POSTER SESSION: Evidence of Impact
ON DISPLAY IN THE JORDAN HALL ATRIUM

This poster session documents the findings of community-based research initiatives over the last several years, some of which were supported through Ganey Collaborative Community-Based Research Mini-Grants.

▶ 2011

**Breaking the Cycle of Poverty:**
The Bridges Out of Poverty Approach

**The Monroe Park Food Cooperative:**
Long-term Collaboration for Action

▶ 2009

**Reaching Out to Urban Adolescents through Sports**

▶ 2008

**Reducing School Switching to Increase Student Achievement**
Community-Based Course Development Grants
Faculty Fellows
Community Fellow
Rodney F. Ganey, Ph.D., Collaborative Community-Based Research Mini-Grants
Engaged Scholarship Award
Rodney F. Ganey, Ph.D., Faculty Community-Based Research Award
Center Faculty and Research Staff
COMMUNITY-BASED COURSE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Each year the Center for Social Concerns accepts proposals for summer grants to fund the design of a new course or a major redesign of an existing course. These course development grants are a special initiative for faculty and graduate students interested in incorporating social concerns into their courses through community-based learning.
The Rhetoric of Resilience: Sustainable Farming in the Community

ELIZABETH CAPDEVIELLE
Assistant Teaching Professor
University Writing Program

Consuming locally sourced food strengthens a community’s resilience and its ability to rely on its own resources and thrive in a changing world. But if local food is to become the norm, more consumers will have to buy it—and more will also have to pitch in and grow it. What can persuade members of our community to do these things? The aim of this sustainability-focused writing and rhetoric course is to give students hands-on experience not only with the labor of growing food, but also with the arguments about food and farming that motivate our decisions. Students will put their rhetoric and writing skills to work in the community, helping with grant writing, marketing, and instructional materials that extend the urban community’s access to sustainably grown food, while helping to keep ethical farming economically sustainable for local growers.

Energy, Social Life, and Civic Engagement

DANIEL ESCHER
Ph.D. Candidate
Sociology

Energy extraction and production affect social life in myriad ways, from geopolitical arrangements to labor inequality to pollution—but social life can alter and resist those effects. This course will examine this bi-directional relationship by focusing on two prominent sources of energy in the United States, coal and natural gas. Importantly, the futures of these energy sources are not foreclosed, and students in the course will have the opportunity to affect their extent and impact through community-based learning and research. As part of community learning, students will participate in an immersion trip to West Virginia and Kentucky. This experience, in addition to the conceptual tools gained during the rest of the course, will be the basis of collaborative final projects that will employ original research to assist advocacy organizations to better understand their local issues and energy’s social effects. Throughout the course, students will learn ways academic research can alter energy production so that it creates just living conditions, respects human life, and minimizes environmental concerns that disproportionately affect the economically poor.

Accounting and Reporting for Governmental Entities, Nongovernmental and Not-for-profit Organizations

KENNETH W. MILANI
Professor
Accountancy, Mendoza College of Business

This course will be offered for the first time to seniors majoring in Accountancy following a model used in the Master of Science in Accountancy Program. Students enrolled in the course will:

• Engage in a community-based learning activity
• Prepare a report utilizing the community-based learning activity as its major focus
• Identify and discuss ethical issues confronted by these organizations
• Understand the role of budgets play
• Prepare and implement flexible budgets
• Create a cash budget and understand its managerial use
• Explain components and meaning of a balance sheet, activity statement, cash flow statement and statement of functional expenses
• Identify and report the federal tax consequences of specific NFP activities
2012–2014
Faculty Fellows


DEAN OF THE FIRST YEAR OF STUDIES
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY
AND AFRICANA STUDIES

The Reverend Hugh R. Page, Jr. is an Episcopal priest, poet, musician, photographer, martial artist, and certified tennis professional. He strives to live according to the Renaissance Ideal of broad learning and full engagement in life. Dr. Page’s research interests are in early Hebrew poetry; the cultural content of ancient epic; theories of myth; African American biblical interpretation; poetry as medium for theological expression; the use of religious traditions and sacred texts in the construction of individual and corporate identity in the Black community; and the role of mysticism and esoterism in African-American, Afro-Caribbean, and Afro-Canadian spirituality. As a Faculty Fellow, he will lead an initiative outlining a vision of meaningful community engagement for the first-year experience.

Kevin Whelan

MICHAEL SMURFIT DIRECTOR OF THE KEOUGH-NAUGHTON NOTRE DAME CENTRE IN IRELAND

Kevin Whelan is one of Ireland’s best known and widely published scholars of history. Since 2009, he has incorporated a community-based learning (CBL) component into his required Introduction to Ireland course for students to examine and engage in social issues in Dublin during their semester abroad. Whelan has written or edited 15 books and over one hundred articles on Ireland’s history, geography, and culture. As a Faculty Fellow, he will deepen his collaboration with Center staff member Rosie McDowell to foster student engagement in contemporary social issues in Dublin through CBL. He will provide oversight to the pilot program of the Dublin Social Concerns Internships in summer 2012 and he will consult with Center staff on initiatives to promote CBL as a salient component of the study abroad experience. He will also chair a panel on CBL at the Forum on Education Abroad conference in Dublin in December 2012, and present at its 2013 conference in Chicago (April 3-5).
2012–2014

Community Fellow

Lisa M. Anderson

Fifteen years ago, Lisa Anderson and her husband received the chilling news that their son, Chris, had been diagnosed with mental illness. Since then, she has sought to learn and share all she can about the disease. In 2006, Ms. Anderson assisted the Center for Social Concerns with its Social Concerns Seminar: Understanding Mental Illness. Now, as Community Fellow, Ms. Anderson will again work with a Center seminar, titled In their Shoes: Understanding Mental Illness, funded through the generous support of the Hersh Foundation. She will also be assisting faculty members to integrate into their classes student community engagement with local organizations addressing mental health concerns, in collaboration with the Center’s community liaison, Annie Cahill Kelly. Ms. Anderson has worked in higher education for over 15 years. Most recently, she was associate director of the Notre Dame Career Center and director of graduate student career planning and placement.

THE RODNEY F. GANEY, PH.D.
COLLABORATIVE
COMMUNITY-BASED
RESEARCH
MINI-GRANTS

Every year the Center awards three grants to support joint community-faculty-student research partnerships addressing a need articulated by the community organization. These grants may support the planning and development of new projects, the expansion of existing ones, the assessment of projects, or the dissemination of findings from projects that are ongoing or in final stages.

The purposes of the grants are to foster community-faculty-student partnerships that:

1. result in measurable, positive impact in the South Bend area;
2. reflect the investment of faculty expertise and community expertise; and
3. offer students community-based learning opportunities that promote civic responsibility.
COMMUNITY PARTNERS
Kathy Guajardo
Head Start Consortium

UNIVERSITY PARTNERS
Jennifer Burke Lefever
Center for Children and Families
Juan Carlos Guzman
Institute for Latino Studies
Autumn Wyant
Graduate Student

L-R: Kathy Guajardo, Autumn Wyant, Juan Carlos Guzman, and Jennifer Burke Lefever
Assessing the Impact of Head Start on Children and Families

Over four decades ago, Head Start was launched as part of the War on Poverty to improve the developmental trajectories of children growing up in low-income families. Today, this federally funded preschool program aims to promote school readiness among underserved children. Its holistic approach also provides services and programs for the children's parents.

Numerous studies have examined the effectiveness of Head Start on children’s developmental outcomes. Studies have yielded varying results, leading to a conclusion that it may be useful to take a more holistic approach, by assessing effects on various aspects of child development as well as considering factors that are beyond the scope of Head Start influence such as the influence of parents on children’s outcomes. The goal of the current study is to assess the short and longer-term impact of Head Start services on children and their families as well as to explore child and family characteristics that might explain, beyond the scope of previous studies, how and why children benefit from the services.

The sample for the proposed project will consist of all children, age three to eight, that attend Head Start in St. Joseph and Elkhart counties, as well as a matched sample of school-aged children to serve as a comparison group. The majority of children will come from racially and ethnically diverse families. Data will be collected via individual developmental testing in the pre-school and elementary school classroom, group standardized testing in the elementary classroom, parent survey concerning satisfaction with and knowledge gained through programs, as well as administrative data from Head Start and local school systems (attendance, tardiness, family demographics). Multiple designs will be used. Several broad research questions will be investigated, including: how much do children change from the beginning of the school year until its end, and how does parent engagement change over time.

This project will fill a vital need for the local Head Start consortium by assisting it in documenting the role played in our community in preparing children for school. In addition to providing the data for reports and grant proposals, the project will result in a system for using the data to give more timely feedback to teachers about the development of their students as well as to the family support staff. For the Notre Dame partners, this project provides rich data from Head Start Centers across two counties as well as a large data set from a variety of area school systems. The data sets will be used to further explore moderators and mediators (such as the types of students benefit the most from the Head Start programs) that will add to Head Start research literature.
Building Parent Involvement in South Bend

Federal policymakers have long regarded parent involvement as essential in building student learning, and the No Child Left Behind Act requires schools to devote 1% of their Title 1 budgets to parent involvement programming. Local research affirms that area parents want their children to succeed in school, but need knowledge and skills to become more academically engaged in their children’s education. In 2007, No Parent Left Behind, Inc. (NPLB) began offering weekly workshops designed to equip and train parents as informal academic instructors. Preliminary data from those initial workshops with approximately 25 parents documents the significant transformation they achieved from participating in the program.

Following those early successes, NPLB curriculum and facilitator training was then introduced into 11 South Bend School Corporation (SBCSC) schools from 2009–11 under a federal stimulus program. Because of school budgetary restrictions, the program ended in April 2011, and SBCSC currently offers limited programming to all parents. To help offset that decline, No Parent Left Behind, Inc. would like to offer their workshops to more parents and develop more curriculum for advanced courses. They also want to train parents as leaders of these workshops.

To acquire funding for both efforts, NPLB needed assistance to more comprehensively analyze data from 250+ low-income urban parents, who have already attended the program. More specifically, the research will examine three data sources (surveys, interviews, and focus groups) from parents of several ethnicities, including parents who only speak Spanish. The research will focus on three questions: 1) How do urban parents initially describe their involvement? 2) How does involvement build or change after program participation? 3) Do outcomes vary by ethnicity?

The results of this analysis will be used to demonstrate the program’s effectiveness, expand local parent participation in the program, increase NPLB’s capacity for generating a stable stream of revenue to support local parent involvement, and build infrastructure within the organization. In addition, the results will help NPLB to develop professional development training programs for teachers in this area and other urban cities. As NPLB has received several inquiries from supporters of education in other states who are interested in implementing their curriculum, the results can potentially enable the program to extend its impact beyond South Bend to substantively influence the growth of parent involvement in communities across the nation.

L-R: Diane Wittendorf, Angie Ness, Carol Brown

8
COMMUNITY PARTNERS
Joyce Long
No Parent Left Behind, Inc.

Carmen Macharascwili
Holy Cross College

Holy Cross
Undergraduate Students
EDUC 210: Building Family and Community Relationships

UNIVERSITY PARTNERS
Rachel Parroquin
Romance Languages and Literatures
Center for Social Concerns

Ann Power
Sociology

Notre Dame
Undergraduate Students
ROSP 20810 CBL: Language, Culture and Community

Carmen Macharascwili, Joyce Long, and Rachel Parroquin
South Bend Neighborhoods and Prisoner Reentry

This project undertakes a preliminary fact-finding effort laying the groundwork for the design of optimally effective community-based prisoner reentry programs for the City of South Bend.

Researchers will first identify those city neighborhoods hosting the highest concentration of persons returning after incarceration. The project will then commence with the two most heavily impacted neighborhoods and with at least ten adults returning to each of those neighborhoods.

Criminal behavior is an organic phenomenon whose growth is influenced by two major and somewhat distinct tributaries: the environment (neighborhood, family, gangs or anti-social associates, local job and housing markets) and those risks and needs associated with individuals whose experience of markedly poor parenting and/or childhood trauma, lack of academic and job-related success, early abuse of intoxicants, and mild to severe personality disorders have already helped shape a life leading to conviction and incarceration. Unfortunately, incarceration itself often amplifies rather than mitigates such factors.

To consider the environmental context of prisoner reentry locally, focus groups will be conducted both with neighborhood stakeholders and with persons returning to the neighborhood after incarceration. The purpose will be to determine the current status of neighborhood resources and indicators of the neighborhood’s collective efficacy relevant to the future acquisition/accumulation of such resources.

Effective reentry programs must also address the personal or individual characteristics predicting or causing criminal behavior. Peer tutors will lead focus groups of returnees to help them identify their priorities for recovery and rehabilitation and, gradually, to identify the resources and strategies enabling them to reach their goals and overcome the obstacles in their paths. Working with local parole and probation officials, researchers will also identify and contact those persons under supervision who are recently returned to these neighborhoods and hold focus groups with these individuals to identify their most serious needs. Individuals scheduled to return to target neighborhoods in the next 24 months will also be identified and met with individually or in groups, to determine ties to the neighborhood as well as their plans for reentry.

When sufficient information about returnees and the neighborhoods to which they return has been accumulated, it will be shared with all parties for corrective feedback, and the collaborative development of a set of proactive strategies. Strategies will be aimed at strengthening neighborhood cohesion and collective efficacy in meeting the challenge of prisoner reentry.
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Ubaldo Sanchez
Elkhart, Returnee
Lead Peer Tutor

Michael O’Neal
South Bend, Returnee
Lead Peer Tutor

Debra Stanley
Founder and Director
ImaniUnidad

Fred Teague
South Bend, Returnee
Lead Peer Tutor

UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

Edward Manier
Philosophy
Benchmarking South Bend

During a long career at Notre Dame, political science Professor L. John Roos has contributed to the local community as a researcher and consultant. For over 40 years, Mr. Karl King likewise has made significant contributions to the South Bend area. Their 2010 joint effort, Benchmarking South Bend, is already, and will continue to be, an asset for this community’s development.

In Benchmarking South Bend, Roos connects social science analysis with his gift of communicating social science findings to business and political leaders. In this large project, Roos and his co-author, Karl King, a former partner in the accounting firm, Crowe, Chisek and Company, and former South Bend city council member, compare South Bend with other similar sized cities hosting research universities, such as Madison, Wisconsin, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Albany, New York, and several Indiana cities, using a number of economic and quality of life indicators. They developed indicators for comparison, including educational performance, poverty level, employment, and workforce quality. On all of these dimensions, the study reveals South Bend to be lagging behind other cities in the study’s comparison set.

Examining the causes of South Bend’s lagging development, Roos and King use analytic tools such as location quotient analysis to reveal that South Bend is burdened by a “Legacy Industry” economic mix. That is, declining manufacturing industries dominate South Bend’s economy. By contrast, the cities to which they compare South Bend have economies with larger representation of expanding, technology industries.

Roos and King then examine the consequences of this area’s poor economic performance for neighborhoods and families. At a higher rate than the other cities in the study, South Bend is plagued by poverty, foreclosures, unemployment, and lower educational attainment. Finally, Roos and King identify a variety of community assets, including new research emerging from Notre Dame, and lay out a detailed plan to stimulate South Bend’s economic and social revitalization.

Benchmarking South Bend has been met with great interest by the area’s business, government, and philanthropic communities. Roos and King presented their report to the board of the Community Foundation and the combined boards of Project Future and the Chamber of Commerce. Local public affairs media focused on the report’s findings. In February 2011 the Center for Public Media held a panel discussion at the offices of WNIT, asking “Is South Bend Thriving or Dying.” During February, WNIT presented two programs featuring Roos, King, and others including former Mayor Leucke and Pat McMahon of Project Future. The Roos-King report also received extensive coverage in The South Bend Tribune.

Benchmarking South Bend influenced the discussion of economic and community development in the recent mayoral election. As a candidate, Pete Buttigieg embraced the report, incorporating it into his own economic development plan. The report’s recommendations have already inspired efforts by private and public partners toward forming a new regional economic development corporation.

Benchmarking South Bend follows upon a long line of John Roos’ research and consulting
in the South Bend community. He has done applied research on local government budgeting, educational attainment, housing, and neighborhoods. Over the years, Roos has also engaged undergraduate and graduate students in local community research and has provided service to local and state political leaders as a political and policy consultant. He was a close adviser to Mayor and then Governor Kernan, Mayor Leucke and earlier, an adviser and 1980 campaign director for Congressman John Brademas.

King has contributed as well to the local community in many ways over the years. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County Technology Task Force that produced a study leading to initiatives to develop a fiber optic network—now known as St. Joe Valley Metronet, Inc.—and a technology park—now known as the Innovation Park at Notre Dame.

_Benchmarking South Bend_ reflects Roos’ and King’s deep knowledge of and commitment to this community, along with their substantial analytic strengths.

**John Roos** has been a member of Notre Dame’s Political Science Department since 1969. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. His administrative roles over the years at Notre Dame have included Director of the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Minor, Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department of Political Science, and Associate Director of the Institute for Urban Studies. His Notre Dame awards have included the Dockweiler Award for student mentoring, the Charles Sheedy Award for Outstanding Teacher in the College of Arts and Letters, and the President’s Award for Outstanding Service to the University.

**Karl King** is a longtime resident of the South Bend area. Karl King was employed by Crowe, Chizek and Company, now known as Crowe Horwath LLP, from 1966 until his retirement in 1999. He has been a member of the Area Plan Commission of St. Joseph County since 2000, served as its president for nine years, and is currently vice president. He was a founding board member of the Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization Organization, Inc., was its first president, and continues on the board today. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of Project Future since 2002 and a member of the executive committee since 2006. From 2004 through 2008, he was a member of the City of South Bend Redevelopment Commission and vice president for three years. He was a member of the City of South Bend Common Council between 1998 and 2003. In 2002, he received the Family and Children's Center Spirit of Giving Chairman's Award, and the W. Scott Miller Distinguished Business Leader Award in 2008.
Rodney F. Ganey, Ph.D.
Faculty Community-Based Research Award Recipients

2002  CHARLES CRAYPO  Economics
      RICHARD LAMANNA  Sociology

2003  RICHARD A. WILLIAMS  Sociology

2004  F. CLARK POWER  Program of Liberal Studies

2005  FELICIA LE CLERE  Sociology

2006  JOHN G. BORKOWSKI  Psychology

2007  STEPHEN E. SILLMAN  Civil Engineering and Geological Sciences

2008  MARK R. SCHURR  Anthropology

2009  DANIEL H. LENDE  Anthropology

2010  STUART GREENE  Education, Schooling, and Society

2011  MICHAEL JENUWINE  Law School

2012  JAMES SCHMIEDELER  Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering
THE RODNEY F. GANEY, PH.D.
FACULTY COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH AWARD

The Rodney F. Ganey, Ph.D. Faculty Community-Based Research Award is a $5,000 prize presented annually to a regular faculty member who has completed at least one research project that addresses a need within South Bend or the surrounding area.

In order to be considered, projects must: 1) address a question raised by a local community group; 2) involve collaboration with a local organization; and 3) include graduate or undergraduate students.

In addition, the nominee should have a record of publication in his or her field, or other forms of evidence of work valued in his or her area of expertise.
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Memorial Hospital

Johan Kuitse
Outpatient Clinical Manager

Brock Haute
Director of Rehab Services

Sarah Kuzmicz
Physical Therapist

Amy Gaynor
Physical Therapist

UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

James Schmiedeler
Associate Professor
Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering

Charles R. Crowell
Associate Professor
Director, Computer Applications Program

Michael Kennedy
Graduate Assistant

Aaron D. Striegel
Associate Professor
Computer Science and Engineering

Michael Villano
Research Assistant Professor
Psychology

More than 60 individuals in the local area have already benefited from a new technological innovation developed through a collaboration between Dr. James Schmiedeler and his Notre Dame colleagues and the therapy staff at Memorial Hospital. That innovation is called “WeHab” and uses the Nintendo WiiFit platform to assist individuals who, as a result of strokes, accidents, or illness, experience weakness, paralysis, or impairments in balance and mobility.

The WeHab Balance Rehabilitation System that has resulted from Professor Schmiedeler’s efforts is an innovative, low-cost tool for providing biofeedback and data monitoring during balance therapy. The WeHab system facilitates common rehab activities and measures patient performance in real-time. In the clinic, it helps therapists improve rehab efficacy and objectively assess patient progress without taking time away from rehab activities. Once patients go home, the low cost makes individual access affordable; the WeHab system can provide biofeedback during prescribed at-home activities and monitor patient compliance through progress reports.

“I would indeed define the work done to develop this Wii application within health care as a collaborative effort,” says Johan Kuitse, outpatient clinical manager for Memorial and the first person Schmiedeler approached about a possible collaboration between Notre Dame and the hospital. “Whereas the University of Notre Dame, as represented by Jim and his team, provided the technical knowledge necessary for the project, the therapy staff at Memorial provided the clinical and practical knowledge necessary … We could most certainly not have modified the Wii for rehabilitation purposes, and it would have been similarly difficult for Jim and his group to create an application which could be effectively used to assist in the rehabilitation of those who have suffered an injury, accident or have survived an illness which has caused them … impairments in balance …”

The results of the work done are currently in use in Memorial Hospital’s inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation setting. As development progresses, the product will become available on a commercial basis, and other healthcare facilities will be able to use the application at their sites. A significant opportunity will be available for private use clients, thus increasing the penetration of the product into this and other communities. “I think the ability of WeHab to take rehabilitation into the patient’s home is most exciting” says Dr. Kuitse. “As therapy visits become more limited due to payor restrictions and cost concerns, the need for effective home programs becomes more important.”

According to Schmiedeler’s Notre Dame colleague and co-investigator Charles Crowell, “WeHab has the potential to revolutionize stroke therapy for patients, both in the clinic and at home … The utility of this technology may be extended to other rehabilitation domains involving orthopedic problems resulting from injuries, amputations, or aging, applications that currently are being explored.”

Crowell notes, “Professor Schmiedeler’s groundbreaking work on WeHab has set the stage for a truly impactful and widespread rehabilitation service, not just for our local community, but also for communities all around the world.”

A tenured professor with an impressive record of research and scholarship in several fields including robotic assisted rehabilitation and the dynamics of bipedal walking motion, Schmiedeler has also published on WeHab, in an interdisciplinary effort that included Notre Dame faculty from several departments and expertise from the local community. Schmiedeler, his graduate student Michael Kennedy, and co-investigators Aaron Striegel, University of Notre Dame professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering; Charles Crowell and Michael Villano, of Notre Dame’s psychology department; and Johan Kuitse of Memorial Hospital, authored the paper “Enhanced Feedback in Balance Rehabilitation using the Nintendo Wii Balance Board,” published in the Proceedings of the 2011 IEEE Healthcom Conference on Technology Enabled Personalized Medicine. The paper won the conference’s best full paper award. Dr. Schmiedeler is principal investigator for a grant proposal that recently was awarded three years of research support from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for continued work on WeHab.
CENTER FOR SOCIAL CONCERNS FACULTY

Mary Beckman
Economics

Jay Brandenberger
Psychology

Rev. William Lies, C.S.C.
Political Science

Connie Snyder Mick
English

William Purcell
Catholic Social Tradition

Andrea Smith Shappell
Theology

CENTER FOR SOCIAL CONCERNS RESEARCH STAFF

Naomi Penney
Community-Based Research Associate

Jimena Holquin
Community-Based Research Associate
JOINT FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Stuart Greene
English

Rachel Rivers Parroquin
Romance Languages and Literatures

Margaret Pfeil
Theology

JOINT FELLOW

Susan Sharpe
Law School and Center for Social Concerns
Printed locally on 100% post-consumer paper that was made with 100% green energy, and processed chlorine free.