

Green Cities Conference Connects Research and Practice

More than 300 people attended a March conference on “Green Cities: Lessons from Boston and Beyond” that was organized and co-sponsored by the Institute. Boston Mayor *Thomas Menino* and Harvard President *Drew Gilpin Faust* delivered opening remarks. The event featured presentations by *Edward Glaeser*, *James Hunt*, Boston’s chief of energy and environmental services, and *Daniel Schrag*, professor and director of Harvard’s Center for the Environment, and comments by *David Cash*, assistant secretary for policy in the state’s Executive Office of Energy and Environment, *Penn Loh*, executive director, Alternatives for Community and Environment, and *Mindy Lubber*, president, Ceres. *David Ellwood*, dean of Harvard’s Kennedy School, moderated and delivered closing remarks. More information about the conference, including the speakers’ presentations, is online at <http://www.hks.harvard.edu/rappaport/events/greencities.htm>.

Undergrad Course Uses Boston to Understand Urban Issues

Christopher Winship, a professor of sociology at Harvard, and *David Luberoff*, the Institute’s executive director, organized an undergraduate course focused on the revitalization of Boston in the last three decades. Speakers in the class included Mayor *Thomas Menino*; *Boston Globe* columnist *Kevin Cullen*; Boston Police Commissioner *Ed Davis*, *Tiziana Dearing*, president, Catholic Charities of Boston (and a member of the Institute’s advisory board); *Geri Denterlein*, CEO, Denterlein Worldwide; *Chris Gabrieli*, CEO, Ironwood Equity Fund; *Paul Grogan*, president and CEO, the Boston Foundation; *Hubie Jones*, co-chair, City-to-City Boston; *Thomas Payzant*, former superintendent, Boston Public Schools; *Kathy Spiegelman*, director, Harvard’s Allston Initiative; *Joan Wallace-Benjamin*, president and CEO, Home for Little Wanderers (and also a member of the advisory board); *Bill Walczak*, executive director, Codman Square Health Center; and *Eleanor White*, co-chair, Commonwealth Housing Task Force.

Speakers Discuss Subprime Mortgage Crisis and Health Care

Speakers in a series of lunchtime talks on the subprime mortgage crisis included Massachusetts Attorney General *Martha Coakley* and two leading local scholars: *Paul Willen* and *Bill Apgar*. The Institute also co-sponsored an event on lessons from the state’s universal health care law that featured remarks by *Jon Kingsdale*, head of the Commonwealth Connector, and *David Cutler*, a professor of economics and dean of social sciences at Harvard. Presentations from many of these events are available at www.hks.harvard.edu/rappaport/events/b101.htm.

Somerville Mayor Taps Luberoff for Charter Review

Somerville Mayor *Joseph Curtatone* recently appointed *David Luberoff*, the Institute’s executive director, as the academic representative to a new committee that will examine and recommend changes to Somerville’s current city charter and recommend possible changes to that charter for consideration by the city’s aldermen and voters. More information about the committee is available at: www.somervillema.gov/NewsDetail.cfm?instance_id=1259.

O’Brien Named a “Harvard Hero”

Polly O’Brien, the Institute’s assistant director, was recently honored as one of approximately 50 “Harvard Heroes of 2008.” The award, which is given by Harvard President *Drew Gilpin Faust* at a gala ceremony in Harvard’s Sanders Theater, honors staff members at Harvard for leadership, teamwork, adaptability, and work that far exceeds expectations.