



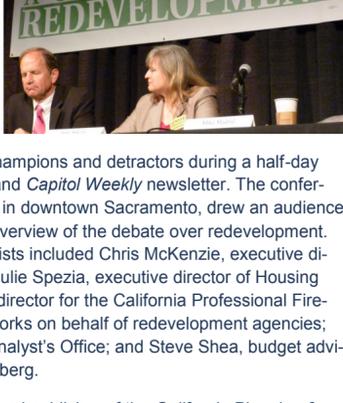
CENTER of the CAPITAL

<http://luccs.ucdavis.edu>

April 2011

REDEVELOPMENT WEEKLY HEATS UP UC CENTER, CAPITOL WEEKLY CONFERENCE

The president of the National League of Cities, Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge, gave an impassioned plea to save redevelopment agencies from the fiscal axe wielded by Gov. Jerry Brown, citing the economic stimulus provided by redevelopment. Assm. Chris Norby (R-Brea) characterized those same agencies a scandalous drain on state resources that otherwise could fund schools and social programs.



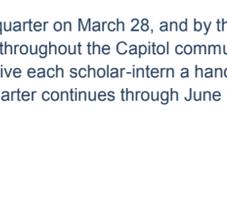
Those opposing views, echoed by participants on two panels, identified the demarcation line between redevelopment champions and detractors during a half-day conference co-sponsored by UC Center and *Capitol Weekly* newsletter. The conference, held March 24 at the Crest Theater in downtown Sacramento, drew an audience of more than 100 and provided a strong overview of the debate over redevelopment. In addition to Loveridge and Norby, panelists included Chris McKenzie, executive director of the California League of Cities; Julie Spezia, executive director of Housing California; Carroll Wills, communications director for the California Professional Firefighters; Mike Madrid, a consultant who works on behalf of redevelopment agencies; Marianne O'Malley from the Legislative Analyst's Office; and Steve Shea, budget advisor to Senate Pres. pro Tem Darrell Steinberg.

Ventura Mayor William Fulton, an author and publisher of the *California Planning & Development Report*, delivered a keynote speech over lunch. Fulton's pointed message to fellow city officials: get ready for the end of redevelopment as you've known it. The panels were moderated by *Los Angeles Times* reporter Anthony York and KQED Radio reporter John Myers.

The conference marked the second half-day event co-sponsored by the Center and *Weekly*. Last November, the two paired up for an election post-mortem, also held at the Crest. Additional conferences are being discussed for summer.

Register for public seminars online

Those interested in attending public seminars at UC Center may now register for events online at <http://luccs.ucdavis.edu/events>. Online registration will be available seven days prior to each seminar. April events are listed in the calendar below.



SPRING QUARTER

Spring Internships Reflect UCSS' Reach

Fourteen UCSS scholar-interns began the spring quarter on March 28, and by the middle of that week, all were placed in internships throughout the Capitol community. The internships reflect student interests and give each scholar-intern a hands-on opportunity to pursue those interests. Spring quarter continues through June 9.

Chelsey Anderson, UC Riverside
Interest: prison reform
Internship: California Prison Health Care Services

Carlos Barba, UC Santa Cruz
Interest: environmental and social justice
Internship: Assm. Luis Alejo (D-Watsonville)

Daisy Chavez, UC San Diego
Interest: education and local government
Internship: Assm. Roger Dickinson (D-Sacramento)

Katelyn Cowan, UC Riverside
Interest: K-12 education
Internship: Dept. of Education legislative office

Dee Hamby, UC Santa Barbara
Interest: women and family
Internship: National Organization of Women

Tania Herrera, UC San Diego
Interest: K-12 education
Internship: Assembly Education Committee

Ali Huda, UC Davis
Interest: hate crimes, immigration
Internship: Assm. Tony Mendoza (D-Artesia)

Israel Landa, UC Riverside
Interest: regional and community development
Internship: Assm. Norma Torres (D-Chino)

Kevin Navarro, UC Davis, Political Science
Interest: natural resources and alternative energy
Internship: Assm. Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael)

Sarah Palmer, UC Davis
Interest: social justice
Internship: Western Center on Law & Poverty

Christina Robinson, UC Davis
Interest: education administration
Internship: School Innovations & Advocacy

Anthony Seto, UC Irvine
Interest: local government
Internship: Assm. Chris Norby (R-Brea)

Joseph Steinberger, UC San Diego
Interest: journalism
Internship: Natural Resources Agency, communications office

Raymond Tan, UC Davis
Interest: law
Internship: Sacramento County Public Defender

TIDBITS

New York Times OP-ED QUESTIONS UNPAID INTERNSHIPS

Ross Perlin doesn't think much of unpaid internships. In a Sunday, April 3, 2011, opinion piece in *The New York Times*, Perlin argues that unpaid internships have become an unseemly source of revenue for some institutions of higher learning, and a route by which for-profit companies skirt "a nebulous area of labor law."

You can find Perlin's piece [here](#).

A researcher at the Himalayan Languages Project in southwest China and the author of a forthcoming book on internships, Perlin accuses colleges and universities of becoming "cheerleaders and enablers of the unpaid internship boom" and of failing to tell students that they have rights or to protect them from unscrupulous employers. He accuses universities of being "blind to the realities of work in contemporary America."

As Perlin sees it, federal labor laws allow unpaid internships at for-profit companies, among other criteria, only if the work benefits the student and provides "no immediate advantage" to the company from the student's work. He also points out that "academic credit alone does not guarantee that [an] employer is in compliance" with the law.

The overall concern is that for-profit companies exploit free student labor. More significant, however, Perlin argues that some colleges and universities "have made academic credit a commodity," essentially by selling internship credits or, worse, charging students for the privilege of working for free. He cites NYU and the Univ. of Pennsylvania as having charged students for internships, examples gleaned from newspapers. Neither institution was given space in the article to explain or respond. He accuses other, unnamed universities of issuing "0.0 credit" for internships to get around requirements that unpaid interns work for academic credit.

Both elements of UC Center's academic program — public policy and journalism — send students into the Capitol community as unpaid interns who work for academic credit. Most of those students, especially in the policy program, are placed with government agencies or non-profit associations. Few work in for-profit companies. Not so journalism. With the exception of National Public Radio outlets and a few non-profit newsletters, most journalism students work for media organizations that are for-profit.

Still, UCSS seems to fall into the category of programs that Perlin concedes "might be justifiable in some cases — if the college plays a central role in securing the internship and making it a substantive academic experience." UC Center staff do play a central role in placements, and internships are geared to the specific interests of students. In addition, UCSS internship credits are issued as part of a class (POL 192), not as a stand-alone divorced from academic rigor. Fees are charged for the class, not for the internship. Finally, UCSS staff closely monitors internships throughout the quarter.

In the end, Perlin condemns unpaid internships with a broad brush, dismissing the value of experiential programs and suggesting that institutions of higher learning ought to "discourage internship requirements for graduation." Abuse and exploitation do occur in some programs. But the insinuation that all unpaid internship programs exploit students and are therefore corrupt and without value is undercut at UCSS by hundreds of glowing evaluations from students who completed the Center's programs.

APPLY NOW FOR SUMMER AND FALL 2011

Journalism Program Dates: June 20– August 26
Application Deadline: April 15, 2011

More information about journalism can be found [here](#) or contact Program Director A.G. Block [here](#).

April 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3	4 POL 192	5	6	7 POL 195 Public Seminar: David Kirp UCB Noon-1:30	8	9
10	11 POL 192	12	13	14 POL 195 Public Seminar: Laura Abrams UCLA Noon-1:30	15	16
17	18 POL 192	19	20	21 POL 195	22	23
24	25 POL 192	26	27	28 POL 195 Public Seminar: Gordon Hanson UCSD Noon-1:30	29	30

Summer 2011 Deadline Ahead

Deadline for applying for the 2011 summer session is April 15, 2011. More information may be found on the UCSS website at <http://luccs.ucdavis.edu>.

Questions or comments? Or if you'd like your name added or removed from our email list, please email editor A.G. Block at agblock@ucdavis.edu.

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