

April 6, 2010

East St. Louis Action Research Project
Budget Report to College of Fine and Applied Arts

Accomplishments, Academic Year 2009-2010

During the past year, ESLARP has continued to its mission to support mutually beneficial partnerships between the University of Illinois community and organizations serving the residents of East St. Louis. Based on an ongoing strategic planning process, ESLARP leadership is evaluating its work in order to maintain its strengths in service-learning opportunities and engagement and to build its research capacity and outreach to the campus community.

Service-Learning and Engaged Learning Resource for UIUC Campus

ESLARP serves the university and college as an essential resource for civically-engaged student learning. ESLARP has taken a more active role in orienting the Outreach Weekends as service-learning opportunities, developing its own courses (FAA 291 and FAA 391), and facilitating courses from a range of disciplines to work in East St. Louis.

	TOTAL STUDENTS
Outreach Weekends (this includes students in 291 and some students from affiliated courses)	379
ESLARP Courses (291, 391)	158
ESLARP-affiliated courses in Departments (LA, ARCH, GSLIS	186

Three hundred and seventy nine (379) participated in ESLARP's 5 outreach weekend trips in 2009-10. The outreach weekend involves an over-night experience that includes an orientation, work with community partners, and lively discussions during meals and travel. Students worked with residents on a range of projects, included park and open-space clean-ups, surveying housing conditions in one neighborhood, assisting with the dedication ceremony of a shelter for homeless veterans, and building repairs at a soon-to-open shelter for women and families.

In academic year 2009-10, 134 students participated in FAA 291, *Civic Engagement in East St. Louis, Illinois*. This is a 1-credit course in which students attend an orientation meeting, participate in an Outreach Weekend, and complete a reflective exercise and discussion. During the fall semester, students represented a wide range of majors (Accounting, Architecture, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Speech and Hearing, and others) and ethnic/racial diversity, including 15% Black, 18% Asian, and 6% Hispanic students. Sang Lee, FAA 291's instructor and DURP Ph.D. student, was on the Incomplete List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students for Spring and Fall 2009.

ESLARP also offers a 3-credit course *Undergraduate Action Research Seminar*. Fall enrollment included 10 students from four departments and Spring enrollment included 14 students from 8 departments. This course is taught by Abbilyn Harmon, a Landscape Architecture Ph.D. student, who made the Directory of Lists of Teachers Ranked as Excellent in Spring and Fall 2009. This course is an option to fulfill requirements for the James Scholar Program.

In addition, there are departmental courses working with ESLARP and partners, including:

- Contemporary Housing and Neighborhood Environments (ARCH 576LD, Lynne Dearborn);
- Community Development Workshop (DURP 478, Ken Salo)
- Introduction to Networking Systems (LIS 451, Martin Wolske);
- Arch Design and Development in São Tomé (ARCH 472/476, Lynne Dearborn);
- São Tomé Community Engagement Design Studio (LA 336/438LL, Laura Lawson and Rebecca Ginsburg);
- Entrepreneurship and Recreation Enterprises (RST 218, Bruce Wicks);
- Special Problems (RST 393, Bruce Wicks)
- Landscapes, Commemoration and Trauma: Slavery Site (LA 390/590, Rebecca Ginsburg).

In summer 2009, ESLARP began collaboration with the College of Business Social Entrepreneur Institute (SEI) that involved 3 East St. Louis organizations participating in the SEI training program and a fieldtrip by SEI students to tour East St. Louis and work with the community partners in East St. Louis

ESLARP has continues to collaborate with the University's Leadership Center. Currently, two ESLARP alums are serving as coaches in the Imprint Program. ESLARP's FAA 391 is being considered a course to fulfill requirements for the Leadership Center minor.

Engagement, Service, and Applied Research

ESLARP has continued to provide technical assistance to our partnering organizations working to improve conditions in East St. Louis. Some of our recent efforts include (name in parentheses indicates key leadership on this project):

- Housing condition survey and predatory lending assessment in Olivette Park (Dearborn)
- Assistance with opening of a homeless shelter for veterans (ESLARP staff)
- Assistance with the development of a public health fair (Wicks)
- Organizing for the development of a community-based GIS data system (Wolske)
- Development of new mentorship program for young women interested in recreation and sports
- 29 community technology centers (McDowell)
- 20 youth in the Teen Tech program (Adams)
- Assistance in securing 2 Kaboom! Build Grants for new playgrounds (Wicks and ESLARP staff)
- Continued development of Pullman Porter Park, a community-maintained open space (Lawson)
- A range of design, construction, and renovation projects (ESLARP staff)
- Capacity building for struggling neighborhood organizations (ESLARP staff)

In addition, ESLARP has intensified its efforts to provide current and original research on issues of interest to community and university participants. In 2009-10, our research has included:

- "An Evaluation of K-12 Schools Data Project: East St. Louis School District." Report by Ivanete Maciente, doctoral student in the College of Education, directed by Lizanne Destefano.
- "A History of ESLARP." Report by Jane Tigan, Graduate Student in Urban and Regional Planning, directed by Laura Lawson and Stacy Harwood.
- "East St. Louis Food Security, a Working Document." Report by Janet Broughton, Graduate Student in Landscape Architecture, directed by Laura Lawson.

- Migration Analysis in the Metro East Area, conducted by REAL: Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (REAL) (<http://www.real.uiuc.edu>).

ESLARP has made a concerted effort to increase access to ongoing research and scholarship. Recently published or in-process peer-reviewed publications include:

- Lawson, Laura and Janni Sorensen. "When Overwhelming Effort Meets Underwhelming Prospects: Sustaining Community Open Space Activism in East St. Louis." *Insurgent Public Space*. Edited by Jeff Hou. New York: Routledge, expected publication April 2010.
- Montague, R.A., Larkee, B. & Wolske, M. 2009, "Service Learning from Three Perspectives: Administrative, Faculty, and Student." In *Service Learning: Linking Library Education and Practice*, eds. L. Roy, K. Jensen & A.H. Meyers, American Library Association, Chicago.
- Lawson, Laura, Lisa Spanierman, V. Paul Poteat, and Amanda Beer. "Best Place for Best Practice? The Challenge of Multicultural Learning in a Community-based Design Studio." In *Implementing Diversity: Contemporary Challenges and Best Practices at the University of Illinois and other Predominantly White Institutions*. Edited by Helen Neville, Margaret Hunt Browne and Jorge Chapa. Publisher to be determined.
- Lawson, Laura, Lisa Spanierman, V. Paul Poteat, Amanda Beer. "Is it Professional or Personal? Engagement, Race, and Reflection in the East St. Louis Community-based Design Studio." In *Erasing Boundaries – Supporting Communities: Service Learning in Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Planning Programs*. Edited by Cheryl Doble, Paula Horrigan, and Tom Angotti. Completed manuscript in review.
- Dearborn, L., "Action Research: Investigating, Reflecting, and Applying Service-Learning Experience in Professional Practice," In *Erasing Boundaries* (see above).

Outreach/Publicity

This year we have made a concerted effort to increase the visibility of ESLARP on campus, to community partners, to other universities, and to the general public. Our recent activities include:

- ESLARP received the *Larine Y. Cowan Make a Difference Award* during the 24th Annual Celebration of Diversity breakfast in November 2009. The College nominated ESLARP for this prestigious award.
- ESLARP videos on website: general information, information about how students can get involved, and information for faculty and scholars related to teaching and research opportunities.
- The ESLARP Lecture Series, in collaboration with the College of Business Social Entrepreneur Institute, brought 6 scholars and practitioners involved in civic engagement and socially responsible business.
- Presentations at multiple conferences, including the Association for Collegiate Schools of Architecture Administrator's Conference (Lawson, St. Louis, November 2009) and the Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities at Iowa State (Lawson, Oct. 1, 2009)

São Tomé and the Illinois Global Action Research Project

ESLARP's engagement in São Tomé and Príncipe has been steadily growing (see website: saotomeproject.prairienet.org). During winter break, ESLARP coordinated a short Study Abroad Program that brought 3 faculty and 7 students for a 2 ½ week fieldwork experience. This was directly linked to 3 interdisciplinary courses being offered in spring 2010: Arch Design and Development in São Tomé (ARCH 472/476, Lynne Dearborn); São Tomé Community Engagement Design Studio (LA

336/438LL, Laura Lawson and Rebecca Ginsburg); and Landscapes, Commemoration and Trauma: Slavery Site (LA 390/590, Rebecca Ginsburg and Laura Lawson). In spring, a representative of our partnering organization, StepUp, will come to campus to discuss opportunities to expand the projects. ESLARP is providing support to send 2 faculty and 1 student to São Tomé over the summer to complete work on a Sustainable Technology School.

Holcim Air Quality Grant

ESLARP is the process of finalizing negotiations for a 3-year, \$600,000 grant to monitor and facilitate community education related to air quality in the Metro-East and St. Louis areas. This grant grew out of a legal settlement from the Holcim Corporation. Partners include American Bottom Conservancy, Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Sierra Club, Webster Groves Nature Study Society. ESLARP will manage the funds and will hire staff (part-time project manager and full-time on-site community coordinator, with graduate assistants as needed), engage in outreach and citizen education efforts, support air quality monitoring projects, and provide related computer technological support.

Budget for 2010-11 and Impact of 10% Cut

In the coming year, ESLARP anticipates both opportunities and challenges in accomplishing its mission of community-university engagement and action research. While the budget continues to be a major limiting factor, ESLARP also faces the challenge of *increased* student interest and *decreased* faculty engagement. Given our current structure as a project within FAA, this means great opportunities to expand student learning and courses but also challenges related to leadership and supervision of students and research. Also, while our community partners still need technical assistance and hands-on service, they are also interested in learning from faculty and student research (particularly related to education, healthy, economic development, and community engagement/history) that can lead to new directions of activism and efforts to acquire external funding. Over the past two years, ESLARP leadership has been developing strategies to increase campus awareness and engagement, primarily through our courses, the lecture series, campus presentations, and facilitating original research to provide base-line information that will support further research by faculty and graduate students. We need to also focus on our community partners' changing needs and begin fostering relationships with new organizations as well.

To address the 10% budget reduction, we have prioritized our service-learning role because this area has the greatest impact on student learning and outreach to the college and campus. Unfortunately, very little funding is left beyond administrative costs, course support, and outreach weekend expenses. We want to maintain the level of participation in our outreach weekend at 350 students per year. We foresee the same enrollment levels for 291 (80 per semester) and hope to boost student enrollment in 391 (up from an average of 12 students / semester to 15 students / semester). We will continue to actively encourage ESLARP-affiliated courses from any department on campus interested in engaged service-learning, and will facilitate this engagement through the outreach weekend format.

Keeping our two staff members is necessary to coordinate campus and community efforts. Billie Turner plays an essential role by staying connected with our community partners in East St. Louis, organizing and leading tours requested by faculty on campus as well as from other institutions, and leading an effort to collaborate with engagement programs at Washington University, St. Louis University, SIUE, and

other regional universities. Vicki Eddings is equally essential to keep the campus-side of ESLARP running, including financial management course support, facilitation of travel arrangements (São Tomé and East St. Lous), website maintenance, and a range of other responsibilities. Given the many demands on faculty who are active with ESLARP but have responsibilities to their home departments, it is critical to have a campus office. Given the budget situation, we do not propose salary increases.

With the remaining funds, we intend to continue our commitment to the Global Action Research Project in São Tomé , though at a lower level of support. Continued investment is important because we have started projects that require more time to come to fruition, particularly the Sustainable Technology School, computer labs, and design projects. Also, we have identified new project areas – a GIS-based land use assessment and visiting artist program – that will potentially attract new faculty to the project. While the São Tomé Project has been able to garner other sources of support, some of these are also in jeopardy as a result of the campus budget reductions. Until the situation is more clearly understood, ESLARP can maintain a base level of engagement that could bridge the project until other funds are acquired.

<i>Revenues (approximate)</i>	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Totals
ESLARP (recurring and non-recurring)	\$ 13,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 14,000	proposed \$6000	\$ 47,000
GSLIS - Prairienet, Gant, LAMP/Smith	\$ 18,700	\$ 9,000	\$ 12,600			\$ 40,300
CII and CII seed funds (GSLIS)		\$ 15,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 9,500	grant applic.	\$ 25,500
Ryerson Funds (ARCH)	\$ 9,200					\$ 9,200
Wadsworth funds (LA)				\$ 6,000		\$ 6,000
Academy Entrepreneur Leadership		\$ 5,000				\$ 5,000
UI Chancellor			\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000
International Studies			\$ 2,000			\$ 2,000
WAC Research Grant			\$ 500			\$ 500
Sao Tome Government	\$ 4,000					\$ 4,000
One Laptop Per Child			\$ 30,000			\$ 30,000
NCSA			\$ 2,000			\$ 2,000
US Navy	\$ 10,000					\$ 10,000
individual contribution	\$ 2,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 2,200			\$ 9,200
Student contribution	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,700	\$ 2,000	\$ 10,500		\$ 21,700
	\$ 61,900	\$ 48,200	\$ 72,300	\$ 40,000		\$ 222,400

Several initiatives that we have started are in jeopardy as a result of the budget cuts. The most critical unmet need is research support, both to support new faculty getting involved in action research through ESLARP and to support ongoing research efforts. Much of ESLARP’s success lies in its committed Research Assistants who work closely with faculty and community partners to help realize a range of projects. In addition to focused projects, all RAs also assist in on-site supervision during the outreach weekends; without them we will have to limit the number of projects and students. Right now, we have 4 projects underway that need research assistants:

Shoulder’s Project

A critical way to engage new faculty in ESLARP is through research support, primarily through provision of RAs and TAS. For instance, this spring semester (S2010), ESLARP began a project with Assistant Professor Jacqueline McDowell in Recreation, Sports, Tourism to develop a mentorship program. Tentatively named Shoulders, the concept is to develop a mentorship program in which NCAA professional women would mentor female university students interested in recreation and sports careers, who would then mentor young women and teens in East St. Louis also interested in careers in

this area. This project partners with the Jackie Joyner Kersee Center in East St. Louis. Funding for her project includes an RA through summer and we would like to continue this RA support through the next academic year, with the expectation that the first round of mentorship relationships would begin in fall 2010.

Technical Support: GIS / Community-based GIS.

ESLARP has played an essential role in maintaining GIS data for the East St. Louis area and is regularly contacted by scholars/students on campus and from other institutions for access to this data. We need to update this material for use in research and as part of the community-based GIS system being developed by community partners in East St. Louis. We would like to hire an RA to work on this. We have several students from DURP interested in this position. This RA would also continue to foster collaborative opportunities between GSLIS and ESLARP.

Community Food Security / Community Liaison

This past year, an RA from Landscape Architecture began a proposed 2-year research project to look at food security issues in the East St. Louis area, under the direction of Laura Lawson. Year 1 involved collecting data and assessment tools and developing an initial report. In Year 2, the intention was to hold several focus groups and begin interviews with residents to finesse the data and to begin developing a strategy for increased food security. This RA would also assist in general community outreach by attending community organization meetings and outreach weekends.

ESLARP Evaluation and Publication.

For the past year, ESLARP has been conducting research on its own evolution as part of a proposed scholarly publication that would examine ESLARP's 22 years of engagement and action research. We foresee development of an edited book that would include this historical account, case studies of East St. Louis partnerships and projects, and theoretical and critical essays by faculty. We would like to hire an RA through summer and AY 11 to continue this work.

Due to the budget reduction, we do not feel we can sustain the lecture series.

One other implications of the budget reduction is removal of technology upgrades and miscellaneous operating expenses. This is a short-term solution that will inevitably produce a need for upgrades in the coming years.

ESLARP Budget Implications			
FY 10 Budget (current)		FY 11 Draft Budget (with 10% or \$18,000 cut)	
EXPENSE	BUDGET	EXPENSE	BUDGET
Administration (General operating expenses)		Administration (General operating expenses)	
Personnel <i>Administrative Coordinator/ Community Liaison</i>	82,498	Personnel <i>Administrative Coordinator/ Community Liaison</i>	82,498
Personnel expenses <i>Director (1 month summer)</i>	7,200	Personnel expenses <i>Director (1 month summer)</i>	7,200
Printing	1,000	Printing	1,000
Office Supplies/Materials	1,300	Office Supplies/Materials	1,300
Telecom (on/off campus)	4,000	Telecom (on/off campus)	4,000
Travel/conferences/Cont Ed	5,000	Travel/conferences/Cont Ed	5,000
Technology	3,000	Total Admin	100,998
Lecture series	5,000		
Other/Misc	2,000		
Total Admin	110,998		
Student Learning		Student learning	
Personnel <i>weekend coordinator/ FAA291,391 Instructors</i>	20,630	Personnel <i>weekend coordinator (25%/ FAA291 instructor (25%) ,391 Instructors(33%)</i>	22,974
Travel/Supplies/Materials (440 students)	40,417	Travel/Supplies/Materials (350 students)	31,850
Total Student Learning	61,047	Total Student Learning	54,824
Global Action Research		Global Action Research	
Sao Tome	8,000	Sao Tome	6,000
Total GAR (travel, coursework, etc., admin)	8,000	Total GAR	6,000
Total	180,045	Total	161,822
			162,045
Less 4.5% returned to College	8,102	No increase in salaries	
Remaining balance	171,943	Remove technology upgrades and misc. operating expenses	
		Limited RA involvement / research support	
		lecture series cancelled	

Needs beyond Recurring funds	
Research project	Amount
New faculty research: Shoulders Mentorship Program / RA 25%	\$6,920
ESLARP technology support / RA 25%	6,920
Food Security / Community Liaison RA 25%	6,920
ESLARP evaluation / publication RA 25%	6,920
Total	27,680