Minneapolis that focuses on economic development in its largely Latino and low-income neighborhoods. Through its efforts, a
ABCD Institute Forms Networks for Local Action

The Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Institute is extending its growing influence to the healthcare, religious, and philanthropic communities.

A new and independent ABCD Religious Network was formed in the wake of a retreat last summer in which church leaders from six denominations were schooled in ABCD methods by Institute co-directors John McKnight and John Kretzmann. The network provides information and technical assistance to both urban and rural congregations and also publishes a newsletter. The Institute is now working with other religious leaders to see how church judiciaries can support congregations in community-building activities.

ABCD is also developing a network of some 20 hospitals and health systems interested in the asset-based approach to community development. In one initiative, representatives from each hospital are working with ABCD to create inventories of hospital resources that can be used to support local community activities and enterprises.

Encouraged by its growing support from the philanthropic community, the Institute is in the process of creating a network of foundations that support asset-based community development projects.

Taking networking a step further, McKnight and Kretzmann are now organizing geographical networks of practitioners in Chicago, California, Colorado, Wisconsin, and South Carolina who have been using the ABCD research in their work. They represent a variety of sectors that include universities, government, and business. ABCD hopes these networks will develop policies and proposals for future action.

The Institute has increased its national “faculty” to 29 members who run training sessions in ABCD methods for community groups and other organizations throughout North America. To assist in the training, ABCD recently published three new workbooks and an IPR report (see p. 6), and has five more guides in the works.

local technical school agreed to hire a bilingual teacher and buy Spanish-language textbooks for Latino members who wanted to pursue entrepreneurial activities.

♦ Sierra County Children’s Health Collaborative promotes the physical and mental health of residents scattered throughout a 900-square-mile rural area of California. It has helped bring resident artists into elementary schools, identified local storytellers who have contributed their time to both schools and community functions, and established a computerized system, the Sierra Kids Action Network, to help people connect with each other’s skills and resources.

♦ Neighborhood Pride Team of Portland is comprised of formerly struggling, isolated, and low-income men and women. It was created to promote relationships that could decrease their isolation and build the local economy. The team is developing a microenterprise lending program, a temporary job service, and a job-matching and skills-exchange program.

♦ Mutual Partnerships Coalition of Seattle set out to establish intergenerational networks to reduce the isolation of its elderly population and improve the health of both younger and older residents. In addition to the seniors’ phone circle described earlier, it established a food bank for homebound elderly and disabled residents.

♦ Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association is a South Bronx not-for-profit corporation that builds community through housing, economic development, and educational activities. Among its accomplishments, it got approval and funding from the New York City Board of Education to open a high school that offers students hands-on community development experience toward their diploma.

The book may be ordered from ACTA Publications (800-397-2282) for $9.00.

New workbooks. A Guide to Creating a Neighborhood Information Exchange: Building Communities by Connecting Local Skills and Knowledge describes a simple, inexpensive capacity-listing-and-referral service to discover untapped local resources that can be shared by community members.

A Guide to Evaluating Asset-Based Community Development: Lessons, Challenges, and Opportunities, by Thomas Dewar, offers ten principles for implementing appropriate and successful evaluation strategies.

ABCD Finds a “Safe Haven” In Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood

“Imagine what the world is like for children who are worried about their own safety or the safety of someone they love…. Instead of trying to figure out where a puzzle piece fits or how to write the letters of their names, their energies are spent on trying to figure out how to stay safe.”

These are the words of Fred Rogers, creator and host of the popular children’s TV series, “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.” Rogers’ production company, Family Communications, Inc., is adapting two graphics created by John Kretzmann and John McKnight for materials it has designed to help communities deal with preschoolers who have been exposed to violence.

The “Community Assets” and “Neighborhood Needs” maps from Building Communities from the Inside Out show diametrically opposed views of how to assess neighborhoods. Rogers’ company is reprinting the maps as part of its Safe Havens Training Project manual for teachers, parents, and childcare providers. The workbook will accompany a set of documentary-style videos on the traumatic effects of witnessing violence at such a young age.
Ignorance Magnifies Homeless Problem for Chicago Suburb

A 30-year-old white man in Wheaton, Illinois, has been homeless for five years, ever since he was caught unknowingly laundering money. He works full time to pay $1000 a month to the IRS as punishment for his crime. He cannot afford a home, so he sleeps in his car and uses services provided by the local homeless agency. He is representative (in race, age, and predicament) of the city’s homeless population.

In 1995, Wheaton residents discovered that two convicted sex offenders were living in their local shelters. Alarm removed by what they saw as a growing problem, the city’s Task Force on Homelessness commissioned Dan A. Lewis (IPR-Education) to study the homeless issue and make recommendations. Lewis had conducted a similar analysis in Evanston a year earlier.

Lewis and co-investigator Bruce Nelson observed and interviewed 60 homeless and other local residents in 1997. They concluded that residents’ fears were not only greatly exaggerated, but that Wheaton’s homeless program could serve as a model for other suburbs.

They credit much of this to the Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS) program, the church-based, nonprofit largely volunteer agency that has been providing shelter and food to the city’s homeless population since 1985.

The study concluded that ignorance has contributed significantly to local fear of the homeless, who are perceived as poor, unclean, and deviant. Much of this fear is not based on personal experience and runs counter to the local crime statistics. The researchers also noted a widespread displacement of anger to the agency charged with assisting the homeless. They believe this reflects a lack of awareness of PADS’ real accomplishments.

The homeless study sample was 73% male, 67% white, and 20% mentally ill. Contrary to Lewis and Nelson’s expectations, 41% came from local DuPage County and only 22% from the City of Chicago, most of them fleeing from drugs, gangs, and violence.

Income or employment-related causes accounted for 35% of the homelessness in the study. Many said their plight was short-term, induced by joblessness, and exacerbated by difficulties in commuting to jobs or to shelters. Expanded transportation and affordable housing options could counter some of these problems.

Over the five months of the study, the researchers observed only three individuals sleeping outdoors, and no panhandling, drunk, or disorderly behavior. Instead, many homeless were sleeping in the local library. These numbers could be reduced by extending PADS’ hours into a seamless schedule of day and night programming, and by stretching its overnight shelter season from seven to twelve months, the study suggested.

New Administrator for IPR

A zealous advocate of scuba diving and servant-leadership has joined IPR as assistant to the director for administration. In April, Ruth McCullough took over the position vacated by Theresa Parker after more than six years at IPR. Parker moved to the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management where she is now associate director of finance and planning with responsibility for budget planning and oversight.

McCullough has an MBA from Rollins College, where she also earned a degree in English. She came to Northwestern after 6 1/2 years of administrative work at a Chapter 13 bankruptcy trusteeship in Chicago. Over the past 30 months, its caseload grew from 6,000 to more than 9,000 cases, half of the total in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Prior to taking time out to raise three children, McCullough worked on Capitol Hill and interned in the Bureau of International Commerce where, among other tasks, she shepherded Soviet Trade Mission officials on a tour to Monticello. She subsequently moved into an administrative position in the White House Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention. That office was the first government agency to coordinate all federal efforts for drug treatment and rehabilitation and was predecessor to the “drug czars” of the 1990s.

“My Washington experience was very helpful for my present job, particularly when it comes to processing grants,” McCullough explained. “It gave me a better feel for federal funding.” McCullough was especially intrigued with the chance to work at IPR because she believes its research can produce a change for the better in people’s lives. “I wanted to work in an organization where the work mattered,” she explained.

Noting that mentally ill persons fall outside the safety net provided by PADS, the report advised that the DuPage County Mental Health Department take charge of expanding services to this group. It also recommended educating residents about the economic, social, and health problems associated with homelessness and guiding them in appropriate responses to panhandling, loitering, and other acts they find offensive. More information about available services, as well as actual crime statistics, might also help alleviate public fear.

Following the study’s recommendation, Wheaton has established a Homeless Network, a broad group of community organizations organized to track trends in the homeless situation and address other issues and concerns.

The researchers have applied for federal funding to expand the study of suburban homelessness to other parts of the Chicago metropolitan region.

“A Study of Homelessness in Wheaton, Illinois” is available from IPR’s publications department for $10.00.
Female Lawyers Content with Careers — Or Are They?

On the surface, both male and female lawyers seem well-satisfied with their chosen profession. Dig deeper, however, and there are rumbles of discontent that clearly separate the sexes.

These findings emerged from a recent study of Chicago lawyers by John P. Heinz (IPR-Law), Robert L. Nelson (IPR-Sociology) and their colleagues. A survey of 675 practicing attorneys found that most (84%) were satisfied with their careers, with no statistically significant gender difference. In fact, 42% of women and 46% of men reported that they were very satisfied with their jobs and only 2% of women and 1% of men were very dissatisfied.

“So to suggest that lawyers are a bunch of burned-out, grumpy, discouraged people is simply wrong,” said Heinz, co-author of a new IPR working paper, “Lawyers and Their Discontents: Findings from a Survey of the Chicago Bar.”

These levels of satisfaction, however, fly in the face of conventional wisdom. And when Heinz and co-investigators Kathleen Hull and Ava Harter probed further, they found the genders diverged significantly, particularly around issues of pay and promotion.

Perhaps the most striking disparity was in salary. The percentage of men who earned $100,000 or more in the year preceding the survey was 47.8%, compared to 16.1% for women. And women were significantly more likely to express dissatisfaction with their salaries than men.

The study also found women were significantly less satisfied than men in their level of responsibility, recognition for their work, chances for advancement, organizational policies and administration, and control over the amount and manner of their work. In fact, only in their relationships with colleagues were they more satisfied than men.

There were also striking differences in the way male and female lawyers with children perceived conflicts between their personal and professional lives. “The burden of childcare continues to fall more heavily on women and balancing it with a job is much more of a problem,” said Heinz. “Men don’t see it as a problem because, for them, it isn’t.”

Indeed, significantly more women than men said the need to accommodate personal or family priorities had limited their career choices, and that career considerations had influenced their decisions about whether to marry or have children.

If female lawyers suffer in comparison to men, especially in salary and advancement, why do they express such a high degree of overall job satisfaction? Heinz offers three possible—and perhaps intertwining—explanations:

- women do not compare themselves to men but to other women; or
- women are taking into account the progress women have made in the working world; or
- women simply don’t value the same things as men.

There is evidence in the study that men care more about money and position, while women place more value on interpersonal relations. Another possible explanation is self-selection—that unhappy lawyers may have left the field. However, Heinz says the evidence for this is meager and mixed.

Rather than self-selecting out of the field, perhaps the answer is that fewer people are opting into it. “Judging by the decline in applications to law schools in recent years, many potential lawyers are pursuing other options—perhaps MBAs,” the report concludes. “But the people who consider the options and then choose to practice law appear, in most cases, to find the work rewarding.”

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Heinz Honored by Alma Mater

John P. Heinz was among the first group of honorees selected to receive an Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from Washington University in St. Louis. These new annual awards celebrate the accomplishments of exceptionally successful alumni who have also served their communities and the university. Heinz, who is the Owen L. Coon Professor of Law at Northwestern and an IPR faculty fellow, was honored May 15 at Washington University’s commencement exercises.

During his long and distinguished academic career, Heinz served as executive director of the American Bar Foundation, where he is currently a Distinguished Research Fellow.

Heinz has also served as president of the John Howard Association (prison reform), as chairman of the professional advisory committee to the Cook County State’s Attorney for the eight years that Richard M. Daley held that office, and as a member of the National Science Foundation’s advisory committee for the social sciences.

Heinz is currently completing a large sociological study of the Chicago Bar, analyzing questions he posed to Chicago lawyers in 1995, and revisiting issues from a similar study he conducted two decades ago. The earlier results were published in his co-authored 1982 book, Chicago Lawyers: The Social Structure of the Bar. His most recent book is The Hollow Core: Private Interests in National Policymaking (1993).
Prior to Chicago’s 1988 school system reform, pessimism was rampant. Its public school students were consistently scoring among the lowest in the country on standardized achievement tests. Educators, parents, and business people all agreed that improvement was a necessity. A decade into school reform, that consensus still exists.

Yet, research over that decade does not show consistent results that would allow us to conclude with confidence that school reform has brought about student improvement. Scores on national tests show improvements in some areas but not in others. Dropout rates have been erratic, with some positive results recently.

Most research on Chicago’s two major school reforms (the latest was in 1995) has centered on school improvement rather than student learning and instructional refinements. Investigators have assumed that changes in governance, which transferred formal authority to elected local school councils (LSCs) in 1988, would advance student achievement. Their research, therefore, emphasized governance changes, parent participation, and principal performance. LSCs were seen as the key to success.

There were problems with this emphasis. Often there was no baseline against which to compare the post-reform schools, and little effort was made to look at how the individual student fared over the reform period. Furthermore, high student mobility rates were often ignored.

As a result, variations in student achievement within schools were seldom analyzed; and students’ average scores on national tests (or the percentage above the national norm) in the school became the criteria for success.

There have been a few careful studies of individual achievement among a randomly selected sample of Chicago students. But there have been no studies, as far as I am aware, that look at the classroom experiences of students and relate those experiences to student achievement.

The research literature has also failed to show a systematic improvement in the quality of instruction over the ten years of reform, though instructional improvement clearly has not been the focus of most researchers. This lack of interest in what teachers were doing in the classroom also reflects an assumption of the 1988 legislation that the teachers were the problem and not the solution.

All this means that there is a strong need for careful research on samples of students, which track their achievement over time and control for factors that affect that achievement. Individual-level (background, student capacity, and socioeconomic status) as well as school- and classroom-level variables must be measured.

Outcomes should also be addressed: Do Chicago public school graduates do better today than they did a decade ago in competing for jobs? Are they doing better in admissions to post-secondary educational institutions? What learning strategies are paying off in better skill acquisition?

The lesson of Chicago school reform is that we had better start asking those questions now before another decade slips by and we have lost the advantage the past reforms have produced.

A final thought: White enrollment in Chicago public schools dropped from 65% of students in the mid-1960s to about 10% today, and the system lost about 100,000 from the mid-’60s to the early ’80s. In the past decade, the proportion of low-income students nearly doubled from 45% to just over 83%. Not surprisingly, high school graduation rates fell from 61% to 51% and dropout rates rose from 10.7% to 15.5% over that period.

As we look at this history, the true measure of school reform may not be how much test scores have improved, but rather how little they have eroded, given the staggering impact of changes in the composition of the student body.
How Do You Create A Successful School?

Once described as the “worst in the nation,” Chicago public schools have been scrambling since 1988 to erase that image. The school system has decentralized, recentralized, and now lodges somewhere inbetween. At the same time, it continues to test numerous models of school reform, among them Essential Schools, the Algebra Project, the Urban Systemic Initiative, Best Practices Movement, the Comer Program, and Total Quality Management.

Researchers have been studying these changes on a system-wide level, but much less is known about exactly what goes into creating a successful school in a poor neighborhood.

The Joyce Foundation is funding a new IPR project headed by sociologist Charles Payne to identify patterns of change within these schools that have contributed to significant improvement in student performance.

Payne has studied the Comer school reform program in Chicago since 1990. He is targeting 12 to 20 elementary schools in Chicago that have been successful in implementing change. He is deliberately concentrating on schools with at least a 90% poverty rate and a 90% minority student population, including some that serve public housing projects.

Through interviews and personal observation, he hopes to learn, for example, whether lower grades start changing faster than upper grades, whether veteran teachers react to change better than younger ones, or whether certain types of children are likely to start showing gains before others.

He is also interested in the learning process: What mistakes have been made? What assumptions or constraints led to those mistakes? And what might school personnel do differently now?

Another significant aspect of change is leadership and the new roles that reform has created. Payne will examine how these internal and external leaders have been integrated into the overall school structure. He will also look at the kinds of support that have helped improve the quality of teaching.

Given the variety of models being tested in Chicago, the study will also compare their effectiveness. But Payne cautions that “the question is not which model is the best, but which is likely to work under what circumstances?”

Payne joined Duke University’s history and African-American studies departments this spring but will remain an adjunct professor at Northwestern where he has been a faculty member since 1986.

A final report on the findings will be submitted by the fall of 1999.

Catholic Schools (continued from page 1)


More recently, they found that the interaction between being Catholic and residential distance from Catholic schools has a strong effect on the decision to attend a Catholic school. The new study will build on that work, using both NLS72 and the 1988 National Education Longitudinal Study (NELS88), to determine how Catholic school effects vary with neighborhood and school characteristics, and student characteristics such as race, gender, parental education, and family income.

The researchers plan to examine the effects of Catholic school attendance on a wide range of variables that include test scores, teen pregnancy, probability of high school graduation, high school curriculum, achievement test scores, attitudes toward education and work, college attendance and completion, employment, and wage rates.

Much of the research controversy over benefits of a religious school education stems from the fact that selection into private schools is not random. The study will attack the selection problem for Catholic schools by using the interaction between religious preference and proximity to Catholic schools to statistically identify Catholic school effects while controlling for both proximity and religious preference.

The researchers will also analyze whether or not single-sex education makes any difference. They plan to use the interactions among religion, gender, and proximity to both single-sex and co-ed Catholic schools to help determine the costs and benefits of gender segregation in high schools.

They will focus on how single-sex education affects curriculum choices, achievement, juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy, college attendance and major, career aspirations, labor force participation, and choice of occupation.

The two economists will also examine how gender effects may have changed over time. “For policy purposes it is useful to know whether the Catholic school effects persist in both single-sex and coed schools,” Altonji explained.

The researchers plan to issue a series of working papers on their findings.
To Profit or Not to Profit. The Commercial Transformation of the Nonprofit Sector (Cambridge, 1998). Editor and contributor Burton A. Weisbrod (IPR-Economics) directed a coordinated set of studies of how fundraising for nonprofits has shifted from charitable donations to commercial sales activity—mimicking that of private firms—and the consequences of these changes. User fees and revenue from "ancillary" activities (unrelated to mission) are mushrooming, each having important side effects. User fees may price some of the nonprofit’s target group out of the market, while ancillary activities may distract it from its central mission.

These issues are examined from two perspectives. One focuses on issues that apply to nonprofits generally: the role of competition, a framework for analyzing nonprofit organizational behavior, the effects of distributional goals and differential taxation of nonprofit and for-profit activity revenue, the effects of changes in donations on commercial activity, and conversions of nonprofits to for-profit status. A second set of studies targets specific industries: hospitals, universities, social service providers, museums, zoos, and public broadcasting. The book concludes with recommendations for research and for public policy toward nonprofits.

A Promise of Justice. The Eighteen-Year Fight to Save Four Innocent Men (Hyperion, 1998)

In a travesty of American justice reminiscent of the infamous Scottsboro trials in Alabama more than half a century ago, four young men from suburban Chicago—boyhood friends with no history of violence—were convicted for a 1978 interracial kidnapping, rape, and double murder they did not commit. They collectively spent 65 years behind bars; two of the men were on Death Row.

When the bodies of a young white couple were found on May 12, 1978, the police were quick to arrest four African-Americans: Dennis Williams, Verneal Jimerson, Kenneth Adams, and William Rainge. The four were paraded in handcuffs before television cameras, and police assured the community that this vicious crime had been solved.

In trials marred by police and prosecutorial misconduct, perjured testimony, false forensic tests, and inept defense lawyers, the men were convicted. Two were sentenced to death, two to long prison terms. Although they continued to profess their innocence, the courts turned back their claims and civil rights leaders ignored their pleas for help.

Authors David Protess (IPR-Medill) and Rob Warden took the men’s stories seriously and came to believe in their innocence. They enlisted a group of Medill journalism students, a private investigator, a Chicago Tribune column, and a team of volunteer lawyers to investigate the case. The team gathered substantial new evidence that finally freed the four innocent men.

Yankeys Now. Immigrants in the Antebellum U.S. 1840-1860 (Oxford, 1998). The first great wave of European migration to the United States before the Civil War transformed both the immigrants and their new country. The extent of this transformation has been difficult to gauge without information on migrants before and after their departure from Europe. Joseph P. Ferrie (IPR-Economics) provides the first detailed look at how these immigrants were changed by their relocation and how the U.S. economy responded to their arrival.

Ferrie employs unique data on more than 2,400 British, Irish, and German migrants, who appeared in both passenger ship rosters and U.S. census records, to document the geographic, occupational, and financial movements of Europeans who traveled to the United States in the 1840s. Contrary to other studies of antebellum immigrants, Ferrie finds substantial mobility in all three contexts. The ability to follow immigrants from their arrival through several censuses enables him to compare the experiences of immigrants who remained in one location with those who sought opportunity in new places over the 1850s. The latter group’s achievements, carefully traced in the book, account for most of the contrast with previously published work.

Using information on more than 4,000 native-born Americans followed through the 1850 and 1860 U.S. censuses, Ferrie finds little evidence that the immigrants’ arrival negatively affected the country’s labor force, excluding craft workers in the urban northeast. The findings demonstrate the American economy’s ability to absorb additions to its workforce while also illustrating the range of opportunities available to 19th-century migrants drawn to the United States.

Paternalism and the American Welfare State. Economics, Politics, and Institutions in the South, 1865-1965 (Cambridge, 1998). Using the new institutional economics, Lee J. Alston and Joseph P. Ferrie show how paternalism in Southern agriculture helped shape the growth of the American welfare state in the century following the Civil War. Paternalism was an integral part of agricultural contracts prior to mechanization. It involved the exchange of “good and faithful” labor services for a variety of in-kind services, most notably protection from physical violence. The Southern landed elite valued paternalism because it reduced monitoring costs and turnover. Workers valued it because of the lack of civil rights. In order to maintain its value to their workers, the agricultural interests needed to prevent meddling from the federal government, which they accomplished through their disproportionate political power. The advent of mechanization and complementary technology in the late 1950s and early 1960s reduced the desire of Southern agricultural interests to fight the expansion of federal welfare programs.
“If it bleeds, it leads,” is the rule of thumb for most local TV news programs today. But how does this steady stream of carnage play with African-Americans and Latinos—who so often are both victims and villains of these pieces? A recent IPR-Medill School of Journalism study finds that a majority of black and Latino Chicagoans rate overall local TV news as “good,” but rank coverage of their own communities as only “fair”—negative, unbalanced, and stereotypical.

The study was conducted in early 1998 by Cynthia Linton and Robert LeBailly of Medill, with support from the Human Relations Foundation of Chicago. They surveyed 207 local African-Americans and 133 Latinos. Ironically, the two “minority” groups now comprise 60% of Chicago’s population, 40% African-American and 20% Latino.

Nearly two-thirds of the respondents believe their racial and ethnic groups are portrayed inaccurately by local TV news programs. Half of the black viewers and nearly one-third of Latinos think the stories focus on the worst aspects of their community and this unbalanced coverage just reinforces negative racial stereotypes. The black viewers blame this in part on the tendency of reporters to select the most unappealing and inarticulate African-Americans as spokespersons.

As one typical respondent put it, “They always pick the worst, ugliest one out of the crowd. They pick smart young white kids out, but not black ones who can really summarize what went on.”

Latinos are more positive about TV news than blacks, although they too complain about negative stories. Scanty coverage of their communities is another sore point. “They only show news about immigration stories. You never hear about Latino neighborhoods,” said one respondent. To compensate, the Latino respondents watch the two Spanish-language TV news channels an average of 3.1 days a week. They say these channels also do a better job of covering international issues, particularly Latin American.

To balance this negative press, nearly 40% of both black and Latino viewers would like to see more good news, “even if just once a week, for 15 minutes,” said one. “I’d like to see more positive things about the community. You know, kids winning awards, going off to college, and not just killing each other,” added another viewer.

It was less clear whether viewers think local TV news helps or hurts race relations in the city: 48% said it makes no difference, 19% said it helps, 22% said it hurts, and 12% said it both helps and hurts.

Respondents watch local TV news an average of 5.6 days a week, compared to 3.6 days for reading newspapers, the study found. Slightly more than 50% watch the news every day. African-American viewers overwhelmingly (71%) favor ABC’s Channel 7, while just over half the Latinos preferred the NBC affiliate, Channel 5. These results tally with a clear preference for black news anchors among African-American respondents. Walter Jacobson, of Fox Channel 32, the lone white anchor among the top choices, was the most popular among Latinos, preferred by 20% of them. The authors speculate that the lack of Latino anchors may explain the relative indifference of that group when asked about its favorites.

For more evenhanded coverage, Linton and LeBailly recommend that media managers hire more Latinos as reporters, anchors, writers, and producers. They think a task force could help improve broadcasters’ understanding of Latino culture and neighborhoods and that news of economic development, schools, or local business, for example, could better balance the negative reporting.

Finally, the authors urge reporters to be more racially and ethnically inclusive in their on-the-spot interviews and more sensitive in their choice of minority spokespersons.
The authors suggest there is good evidence tying Evans’s letter to the general broadcasting community and implications that he acted with support of the NAB, the largest broadcaster trade organization, which is well-known for its effective and costly lobbies. Within a week of receiving the letter, Dole reversed his position and did almost everything Evans asked.

Snider and Page conclude that “at least under circumstances of extremely high financial stakes—TV broadcasters can and do exert substantial political power...not only through campaign contributions, standard lobbying tech-

niques, and overt bias in their treatment of the policy issue of concern to them, but also—and perhaps most importantly —through the threat or reality of covert biases that punish their political enemies.”

They suggest that covert media bias is a powerful tool of political action because politicians’ livelihood depends on the media. Covert bias usually goes unnoticed by the public because broadcasters either withhold information on a politician or emphasize negative information. “The media has become increasingly important for successful careers today,” they point out. Therefore politicians are highly sensitive to how broadcasters will react and tend to go along with broadcasters’ policy desires in order to avoid retribution.

For future researchers, the study of lobbying is as important to the field of political communications as the study of media content, Snider and Page say. They also believe scholars should spend proportionally more time studying both media owners’ pocketbook bias and local TV and less time on their partisan bias, although the two may be related. Local stations reach politicians’ target groups—those in their districts—and often have more than one local legislator from whom to choose.

This working paper was presented at the 1997 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Washington, D.C. It may be ordered from IPR’s publications department for $5.00.
**Faculty Honors**

**Burton A. Weisbrod**, John Evans Professor of Economics and former director of the Institute for Policy Research, has received two prestigious honors in the past six months. On December 6, he was presented with a lifetime achievement award from the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA).

In April, Weisbrod was one of 13 prominent academics named Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholars for 1998-99. The program is designed to enrich the intellectual environment of universities and colleges that house Phi Beta Kappa chapters. The visiting scholars pay a series of two-day visits to selected campuses to meet with undergraduates, participate in lectures and seminars, and give one major address.

In recognizing Weisbrod as its “most prominent economist,” ARNOVA cited his distinguished contributions to nonprofit and voluntarism research over more than two decades.

His work has had a major impact not only on economic research, but on interdisciplinary nonprofit research as well, the awards committee concluded. They noted that Weisbrod helped to legitimate research on nonprofits among economists and policy analysts and to attract more economists to the field.

“The field of nonprofit sector research didn’t exist 20 years ago,” Weisbrod observed, noting that four new journals and dozens of centers offering training in nonprofit management and related research activities show how the field has expanded.

Weisbrod’s international reputation in the field of economics helped build respect for this new field. His identification of problems in the nonprofit sector, such as the market for volunteer labor, his measurements of nonprofit sector outputs, and his analysis of nonprofit organization behavior have opened up new avenues for research.

Weisbrod has written 160 articles and a dozen books on subjects that include the economics of health care, education, human capital, and benefit-cost analysis. ARNOVA cited The Nonprofit Economy (Harvard University Press, 1988) as his most important book so far. It offered a comprehensive perspective on the behavior of nonprofit organizations, demonstrating how they do not exist in isolation from large segments of the economy but affect and are affected by both the government and private sectors. This intertwining of the three sectors is a major theme of Weisbrod’s work.

As a Phi Beta Kappa visiting scholar, Weisbrod expects to travel to seven or eight institutions next year to talk about the effects of health care cost containment on medical research and development and the role of nonprofit organizations in the economy. One certain theme will be the growing commercialism of the nonprofit sector. Weisbrod’s new edited and co-authored book on this subject, To Profit or Not to Profit (see Faculty Books, p. 12), will be published this summer.

Economist and IPR Faculty Fellow **Paul M. Hirsch** has received two Distinguished Scholar Awards. The Academy of Management’s Organization and Management Theory Division has cited him for “fundamental contributions to organizational and management theory.” Hirsch, who is the James L. Allen Distinguished Professor of Strategy and Organization Behavior at Kellogg, will be the division’s Distinguished Speaker at the Academy’s annual meeting in August where he will be honored at a reception.

Hirsch was also selected as the keynote speaker for the Organization Theory Division of the Canadian Administrative Sciences Association. He addressed the division at its annual meeting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in May. Hirsch is currently studying the language and cultures of business, in particular, how the framing of issues such as social responsibility, employee benefits, and downsizing has changed over time.

**Dan A. Lewis** (IPR-Education and Social Policy) is one of three Northwestern faculty to receive Excellence in Teaching awards for 1998 from the Northwestern Alumni Association. The honor carries with it a $3500 cash award. Lewis is currently working on a major proposal to study the impact of welfare reform in Illinois on former and current Illinois recipients and their families. He has also conducted studies of school reform in Chicago and community responses to the problem of homelessness in Evanston and Wheaton (see pp. 8 and 10).

**Nicola K. Beisel** (IPR-Sociology) has been named a 1998-99 Fellow by the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. She will spend a year’s leave continuing work on her latest book, which compares the use of racial rhetoric in 19th and 20th century discussions of abortion in the United States. Beisel will build on the research in her earlier book, Imperiled Innocents: Anthony Comstock and Family Reproduction in Victorian America (1997).

**Charles Moskos** (IPR-Sociology), a specialist in military sociology, will serve as a Commissioner on the Congressional Commission on Military Training and Gender Related Issues. Moskos, who is credited with formulating the Clinton administration’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy toward gays in the military, was one of 10 commissioners chosen by the Senate Armed Services Committee. Moskos also served on the Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces. His latest (co-authored) book is All That We Can Be: Black Leadership and Radical Integration the Army Way (1996).
Simon (continued from page 1)

Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University, which he founded shortly after leaving office.

According to statistics cited by Simon, “four-million Americans can’t recognize their name in block print; 23-million adult Americans can’t read a newspaper or fill out an employment form; and 82% of people in prison are high school dropouts.”

New investments in education and a massive public works program modeled after Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal Works Projects Program (WPA) might turn these numbers around, Simon said.

The former senator firmly supports a tax increase to bolster education. “Every economic study says we ought to be investing more in education,” he said. “It would be better for Illinois and for the nation that we be willing to sacrifice a little bit.” Simon had supported Illinois Governor Jim Edgar’s proposed income tax hike that was defeated by the state legislature.

“One of the great myths is that as a people we are overtaxed,” Simon said. “But as a total percentage of our income, Turkey is the only country below us. And I am not sure that Turkey is the model we should be following.”

In addition to beefed-up spending for education, Simon proposed a longer school year, more attention to foreign language training, and better preschool and adult education.

According to Simon, the nation’s longest school year is only 180 days compared to 243 in Japan and 240 in Germany. He scoffed at the notion that children can learn as much in the shorter year and pointed out that increasing the school year through 12th grade from 180 to 210 days would add up to two more years of school.

Foreign language study gets equally short shrift in U.S. education, he said. “We are the only nation in the world where you can get a a Ph.D. and never have a year of foreign language.” In his view, it means Americans are not exposing themselves to other cultures, since only .007% of U.S. students study abroad. We need to be more sensitive to the rest of the world, he said, pointedly noting that the United States is not paying its UN dues.

Simon believes there is a critical need to create job opportunities for people on welfare. He assailed the new five-year limits on public assistance without providing jobs, day care, or training for poor women with children.