INSIDE

Spotlighting the official groundbreaking for the Paul H. O’Neill Graduate Center

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Advancing Knowledge for the Greater Good
Official Groundbreaking on the Paul H. O’Neill Graduate Center, January 26, 2016
Five finalists selected for IU Grand Challenges research program

Five teams have been selected to submit full proposals for funding through the Indiana University Grand Challenges Program, the most ambitious research program in the university’s history.

The program, launched in September, will invest up to $300 million over five years to address some of the most urgent challenges facing Indiana and the world. The finalists were selected from 21 teams of IU faculty members that submitted preliminary proposals in November. Applicants represented 20 schools on five IU campuses across the state.

“The Grand Challenges program offers a unique and exciting opportunity for IU to lead the way in developing responses to our society’s most complex and important problems,” said IU President Michael A. McRobbie. “The number of faculty members who participated in the preliminary proposals we received strongly reflects our faculty’s commitment to transformative, innovative, and interdisciplinary research that benefits the people of Indiana, the nation, and the world.”

The selected preliminary proposals and their team leaders are:

- “Health Equity in Indiana and Beyond,” David Burr, Distinguished Professor and associate vice chancellor for research at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, and Michael Reece, professor and associate dean at the IU School of Public Health-Bloomington.
- “Preparing for Change: Sustaining Nature’s Assets, Public Health and Human Well-Being,” Ellen Ketterson, Distinguished Professor in the IU Bloomington College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Biology.
- “Transforming Environmental Protection and Health for Indiana and Beyond,” Joseph Shaw, associate professor in the IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs in Bloomington.

SPEA faculty up to the challenge

The following SPEA faculty are connected to the five project finalists in the IU Grand Challenges research program:


Todd Royer and Joe Shaw lead two of the five teams, a tremendous distinction for SPEA.
“Precision Medicine Initiative,” Anantha Shekhar, associate vice president for clinical affairs at IU and executive associate dean for research at the IU School of Medicine on the IUPUI campus.

All preliminary proposals were evaluated by a faculty review committee, which recommended a subset for further consideration to McRobbie, who named the five selected for development into full proposals. IU Vice President for Research Fred Cate, whose office is overseeing the Grand Challenges Program, noted that all five proposals selected for further development focused on medicine or the environmental science and policy, which are recognized strengths of IU.

“While we received proposals from a wide variety of fields, these five proposals impressed the reviewers as not only strong in their own right but as addressing issues of particular importance to the people and economy of Indiana,” Cate said. “Moreover, these proposals draw effectively on a wide range of strengths at IU, including not only healthcare and environmental science, but basic sciences, information technology, and public policy and management.”

Over the next four months, Cate said, members of the Office of the Vice President for Research and other campus and university offices will work with the teams to develop the strongest proposals possible.

In addition to substantial financial support, the IU Grand Challenges Program will also provide up to 30 new faculty positions, as well as support for faculty startup needs, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, equipment and facilities for each funded proposal. Full proposals from the finalists are due April 18, and McRobbie is expected to announce the one or two to be funded in June. More information on each proposal is available at grandchallenges.iu.edu.

Rupp and co-authors say fracking fears likely to grow as opponents push for bans

With voters and courts weighing the future of fracking, a practice used to extract oil and gas, Indiana University researchers say some Americans are apprehensive about the technology and may grow more so.

Opponents of unconventional gas development—also known as UGD and including but not limited to the controversial process of hydraulic fracturing or fracking—have pushed for statewide or local bans of the practice in Colorado, Ohio, Michigan, New York, California, and other states.

“There is ample reason to predict growing public concerns about risk as UGD expands in the United States,” said study author John Rupp, a senior research scientist at the
Indiana Geological Survey and an adjunct faculty member at SPEA. Opposition is intensifying even though the researchers point out there hasn’t been a highly publicized accident similar in scope to the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil blowout and spill. They say such an unlikely event would trigger even stronger demands to prohibit the technique for use in extracting oil and gas from shale deposits.

One key, they say, will be establishing a culture of transparency by the industry and its regulators. “Concerns tend to escalate when information about potential hazards associated with the practice are not fully disclosed,” Rupp said. A bright spot in the findings is that leaders of the energy industry, along with municipal and regional government officials who see unconventional gas development as an economic booster, have the opportunity to help shape the discussion.

“Despite the fact that, in little more than a decade, UGD has made the U.S. the No. 1 gas producer in the world, surveys indicate many Americans don’t know much about it,” Rupp said. “That means proponents of the technology still have time to shape public understanding of the details of the practice and its benefits.”

Rupp and co-authors John D. Graham and Olga Schenk analyzed risk-perception and risk-governance theories and recent public opinion surveys. Graham is dean of SPEA. Schenk was a visiting researcher at SPEA and is now a policy officer for Germany’s Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. Their article, “Unconventional Gas Development in the USA: Exploring the Risk Perception Issues,” was published in the journal Risk Analysis. The researchers say studies indicate people base their sense of risk on several factors including:

- **Familiarity:** Traffic accidents, for example, are more acceptable because they’re more familiar than an unconventional gas development incident.
- **Voluntariness:** When a hazard is imposed on a community without citizen consent, people are more apprehensive.
- **Catastrophic potential:** Perceived risk rises when a large amount of damage can occur at one time or location, even if the probability is low.
- **Natural versus human-induced hazards:** A greater sense of guilt is associated when humans are to blame.
- **Impact on children and future generations:** Concern is heightened when victims include children, pregnant women and people not yet born.

“The potential risks associated with UGD, such as drinking water contamination, would seem to activate virtually all of the risk-perception factors,” Graham said, noting that opponents have effectively
elevated fears by emphasizing the scenario of drinking water polluted by migrating fracking chemicals. Another potential trigger for increased opposition comes in the form of seismic activity. Scientists are studying whether the drilling/fracturing process and deep-well injection of unconventional gas development wastes can cause earthquakes. A major tremor that causes widespread damage or injuries will likely intensify the perception that unconventional gas development is risky.

While water contamination and seismicity top the concerns of environmentalists, the research team points out that residents who live in unconventional gas development areas have other worries.

“The concerns of residents living in close proximity to UGD require consideration,” Rupp said. “They may be concerned about daily nuisances such as traffic, congestion, odor, and unwanted changes to the character of their community.”

To counter the likelihood that the perception of risk connected to unconventional gas development will grow, Graham, Rupp, and Schenk urge government officials and the scientific community to take several steps:

• State regulatory systems must quickly ramp up. “To accomplish a high degree of public trust, state regulators must demonstrate that they can be both proactive in preventing problems and responsive to unexpected concerns,” the Risk Analysis article noted.
• Industry associations must require use of best practices and consider voluntary certification and other steps that encourage companies to emphasize safety and sustainability.
• National political figures must avoid turning unconventional gas development into a polarizing issue along political lines. President Barack Obama has taken a strong pro-gas position, irritating organized environmental advocates.

“No matter their stance on UGD, Obama’s successor should listen to the concerns of the industry, regulators, environmentalists, and local citizens,” Graham said. “Taking appropriate actions will diminish the perception of risk and, more importantly, the actual risk.”

SPEA research: Affordable Care Act didn’t cause loss of full-time jobs

New studies co-authored by Indiana University researchers, including SPEA’s Kosali Simon, push back against one of the most persistent criticisms of the Affordable Care Act: that its requirement for employers to provide health care coverage would push workers out of full-time jobs.

The studies, published this week in the journal Health Affairs, draw on analyses of workforce and labor statistics to conclude there was little shift from full-time to part-time work—and no significant reduction in hours worked—after the employer mandate took effect in 2015.

“Whatever changes that have happened have been small,” Simon told Marketplace radio.

Under the Affordable Care Act, employers with 100 or more employees were required starting in 2015 to offer health insurance to full-time workers, defined as those who work 30 or more hours per week. Critics said the mandate was sure to cause a large shift from full-time to part-time work and a reduction in hours worked by part-time employees.

Another prediction was that the expansion of Medicaid benefits provided by the healthcare law in some states would cause low-paid employees to work fewer hours or quit jobs in order to qualify.

The Health Affairs articles concluded that neither result has panned out in large measure—or at least there is no statistically significant evidence of it.

One article, “Little Change Seen in Part-Time Employment as a Result of the Affordable Care Act,” was written by Simon with Asako S. Moriya and Thomas M.
Selden of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Drawing on Census Bureau data, the researchers found no statistically significant shift from full-time to part-time work and no significant increase in people working under 30 hours per week. The study did find a small increase in the likelihood of working part time among two groups of workers: those with little education and those between ages 60 and 64.


The study looked at whether the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act caused low-paid workers to quit their jobs or work fewer hours in order to qualify for benefits. Quitting a job could be bad; but it also could be beneficial, freeing workers from “job lock” and letting them try something new.

Either way, the study found little evidence it was happening.

“Medicaid expansion did not result in significant changes in employment, job switching, or full-versus part-time status,” the authors write. “While we cannot exclude the possibility of small changes in these outcomes, our findings … suggest that the Medicaid expansion has had limited impact on labor-market outcomes thus far.”

In addition to the Marketplace story, the research has produced media coverage by CNBC, Buzzfeed, *The Washington Post* and other news outlets.

**Study: Faith-based community organizations can boost Muslim civic engagement, quality of life**

Anti-Muslim rhetoric in political campaigns and panic about terrorist attacks have raised questions about how Muslim Americans can avoid being marginalized and find pathways to become more integrated into the nation’s civic life.

One such pathway, according to a recent study by Brad R. Fulton, assistant professor at SPEA and the lead researcher for the study, may be through involvement in faith-based community organizing coalitions.

These coalitions bring together groups from different religious backgrounds to address social, economic, and political issues. Fulton said such coalitions can help integrate marginalized individuals into the larger society, and they promote a compelling narrative that poor and working-class communities can improve their quality of life through broad-based organizing.

“This model has promise,” Fulton said. “It’s already in place, and it’s designed to be inclusive and to help people who are underrepresented and marginalized to have a voice and to be known.”

Fulton and Richard L. Wood of the University of New Mexico are co-authors of the book *A Shared Future: Faith-Based Organizing for Racial Equity and Ethical Democracy*, published this year. The book and several upcoming journal articles resulted from the National Study of Community Organizing Coalitions conducted by Fulton.

The study found a significant increase in participation by Muslim individuals and mosques in such coalitions over the past decade. Most of the coalitions’ member congregations are mainline or black Protestant or Catholic, but the study found that involvement is growing for Muslim, Jewish, and Evangelical congregations.

In a finding that confounds stereotypes, 17 percent of the coalitions have at least one mosque and one synagogue included among their members.

Fulton said participating in such coalitions can help Muslim communities strengthen themselves internally by developing civic leaders and engaging members in local
activism. It can also strengthen their external ties by making connections with other faith-based organizations and by participating in activities that also benefit non-Muslims. He cited several examples:

- Chicago’s Inner-City Muslim Action Network participated in immigrant-rights rallies, efforts to combat urban food deserts and advocacy for juvenile offenders.
- Muslim, Christian, and Jewish activists in New York mobilized against racial profiling and police stop-and-frisk tactics targeting communities of color.
- Faith-based organizers helped block controversial aspects of a proposed Department of Homeland Security citywide surveillance center in Oakland, California.
- Faith-based coalitions in Arizona, Washington, and Ohio organized prayer vigils, community dinners, and film showings in response to planned anti-Muslim rallies.

For Muslim and other marginalized communities, Fulton said, an invaluable benefit of the coalitions is their capacity to bridge social divides and develop civic leaders among their poor and working-class constituents.

“These are grassroots community activists,” he said. “They’re not particularly flashy. They don’t have a marketing team. But they’re on the ground, making connections and building relationships with a broad base of political officials and other institutional leaders to have an impact.

“Unlike some coalitions that form in response to a particular issue and then dissolve, these coalitions are enduring structures,” he added. “They are there for the long haul, and their ongoing presence allows them to be nimble and responsive to new issues as they arise.”
Turning Data into Decisions: the SPEA Alumnus behind the USAID GeoCenter

Carrie Stokes, MSES ’96, was honored by the Association of American Geographers this year with the Gilbert White Public Service Award for her “unwavering commitment to public service through advancing geography within and beyond government.”

Stokes works for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), where she was the first to hold the position of geographer. She established and now runs USAID’s GeoCenter, which uses spatial analysis and geographic information systems (GIS) to inform U.S. international development and humanitarian efforts.

Stokes took her first GIS class as an environmental science graduate student at SPEA. “It was a bit painful, because the software was really clunky 20 years ago. Everything was command-driven in UNIX. But when I learned that GIS could layer disparate data sets and help visualize relationships in space, it opened up a whole new way to think about addressing the complex issues we face as a society,” Stokes said.

USAID provides foreign assistance in over 100 countries and aims to eradicate extreme poverty around the world. The GeoCenter helps USAID track and evaluate the impact of their efforts by creating maps and helping the agency think spatially about problems like food security, human trafficking, climate change, and the spread of global diseases. The GeoCenter’s data also helps with strategic planning efforts and improves the dialogue between USAID field offices and their host countries as they evaluate development needs.

Through a remote sensing program and partnership with the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, USAID field missions can now access unclassified, high-resolution satellite imagery cost-free. This imagery is used to enhance dozens of development projects, like combating malaria in Mozambique, selecting irrigation sites in Honduras, and preserving endangered wildlife in Bangladesh. Other GeoCenter project examples include: mapping cell phone coverage in Liberia to aid Ebola recovery efforts; tracking human vulnerability in Uganda; countering human trafficking in Southeast Asia;
and mapping the immigration of unaccompanied children from Central America.

Stokes is especially proud to have established a global network of foreign nationals working as GIS specialists in USAID missions abroad. The agency supports more than 40 GIS specialists embedded in Washington and in 25 missions around the globe.

The GeoCenter is connecting people across boundaries that are not just geographical, but also generational. Last fall, the GeCenter launched a program allowing university students in the U.S. and developing countries to work together to map previously unmapped places where USAID works. Their data is publicly available and is accessible to anyone who has access to the internet.

“We are not just creating the next generation of maps for USAID,” Stokes said. “We are creating the next generations of mappers for the world.”

**SPEA Alum Works to Provide Housing, Jobs in Appalachia**

Brandon Dennison, MPA ‘11, was recently honored as one of Chronicle of Philanthropy’s “40 Under 40” for his work as Executive Director of the Coalfield Development Corporation (Coalfield).

The decline of the coal industry has hit Dennison’s home state of West Virginia especially hard, leaving many people trapped inside a cycle of poverty that persists across generations. Coalfield’s mission is to break that cycle by providing quality housing, jobs, and educational opportunities to young people in the southern part of the state.

In 2009, a group of concerned citizens in Wayne County, W.Va., established Coalfield as a volunteer-run organization to respond to the lack of affordable housing options in their community. Dennison stepped in as executive director a year later.

Coalfield is now a not-for-profit social enterprise, blending charity with revenue-generating construction work. As a licensed general contractor, Coalfield takes on unemployed or underemployed trainees, called “crew members,” and offers them 33 hours of on-the-job training and paid work per week. They work on construction projects that revitalize downtown areas, preserve historic buildings, and build low-income housing units. They also deconstruct dilapidated housing and build and sell furniture from reclaimed building materials. This work generates about 40 percent of Coalfield’s revenue—and their innovative green-collar approach has also kept a significant amount of usable building material out of landfills while improving energy efficiency in the region. Examples of recent projects include installing the first solar panels in Wayne County on one of Coalfield’s apartment complexes and converting a vacant warehouse that had formerly been a clothing factory into a community center with gallery, retail, event, and satellite office space.

Part of Coalfield’s organizational philosophy is that overcoming poverty requires more than removing structural barriers; providing housing and jobs is important but insufficient for creating lasting change. In addition to their paid work, Coalfield’s crew members take classes from a local community college and receive training on topics like financial literacy and physical and emotional health.

Community engagement is also central to Coalfield’s mission. Before starting a new development project, Coalfield hosts a public charrette to gather input from the community on the project design. Dennison also encourages his staff to immerse themselves in their community by volunteering and participating in Appalachian culture. He even hosts a book club that explores Appalachian history and fiction.

Whereas some may look at a rundown building and see nothing more than an eyesore, Dennison sees hardwood lumber waiting to be reclaimed. Likewise, he sees past West Virginia’s unemployment rate to a region rich with cultural history and thick with trust, ripe to be reimagined.

Dennison lives in Wayne with his wife, Ashley, and their three cats.
IU alumnus Tavis Smiley and SPEA faculty members release new book on plight of black Americans

Writer and broadcaster Tavis Smiley, an Indiana University graduate, has authored a new book with contributions from SPEA faculty that concludes Black Americans are increasingly challenged politically, economically, and socially.

*The Covenant With Black America: Ten Years Later* (SmileyBooks) is a follow-up to a bestselling book Smiley wrote in 2006. That book laid out a national plan of action to address ten crucial issues facing African-Americans.

In his new book Smiley says there has been little progress in healthcare, criminal justice, housing, education, and racial equality.

“Black America has lost ground in every leading economic category,” Smiley writes.

That conclusion is buttressed with chapters contributed by faculty and students at SPEA:

- Healthcare and health outcomes are beset by disparities between blacks and whites. “While improvements are visible in some areas including mortality and physical activity, the racial gap in prevalence of chronic conditions and mortality risk factors has not narrowed,” write SPEA faculty researchers Kosali Simon, Angshuman Gooptu, Seth Freedman, and Victoria Perez. “There is promising potential in the ACA (Affordable Care Act) to reduce these gaps.”
- Education advocacy efforts should focus on evidence-based policies and practices rather than a single approach to “solving” educational inequality, writes SPEA's Ashlyn Nelson. For example, students benefit most from school choice in states with strict charter school standards. Evidence-based investments in professional development for teachers and administrators are of more value than vague calls for greater school and teacher accountability.
- Criminal justice reform requires an articulated plan, commitment to actionable progress and accountability for change, writes SPEA's Jeremy Carter. He suggests a policy agenda that includes limitations on aggressive tactics, improved training, more diversity in police personnel and the adoption of video technology. Carter writes that police must broaden their awareness of racial bias and take actionable steps to reform policy and practice. Such reforms should follow the best practices he outlines in the book.
A digital divide remains a hurdle to economic prosperity, according to SPEA’s Michael McGuire. He says white and black access to the Internet is virtually the same, but that is due to smartphone use. Racial disparity is revealed in the percentage of households that have broadband, computer-based access at home that is crucial for applying for jobs or for college or doing homework.

“The real divide is based in a ‘racial wealth gap’ that holds millions back from adopting broadband because a computer can rarely be purchased from their yearly income,” McGuire writes. “Until families can afford the basic technological necessities—a computer being one—and gain broadband access from home, a digital divide along class and racial lines will remain.”

In addition to Simon, Gooptu, Nelson, Carter, and McGuire, other contributors to the book connected to SPEA include Lisa Blomgren Amsler, David Audretsch, Beth Cate, Andrea Need, Ken Richards, and Bee Smale.

The Covenant with Black America – Ten Years Later

In 2006, SPEA alum Tavis Smiley—with a team of esteemed contributors—laid out a national plan to address the ten most crucial issues facing African Americans. The Covenant became a No.1 New York Times bestseller, yet the issues persist. Now, in The Covenant with Black America – Ten Years Later (SmileyBooks, 2016), Smiley presents the original action plan alongside new data from SPEA to underscore the work that remains to be done.

Here, Lisa Blomgren Amsler, J.D., Keller-Runden Professor of Public Service, addresses the original Covenant VI.

Claiming Our Democracy, Ten Years Later

In 2008, the United States elected its first African American president, Barack Hussein Obama, giving hope that the nation had emerged from its long history of racism. Voting rates rose for Black Americans, surpassing the rates for non-Hispanic white Americans in the 2012 presidential election.

However, since 2006 there have been massive changes in law placing our democracy in jeopardy. In Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010), the U.S. Supreme Court held that the First Amendment prohibited limits on campaign spending by nonprofit organizations, opening the floodgates to massive unregulated spending. At present, just 158 families “overwhelmingly white, rich, older and male” have contributed half of all campaign contributions toward the 2016 presidential election.

In Shelby County v. Holder (2013), the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 as an unconstitutional coverage formula for Section 5’s requirements that certain states and local governments obtain preclearance from the U.S. Department of Justice before changes in state election law. This effectively released states to adopt laws that had been forbidden through preclearance under the Act.

Without preclearance, voters have to litigate laws after they go into effect and reduce voting rights. Since Shelby, a number of states, mostly those with Republican majorities in state legislatures, have modified election laws. Texas implemented a photo ID law, which affected voters in local elections and the March 2014 primaries. North Carolina passed a law that required photo ID, reduced early voting, and reduced a registration window used disproportionately by African American voters to register and vote on the same day. Alabama recently targeted 31 Department of Motor Vehicles offices where people might obtain a form of voter ID for closure; this will leave eight out of ten counties with the highest percentages of registered non-white voters without a DMV to obtain a voter ID.

Since Shelby, one study reported ten voting changes in seven states that have raised concerns about voting discrimination. Because there is no
longer central recordkeeping for preclearance, it is difficult to track the changes and stop them; each is individually subject to challenge in litigation after the fact. Some states are pushing back. California just enacted a state law that automatically registers all eligible voters who have a driver’s license or state ID unless they opt out.

Election and voting developments are exacerbating an existing inequity in representation by elected officials of the same race that the VRA was intended in part to address. Despite an increase in the diversity of Congress, Pew notes that only 35 percent of Black Americans are represented by someone of the same race.

Underrepresentation occurs at the local level, too. African Americans could see better local representation with more district (rather than at-large) local elections and elections held in tandem with national elections. Instead, there is minority vote dilution through at-large elections and cracking—multi-member districts that split a single heavily minority-majority district into two barely minority-majority districts—making it hard to convert voting power into wins. There is also packing, which is over concentrating minorities in a single district to reduce number of representatives. State and local laws that require at-large voting instead of voting by district, and redistricting or gerrymandering either to gather all Black voters into a single district or divide them so as to preclude an effective majority that can elect a Black representative, mean that African Americans are significantly underrepresented in state or local legislative bodies.

The results of underrepresentation include systemic racist practices in policing, prosecutorial, and judicial functions as illustrated in Ferguson, Missouri. Ferguson’s system created an incentive for police to arrest for minor traffic infractions that generated fees and fines when predominately poor Black residents of Ferguson received a ticket or failed to show up in municipal court; arrests turned into contempt of court and what some term debtors prison practices. The Department of Justice is also looking into the disparate impact based on race of a public school discipline system that feeds young Black males into juvenile justice and criminal justice systems, ultimately resulting in voting disenfranchisement upon conviction of a felony.

In response to growing evidence of systemic bias in the criminal justice system and absence of effective voice in the political system, a new civil rights movement has arisen. Born when the unarmed teen Trayvon Martin was shot dead and a predominately white jury found it justified by Florida’s ‘stand your ground’ law, the movement spread through social media as Black Lives Matter. The speed at which smart phone videos of police shootings of unarmed Black men travel social media and protests occur has been accelerating. As the beatings in Selma on Bloody Sunday galvanized a nation to support passage of the VRA, so, too, the organizers of Black Lives Matter hope to generate public support for legislative and electoral change. Increasingly, the prospect of litigation is prompting local governments to discipline police for excessive use of force and to reach financial settlements with grieving families. However, the practices are so pervasive that commentators say it will take a sea change in police training to alter what is perceived as acceptable use of force.

There has been no substantial progress in passing an amendment that would formalize a constitutional right to vote. Two Democrats proposed a constitutional amendment in 2015. The Democratic National Committee also announced its support. Similarly, despite two different proposals that alternately passed the House and Senate, there has been no progress in empowering residents of the District of Columbia to participate in our national democracy.

In sum, while there have been historic achievements in the election of President Obama and the most diverse Congress in history, there have also been deeply troubling developments. **Citizens United** gives the rich and white disproportionate financial influence in the electoral system. State election laws with documented disparate impact based on race are making their way through state legislatures and prompting litigation under VRA Section 2 in the absence of effective preclearance limits under Section 5. African Americans are underrepresented in state and local elective office. A disproportionate number of Black voters remain disenfranchised through the criminal justice system and by living in the District of Columbia. And no citizen in the United States has an express constitutional right to vote.
Ron Hites has been honored with a tribute issue of *Environmental Science and Technology* that begins with this note: “Over the last four decades, Ron Hites has made very significant contributions to the discipline of environmental organic chemistry, notably in the areas of mass spectrometry and the detection, sources, transformations, time trends, and fates of atmospherically derived organic pollutants in rivers and lakes, emphasizing the North American Great Lakes. Just as important is the contribution Ron has made in educating hundreds of young scientists and serving as a longtime Associate Editor of ES&T”...

Todd Royer has been selected to serve on the Nutrient Science Advisory Committee for the state of Illinois. Nutrient pollution, primarily from nitrogen and phosphorus, is a leading cause of water quality problems throughout the nation. Royer was one of 19 scientists nominated to serve on the Environmental Protection Agency panel. Royer and five others were selected to convene a series of meetings over the next 18 months with a goal of developing a recommendation to the EPA on a numeric nutrient standard for Illinois flowing waters...

Amanda Rutherford has published her co-authored article in the *American Journal of Political Science*. “Voting Rights for Whom? Examining the Effects of the Voting Rights Act on Latino Political Incorporation” was based on a study that applied insights from principal-agent models. Rutherford and Melissa Marschall of Rice University examined how the language assistance provisions of Sections 203 and 4(f)(4) of the Voting Rights Act affected Latino representation. Their findings not only provide the first systemic evidence that the language assistance provisions have a direct effect on Latino representation, but also link the efficacy of the provisions to the duration and consistency of coverage, as well as the presence of federal elections observers. Their study underscores the continued need for federal involvement in protecting the voting rights of underrepresented groups...

Flynn Picardal has published two articles he co-authored. “Desulfuromonas carbonis sp. nov., an Fe(III)-, S0- and Mn(IV)-reducing bacterium isolated from an active coalbed methane gas well” was published in the *International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology*. The bacterium was obtained from an active coalbed in Indiana. Picardal’s co-author was Thuy T. An, a SPEA doctoral student. “Oxidation of Fe(II)-EDTA by nitrite and by two nitrate-reducing Fe(II)-oxidizing Acidovorax strains” was published in the *Journal of Geobiology*. Co-authors included scientists Nicole Kluglein, Christian Zwiener, Andreas Kappler, and Marco Zedda from the University of Tuebingen...

John Mikesell has received the 2015 Steven D. Gold Award by the National Tax Association, the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, and the National Conference of State Legislatures. This prestigious honor recognizes Mikesell’s outstanding contributions to state and local fiscal policy over the course of his career and particularly noted “his ability to span the interests of scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and advocates with great integrity and evenhandedness.” The award is given annually in memory of Steve Gold, a respected financial analyst and economist whose career and life tragically were shortened by illness. The award recognizes a person who has made a significant contribution to public financial management in the field of intergovernmental relations and state and local finance. It was presented at the National Tax Association’s 108th Annual Conference on Taxation, held in November in Boston...

Jennifer Brass has published an article in the journal *Africa Today*. “Foreign Aid, NGOs and the Private Sector: New Forms of Hybridity in Renewable Energy Provision in East Africa” examines growing NGO-business hybridization of non-state service providers in a dynamic, new sector: small-scale, renewable energy in East Africa. Brass and co-author Lauren MacLean conceptualized a spectrum of commercialization, highlighting how three types of hybrid organizations vary in their definition, motivation, level of integration, and financial model. They differentiate among NGOs that engage in some commercial activities, NGOs with a separate for-profit spinoff organization, and for-profit social enterprises, each of which sit on the spectrum between traditional social mission NGOs and for-profit businesses. Brass and MacLean, an IU political scientist, investigated the causes for the recent growth of hybridity among NGOs and businesses and argued that changes in donor funding patterns, neoliberal ideology, and government policies on renewable energy have stimulated these entrepreneurial forms of hybridity...

Burney Fischer has published two urban forestry articles that resulted from a grant from the International Society of Arboriculture. In “The Cost of Not Maintaining the Urban Forest” for *Arborist News* and in “The Costs of Maintaining and Not Maintaining the Urban Forest: A Review of the Urban Forestry and Arboriculture” for *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry*, Fischer and his co-authors point out the often overlooked price of ignoring tree maintenance. Skipping watering, pruning and other practices results in urban forests that yield far fewer of the benefits touted by researchers and practitioners. Fischer’s co-authors included Jessica Vogt, a former Environmental Science doctoral student at SPEA and now a professor at DePaul University, and Richard Hauer of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point...
**SPEA PEOPLE @ LARGE (AND SMALL)**

*Top left:* Executive Associate Dean Michael McGuire (from left) and Director of Arts Administration Programs Michael Wilkerson with members of the Winter Class of 2015.

*Top right:* The historic Indiana Memorial Union, setting for the Winter Recognition Ceremony honoring the newest SPEA Master’s graduates.

*Middle left:* Melissa Clark and Sarah Powers, honored by the North American Lake Management Society with the 2015 Volunteer Actions Merit Award for their work on the Indiana Clean Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Program.

*Middle right:* Ambassador Rajendra Abhyankar, a member of the SPEA faculty, speaks at a teach-in on the Paris terror attacks.

*Bottom left:* Catherine Elizabeth Duncan, newborn daughter of Prof. Denvil Duncan and his wife Samantha.

*Bottom right:* Penelope Rogers Starnes, newborn daughter of Megan Starnes, assistant director of Arts Administration Programs, and her husband Adrian, a SPEA alumnus.
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