

Could you survive a month in the state of poverty?

Participants learn the realities of low-income living through a poverty-simulation workshop

By Kadi Row with Jo Futrell

"It was a real eye-opener. You can envision some of the steps people have to go through, but until you walk through it yourself you don't realize some of the obstacles and attitudes."

— Poverty Simulation participant

According to 2000 U.S. Census data, 8.7 percent of Wisconsin citizens and 10.8 percent of Wisconsin children live in poverty. Many more families have incomes above the poverty line, but their incomes are still low enough to qualify for government assistance such as food stamps and BadgerCare health insurance. The economic downturn is contributing even more stress, as unemployment rates and use of emergency food pantries increase.

Nutrition Education Program addresses poverty issues

County-based Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) coordinators and Extension educators develop and facilitate education programs in local communities to meet a variety of needs, and are therefore well prepared to help communities address poverty issues.

Understanding the low-income experience

In the last two years UW-Extension has facilitated 13 local awareness-raising programs throughout Wisconsin. More than 800 people have participated in the Poverty Simulation program created by the Reform Organization of Welfare (ROWEL) Education Association of Missouri. The simulation helps participants begin to understand the experience of a typical low-income family trying to survive from month to month.

Participants role-play as low-income family members with various resources and barriers scripted for them. For example, a participant may play a single mom with two kids, no cash and very few assets. The "single mom" moves through a condensed "month" of poverty consisting of four, 15-minute weeks. Participants are generally staff or volunteers who work with low-income people. Sensitizing them to issues faced in poverty may result in better understanding, and changes in programming, that can benefit low-income families.

Increasing poverty awareness

The program clearly benefits local communities, playing an important role in increasing poverty awareness. Survey results show striking increases in understanding the difficulties and stresses faced by

individuals in poverty. More than 90 percent of participants say they would strongly recommend the training to others.

Not only did the poverty simulation increase participants' awareness and understanding, it also changed how they relate to low-income families. Participants are also motivated to do more, as the experience provides a wide range of ideas for "next steps" for community action to address poverty issues. One community formed a network to discuss resources and needs of people in poverty. Another community conducted skill-development training to help staff work more effectively with low-income people.



JOAN LEFEBVRE

Homeless and hopeless

A Poverty Simulation participant responds to simulated barriers while role-playing a condensed "month" of poverty.

For more information: Kadi Row, UW-Extension food security specialist, kadi.row@ces.uwex.edu and www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/success/poverty.pdf

Cooperative Extension Dean and Director O'Connor to leave UW-Extension

By Pamela Seelman



Carl O'Connor
Cooperative Extension dean and director

After more than a decade of service, Cooperative Extension Dean and Director Carl O'Connor is leaving the University of Wisconsin-Extension. On July 1, 2003, O'Connor will become executive director of the North Central Extension Association.

Dual positions

The North Central Extension Association represents the land-grant Cooperative Extension programs in 12 North Central states reaching from North Dakota to Missouri and east to Ohio. O'Connor also will work as liaison with the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES)-U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. In his new positions O'Connor will coordinate regional education partnerships associated with a variety of federal and state government agencies and private industry.

A committed leader

UW-Extension Chancellor Kevin Reilly says, "Carl has been an innovative and committed leader of Cooperative Extension. His work has positioned UW-Extension well to meet the needs of Wisconsin in

the 21st century. His activity at the national level in his new assignment will help us attract new funds to the North Central region, funds we will use to keep Wisconsin on the forefront of extension education."

A healthy future for all of Extension

"My decision to accept this new position was not an easy one," O'Connor says. "I consider it a great honor to work with the high-quality faculty and staff we have within Cooperative Extension. I will leave knowing that the future of Cooperative Extension is in good hands. I will work diligently in my new role to maintain a healthy future for all of Extension."

O'Connor came to UW-Extension in 1992 as associate dean and director. He became dean and

director of Cooperative Extension in September 1996.

Search in progress

Reilly says that UW-Extension is now organizing a search for O'Connor's replacement in hopes that a new dean and director will be available by July 1.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Outreach Scholarship 2002 sets attendance record

More than 440 people, including 36 Wisconsin representatives, attended the Outreach scholarship Conference held at The Ohio State University in Columbus last month.

This second annual conference, co-sponsored by Ohio State, The Pennsylvania State University and UW-Extension, focused on best practices in higher education outreach and public service. It provided a unique opportunity for university faculty members, administrators and community leaders to share their most successful engagement initiatives.



Excellence Through Engagement

your colleagues on the planning committee, is Excellence Through Engagement.

UW-Extension will host Outreach Scholarship 2003 next Oct. 5-7 at the Monona Terrace Community and Conference Center in Madison. The theme for next year's conference, determined by



Kevin S. Reilly
reilly@admin.uwex.edu
www1.uwex.edu/chancellor/

Please look for our call for papers, which will be available online at www.outreachscholarship.org in mid-December. I encourage UW-Extension faculty and staff to submit proposals and to attend this close-to-home conference next fall. This is an excellent chance to spotlight UW-Extension's world-class outreach work.

2002 Outreach Scholarship Conference

Clockwise from left:

- Michele Jacques, information resources manager at Instructional Communications Systems, offered a presentation on digital asset management.
- UW-Milwaukee Chancellor Nancy Zimpher joined a panel discussion on partnerships between universities and PK-12 education.
- Muriel Oaks, dean of Extended University Services at Washington State, and Barbara Emil, dean and director of Outreach and E-Learning, joined Chancellor Reilly and Cooperative Extension Dean and Director Carl O'Connor (not pictured) at a workshop on the evolving relationships between continuing education and cooperative extension nationwide.



DAVID GIROUX

Continuing Education Extension announces personnel changes

By Amy Pikalek



Mary Grant

"Learning Innovations gives us an opportunity to bring together our faculty resources—our extraordinary human assets—together with the needs of business to serve people's continuing education needs and to overcome the boundaries of time and place."

— Katharine Lyall, UW System President, October 1997



Holly Breitkreutz

To fully realize President Lyall's vision, and to continuously improve efforts to meet the needs of campus and external partners and clients, the division of Continuing Education Extension has instituted some changes over the past six months.

"What we really want to emphasize is the partner—not the product," explains Dean and Director of Outreach and E-Learning Barbara Emil. "By strengthening the connection between the UW campuses

and the online learning support provided by UW Learning Innovations, Continuing Education Extension is better able to connect UW content to the continuing education needs of learners, in the private sector or wherever they may be."

To achieve this focus on the partner, the production and development and marketing functions have been combined and will work with Associate Dean Mary S. Grant. Associate Dean Holly Breitkreutz will focus on research, including determining learners' and partners'

satisfaction with UWLI services and support, and increased coordination with UW-Extension's overall program impacts assessments. She will also explore opportunities to collaborate with other post-secondary institutions on emerging issues in asynchronous learning.

In partnership with the 26 UW campuses, Continuing Education Extension connects with 200,000 lifelong learners throughout the United States and 104 countries worldwide.

The American Evaluation Association's Extension Education interest group has presented Chancellor Kevin Reilly and Vice Chancellor Marv Van Keerix with the 2002 Mary Nell Greenwood Extension Evaluation Award for their development of and work with UW-Extension's Program Impacts system.

Nolan Andersen, Dane County dairy and livestock agent, is the recipient of the 2002 Dane County Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture Award. The award recognizes Andersen for his continued support and assistance to Dane County farmers and the Farm Bureau First Responders Safety program.

Congratulations to Kathy Bissen, Andy Moore, Christine Sloan Miller, Art Hackett and the production staff for a successful 10-year run of "WeekEnd," Wisconsin Public Television's public-affairs program. The final "WeekEnd" broadcast will be Nov. 8. Stay tuned for a new public-affairs program to debut in the New Year.

Bob Cropp, Pepin County agriculture agent, along with other Extension office staff, has received the Partner of Public Health Award from the Pepin County Health Department.

In October the UW-Milwaukee School of Continuing Education inaugurated a training program for managers of nonprofit organizations. The noncredit Professional Certificate in Nonprofit Management consists of 17 workshops comprising 105 classroom hours. For more information: www.uwm.edu/University/Outreach/catalog/Non Profit.

Continuing Education Extension's Diversity Program Development Initiative and IDEAS Portal Web Site have received Certificates of Excellence from the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA) Region IV.

Stout Solutions, the continuing education unit at the UW-Stout, also received awards from the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA) Region IV.

Hector Cruz, associate professor of education at UW-Stout, Certificate of Excellence in the Excellence in Teaching and Faculty Service category

Deanna Applehans, outreach program manager, Certificate of Excellence in the Outstanding Service to the Region category

Marcia Oas, program assistant, Certificate of Excellence in the Continuing Education Support Specialist category

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE FACES OF LEARNING

Diversity Circles work to dismantle racism

By Amy Pikalek

"A Closer Look at the Faces of Learning" is a series of articles complementing UW-Extension's annual report, *Faces of Learning*, www.uwex.edu/AR01.

The neighboring Wisconsin cities of Racine and Kenosha face a common challenge: helping residents of many races understand each other and deal with constant population growth and economic shifts.

A community solution

To meet this challenge, two community organizations—the Kenosha Coalition for Dismantling Racism and Sustainable Racine Preparing for Diversity Committee—created a partnership with University of Wisconsin-Parkside Center for Community Partnerships, the continuing education unit on campus, to develop a solution. Their answer is the Diversity Circles on Dismantling Racism project.

"Diversity Circles allow citizens to work through conflict to positive resolution toward solving a community's social and economic problems," explains Roseann Mason, Diversity Circles director.

"By bringing groups of community members together to examine racism and race relations, we are building a stronger community by expanding the participation of citizens, diverse by race, ethnicity, gender, age and socioeconomic levels, in dialogue that will foster greater understanding, cooperation and community participation."

Residents explore race issues

With the guidance of volunteer facilitators, small, diverse groups of community residents are brought together to address race issues. Circles meet throughout Kenosha, Racine and on the UW-Parkside campus for two hours each week for five weeks. During the 2001-02 year, 303 people participated in Diversity Circles, which were held in a variety of locations, including churches, prisons, day-care centers and high schools.

Rochelle Moore of Kenosha, a participant and facilitator, found the program to be a revelation. "So many people are afraid to talk about racism, and racism isn't just about color," says Moore. "Diversity Circles enabled me to meet many different people in my own community, share my experiences with

them, and learn from theirs. We gained a better understanding of each other by learning to think with different perspectives."

DPDI funds liaison

Through the Diversity Program Development Initiative (DPDI), UW-Extension Continuing Education Extension contributed funding for a community liaison in Kenosha and Racine to recruit and organize

participants into diverse Diversity Circles and to purchase guides and other materials.

Academic credit available

Diversity Circles on Dismantling Racism are offered as a one-credit class at UW-Parkside. Students can also earn a credit if they participate in the facilitator training and facilitate Diversity Circles.

Diversity Circle impacts

Of the Diversity Circles participants who completed program evaluations:

96.7 percent said the program increased their ability to discuss issues openly with people of other races.

93.4 percent said the program increased their understanding of other's attitudes and beliefs about racism and race relations.

91.8 percent said the program helped them better understand their own attitudes and beliefs about people of other races.

88.5 percent said participation changed their relationships with people of other races.

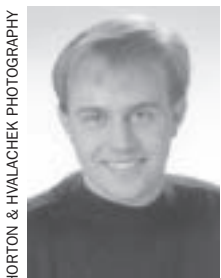
83.6 percent said participation improved their ability to effectively communicate with people of other races who have different beliefs and styles.

48.3 percent became involved in their community as a direct result of participating in the program.

WRLP: "one heck of a ride"

A participant reflects on his Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program experiences

By Casey Langan, *The Country Today* writer



Casey Langan, WRLP participant

They say all good things must come to an end, and that was definitely the case when I graduated from the two-year Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program (WRLP) in July.

Program develops rural leaders

The program, a public-private education collaboration administered by the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension, offers emerging leaders broader perspectives on the issues that their communities deal with. It was a true privilege to be part of the program's ninth class of adults who live and work in rural Wisconsin.

Alabama to the Great Wall

Over the course of 11 seminars we met teenage gang members in Milwaukee and civil rights leaders from the South. We walked the Great Wall of China and the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala. We volunteered at a women's shelter in Appleton and took water

samples from a North Woods lake. We studied energy policy in Washington, D.C., and health issues in Dodge County. We toured a dairy farm in China, as well as prisons, community centers, businesses and schools throughout Wisconsin. All along the way we met an incredible array of leaders.

On our travels to South Korea and China, we contrasted how other cultures are building their economies, raising their children, and preserving (or not) their natural resources.

Unique people and learning

I can honestly say I learned more from my time with WRLP than I did

from four years of college. I think it's because the program offers an enclosed and experimental setting. A unique mix of people was put together to be given tasks and new experiences. Part of the learning was watching how each of us reacted. We sometimes disagreed, but we still respected each other at the end of the day.

The learning continued after the end of the day. During our two years together we took a hayride on a participant's farm, danced in Chinese discotheques, gave the sport of curling a try and sang around campfires.

One member called what we had

"the epitome of friendship." There was no group of people I would have rather been with during those scary days after the attacks on 9/11. As for our time in Asia in April, I have too many cherished memories to even mention.

When we parted ways in Mosinee after our graduation ceremony, I left feeling hopeful. Hopeful because there are so many good people around our state who care so deeply about youth, senior citizens, natural resources and agriculture.

The beginning of a journey

Our inspiring graduation ceremony reminded me that this point in our lives wasn't about something ending, but about the journey each of us is on.

Although our paths will never cross quite the same way they did over the last two years, I know the great people I shared this journey with will influence the path I take in the future.

For more information: Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program, (608) 263-0817

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WRLP participants learn about rural life in China

Casey Langan and other Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program participants visited the small Chinese farming village of He Jia in April 2002.

HORTON & HVALACHEK PHOTOGRAPHY

BECKY LEVZOW

Regent Pat Boyle: champion for learners of all ages

By Doug Bradley

This coming May, you will be completing a seven-year term as a member of the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents. What accomplishment are you proudest of during your tenure on the board?

Personally, I'm very proud of the relationships I've established with my fellow regents. They're a wonderful group of committed leaders! And, given the fact that I'm a former "insider," I'm very grateful to them for accepting my ideas.

Issue-wise, I'm glad that I've been able to help the board to focus on the student as a learner; to expand the definition of students to include citizens; to understand and appreciate the importance of maintaining and supporting our top-quality faculty and staff; and to keep the UW accessible to all.

From a regent perspective, what are the biggest challenges currently confronting the UW System? And how can those be dealt with?

- The whole issue of funding, fees and overall support for the UW System. One-time money isn't sustainable. We need to find more private and/or federal money to support the University.
- The quality-access dialectic. We cannot sacrifice one for the other. We must maintain both educational quality and be accessible to all the state's citizens.
- Encouraging diversity among our students, faculty and staff.
- Building and sustaining public support.
- Communication. We need new, better models for communicating our value and impact on the state's environment, health, economy and more.

How do your fellow regents view UW-Extension and its impact/role?

I think the regents have a positive view of Extension, in particular its network of access for local citizens. They're able to see how Extension impacts people directly, and that's good.



PAT BOYLE

UW Regent: 1996-2003

Chancellor: University of Wisconsin-Extension, 1983-93

Director: Program and Staff Development, UW-Extension, 1966-82

Professor: UW-Madison, Department of Continuing and Vocational Education, 1958-93

Education: Ph.D. and M.S., extension education, UW-Madison; B.S., education, UW-Platteville

Personal: Born in Mauston, Wis. Wife, Mary Boyle; two sons

Do you think that having been a UW-Extension chancellor helped you to be a better regent?

Yes, from the standpoint of starting with a strong, comprehensive understanding of how the University of Wisconsin System operates, how it's structured, how it is governed, etc.

Which is the tougher job, regent or chancellor? Why?

In many ways, the jobs really aren't comparable. But I will say that a chancellor in today's environment has a bigger, more challenging assignment than he or she did five or ten years ago. In the long run, being a chancellor probably can help you to be a better regent.

What do you like most about being a regent?

I most enjoy the work on important policy issues such as quality, access and diversity. I like to vigorously debate alternatives with my fellow regents and other UW System colleagues. I like reviewing new programs. I enjoy working with our government and political leaders.

Least?

Honestly, there really isn't anything I haven't enjoyed about being a regent. I'll miss it!

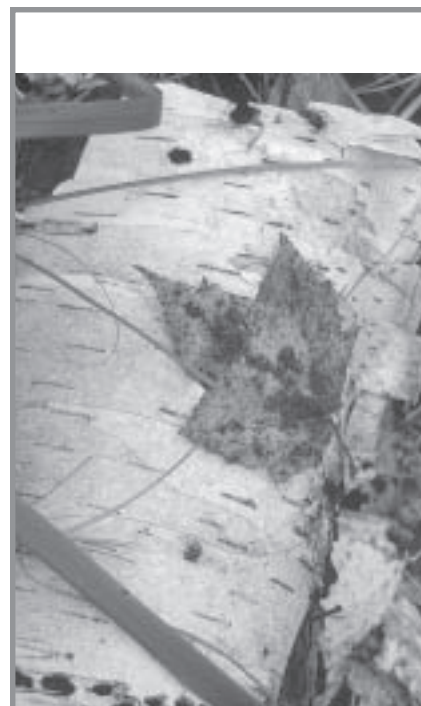
One can't imagine Pat Boyle "retiring" from public life and higher education. What are your plans for the future?

I'll find a way to stay connected to higher education and to stay active in various kinds of activities. And I'll always keep a vigilant eye on UW-Extension to make sure that it's meeting its commitment to the state's citizens!

What advice do you have for your colleagues in UW-Extension?

Extension must maintain its commitment to providing quality pro-

grams that focus on meeting the most relevant needs of the people of Wisconsin. In addition, Extension must find new ways to illustrate its value to the state's citizens, communicating in new, innovative ways a clear message about its value to individual citizens so that they will support Extension.



"Wild Places"

A new documentary showcasing the treasures of Wisconsin's Natural Areas Program

"These places are truly special and pure. In many cases they are the last remnants of what Wisconsin was like before white settlement. They provide a link to the past for us and future generations."

- JoAnne Garrett
"Wild Places" producer

Maple leaf on birch tree, Frog Lake and Pines Natural Area, Iron County

Tuesday, Nov. 26, 7 p.m., Wisconsin Public Television

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Comments should be sent to:
Extension News and Ideas
531 Extension Building
432 North Lake Street
Madison, WI 53706-1498
or: davis@admin.uwex.edu

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Extension News and Ideas online:
www.uwex.edu/ni

Editor:
Margaret E. (Peg) Davis

Designer:
Vicki Pierce

Contributors:
Doug Bradley, Chris DuPré, David Giroux, Jo Futrell, Casey Langan, Amy Pikalek, Kadi Row, Pamela Seelman



University of Wisconsin-Extension
Office of the Chancellor
432 North Lake St.
Madison, WI 53706-1498

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