

# Footnotes...

FIRST QUARTER 2005

## In the works . . .

*Featured below are several of the Forum's current regional projects and the researchers leading those efforts.*

### *Economic development*

Over the next eight months, the Forum will produce three reports on economic development in the region and how it has changed from 1993-2003. The first report, which will come out in spring, will compare the country's 50 largest regions, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, in terms of how much federal aid they receive. Such aid could include small business loans, contracts for businesses, infrastructure spending, jobs creation, etc. For purposes of this first report, the Milwaukee region is defined as Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, Waukesha, and Racine counties. The federal government includes Kenosha County in the Chicago region and Walworth County is not considered part of any region. Researcher Ryan Horton says the Forum began with 345,000 lines of data that included federal programs for every county in the country. Helen Bader Foundation is providing funding for the study.



Horton

### *Income migration*

As part of the Forum's regionalism project, a study analyzing the growing gap in the average incomes of people moving into and out of the region will be out this spring. For this study, the region will include the seven counties of southeastern Wisconsin. According to Anneliese Dickman, the



Dickman

Forum's senior researcher, personal income probably is the best indicator of a region's health. "The total number of tax filers in the region has remained level over the last decade, but the region is losing an increasing amount of income," she says.

### *Property values*

Another regionalism project coming out soon will be the annual property value and tax-rate reports. The property value report will be first, covering residential, commercial, manufacturing, and agricultural values – overall and per capita – for each of the 147 municipalities in the seven counties of southeastern Wisconsin. The municipalities also will be ranked according to growth rates. Researcher Jeff Schmidt says property value growth for the region was 8.9%, the highest since 1994, when the Forum began doing the study. He also says that even though agricultural land makes up almost 47% of the region, it accounts for only 0.09% of the region's tax base.



Schmidt

**NOTE: The Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Helen Bader Foundation, the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, and the Richard and Ethel Herzfeld Foundation provide funding for regionalism projects.**

## In the news . . .

The Forum's reports on TIF and land use drew significant media attention. Check the website, [www.publicpolicyforum.org](http://www.publicpolicyforum.org), to see just how much. The suggestion in the TIF report that perhaps Milwaukee lags behind other metro areas, like Chicago and Minneapolis-St. Paul, in economic development because of its stingy use of TIF created lots of discussion as did a headline in the *Journal Sentinel* about the land use study that 73% of the region's land is still undeveloped. Some people read into both that the Forum is advocating sprawl. "The Forum advocates for accurate and objective research, and accountable government," says Forum President Jeff Browne.

### **Footnotes**, a quarterly newsletter for members

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### **2004 annual report now available**

The Forum's redesigned, easy-to-read annual report now is available, and it includes more information than ever before. For instance, you can now find out who's on the board of trustees, who's a member, who's on the staff, and how to become a member. "It's part of the Forum's new look and will act as our 'calling card,'" says Forum Communications Director Jerry Slaske.

## See you there . . .

### Midwestern Telecommunications and Technology Conference

**Tuesday, April 12**

Marquette University Alumni Memorial Union  
Milwaukee

The Forum joins Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, Marquette University, and Pabst Farms in presenting the latest trends in private and public sector telecommunications. Speakers will include a commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission and the Washington, D.C. bureau chief of RCR Wireless News.

### Water resource management symposium

**Wednesday, April 27**

Embassy Suites Hotel  
Brookfield

The Forum is partnering with the Waukesha County Chamber of Commerce. Morning panel discussions on water science and water policy will be followed by lunch. Guest speakers to include SEWRPC's Bob Biebel, special projects environmental engineer, and UWM Professor Doug Cherkauer, geologist and expert on Great Lakes water usage.

### "Salute to Local Government"

**Thursday, June 23**

Italian Community Center  
Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward

Annual awards presentation honoring those individuals and programs providing the best in innovative governmental services. Award nomination forms are available at [www.publicpolicyforum.org](http://www.publicpolicyforum.org).

Check the Forum's Web site for more information about all upcoming events. ➤

## Moving the Forum forward . . .

Voice mail has arrived at the Forum. You'll still get a "live" person when you call, but during those times when the staff is unavailable or during off-hours, you'll now be able to leave a message directly with the person you need to reach. Keep those calls and voice-mails coming. ➤

### *Welcome to the following new members and trustees*

#### *Members (2004 and thus far in 2005) . . .*

Bay Ridge Consulting	National Business Furniture
Beth Foy & Associates	Bruce O'Neill
Daniel J. Diliberti	Priscilla O'Neill
Roger G. Dirksen	Park Bank
Griffin, Kubik, Stephens & Thompson, Inc.	Michael J. Serpe
William I. Jenkins	SysLogic, Inc.
Paul Meissner	Wisconsin Physicians Service

#### *Trustees . . .*

Edmund Henschel <i>Virchow Krause &amp; Co.</i>	Kim Marotta <i>Miller Brewing Company</i>
Christopher Jaekels <i>Cook &amp; Franke</i>	Richard Smith <i>R.A. Smith &amp; Associates, Inc.</i>
Suzanne Kelley <i>GE</i>	Mary Lou Young <i>Rockwell Automation</i>

### *Forum develops regional cooperation presentation*

"It isn't 'Million Dollar Baby,' but it will help enhance our message of regional cooperation," says Forum President Jeff Browne. In recent speeches at the Milwaukee Center for Independence and at a Racine/Kenosha government consortium meeting, Browne unveiled the Forum's new Powerpoint presentation on the "state" of the region. ➤

### *Taking choice education to the next level*

Anneliese Dickman participated in a panel discussion at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) to provide insights into how lessons learned about choice schools might be applied at the higher education level. The university's

Legislative Issues Committee of Student Government invited Dickman to speak at the February symposium, "Privatization of Public Higher Education." Her message was that accountability is the key to workable privatization at any level of education and that the subtle mechanism of accreditation may not be enough. About 100 students, faculty, and residents attended the discussion on campus. ➤

### *Research elsewhere . . .*

Boston-based Initiative for a Competitive Inner City, which fostered the Initiative for a Competitive Milwaukee now administered by the Greater Milwaukee Committee, says that retail spending in densely populated urban areas is \$25 million per square mile, versus \$3 million in metro areas. ➤