

Research Institutes – Summer 2009

Our research institutes continue to excel through their research, programming, and publications. Below are a few highlights from this summer and upcoming activities for the fall.

The Berger Institute for Work, Family and Children: This fall The Berger Institute began a new research project that examines work and family issues among female and male graduates of liberal arts colleges with particular focus on the decision to leave the labor market following a major shift in the household (child care, elder care, etc.). An on-line survey will be piloted at The Claremont Colleges this academic year.

The Center for Human Rights Leadership: The Center has enjoyed a summer of growth. Accomplishments include: completion of a comprehensive study of the Center's mission and programs, the successful launch of a new name and web site; selection of seven human rights summer interns; and development of a solid program of visiting speakers. During the academic year, The Center will partner with the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum to sponsor a speakers program titled "Human Rights and the Law."

Financial Economics Institute: This May 29 graduates completed the FEI Sequence. Of these graduates, 22 either had secured employment or were attending graduate school. **Carol Hartman '86** was instrumental in assisting students with resumes and organized a committee of faculty, staff, and professionals to identify employment ideas for students. This academic year the FEI Speaker Series will host several speakers at the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum, including Chester S. Spatt, professor and director of the Center for Financial Markets at the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University, in November

The Family of Benjamin Z. Gould Center for Humanistic Studies: This summer three students received Milosz Fellowships through the Gould Center and the Adam Mikiewicz Institute in Warsaw to study in Poland. **Ian McGinnity '11** conducted research on human rights, while **Meghanna Reddy '10** and **Jessica MacKay '09** studied the life and work of Czeslaw Milosz. In addition, the Gould Dunbar Fellows continue to assist with research for *The Letters of Robert Frost*, which will be published by Harvard University Press. The Gould Center has the following programs planned for the fall:

Renowned Chinese painter Gao ErTai will be a guest speaker at the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum on November 3. He recently published his memoir, *In Search of Homeland*, which describes in great detail his many years in a Chinese prison camp before his forced exile.

■ A student seminar that features poet William Merwin. He is the recipient of two Pulitzer Prizes, one for his recent book, *Under the Sign of Sirius*. He also was awarded the Bollingen Prize and the National Book Award.

■ A series of seminars based on faculty books. The first seminar will focus on the recent book of **James Morrison**, professor of literature and film, and his research about the films of Roman Polanski.

The Keck Center for International and Strategic Studies: The Keck Center welcomed **Minxin Pei P'11**, Tom and Margot Pritzker '72 Professor of Government and George R. Roberts Fellow, as its new director. This summer the Keck Center supported five student internships for international learning and work experience related to the student's career. In the fall, research fellowships will be available to CMC

students to participate in research activities under faculty supervision. In October the Center is hosting a panel discussion commemorating the 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China. This year's Freeman Foundation Visiting Scholar is Roderick MacFarquhar, Leroy B. Williams Professor of History and Political Science and former director of the John King Fairbank Center for East Asian Research at Harvard University. Also this academic year, the Keck Center will lead a translation project of the ground-breaking history of China's Great Leap Famine, which has been funded by the Open Society Institute and the National Endowment for Democracy.

The Kravis Leadership Institute: KLI carried out several successful programs for students over the summer and have a number of interesting initiatives this fall.

Step Up to Leadership Program: KLI sponsored the Step Up to Leadership Program from June 20-25. There were 64 participants from 10 states and 31 different high schools. Nine CMC students served as counselors for the program, cementing their own leadership skills by teaching the high school students.

Sophomore Leadership Program: Forty-nine students returned to Claremont McKenna College to start their sophomore year a few days early this year. In its third year of existence, the Kravis Leadership Institute's Sophomore Leadership Experience (SLE) attracted the largest number of student applicants to date. The program provides second year students a hands-on opportunity to explore their leadership knowledge, potential and skills in an off-campus mountain setting. From August 26-29, students discussed such topics as personality preferences, leadership styles, communication, personal values, stress and time management and personal mission statements at a mountain camp and conference center near Big Bear Lake.

Alumni Survey: Under the direction of **Susan Murphy**, associate professor of psychology and associate director at KLI, **Jennifer Reece '09** and **Gregg Hall '09** interviewed several alumni of the Leadership Sequence. The sequence examines leadership in a variety of settings and was designed to give students an understanding of leadership theory and leadership issues, as well as to develop their own leadership potential through critical thinking and practical experience. Now more than 250 students have completed the Leadership Sequence and are engaging in an array of activities across disciplines. The information from these initial interviews will inform the production of a larger survey of leadership sequence alumni.

Sarah Smith Orr, executive director of KLI, worked with the Institute's Advisory Board members on strategy and recruited six new members to the Board. Orientation for the new board members will be held on October 8 in New York.

KLI is planning for Leadership Day, which will be held November 2. Activities during the day will include an interactive workshop conducted by alumnus **Gregg Vanourek '92** and his father, **Bob Vanourek P'92**, on issues of ethics and integrity.

Research Institutes – Summer 2009 (continued)

The Lowe Institute of Political Economy: Over the summer, student interns worked to collect and analyze data for the new Inland Empire Public Policy initiative. On September 15, **Marc Weidenmier**, William F. Podlich Associate Professor of Economics and director of the Institute, gave a presentation at the UCLA Anderson School of Management on the economic conditions in the Inland Empire. The Lowe Institute will be partnering with The Rose and Berger Institutes on projects this year. In November, the first edition of the Inland Empire Economics and Public Policy Bulletin will be published in partnership with the Rose Institute. In the spring, the Berger and Lowe Institutes are sponsoring the first Annual Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics. The one day conference will feature papers from all areas of applied microeconomics. In addition to sponsoring speakers at the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum this semester, the Lowe Institute hosted a fall pizza luncheon in September. More than 60 students and faculty were in attendance.

The Roberts Environmental Center: This fall the Environment, Economics, and Politics (EEP) Clinic will analyze the sustainability initiatives and reporting of the top 50 liberal arts colleges and universities. Students will use this information to make recommendations to the CMC administration on how to match our sustainability activities with the work of our peer institutions. This information will be reported to the CMC Environmental Concerns Committee. The Roberts Environmental Center also will continue its corporate sustainability analysis, initially addressing the metals, mining, and crude oil production sectors.

The Rose Institute of State and Local Government: The Rose Institute released the 15th Annual *Kosmont-Rose Institute Cost of Doing Business Survey* in July. Also this summer the Rose Institute welcomed **Ken Miller**, associate professor of government, as its newest associate

director. In October they will host a conference, “Redistricting the 2010 Census, and Your Budget: Changes and Challenges of Local Governments,” which is co-sponsored by the League of California cities and the California State Association of Counties. Additional projects include:

- Partnering with the Lowe Institute to launch a newsletter analyzing economics and political developments in the Inland Empire,
- Completing a fiscal analysis for Riverside County,
- Working to expand the Rose Institute’s web presence by developing the Rose Report blog and enhancing the web site content and functionality,
- Working with the *Voice of San Diego* editors and reports to convert analysis of San Diego County Services into a series of articles,
- Preparing information for the 2010 *Kosmont-Rose Institute Cost of Doing Business Survey*.

The Salvatori Center for the Study of Individual Freedom in the Modern World: **George Thomas**, assistant professor of government, organized a conference, “Did the Bill of Rights Change the Constitution,” held in May. This is the first of a series of workshops that will examine constitutional and public policy issues. The Salvatori Center is also sponsoring several speakers at the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum: Richard Brookhiser, author and senior editor, *National Review*; and Hillel Fradkin, author and senior fellow and director, Center for Islam, Democracy, and the Future of Muslim World, Hudson Institute. The annual Leo Strauss Conference is scheduled for December 3-5 and is titled “Leo Strauss’ Classic Natural Right Teaching.”