Throughout the campaign season, Duke faculty, students and alumni took to Twitter to converse about the presidential candidates’ acceptance speeches, the debates, election night results and campaign issues. Here are excerpts from their dialogues.
Now that the election is over, many hope that the dysfunctional gridlock of the last two years will be replaced by reasoned dialogue and civil discourse. I was reminded of what it will take to get past the impasse of the last two years by the brief tribute on page 2, which notes that our friend, former colleague and highly respected Washington Post columnist Bill Raspberry passed away in July.

During his 13 years as Knight Professor of the Practice of Journalism and Public Policy, Bill touched the lives of many students, instilling in them the idea that the search for truth is the journalist’s highest calling. Would that truthful dialogue, instead of alternating spin, were the premise for political debates as well, where meaningful differences can be resolved, ultimately, only through compromise.

Rep. David Price and I both noted Bill’s passing during our annual Sanford on the Hill reception this summer in Washington, where I commented on his extraordinary capacity to see two sides of almost every really serious question—a trait that made him a great teacher.

The night before Bill got an honorary degree at Duke, I attended a dinner as his faculty sponsor and heard him articulate his passionate belief that on almost every major question that we face as a society (e.g., raising taxes vs. cutting entitlements), most people, if they were honest, would acknowledge that they didn’t come down totally on one side or another, but believed at least some of the arguments supporting positions with which they disagreed.

For that reason he hated talk shows that thrive on adversarial sound bites and scoring points, and eventually refused to participate in them. Vernon E. Jordan Jr. recalled in an interview, “He was viewed as a truth-teller. I am sure that I disagreed with him on a number of things. He had a way of telling you to go to hell and making you look forward to the trip.” He did this because he believed in discussions where adversaries respected, and listened to, each other.

Terry Sanford also believed in reasoned dialogue, and it is fitting that the next Sanford Distinguished Lecturer at Duke (on Feb. 12, 2013) will be Sen. Richard Lugar, who, even when it was apparent that some of his votes in the Senate would leave him vulnerable to attack by his fellow Republicans, always voted for what he believed was right for the country. His statement last May on the concluded Indiana Senate primary, which he lost, summed up his philosophy: “Ideology cannot be a substitute for a determination to think for yourself, for a willingness to study an issue objectively, and for the fortitude to sometimes disagree with your party or even your constituents.” Like Edmund Burke, he said, he believed that leaders owe the people they represent their best judgment.

Underscoring his national role as a spokesman for bipartisan principles, Senator Lugar has been asked to join former presidents Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush, as well as others, on the Board of the National Institute for Civil Discourse, an organization that will promote bipartisanship and civility in U.S. governance. His lecture at Duke will address national issues of partisanship, gridlock and dysfunction in our government. Bill Raspberry would have liked to be there.

Bruce Kuniholm, Dean Professor of Public Policy and History
In September, Ava Gail Cas (at left) became the second graduate of the Sanford PhD program. Her dissertation was “Early Life Public Health Intervention and Adolescent Cognition: Evidence from the Safe Motherhood Program in Indonesia.” She received several fellowships, including the Hewlett Foundation/IIE Dissertation Fellowship, the Population Reference Bureau Fellowship and the Levitan Graduate Research Fellowship. Cas is now an assistant professor of business and economics at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Four new candidates joined the Sanford PhD program this fall:

Kristin Cooksey (sociology concentration) is interested in domestic health policy and health disparities, specifically food and nutrition. She earned her MPP at Johns Hopkins University, where she worked on a project that quantified the retail food environment in all 3,141 U.S. counties, to evaluate the relationship between food availability and obesity. She has worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture since June 2010. She was a Ronald E. McNair scholar at the University of Illinois, where she earned a BS in agricultural and consumer economics.

Andrew Heiss (political science) earned an MPA at Brigham Young University, where he was awarded the Garth N. Jones Award for excellence in writing. He received an MA in Middle East studies from the American University in Cairo in 2010 and a BA in Middle East Studies and Italian from BYU, during which time he studied Arabic at the University of Jordan. His AUC master’s thesis examined the history of European minority communities in Egypt. His more recent work has examined governance and civil society in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Jennifer (Yaning) Shen (economics) is interested in continuing her study of agricultural, environmental and health issues in developing countries. She earned an MS in economics at Tufts, where her thesis examined the ecological and economic consequences of the provision of free water for rice cultivation in India’s Krishna River basin. She is a James B. Duke Fellow. Shen received an AB in economics and political science from University of Pennsylvania.

Michelle Welch (economics) is interested in education policy, specifically higher education finance. Since 2009 she has been a senior research assistant at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, more recently in the Office of Financial Stability and Policy, where she had a significant role in monitoring the student loan market for signs of elevated default and systemic risk. Welch received a BA in economics with a minor in mathematics from Trinity University in 2009.

The Healing Eye

Doctors from Duke’s Documenting Medicine program present photographs at an exhibition, “The Healing Eye: Doctors, Policy and Patients,” at the Sanford School through the end of 2012. The program allows doctors to use photography to better understand patients, teach future health care providers and potentially influence health care policy. “The Healing Eye” is open to the public Mondays through Fridays in Rubenstein Hall.

Photo by Dr. Maria Portela, from “En Sus Zapatos: Serving the Hispanic Population — Challenges of the Primary Care Doctor”

WILLIAM RASPBERRY 1935-2012

William Raspberry, 76, a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for The Washington Post who taught for 13 years at the Sanford School, died July 17. He had prostate cancer. As the Knight Professor of the Practice of Public Policy and Journalism from 1995 to 2008, Raspberry commuted weekly between Washington, D.C., and Duke to teach social policy and politics as well as journalism.

“In more than a decade of teaching at Duke, William Raspberry taught hundreds of students how to think differently about journalism, social policy and race in America,” said James Hamilton, director of the DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy. James Joseph, an emeritus professor of the practice of public policy, said Raspberry “was an outstanding journalist who was also a great teacher. He taught out of his experience as a journalist and brought to the classroom insights from that experience.”

Of his teaching career, Raspberry said, “What I teach, preach and try to model are certain key ideas: that journalism is vitally important (and no less so in this cyber age where ‘everybody’ is a journalist); that the people have not merely the right but the need to know as much as we can tell of the forces that are driving their world; that warring spinmeisters may be interesting, but that journalists still ought to take seriously the search for the truth; and that all these things can be done with a sense of fairness.”

Duke lowered its flag to half-staff in Raspberry’s honor.
“Duke Forward: Partnering for the Future,” a five-year, university-wide fundraising campaign launched in September, intends to raise $3.25 billion to enrich the Duke experience for students, blaze new paths with interdisciplinary educational programs and research, and expand support for faculty and students.

This focus is a perfect fit for the Sanford School, said Dean Bruce Kuniholm. “The 21st century demands smart, pragmatic and ethical leaders, empowered through academic training and real-world experience, to build a better world. The Duke Forward campaign will support the Sanford School’s interdisciplinary approach to real-world problems through groundbreaking faculty research and experiential learning programs that enable our students to apply their knowledge to those problems.”

The fundraising goal for the Sanford School is $75 million, which will provide financial aid for students and support new faculty positions and research. Because jobs in the public policy sector often pay modestly, increasing financial aid is key to attracting top students who will go on to become ethical and effective public policy leaders.

Gifts to the Sanford Annual Fund also provide crucial unrestricted support, and are counted toward the campaign goal. In the current academic year, for example, 83 percent of the monies contributed to the Sanford Annual Fund are going directly to students in the form of financial aid, assistantships and internship stipends.

The school’s new campaign steering committee is co-chaired by Doug Scrivner T’73 and Mike Steed P’06, ’14. Several significant donations were made during the silent phase of the Duke Forward campaign by board members and by other alumni and friends, totaling approximately $21 million.

Board members Kathy Lieb WC’69, P’03 and Rick Lieb T’69, P’03 are endowing the Richard B. and Kathryn C. Lieb Dean’s Fellowship Fund. This fund will provide whole or partial fellowships to outstanding Sanford graduate students, with preference given to those in active U.S. military service and veterans.

Board member Mark Florian T’80, P’09, ’15 and his wife Lynne Florian P’09, ’15 created the Mark and Lynne Florian Professorship. The recipient will be a scholar or practitioner of distinction in the field of public policy. The initial appointment will be in the field of energy research.

Scrivner and his wife Mary Scrivner are establishing the Accenture Professorship. This professorship will be awarded to a scholar or a practitioner working at the intersection of the private sector and public policy in the global context who will make a significant contribution to undergraduate teaching at Duke.

Other board members have made gifts to provide financial aid for Sanford undergraduate students. Karen King PPS’94 established the Karen and Gregory King Family Scholarship Fund, Justin Fairfax PPS’00 and Cerina Fairfax T’99 endowed the Justin E. & Cerina W. Fairfax Opportunity Scholarship Fund, and Rome Hartman T’77 has created the Hartman Family Scholarship.

The Duke Forward campaign was launched Founders Day weekend, Sept. 28-29. It included the annual convocation featuring an address by board of trustees vice chair and former Sanford board member David Rubenstein T’70, P’14, a series of sessions with faculty members including Sanford professor Don Taylor on health care reform, a campus forum on global ethical dilemmas and a gala in Cameron Indoor Stadium. Celebrations will continue regionally in the spring with events in Atlanta (February 2), Washington (March 23), San Francisco (April 27), New York (May 17), and London (June 22).
Sanford Journal: New Year, Big Ideas

Rachel Leven and Jeff Bartelli, the ambitious editors of the school’s Sanford Journal of Public Policy, are moving to significantly revamp the publication with an eye for interdisciplinary contribution, greater faculty involvement and an expanded distribution network. Since its 2009 inception, MPP students have aimed to influence public policy not only through annual publication of the journal—a collection of research papers, opinion pieces, book reviews and interviews—but also via a blog covering scholarly research, public policy and current events.

In a break from convention, the journal’s staff editors now include students not only from Sanford but also from Duke’s schools of law, divinity and environment.

“Collaboration with other programs will bring a wider breadth of expertise, opinion and ideas to the journal,” Leven said. The non-Sanford editors also will add to the voices on the blog and enable the journal to expand the pool of potential submissions for its annual publication, she said.

Leven and Bartelli also are making a strong push for greater faculty input on the journal’s blog. While professors will still unveil their research through traditional academic avenues, the journal can “serve as a place for professors to comment on current events or policy issues that are within their sphere but are not necessarily their current academic focus,” she said.

Assistant Professor Nick Carnes blogged about the leaked video of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney making disparaging comments about the 47 percent of Americans who he alleged rely on some form of government assistance. Carnes, a scholar of economic inequality, class politics and political representation, drew on his research to point out that Romney’s comments were objectively false. For the journal’s editorial staff, Carnes’ post fit perfectly with the new paradigm of faculty input they hope to foster.

Bartelli and Leven are no strangers to managing and editing periodicals. As an undergrad at the University of Montana, Bartelli was an editor for the university’s literary magazine.

Leven worked at Foreign Affairs magazine as an assistant manager of operations and marketing, where she published a lengthy article on the international recycling trade. Moving forward, they hope to build on the efforts of previous MPP students and widen the journal’s influence in the world of public policy.

NEW MEMBERS JOIN BOARD OF VISITORS

The Sanford School Board of Visitors welcomed nine new members this academic year and thanked the nine members who completed their service. The members stepping down were Dennis Crumppler, Milledge Hart, Patti Hart, Robin Lail, James Wickett and Magdalena Yesil, along with student representatives Carey McCormick, Shannon Ritchie and Lauren Hendricks. The new members are:

Marcelle Abell-Rosen BS’85, P’15, a physician based in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Her private internal medicine practice is affiliated with Broward General Medical Center and MDVIP, a national network of concierge physicians. She is on numerous advisory, philanthropic and health boards including Gilda’s Club, HANDY (Helping Abused, Neglected, Disadvantaged Youth), and the Doctors Company.

Michele Farquhar AB’79, P’13, P’16, leader of the Communications Practice Group at Hogan Lovells US LLP in Washington, D.C. She served as chief of the FCC’s Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and as deputy assistant secretary of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration at the Department of Commerce. She is a past president of the Duke Alumni Association (1997-98) and served on the Duke Board of Trustees (1997-99).

Dolly Madison McKenna AB’71, P’06, ’09, the Republican nominee for the U.S. House of Representatives for the 25th District in Houston in 1992 and 1996. She is the founder of Liberty Tree, a nonprofit organization focusing on voter apathy. She has been an active volunteer at Duke, serving for six years on the Annual Fund Executive Committee and as co-chairman of her class reunions for the last 20 years.

Hardy McLain AB’76, managing partner and co-founder of CVC Capital Partners, a private equity firm. Among his current board directorships are Formula One, Samsonite HK, the Colomer Group and the Lecta Group. He also serves on the Board of Visitors for UCLA’s Anderson School of Business.


Michael J. Sorrell MPP’90, JD’94, president of Paul Quinn College in Texas and 2011 “HBCU Male President of the Year.” While in law school at Duke, he was one of the founding members of The Journal of Gender Law & Policy. He serves on the boards of Amegy Bank, Teach for America, the North Texas Public Broadcasting Co. Inc. and KIPP Truth Academy.

Ex-officio student representatives are: Jessica Isaacs MPP’13, who spent over a year in Taipei, Taiwan as a Fulbright research scholar working on energy policy issues and worked for three years at the American Wind Energy Association in Washington, D.C., most recently as the senior policy analyst.

Thupten Norbu MIDP’13, worked at The Asia Foundation’s headquarters in San Francisco, where he provided support to its 18 country offices to develop proposals for bilateral and multilateral funders to carry out international development programs. He also served as an executive member of the Tibetan community in the Bay Area.

Andrei Santalo PPS’13, president of the Public Policy Majors Union. Santalo interned at Google and studied abroad in Barcelona in an international business program. At Duke he speaks at admissions events, is involved in freshman orientation and performs in a Latin dance troupe, Sabrosura.
In recent years, public intellectuals have voiced concerns that American universities have become detached from the lives of their communities and the nation—and that scholars are insufficiently engaged with important questions of democracy and public policy. As a result some worry academic expertise that could strengthen our collective responses to economic, social and international problems is going to waste, while narrow interests dictate policy.

To bring academics and their research more fully into public life, a group of policy-minded social scientists launched the Scholars Strategy Network (SSN) in 2011. Led by Harvard’s Theda Skocpol, whose recent work has focused on U.S. social welfare policy, SSN has grown to more than 140 members and has organized in eight regional chapters, including one in N.C.’s Research Triangle.

“In an era when policy debates seem to be increasingly driven by the media, memes and money, it’s vitally important that lawmakers, reporters, civic groups and everyday voters hear about the rigorous policy-relevant research that’s going on at universities around the country,” said Sanford Associate Professor Kristin Goss, who co-directs the chapter with Sanford Assistant Professor Nick Carnes. “And it’s incumbent on scholars working on policy questions to make their voices heard.”

Scholars in the network produce short, vivid “Key Findings” describing their research and “Basic Facts” briefs that provide overviews of policy questions. More than 150 such briefs are available on the SSN website.

SSN’s office in Cambridge helps members write op-eds, brief lawmakers and speak before civic groups. SSN leaders also hold regular consultations with high-level policymakers and media figures to raise the visibility of SSN scholars.

In the Triangle area, “We are reaching out to scholars who are engaged in civic life, or who want to be, and laying the long-term foundation for our chapter,” Carnes said. “We’ll be assessing the needs of both scholars and political stakeholders in the area and designing programs that help connect university-based researchers to lawmakers, journalists and engaged citizens.”

Goss and Carnes say leading the Triangle chapter complements their academic research and commitments to community engagement. Goss is a former newspaper reporter with a research focus on civic engagement; her work examines how political participation, or the lack of it, affects policymaking. Skocpol was on her dissertation committee. Goss also directs the new semester-long “Duke in DC” program for undergraduates.

Carnes’ forthcoming book documents the virtual absence of working-class people in public office and analyzes how this underrepresentation affects U.S. economic policies. Carnes hopes the research will help spur dialogue about how to recruit a more diverse cadre of political leaders, one that better mirrors the populations that these officials represent.

Other Duke members of SSN include Sanford professors Liz Ananat, Hal Brands, Phil Cook, Bruce Jentleson and Frederick “Fritz” Mayer. The Triangle chapter is beginning to recruit members from UNC-Chapel Hill, NC State and NC Central, Carnes said.

SSN is backed by Robert Bouditch Jr., founder of the real estate development firm MB Associates, and David desJardins, a software engineer and philanthropist. Both are affiliated with Democracy Alliance, an organization of progressive donors.

SSN’s steering committee also includes professors Jacob Hacker (Yale), Lawrence Jacobs (Minnesota), and Suzanne Mettler (Cornell). SSN as an institution doesn’t take positions on policy questions, nor does it support or oppose candidates.

Goss says SSN is an extension of Duke’s dedication to putting knowledge in the service of society and of Sanford’s long-standing commitment to public engagement. “We’re trying to do nationally what the Sanford School really pioneered—connecting scholarship to the real world.”
Professor Elizabeth Frankenberg was honored at graduation in May with the 2012 Richard A. Stubbleing Graduate Teaching/Mentoring Award for outstanding contributions to the teaching mission of the Sanford graduate programs. She also has been appointed to the newly created position of Associate Dean for Academic Programs at the Sanford School. She oversees domestic degree-granting programs, except for the MIDP program, including curriculum planning and review. Previously she was director of graduate studies for the MPP program (2009-12).

Helen (Sunny) Ladd, Edgar T. Thompson Distinguished Professor of Public Policy and Professor of Economics, has been selected as the Duke University Scholar/Teacher of the Year for 2012. The award is given by the Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church to a faculty member for “dedication and contributions to the learning arts and to the institution.” The deans of each affiliated school nominate a candidate. The Duke University committee proposed Ladd due to “exceptional teaching, concern for students and colleagues, sensitivity to the mission of Duke, record of scholarly contributions and commitment to high standards of professional and personal life.”

Philip Cook, ITT/Terry Sanford Professor of Public Policy, has received a $351,653 Department of Education grant for a three-year project that evaluates truancy prevention interventions.

Professor Ken Dodge, director of the Center for Child and Family Policy, received the 2012 John Paul Scott Award from the International Society for Research on Aggression. Named for one of the society’s founding members and early president, the award recognizes lifetime or substantial contribution to aggression research. Dodge received the award at the ISRA annual meeting in Luxembourg on July 19 and gave a talk on “Social-Cognitive Mediators of Non-Aggressive Behavior.” He also has received a $697,070 National Science Foundation award for a project entitled “Collaborative Research: Leveraging Matched Administrative Datasets to Improve Educational Practice and Long Run Life Outcomes: Toward Building a National Interdisciplinary Network.”

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Visiting Professor Catherine Admay received the 2012 Outstanding Teaching Award from the Duke Global Health Institute. She was nominated by students who said she makes a lasting impression on their education in global health, empowers them to effect change and equips them to do so.

Professor James Hamilton is the 2012 recipient of the Sanford School’s Susan E. Tifft Undergraduate Teaching and Mentoring Award. His teaching exemplifies hands-on, integrated learning and students consistently rate his courses very highly, said Ken Rogerson, who presented the award at the school’s graduation ceremony on May 12. Over the last 15 years, Hamilton has mentored 73 students though honors theses, master’s projects and independent studies.

Associate Professor Judith Kelley was appointed the Kevin D. Gorter Associate Professor of Public Policy in the Bass Program for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching last spring. She directs the Sanford School Honors Program. Bass Professors hold the chairs for five-year terms and become lifetime members of the Bass Society of Fellows. Previous Sanford School faculty members who have held a Bass chair include James Hamilton, Robert Korstad and Gunther Peck.

Associate Professor Candice Odgers received the Association for Psychological Science Janet Taylor Spence Award for Transformative Early Career Contributions for her research on how disparities in children’s mental and physical health emerge across contexts and over time. She also has been selected as one of four recipients of Duke University’s Thomas Langford Lectureship Award for 2012-13.

Alexander Pfaff has received a $438,000 grant from the Tinker Foundation for a project titled “Linking Users and Providers of Environmental Services in Mexico: Lessons from a Policy Experiment in Facilitating Sustainable Local Water Institutions.”

David Schanzer is the principal investigator on a new project, “Community Policing Strategies to Counter Violent Extremism,” funded by the U.S. Department of Justice with a grant of $653,189. The two-year project will survey law enforcement agencies across the country to determine how they perceive the threat of violent extremism and what strategies they are using to address it in their communities. Schanzer will partner with Charles Kurzman (UNC-Chapel Hill), Jessica Toliver and Bruce Kubu (Police Executive Research Forum) and Ebrahim Moosa (Duke).
A Tradition of Leadership
Hart Program Marks 25th Anniversary

By Jackie Ogburn

The Hart Leadership Program is celebrating its 25th anniversary this academic year. To mark HLP’s anniversary, Tony Brown, Alma Blount, and Bob Korstad are working to create systematic ways to connect alumni with each other and with current students. HLP will host an alumni symposium March 2, 2013 at Sanford School.

When the Hart Leadership Program (HLP) was launched in 1987 by Bruce Payne, its goal was to connect service to the classroom. That summer, Payne started a community service program called Interns in Conscience, where a group of students spent the summer working with organizations that served the homeless. Professor Bob Korstad, HLP director from 1995 to 2001, recalled that at the time, “You could hardly find any community service opportunities on campus. It was not seen as a sexy, fun thing.”

Several of the things that Duke is now celebrated for — civic engagement, experiential learning and encouraging bold initiatives — have been hallmarks of HLP from the start, Korstad said. “This program had a significant impact on service-learning at Duke, and on Duke as a whole.”

Neil Boothby, director from 1991 to 1995, had been an advisor on war refugee populations to NGOs and governments. One summer, he took students to work with him in Bosnia. That sparked the creation of the Refugee Action Project, which organized humanitarian aid trips to the former Yugoslavia, Turkey, Slovenia and Austria.

Scott Cooper, a graduate of Interns in Conscience, returned to HLP in 1994 and started the Summer Opportunities in Leadership (SOL) as a sister program to the Refugee Action Project, to connect students with domestic service internship opportunities. Hart co-director Alma Blount joined HLP in 1994 and made SOL, now called Service Opportunities in Leadership, into a sustainable program that is nationally recognized for its innovative pedagogy. SOL combines community-based research, reflective writing, leadership development and political engagement.

“HLP was also a leader in bringing enterprising leadership and social entrepreneurship education to Duke, beginning in 1993 when Brown joined the faculty. Brown created the Enterprising Leadership Incubator (ELI) in 2002. He describes his approach as ‘grounded in the literature on leadership, yet not about the theory, but about outcomes.’ It differs from the way leadership is taught in business school in that it is focused on the student’s cognitive development and on honing skills in critical analysis.

“I am proudest of making students think,” Brown said. “A big part of growing up is clarifying your values and developing agency.”

Over the years, HLP faculty have taught more than 400 classes, and enrollment in HLP courses and experiential-learning programs will exceed 10,000 by this coming spring semester. ELI has sponsored 200 community service projects and 68 social entrepreneurship projects to date.

Successes include Rival Magazine, Breakthrough Durham/Student U and Small Town Records. Five students in Brown’s class, Kesav Mohan ‘04, Phillip Kurian ‘05, Hamilton Boggs ‘05 and Amy Lazarus ‘05, started the Center for Race Relations to address racial tensions on campus. Another team founded the popular student program called Common Ground, and both organizations remain active today.

After Tico Almeida ’99 completed a SOL internship at the Union of Needletrade, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) in New York City, he created Students Against Sweatshops. As a result, Duke became the first university in the country to adopt a code of conduct for monitoring manufacturers of university-branded products.

“Hart Leadership has a pattern of spinning things off,” said Blount. “Our energy comes from seeing things take on a life of their own.”

Duke President Nan Keohane, left, talks with members of Students Against Sweatshops in this 1998 photo. Hart Leadership student Tico Almeida, second from right, led the campaign that pressured Duke to strengthen its code of conduct for companies that manufacture Duke merchandise.
Elections are supposed to give us choices. We can reward incumbents or throw the bums out. We can choose Republicans or Democrats. We can choose conservative policies or progressive ones.

In most elections, however, we don’t get a say in something important: whether we’re governed by the rich. By Election Day, that choice has usually been made for us. Would you like to be represented by a millionaire lawyer or a millionaire businessman? Even in our great democracy, we rarely have the option to put someone in office who isn’t part of the elite.

Of course, many white-collar candidates care deeply about working-class Americans, those who earn a living in manual labor or service-industry jobs. But why do so few elections feature candidates who have worked in blue-collar jobs themselves, at least for part of their lives? The working class is the backbone of our society and 90 million people strong. Could it really be that not one former blue-collar worker is qualified to be president?

My research examines how the shortage of working-class people in public office affects our democracy and why there are so few former blue-collar workers in government in the first place. The data suggest that the working class itself probably isn’t the problem. It’s true that workers tend to score a little lower on standard measures of political knowledge and civic engagement. But there are many more workers than there are, say, lawyers—so many more, in fact, that there are probably more blue-collar Americans with the qualities we might want in our candidates than there are lawyers with those traits. If even only one-half a percent of blue-collar workers have what it takes to govern, there would still be enough to fill every seat in Congress and in every state legislature more than 40 times—with enough left over to run thousands of city councils.

Something other than qualifications seems to be screening them out long before Election Day. Scholars haven’t yet confirmed exactly what that is. (Campaign money? Free time? Party gatekeepers?) But we’re starting to appreciate the seriousness of the problem.

If millionaires were a political party, that party would make up roughly 3 percent of American families, but it would have a super-majority in the Senate, a majority in the House, a majority on the Supreme Court and a man in the White House. If working-class Americans were a political party, that party would have made up more than half the country since the start of the 20th century, but would never have held more than 2 percent of the seats in Congress.

These trends don’t stop at the federal level. Since the 1980s, the number of state legislators whose primary occupations are working-class jobs has fallen from 5 percent to 3 percent. In city councils, fewer than 10 percent of members have blue-collar day jobs. Everywhere we look in government, almost no one with personal experience in working-class jobs has a seat at the table. Please see page 10
FRONTLINE-Sanford Collaboration Puts Campaign-Related Oral Histories Online

By Melissa Yeo

The Sanford School and the PBS documentary program FRONTLINE are continuing their innovative collaboration with a project that brings to light fresh perspectives on the 2012 presidential candidates.

In conjunction with “The Choice 2012,” a FRONTLINE documentary that aired Oct. 9, the project archives eight hours of interviews from the documentary online, providing digital access to extensive conversations with figures who have influenced President Barack Obama and Republican candidate Mitt Romney.

“When we produce films, we generate dozens of hours of interviews that are edited down to create a one- or two-hour documentary,” said Philip Bennett, FRONTLINE managing editor and a Duke professor of public policy and journalism. Instead of limiting audiences to a 90-second clip, the online project provides access to an extensive collection of interview videos, as well as primary source materials.

Twenty-five interviews provide a glimpse into the backgrounds and mindsets of the presidential candidates. To make it easy to pinpoint desired content, each interview is accompanied by a transcript tagged by themes. The archive includes interviews with a man who went on Romney’s Mormon mission with him in France, as well as Obama’s high school classmates. Other more familiar figures include Obama senior campaign adviser David Axelrod, former White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and Ann Romney, wife of the GOP candidate.

The Duke-PBS partnership began in April of 2012, with FRONTLINE’s “Money, Power and Wall Street” documentary. The project was a tremendous success, with more than 150,000 unique views of the oral history interviews and more than one million users watching the films online.

The collaboration is part of the Jay Rutherfurd Living History Program, run by the Sanford School’s DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy. The Rutherfurd program produces interviews with prominent leaders who have been major participants in significant international or domestic events.

“The spirit of the Rutherfurd Program has always been to give students and researchers deeper context about how a policymaker makes decisions,” said Professor James Hamilton, director of the DeWitt Wallace Center. “The FRONTLINE collaboration is very much part of our accountability mission. What we’re able to do is greatly expand the number of experts we talk to, the range of people exposed to these interviews, as well as the depth of these discussions.”

Looking forward, the partners seek to increase accessibility of the oral history archives by making them more interactive, including new technical tools to explore and use the material.

“There’s a lot of potential not just in creating films, but in mining the archives of films,” said Bennett.

“For instance, FRONTLINE has done hours of interviews with people close to President Obama, from his early childhood and adolescence through the most difficult moments of his presidency. Imagine an interactive archive of interviews that would live on indefinitely. It would be a huge value to anyone interested in a firsthand exploration of his life and influences.”

“Online”

“The Choice 2012”

Rutherfurd Living History Program
dewitt.sanford.duke.edu/rutherfurd-living-history
A s the presidential race accelerated this summer, public policy seniors joined the campaign trail, interning in the field on both sides of the political aisle.

“I’ve always been very interested in politics,” said Annie Osborne, who interned for the Democratic National Committee. “I was really inspired by Obama in 2008 but was too young to vote, so I canvassed for him at my local office. I think he has done wonderful things in terms of social change, and I wanted to work this summer to help him get re-elected.”

Joanna Valk interned this fall at the Durham office of North Carolina Victory, the state’s GOP operation. “I grew up in a household that was fairly politically balanced; my dad leans Republican, while my mom is more independent,” said Valk. “Working in finance this summer, I learned more about the economy and started to favor Romney, because I feel we need someone who knows how to heal the economy.”

The ever-changing, hands-on nature of campaign work was reflected in the students’ internships, which assigned them myriad roles and responsibilities.

“It’s been really interesting to get an inside look at a race,” said Valk of her first foray into political campaign work. “Some days I’m organizing fundraisers and coordinating volunteer efforts to decide which areas of Durham to target; other days I’m doing voter identification calls for four hours. But everything counts.”

“We usually started the day by gathering news clippings of stories relevant to the Latino vote effort in the campaign, or entering fundraising data,” said Osborne, who worked on the Hispanic Outreach team. “We also developed and launched a newsletter called ¡Obamanos! that we sent to our entire Hispanic contact list each week. Later in the afternoon, we might work on inviting important Hispanic advocacy groups to the convention and making sure they got all their paperwork in.”

“Whether I’m recruiting and scheduling volunteers, doing a quick survey over the phone, or encouraging people to register for early voting, it’s a lot of time with a phone against my ear. A campaign is a grassroots effort that requires a lot of time and hard work.”
—Stephanie Xu, Romney campaign

By Melissa Yeo

Which Millionaire? continued from p. 8

Their absence has real consequences. Lawmakers from different classes tend to bring different perspectives to public office. John Boehner is fond of saying he’s a small-business man at heart and that, “it gave me a perspective on our country that I’ve carried with me throughout my time in public service.” And he’s right. Former businesspeople in government tend to think like businesspeople, former lawyers tend to think like lawyers, and (the few) former blue-collar workers tend to think like blue-collar workers. Edward Beard, a house painter from Providence, R.I., who was elected to Congress in 1974, always carried a paintbrush with him and tacked one to the wall outside of his Washington office — as a “symbol of who I am and where I’m from, the working people.”

And although there are many white-collar lawmakers with good intentions, with so few leaders with experience in working-class jobs (from 1999 to 2008, the average member of Congress had spent 1.5 percent of his or her adult life in working-class jobs), economic policy routinely tilts toward outcomes that help white-collar professionals. Social safety net programs are stingier, business regulations are flimsier, tax policies are more regressive and protections for workers are weaker than they would be if our lawmakers came from the same mix of classes as the people they represent.

The key is finding more lawmakers like Beard, politically adept working-class Americans. Or people like Rep. Stephen Lynch, who worked as an ironworker in Boston for nearly two decades before attending law school and becoming a legal advocate for workers.

My experience suggests that finding them will be the easy part. The hard part will be persuading the people with resources to help them. Many political gatekeepers still cling to myths about how workers are
Electoral campaigns require a lot of time and hard work. For Evan Williams, who interned with the N.C. Democratic Party, the highlight was attending the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. “We’d wake up at six every morning, work till three and then go and watch speeches till midnight,” said Williams. “Coming off the last election, I thought a lot of Democratic enthusiasm was gone, but I was surrounded by people who were far and away the most diehard Democrats you’ve ever seen.”

Brittany Coleman became involved with the DNC’s children’s convention as part of her summer internship with DukeEngage Charlotte. “Kids as young as 5 and as old as 14 participated, and I was really impressed that so many parents were exposing their kids to civic life,” said Coleman.

Chloe Rockow participated in an online Twitter chat, using the hashtag #DukeChat to discuss the conventions in real-time with faculty and students. Professors Bruce Jentleson, Ken Rogerson, David Schanzer, Gunther Peck and Don Taylor were among the Sanford faculty who joined several debate-related chats as well.

“We were able not only to live-tweet but also to fact check, discuss our responses and what the various speeches meant in terms of the greater campaigns,” said Rockow, deputy vice-chair of Duke College Republicans. “I talked with professors and asked them questions through Twitter while we were watching the speeches, and they could respond instantly.”

Field campaign work also imparted lessons applicable outside the world of politics. Securing media coverage for Democratic surrogates forced Osborne to think on her feet despite having no experience working with the media. “It was intimidating at first, but we ended up having a great deal of success booking surrogates on the media across the country,” said Osborne. “Adaptability and quick thinking will help me in almost any future job.”

For Valk, the most memorable part of her campaign internship was working with passionate, politically driven people. “I got to interact with people from Durham that many people at Duke end up being closed off to,” she said. “I’ve met a lot of really awesome Durhamites with similar political views.”

too backward to know what’s best for themselves politically. And people who value political equality already have their hands full with big challenges: mainly, the explosion of money and interest groups in Washington, and the large social class gaps in routine forms of political participation, including voting.

Even if we somehow stem the tide of money in Washington, even if we guarantee equal participation on Election Day, millionaires will still get to set the tax rate for millionaires. White-collar professionals will still get to set the minimum wage for blue-collar workers. People who have always had health insurance will still get to decide whether to help people without it. If we want government for the people, we’ve got to start working toward government by the people. The 2012 election offered us a stark choice between two very different approaches to economic policy. But it was still a choice between two Harvard-educated millionaires.

It’s time for citizens who care about political equality to start investing in working-class candidates. We know how to do this. In 1945, the House and the Senate were each 98 percent men. In the decades since, party leaders and interest groups have deliberately recruited many female candidates, and in 2012 women made up 17 percent of Congress. If the old boys’ club isn’t invincible, the Millionaires Party probably isn’t, either. Changes like these aren’t rocket science. They just take a little hard work.
Graduate and undergraduate students entered dozens of photos taken all over the world in the school’s first internship photo contest. Their photographs depict the wide range of professional experiences students have during their required time in the field. A winner and runner-up were selected in four categories. To see all the photos entered, visit the Sanford School online at flickr.com/photos/dukesanfordschool.

**FIRST PRIZE**, Jessie Lu PPS’13: A Guatemalan bus boy, or money collector, clings to the window frame of a doorless minivan to stay on board as it transports 27 people through the city. Minivans constitute a major mode of public transportation in Guatemala, with a driver and a money collector assigned to each one. Lu interned with DukeEngage Guatemala.

**RUNNER-UP**, Justine Hong PPS’13 sandboards on the dunes of San Pedro de Atacama in northern Chile. Hong spent her summer working for Acción Emprendedora, an NGO that works with local micro-entrepreneurs to form and grow small businesses.

**FIRST PRIZE** Rapho Obonyo MPP’13 shakes the hand of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon after a meeting of interns and staff at the General Assembly Hall in New York. Obonyo says he counseled, “If you want to succeed, have your head up in the cloud, and your feet firmly on the ground, and keep going.” Obonyo interned with the UN Development Programme in New York.


**Policy Star**
‘National Geographic’ FIRST PRIZE, Kelly Heo PPS’13: Against a rainy skyline, North Korean students rehearse for Youth Day by forming the name of Kim Jong Il, former supreme leader, in commemoration of Kim’s death in December 2011. Students in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, take two weeks off school to prepare for the major political event. The August 2012 Youth Day ceremony was largely aimed at rallying support for Kim Jong Un, who assumed power after his father’s death. Heo traveled to North Korea during her internship in South Korea’s Ministry of Unification, the government branch that focuses on North Korea.

RUNNER-UP, Grace Zhou PPS’13: Candles, flowers and wreaths surround a bench in a Brooklyn housing project as a makeshift memorial to a 2-year-old shooting victim. Gun violence is a major problem in Brooklyn, with almost half of this year’s shootings in New York City taking place in the borough. Zhou interned this summer with the New York City Legal Aid Society.

You at Work FIRST PRIZE: Carlos Guiza MIDP’13, a Rotary Peace Fellow, sits in a traditional “hamadora” chair playing with children in the small Colombian town of El Salado. Vacated after a massacre by paramilitary armed forces in 2000, El Salado is experiencing a slow revival as its residents gradually return. The “hamadora” chair, which combines a hammock and a rocking chair, was designed and given to the town by the architect Simon Hosie as a commercialization project. Guiza interned with the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) in the design of an economic development project for the region.

RUNNER-UP, Maddie Salamone PPS’13: Maddie Salamone appears on America Live with Megyn Kelly as part of her summer internship at Fox News Channel in New York.
The Moral and Financial Case for Federalizing Medicaid

By Peter Ubel

Millions of U.S. citizens are too poor to buy health insurance but not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid. And this “not poor enough” problem varies, state by state, depending on the generosity of local governments. In some states, a person’s income can sit below the poverty level, and that person still won’t qualify for Medicaid.

Obamacare was supposed to change all that. It required state Medicaid programs to offer coverage for anyone whose income was 133 percent of the federal poverty limit or lower. The federal government even committed itself to paying for most of the cost of adding folks to the Medicaid rolls. That changed with the Supreme Court’s June decision, concluding that the federal government should not be able to coerce states into expanding their Medicaid programs. And it might have changed even more if Mitt Romney had been elected.

Like Romney, I believe strongly that there are many government functions better left to states than to the feds. And a whole bunch that are better left to locals than to states, too. I am glad, for instance, that the park and recreational sports programs my children have enjoyed over their lives have been run by people who are immersed in the local community.

But health care is too big, too expensive, too complicated and too important to leave to locals. Sometimes budget pressures are simply too strong to allow locals to do what they know they need to do. I was reminded of that fact when reading Michael Willrich’s book Pox, a history of the 1900 smallpox epidemic in the United States.

A major reason the epidemic claimed so many lives was that huge numbers of Americans went unvaccinated. As some put it at the time, we were “the least vaccinated country in the civilized world.” In part, Americans went unvaccinated because of libertarian tendencies and battles over religious freedom. In part, people were skeptical of vaccines because they didn’t buy the science.

But another reason we lacked vaccinations was because local governments were often responsible for the costs of vaccines. In Kentucky, for instance, the majority of African Americans were unvaccinated even though the epidemic was rampant in many communities. In Middlesboro, Ky., around 90 percent of people did not receive the vaccine. The town simply couldn’t afford it. The consequences were as predictable as they were horrible, with people dying unnecessarily and the disease spreading, glad to take advantage of local budget shortfalls.

Poverty and illness are not spread evenly across society. They run together like a high school clique. Which means the poorer a local community, the greater its financial needs. Leave communities to provide health insurance on their own, and the poor will suffer that much more.

We need to work hard to limit the size of our entitlement programs in the United States. But we should also work to distribute those entitlements fairly across communities. That is not a job best left to the locals.
A new program brings together Duke University’s Sanford School of Public Policy and the Indian Institute of Management in Udaipur, India (IIMU), in a collaborative research and educational effort that aims to help transform the lives of some of the poorest people in the world.

The project will match faculty researchers from both institutions with Indian nonprofit organizations that not only can provide valuable logistical support for faculty research projects in India, but also can act on the findings.

“‘There are many academic and activists who are eager to collaborate, and our world-class researchers can provide established organizations in Udaipur with the knowledge base to make their efforts more effective,’” said Anirudh Krishna, a Sanford professor of public policy. Krishna co-leads the initiative with Professor Janat Shah, director of IIMU.

Krishna, a former official of the Indian Administrative Service in the state of Rajasthan, has made alleviating poverty and enhancing human development the focus of his scholarly work. Shah is an expert in green supply chains, and will be involved with research projects in the fields of energy and climate change.

The countryside around Udaipur is home to some of the neediest people in India. Udaipur is a center for both governmental and non-governmental organizations serving this population who can assemble field research teams and offer the infrastructure needed to put research-based improvements in place, Krishna said.

The three-year start-up program has received $500,000 in pilot funding from a variety of sources, including Duke’s Office of the Provost, the Sanford School and IIMU. Some of the funding has been applied to five Duke-led pilot research projects, which will identify faculty collaborators at IIMU, Krishna said. Each will receive $25,000 over three years, as well as matching funds from IIMU:

- **Linda Burton** and **Saunjuhi Verma** (Sociology): Evaluation of a national ID card as a device to help low-income Indians to transition from the informal to the formal economy.
- **Erika Weinthal** and **Krithi Karanth** (Nicholas School): Survey of human-wildlife conflicts around protected areas to create risk maps.
- **William (Sandy) Darity** (Sanford): Indian social policies to reduce poverty and social exclusion especially among scheduled castes (former untouchables) and indigenous people.
- **Subhrendu Pattanayak** and **Marc Jeuland** (Sanford and Global Health Institute): Contextual factors that influence adoption of improved cookstoves, improving health outcomes among low-income households.
- **Erik Wibbels** (Political Science): Clientelism, Public Services and Elections in Urban Slums.

Graduate and PhD students at both institutions will benefit from the partnership, as well, either by working alongside faculty on research projects or interning with NGO partners. Among the partner NGOs are Action Security and Seva Mandir, a development organization that has served the rural and tribal population of Rajasthan for more than 40 years.

Another component of the program is a 12-week summer school for 30 to 35 development professionals. The summer school, to begin in 2014, will form teams of three students—one from Duke, one from an Indian university and one NGO staff member. Each team will be tasked with producing for its host NGO a detailed project proposal, including a budget and cost-benefit analysis, which the NGO can present to a potential funder.

The summer school will combine coursework, field research based on assignments given in class and a concluding feedback and discussion module. At least six of the 12 weeks will be spent living in villages or urban slums related to the host NGO’s operations, where the student team will be required to identify gaps in existing responses to

A Duke student, aided by a translator, conducts interviews with villagers in rural India during the Global Semester Abroad in 2011. The GSA helped plant seeds for Sanford’s new partnership with IIMU.
R the Kids Alright?

Odgers Uses Technology to Understand Teen Stressors

By Suzanne Valdivia

With her palpable enthusiasm and warm smile, Candice Odgers, one of the Sanford School’s newest faculty members, gives you the sense right away that she is accessible. So it’s not surprising to learn that collaboration and innovation are two key aspects of her research. Odgers came from UC, Irvine, to Duke this summer as an associate professor of public policy at Sanford, associate professor of psychology and neuroscience, and associate director of the Center for Child and Family Policy.

She and her research team are using technology in ways relatively new to social science research. To build a fuller picture of the context in which children and adolescents grow up, they are linking up with partners ranging from Google engineers to Verizon Wireless project managers.

In her miLife study, for which she partnered with Verizon Wireless, Odgers and her team distributed free cell phones to adolescents in California so they could track daily happenings at a key stage of life that holds clues to future substance abuse, mental health problems and obesity risk.

In another project, Odgers and her researchers are using Google Street View to take a virtual walk down London streets and record both positive and negative features of neighborhoods that are believed to influence children’s health. They link this information to an already comprehensive dataset gathered on families in the Environmental Risk (E-Risk) Longitudinal Study, directed by Duke professors Avshalom Caspi and Terrie Moffitt, to create a “genes-to-geography” map of the factors that may influence children’s life outcomes.

Charting Her Own Course

Odgers grew up with her four siblings in a remote village in Saskatchewan, Canada, where she remembers ice skating on the roads and winters so cold that uncovered skin would quickly freeze. She traces her interest in the effects of environment on child development to her work as a youth advocate in the courtrooms and streets of Vancouver, where the harsh realities of growing up in poor, violence-ridden communities and the role of these experiences in shaping children’s life chances could not be ignored.

“Working in the juvenile justice system… you are trying to connect these kids with services and intervene, but in many ways you just wish you had gotten there sooner.”

While Odgers was working one summer to organize a NATO advanced research workshop in Poland, an American professor (her soon-to-be PhD advisor) convinced Odgers to leave her career path in sociology and become a psychologist. She decided to forego a prestigious research award, the Commonwealth Scholarship, and relocate to the University of Virginia to complete her PhD in psychology. Her journey then took her to England for postdoctoral training, before circling back to the United States where she started her first faculty position in California.

“As I moved across contexts,” Odgers said, “I began to understand how the commonalities across disciplines and the fundamental differences between countries in their response to children’s behavior and mental health could be leveraged to better understand and promote healthy development.”

Pinpointing when to intervene to help early adolescents avoid future substance abuse was a key part of the miLife study. Young adolescents were recruited into the study if they had a history of behavior problems or a family history that increased their chances for developing a substance abuse problem. The study was designed to identify the daily triggers of a number of health-risk behaviors and, eventually, inform how and when to intervene in the lives of young adolescents.

Unlimited Texting, Lots of Data

The miLife study’s use of cell phones to collect real-time data is seen as cutting edge in social science. Odgers and her team launched the study in 2009, loaning phones with unlimited texting to about 150 participants aged 13-15. Following a baseline assessment of teens and their parents, the adolescents responded to three short surveys per day for 30 days and reported on their daily interactions and activities. Questions dealt with mood, drugs, violence and experiences during the day. The content of their texts to friends and family also became part of the dataset.

The aim of the miLife study is to determine whether and how the repeated stressors that teens experience across a short period of time accumulate to alter their trajectories during critical periods. The micro-focus was meant to complement the standard child development research, much of which follows children over long periods of time, with months and often years between assessments, and tends to focus on the impact of major life events.

“There is good evidence to suggest that the daily, chronic, pervasive and sometimes lower-level stressors and

Please see page 18
Exploring Identity and Health

By Melissa Yeo

Early life experiences shape the academic paths of many professors, but few find their research as directly connected to their roots as Jay A. Pearson, assistant professor at the Sanford School. Disparities across cultural groups and consequences of ethnic identity formation are not only the focus of Pearson’s research; he has experienced them firsthand.

Pearson grew up in Murfreesboro, N.C., a small town in the heart of tobacco and cotton country. Born into a family of tenant farmers and sharecroppers, Pearson experienced challenges common in the rural agricultural south.

“For the first seven years of my life, we didn’t have power or running water,” said Pearson. Electricity came first, when Pearson was 7 years old, followed by running water when he turned 11 and his family moved into a trailer park.

“You know you come from a rough place when a trailer park is an upgrade,” he said with a laugh. “Back then, I didn’t know we were poor. But I could conceive of there being something different.”

Growing up in rural northeastern North Carolina, racial assignment mattered. Pearson’s mother identifies as black American and his father identifies as black Indian. While Pearson attended public school, the majority of affluent white youth in his town attended private school.

In sixth grade, Pearson was sitting in a social studies class learning about the history of Thanksgiving. The teacher had asked students to describe something that they were thankful for that year.

“I said I was happy that one set of my ancestors wasn’t enslaved anymore and that the other set of them wasn’t being senselessly killed,” said Pearson. The teacher sent him to the principal’s office.

“Something clicked for me then,” Pearson recalled. “It caused me to question the world I lived in and the stories I was being told in the classroom, which were different from the stories I had heard from my father and uncle.”

During this time Pearson also began to consider the value of formal education and how it could alter life opportunities. In eighth grade, he attended a state student council meeting where, for the first time in his life, he met peers who openly discussed their college aspirations. But his journey to higher education proved daunting.

“I was not a good student,” said Pearson. “I had always read everything I could get my hands on, but I didn’t think some of my teachers were particularly smart. I didn’t study, and I didn’t always pay attention in class.”

Pearson began taking his studies more seriously in high school, but work made it hard to focus on his academics. He had worked part-time since he was 10, starting out cutting watermelon and later working a paper route, at a fish market, a produce packing house and seasonal farm work.

Nevertheless, when a teacher encouraged Pearson to take the SAT, he attained the highest score in the history of his school at that time. Colleges started calling, and Pearson accepted an Air Force ROTC scholarship to become the first in his family to attend college. NC Central University, his school of choice, did not have its own ROTC program, so Pearson joined the Duke-NCCU ROTC program, attending classes at NCCU and coming to Duke to train twice a week. However, “a lack of social integration across the schools” prompted Pearson’s departure from the ROTC program toward the end of his junior year.

“I like to believe I quit,” Pearson said, “but I might have been kicked out.”

From ROTC to Public Health Education

He changed his major from computer science to community health education, attending summer school and staying an additional year to complete the required coursework. Upon graduation, he joined the Peace Corps in Honduras, training midwives and village health workers on nutrition, oral rehydration and respiratory health issues. His stint in the Peace Corps gave him time to think about broader social contexts and the factors that lead to varied life chances for different societal groups.

When he returned to the States, he worked as a health educator with the East Coast Migrant Health Project in West Virginia, Virginia and Florida. He later designed and implemented health and safety training for Spanish-speaking factory workers, pesticide safety training with a multi-ethnic farm worker population and lead poisoning prevention in a low-income urban community in Durham, N.C. After completing a master’s degree in public health at UNC-Chapel Hill, Pearson returned to migrant health, serving as a program coordinator and health educator.

Graduate work heightened both his fascination and frustration with the social determinants of health and structural inequality, leading him to pursue a doctorate at the University of Michigan in health behavior and health education. Please see page 18
Oders continued

exposures that many of us experience have the largest effects on people's health," said Oders. "In the same way that the number of words a young child hears in a day differs among families and predicts later verbal ability, the daily stressors, harsh exchanges and uplifts that kids encounter each day are likely to move kids in both positive and negative ways and, in some cases, leave a lasting mark."

The miLife study provides insight into young adolescents' lives through an almost instantaneous delivery of information. “This type of study design gives you the ability to adapt midstream,” Oders explained. "You have the data coming in, you can see what's happening — who is responding, who is not. And you have the opportunity to calibrate questions, and eventually micro-interventions, in a more individualized way.”

The miLife surveys had an impressive response rate (over 90%) and generated approximately 800,000 lines of data, which is still being analyzed. The teens sent as many as 400 texts per day and averaged 100 per day.

Using Google to Assess Neighborhoods

Through support from Google, Oders was able to fold an additional layer into a very thorough longitudinal study being conducted by Caspi and Moffitt. Over a decade ago, their Harvard-based collaborator, Robert Sampson, tried to help overcome self-reported bias in neighborhood assessments by purchasing a van and having his team drive down the streets where the families in his Chicago-based longitudinal study lived. But because of high costs, only 20 percent of the families’ neighborhoods could be coded. With the advent of Google Street View, Oders was able to adapt Sampson’s method and virtually collect similar information on the neighborhoods of children in the E-Risk Study for a fraction of the cost.

Demonstrating how Google Street View could provide a reliable and cost-effective way to assess neighborhoods attracted so many inquiries from other researchers, for-profit entities and others that Oders’ team decided to make the assessment tool freely available online. They hope this methodological innovation will help researchers better understand how the communities where people live, work and play influence behavior and health.

Touching Kids’ Lives

While she may have a history of taking risks, what led Oders to Duke was a much more calculated decision. She saw a strong link between the mission and focus of the Duke Center for Child and Family Policy and her belief that science should have a real and positive impact on the lives of children and adolescents.

“I was excited about the prospect of being in a place with a true commitment to interdisciplinary research and student engagement, while also having access to the platform that the Center provides to translate knowledge in ways that can reach practitioners and touch kids’ lives.”

Pearson continued

His dissertation explored links between socioeconomic status and health in the context of racial categorization, ethnic identity, discrimination and alternative socio-cultural orientations.

While at Michigan, Pearson found a mentor in Sherman James, a leading social epidemiologist who came to Sanford in 2003 as the Susan B. King Professor of Public Policy.

“During my first semester there, I took a class with [James] that changed my world view,” said Pearson. “He is someone whom I admire a great deal and have tremendous amount of respect for.”

Working at the University of Michigan Population Studies Center, Pearson served as assistant project director of an NIH-funded research study on racial differences in telomere length and their association with chronic urban stressors. The experience narrowed his research focus to race, ethnicity and the social determinants of health differences.

Pearson’s current projects examine gendered health differences associated with immigration to the United States, as well as the value of using variable race and ethnicity designations in academic studies. He is also developing a typology of race, ethnicity and national origin for social science research on health outcomes.

Who You Are, Who You Become

“My father thought it was very important for my brother and me to understand that we were both black and Native American,” Pearson recalled. “But when we moved into an all-black trailer park, the kids there let us know in no uncertain terms that we were black. And in Honduras, I learned about skin color gradations and color status, and I got to be not black, but triguero.”

The fluidity of ethnic identity remains relevant to Pearson’s daily life. As a fluent Spanish speaker working in migrant health, Pearson has been asked by colleagues if he is Puerto Rican or Cuban. Others, who know him only by name, have assumed he is Jewish.

“These experiences raise questions about whether the way people see you, the way you see yourself and the way you relate to others affect access to resources that can enhance life changes or insults that can compromise them,” he said. “I have a unique set of gifts that allowed me to navigate the impediments to success that I had to [navigate]. I would like to contribute to creating a society where those impediments are reduced, if not eliminated.”

The need to represent a diverse range of voices is becoming increasingly important, said Pearson. “In today’s sociopolitical environment, it is more critical than ever to represent voices that are not traditionally well represented,” he stressed. “We have difficult decisions to make about who we are as a nation, and at the same time, we’ve become increasingly polarized.”

Reflecting on his role in this dialogue, Pearson described himself at the crossroads of firsthand experience and formal training.

“I’m in a unique position,” he said. “Not only do I have firsthand insight into and understanding of how these social mechanisms operate and personal knowledge of what it takes to successfully negotiate them, I also have the formal training to translate and disseminate this knowledge to a broader population. And given that most people have only one or the other, I have an obligation to do this work.”
Program Brings National Security Fellows to Duke

By Jackie Ogburn

Two mid-career officers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation began classes this fall as the first students in the new Counterterrorism and National Security Fellows Program at the Sanford School. The program is designed to give mid-career military and national security officials a deeper understanding of the policy-making process, broaden their communication and problem-solving skills and deepen their understanding of other cultures.

“The agencies we talked to were drawn to Duke’s strength in studies on terrorism, especially our work on the growth in homegrown radicals in the United States,” said David Schanzer, director of the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security. Schanzer, an associate professor of public policy, helped develop the program.

During the nine-month program, the fellows are taking courses in national security studies, counterterrorism policy and policymaking. Each fellow will conduct independent research with a senior faculty member and present their findings to the community in a public forum in the spring. They will also work as a team in a practicum, analyzing and proposing a solution to a real-world national security problem.

“This first year is going extremely well,” said Program Director Tim Nichols. Next year, three fellows are expected, including one from the U.S. Army. Nichols hopes to draw fellows from other agencies, including the CIA and departments of Justice, Defense, State and Homeland Security, as well as the other branches of the military.

“When you are in the field, you are so conditioned to think in a certain way that the opportunity to step outside and think differently about these things, and to do honest research, is a tremendous benefit,” said Cassandra Butler.

Butler has 19 years of experience as an intelligence analyst, the last six with the FBI and 13 with the Central Intelligence Agency. Most recently, she was part of a task force at the FBI field office in Tampa, Fla., investigating homegrown violent extremists, terrorism financing and online radicalization. While at the CIA, she worked on terrorism, economic sanctions and energy security and traveled to the Middle East and Western Europe.

The typical 90-day fellowships the FBI offers to mid-career agents are “not long enough for serious research,” Butler said. She is focusing on an aspect of domestic Islamic radicalization: U.S.-born Islamic children who are sent to the Middle East for parts of their education and then return to the States for high school or college.

“When you are in the field, you are so conditioned to think in a certain way that the opportunity to step outside and think differently about these things, and to do honest research, is a tremendous benefit.”

“The late teenage years are a time for internalizing values, and I wonder how hard it is for these kids to assimilate back to the U.S.,” she said. That difficulty might make them more vulnerable to becoming radicalized. Derrel Martin said, “It’s been enlightening to learn about some of the behind-the-scenes policy decisions.” In the months after 9/11, he said, “marching orders came down — find this, do that,” and in Schanzer’s class on the terrorist attack and its aftermath, Martin has learned about the thinking behind those orders.

An FBI special agent for more than 15 years, Martin serves in the Cookeville, Tenn., office and is responsible for domestic and international terrorism investigations for the region as well as counterintelligence, white collar crime, bank robberies and gangs. He is the Assistant SWAT Team Leader for the Memphis FBI division. In 2009, he was embedded with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan, where he was responsible for collecting and analyzing terrorism intelligence for an operations area.

Martin will research the sovereign citizen movement, which the FBI categorizes as a domestic terrorist group. The movement doesn’t recognize the legitimacy of the U.S. government and has established a “shadow government” with a president, senators and a common law court. The group commits “paper terrorism,” issuing false liens against property and squatting in foreclosed homes. As the movement has grown, so have clashes with law enforcement.

“All of these people are scammers, but some are true believers. I want to figure out who they are and where they are going,” he said.

The fellows have met with some of the national security speakers that have come to Duke, such as former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Michele Flournoy. “That type of access never happens within the intelligence community,” said Butler. Both Butler and Martin think the program will help in the next step in their careers, especially in learning to appreciate the perspectives of other agencies.

Hues of green and orange highlight the extreme ruggedness of the mountainous terrain shown in this false-color satellite image of eastern Afghanistan, near its border with Pakistan. (Image courtesy of USGS via CIA Factbook.)
Economic Development Strategies and the Evolution of Violence in Latin America

William Ascher and Natalia Mirovitckaya, eds. November 2012, Palgrave Macmillan

The book is the first in a series "Politics, Economics, and Inclusive Development," and explores the links between economic policy and inter-group violent in Latin America with a collection of case studies. The transformation from open ideological conflict to confrontations over natural resources, drugs and street violence seen across the region is traced to shifts in economic strategies of right, centrist and leftist governments. The cases use both qualitative and quantitative methods to understand how economic development strategies and policies have shaped the levels and forms of violence in 10 countries. Co-editor Natalia Mirovitckaya is a senior research scholar at Duke Center for International Development.

Why We Are Here: Mobile and the Spirit of a Southern City

Edward O. Wilson and Alex Harris


Stanford professor and documentary photographer Alex Harris teamed up with Pulitzer Prize-winning biologist Edward O. Wilson to produce this book that presents the life and history of Mobile, Ala. Wilson, a Mobile native and the world’s leading expert on ants and the social behavior of animals, traces his family’s racial and economic struggles from the Civil War through the Depression, providing a rare perspective on Mobile’s rich and varied history. Harris, an Atlanta native who has photographed extensively in the American South, interweaves Wilson’s story with images of daily life in Mobile to create a story of conservation, revitalization and radical change. Wilson and Harris will speak at a reception and book signing at the NasWer Museum of Art on Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m.


This is a sample of publications by Sanford faculty. For more complete information visit faculty web pages at www.sanford.duke.edu
Sanford ABROAD
Sanford School faculty travel worldwide, giving presentations and lectures and conducting research. This map shows selected recent faculty activities.
Marian Wright Edelman

Crown Lecture in Ethics
Oct. 25, 2012

Founder and president of the Children’s Defense Fund
Marian Wright Edelman, center, meets with Professor Ken Dodge and guests prior to giving the 2012 Crown Lecture in Ethics at the Sanford School on Oct. 25. Edelman’s talk, “Getting Everyone on Board: Our Obligation to Children in Poverty,” drew upon her life’s work as an advocate for children. In this presidential campaign season, “our biggest national security threat is the status of our children,” she said. With 16.4 million poor children, the U.S. child poverty rate is the highest in the developed world. Edelman is a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award. For more on her talk, please see www.sanford.duke.edu.

Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr.

The Terry Sanford Distinguished Lecture
Sept. 10, 2012

Former ambassador to mainland China and Singapore and twice-elected Republican governor of Utah Jon Huntsman Jr. discussed his views on foreign policy with Peter Feaver, professor of political science and public policy, in Page Auditorium on Sept. 10. The U.S.-China relationship is between the two biggest actors on the world stage today, “a marriage where divorce is not an option,” he said during the event. Huntsman ran for the Republican nomination for president in 2012 and is chair of the Huntsman Cancer Foundation. For a video and story, please see www.sanford.duke.edu.