CAN NEWS BE SAVED? DeWitt Wallace Center Plans to Try

By Karen Kemp

The headlines about newspapers are bleak: In December, Detroit papers curtailed home deliveries saying, “We’re fighting for our survival.” The Christian Science Monitor ceased all print publication and is now available only online. The venerable Chicago Tribune filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Popular person-to-person, online advertising services such as Craigslist and Monster.com have gutted a core revenue stream for newspapers, classified advertising. Layoffs and closures are common and news sections are shrinking as old business models crumble in the face of electronic innovation.

As a consequence, the “watchdog” role of the press is in jeopardy, says Professor of PPS and Economics James “Jay” Hamilton, the new director of the DeWitt Wallace Center (DWC) for Media and Democracy. Fewer news outlets than ever can afford to devote resources to the time-consuming, investigative journalism needed to uncover government or corporate wrongdoing.

A related problem — given that consumer advertising drives the creation of news and information — is that relatively little of the information essential to effective participation in our society is made accessible to low-income people. These knowledge gaps threaten democracy, which relies on an informed electorate.

“There’s a gap between what people want to know and what they need to know, and for most people, it doesn’t pay to be informed,” Hamilton said. (Please see page 16)
As the New Year begins, we all are facing new economic realities. These external factors certainly make it more challenging for the Institute to raise the funds needed to reach our goal of becoming a school on July 1. Nonetheless, because we are rooted in “outrageous ambitions,” we remain optimistic.

President Brodhead told Duke faculty and staff that the university enjoys relative stability, however, a 19 percent drop in endowment revenue over the last six months means that all schools and departments must seek ways to trim expenses.

Duke surpassed its goal of raising $300 million for financial aid, an initiative in which Sanford Institute donors played a key role, providing endowment resources to increase financial support for public policy students.

And, we’re more than three-quarters of the way toward our $40 million school goal. In the months ahead, we’ll continue working diligently to inspire additional partners to support our vision for public policy education.

Previously I described components of that vision: Addressing issues in energy and environmental policy, health policy, global governance and international development policy. A fourth area of emphasis is social policy, whose importance will only be accentuated by our nation’s recent economic difficulties.

The social challenges facing the United States are enormous. The gap between rich and poor is larger than that of any other advanced country. Disparities in income are associated with well documented disparities in education, the criminal justice system, and in access to health care. Existing racial and ethnic disparities intensify as waves of new immigrants remake the fabric of local communities.

Meanwhile, our educational system fails to educate large numbers of poor and minority students to the levels required of an increasingly global and knowledge-based society.

Many of the critical challenges facing the residents of North Carolina are also the problems of the South, of the nation and of communities around the world. These challenges — strengthening education for all children, combating poverty, promoting better race relations, and improving the quality of life — have been at the heart of the Terry Sanford Institute’s concerns from its inception, and will be central to its concerns as we begin our life as a school.

To maximize Duke's impact on the most important social policy issues of the day, the new public policy school will focus more intensively on areas in which its distinguished faculty already make significant contributions: education policy, poverty, child and family policy, racial and ethnic disparities, aging, and social deviancy. These areas also are priorities for three active university research centers: the Center for Child and Family Policy; the Population, Policy and Aging Research Center; and the Social Science Research Institute.

In partnership with such nationally recognized centers, the new public policy school will extend Duke’s position as a leader in translating outstanding research in these critical areas of social policy into better schools, stronger families, and a higher quality of life for Americans at all levels of society.

These are worthy goals, regardless of the vagaries of the economy. As President Brodhead said, “The most successful universities are the ones that have a clear sense of where they want to go and continue to make progress toward essential goals in both fair weather and foul.” As a school-to-be, we know where we want to go, and with your help we will get there.

Best regards,

Bruce Kuniholm
Sarah Dahlgren, a member of the Sanford Board of Visitors since 1993, didn’t make it to most recent board meeting, but she had a pretty good excuse. She was busy trying to save the financial world.

Dahlgren (MA ’89) has spent the last 18 years at the Federal Reserve’s New York branch, serving in a variety of roles. She is currently a Senior Vice President in the Bank Supervision group, and on Sept. 16 she was reassigned to lead a team supervising the Federal Reserve’s loan to faltering insurance giant AIG.

After graduating from Duke—Dahlgren said she was based in the Old Chem building, because the Sanford building was not yet built—the Alaska native spent a year working for the City of New York’s Department of Corrections. There, Dahlgren spent much of her time at Rikers Island prison, a year she called a “fascinating learning experience.” In 1990, Dahlgren left municipal government to join the Fed, where she has been ever since. “I certainly didn’t go in thinking I would be here for as long as I have been, but every time I start to think, ‘Hmm, maybe I should look for something different,’ my job changes,” Dahlgren said. “We hit a crisis, we have something new, different or exciting, and that’s what really draws you in.”

The last several months have certainly been different and exciting on Wall Street, as the New York Fed and the Federal Treasury have organized bailouts of some of the financial sector’s biggest firms. Not surprisingly, Dahlgren said it has been a stressful time at the Fed, particularly at the New York office. “Events have unfolded very quickly since the late summer, and I think it’s been a challenge for everybody across all of the respective agencies, whether it’s the New York Fed, the Treasury, the Board of Governors, trying to deal with crisis after crisis,” Dahlgren said. “Everything happened so fast. It’s one thing when the government has to deal with a single crisis at a time, but we’ve been dealing with multiple crises over weekends and even within weeks.”

Dahlgren, who is serving her second three-year term on the Sanford Board, said she has enjoyed serving and welcomes the opportunity to give back to Duke. “It’s been exciting to watch the evolution of the Board. When I was at Duke close to 20 years ago, the Board of Visitors existed then but in a much different way,” Dahlgren said. “They’ve made it a much more active Board, especially after they’ve started thinking about making [the Sanford Institute] a school at Duke.”

Sanford Briefs

**Annual Fund Update** • When public policy students returned from winter break, they had a nice surprise: 64 electrical outlets installed in the Fleishman Commons and the overlooking pods. The outlets, which facilitate student use of laptops throughout the building, were installed after Sanford Annual Fund contributions matched a gift from the Herman Goldman Foundation.

The newly launched Annual Fund is making an impact on the lives of students through projects such as this, supporting summer internships and addressing the most pressing funding priorities of the Institute and soon-to-be school. Alumni, parents and friends are rallying to help reach this year’s $100,000 fundraising goal.

“We need participation from our entire Sanford community to reach our goal and to maintain momentum,” said Deirdre Gordon, associate director of development. “Every gift is important.” With Annual Fund contributions of just over $75,000 at calendar year-end, the Sanford Institute is relying on help from under-graduate and graduate alumni, students, parents and friends of the Institute to reach the goal by June 30. To make a gift to the Sanford Annual Fund, visit [www.pubpol.duke.edu/development](http://www.pubpol.duke.edu/development) or call 919-613-7325 to speak with a member of the development staff.

**Special Advisor** • Ambassador James Joseph, professor of the practice of PPS, is working with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to restructure its programs in Southern Africa. Operations in the foundation’s Pretoria, South Africa, office were suspended in November 2008 while a forensic financial audit is conducted. Preliminary findings indicate that several hundred thousand dollars may have been illegally diverted.

“Ambassador Joseph’s stature, record of achievement, and reputation for integrity give us great confidence in our ability to continue serving children and communities in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe,” said Sterling K. Speirn, president and CEO of the foundation.

**Faculty Addition** • John Burness, former senior vice president for public affairs and government relations at Duke University, has joined Sanford as a visiting professor of the practice. He has begun writing a regular column for The Chronicle of Higher Education and researching a book. As a faculty affiliate with the DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy, Burness will teach a class on higher education and the media next fall.

**Advising Award** • Donna Dyer, director of career services and alumni relations, received the 2007-08 Duke University Excellence in Academic Advising Award in recognition of her work in pre-major advising. She was selected from among 130 advisors, based on nominations from undergraduates.

One student commented: “Her sincere interest and confidence in me has allowed me to take more academic risks because I know that ultimately she is there to support me and to advocate for my best interests.”

**Development Grows** • The Sanford development office has added two new members: Beth Gettys Sturkey as associate director and director of advancement services, and Tim Young (G’06) as development officer and assistant director. Sturkey worked as a major gifts officer for Environmental Defense Fund and was associate director of the Annual Fund at Duke, along with other positions. She holds an MS in higher education administration and student counseling/development from Florida State University. Young held previous development positions at Peace College and in the university development office at Duke.
Mayer Ending Service as Director of Graduate Studies

After serving for eight years as the director of graduate studies for the Institute, Associate Professor of PPS and Political Science Frederick “Fritz” Mayer will leave the position at the end of the academic year.

“Stepping away from the graduate programs is difficult for me; I really enjoy what I do,” said Mayer. “It has been a great privilege to serve the Sanford community as DGS for the last eight years, and I am very proud of what we have together accomplished.”

As director, Mayer expanded the masters in public policy (MPP) recruiting efforts to new markets and increased the average class size from 25 to 30 students per year to 50. He created the MPP degree concentrations in global, social, and health policy and started the Geneva summer program, which offers Sanford and other graduate students a 12-week summer internship with a world policymaking organization with related coursework. He expanded the joint master’s degree programs with the Duke Law School, Fuqua School of Business, the School of Medicine, the Nicholas School of the Environment, and with other universities, such as the Kenan-Flagler School of Business at UNC, Chapel Hill.

Mayer supported student initiatives such as the Living Policy Forum and the Duke/New Orleans Post-Katrina Initiative that offer students ways to use their policymaking skills in the community. He also increased the administrative staff to provide support for the expanded programs.

In fall 2007, Mayer also welcomed the first class of students in the interdisciplinary PhD program in public policy, with concentrations in economics, sociology and political science.

“During Fritz’s tenure as director of graduate studies, he has been one of the truly critical players in making us what we are,” said Sanford Institute Director Bruce Kuniholm.

Beginning July 1, Associate Professor of PPS Elizabeth Frankenberg will become the director of the MPP programs and Associate Professor of PPS and Economics Jacob Vigdor will take on oversight of the PhD program.

Mayer plans to focus on research and finishing a book on narrative and collective action. He is involved in several projects on globalization and governance, including work for the International Labor Organization on protecting workers in global production networks.

“I want to thank Fritz for the job he has done so well,” said Kuniholm. “While I expect great things as he dedicates himself more fully to his research, I also expect that his passion for these programs will lead him to once again play an important role in our soon-to-be school.”

New Policy Courses

Many of the new PPS courses for spring are geared towards developing leadership and a sense of civic duty and engagement in students.

Hart Leadership Program Director Alma Blount will teach “Border Crossings,” a preparation course for students wishing to conduct community-based research projects through Service Opportunities in Leadership. Through case studies of religious and political conflicts at home and abroad, students will explore leadership as the art of working with group conflict. Students will also learn basic research methods, including the ethics of human subjects research.

Visiting Lecturer Christopher Gergen will teach “Leadership & Social Innovation,” a gateway course for the Entrepreneurial Leadership Initiative. The course will examine the relationship between social entrepreneurship and the public good, with the intent of steering students towards a research service learning project.

HLP Assistant Director David Gastwirth will teach “Leadership for Public Life,” meant to inspire student leaders to consider the challenges and opportunities unique to college students and explore what it means to develop a public self.

Thomas Ahn, a research associate in the Center for Child and Family Policy, will teach a course in K-12 education policy. Topics to be covered include legislation, achievement gaps and teacher retention.

Associate Professor of PPS M. Giovanna Merli will teach “Population, Health and Policy.” The course will use demographic models to study the policy debates around topics of health in industrialized and developing societies.

“Designing Innovation for Global Health,” taught by Anthony So, director of the Program on Global Health and Technology Access, will lead students to consider what factors help enable local innovation, from intellectual and financial capital to end-user input and systems for sharing and owning knowledge.

Judith Kelley, assistant professor of PPS, will teach “Leadership & Social Innovation,” intended to critically analyze and assess international efforts to promote domestic policy reforms in the political and economic realms.

Giovanni Zanalta, visiting assistant professor of PPS, will teach “Globalization in Historical Perspective.” The course examines the issues of growth and development, viewing phenomena, institutions and policies that have historically enabled the exchange of commodities, people and cultures.

William Darity, professor of PPS, will teach “Monument and Memory,” focusing on the construction of racial histories through memorials. Students will visit local memorials.

Visiting Lecturer Ted Vaden will teach “Public Service Journalism,” in which students will examine the changing economic model of newspapers and solutions that could sustain the public service function of journalism.

To give students the standard tools for research in the social sciences, Professor of Economics and PPS Seth Sanders will teach “Advanced Statistical Methods.”
Students Named Federal Ambassadors

Two Sanford Institute students are among 15 college students nationwide selected as Federal Service Student Ambassadors (FSSA) for the 2008-09 school year. Jeremy Cluchey, a second-year MPP student, and Nick Campisano, a PPS senior, were selected by the Partnership for Public Service, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization that works to revitalize the federal government by inspiring a new generation to serve.

Cluchey and Campisano both interned in federal offices during the summer of 2008. Cluchey worked with the Physical Infrastructure team at the Government Accountability Office (GAO), where he audited the efficiency of the U.S. Postal Service's delivery systems. Before enrolling in graduate school at Duke, Cluchey had worked on education policy issues for Experience Corps and the Albert Shanker Institute, among other positions.

Campisano served as a research assistant at the Federal Communications Commission. He worked in Commissioner Robert McDowell's office alongside his three legal advisors, covering telecommunications hearings, writing comment summaries, drafting speeches and organizing arguments. Details on the FSSA program are available online.

Hart Partners with Local Muslim Youth Programs

During the spring semester, 30 Duke students in Hart Leadership Program Director Alma Blount’s “Border Crossing” course will assist the Islamic Association of Raleigh (IAR) by writing grant proposals and helping to design summer projects for the Triangle Youth Leadership Program.

The service work will continue a three-year relationship between Blount, Hart and IAR that grew into the inaugural Triangle Youth Leadership Program last summer. Three area mosques sent 19 students to the 10-week program called “The American Political System and the Muslim Role in It.”

The program included two sessions a week, group service projects and reflective writing exercises. Students met with local politicians and media professionals, visited the state legislature and attended seminars with Islamic experts in the Triangle area.

Dr. Ahmad Rufai Abdullah of IAR and Blount hope to expand the youth leadership program in the summer of 2009.

Research Service-Learning Livens Up PPS Coursework

By Leslie Griffith

The weather was a chilly 40 degrees at 9 a.m. when Duke sophomore Charlotte Pinkard arrived at the farm just outside of Durham. While many other students were still asleep, Pinkard began trudging up and down the field, collecting unharvested sweet potatoes for donation to local food pantries.

Pinkard and five other students spent the day with the Society of St. Andrew, gleaning pounds of non-regulation size sweet potatoes left behind by farmers. Along with students organized by Meals on Wheels and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, they were participating in the research-service-learning component of PPS 114, taught by Ken Rogerson, lecturer in PPS.

The course, offered in conjunction with the Hart Leadership Program's RSL Pathway in Public Policy, lets students observe firsthand the impact of the policies they study.

Gleaning opened Pinkard’s eyes to the volume of edible food that goes to waste in agriculture.

“I didn’t realize how much would be left after the harvest,” she said. “Access to fresh fruit and vegetables, which we can provide with gleaning, is a huge factor in food security.”

The students, along with roughly 75 other community volunteers, gathered 8,700 pounds of sweet potatoes in one day — and even then the field wasn’t empty, Pinkard said. Her day in the field and her conversations with the Society of St. Andrew's director pushed her to consider the interactions between federal tax policies and food security. Pinkard's group had examined the tax break given to farmers who allow gleaning and how altering that policy might affect the amount gleaned.

Sophomore Ken Lee realized the connection between his service and classroom experiences on his first day working with the Food Bank.

“We had just done a lecture on the role of media in policymaking when I did my training,” Lee said. “They explained how a documentary on starvation actually helped get the Food Bank started.”

Lee and his classmates pre-screened candidates to assess their eligibility for food stamps. Sophomore Matt Keshian said the experience exposed him to the frustration some food stamp applicants feel. He recounted how one woman he’d pre-screened had applied several times but never been eligible.

“A lot of times you hear what policymakers have to say but not what people who are affected have to say,” Keshian said.

A partnership with Meals on Wheels gave junior Charmaine Webster insight into how nonprofits function and the importance of recruiting and maintaining volunteers. Webster and her fellow RSL students are planning a hunger summit for Durham and working with the Meals on Wheels director to address a volunteer shortage.

“We’re helping them figure out their volunteer issues — the price of gas is so high that many people couldn’t volunteer if they wanted to, so we’re trying to come up with some incentives,” Webster said.

Although people may not view the Food Bank or similar organizations as political entities, food security and food safety issues are inherently political, Rogerson said. “We tend to separate ‘feel-good’ community service from politics,” Rogerson said. “I want them to see the political connection.”
Smith Testifies at War Crimes Trial

By Jackie Ogburn

When working as a journalist in West Africa over the past two decades, Stephen Smith, visiting professor of PPS, interviewed warlord and former president of Liberia Charles Taylor in settings ranging from a swamp near Monrovia to a Paris hotel room. This fall, they met again in a very different setting: the courtroom of Taylor’s war crime trial in The Hague.

Beginning in 1989, Taylor led the rebel group, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL). Taylor’s troops were notorious for acts such as forced labor from civilians and abducting children to serve as soldiers in the “Small Boy Units.”

Following a period of civil and ethnic warfare, Taylor was elected president of Liberia in 1997. Opposition continued throughout his presidency, and by the time of his resignation in 2003, Taylor’s government controlled only a small part of the county around the capital.

Taylor now faces charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes involving murder, mutilation, rape, terror against civilians, enslavement, pillage and the use of child soldiers. Taylor, prosecutors allege, launched and funded the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in neighboring Sierra Leone and allowed the RUF to establish military bases in Liberia.

In September 2008, Smith flew to The Hague to appear as a witness for the prosecution before the Special Court for Sierra Leone, an international tribunal at the International Criminal Court. Smith testified for two days, based on his reporting of the conflicts in Liberia and Sierra Leone from early 1990 through 2004.

His primary testimony concerned an interview Smith and another journalist conducted with Taylor, published in *Le Monde* in 2000, during which Taylor discussed various allegations against him, such as involvement in illegal diamond mining in Sierra Leone and his authority with the RUF. Smith thought hard before agreeing to testify.

“I felt comfortable with it because I was not being asked to turn over my notes, just to testify to the facts,” he said. “The Le Monde piece was an interview with another reporter present, and Taylor had not claimed there were any inaccuracies in the published piece.” Testifying would not compromise his work since Smith was not asked to reveal sources, and other questions were to establish certain facts for the record or about his personal experiences.

One of those experiences was what court reports called “the incident with Charles Taylor.” In August 1990, Smith had met with Taylor close to a battlefield near Monrovia. Later that evening, Smith was traveling with several other reporters when they passed Roberts Airfield. Unknown to the group at the time, an arms shipment for the rebels was due in that night from Libya.

When Taylor saw the group, he had Smith singled out and taken away by two bodyguards. Smith later learned that Taylor thought he was acting as a spy. On the way to a prison camp, the guards forced Smith to kneel by the side of the road. They held a gun to his head. They fired, but he was not shot—it was a mock execution. Smith was held for a few days, then released.

Still, Smith felt some ambivalence about the experience of testifying. “As a journalist, I trust words,” he said, but in the court setting, “conversations become devious.”

The trial is continuing after more than a year and is expected to continue for several more months.

China, India and Kazakhstan Sign Contracts with DCID

The Duke Center for International Development (DCID) secured three new contracts for customized executive education programs over the past year.

**Yangzhou, China** • The success of the DCID executive education program for the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs (SAFEA), now in its fifth year, led to a new program for Chinese officials that begins this month.

The Yangzhou Youth Cadres Overseas Training Program for senior officials is modeled on the SAFEA program. Over a 19-week period, participants will take courses at Duke in public policy, administration and management led by DCID and Sanford Institute faculty.

**Uttar Pradesh, India** • Through an agreement with the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, DCID faculty provide training and workshops for groups of 40 senior civil servants in the Provincial Civil Service (PCS) two times each year for three years.

Programming includes classroom sessions with DCID faculty and field experts, visits to regional government and private-sector offices and a trip to Washington, D.C.

“Overall, the participants have been pleased with the program thus far,” said G.P. Shukla, co-director of the program.

**Republic of Kazakhstan** • In October 2008, DCID hosted two groups of 20 regional and central-government civil servants. The groups took part in a new customized program led by DCID faculty members titled, “Administrative Reform: Decentralization, Fiscal Planning and Management.” In addition to their classroom training, program participants visited government and private sector offices such as the city of Charlotte and SAS.

Three alumni of the DCID Program in International Development Policy returned to campus to serve as teaching assistants: Kanat Ibrayev (PIDP ‘07), Gaukhar Kassymzhanova (PIDP ‘07) and Sholpan Spanova (PIDP ‘08).

In addition to these new programs, DCID continues to provide customized training and education programs for the Indian Administrative Service, Government of India, and the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs (SAFEA), People’s Republic of China.
America’s Hard Sell

By BRUCE W. JENTLESON and STEVEN WEBER

For most of the second half of the 20th century, five Big Ideas shaped world politics:

1) Peace is better than war.
2) Hegemony, at least the benign sort, is better than a balance of power.
3) Capitalism is better than socialism.
4) Democracy is better than dictatorship.
5) Western culture is better than all the rest.

On all five counts, the United States was widely seen as paragon and guarantor. These Five Big Ideas, though, no longer are the sound and sturdy guides they once were. The challenge runs far deeper than the bad atmospheres created by the Bush administration. The biggest and most basic questions of world politics are open for debate once again.

Of course, peace is still better than war. Unless, as some governments will profess, war is wielded as an instrument of national policy, as was the case with the United States in Iraq, Russia in Georgia, Ethiopia in Somalia, Israel in Lebanon and others to come. Or, does peace remain superior if states want to prevent the killing of people in Darfur, end the malign neglect in the aftermath of a natural disaster in Burma, or head off a pandemic incubating within someone else’s borders? With authority more contested and power more diffuse, what are the rules for going to war and keeping the peace?

And who makes them? Hegemony, benign or otherwise, is no longer an option—not for the United States, not for China, not for anyone. A 21st century version of 19th century multipolarity is hardly possible. There are too many players at too many tables for counting and balancing poles of power. While some players still matter more than others, more players matter more deeply than ever before. Non-state actors—from the Gates Foundation to IBM and Bono—are frontline and autonomous global players. What’s the new ordering principle for decision making in a world that is more networked than hierarchical?

Capitalism decisively beat socialism. But it now has split into distinctive and competing forms, with governments owning and directing large parts of the economy in some of the most critical states and sectors. Has the market come to need the state as much as state needs the market?

Democracy has brought freer societies. But is it as effective in efficiently creating just and peaceful ones? It is now hardly an acceptance of repression to recognize the simple fact that in many societies political legitimacy is a function of performance, not just process.

And while the most raw and visceral expressions of anti-Americanism may very well subside when the Bush administration leaves office, the “be like us” era (about which some Americans will always wax nostalgic) will never return. Modernization did not bring homogenization: culture and identity are powerful, enduring forces between and within societies.

The four central areas of competition during at least the next decade will be: mutualiy; a just society; a healthy planet; and societal heterogeneity.

In the United States, it is popular to declare war on a problem. So, for example, U.S. political leaders, whether liberal or conservative, consistently appeal for a “war of ideas” to defeat international terrorism. The metaphor is crisp, actionable, and morally compelling. It’s also wrong. The United States is facing a global competition of ideas, and the rules of engagement are much closer to those set out by Milton Friedman than Carl von Clausewitz.

The four central areas of competition during at least the next decade will be: mutuality; a just society; a healthy planet; and societal heterogeneity.

First, amidst the proliferation of nationalisms and other narrow self-interests, who will commit to the mutuality essential to a global era? In a global age, it is more essential than ever to have a credible claim that one uses power more for shared benefits than selfish interests. Mutuality also requires greater sharing of decision-making responsibilities around global issues. Some changes will be obvious, including the reform of major international institutions which really do reflect a post World War II era nostalgia. A new operational definition of multilateralism will emerge that enhances the effectiveness of action, while being candid about its limitations. The United States could lead in this direction, but so could many others, without the intellectual and emotional burdens of incumbency.

The second area of competition will be a notion of a just society that balances individual rights and social equity. It must make the provision for basic human needs—food, water and health—an explicit and direct component of social justice. In countries plagued with mass poverty and endemic injustice, ‘freedom from’ is not enough; it also has to be about the ‘capacity to.’ People are looking not just to be protected from government, but also to be protected by government. Any ideology that over-privileges process—at once democratic process—but fails to deliver on basic human needs will lose.

The third area is the health of the planet as a motivating vision that both inspires hope and provides strategic direction. The environmental movement is no longer simply about the environment. It’s equally about security, economics, social stability, natural disasters, and humanitarian crises. There are no more “externalities;” the system no longer has that kind of slack. A healthy planet is the ultimate global public good. Systems of wealth creation that ignore pollution won’t attract and hold followers for long.

The final challenge is societal heterogeneity, learning to live together amid differences of individual and group identities that breed fear of “the other.” The migration of peoples has combined with technologies of travel and communications to produce increasingly extreme combinations of nationalities, races, ethnicities and religions within societies. Yet few communities exist harmoniously with heterogeneity.

The most important thing for Americans to recognize is that it really is a new game and that the challenge is fundamentally different from containing communism or defeating terrorism.

Adapted from the article “America’s Hard Sell,” published in Foreign Policy magazine, by Bruce Jentleson, professor of PPS and political science, and Steven Weber, professor of political science at University of California, Berkeley. Reproduced with permission from Foreign Policy #169 (Nov./Dec. 2008). www.foreignpolicy.com © 2008 by Washingtonpost.Newsweek Interactive, LLC.
President Bush said last year that “it should be a goal of the nation to shut down Guantanamo,” but it now appears this goal will be unfulfilled when he leaves office. His decision not to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay for aliens accused of being terrorists is regrettable.

Bush’s decision represents a victory for Vice President Cheney, who, according to reports, believes that keeping the prison open under a new administration would validate Bush’s detention policies. But there is no redeeming the detention and prosecution system at Guantanamo—a system that has produced only two convictions in seven years, has been rebuked by the Supreme Court three times, and has caused four military prosecutors to step down in disgust. Former Secretary of State Colin Powell has properly urged that this symbol of injustice be shut down “this afternoon.”

President Barack Obama will need different strategies for dealing with the three categories of detainees at Guantanamo. Where sufficient evidence exists that a detainee has committed a war crime, court martial proceedings should begin immediately. Those charged under this system and ultimately convicted can be detained in military jails inside the United States.

Schanzer, a visiting professor of PPS, directs the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security. This commentary was published Oct. 28, 2008 in the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Raleigh News and Observer, and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.
The “digital divide” is the gap between people who have easy access to digital technology and those who don’t. Like technology itself, the digital divide is changing rapidly, says Lecturer in PPS Ken Rogerson, who studies the U.S. and international policies being created to address the issue. For instance, in 1995, there was a clear gender divide in use of digital technologies in the United States. The gender difference has since disappeared for Americans, yet it persists in other parts of the world.

“It’s a broad topic, like global warming; even people who recognize the scope of the problem disagree about what to focus on first,” Rogerson said. “The simple categories of age, race, gender and education don’t always tell you a lot about the divide,” he said.

In a chapter of the newly published Routledge Handbook of Internet Politics, Rogerson and co-author Daniel Milton of Florida State University examine how four different democracies address the digital divide through policy. The four constitutional democracies—Brazil, Estonia, Singapore and the United States—were selected because of their reputations for innovation in both information policy and technical development. Each country has programs to bridge the digital divide, as well as legislation that addresses criminal use of the technology and new government agencies to handle digital and information policy.

Brazil, a social democracy, is a leader in technology adoption in South America. Two programs, Computers for All and Casas Brazil, have funded computer purchases and construction of public buildings to house computers, thus providing access for lower and middle income citizens.

Estonia, an emerging democracy and former Soviet bloc nation, also has a public-access program. It set up 500 public computer centers across the country and established broadband connectivity in 95 percent of schools.

Singapore, a constitutional democracy and parliamentary republic with one-party rule, began in the mid 1990s to provide Internet access to all citizens through the SingaporeONE program. Singapore is consistently among the top Asian countries in connectivity levels.

The United States, the oldest democracy in the study, has been less successful in addressing the divide through government-sponsored programs. Community Technology Centers developed by the Clinton administration lost funding in 2005. The E-rate program provided discounted technology to schools, but that funding has also been cut in recent years. Still, the United States has a high level of connectivity, as nearly two-thirds of its citizens are Internet users.

Rogerson and Milton conclude that while democracies may have similar goals, they “understand the same technologies in very different ways.” While each country passed legislation focused on criminal uses and security, they have different approaches to privacy issues. Brazil and Singapore openly monitor their citizens’ online activities, while Estonia has passed a Personal Data Protection Act. The U.S. has passed terrorism-related bills to address “cyber security,” and has tried to draft bills to protect children’s privacy online.

“Countries have very different mindsets about the use of these tools,” said Rogerson. “The U.S. moved quickly to commercial uses for the Internet, but has been less concerned with access and privacy legislation.” He points out that many developed countries have a high-level government agency to deal with information technology policy, but the U.S. has several agencies making policy, such as the State Department, the FCC and the Department of Commerce. “It’s clear that institutions matter in how countries deal with the problem,” he said.
Michelle Rhee, chancellor of the Washington, D.C., Public Schools, spoke Nov. 17, 2008 to an audience of about 300 students, faculty, and local residents at the Sanford Institute about her proposals to better compensate teachers who are willing to give up the protections of tenure.

Rhee said the needs of students, not adults in the system, are the driving force in her controversial decisions. “It’s our kids who have no due process,” she said. “We still allow the color of a child’s skin and their zip code to dictate the quality of their education and that’s the biggest social injustice imaginable.” The lecture was sponsored by the Office of Duke University President Richard Brodhead and the Institute.

A New Proposal for Teacher Pay

By Jackie Ogburn

Teacher pay is one of the many burning issues in educational reform. Assistant Professor of PPS and Economics Jacob Vigdor adds a log to that fire in an article published in the Fall 2008 issue of Education Next. He argues that the current system pays too much for older teachers with additional degrees and not enough to younger ones.

Drawing on several studies about teacher effectiveness, Vigdor points out that major gains in effectiveness occur in the first six years of a teacher’s career, but the major salary increases come toward the end of a teacher’s career in their mid-50s. Salary increases are awarded when teachers earn additional credentials, such as masters’ degrees, in spite of the low correlation between those credentials and teacher effectiveness.

“Money currently spent on rewarding teachers for valueless credentials could be used to increase starting salaries, a policy goal espoused by nearly all interested parties, from education reformers to teachers unions,” Vigdor wrote. “Shifting teachers’ lifetime compensation toward the beginning of their careers would make the profession more attractive to highly qualified college students.”

The salary curve for teachers would then more closely mirror that of other professions. Doctors and lawyers reap the full rewards of competence in their profession within 10 years of entrance. Teachers must wait three times that long, even though evidence suggests that they become fully competent in their profession just as quickly, Vigdor points out.

Vigdor calls this new pay structure an “evidence-based salary schedule,” one that would reward the early gains in effectiveness and decrease the raises for earning additional credentials. Currently in North Carolina, teachers who earn National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification receive a 12 percent salary increase and a 10 percent increase for earning a master’s degree. Cutting those raises to 5 percent would free up money for early career increases.

He acknowledges that the switch would not be painless. Experienced teachers would see a decline in future earnings and institutions that provide teacher credentials would see a decline in their business.

A majority of new teachers leave the profession within five years, just when they are making the biggest gains in effectiveness. An evidence-based salary schedule would “encourage highly qualified teachers to enter the profession and stay there,” Vigdor said.

The article, “Scrap the Sacrosanct Salary Schedule,” appeared in Volume 8, No. 4 of Education Next.

Health Policy Briefs

Food Chain • The Program on Global Health and Technology Access (PGHTA) won a UNICEF contract to study the supply chain of ready-to-use therapeutic foods in eastern Africa. The team will examine pricing and sourcing of ingredients, responses to fluctuating demand, and surge capacity after natural disasters or civil unrest.

The project team includes Gary Gereffi from Duke’s Center on Globalization, Governance & Competitiveness and faculty from UNC’s schools of business and public health. Students from both universities — including Kevin Hwang, Duke PPS senior — are involved in the project. Professor of the Practice Anthony So and Corrina Moucheraud Vickery, director and program coordinator of PGHTA, respectively, are overseeing the project.

Global Health • Subhrendu K. Pattanayak, associate professor of PPS, has joined the Duke Global Health Institute. He will teach a new global environmental health course in the fall of 2009, with a social science focus on behaviors and choices. “Part of the reason for my move to Duke was to build a program on global environmental health, particularly given the threats from climate change,” he said.


The authors argue that the economic benefits of the Bayh-Dole Act in the United States have been overstated and sometimes misrepresented. As countries from China to South Africa consider legislation modeled on the act, the authors recommend much closer attention to protection of the public interest in publicly funded research.
A dverse experiences early in life can lead to minor childhood behavior problems, which can grow into serious acts of teen violence, according to new research by a group led by Ken Dodge, professor of PPS and director of the Center for Child and Family Policy. This “cascading effect” of repeated negative incidents and behaviors is the focus of an article titled “Testing an Idealized Dynamic Cascade Model of the Development of Serious Violence in Adolescence” in the November/December 2008 edition of the journal Child Development.

Dodge’s research team measured how violent behavior develops across the life span, from early childhood through adolescence. The researchers tracked 754 children for 12 years in 27 schools in four areas of the United States. They documented that children with social and academic problems in elementary school are more likely to have parents who withdraw from them over time. That opens the door for them to make friends with adolescents exhibiting deviant behaviors and, ultimately, leads them to engage in acts of violence.

The developmental path toward violent outcomes was largely the same for boys and girls, said Dodge, the lead author of the study.

Dodge and his colleagues in the Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group also found that the cascade could be traced back to children born with biological risks or into economically disadvantaged environments, both of which make consistent parenting a challenge. They determined biological risk by assessing the temperaments of the children in infancy, based on mothers’ reports; those at risk were irritable, easily startled and difficult to calm. These children are more likely to exhibit minor social and cognitive problems upon entering school. From there, the behavior problems begin to “cascade.”

“The findings indicate that these trajectories are not inevitable, but can be deflected at each subsequent era in development, through interactions with peers, school, and parents along the way,” Dodge said.

The research was supported by the National Institute for Mental Health, with a grant for the Multi-site Prevention of Adolescent Conduct Problems (Fast Track) study, and by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Both grants are managed by the Center for Child and Family Policy.

Grants Focus on Drug Abuse Prevention, Mental Health

The Center for Child and Family Policy (CCFP) has secured two new major grants: one for developing new approaches to substance use prevention among adolescents and one to develop mental health services for young children and their families in collaboration with the Alamance Department of Social Services.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) awarded CCFP a grant of more than $6 million over five years. With this new funding, the Duke Transdisciplinary Prevention Research Center (TPRC), part of the CCFP, will support scholars in translating their knowledge about regulatory processes and peer influences into programs to prevent substance use and related problems in adolescents. Principal investigators are Philip Costanzo, professor of psychology and associate director of the CCFP, and Kenneth Dodge, the William McDougall Professor of PPS and CCFP director.

The TPRC, which started with a NIDA grant, is a collaboration among the CCFP, Duke’s Department of Psychology and Neuroscience and the Duke Social Science Research Institute. With this new grant, TPRC anticipates additional collaborations with the Institute for Brain Sciences, the Institute for Genome Sciences & Policy and the Global Health Institute.

CCFP collaborated with two other research centers to help the Alamance County Department of Social Services secure a $7 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The grant will fund a project to improve outcomes for children ages birth to five with serious mental health needs and their families. CCFP, the Center for Child and Family Health and the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress all have a role in the project, which will be implemented over the next six years.

The Alamance Alliance is a direct outgrowth of partnerships that developed between the child welfare system, CCFP staff and other child-serving agencies in Alamance County. Joel Rosch, CCFP senior research scholar and policy liaison, and other CCFP staff worked closely with Susan Osborne, director of Alamance County DSS, to design the project.

It will develop evidence-based trauma services for children and families, train local providers to deliver those services and develop methods for measuring the impact of the project. Christina Christopoulos, CCFP research scientist, and Nicole Lawrence, CCFP research coordinator, will lead the project evaluation. In addition to the Duke centers, Alamance Alliance involves the Alamance Partnership for Children, Alamance County Health Department and the Alamance-Caswell-Rockingham Local Management Entity.

Series of Negative Experiences Can Lead to Teen Violence, Study Shows

By Jana Alexander

Duke Offers Degree in Global Health

Applications are being accepted for a new Master of Science in Global Health degree program beginning in the fall of 2009. The new program, offered through the Duke University Graduate School and administered by the Duke Global Health Institute (DGHI), will draw upon the expertise of faculty in all of Duke’s graduate and professional schools.

“Understanding how to reduce health disparities requires an interdisciplinary perspective, yet the study of health in academic institutions is traditionally confined within disciplinary boundaries,” said DGHI Director Michael Merson.

“We are proud to be one of the first universities in the country to offer a Master of Science in Global Health that will prepare health professionals, policy makers, researchers and others to approach global health from many perspectives.”

The program will include instruction in disease causation and prevention, global environmental health, global health policy and management, and population sciences. It will involve faculty from Arts & Sciences and the schools of medicine, nursing, environment, business, divinity, engineering and law, as well as from the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy. Details available online at globalhealth.duke.edu
After the exhilaration and exhaustion of election week, four satirists showed the Sanford community the other important role politicians play: being the butt of the joke. The panel presentation on Nov. 11, “Laughing at Power: Satire in American Politics,” featured cartoonists Kevin “Kal” Kallaugher and Dwane Powell, as well as Kevin Bleyer and Adam Chodikoff, staff members of “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.”

Professor of PPS James Hamilton, director of the DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy, moderated the panel.

Powell, cartoonist for the Raleigh News & Observer since 1975, led off with the observation that he is a member of a dying breed, as the number of working political cartoonists has dwindled from 270 to 70. He showed a selection of cartoons, including several with N.C. Sen. Jesse Helms, and confessed he first thought Helms would be a one-term wonder.

Bleyer of “The Daily Show” opened with, “Greetings, godless North Carolinians,” a reference to the infamous ad by Sen. Libby Dole’s losing campaign. Bleyer, an Emmy Award-winning writer who also contributes to the Huffington Post and National Public Radio, is responsible for many of the gags Stewart executes on the popular news satire show. Among the clips he showed of his work was a takeoff on the “celebrity translator” insurance ads, where rock legend Little Richard served as interpreter of remarks by President Bush. Bleyer said he “takes politics seriously by making light of it.”

Dubbed an “investigative humorist” by The Washington Post, Chodikoff, a ’93 Duke political science alum, mines archives for text, video and audio clips that can portray politicians in a comical light. Chodikoff is the source of the paired clips of people contradicting themselves, such as Vice President Cheney saying polls are meaningless and then justifying policy by citing polls. He stressed the importance of having the facts correct, because “without credibility, the jokes lose power.”

Kal, cartoonist for The Economist magazine and previously for The Baltimore Sun, remarked that “the maturity of a democracy is measured by the amount of satire it can endure.”

Responding to a question from the audience, Kal said he doesn’t expect his work to change people’s minds, but to become part of their “mental furniture.” Powell countered that an editorial cartoonist had changed his mind; George Fisher of the Arkansas Gazette made him realize segregation was bad and gave him a social awareness. Chodikoff joked that he hoped his work “changed the minds of the girls who dumped me.”

None of the satirists thought there would be any lack of material during the new administration. As Bleyer said, “We’re willing to make fun of anyone.”
For a slide show capturing the emotion of the night, go to the Sanford web site.

View a video interview with Kal, that also shows the daily progress of the sculpture, on the Sanford web site.
Gender and Framing in Political Campaign Ads

By November, most people felt they had watched hundreds of television elections ads, but Samantha Fahrbach (PPS ’09) knows for sure she did. She sat through 700 campaign ads during a week at the archives at University of Oklahoma last summer. The marathon viewing was her primary research for her honors thesis, focused on issues of gender and framing in campaign ads.

“I’d been interested in gender issues in politics since I took the course in Women as Leaders,” she said. “I wanted to see if there were differences in gender signaling in campaign ads between men and women, whether women play more into stereotypes and ‘run as women’ and if there were changes over time.”

Fahrbach focused on advertisements from campaigns for U.S. congressional seats from 1992 through 2006. She coded each ad for feminine, masculine and neutral traits in both word use and visual imagery and then analyzed the data.

In addition to working on her honors project, Fahrbach spent the fall as an intern with the senatorial campaign of Kay Hagan.

“In September, Hagan was still so un-known. There was a big transformation by election day,” Fahrbach said. “It was incredibly exciting to see all our work pay off.” Hagen’s run against incumbent Sen. Elizabeth Dole attracted national attention, especially for Dole’s 11th-hour attack ad attempting to link Hagen with an atheist group.

“For the public reason, she could have apologized, put it into practice,” she said, or whether it might be an unattainable ideal. The survey asked participants to provide reasons for their positions on the contentious topics of abortion and gay marriage. She asked the leaders of a selection of congregations in Durham and Harrell’s hometown of Austin, Texas, to invite their members to take her online survey. It included both multiple-choice and free-response questions.

The resulting data, while not from a representative sample, provided support for Harrell’s hypothesis that highly religious people, especially evangelical and born-again Christians, would not be able to offer public reasons for their stances on abortion and gay marriage. There was also a high correlation between those who identified as Republicans and/or conservatives and lack of public reason offered for opinions.

She concluded that if such groups can’t engage in public reason, then that throws doubt on the feasibility of reaching the ideal of public reason in American political life. That ideal was not on display in the recent election, she noted.

“Clearly, there was a lot of religious rhetoric being used, which politicians feel is necessary to be elected,” said Harrell. She found the perspective of the thesis seminar instructor, Judith Kelley, particularly interesting. Kelley noted that both candidates were professing Christians, just like all previous U.S. presidents, but that a candidate’s religious affiliation is never brought up in her native Denmark.

After graduation, Harrell plans to attend law school, and later run for elective office back in Texas, perhaps for the judiciary. “I think I’ll be able to better communicate my positions to people because of my Duke experience,” she said.
Feb. 4: Newark, N.J. Mayor Booker

In 1998, when Cory Booker moved in, Brick Towers was the most notorious public housing project in Newark, N.J., crime-ridden and crumbling. From there, he launched his crusade to clean up Newark, first as a community organizer, then city councilman and now as mayor.

Booker will speak about “The Next Generation of Political Leadership” at the Sanford Institute on Feb. 4 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fleshman Commons as part of Hart Leadership’s Connect2Politics Initiative. The event is free and open to the public.

Booker has made significant changes since being elected mayor in 2006. Newark has seen a 40 percent decease in murders and shootings, bucking the upward trend among major cities. Working with local foundations, Booker created a $20 million fund to support charter schools and a Brick City scholarship fund.

The city has upgraded recreation facilities and pools and passed legislation mandating a “prevailing wage” for companies contracting with the city. Booker created the new position of Inspector General to investigate corruption in city agencies.

Known for rhetorical flourishes as grand as his ambitions, Booker said on MSNBC, “I want to luxuriate in the racial deliciousness of our country. I mean, that’s what makes America great. We are a nation that celebrates racial diversity. We’re not Norway. We’re not South Korea. We are the United States of America. The story of America is bringing such differences together to manifest a united set of ideals, not a united culture, not a united language, not a united religion, but a united set of ideals.”

Connect2Politics: Beyond the Election

By Leslie Griffith

Youth turnout was at its highest in decades for the November election, but the Hart Leadership Program wants students to see political engagement as more than a one-day—or one-person—phenomenon.

To boost interest in politics and sustain political debate on campus after Nov. 4, HLP launched Connect2Politics, to bring prominent young political leaders to campus. The initiative kicked off in October with a documentary screening and a debate.

“We were concerned that there was no coordinated effort to promote political engagement on campus—there were some efforts, but not enough,” HLP Assistant Director David Gastwirth said. “We needed efforts in the classroom, speakers, a university commitment.”

Connect2Politics’ first major event was an Oct. 22 debate between Harold Ford, Jr. and Michael Steele, two rising leaders and longtime friends on opposite sides of the partisan divide. Their jocular but passionate debate in Page Auditorium was intended to boost excitement and discussion on campus in the final days before the election.

Gastwirth and HLP Director Alma Blount also are recruiting students for a small learning community designed to connect undergraduates with speakers, faculty members and each other in an informal setting throughout the spring semester.

“We want to create an even more robust political culture here at Duke,” Blount said of the initiative. “I’ve found that when you give students a way to learn and a skill set for engaging in great debate they just take to it.”

Kaufman named to replace Biden in Senate

Ted Kaufman, visiting lecturer in PPS, has been appointed to Vice-President Joe Biden’s seat in the U.S. Senate. The selection was announced by Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Miner on Monday, Nov. 24.

Kaufman (BSME ’60) served as Senator Biden’s chief of staff for 19 years, was his senior advisor during the presidential campaign, and most recently was co-chair of Biden’s transition team.

Kaufman will serve for two years and then step down in 2010, when Delaware will hold a special election to elect a senator for the remaining four years of the term. “I do not think that Delaware’s appointed senator should spend the next two years running for office,” Kaufman said. “I will do this job to the best of my ability to serve the people of Delaware.”

Since 1991, Kaufman has been a visiting lecturer in PPS, a Senior Lecturing Fellow at the Law school, and also taught in the Fuqua School of Business, regularly teaching classes on Congress: Government, Business, and the Global Economy.

In addition to teaching at Duke, Kaufman is president of a political management and consulting firm, Public Strategies, and is a charter member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, a federal agency responsible for all US government and government-sponsored non-military international broadcasting, such as the Voice of America, Radio and The Middle East Broadcasting Network.

Other Connect2Politics Speakers

Feb. 26 • Andrew Gillum, City Commissioner, Tallahassee, Fla., and executive director of the Young Elected Officials Network.
TBA • Thomas Bales, executive director of Democrats Work.
TBA • Raj Goyle, member of the Kansas House of Representatives, (PPS’ 97).
(See his Alumnus Profile, page 21.)
Speakers for March and April events are not yet confirmed.
Dewitt Wallace (continued from page 1)

Over the next five years, DWC intends to focus its research and activities on stimulating debate about, and developing interdisciplinary solutions to, these fundamental market failures. DWC’s activities will:

- Advance development of the new field of computational journalism.
- Examine the potential of nonprofit media ownership and nonprofit or foundation subsidies for creation and distribution of information.
- Probe new ways of adding monetary value to hard news content online.
- Examine the supply and effects of partisan political information on voter behavior in the Internet age.
- Identify barriers to information creation and consumption by people with low incomes. Goals are to probe how residents of low income communities get information, how their decisions are affected by the information they can access, and how their choices in terms of payday lending, mortgages, education and health care could change with better information access.

Hamilton’s strategies for prompting innovation in these areas include new faculty hires, conferences, research grants and new courses.

New faculty will be selected for DWC’s two endowed professorships by next fall. Hamilton is seeking to fill the Knight Chair, from which William Raspberry retired last June, with a journalist who will lead an effort to develop the new field of computational journalism. As a natural progression from the data-driven approaches used by investigative reporters, the new field uses technological tools and artificial intelligence to access, analyze, aggregate and distribute news.

A pioneering example, funded by the Knight Foundation, is everyblock.com, which mines public data sets, daily media reports, government proceedings and local Internet conversations in order to generate neighborhood-specific information, such as crime reports or restaurant reviews.

“The idea is to use technology to lower the cost of doing journalism,” Hamilton says. If algorithms can be used to discern patterns in data (such as crime waves), journalists can follow up and investigate causes of the patterns. As a progression from this, Hamilton says, in the near future, algorithms may also be used to automate the writing of some types of news stories based on data.

In partnership with colleagues at UNC, Stanford, the University of Montana, the University of Wisconsin and The Renaissance Computing Institute, Hamilton also has applied for grant funding to launch a new Center for Computational Journalism.

“I’m excited about the potential interactions with other Duke programs, such as statistics, computer science and information science,” he noted.

Hamilton also is seeking a practicing journalist focused on the future of journalism for the Eugene C. Patterson Chair, currently occupied by Professor of the Practice Susan Tiffit. Her 10-year appointment to the position will conclude at the end of this academic year.

To stimulate inquiry into nonprofit ownership and subsidy of news, Hamilton is planning a late-spring conference here at Duke for academics, journalists, and philanthropists. Several news organizations, such as NPR and the St. Petersburg Times, operate as nonprofits or are owned by nonprofits, and foundations already subsidize many genres of news reporting. The conference will draw on the experience of existing organizations and explore the legal, financial and ethical hurdles to succeeding as a news nonprofit.

DWC also proposes new research into other innovative business models for news organizations. If news organizations could sell information about their readers’ online behavior to advertisers seeking increasingly targeted audiences, they might solve one of their major problems: an inability to capture revenue in return for providing online content.

Your buying patterns — recorded each time you use your grocery store member card — already are being used to target you for particular sales promotions. However, privacy concerns currently limit efforts to monetize online news content. New research would examine how these concerns could be allayed, or what it would take for consumers to see the loss of privacy as a worthwhile trade-off for acquiring information.

During a 2007–08 sabbatical year at Stanford, Hamilton wrote a book with co-author Scott de Marchi, slated for publication this fall. The book applies principles for predicting purchasing behavior based on personality traits to other decisions, such as voting, choice of marriage partner and driving behavior.

“Our theory is that if I know how you make choices in the private sector, such as your product loyalty, I can use that information to predict your voting or political behavior.”

Hamilton recognizes that his goals for DWC are ambitious. In fact, he has calculated his odds of winning the NSF computational journalism grant at 4 percent. Nevertheless, he’s enjoying the challenge.

“We want to generate new ideas and give news organizations a road map for the future. This really would be putting knowledge in the service of society.”
39,500 individuals from a 2004 survey who were living in nearly 600 villages in Aceh and North Sumatra—some with heavy damage from the tsunami, and others relatively untouched.

The team spent five months designing data collection protocols, lining up funding, and recruiting and training interviewers. By May 2005, the researchers were in the field collecting data as part of the Study of the Tsunami Aftermath and Recovery (STAR).

The survey has now been conducted four times since the disaster. Data from the project are being used to assess the impact of the tragedy on survival, health and well-being and to evaluate the impact of the assistance that flowed in afterwards.

“The project will fundamentally change the data available on disasters,” said Frankenberg. Most studies of groups affected by disasters are not based on a sample that represents the pre-disaster population, nor do they interview respondents more than once.

The STAR team has conducted yearly follow-up surveys and will continue to the 5-year mark, with the possibility of returning to the field eight or 10 years after the disaster. The data contain information at the individual, household and community level.

The STAR team was able to determine the survival status of 96 percent of respondents to the original 2004 survey and has collected extensive information about reconstruction efforts. An additional innovation is the use of satellite imagery of the area to create measures of the physical devastation caused by the tsunami.

Frankenberg and several team members published the first paper drawing on the research in the September 2008 American Journal of Public Health: “Mental Health in Sumatra After the Tsunami.” Based on interviews with more than 20,500 adult survivors, the paper examines the course of their reactions to the disaster over time and the variation associated with the degree of damage to the respondent’s original community. It also assesses the correlation of post-traumatic stress reactivity (PTSR) to pre-disaster characteristics.

The research showed PTSR scores were highest among those in the most heavily damaged areas, and that age and gender were significant predictors of PTSR, with women having higher scores than men. Socioeconomic status before the tsunami was largely unrelated to the intensity of reactions in the 18 months afterward.

Frankenberg is excited about the policy implications of STAR. She says the data can help measure the type and value of assistance and how to go about rebuilding communities after disasters.

“The degree of resilience of the people is inspirational,” she said. When the tsunami hit, Aceh was a conflict zone. Nine months afterward, a peace deal was reached between separatists and the Indonesian government and the focus had turned toward recovery. Within two years, reconstruction was well under way in many coastal communities.

Frankenberg points to amazing changes, such as the story of Irwandi Yusuf, a separatist movement operative, he was a prisoner when the tsunami hit, destroying the prison and allowing him to escape. In February 2007, he became the first directly elected governor of Aceh province.

Several other Duke researchers are also involved with STAR. In November, Frankenberg returned to Indonesia with programmer Peter Katz from the department of economics and post-doctoral fellow Clark Gray. Public policy PhD student Ava Cas is co-authoring a paper with Frankenberg drawing from the project.

STAR is funded by grants from the World Bank, the National Institute of Health and the National Science Foundation. The team prepares annual reports for the government of Indonesia and ultimately will place the data in the public domain.

Satellite images show the village of Gleebruk in Aceh province, Indonesia, in April 2004 (left) and the week after the tsunami (right). Hoses, bridges, trees and crops were swept away.

Alum’s Work Aids Children

After giving $12 million in grants to groups in 69 nations, the Washington, D.C.-based Global Fund for Children has become a significant force for change. But its beginnings were quite humble.

“I started GFC in the Old Chemistry Building,” the Sanford’s Institute’s former home, founder and President Maya Ajmera (MPP ’93) said during an Oct. 30 talk at the Institute. “I had a desk, a chair and a telephone. I knew nothing about running a nonprofit.”

However, she did know about pursuing what she calls “big, hairy, audacious goals.” Through connections made through Sanford faculty and the Duke Center for International Development, Ajmera secured a start-up grant to pursue her vision: To provide modest grants to small, grassroots organizations with strong leaders and innovative ideas for helping children.

Initially she planned to finance her philanthropic mission by publishing children’s books. After failing to win support from agents or publishers for her first project, she found a partner and self-published Children from Australia to Zimbabwe in 1996. “My inexperience was my greatest asset,” she recalled.

Since then GFC has published 21 children’s books and expanded its media division to documentary photography and films that highlight issues affecting children. Funds generated help support GFC’s grantees, who combat child labor and sexual exploitation, support AIDS orphans, and provide health care and educational opportunities.

The work is a far cry from what Ajmera imagined she’d do. The daughter of Indian immigrants whose father was an ECU physics professor, Ajmera started out a scientist. A self-described “typical Asian kid,” she won a Westinghouse Award and intended to make her parents very proud by going to medical school. Travel in rural Southeast Asia on a Rotary International Graduate Fellowship, along with coursework at Duke, helped changed her direction.

As GFC has grown, so has Ajmera’s commitment to helping start-ups build capacity to improve their communities.

“Giving big amounts of money to groups does not solve problems; money ends up not as well spent as it could have been,” she said. “Grassroots organizations are under-valued and undercapitalized. We (GFC) bet on people.”

Ajmera was the first Sanford Institute Alumni Speaker.
Marc Bellemare, assistant professor of PPS and economics, gave three talks on his paper “Household Attitudes to Price Risk: Evidence from Rural Ethiopia” on Sept. 26, 2008, at NC State University, Oct. 9 at Michigan State University, and Oct. 10 at Western Michigan University.

Robert M. Cook-Deegan, research professor of PPS, has received an award from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill for a project entitled “Core I: Policy, Ethics and Law Core.” Total funding will be $274,214 over 11 months. Cook-Deegan, director of the Center for Genome Ethics, Law and Policy, presented a talk Sept. 29 on the development and intellectual property issues of human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccines at a Duke conference.


Kenneth A. Dodge, the William McDougall Professor of PPS, received an award of $67,495 from the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services for “Evaluation of Improving Child Welfare Outcomes through Systems of Care Grant.”

Elizabeth Frankenberg, associate professor of PPS, gave a presentation on “Estimates of the Tsunami’s Impact on Mortality in Indonesia” at the Population Association of America annual meetings in New Orleans in April 2008 and at the DuPRI Seminar Series at Duke in September.

Anna Gassman-Pines, assistant professor of PPS, gave a talk at the University of North Carolina’s Psychology Department on Sept. 10, 2008 on “Daily associations between low-income mothers’ nonstandard work schedules and family outcomes.” On Nov. 8, she presented a talk on the same research at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Annual Research Conference in Los Angeles.


Kristin Goss, assistant professor of PPS, delivered an invited plenary address before the Conference on Contemporary European Perspectives on Volunteering Sept. 10-12, 2008 at Ersta Skondal University College in Stockholm, titled “Altruism and Ambivalence: How Public Policy Celebrates, Sanford Institute faculty members Philip J. Cook, Clara Muschkin, and Jacob Vigdor earned the 2008 Raymond Vernon Memorial Prize for best article published in the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management (JPM). Co-author Robert MacCoun, a professor at the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley, also shared the honor.

The authors were recognized for the article titled “Should Sixth Grade be in Elementary or Middle School? An Analysis of Grade Configuration and Student Behavior.” The Vernon Prize is awarded annually by the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPM) and includes a $1,000 cash prize and recognition at both APPM’s fall conference and in the next issue of JPM. Vigdor, along with Edgar T. Thompson Distinguished Professor of PPS Helen Ladd and two other authors, also won the Vernon Prize in 2004.

Center for Child and Family Policy research scientists Jennifer Lansford and Lisa Berlin, along with center Director Kenneth A. Dodge, the William McDougall Professor of PPS, co-authored a paper that was named Outstanding Research Article of 2007 by the journal Child Maltreatment. The article, “Early physical abuse and later violent delinquency: A prospective longitudinal study,” appeared in the August 2007 issue. The award was presented at the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) Colloquium, June 18-21, 2008, in Phoenix, Ariz. The award includes a $1,000 prize courtesy of the journal publisher, Sage Publications Inc.

Professor of PPS Bruce Jentleson received a grant from the Carnegie Corp. of New York, jointly with the UC Berkeley Institute of International Studies, for $502,000 over three years. The grant covers two main components: “New Era: Statecraft in a Copernican World,” a series of working groups and publications engaging scholars, practitioners and others on key issues that present major strategic challenges to the United States and the international community; and “Next Generation: Policy Relevant Scholars,” a plan to train and mentor a cohort of graduate students in political science, law, public policy and related disciplines whose work is oriented towards policy-relevant scholarship.

Ambassador James Joseph, professor of the practice of PPS, was awarded the John Gardner Prize for Social Entrepreneurship at the first Encore Career Summit at Stanford University, Dec. 5-8 in Palo Alto, Calif. The prize is given by Civic Ventures, a national think tank on work and social purpose in the second half of life. Joseph gave the closing speech, “Leadership in the Second Half of Life,” at the summit. The prize is named for John Gardner, who served as secretary of Health, Education and Welfare in the Johnson administration, helped launch Medicare, and founded the nonprofit Common Cause. Joseph was honored for his lifetime of social service and work in developing new programs in civic engagement and leadership.

David Schanzer, visiting associate professor of the practice for PPS and director, Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security, was named director for strategy and outreach of the Institute for Homeland Security Solutions [www.ihsnscc.org]. The new organization, launched with a $75 million grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is a collaborative effort involving RTI International, Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the North Carolina Military Foundation. IHS will conduct applied social science and technology research relating to homeland security challenges. Schanzer also serves on the Homeland Security Presidential Transition Initiative, a joint project of the Center for American Progress and Third Way, two D.C.-based think tanks.

Jacob Vigdor, associate professor of PPS and economics, has accepted editorial positions at two journals: associate editor at the journal Economic Inquiry, and co-editor at the Berkeley Electronic Journals in Economic Analysis and Policy.
Faculty Publications


Parent: Renewing Struggles for Social Justice: A Primer for Transformative Leaders

By Lance C. Buhl on behalf of the Binational Civil Society Forum, with contributions from Kathryn Whetten and Rachel Whetten, and a preface by Ambassador James A. Joseph (Duke University, 2008, 104pp)

Years after the U.S. civil rights movement, there remains much work to be done at home and abroad to further the cause of social justice. In *Renewing Struggles for Social Justice*, Lance C. Buhl, deputy director of the U.S.-Southern Africa Center for Leadership and Public Values, suggests it is every individual’s responsibility to join the struggle for social justice and fairness. He educates the reader on issues such as racial and economic inequalities, the AIDS pandemic, and the conditions that result from poverty in developing countries, and then calls for action. The citizen-leader is at the center of this book. Social ills are rampant, and according to Buhl, we all can play a role in easing them.

Parent: Incentives and Choice in Health Care

Edited by Frank A. Sloan and Hirschel Kasper


With a recession foremost in the minds of many Americans, the country’s health care system, often a central issue around election time, has taken a back seat to seemingly more pressing topics. This collection of essays brings the economics of health care back into the spotlight. With contributions from Frank Sloan, the Alexander McMahon Professor of Health Policy and Management at Duke, and experts from Harvard, MIT, and other top institutions, *Incentives* looks into the demand side of the system — how people make decisions about what health care packages to purchase and how to consume them. Incentives also discusses the supply side, discussing the choices medical students and practicing physicians must make to make the system more economically feasible.

Parent: Roy Kelly, professor of the practice of PPS, continues to serve as finance advisor to the Local Government Reform Programme, Prime Minister’s Office Regional Administration and Local Government in Tanzania. He presented a series of invited lectures on fiscal decentralization and local government revenues at the African Tax Institute at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, Aug. 31-Sept. 6, 2008. He also gave a presentation on “Property Tax Reform Experience from Indonesia, Philippines and India” at the International Property Tax Institute (IPTI) and China Appraisal Society (CAS) Conference in Beijing, China on Oct. 22.

Parent: Assistant Research Professor of PPS Clara Muschkin presented a paper titled “Immigration and Changing Public School Enrollments: the Case of North Carolina” at the International Sociological Association Forum of Sociology in Barcelona, Spain, September 5-8, 2008.

Parent: Jenni W. Owen, director of policy initiatives for the Center for Child and Family Policy has received an award of $30,000 from Georgetown University for a project entitled “Consortium of University-Based Child and Family Policy Programs.”

Parent: Subhrendu K. Pattanayak gave four presentations at the American Public Health Association annual meeting in San Diego, Oct. 25-29, 2008. The presentations were: “Three years later — Environmental health impacts of a community-demand-driven water and sanitation program in rural Maharashtra, India;” “Taps, toilets and nets — Impact of microfinance and social interactions on prevention behaviors in rural India;” “Climate change, cook stoves, and coughs & colds — Evidence from rural Nepal on thinking global, and acting local;” and “Mediating health impacts of climate change — Evidence from regressions and CGE modeling of forest conservation in Brazil.” At a seminar series at George Washington University Oct. 21, he gave a talk on “Water and Sanitation HCM: innovative programs and evidence from the developing world.” He also was part of a panel on climate change at the EcoHealth conference on Dec. 2 in Mediera, Mexico.

Parent: Edward Skloot, director of the Center for Strategic Philanthropy and Civil Society, has received an award of $350,000 from the Kresge Foundation for start-up funds for the center.


Parent: Tom Taylor, professor of the practice of PPS, delivered the keynote presentation, “Practice Tips for Intelligence Lawyers,” to the Fourth Intelligence Law Course on June 25 at the Judge
Advocate General’s School in Charlottesville, Va. As a Pentagon consultant, he also authored a report to the Department of Defense General Counsel on June 6 on professional responsibility issues for attorneys.

Jacob Vigdor, associate professor of PPS and economics, gave a presentation with Charles Clotfelter and Helen “Sunny” Ladd, addressing “Scaling the Digital Divide: Home Computer Technology and Student Achievement” at the Georgetown Public Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 5, 2008, and the University of Toronto on Sept. 19. He gave a talk “Does Environmental Remediation Benefit the Poor?” on Oct. 3 at the Lone Mountain Forum in Big Sky, Mont., sponsored by the Property and Environment Research Center. Vigdor was the primary organizer for the Center for Child and Family Policy’s conference on “Preventing Substance Use Initiation Among Adolescents: Bringing Science Down to Earth,” which brought together presenters from Duke, Yale, Tufts, University of Kentucky, University of Maryland and NIH, along with more than 100 attending practitioners and researchers. The conference took place Oct. 13-14 at the Sanford Institute. He gave the welcoming address and the closing talk: “Keeping Adolescents on the Straight and Narrow Path: Integrating Disciplinary Perspectives.”

Kathryn Whetten, associate professor of PPS and director of the Center for Health Policy, received an award from the National Institutes of Health for a project entitled “HIV/AIDS and Orphan Care.” Total funding will be $45,776 over 20 months. She gave a presentation on “The Intersection of Global/Local Public Health Initiatives: Public Policy as a Tool for Eliminating Inequality” at the Health Behavior and Health Education Colloquia on Oct. 22, 2008 at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Jonathan B. Wiener, professor of PPS and law, gave a presentation on “The Reality of Precaution,” at the conference on Social Science and Humanities Facing Climate Change, in Paris, France, on Sept. 22, 2008. He gave the keynote address, “Climate Policy on a Multipolar Planet,” at the conference on Post-Kyoto Climate Policy at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., on Oct. 30. He was a presenter and session chair on “Risk Regulation in an Interconnected World” at the International Regulatory Reform Conference in Berlin, Germany on Nov. 18. At the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting in Boston, Dec. 7-10, he served as president and conference chair.

Alumni News

Undergraduate Alumni Notes

Mediha Abdulhay (’06) is at the London School of Economics pursuing an MSc in Global Politics with a focus on global security issues.

Yoav Lurie (’05) was named a director at Synteractive Inc., a D.C.-based strategy consulting and technology firm. He leads the practice for large nonprofits and associations.

Meredith Barnes (’01) is operations director at Appleseed, a non-profit network of 16 public interest justice centers in the United States and Mexico. She resides in Washington, D.C.

Tiffany Hall (’00) graduated from Fordham University’s School of Law in May 2008 and passed the New York State Bar Exam in July. She is a staff attorney at Fernod Ricard USA, a premium wine and spirits supplier that produces, imports and markets numerous brands including Absolut Vodka, Chivas Regal Scotch Whisky, and Jacob’s Creek Wine.

Casey Stewart (’98) and her husband welcomed their first child, Kelsey Charles Stewart III, on Sept. 4, 2008.

Ryan Davis (’97) was recently named a partner in the law firm Bryan Cave LLP. He is a corporate attorney in their St. Louis office and represents public and private companies and business owners in connection with their merger, acquisition, divestiture

Alumnus Profile: Raj Goyle, Kansas Representative

By Marquita McAlpine

For Raj Goyle (PPS ’97), moving back to Wichita, Kan., after completing his law degree at Harvard University and working in Washington, D.C., meant an opportunity for him to give back to a community that had supported his family’s dream of better opportunity.

At a young age, Goyle developed a passion for community and began to invest his time in service projects. As a student at Duke University, that passion led to his involvement in the Student-Employee Relations Coalition, a collaboration of students, administrators, faculty and staff coming together to raise awareness of labor issues and to develop a forum to address them. The coalition was developed in the aftermath of Hurricane Fran, which hit North Carolina in 1996.

“The extreme weather policy wasn’t good for employees because it was not clear to a lot of employees if they should come to work — although very dangerous,” said Goyle. The coalition helped the university fashion a new policy for weather which helped several employees affected by the hurricane move their grievance process forward.

Goyle completed an internship in 1996 for the Clinton-Gore campaign. The internship gave him an opportunity to gain a better understanding of campaigning and to experience Washington politics. When asked where he gained such a passion for politics, he credits the Sanford Institute.

“I had a wonderful undergraduate experience,” says Goyle. “The policy department was instrumental in developing my interest in policy and politics.” Duke led Goyle directly to the career he chose after law school — as a civil rights attorney and a lecturer at Wichita State University.

In 2006, Raj Goyle announced his bid for a seat in the Kansas House of Representatives. Although he was receiving endorsements from Democrats and Republicans, Goyle knew it would be a challenge to unseat a three-term incumbent. After months of hard work, he was able to proclaim victory as the first South Asian American elected to the Kansas House and the first Democrat elected in the 87th District.

“It created a new path, but it was hard,” said Goyle. Among his accomplishments during his first term was passage of the Kansas Funeral Privacy Act, which restricts protests before, during, and after a funeral, an issue that had arisen at military funerals in the state. Goyle also focused attention on ethics in the legislature through his campaign pledge not to accept free meals or gifts from lobbyists. Goyle was recognized for perfect attendance during the 2007 legislative session.

“I have a high priority on getting the best out of the one people have chosen to elect,” Goyle said.

In November 2008, Goyle won re-election to the seat with 67 percent of the vote.
and joint venture transactions and general business matters.

Raj Goyle (’97) was re-elected state representative for the 87th district in Kansas. He resides in Wichita with his wife, Monica, and also teaches at Wichita State.

James Mackler (’94) is a prosecutor with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Fort Knox, after a two-year stint as a Blackhawk pilot with the 101st Airborne and deployment to Iraq.

April Whitlock (’91) was appointed director of brand management at Carolina Pad and Paper (CPP). Earlier this year, Whitlock was named the new CEO of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington.

Laura Gigante (’78) just finished the accelerated BSN program at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and is now a registered nurse.

James McCall (’75) sells auto and home insurance through his two agencies in Mooresville and Cornelius, N.C. James frequently meets with teenaged drivers before doing the insurance paperwork required to get their initial licenses. He is very proud that those hundreds of young drivers have half as many accidents as other new drivers.

MPP Notes

Cheng Feng (’08) worked at the marketing department of Jazz at Lincoln Center until January 2008, when she began working for eStandardsForum, a financial think tank affiliated with the Financial Standards Foundation. Cheng married Xin Huang (PhD ’08), also a Duke alumnus in biomedical engineering in a civil ceremony in San Francisco on Oct. 23 and on Dec. 13, they flew to China for a traditional wedding.

In August, Jeff Jensen (’07) married Elissa Beethholf, who earned an MPM at Duke. He works at GAO and resides in Washington, D.C.

Verena Arnabal (’06) welcomed baby Maya Sophia Hennessy on Aug. 30, 2008.

Kristin Walker (’06) and her husband, Jeff, announce the birth of their son, Jacob Raymond Walker, on May 19, 2008.

Drew Cummings (’05) works as assistant county manager for Durham County, N.C.

David Anderson (’04) was promoted to assistant director of the Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy at the Council for Excellence in Government. He resides in Denver, Colo.

Elizabeth Pika (’02) married Jeremy Sharp on Sept. 13, 2008 in Nassau Valley Vineyards in Lewes, Del. Classmates in attendance included Melanie Kadlic Meren, Jennifer Loukissas, Susan Barnidge Formuzis (all ’02), and Joe Pika (’08).

Eric Sapp (’02) is now a partner at the Eleison Group. Eleison works with Democrats and progressive nonprofits to improve their outreach and communication with America’s faith community. See Alumni Profile on page 23.

Trip Stallings (’02) is in the fourth year of his PhD in Ed at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he was named a Joyner Fellow for a second year and was also named a Friday Fellow for 2008-2010. He is engaged to be married in March.

Hayden Childs (’00) published his first book, Shoot Out The Lights, in June 2006 as part of Continuum Books’ 33 1/3 series of short books about noteworthy record albums. The casual reader will find little in the book that seems remotely related to his policy training. Those in the know, however, will see something distressingly familiar in those odd lists and graphs.

In May 2008 Kerry Reichs (’00) published her first novel, The Best Day of Someone Else’s Life. She spent most of the summer on a U.S. and U.K. book tour. Kerry also sold the German translation rights. In September, Kerry signed a deal to publish two more novels with Harper Collins. Her second book is due out in May 2009. She works full time writing, and does periodic contract legal and policy work. She is based in D.C., with frequent extended periods in Los Angeles and London.

Sean Wilson (’00) founded Fullsteam Brewery in downtown Durham which will specialize in Southern experimental beer, using local farmed ingredients and heirloom grains. He hopes to have a tavern on site as well and hopes to see many students, alumni, staff and faculty when Fullsteam opens in the summer of 2009.

Kim Zimmerman (’00) accepted a position as director of federal affairs at WellPoint, the nation’s largest health insurance company.

Jacob Laubach (’99) and his wife recently relocated from Durham to Boston, where he joined the hematologic malignancies group at Dana-Farber. Mia Bonarski (MPP ’08), right, participates in a training session to learn how to safely ignite a “bokhari,” the sawdust-burning stove that will heat her flat in Kabul this winter. “My housemate Cynthia also tells me that my fashion choice for the winter should be sawdust colored,” Mia wrote. Mia is working in Kabul as a communications and advocacy editor with the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit.
By Gabe Starosta

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is known for many things, among them the concept of separation of church and state. But for Eric Sapp (MPP '02), faith and politics go hand in hand.

Sapp was the first student to participate in the joint MPP/Duke Divinity School program, and the dual degrees have served him well in the years since he left Durham.

After working on Capitol Hill with Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass) and Rep. David Price (D-NC), Sapp co-founded Common Good Strategies to work with Democrats and progressives on what he calls “faith outreach.” Sapp and his partners work with voters traditionally associated with the Republican Party — white evangelicals, Protestants and weekly church attendees, among others — to try to establish a relationship between them and the Democratic Party.

Since starting the company after the 2004 election and then incorporating it last July into a larger company, Eleison Group, Sapp has made tremendous gains for his side of the aisle. The Democratic Party won many contested seats and took control of both houses of Congress in the 2006 midterm election. Sapp's company worked on seven races during that election cycle, including governor’s races in Ohio and Michigan and a hotly contested Senate race in Pennsylvania, and went a cool 7-0. Democrats averaged 21 percent better among white evangelicals and 17 percent among Protestants in races that Sapp participated in.

In Michigan, Sapp said he started his work by going through the phone book because the state’s Democratic Party had no base in the region he was targeting. By the end of the campaign, the relationship with religious groups in the area had grown so much that white conservative pastors were invited to write the preamble to the state party’s platform.

In Pennsylvania, meanwhile, the race between Democrat Bob Casey and incumbent Rick Santorum was supposed to be one of the tightest in the country. In September 2006, Sapp helped Casey draft a speech titled “Restoring America’s Moral Compass: Leadership and the Common Good,” which Casey delivered at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. The speech was widely credited with spurring Casey’s comfortable victory in the campaign.

“The number one thing we always encouraged is that this work has to be authentic; every one of our candidates sounded very differently, the speeches they gave, their web sites, their literature,” Sapp said. “And whereas the Republicans on the religious right have tended to approach this with a kind of religious arrogance, Democrats have approached it from a place of religious humility. To steal a line from Lincoln, we seek not so much to prove that God’s on our side, but that we are on God’s.”

During the 2008 election, Sapp and his partners at Eleison earned a contract from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee to work on more than 20 House races across the country. All the races they were directly involved in — including the U.S. Senate campaign in North Carolina — were won by their candidates. Eleison has also expanded to work with nonprofit organizations such as Oxfam and Al Gore’s Alliance for Climate Protection.

While at Sanford, Sapp was able to combine a calling to the ministry with his interest in government work, and he has found a profession in the thick of political action that does so once again. He continues this work through blog postings on belief.net/FaithfulDemocrats.com and other web sites, as well as frequent TV and radio appearances.

“It turned out that the combination [of studying Divinity and Public Policy] would define all of my work, which is not exactly what I was expecting when I went in,” Sapp said. “But the two reasons I chose that path at the beginning were to create a strong moral compass for the difficult political decisions I expected to face, and also to prepare me to do a better job of ministry in that setting.”
Lecture and Exhibit Opening
Exhibit: “Connecting Disparate Worlds: Photographs by Arye Carmón”
Lecture: “A Struggling Democracy Confronts Political and Governmental Ethics: The Case of Israel”
Jan. 26, Lecture: Rhodes, 4 p.m., followed by reception in Sanford Lobby

Arye Carmón, president of the Israeli Democracy Institute, presents a talk. An exhibition of pairs of photographs taken by Carmón during his travels over the past 25 years illuminates unexpected connections between people and places.

Sulzberger Distinguished Lecture
Lecture: Kathryn Edin
Jan. 14, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Rhodes Conference Room


Protecting National Security and Privacy
Jan. 27, 4-6 p.m.
Rhodes Conference Room


Connect to Politics: Cory Booker
Feb. 4, 5:30 p.m.
Fleishman Commons
The controversial mayor of Newark, N.J., will speak about “The Next Generation of Political Leadership.”

(See article, page 15.)

FIRG Series: Luis Ubiñas
Feb. 18, 4:30 p.m.
Rhodes Conference Room

The Ford Foundation President speaks as part of the Foundation Impact Research Group Seminar Series. For a complete listing of spring seminars, please see the Center for Strategic Philanthropy section of the Institute web site.

Von Der Heyden Lecture:
John Lewis Gaddis
Feb. 26, 5:30 p.m.
Fleishman Commons
Hailed as the “dean of Cold War historians” by The New York Times, Yale historian John Lewis Gaddis is the keynote speaker for the Triangle Institute of Security Studies (TISS) conference “American Grand Strategy After War.” His books include The Long Peace: Inquiries into the History of the Cold War; The Landscape of History: How Historians Map the Past and Surprise, Security, and the American Experience. The Von Der Heyden lecture series is sponsored by Duke’s Office of the Vice Provost for International Affairs, the political science department, the Program in American Grand Strategy and TISS.

Sulzberger Distinguished Lecture:
Hirokazu Yoshikawa
March 25, TBA

Harvard University Professor of Education Hirokazu Yoshikawa discusses “How Developmental Science Has Failed Children of Undocumented Immigrants and What Can be Done About It.”

Visit the Sanford Web site for complete events listings and updates: pubpol.duke.edu