Learning about disabilities fosters acceptance

By Sharita Forrest
Education/Work Social Work Editor

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in kindergartners who listen to stories about their similarities with children who have disabilities and engage in activities with peers who have special needs are more socially accepting, develop better communication skills and are less likely to engage in bullying behaviors, according to a new study by two special education professors.

The study by Michelle Ostrosky, of the UI, and Patricia C. Favazza, of Rhode Island. Three days a week for six weeks teachers read their students stories about children with disabilities as part of the Special Friends curriculum. The readings were followed by teacher-lead guided discussions about the concepts presented in the stories. Each week, the children also selected one of the books that had been read to them and its related discussion questions to take home to read and discuss with family members.

The 18 stories and discussions focused on the similarities shared by all children – regardless of ability, such as a taste for ice cream and the joy they find in playing with their pets, Ostrosky said.

The children also engaged in 15-minute hands-on activities in cooperative learning groups that comprised at least one student with special needs and four typically developing peers. The groups were consistent for the six weeks of the intervention.

Children in a contact control group participated in similar activities; however, their intervention supported science language and literacy rather than focusing on diverse abilities and inclusiveness. Sixteen classrooms participated in the science intervention and 16 classrooms participated in the Special Friends intervention.

At the beginning and the end of the program, children were asked about their relationships with peers who had special needs, and their attitudes toward their peers with disabilities were assessed using the 18-item Acceptance Scale for Kindergarten created by Favazza and Samuel Odom, the director of the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute and a professor in the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The teachers and the researchers also assessed each child’s social skills and problem behaviors and observed children’s interactions while playing in the cooperative learning groups.

Preliminary findings indicate that by the end of the six-week program, children with disabilities in the Special Friends classrooms showed significant improvements in cooperativeness, responsibility and social control and significant decreases in their levels of hyperactivity/attention, according to teachers’ assessments.

Along with significant improvements in the skills above, typically developing children also exhibited greater assertiveness and empathy and were less likely to exhibit bullying behaviors toward their classmates.

Teachers did not perceive the children with disabilities in the science intervention as having undergone any of the positive changes observed in the Special Friends classrooms. Children in the science intervention also engaged in significantly more cooperative behavior.

By Dusty Rhodes

Arts and Humanities Editor

T

he creators of the new musical "1787: We the People" don’t mind if audiences compare this homegrown original to “1776,” a 1969 Broadway hit. In fact, executive co-producer Lucinda Lawrence says the new show, about the Constitutional Convention, will be thought of as the sequel to the show that inspired it — the musical version of the drafting and ratification of the Declaration of Independence.

“Oh yes, unabashedly so,” she said.

Lawrence, who is librarian and logistics coordinator for the UI bands, composed the music for "1787," which will have its premiere run June 30 through July 3 at the Virginia Theatre in Champaign. Robert Picklesimer wrote the book and lyrics.

Lawrence and Picklesimer met in 2005, when Picklesimer – founder of Creative Dramatics Workshop, in Sidney, Ill. — called the university looking for someone to "orchestrate" his musical. The call was eventually routed to Lawrence, because she teaches a course in arranging music for band.

Although she initially tried to refer him to someone else, Lawrence soon realized that, having both a bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music composition from UI, she could tackle Picklesimer’s project herself.

“The subject matter is the Constitution, about which I am passionate,” she said.

Picklesimer spent years researching the convention and the events leading to it.

Story time Graduate student Emily Paulsen reads stories to kindergarteners about their similarities with children who have disabilities.

Condensing such a span of history into an evening’s entertainment required extensive editing, and Lawrence is keeping tabs on the final phase of that task.

“Among my jobs in this collaborative work is, I am the keeper of the time budget,” she said. “For example, Bob said he could do an entire show just on the ratification, because it was a two-year process. We have ratification down to one scene.”

Picklesimer tapped another UI employee, Jeff Goldberg, as administrative producer for the show. Goldberg, who earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Illinois (the latter in public administration), is the coordinator of staff.

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

S

ate officials continue to volley with employee health insurance, though the court they’re playing on keeps changing.

The Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability on June 14 became the latest state committee to weigh in on the ongoing and confusing saga, granting the state’s Department of Healthcare and Family Services permission to enter into emergency 90-day contracts while challenges by Health Alliance and Humana EMOs work their way through court.

The impacted issues became more so last week after a Sangamon County judge stopped enrollment in the two replacement plans, PersonalCare and HealthLink open access plans.

Though COGFA’s response created the June 17 Benefits Choice deadline has ended.

This Issue

Choicer 2012

- 90-day health insurance contracts to be announced
- Learning about disabilities fosters acceptance
- Staff, students featured in historical musical
- 1787: We the People
- How did you miss that?
- Prairie Research Institute

On the Web
www.news.illinois.edu/iil
President Hogan: Salary increase possible for UI employees

By Sonya Booth

The administration is moving forward on several methods to help better utilize building space and have them rent out to other groups for special events. The administration states that a thoughtful approach to leasing activity, in keeping with the goals of the new strategic plan, would soon be completed to include electronic instructional media systems.

The campus must have classrooms equipped for the kinds of instructional demands and available technology," EASTER and WHEELER said.

The administration said progress was being made in identifying and using available space, and that 60 percent of the campus was currently used. If the campus were to be completely utilized, it would mean that approximately 15 percent of the campus would be available to be rented by outside groups.

The administration said that the project team recommendation to reduce and eventually eliminate off-campus leasing space at a later date was made in response to "our support for a more thoughtful approach to leasing activity, including requiring a full examination of the feasibility of on-campus space before allowing off-campus leases."
Small change makes a big difference for ion channels

By Liz Ahlberg

Using a high-resolution single-molecule study technique, UI researchers have shown subtle differences between two branches of an important family of neurotransmitter-gated ion channels.

Professor Daniel Simons and research scientist Gisela Cymes used a high-resolution single-molecule study technique to see the very subtle differences between two branches of an important family of neurotransmitter-gated ion channels.

The overall structure is the same. So, the question is, what is the reason for the different function: One mediates inhibition by channeling positively charged cations, while the other mediates excitation by channeling anions, or negatively charged ions, the building blocks of proteins. Both differences in their sequence of amino acids explain, and it can be difficult for researchers to determine whether a particular amino acid has accepted or lost a proton to become charged.

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The charge of amino acid residues is a fundamental aspect of protein function and structure. In order to model protein function computationally, researchers have to assign a charge to each residue, so they rely on the basic residues are always positively charged. However, proteins offer a much more complex environment, and we can start understanding things that we would not have thought of before.

The charge of amino acid residues is a fundamental aspect of protein function and structure. In order to model protein function computationally, researchers have to assign a charge to each residue, so they rely on the basic residues are always positively charged. However, proteins offer a much more complex environment, and we can start understanding things that we would not have thought of before.

Instead of the lysine or arginine to gain a positive charge, the basic residues appear to have the expected positive charge. However, in the cation-selective channels, the lysine or arginine seems to be tucked into the protein structure so that it cannot accept a proton from the surrounding environment and instead remains neutral. This allows cation-selective channels to keep the basic residues in their sequential place without having to substitute them with other amino acids.

These channels are the subject of a lot of computational studies because, if researchers had to model these channels, they would always run the simulation with all the ionizable residues charged, and the simulation would come out wrong.

“With small tweaks, changing the position of the amino acid changes its properties: a lysine to be protonated or deprotonated is a big difference. It’s not trivial,” Grosman said.

“Overall, we want to emphasize the notion that the properties actually look like amino acids depend strongly on their particular microenvironment in the whole protein,” Grosman added.

Next, they plan to use the patch-clamp technique to further investigate the amino acid changes that could provide a greater understanding of how this class of proteins regulates inhibition and excitation.

“This approach has opened a window into what properties actually look like. It’s a great opportunity. We could find to see the charge state of a very subtle shift in the middle of the scene, faced the camera, touched his chest and then walked off screen. When study subjects were asked to count the number of passes by players wearing white and ignore those of players in black, half of them did not notice the gorilla.

In a new study, UI researcher Daniel Simons and colleagues at Union College tested the claims of a Boston police officer who said he ran past a brutal police beating without seeing it.

By Diana Yates

In a new study, researchers tested the claims of a Boston police officer who said he ran past a brutal police beating without seeing it. After re-creating some of the conditions of the original incident and testing the perceptions of college students who ran past a staged fight, the researchers found the officer’s story plausible.

The study appears in the peer-reviewed open access journal i-Perception.

Psychology professor Christopher Chabris (Union College) and Daniel Simons (UI) often explore the limits of visual attention – in particular how people regularly fail to spot the obvious. Their most famous experiment involved a video of a “gorilla” walking through a group of people passing basketballs. The unexpected gorilla stopped walking in the middle of the scene, faced the camera, touched his chest and then walked off screen.

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In a new study, UI researcher Daniel Simons and colleagues at Union College tested the claims of a Boston police officer who said he ran past a brutal police beating without seeing it.

“We can’t say with certainty that Conley didn’t see the fight,” Simons said. “But the study shows that even under less demanding conditions, the properties of the gorilla experienced, it’s possible to miss something as obvious as a fight.”

Former Boston Globe reporter Dick Lehr, who followed the police brutality case over many years and wrote about it in a 2009 book, “The Fence,” said the new study “furthers the conclusion I eventually reached regarding Kenny Conley not seeing anything,” he said. “I think people generally have no idea how much we don’t see and perceive.”

Had the jurors on the Conley case seen this study, they “would have had the benefit of the kinds of simulations that are now standard of care,” said Lehr, who now is a professor of journalism at Boston University. “They would have had ample reason to doubt about whether or not Conley knew the beating.”

Simons is an affiliate of the Beckman Institute at Urbana–Champaign.

ON THE WEB

"Invisible Gorilla":
http://www.theinvisiblegorilla.com/

"The Fence":
http://diecklehr.com/default.aspx

The project is supported by a grant from the NIH.

ON THE WEB

"Invisible Gorilla":
http://www.theinvisiblegorilla.com/

"The Fence":
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Prairie Research Institute is ‘thriving,’ director says

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

The UI is making itself known among Illinois’ highest profile public projects thanks to the newly renamed Prairie Research Institute.

The institute’s reach extends as far south as St. Louis, where a massive bridge project envisions the middle of a North American prehistoric settlement – possibly the first proof of urbanization prior to European discovery.

It goes as far north as Chicago, where the Asian carp dilemma threatens the Great Lakes’ top-tier viability of Lake Michigan.

And it’s in Decatur at one of the oldest of Illinois’ projects – part of a $200 million U.S. Department of Energy test program that could usher in an era of practically reduced airborne emissions.


“As the institute, we’ve always worked in (public and private) projects. We’ve always had a certain brand of curiosity,” Shilts said. “I think that curiosity and that drive wouldn’t be an easy transition.”

Calling the UI home has inspired the surveys to closer integration, leading to greater collaboration, efficiencies, communication and research direction – even the face of budgetary challenges.

“IT’s an idea that has been discussed off and on for the past several years. And it’s a long list considering the advantages the institute brings the surveys,” Shilts said. “It adds visibility, and the surveys bring a certain brand to the university.”

“We’ve always had high student involvement and produce for them real-world job opportunities,” he said. “Many of them already do their graduate degrees through the surveys.

“The old name wasn’t appropriate anymore” with last year’s additions to the archaeology component, he said.

He said the university would continue benefiting from the public and private partnerships the surveys had developed over the years. And it’s a long list considering the state’s geological and natural history surveys were first commissioned in the 1850s, just as Illinois was developing as a new state.

The four surveys also annually provide summer fieldwork jobs for as many as 400 students.

Shilts said the surveys are different from other university units in that they have statutory responsibilities.

“arize is at the core of the institute’s mission, academic leaders continue to identify areas of instructional and research overlap that can be applied to other disciplines,” Shilts said.

“Resources are important, but development is important, too,” Shilts said. “We try to head off problems before they become problems that could endanger a project.”

He said developers trust the surveys to supply unbiased information to avoid those project “show-stoppers.” Tax incentives and other initiatives have made developers more interested in long-term sustainability, he added, and the surveys bring the Institute closer to campus academic units.

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“We go out and interact with the private sector a lot more than we used to,” Shilts said. “We’ve always worked in (public and private) projects. We’ve always gone in too many different directions.”

The St. Louis Project has led to profound discovery – nearly 400 intact Mississippian homes buried below the current city foot- print, and in the shadow of the bet- ter known Cahokia Mounds site.

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Rogers receives $500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize

By Liz Ahlweg
Science Policy Editor

John A. Rogers, the Lee J. Florý-Founder Chair in Engineering at the UI, has been named a co-recipient of the 2011 Lemelson-MIT Prize.

The annual award recognizes outstanding inventors and Rogers will accept the $500,000 prize – one of the world’s largest cash awards for inventors – and present his accomplishments to the public at a ceremony during the Lemelson-MIT program’s annual EurekaFest at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology this June 15-18.

Rogers is probably one of the most prolific inventors, and his wife, Doro- thy, founded the Lemelson-MIT Program at MIT in 1994. It is funded by The Lemelson Foundation, a private philanthropy that supports, sparks and sustains innovation and the inventive spirit. It supports projects that bridge discovery to be completed by nurturing innovators and unleashing invention to advance economic, social and environmen- tally sustainable development.

Rogers combines soft, stretchable materials with micro- and nanoscale electronic components to create classes of devices with a wide range of practical applications. His recent work has produced devices from tiny eye-like cameras to less-invasive surgical tools to bio- sensors and tactile sensors.

“Issues of energy and hazardous waste projects,” he said. “Our stock in trade is unbiased advice.”

He said Rogers is an entrepreneur. He is co-founder and director of the device companies MC10 Inc. and Semiris Inc., both of which work to apply and commercialize technology he invented previously. Previously, he co-founded a successful company, Active Impulse Sys- tems Inc., that commercialized his pico- waveform technology.

The Lemelson-MIT Prize:
http://web.mit.edu/invent/a-prize.html

EurekaFest: www.eurekafest2011.org

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The son of a psychologist and a poet, Rogers earned his doctorate in physics from MIT in 1995. After joining the Illi- nois faculty in January 2003, he has distin- guished himself as a leader in the field of biological fluidics, fundamental science to products,” he said.

“His work exemplifies how to effectively bridge discovery to be completed by nurturing innovators and unleashing invention to advance economic, social and environmen- tally sustainable development.”

ON THE WEB
Lemelson-MIT Prize: http://web.mit.edu/invent/a-prize.html
EurekaFest: www.eurekafest2011.org

Newest partners: Tom Emerson, interim director of the Illinois State Archaeological Survey, the newest component of the newly named Prairie Research Institute, says the arrangement has been “a real partnership.” "EAS has its roots at the UI, starting to 1956 when the Illinois Department of Transportation established and funded an independent transportation archaeology program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

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Private pension ruling could have implications for retirees

By Phil Ciciora
Business & Law Editor

June 16, 2011

But according to the ruling, the employer must prove that he or she has suffered financially because of the new changes. Kaplan says this should prompt workers and retirees to take a close look at their retirement accounts, especially if the company has altered the plan in the past.

“If making this determination is difficult because of the intricacies involved, employees should engage someone from outside the company – an elder law attorney, an independent accountant or some other financial professional – and have that person run the numbers,” he said.

Employees and retirees should also ask the company for a before-and-after analysis of how the old plan compares with the new plan.

“The decision in this case noted that many employees had asked for a before-and-after snapshot but the company refused to provide it,” Kaplan said. “There was an internal corporate document showing that the company did not want to provide before-and-after illustrations. A company is not obligated to provide such comparisons, but the Supreme Court suggested that failing to do so could the employer in a poor light.”

According to Kaplan, the major point of the decision is that the Employee Retirement Income Security Act allows a court to require an employer to pay what the plan required before it made any changes.

“These days, most employers are switching to defined-contribution plans,” Kaplan said. “So this ruling is very important for retirees and current employees from defined-benefit to defined-contribution plans.”

Kaplan says the ruling also provided some good news for employers. According to the court’s unanimous decision, a summary plan document is just that – a summary. The plan document, not a summary plan document, is the only thing an employee reads, but it does contain the contours of the pension plan.

“The summary document may be the only thing an employer reads, but it does not constitute the terms of the plan,” Kaplan said. “That does not mean that employers may use the summary document to deceive anyone, but the summary can be less than complete. That’s not entirely a new proposition, but it was strongly reaffirmed in this case.”

Because the court’s ruling was based on ERISA, its decision does not apply to anyone with a public-sector pension.

“State governments are not covered by ERISA, because unlike private employers, states cannot go bankrupt,” said Kaplan. “For that reason, states are not required to buy insurance from the Federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and fund their plans on a current basis.”

Nearly 40 years after ERISA was enacted, the decision to exclude state plans from its coverage is looking less sound, Kaplan said.

Kaplan discusses the impact of the case in an article titled “Supreme Court CIGNA Ruling Allows Workers to Reverse Harmful Pension Changes” published in the Bureau of National Affairs Daily Report for Executives.

Ad removed for online version
“On June 13 the university was directed by CMS (Central Management Services) to notify employees of plans that they must select a new plan or be defaulted into Quality Care,” said Katie Ross, assistant director of the University Payroll and Benefits Administration, though on Wednesday she said that directive could change. “It’s important for people to understand that to the campus and broader of the current contracts, which expire on June 30,” she said. “These will be new contracts specifically engaged for this 90-day period – although at this time we do not know which vendors will be included.”

CMS reportedly was negotiating terms of the 90-day contracts following the COG-F decision, which officials said included a 90-day contracts, which expire on June 30,” she said that this is not an extension of the current directive could change.

Ross, who last month testified before two insurance-related legislative committees, said university officials continue to push for clarification and a decision from state officials that will benefit employees. “This has been a frustrating and challenging Benefits Choice period for many employers,” she said. “We support the interests of our employees by communicating with our legislators and state agencies to help them understand the impact of changes.”

Meanwhile, officials at CMS say the state is appealing the Sangamon County judge’s decision stopping enrollment for PersonalCare and HealthLink, which could further muddy the “choice” landscape and further confuse applicants. It’s also unknown what the next step will be once the emergency contracts expire.

For the most up-to-date information on the state employees’ health insurance issue visit NESSIE or CMS online.

 brief notes

**Campus drinking water**

**Water Quality Report released**

The 2010 Urbana campus Water Quality Report is available. The report provides information about the source of campus drinking water, including data on the presence of contaminants and how the results were compared against regulatory standards. The report is available online at website: http://thefarm.illinois.edu/2010WaterQualityReport.

**Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities**

Apply for funds for collaborative research.

Significant funding is available for Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities collaborative research projects. IPRH is accepting proposals for funding for an interdisciplinary public event (or series of events) that will be of interest to faculty in the humanities, arts and humanistic social sciences.

Four $5,000 awards will be made. Project applications will be reviewed by the IPRH Advisory Committee. Criteria include the intellectual content of the proposed event, the feasibility of the plans, the success of the event and the potential appeal to a broader audience.

The application must involve faculty members from at least two disciplines, and be of sufficiently broad interest to engage an audience from across the humanities and across campus. Applications from individuals will not be considered.

Events can take the form of a one-day conference or symposium, a speaker series or other equivalent public presentation of humanities scholarship. The proposed event will ideally take place during the 2011-12 academic year, but must be scheduled no later than October 2012.

Application deadline is 5 p.m. Sept. 16. Proposals must include a one-page description of the proposed event (including dates, time, place and budget) and a one-page rationale for the event, including its scholarly significance and the benefits of holding the event at Illinois; and one-page curriculum vitae for each of the project’s steering committee. Applications should be submitted as a PDF to iprh@illinois.edu. Application materials should be single-spaced, 12-point font. Materials submitted after the deadline, and those that do not follow the guidelines, will not be considered.

Questions about the IPRH Faculty Initiative can be addressed to Christine Catanzarite at 217-244-7913 or catanzarite@illinois.edu.

**FY2012 Parking permit renewals available**

It is time to renew annual parking permits for Fiscal Year 2012. Faculty and staff members may renew online through the Parking Department office.

If you are not renewing, you must stop your payroll deduction. For information about rates, changes in parking and additional information, call 217-333-3330 or visit the Parking website: http://parks.illinois.edu.

**Sustainable Student Farm**

Produce available on Thursdays

The Sustainable Student Farm, in conjunction with the Illini Union, is selling campus-grown produce Thursdays from 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The farm stand is behind the Illini Union on the Quad.

The farm – made up of 3 acres and about 10,000 square feet of “hoop houses” (also called high tunnels or greenhouses) – is a joint venture of the department of crop sciences, the Student Sustainability Committee and Dining Services.

The farm stand is expected to operate into November. The week’s fresh selections will be posted on the farm’s website: http://farm.illinois.edu.

**UI Summer Band**

Free ‘Twilight Concerts’ on the Quad

A tradition that dates back more than 100 years continues this summer when the UI Summer Band performs two free “Twilight Concerts” on the Quad.

The first concert, beginning at 7 p.m. on June 23, will be led by Robert Rumbelow, who, in January 2010, became the university’s fifth director of bands. Rumbelow earned a bachelor’s degree and two master’s degrees at Texas Tech University. He earned a doctorate in conducting at the Eastman School of Music.

The concert program will include Rumbelow’s arrangements of Wagner’s “Fest Marsch” from “Tannhauser,” and Gershwin’s “Summertime,” as well as “Rocky Point Holiday,” by Ron Nelson; “Perthshire Majesty,” by Samuel Hacter; “Symphonic Songs for Band,” by Robert Russell Bennett; and several patriotic selections. The concert will conclude with Sousa’s “University of Illinois March” and “Illinois Loyalist.”

The second concert, on July 21, will be led by Linda Moorhouse, assistant director of bands. Audience members are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs and picnic dinners.
achieved by helping students improve their reading and writing skills. Additionally, the program contributed to the development of early childhood education programs in Illinois.

The Illinois Art Institute was founded in 1945 to promote the fine arts and humanities in the state. The institute awarded the Illinois Art Institute Medal of Honor to twelve recipients in 2011, acknowledging their contributions to the arts. The recipients included artists, writers, and musicians who have made significant contributions to the state of Illinois.

The Illinois Art Institute Medal of Honor is one of the most prestigious awards given by the Illinois Art Institute. It is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to the arts and humanities in Illinois. The award is conferred annually to recognize the achievements of individuals who have contributed to the state's cultural heritage.

In addition to the Illinois Art Institute Medal of Honor, the institute also sponsors various exhibitions and workshops throughout the state. These programs provide opportunities for artists and students to learn from each other and share their creative ideas. The Illinois Art Institute is committed to promoting the arts and humanities in Illinois and continues to hold events and exhibitions throughout the year.

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Not all citizens’ votes created equal and it shows in funding

By Craig Chamberlain

One person, one vote” is often the rallying cry for democratic reform, suggesting that we can have an equal say in our government.

Yet in some of the oldest and largest democracies, some votes are worth far more than others by design. A Wyoming voter, for instance, is significantly over-represented compared with a California voter. Each state has two U.S. senators, but California has 66 times more people.

How much does it matter? According to a recent study of decades of data, from the U.S. and eight other countries, it matters a lot when it comes to money.

“Other things being equal, the most over-represented provinces can expect to receive more than twice the federal funding per capita as the most under-represented provinces, holding all other factors constant,” said Tiberiu Dragu (Tih-BAIR-e-oo DRAH-goo), co-author of the study with Jonathan Rodden. In some examples from South America, they found a funding difference of five to one.

The study focused on established federations because they almost always involve some form of unequal representation, often resulting from the political bargain struck at the nation’s founding. Dragu said the imbalance therefore is accepted by the citizens, “shrugged off as a quirky and perhaps inconsequential legacy of a proud history.”

The study’s results, however, “might have important implications in a wide range of settings where the foundational bargain is neither old nor widely revered,” Dragu said. They also could challenge assumptions that such unequal representation is necessary as a “pathway to peace and stability,” such as in Afghanistan and Iraq, or the European Union.

“The relationship between representation and per-capita funding, however, cannot be explained away,” Dragu said. In all nine countries, “the story remains the same: Representatives of over-represented provinces are able to bargain for a disproportionate share of the budget,” he said.

Or as the author’s write in their paper: “Our analysis indicates that such regions’ representation are indeed highly consequential. Controlling for a variety of country- and province-level factors and using a variety of estimation techniques, we show that over-represented provinces in political unions around the world are rather dramatically favored in the distribution of resources.”

The study found on established federations because they almost always involve some form of unequal representation, often resulting from the political bargain struck at the nation’s founding. Dragu said the imbalance therefore is accepted by the citizens, “shrugged off as a quirky and perhaps inconsequential legacy of a proud history.”

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