

# Update in the State Capital

Volume 2, Issue #3

November-December 2009

## Prop 13 and Demographics

**Dowell Myers**, USC Professor and Director, Population Dynamics Research Group and Co-Director, Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, is presenting his latest research on the interplay of property taxes and demographic trends to the USC community in Sacramento on Wed., Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>.



## California Politics



**Sherry Bebitch Jeffe**, a Senior Scholar at USC and a national political analyst, will speak to the Trojan community on Thursday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm at the USC State Capital Center. Her topic is *California Politics: Where Are We and Where Are We Going?* She often provides political commentary for *NBC Nightly News*, *MSNBC*, *The Today Show* and *National Public Radio*. RSVP at

[http://secure.www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/SCA/events/event\\_order.cgi?tmpl=events&event=2237812](http://secure.www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/SCA/events/event_order.cgi?tmpl=events&event=2237812)

## National Health Care Policy

**Peter Harbage**, a nationally known researcher and consultant on healthcare policy, will talk about *Health Care Reform: What's Happening in Washington - An Insider's View on How It Will Impact California*, on Thursday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm at the USC State Capital Center. Peter has been actively involved in healthcare reform efforts in California and in Washington for sixteen years. You've seen him on MSNBC, CNBC, FOX, CNN and NPR. RSVP to

[Kaser@usc.edu](mailto:Kaser@usc.edu)



## New Career Talks For These Economic Times - Prospective Students Invited!

**Trojans Talk About Careers** at lunch hour events where they share their experiences in career development and their own current activities, giving potential students a taste of the Trojan network. The first was held in October and featured **Patrice Palmaer**, MHA, **Marc Engstrom**, MPA, and **Jahmal Miller**, MHA. Patrice works on national Insurance Contracting for Emergency Medicine Physicians; Marc is involved in state and federal legislation for the state Department of Mental Health; and Jahmal works on strategic marketing and communication for Sutter Health.

The next **Trojans Talk** event will be held Thursday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 to 1:30pm at the Center. **Teri Boughton**, MHA, and **Shannon Smith-Crowley**, MHA, will speak about their work in healthcare. Teri is currently collaborating with state, federal and county health organizations to make information more readily available to individuals making healthcare choices. Shannon has her own advocacy firm that focuses on women's issues. Prospective students, current students

and alumni are welcome to attend! Please invite a friend or colleague who has an interest in our programs. RSVP to [Kaser@usc.edu](mailto:Kaser@usc.edu). By Tuesday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>.



### **Kevin Starr Wins Lifetime Achievement Award**

State Librarian Emeritus and University Professor Kevin Starr was honored by the League of California Cities' Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Starr has written numerous books on California's past, political, cultural and scientific. Dr. Starr is currently a professor of history at the University of Southern California and also teaches *Intergovernmental Management: the State*

*Perspective* at the State Capital Center in the spring.

### **New Spring Classes**

Spring registration is now underway and students have some great choices: PPD 613a **International Lab** (1 unit) Preparation for a two week consulting trip (PPD 613b – 3 units) to Brazil or China in the summer. Contact Rabia Budhwani [sppdilab@usc.edu](mailto:sppdilab@usc.edu) for more information. PPD 599: **Introduction to Public Policy**, (2units) Herb. K. Schultz, adjunct faculty, has had a very unique and successful career straddling the public, private, and non-profit sectors. He has spent the greater part of his career in health care policy, government affairs, and politics, as well as operations. Schultz also has had significant senior level experience in the labor and workforce development arena. Meets Feb 12-13 and March 12-13. PPD 684: **Leadership Development in the Public and Nonprofit Sectors** (2 units) An overview of leadership concepts, frameworks and skills; application of leadership in complex or intersectoral settings. Rich Callahan is the instructor. Meets Jan. 14-15 and Feb. 4-5.

### **Student News**

#### **Students nominated for the Presidential Management Fellowship**

Congratulations to Ryan Arba, Strada Morris, Alyssa Newton, Miriam Ochoa and Sarah Smith who were nominated for the prestigious Presidential Management Fellowship. This is a two-year program giving students a great opportunity to move in and move up in the federal government. We wish them the best in their second round of interviews.

**Holiday Charity Dinner** – December 14<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar now! More details to follow from GPAC.

**CARE package for U.S. soldiers.** John, son of a USC MPA alumnus, is serving overseas and we are collecting goodies, letters, and other supplies to send to John and his colleagues. Popular/requested items include beef jerky and books, but here is a link that lists other items that would be appropriate and size restrictions for shipping <http://sacramentobluestarmoms.org/carePackage.aspx>. Donations may be made through Friday, Nov. 6 at the USC State Capital Center.

### **Alumnus Spotlight**



John Thorson, Adjunct Faculty and USC DPA graduate, claims to have retired, but he's currently Chair of the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC), a 70-member sovereign and stakeholder committee authorized by Congress to advise federal agencies on ecosystem and threatened/endangered species along the Missouri River ([www.mrric.org](http://www.mrric.org)). The Missouri River was the subject of his USC dissertation, later published as *River of Promise, River of Peril: The Politics of the Missouri River* (Kansas 1992). He teaches an annual course at the Universidad Anahuac, Xalapa (Mexico) and serves as Water Master for the U.S. District Court in Seattle for the implementation of a tribal water rights settlement.

## Alumni Club News

A big THANK YOU to Art Campos who lead our USC Alumni Association Chapter in Sacramento for the past 6 years and did a fabulous job! And a big WELCOME to the new president, Paul Danczyk and his executive committee: Matt Wheeler, MPA, Vice President, Shalen Robison, Treasurer, Tina Lehne, Secretary.

The alumni club members get together to watch USC football games every weekend. This is a fun opportunity to meet and greet other Trojans and enjoy a game together. Please call Art Campos at (916) 489-0309 or email at [sacramento@alumnicenter.usc.edu](mailto:sacramento@alumnicenter.usc.edu) for more details.

## Career Corner

**Career Conversations @ Lunch**, Nov. 20 and Dec. 4, Meet alumni in various positions in healthcare and the public sector. 12:30 to 1:30pm at the Center.

Students and alumni who wish to attend any of the above events should RSVP to [kaser@usc.edu](mailto:kaser@usc.edu)

**Career Advising** For an individual career advising appointment, please contact Virginia Kaser at (916) 442-6911 ext. 26.

Students and alumni may view job postings on the website at

<http://www.usc.edu/schools/sppd/careers/jobs/> You can search from your home computer.

Contact Nina Losorelli [losorell@usc.edu](mailto:losorell@usc.edu) for the ID and password. We also send job announcements to interested students and alumni! Contact Virginia Kaser for more information. [kaser@usc.edu](mailto:kaser@usc.edu)

## Alumni and Student Updates

Please send us your updates!

Ann Blackwood, MHA 1997, accepted a one-year assignment in Washington, DC with her current employer, AstraZeneca, beginning on September 21<sup>st</sup>. She's like us to straighten out the state's budget while she's gone! [Ann.Blackwood@astrazeneca.com](mailto:Ann.Blackwood@astrazeneca.com)

Lisa Chan-Sawin, MHA, is a consultant with Senate Health. Her email was incorrectly listed in the last newsletter. It is [lisa.chan-sawin@sen.ca.gov](mailto:lisa.chan-sawin@sen.ca.gov). She works on a variety of issues including health IT, health insurance regulation, prescription drugs, stem cell/biomedical research and emerging medical therapies, infant health and autism.

Joumana Dakour, MHA IP, is the Compliance Intern at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in San Francisco.

Paul Dirksen, MPLD 2000, is serving as Interim Housing Division Manager for the Housing and Community Investment Division with the City of West Sacramento. He is participating in the City's Green Team by developing a multifamily housing energy retrofit program and a citywide energy efficiency strategy as well as working on a Brownfields Remediation Project.  
[pauld@cityofwestsacramento.org](mailto:pauld@cityofwestsacramento.org)

Mark Dixon, BS, Business, is a Systems Architect for IBM, with clients in the Public Sector (Government and Healthcare) in the Northern California and greater Pacific Northwest region to assist them in "greening" their Information Technology infrastructures. He is also working with a local nonprofit on rural broadband access. [medixon@us.ibm.com](mailto:medixon@us.ibm.com)

Marc Engstrom, MPA 2007, is now Acting Assistant Director for Legislation at the California Dept. of Mental Health. [marc.engstrom@dmh.ca.gov](mailto:marc.engstrom@dmh.ca.gov)

Melissa Gamer, MPA 1995, is now Chief of the Budget Office at CalFIRE.

Dean Gualco, MPA 1995, earned a Doctorate in Education from the University of the Pacific. He's now teaching at the University of Phoenix. [deang@email.phoenix.edu](mailto:deang@email.phoenix.edu)

Eric Holloway, MPA 2002, is now Director for Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) which is made up of 21 Pacific-rim countries.  
[http://www.apec.org/apec/about\\_apec/mission\\_statement.html](http://www.apec.org/apec/about_apec/mission_statement.html)      [emholloway@yahoo.com](mailto:emholloway@yahoo.com)

Hector Huezo, MPA, has accepted a position with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the General Counsel for General Law ([hector.huezo@dot.gov](mailto:hector.huezo@dot.gov)).

Mary Kelly, MPA 1999, has accepted the position of Director of Risk Management at the office of the Inspector General. [Mary.kelly@inspectorgeneral.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.kelly@inspectorgeneral.ca.gov)

Graham Knaus, MPA 2002, is now working in Auburn as the Director of Administrative Services for Placer County Health and Human Services. He also is happy to report that he and his wife Stefanie have three daughters: Olivia, 4; Gracie 20 months, and Addison, 5 months.

Nadia Leal, MPA 2005, was married in May to Raul Omar Carrillo. She was promoted to Legislative Director in Denise Moreno Ducheny's office.

Teresa Low, MHA 1997, is currently at IBM's management consulting division and specializing in technically driven organizational change strategy.

Earl Nelson, MPLD 2005, was promoted to Chief of the Flood Corridor Programs and Environmental Support Branch at the California Department of Water Resources.  
[enelson@water.ca.gov](mailto:enelson@water.ca.gov)      «GreetingLine»«GreetingLine»«GreetingLine»

Bill Perlstein, MPA 2004, was promoted to Captain and serves as Commander, Monterey Region, California Highway Patrol. [uscwilliam@aol.com](mailto:uscwilliam@aol.com)

Jenny Poree, MPA IP, is Senior Vice President at Montague DeRose and Associates in Walnut Creek.

Gnanagurudasan (Prakash) Prakasam, MHA 2004, is President of the American Diabetes Association, Northern California Chapter and also sits on the board of the American Heart Association for Sacramento.

Todd Roberson, MPA 2008, is an Account Executive with Mercury Public Affairs in Sacramento. [troberson@mercuryllc.com](mailto:troberson@mercuryllc.com)

Shannon Smith-Crowley, MHA 1994, is a principal with Partners in Advocacy, Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy. [Shannon@partnersadvocacy.com](mailto:Shannon@partnersadvocacy.com)

Pouneh Tehrani, MPA 1997, was promoted to the position of Chief of Administration at the State Personnel Board. [ptehrani@spb.ca.gov](mailto:ptehrani@spb.ca.gov)

Shane Thielman, MHA 2006, is working at Scripps Health as Corporate Director, Workflow Standardization primarily focused on the standardization of key business and clinical processes and the implementation and optimization of our hospital system EMR.

Elaine Tran, MHA 2008, is Business Compliance Specialist, a newly created position at the Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in San Francisco. She is now Board Certified in Healthcare Compliance. She oversees business operations at the SFVA. [Elaine.Tran@va.gov](mailto:Elaine.Tran@va.gov)

Douglas H. Vinzant, DPA 2004, is now Vice President for Administration at the University of Wyoming. [dvinzant@uwyo.edu](mailto:dvinzant@uwyo.edu)

*Please send your update to Virginia Kaser [kaser@usc.edu](mailto:kaser@usc.edu)*

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