

St. Cloud State University theRepository at St. Cloud State

School of Public Affairs Newsletter

School of Public Affairs

8-2013

School of Public Affairs Newsletter, Vol. 2, Iss. 3

Kristy Modrow
kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/sopa_newsletter



Part of the [Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Modrow, Kristy, "School of Public Affairs Newsletter, Vol. 2, Iss. 3" (2013). *School of Public Affairs Newsletter*. 5.
https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/sopa_newsletter/5

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Public Affairs at theRepository at St. Cloud State. It has been accepted for inclusion in School of Public Affairs Newsletter by an authorized administrator of theRepository at St. Cloud State. For more information, please contact rswexelbaum@stcloudstate.edu.

Greetings from the Dean

Dear Friends of SOPA:

A new school year is now starting at SCSU and with that comes all of the things I always look so forward to each Fall Semester: The return of our students, re-connecting with faculty and staff who were off-campus during the Summer, feeling the “buzz” of the campus again, and enjoying our wonderful cool, crisp Central Minnesota Fall. This will be a truly exciting year for our school and I’m thrilled to be part of the effort to grow our school and live into its mission. Be sure to check out our new website at <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/sopa/>

Some things to update you on since I last wrote:

- We have decided to secure approval to offer the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree. The SOPA Graduate Program Task Force, led by

Professor Steven Wagner (Political Science), completed its due diligence and review of graduate degree offering opportunities for the school. We commissioned a consulting firm to do a market study, surveyed our students, and held interviews and focus group conversations with leaders in the public and non-profit sectors in the region.

The feedback we got was systematic and strong: The MPA is the degree which best meets the needs of employers, working professionals, and students. This Summer, the task force has been finalizing an application to offer the MPA, which will be submitted to the university at the beginning of the Fall Semester. We are expecting that it will take the full school year to move the application through the proposal process. Assuming the application is approved next



*Örn Bodvarsson, Dean
School of Public Affairs*

Spring, the plan is for our first students to begin their studies Fall Semester, 2014. This will be Central Minnesota’s only MPA program and it will fill a very strong need both in the region and state. Stay tuned for more details as this work progresses.

*Greetings from the Dean
continued inside*

SOPA Research Office Offers New Opportunities

One year ago, Dean Örn Bodvarsson identified a strategic initiative in SOPA for a Research Office to be “a central coordinating structure that will monitor and oversee various research assets in SOPA and facilitate and support the school’s entire research portfolio.” The office was approved by President Earl Potter to begin operation on July 1, 2013.

Professor King Banaian is honored to have been chosen to be its first director. As you may know, the School has many great research assets already in place, and some more of them which were dormant during the Great Recession and our reorganization can now be revitalized. Our current assets include:

- The Center for Economic Education
- The SCSU Survey
- The St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report

• The Winter Institute
We are working to reinvigorate the Spatial Analysis Research Center, where discussion is already underway for a joint project between SARC and researchers in Criminal Justice. Many thanks to Ben Richason for thinking of ways to bring SARC back to life. We are also hopeful for someone to step forward to jump-start the Minnesota Economic Development Center, which was a strong feature of the old College of Social Sciences in the 1990s and 2000s.

Our plans are to facilitate collaborative inter- and multi-disciplinary research by our students and faculty and provide unified access for research and expertise to outside constituents and stakeholders. We have received significant support already from Dean Bodvarsson, interim Graduate Dean Patricia Hughes, and the Office of Research and Sponsored

Programs. Dean Bodvarsson and Banaian are already working on a grant request for seed money from a local foundation.

The Research Office will be located in Stewart Hall 329. We have plans for a conference room for your meetings with potential clients and funders, an office for our graduate assistant, and reception. These plans are still developing, but we have high hopes of having the office fully functioning this fall.

You can find our webpage at <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/sopa/research.aspx>. We will update information when the new office is ready and the phone and email are set up. In the meantime, please contact King at kbanaian@stcloudstate.edu or phone at 320-308-4797.

*King Banaian
Director SOPA Research Office &
Professor of Economics*



SOPA Dean's Message (Continued)

- The SOPA Research Office launched on July 1 and I am delighted to report that the new director is Dr. King Banaian, Professor in the Department of Economics. King has been on the SCSU faculty since 1984 and has made many wonderful contributions to SCSU, the community, and the region over the years. In addition to being a very accomplished academician, King served in the Minnesota State House during 2012-13, has for years co-authored with Dr. Richard MacDonald (Department of Economics) the highly acclaimed St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report, served as an international consultant, and served as Chair of the Department of Economics for 9 years. Under King's leadership, I am very confident that the Research Office will grow and prosper in the years ahead. King will keep the SOPA community updated on activities and developments in the Research Office, so watch for more details.
- SOPA completed six hires for the 2013/14 academic year. Three of the hires are new and three are returning faculty. The new hires are Dr. Lindsey Bergeron-Vigesaa of the Department of Criminal Justice, Dr. Guillermo Covarrubias of the Department of Economics, and Cindy Fitzthum, who joins the Social Studies Teaching program and will also direct the Center for Economic Education and work on Winter Institute planning. Congratulations and a warm welcome to these new faculty members. Congratulations are also due to Dr. Luis Estevez, who served last year as a fixed

term faculty member in the Department of Geography & Planning and returns this year in a tenure-track position. We also



On June 13, 2013, Dean Bodvarsson and his wife Mary were guests of Sichuan Agricultural University at its Dujiangyan campus in Dujiangyan City, Sichuan Province, China. After nearly a year of exploratory conversations, SCSU and Sichuan Agricultural University have signed a Memorandum of Understanding creating a partnership between the two universities. SCSU is Sichuan Agricultural University's first U.S. partner. The partnership will begin with collaborations between SOPA and the School of Business, particularly in the area of Economics programming. In the picture above, Dean Bodvarsson is flanked by Dean Xiumin Wu of the Sichuan Agricultural University Business School and Dr. Mary Bodvarsson. Next to Mary Bodvarsson is Dr. Lili, Associate Chair of the Department of Economics and Management at Sichuan Agricultural University and her university's liaison to SCSU.

welcome back to the Department of Criminal Justice two fixed term faculty members – Dr. Stephen Hennessy (who returns for a third year) and Stewart Wirth (who returns for a second year). We also congratulate our new adjunct faculty members and welcome back returning ones. Read more about our new hires elsewhere in this Newsletter.

- I am delighted to welcome Sichuan Agricultural University as a new partner of SOPA and SCSU. Sichuan Agricultural University (SAU) is in the

top 100 of Chinese universities with an enrollment of over 30,000 students spanning 3 campuses in the Chengdu, Sichuan Province, area. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by presidents of both universities earlier this Summer, making the partnership official, and I had the pleasure of visiting SAU for continuing talks on collaboration in June. We are SAU's first U.S. partner and the partnership will begin with collaboration between SAU's School of Business and SOPA, specifically the Department of Economics. Planned collaborations include faculty exchanges, student exchanges, collaborative programming, and joint faculty research. We will keep you updated on these collaborations as they develop and crystallize. We will also keep you updated on collaborations between our other partner, the Zhou Enlai School of Government at Nankai University (Tianjin, China), and our plans for formalizing a partnership with Southwestern University of Finance and Economics in Chengdu. China holds great opportunities for our faculty and students and our collaborations with these Chinese partners will contribute greatly to the international dimension of SOPA.

As we start our third year in SOPA, let me take the opportunity to thank our alumni and friends for their interest in and support of the school this past year. As the school's many projects and initiatives continue to move forward, we are, as always, grateful for financial support. Please stay in touch with us and be sure to let me know if you are planning a visit to campus.

*Orn Bodvarsson
Dean of School of Public Affairs*

SOPA MPA Task Force Update

The Public Administration Task Force in May completed two research projects: (1) an online student survey of interest in public administration/public policy programming and (2) a series of elite interviews of Twin Cities and central Minnesota executives of nonprofit service provider organizations and city and county administrators and managers.

The student survey showed mixed interest across the Master of Public Administration (MPA), Master of Public Policy (MPP) and the Master of Public Policy and Administration (MPPA) options. Beyond this baseline finding, we found support for concentrations in Local Government, Justice/Court Administration, International

Development, Economic Development/Community Development/Planning, Nonprofit Management, Finance and Human Resource Administration.

As already reported earlier this summer, the nonprofit and government managers we interviewed were clear about the degree options: the MPA has better chances of success - only the MPA will provide the skills they seek.

All of the research findings...market study, student surveys, elite interviews...compelled us to move aggressively forward to establish a new Minnesota-based MPA program, with its focus on general public and nonprofit management. The remainder of the summer was consumed with constructing the

curriculum documents. At this time, we have nearly completed the core course descriptions and course descriptions for several concentrations: local government leadership and management and nonprofit leadership and management. We remain engaged in finalizing concentrations in international development and nursing home administration. All of the curriculum "paperwork" should be completed for faculty review at the beginning of the fall semester. We remain committed to our goal of receiving MnSCU program-approval during this fall semester and admitting students next spring semester for fall 2014 classes.

Steven Wagner, MPA Task Force Chair & Professor of Political Science

Meet New SOPA Faculty



Guillermo Covarrubias accepted a Fixed Term Assistant Professor of Economics position where he will be teaching Economics and Business Forecasting and Principles of Microeconomics.

He grew up in Mexico City and moved to Texas where he completed a B.S. in Mathematics at the University of Texas at El Paso, and a Ph.D. in Economics at Texas Tech University in 2004. Covarrubias's Ph.D. Dissertation titled, *Persistence, Sudden Changes, and Modeling Volatility of Financial Time Series*, examines the behavior of volatility in the U.K. Brent basis, insurance

stock prices, and the ten year Treasury bond. In particular, the ten year Treasury bond analysis compares the performance of alternative forecasts of volatility.

Covarrubias has worked as an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, and the University of Texas at Tyler.



Luis Estevez has accepted an offer to serve as a tenure track Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography & Planning. Estevez will complement and support the planning and community development program. He will especially support both planning and

liberal education offerings of the program, especially courses such as land use and

zoning, site planning, among others.

Previously, Estevez taught at Texas A&M's College of Architecture, Dominican Republic and Mexico. Former experience includes coordinator and professor of a master program in urban planning in Dominican Republic and Mexico, and as a private planning consultant.

Estevez's current research focuses on the effects of land use regulations in housing values. His other areas of expertise include housing markets, regional planning,

quantitative methods, and international planning. Estevez has also been involved with planning and housing projects in Mexico and Latin American countries.

Estevez, a Fulbright scholar, earned his doctoral degree in urban and regional science from Texas A&M University, and his two master degrees in urban planning from Texas A&M University and the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico.



Cindy Fitzthum is excited to join SOPA as the new Director of Economic Education and social studies education faculty member.

Previously, Fitzthum worked at Princeton High School and was an adjunct for Anoka Ramsey Community

College and St. Cloud State University.

She received her undergraduate degree in Secondary Education Social Studies with an Economics emphasis from SCSU and her Master's degree from the University of Delaware in Economic Education.

Fitzthum also writes economic curriculum, including the Council of Economic

Education's *Never Too Young: Personal Finance for Young Learners* and regularly presents workshops for the Minnesota Council on Economic Education.

Fitzthum resides in Sartell with her husband Ryan, daughter Carly and yellow labs Remi and Tomah. She enjoys volunteering, reading, writing and going for walks in her free time.



Stephen M. Hennessy has been appointed for a third consecutive year as a Fixed Term Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and will serve as Interim Director of the Public Safety Executive Leadership Master's Degree program as well as teach in the undergraduate program. He began his law

enforcement career in 1966 as a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and served in Houston, Texas and Newark, New Jersey. In 1973 he joined the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, until 1977, when he was appointed an Assistant Superintendent of the agency and was responsible for the laboratory, information systems, finance, budget and planning areas of the division until 1991. He then joined the Phoenix Police Department as their Training Administrator until his

retirement in 2003.

He holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of St. Thomas. He is the author of "Thinking Cop - Feeling Cop, A Study in Police Personalities", the lead author of "A Cultural Awareness Trainer's Manual for Law Enforcement Officers and has written extensively in the cultural awareness field.



Lindsey Vigesaa is joining the Department of Criminal Justice in a tenure track position. She holds a M.S. and Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from North Dakota State University, and her general areas of interest include:

Criminal justice program evaluation, outcomes of correctional programming for incarcerated individuals, prisoner reentry, female offender populations, and the formation and maintenance of familial bonds during, and following a period of incarceration.

This fall, Vigesaa will be teaching Criminal Justice Research Methods, Ethical Studies in Criminal Justice, and Seminar in Criminal Justice: Race, Class, Gender, and Crime.



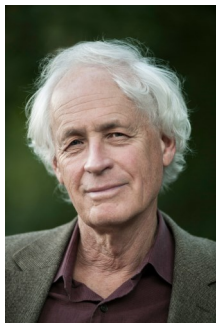
Stewart Wirth has been appointed for the second consecutive year to serve as a Fixed Term Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. Wirth has served as an adjunct faculty member in the department for the last few years and brings to Criminal

Justice students many years of experience in the law enforcement field.

He holds Bachelors and Masters degrees in Criminal Justice from SCSU. He also served as SCSU's lead investigator for a period of time. He will teach classes in interview and interrogation, patrol operations, and public safety executive leadership. Wirth began his law enforcement career with the Wright

County Sheriff's Office where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant of Criminal Investigation Division and was responsible for management of internal investigation unit and the major crimes investigation unit. He also supervised the narcotics, detective unit and the emergency response team among other functions. His peace officer career spanned a total of 34 years.

SOPA Fall Events and Colloquia 2013



Constitutional Myths

Ray Raphael, Author and Senior Research Fellow, Humboldt State University
September 13, 2013 – Atwood Cascade Room 10-11 a.m.

Americans of late have taken to waving the Constitution in the air and proclaiming, “The founders were on MY side! See, it’s all right here!” But these phantom constitutions bear little relation to the historical one. Before we can consider what the framers would do if they were alive today, we need to see what they did in their own time, not in our terms, but theirs. Only then can we begin to resolve the sweeping question: what does the Constitution, written in a different era, mean for us today?



MN Business and Public Policy Round Table Discussion

Governor Mark Dayton (or sr. representative)
September 17, 2013—Atwood Cascade Room
Registration/Breakfast 9-9:30 a.m.
Event 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Economic growth is the only road to a better future for Minnesota, but no growth can occur without investing today in future profitability. Minnesota lacks access to sufficient investment capital to promote and sustain needed economic growth. Without investment in growth, jobs will be too few and family incomes too little. Tax revenues for local and state government will fall short of what is needed to provide robust, public services and a high quality of life for Minnesotans.

The Caux Round Table is a co-host of this rare, public event to discuss how Minnesota can right its economic ship and return to a course of successfully attracting investment for private sector growth. Advance registration is required. Contact kkmdrow@stcloudstate.edu to reserve your spot.



TARGET

Target Leadership Program

September 20, 2013 – SCSU Welcome Center 2-5 p.m.

Target is one of St. Cloud State University’s top recruiters, offering employment opportunities to students regardless of their major. Students will learn the practice of leadership from experienced managers in this highly interactive session as well as get the “inside scoop” on how to navigate Target’s recruitment process. This opportunity is free but limited to the first 25 registrants. Sign up with Mary Soroko, mpsoroko@stcloudstate.edu. This event is sponsored by the Herberger Business School.



From SCSU to Success

Jim Graves '74, CEO Graves Hospitality,
September 24, 2013 – Atwood Alumni Room – Reception 3 p.m. Speaking Event 3:30 p.m.

SCSU alum Jim Graves launched his own small business in 1976 called Intra Financial Corporation, out of a makeshift office in his basement. By 1979, he had founded the AmericInn hotel chain. As a result of Grave’s tenacity, business knowledge and problem-solving skills, that small company grew into a mid-size, family business now known as Graves Hospitality. Over the past three decades, he

has built more than a hundred businesses, creating thousands of private sector jobs in small towns and cities throughout the State of MN.

SOPA and HBS Career Day

October 2, 2013 – Atwood Ballroom – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Experience the largest on campus job fair! A variety of employers will be promoting their opportunities and recruit for internships and full time positions. Free and no registration required. Attend the Career/Job Fair Prep Party on Sept. 25 to get prepared!



Business Ethics: A White Collar Criminal’s Story

Jerome Mayne, Author

October 23, 2013 – Atwood Ballroom – 4-5 p.m.

Mayne, author of *Diary of a White Collar Criminal* and premier public speaker on fraud, ethics and business in corporate America, will share his journey from aspiring young entrepreneur to involvement in real estate fraud with a faction of con men that lead to a federal prison sentence. This event is sponsored by the Herberger Business School.



Government and Nonprofit Career Fair

October 28, 2013 – University of MN, Mpls. Coffman Union – 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Free job fair for students graduating with a four-year degree interested in internships and jobs in government agencies. More information and on-line registration available at:

<http://www.togpartners.com/govnonprofitfair/>



From Wall Street to Entrepreneurship

Jouko Sipila '93, President, Ice Cold Crime LLC. and President of MN Finnish American Chamber of Commerce
November 6, 2013 – Atwood Alumni Room 12-1 p.m.

After graduating from SCSU, Sipila received an MBA from the Carlson School of Business. He started his career with Norwest and then worked with insurance companies at various bulge bracket investment banks in New York and London. In 2009, after a 15 year career in banking, Sipila started his own business, Ice Cold Crime LLC, which translates and publishes Finnish crime fiction into English.

Herberger Business School Dining Etiquette and Networking Program

November 8, 2013 – Atwood Cascade Room – 1-3:30 p.m.

Join certified etiquette coach and HBS business professor, Mary Soroko, for a hands-on dining etiquette program that will teach participants everything they need to know to confidently conduct business at the dinner table: including host and guest duties; where to sit; using and placing the napkin; understanding and navigating the table setting; ordering food; passing food; eating styles (American and Continental); eating difficult foods; handling challenging situations; table manners; paying the bill; tipping; and ending the meal. \$12 for students, \$20 for faculty/staff. Sign up with Diane McClure, djmccclure@stcloudstate.edu.

SOPA Internship Celebration

November 22, 2013 – Atwood Alumni Room – 12-2 p.m.

SOPA students, faculty and internship community partners will enjoy lunch and discuss how to better engage our students and internship partners. Pre-registration required to kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu

SOPA is always looking to add speakers and events to the Colloquia. If you have a great idea of a speaker or event you would like to suggest for spring 2013 or later, feel free to contact Kristy Modrow, Experiential Learning and Outreach Coordinator in the School of Public Affairs at SCSU at kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu or 320-308-6080.

SOPA Announces New Website & Facebook Page

The School of Public Affairs (SOPA) is excited to announce the launch of their new website at:

<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/sopa>. The new refreshed look coincides with the St. Cloud State University webpage.

There are several new features including:

- SOPA Facebook Feed
- Events Calendar
- SOPA Research Office Page
- SOPA Newsletter and Newsletter Archives
- Success Stories
- Scholarship Links



SOPA also has a Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/SCSUSOPA>. The Facebook page is updated often with upcoming events, SOPA and University news, faculty/staff/student/alumni/community partner news as well as other SOPA specific noteworthy information. Keep up to date and like the SOPA Facebook page!



Herb Brooks National Hockey Center Expansion

Hockey is part of the SCSU community. It brings us together behind our team as a team, and we are unified in our Husky pride.

The expanded Herb Brooks National Hockey Center scheduled to open this fall will enhance that experience, adding amenities like gathering areas and executive suites filled with Husky tradition. It will modernize the facilities, improving everything from locker rooms to the lofty front atrium. And it will help create the most rewarding collegiate environment possible—for students, student-athletes and the hundreds of thousands of visitors who ring the ice every Husky Hockey season.

It will be a grand home to hockey, and it will include:

- Spacious atrium
- New west-end seating
- Expanded suites and club level seating
- Wider, more accommodating concourses



Architect drawing of the atrium of the Herb Brooks National Hockey Center

- Team store overlooking the atrium
- New and improved training facilities

The expanded Herb Brooks National Hockey Center will create a compelling invitation to both performers and audiences across our

community—offering new stages and spaces, plus the advanced technologies and amenities required for major concerts, productions, cultural events, lectures, ice shows and, of course, sports. The Herb Brooks National Hockey Center will offer:

- Concert-ready facilities
- Increased capacity, seating 8,000
- East-end and center-ice stages
- Increased annual attendance by more than 100,000

Like the river that flows through the heart of our city, it will connect our community from north to south: the new Civic Center anchoring one end, the Herb Brooks National Hockey Center on the other, and a bustling 5th Avenue Live/Coborn Plaza project in between.

Come to the Herb Brooks National Hockey Center Opening Ceremony on September 28, 2013 at 3 p.m. at the Herb Brooks Hockey Center.

Fall Celebrate! St. Cloud State Weekend Events Planned

Celebrate! St. Cloud State, weekends feature athletic, art and academic events, designed by and for alumni, students, community members and employees.

Join us for the Fall Celebrate! St. Cloud State weekend September 26-29, 2013.

Some noteworthy weekend events include:

Friday, September 27, 2013

Rocket Club (21 and over event)
6:30 p.m.—St. Cloud Green Mill

Saturday, September 28, 2013

Celebrate! Downtown St. Cloud
11:30-3:30 p.m.—Downtown St. Cloud

Herb Brooks Nation Hockey Center Opening Ceremony
3 p.m.—Herb Brooks National Hockey Center

Husky Football Pre-Game Celebration
3-6 p.m. - Husky Stadium Area

Husky Football vs. Augustana College
6 p.m. - Husky Stadium

Women's Husky Hockey vs. University of British Columbia
7 p.m. - Herb Brooks National Hockey Center

For a complete listing of Fall Celebrate! events as well as upcoming Celebrate! St. Cloud State dates check the website at:

<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/celebrate/>



Alumni/Dept./Faculty/Staff/Student Highlights

Dick Andzenge (Criminal Justice) and **D. Lee Gilbertson** (Criminal Justice) presented lectures at the 29th Annual Post Graduate Course on Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice in Dubrovnik, Croatia May 13-25, 2013. Professor Andzenge is one of the five international directors of this course whose graduates include the current President of the Republic of Croatia, Dr. Ivo Jopovic. The other co-directors include a former Attorney General and Minister of Justice, an Ambassador to the United Nations, and a Dean of Faculty of Law, as well as distinguished professors. Andzenge's lectures were on "The Science and Applications of Victimology" and "Victims of Abuse of Power". Professor Gilbertson delivered lectures on "Forensic Victimology" and "A Victmological History of Dubrovnik."

Howard Copeland (Criminal Justice Student) presented on the relationship between audio-visual media and values/beliefs among present day high school youths in an at-risk, inner-city neighborhood at the 16th International Gang Specialist Training Conference hosted by the National Gang Crime Research Center August 5-7, 2013. The presentation is based on recent survey research in Detroit (his CJS Master's Thesis) that examined the validity of Glaser's Differential Identification Theory (1956) in today's world. The study examined the role that various forms of audiovisual media play in presenting the values of cultural icons and the extent to which they are then internalized by present-day juveniles.

D. Lee Gilbertson (Criminal Justice) was promoted to full professor effective July 1, 2013.

D. Lee Gilbertson (Criminal Justice) took 10 students to Chicago for the 16th International Gang Specialist Training Conference (aka, "the Gang College") hosted by the National Gang Crime Research Center August 5-7, 2013. At the conference he will be teaching courses on "Present-day European Extremism" "Doing Gang Research and Writing About It," and "Gang Mapping". Gilbertson also serves on the National Gang Crime Research Center staff and is Executive Editor of the *Journal of Gang Research*.

Kristopher Hansgen (Criminal Justice Student) and **Kathryn Alex Schneider**, Crime Analyst, Arlington Police Department (Texas) taught mapping courses at the 16th International Gang Specialist Training Conference hosted by the National Gang Crime Research Center August 5-7, 2013.

Mario Hesse (Criminal Justice) was promoted to full professor effective July 1, 2013.

Cindy Larson '02 (Geography & Planning Alumnae) is the new Redevelopment Coordinator at the City of Edina. Previously Larson worked for a residential land development company and a bigger construction firm.

Morgan Nyendu (Political Science) and **Patience Togo Malm** (Social Work), received a \$10,000 SCSU Provost Action Grant for their research work in Ghana. The research is in collaboration with colleagues in the Departments of Social Work and Political Science, both of the University of Ghana, Social Work Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Ghana, and the Domestic Violence and Victim's Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service. The Project seeks to explore ways of combining western liberal ways of dealing with domestic violence and those of 'traditional' African societies that were being used before the advent of colonialism and which were based on restorative justice. This Project forms part of the larger collaboration between SCSU and the University of Ghana, Legon and will involve collaboration and exchanges of faculty and students of both universities. Malm is currently in Ghana and Nyendugu be in Ghana in Spring 2014 to continue efforts on the Project during his sabbatical leave.

Chuks Ugochukwu (Geography and Planning), **Jeff Torguson** (Geography and Planning) and **Merton Thompson** (Information Media) traveled to Ghana in late June as part of a Provost Action Grant. The team, led by Ugochukwu, met with professors from a broad range of disciplines such as history, archaeology, geography, planning, travel & tourism, community and regional development, and environmental studies at the University of Ghana, Legon (Accra), the University of Cape Coast (Cape Coast) and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (Kumasi). A major part of the grant was to develop working relationships with these universities, with a goal of developing interactive maps of Ghana's slave trade routes as a starting point for this collaboration.

Geography & Planning hosted a statewide workshop on GIS (Geographic Information Science) education for K-12 educators on July 31. 55 teachers and Administrators were in attendance. Minnesota has adopted new standards in geographic education that include developing geospatial skills. Teachers in attendance included both social studies and STEM teachers interested in incorporating GIS into their classrooms.



Pictured left to right: Merton Thompson (Information Media), Chuks Ugochukwu (Geography and Planning) and Jeff Torguson (Geography and Planning) on their research trip to Ghana in late June as part of a Provost Action Grant.

**Support SOPA by
Making a Gift to
SOPA!**

**Please contact
Dottie Seamans,
Director of Development
for Annual Giving at
dmseamans@stcloudstate.edu
or 320-308-4970**



St. Cloud State University values diversity of all kinds, including but not limited to race, religion and ethnicity (full statement at bulletin.StCloudState.edu/ugb/generalinfo/nondiscrimination.html) TTY: 1-800-627-3529 SCSU is an affirmative action/equal opportunity educator and employer. This material can be made available in an alternative format. Contact the department/agency listed above. Member of Minnesota State College and Universities.