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The Sanford Institute’s Undergraduate Research Program made it possible for her to travel to Chile for two weeks last summer to pursue an answer to her question, where she interviewed scholars, government officials and even Pinochet’s family members. When she returned, she had the foundation for her thesis as well as a sense of both Chilean culture and the media’s power to influence politics.

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From the Director

The Sanford Institute’s growth and success has been influenced by a number of people behind the scenes whose vision has helped chart our direction, whose leadership has helped guide our decisions, and whose contributions have been tremendously valuable in many ways. Charlie Sanders is one such person.

During 10 years of tireless service as chairman of the Sanford Institute Board of Visitors, Charlie has seen us through momentous transitions: three leadership changes at the Institute; a capital initiative for, and the construction of, Rubenstein Hall; tremendous growth in our research centers, faculty and staff; and now, the launching of our $65 million initiative to raise endowment and become Duke’s 10th school.

With his signature charm, Charlie persistently championed the school idea. His steady hand was critical in our latest transition. For everything he’s done for us over the years, I’m eternally grateful.

Charlie will pass the baton as board chairman to his successor this fall, but will continue to offer us his guidance and insight as a continuing member of the board and chairman emeritus. An interview with him (page 3) provides a look at his hopes for the Institute’s future.

Adam Abram, an active and engaged BOV member since 2000, will formally take over as the new chairman of the board next fall. His contributions to the School Task Force two summers ago were a critical part of its success, and as a Chapel Hill resident, he has been and will continue to be available for frequent consultation. In addition, his experience in business and his role as a parent of a Duke public policy student (who has just been elected to the Duke Board of Trustees) will add other valuable dimensions to his leadership. I look forward to working with him.

Best regards,

Bruce Kuniholm

Student News Briefs

MPPs publish • For the third year in a row, papers by Sanford MPP students are among the 10 selected for publication in the Journal of Public and International Affairs. The journal is jointly published by Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and the Association of Professional Schools of Public Affairs. Authors and papers accepted were: Emily Grenzke, “Is the Price of School a Major Determinant of Participation in the Education Market? A Study of the Impact of School Fees in Rural Bangladesh”; and Mattia Landoni, “Justice Delayed is Justice Denied: An Overview of the Options to Speed Up Federal Justice.” The journal will be published in hard copy and online in April.

MPP Internship Fund • Through an auction and other activities, students are raising money to fund summer internships that offer no or small salaries. Find out how you can help online at pubpol.duke.edu/students/ifc/.

Drama • Sonja Ralston Elder, an MPP and law joint-degree student, directed a production of The Laramie Project by the Duke Law Drama Society March 1-3. Proceeds were donated to the Public Interest Law Foundation.

PPS honor • Nirmala Chilamkurti, a graduating PPS senior, was among those chosen for a 2006-07 Duke University Samuel DuBois Cook Society Award, presented Feb. 27. Chilamkurti co-founded the Durham chapter of Operation Snowball, a substance abuse prevention and leadership program for teens. The project grew out of a course with Professor of the Practice of PPS Tony Brown.

Insider speaks on UN’s future

Departing Under-Secretary General for Communications and Public Information Shashi Tharoor delivered a 2007 Terry Sanford Distinguished Lecture on March 1 titled “Does the United Nations Have a Future?” Despite its weaknesses, notably in the structure of the Security Council, the United Nations is still the only organization that gets differing factions and nations to the table, Tharoor said. Listen to his address online at the Multimedia page of the Sanford Institute web site: pubpol.duke.edu.
You ran for the U.S. Senate in 1996, so public service is obviously important to you. What attracted you to the Sanford Institute when Joel Fleishman asked you to chair its board of visitors?

Sanders: I've always felt that it was important as a citizen to understand the world that we live in and what needs to be done to make it a better place. So the Institute was something that really fit very naturally into my already existing interests.

Once you got to know the Institute, what impressed you most?

Sanders: I think it's probably what impresses anybody who comes in contact with Duke faculty and Duke students. They're incredibly bright. Certainly the faculty is one of the most productive research faculties in public policy. And the students—having been here as long as I have, you see that they graduate and they go on to do wonderful things.

What is your message to people who are considering becoming supporters of the new school initiative?

Sanders: If you really want to invest—if you want to invest in the future of our country, then the best thing that you can do is invest in students and in a faculty that's teaching those students who are going to become the leaders and the movers and shakers in the future.

Why is raising endowment funds dedicated to student financial aid critical to the success of the new school?

Sanders: Financial aid is there to make sure that we get the very best and the brightest, and I mean that in the most serious sense, because if it's our legacy as an institution to turn out leaders in research, in public policy, in environmental and health policy, however you want to define it, then it's just not going to come from those people who can pay the bill.

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Of what are you most proud during your tenure as chairman?

Sanders: One is the Board of Visitors, which has become a very dynamic and engaged board. That's point one. Point two is that we have gotten the commitment from the administration to make the Institute into a school. The third thing that I am very proud of was the building of the Rubenstein Hall, and that is not an inconsequential achievement.

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What are your hopes for the Institute as it becomes a new school?

Sanders: I think that everyone shares the hope that as it becomes a school, it becomes the premier public policy school in the United States, if not the world. We have all the makings for it. We've got the faculty. We've got the students. We've got the programs. We've got the global reach, and I think that there's little question that we'll have the resources to do it. So, through time, I want people, when they think of public policy, to think of the Public Policy School at Duke University as being the leading public policy school in the world.

Interview by David Rice, director of development communications and donor relations.
MPP internship spurs exploration of eco-friendly school buildings in NC

By Sidney Cruze

When Emily Grenzke (MPP '07) began searching for an internship, she had difficulty finding one where she could explore all of her interests: education, the environment, social justice and development. Yet after looking as far away as Australia, she located one right down the road, in the Sandhills region of North Carolina. The internship gave her an opportunity to plan a statewide symposium focusing on environmentally sustainable school buildings.

The event attracted more than 100 engineers, architects, citizens, school superintendents and elected officials from across the state, many with no experience using “green” building practices. It also gave Grenzke real-life uses for the skills she developed during her first year MPP courses and became the springboard for her master’s thesis.

Grenzke worked with Sustainable Sandhills, a nonprofit group that promotes sustainability in the 10-county Sandhills region to plan the Oct. 23 symposium. Executive Director Jon Parsons knew that the region’s school districts planned to spend almost $1 billion on construction over the next five years, including $455 million on new schools alone. Grenzke’s first task was to research the status of green schools in the state, then determine local citizens’ perception of them.

“I learned that most people saw green schools as a liberal idea they couldn’t afford,” Grenzke said. “So we decided to highlight the costs and benefits of green buildings during the symposium. And we began using the term ‘high-performance’ instead of green to avoid any negative association with environmentalism.”

Symposium attendees learned about new state legislation that makes green schools easier to afford as well as design features that are simple and inexpensive to use. They also heard case studies that tracked the financial benefits of two existing green schools, in Texas and in North Carolina.

As a result of the symposium, the Cumberland County school district is considering a high performance elementary school, Parsons said.

“For reasons like this, I believe this symposium was really important,” Parsons said. “And Emily was a major driving force behind it. She’s tenacious, in a charming way, and that—plus her focused effort over the summer—was the key to the success of the event.”

Grenzke wrote three different surveys—

Sanford News Briefs

Allen Buchanan, who joined the Duke faculty in 2002 as a professor of public policy and philosophy, is shifting to a full-time position in the philosophy department, effective in July. Buchanan has taught PPS ethics courses and is conducting research with the Duke Center for Public Genomics.

Ethics courses will continue to be taught by Bob Korstad, Evan Charney, Noah Pickus, and Anna Gassman-Pines, said Sanford Institute Director Bruce Kuniholm.

Excellence Team • Elise Goldwasser, internship and career advisor to PPS undergraduates, has been selected for The Duke Excellence Team. The award is given by students to recognize employees who go above and beyond to improve the Duke experience for students. “Five minutes with her can turn a bad day into an amazing one!” said her nominator.

Appointment • Brian Pence has been appointed assistant research professor at the Center for Health Policy. He joined the center in August 2005 after earning his PhD in epidemiology from UNC-Chapel Hill. Pence’s research focuses on the behavioral health aspects of HIV infection, and how mental health and substance abuse influence medication adherence, risk behaviors and other clinical outcomes of HIV patients. In fall 2007, Pence will teach a global health course titled “Disease Detectives: Public Health Investigation and Practice.”

Save the Date • The Hart Leadership Program will mark its 20th anniversary on Nov. 9-10, 2007. HLP participants past and present, professors, current students, administrators and supporters are invited to attend and celebrate 20 years of growth and change. Watch for details on the HLP web site. Through its various programs, HLP has offered Duke students unique opportunities in leadership, service, research, and entrepreneurship, helping redefine the way students approach their education.

Novelist • Jake Fades, A Novel of Impenetrance, by David Guy, writing instructor in the MPP and Hart Leadership programs, will be published in April by Shambhala Publications. Guy has written several other books and his book reviews appear in the Washington Post, the New York Times, and other papers.
DCID mourns loss of international development expert Dennis Rondinelli

Dennis A. Rondinelli, 63, a faculty member with the Duke University Center for International Development at the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, died March 7 at his home in Hillsborough.

Rondinelli, an internationally recognized expert on international development policy, joined Duke in 2005. During his long, distinguished career, Rondinelli wrote or edited 19 books and published more than 250 book chapters and articles pertaining to international development policy, administrative reform, globalization and economic development, public-private partnerships and private enterprise development. He carried out research in Asia, Central Europe, Latin America and Africa.

Rondinelli also served as director of the Pacific Basin Research Center at Soka University of America. He was a member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration and recently was appointed to the 16-member international drafting committee for the UN’s “Vienna Declaration on Building Trust in Government.”

In addition, Rondinelli served as an advisor and consultant to the U.S. State Department’s Agency for International Development, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency, the International Labour Office, the U.N. Development Program and to private corporations.

“He only recently joined our community, but he was happy to be here,” said DCID Executive Director Jonathan Abels. “He made many contributions to our work through his teaching, writing and consulting. He came to us because he wanted to be part of a community that focused on development. We gave him that, and in return he honored us with his intellect, wisdom, humor and commitment. We all benefited from his presence and we’ll miss him greatly.”

Before coming to Duke, Rondinelli worked 15 years at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he held the Glaxo Distinguished International Professor of Management chair at Kenan-Flagler Business School, and directed the Center for Global Business Research. Previous posts were with the Research Triangle Institute’s Office of International Programs, Syracuse University, The East-West Center, Vanderbilt University, University of Wisconsin and the U.S. Army. His time with the Army, during which he worked with villages in Vietnam, sparked his lifelong interest in development.

He earned his PhD at Cornell University in 1969 and his BA from Rutgers University in 1965. Rondinelli is survived by his wife, Soonyoung Chang Rondinelli, and his two daughters, Lisa and Linda.

DCID to train high-level Indian government officers (continued from page 1)

train those with 14-16 years experience and Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, those with 26-28 years of experience.

DCID’s program will run June 11-August 3, 2007, and will be led by Duke public policy faculty members G.P. Shukla and Anirudh Krishna. Both professors previously worked in the IAS.

“Having former IAS officers on our faculty gives us a great advantage in understanding their needs,” said DCID Executive Director Jonathan Abels. For the six-week session in Mussoorie, India, DCID will work in partnership with the School of Advanced Studies at the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), Delhi. The goal, Abels said, is “to work our way out of a job” by building executive training capacity in India.

The core of DCID training will focus on project and program appraisal, implementation and monitoring and evaluation issues and related financial management and quantitative methods. Other areas covered will include global and national perspective building, leadership and innovation, negotiation, quality and responsiveness of government service delivery and personal development.

“Having former IAS officers on our faculty gives us a great advantage in understanding their needs.”

DCID’s record of success with executive education for professionals from developing nations worldwide made it a logical choice for the IAS project. For example, since 2005 DCID has been providing a comprehensive public policy program for dozens of senior Chinese government officials. DCID over recent years has provided executive education training programs on public finance to more than 500 participants from 80 different countries.

It has also delivered similar programs in countries around the world ranging from Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia to South Africa and Tanzania. Included in these has been training in project and program appraisal for some 100 officers in three state governments in India.

In addition, DCID provides a special program for World Bank managers transitioning to new assignments and enrolls several IAS officers each year in its master’s degree program in international development policy.
When public policy student Cassandra Phillips (’07) traveled to San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, as part of her independent study project with the School for International Training (SIT), she expected to find a city that embraced its indigenous Mapuche inhabitants. She wanted to find the secret to Bariloche’s oft-touted interculturalism.

Instead she found the city’s Mapuche were reluctant to identify themselves, making them almost invisible. “They equated being Mapuche with suffering and being marginalized,” Phillips says. “And as often happens, others were happy to go along with them and ignore their culture.”

What started as an effort to document ways that the minority Mapuches were accepted and respected turned into an exploration of identity, a chance to find out what it means to be a Mapuche. Over the course of a month, Phillips found Bariloche’s Mapuche community and interviewed its members about their efforts to recover their culture and teach their native language. She then wrote a 30-page paper about what she learned.

“I had a huge sense of empowerment when I was done,” she says. “When I got on the bus to go to Bariloche I didn’t know anyone. The interviews were difficult because people thought I was a spy, and my Spanish is rusty. It wasn’t always great. But I ended up producing this paper that gives these people a voice.”

The experience gave Phillips a chance to explore her interest in race relations and to find her own academic voice, one she was able to bring back to Duke. “After being in Argentina, I’m more likely to write a professor to say I know about something going on that is related to the class,” she says. “I’m also more likely to ask if we can discuss a subject I’m interested in or if I can do some research on the side. I’m connecting more with professors, which changes my experience. I’m not there just to take the class.”

Phillips has spent her four years at Duke looking for ways to deepen her educational experiences, both in and out of the classroom. She mentored middle school girls and taught Spanish in Durham, studied in Spain for a summer and traveled to Uganda to help implement a malnutrition relief project for people living in the country’s Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps.

“Duke in general—and the public policy major specifically—makes that possible,” she says. “Whenever I’ve said ‘this interests me, and I want to explore it,’ I’ve found the support and guidance I needed. I consider it the great gift that Duke has given me.”

Each exploration taught her about the world and herself. In Argentina, she could have worked with a group to do her independent study on another subject. Instead she chose to go to Bariloche alone, to follow her interests and work in situations where she wasn’t completely comfortable. “I was a little scared,” she says. “I often thought ‘this isn’t going to work,’ but I pulled through. I realized you can learn more about yourself when you’re alone and also that you’re never completely alone. People are always willing to help you along.”

The Mapuche touched Phillips with their stories and their willingness to share them. “They said ‘please don’t forget about us,’ which told me they feel ignored by their government and the world,” she says. “I came home with a sense of responsibility, but it’s hard to know what to do to help. I think I’ll struggle with that no matter where I find myself in the future.”

Phillips was selected to participate in the 2007 Hart Fellows Program, which offers recent Duke graduates 10-month fellowships with non-governmental organizations in developing countries that are facing complex social, political and humanitarian problems.
he was confident he would win, and he felt both internal and external pressure to put the vote to the people. In December 2006, during the last days of Pinochet’s life, Peters presented research that supported her hypothesis, making her a contributor to the scholarly knowledge available on this infamous ruler.

“She chose an interesting and timely case, one that allowed her to examine Chile’s worst oppressor and how he allowed for his own exit,” said Judith Kelley, assistant professor of PPS and Peters’ advisor. “She also learned how to conduct a systematic inquiry that provides evidence for her conclusion, and she did this by seeking out primary sources. It’s unusual to see this type of original research.”

Peters is one of a growing number of public policy undergraduates engaged in research. In spring 2005 only three PPS students completed honors theses, while Jay Hamilton, the Charles S. Sydnor Professor of PPS and director of undergraduate studies, expects 13 to graduate with honors in 2007. Ten more are enrolled for 2008.

The Institute revised its undergraduate program two years ago with this goal in mind. Since then it has added research-service learning courses and provided funds for independent studies, faculty research assistantships, honors seminar stipends (which funded Peters’ trip to Chile) and summer internships. Funding for these programs has come from a three-year grant from the Duke Endowment that will end in spring 2008.

“Research shows that having mentored one-on-one relationships with professors is the best way to enhance your undergraduate education,” Hamilton says. “And engaging in research is one of the best ways to get that experience.”

Christine Gorman (’07) decided early in her Duke career that she wanted to work with journalist and Eugene C. Patterson Professor of the Practice of PPS Susan Tifft. She took two classes with Tifft her sophomore year, and spent her junior year working as Tifft’s research assistant.

The former TIME Magazine editor is writing a book titled The Luck of the Gender: Women’s Unique Place in the Longevity Revolution, currently under contract with Penguin Press. She asked Gorman to look at our culture’s portrayal of aging women by examining their roles in movies, advertisements, TV programs and literature, both in popular publications and scholarly texts.

“It was a great experience to work closely with Professor Tifft, and it opened my eyes to a lot I’ve never thought about,” Gorman says. “Plus it influenced my decision to do an honors thesis, to take on something myself.”


For David Gastwirth (’06), engaging in research as an undergraduate gave him the chance to follow his own interests and prepare for a career in higher education. While taking ITT/Terry Sanford Professor of PPS Philip Cook’s class “Regulating Vice and Substance Abuse,” Gastwirth examined fraternity alcohol policies with the goal of explaining why Duke’s fraternities develop specific policies and the impact of those policies on alcohol use.

“Our final project had to include original research, which was very empowering for me,” he says. “For the first time, I wasn’t studying others’ knowledge; I was trying to create my own. It really framed my notion of what an undergraduate college experience could be, and helped me see how I can contribute in a meaningful way.”

Gastwirth, who earned the Joel Fleishman Distinguished Scholar award, is now a master’s degree candidate at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education. As he writes papers and prepares for graduation this spring, he finds himself using the research skills he developed at Duke.

“No matter what the subject, the writing and analytical skills transfer,” he says. “And I see that good intentions are not enough, you need well-crafted support for your ideas.”

Hamilton agrees that research experience is an asset for students, especially those looking to go to graduate school. “Engaging in research forces students to figure out which skills to draw on and requires them to use multiple skills in one project. It really is a culmination of their educational experience here.”
Middle school 6th graders’ behavior, grades worse than that of peers in elementary school, study finds

Sixth graders placed in middle schools have more discipline problems and lower test scores than their peers who attend elementary schools, according to a study conducted by Sanford faculty and a colleague at the University of California, Berkeley. In addition, the negative effects of grouping sixth graders with older students are lasting and persist at least through ninth grade.

“These findings cast serious doubt on the wisdom of the historic nationwide shift to the 6-8 middle school format,” said Philip Cook, ITT/Terry Sanford Professor of Public Policy Studies, and an author of the paper.

Since the research report was released in mid-February, Cook and his co-authors have heard from educators from around the country who want to find out more. A journalist in McDowell County, N.C., referred the report to the local school board, which subsequently rescinded a decision to build a middle school and planned to gather more information. Others have sought advice on what configuration works best.

In the 1970s, less than 25 percent of middle schools included sixth grade. Now, the figure is 75 percent nationwide and 90 percent in North Carolina. The shift took place in part due to school population pressures, but also because educators believed it was developmentally appropriate.

“What’s been lacking in the debate is any real data on how the school configuration affects student behavior and performance,” Cook said. “As it turns out, moving sixth grade out of elementary school appears to have had substantial costs.”

Jacob Vigdor and Clara Muschkin, in the Duke Center for Child and Family Policy, co-authored the report along with Robert MacCoun of UC Berkeley. It is titled “Should Sixth Grade be in Elementary or Middle School? An Analysis of Grade Configuration and Student Behavior” and is available online as a Sanford Institute working paper at pubpol.duke.edu/research/papers/.

The sixth graders attending middle school were more than twice as likely to be disciplined as those attending elementary school, after accounting for socioeconomic and demographic differences in the groups. Drug-related disciplinary incidents were nearly four times greater among the middle school group. The pattern continued as the sixth graders advanced through the grades, suggesting the problems were not tied solely to the transition to a new school environment.

In addition, sixth graders in elementary schools improved their scores on end-of-grade (EOG) exams in math and reading relative to their peers in middle schools, and those gains persisted through ninth grade.

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Although the study didn't pinpoint the causes for the differences, the authors concluded that the 6-8 structure brought impressionable sixth graders into routine contact with older adolescents who were a bad influence. Older adolescents are more rebellious and more involved in delinquency, sex, illicit drugs and other activities that violate school rules, the authors noted.

“This points to a general pattern whereby it is better for kids to make transitions later rather than earlier,” said Vigdor. “Sixth grade is an especially vulnerable time, in the sense that sixth graders display a strong susceptibility to peer influence and the decision to expose them to slightly older or slightly younger students seems to have a lasting impact.”
Project builds community support to improve health of diabetics

Duke is joining forces with African American churches in Durham on a new health research project aimed at tackling the Type 2 diabetes epidemic from the ground up.

“Diabetes is on the rise across the country, driven largely by increasing obesity and sedentary lifestyles,” said Sherman James, Susan B. King Professor of Public Policy Studies and principal investigator on the project. “Poor people of color are among the most severely affected groups, and of course that includes many African Americans.”

Blacks are almost twice as likely as non-Hispanic whites to have diabetes. In Durham County, the death rate for minorities with diabetes is nearly three times that of non-Hispanic whites.

“Our goal is to develop community-based approaches to help diabetics better manage their health—approaches that are culturally appropriate and sustainable even after our research project concludes,” James said. “If we are successful, these methods could be applied in other communities, and help reverse this disturbing trend.”

Churches are often the hub of community activity in black neighborhoods, so it made sense to partner with them and their members to recruit diabetic adults for the African American Health Improvement Partnership (AAHIP), James said. And because empowering those most affected by the disease is a key goal, an economically and racially diverse community advisory board is providing suggestions and assistance. The board is led by chair Glenda Small, a vice president at N.C. Mutual Life Insurance, and vice chair Faye Tate-Williams, a psychiatric nurse.

The multi-year project aims to recruit 200-250 participants and provide them with educational sessions on health issues such as nutrition, exercise, stress management and patient-doctor communication. At one recent session, participants estimated their daily intake of different food groups and learned the healthy definition of a “serving size.”

“People are loving it,” said Assistant Professor of Community Health Mina Silberberg, the project director. “The evaluations are really positive.”

Other integral parts of the project are small support groups of about a dozen diabetics and individual sessions with a trained member of the community, in which participants set health goals and monitor their progress toward them.

“If we are successful, these methods could be applied in other communities”

The work is based on the idea that, in order to improve their health, people need appropriate knowledge, support, and resources, not only occasional visits to a medical clinic and intermittent contact with doctors. To learn if these interventions are working, the research team will periodically survey participants and measure height, weight, waist circumference, blood pressure and blood sugar. The data on blood glucose control will be compared with those of diabetics receiving their usual medical care through the Duke University Health System.

The project is funded primarily through a $1.5 million planning grant from the National Institutes of Health to the Division of Community Health. The project has partnered with the Community Health Coalition, a local nonprofit founded by family doctor Elaine Hart-Brothers.

Gibson-Davis earns research grant, honor

Assistant Professor of PPS Christina M. Gibson-Davis was awarded a 5-year, $300,000 grant titled “Marriage and Parenthood in the Lives of Adolescents and Young Adults” by the W.T. Grant Foundation, making her a W.T. Grant Scholar.

In addition, her article “A Cautionary Tale: Using Propensity Scores to Estimate the Impact of Food Stamps on Food Insecurity” co-authored with Michael Foster, earned the 2007 Frank R. Bruel Memorial Prize for best article in Social Service Review.

Abstracts

Recent NBER working papers by Sanford Institute faculty

“Is Urban Decay Bad? Is Urban Revitalization Bad Too?”
By Jacob L. Vigdor

Many observers argue that urban revitalization harms the poor, primarily by raising rents. Others argue that urban decline harms the poor by reducing job opportunities, the quality of local public services, and other neighborhood amenities. While both decay and revitalization can have negative effects if moving costs are sufficiently high, in general the impact of neighborhood change on utility depends on the strength of price responses to neighborhood quality changes. Data from the American Housing Survey are used to estimate a discrete choice model identifying households’ willingness to pay for neighborhood quality. These willingness-to-pay estimates are then compared to the actual price changes that accompany observed changes in neighborhood quality. The results suggest that price increases associated with revitalization are smaller than most households’ willingness to pay for neighborhood improvements. The results imply that, in general, neighborhood revitalization is more favorable than neighborhood decline.

http://papers.nber.org/papers/W12955

“Would Higher Salaries Keep Teachers In High-Poverty Schools?”
By Charles Clotfelter, Elizabeth Glennie, Helen Ladd, and Jacob Vigdor

For a three-year time period beginning in 2001, North Carolina awarded an annual bonus of $1,800 to certified math, science and special education teachers working in high poverty or academically failing public secondary schools. This paper uses administrative payroll data from N.C. schools to estimate whether the bonuses affected teachers' decisions to quit working at a particular school. It finds that the bonus program reduced turnover rates of the targeted teachers by 12 percent. Experienced teachers exhibited the strongest response to the program. Finally, the effect of the program may have been at least partly undermined by the state’s failure to fully educate teachers regarding the eligibility criteria.

http://papers.nber.org/papers/W12285
Alma Blount, director of the Hart Leadership Program, presented “Educating Students for Democratic Citizenship” at the Knowledge in the Service of Society Symposium sponsored by the Kenan Institute for Ethics on Feb. 21. Blount also wrote a final report for Scholarship with a Civic Mission, a project funded by the U.S. Department of Education to establish a campus-wide research service-learning program at Duke, and participated in a working conference in Wisconsin to develop plans for the new U.S. Public Service Academy.


Charles Clotflelter, Z. Smith Reynolds Professor of PPS, gave a talk titled “Teacher Labor Market vs. Equity” as part of the John Locke Foundation’s Shaftesbury Lecture series in Raleigh, N.C., on Feb. 12. Clotflelter also co-authored with Philip J. Cook a commentary in the (Raleigh) News and Observer on March 1, 2007, “What if the lottery were run for lottery players?”

Joel Fleishman, professor of PPS and director of the Duke Foundation Research Program, was one of five panelists in the opening plenary session of Commonfund’s annual conference in Orlando, Fla., on March 11. He spoke to the board of directors of the Council on Foundations on March 22.

Reid Fontaine, research scientist with Center for Child and Family Policy, participated in a roundtable symposium titled, “Revisiting the Instrumental Versus Reactive Aggression Distinction in Child Development” at the Society for Research in Child Development’s biennial meeting in March in Boston, Mass.

Jay Hamilton, Charles S. Sydnor Professor of PPS, made a presentation on news business models to newspaper editors and online news editors at the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication conference in Los Angeles on “Transforming News Organizations for the Digital Future.” He also discussed his book All the News with Tom Keene on the radio program “Bloomberg on the Economy.”

Bruce Jentleson, professor of PPS, served on the Lionel Gelber Prize Jury, which each year awards a prize to the author of the world’s best book on international affairs. As visiting senior research fellow at Oxford University, Jentleson delivered the following four lectures throughout Europe: “America’s Global Role After Bush”; “From ‘Or’ to ‘And’: The Force Diplomacy Balance”; “The Politics of U.S. Foreign Policy: Continuity and Change”; and “The Darfur Crisis: Economic Sanctions as an Option?”

Judith Kelley, assistant professor of PPS, received a supplementary NSF grant to complete data gathering for her international election monitoring project. She also organized a conference Feb. 16-17 with Professor Curtis Bradley at Duke Law School, which brought in top political scientists and lawyers to discuss “The Politics and Law of International Delegation.”

Helen “Sunny” Ladd, Edgar T. Thompson Professor of PPS, presented a paper to the economics department at the University of Amsterdam on “How and Why Teacher Credentials Matter for Student Achievement” on March 7. She presented a paper on “High Poverty Schools and the Distribution of Teachers and Principals” at the annual American Education Finance Association meetings in Baltimore, also in March.

David Schanzer, director of the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security, was named an Academic Fellow for the 2007-2008 year by the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

Anthony So, director of the Program on Global Health and Technology Access, spoke on “Technology for Tobacco Control” and “Support for the Infrastructure of Tobacco Control” at a meeting of international funders for tobacco control at the American Cancer Society in January, and on “Global Distributive Justice: Reflections on the Third Use of Dual Use” at a meeting on biodefense and bioethics at John Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies in February in Washington, D.C. So also received a three-year grant from the Open Society Institute to support his program’s policy work on access to essential medicines, particularly for developing countries.

Anne Martin-Staple, research scholar for the Center for Health Policy, gave a presentation at the Fourth Zambian National Health Research Conference on Jan. 18 titled, “Health Sector Human Resource Crisis in Zambia.”

Jim Vaupel, director of the Population, Policy and Aging Research Center, was an invited speaker on the implications of global aging on middle income countries at the Summit on Global Aging, hosted by the State Department on March 15 in Washington, D.C., to spotlight global aging concerns and foster international dialogue.

Associate Professor of PPS Jacob Vigdor presented “The Katrina Effect: Did the Evacuation of Greater New Orleans Have a Bright Side?” at the University of California-Berkeley and at McGill University in Montreal. He also presented “Segregation and the Black-White Test Score Gap,” a paper co-authored with Jens Ludwig of Georgetown University, at a conference titled on ethnic segregation at the Centre for Market and Public Organisation at the University of Bristol in England.
MPP Notes

Elizabeth Bax Hoffman ('06) has moved to Rockville, Md., where her husband, Mike, is working for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Ann Hardman ('06), joined the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer in September 2006. She is currently in language training and will serve a two-year tour at the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh, beginning in July 2007.

Kris Nordstrom ('06) is co-author of a report released in March 2007 by the N.C. Budget and Tax Center titled “Getting Our Money’s Worth: An Evaluation of the Economic Model Used for Awarding State Business Subsidies.” The report questions the benefits of incentives offered to companies expanding into North Carolina, and was featured in the News and Observer on March 23, 2007. Kris works at the N.C. Fiscal Research Division in Raleigh, N.C.

Kuangzhen Wu ('06) and her husband welcome a daughter, Tiffany Tiayi Zhang, on Feb. 22. Kuangzhen and her family live in Shanghai, China.

Jill Homan ('05) is working for Perseus Realty, a real estate acquisitions and development firm in Washington, D.C.

Anika Rasner ('05) has a new position as a research scientist at the German Social Security Administration in Berlin, Germany. Anika is completing her PhD at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research.

Paul Stahle ('05) was accepted into the U.S. Foreign Service and will begin work on April 30. Paul and his wife, Ryan, welcomed Simon Jed Stahle on March 5, joining brother, Jasper, and sister, Isabella.

Tim Greeff ('04), who focuses on fighting the construction of new coal plants for the Natural Resources Defense Council, worked effectively with a coalition of environmental groups to challenge the construction of 11 new coal plants in Texas by TXU Energy, resulting in the reduction of the proposed construction from 11 plants to 3, and an agreement to refrain from building additional coal plants using current coal technology.

Nick Cornelisse ('03) and his wife, Mel, announce the birth of Riley Benjamin Cornelisse on March 14. Nick works at the U.S. Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C.

Kevin Hutchinson ('03), his wife, Katherine, and his daughter, Ellie, welcomed a son, Conlon James (“CJ”) Hutchinson, on March 5. Kevin is a consultant with Public Consulting Group in Raleigh, N.C.

Heather Lee ('03) has a new position as assistant director of the Police Athletic League of New York City.


Delvecchio Finley ('02) is president of the California Chapter of the National Association of Health Services Executives, president of the California Association of Health Leaders, a fellow with the American College of Healthcare Executives, and a regent with the California-Northern and Central California Region of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Delvecchio is a division administrator at San Francisco General Hospital.

Fang Liu ('02), her husband, Hongliang Cui, and their daughter, Sydney, welcomed a son and brother, Austin Cui, on Jan. 19. Fang and her family live in Winston-Salem, where she is an attorney with Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice.

Eric Sapp ('02) and his partner in Common Good Strategies, Mara Vanderslice, were featured in the April 2007 issue of Details Magazine as two of 27 mavericks who are changing 2007. Eric lives in Alexandria, Va.

Margaret Smith-Isa ('02) left Kaiser Permanente to join the state of Oregon’s Public Employees Benefit Board as program development coordinator. She’ll be working to improve health care quality and outcomes for state employees.

Eric Baim ('01) has joined the health care practice of Hogan & Hartson as an associate in the Washington, D.C., office.

Greg Ferrante ('00) is leaving his position with Booz Allen Hamilton to join the Gates Foundation in Seattle, Wash., as a financial analyst.

Amy Hepburn ('00) and her family, Matt, Juliette and Liliana Fore, welcomed a son and brother, Gavin Fore, on March 10.

Kerry Reichs ('00) has written a novel that has been accepted for publication by Harper Collins, tentatively scheduled for publication in June 2008. Kerry lives in Washington, D.C.

Julie Prince Bell ('99) has left the N.C. Division of Aging and Adult Services and is now an independent consultant and association manager. She and her family live in Cary, N.C.

Cindy Siebert Kinkade ('99) and her family welcomed a son, Ian, in June 2006. Cindy is a project manager at EDAW in San Diego, Calif.

Jennifer Baker Frownfelter ('98), along with her husband, Brian, and son, Gavin, announce the birth of a son and brother, Cole, on March 4. Jennifer works at URS in Phoenix, Ariz.

Jeff Bland ('98), along with his family, Karen, Rory and Sawyer, welcomed Georgia Gerr Bland on Dec. 21, 2006. Jeff is an attorney with Hinshaw & Culbertson in Minneapolis, Minn.

Carolyn Crone Bugg ('97) is an adjunct professor in the Department of Government at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va. She is teaching a course in International Political Economy and will be teaching Introduction to Public Policy and Public Administration in the fall semester.

MPP alumna Sandra Johnson, policy analyst at the Southern Growth Policies Board, spoke to admitted students in March about career paths.
Will Davis, MPP alum and director of the UN Information Centre in Washington, D.C., shared highlights of his career with admitted MPP students.

Stephen Elmore (’97) has left his position as executive director of the Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute to be a Budget Analyst on Veterans and International Affairs at the Committee on the Budget of the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.

Petrea Moyle Marchand (’97), along with her husband, Vince, and stepdaughter, Maddie, announce the birth of Cordelia Ann Marchand on Feb. 4. Petrea has also been promoted to government affairs manager for Yolo County, Calif.

Brant Phillips (’97) was recently appointed general counsel to the Tennessee Democratic Party. Brant is an attorney with Bass, Berry & Sims in Nashville, Tenn.

Kirk Odegard (’96) has completed his assignment with the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland, and is returning to his position at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in Washington, D.C.

Russell Rothman (’96) and his family welcomed a daughter, Elena Mia Rothman, on Nov. 8, 2006. Russell is assistant professor of internal medicine and pediatrics and director of the Program on Effective Health Communication at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn.

Mark Pugsley (’94) has been appointed by Utah Governor Jon M. Huntsman Jr. to a four-year term as the attorney representative on the Utah Securities Advisory Board. Mark is an attorney with Ray, Quinney & Nebeker in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Paul Brathwaite (’93) has left the Congressional Black Caucus for a position as a principal at the Podesta Group, a bipartisan government affairs and public relations firm in Washington, D.C.

Mary Arndtsen (’92) recently moved to New Hope, Pa., with her family. She is an environmental management consultant with Environmental Resources Management (ERM) in Ewing, N.J.

Sheila White Chavis (’92) and her husband, Kevin, announced the birth of Logan Asher Chavis on Dec. 11, 2006. Logan joins brothers Kyle and Mekhi. Sheila is an attorney with Brent Adams & Associates in Raleigh, N.C.

Cindy Adcock (’91) has left Equal Justice Works to join the faculty of Charlotte School of Law, a new law school in Charlotte, N.C., as director of experiential learning programs and assistant professor.

Nicole Sullivan (’91) was honored with a 2006 N.C. State Employees’ Award for Excellence, the highest honor a state employee may receive, for innovations in her position as manager of the Office of Research and Planning at the North Carolina Department of Corrections.

Julie Oletsky Katz (’89) has 16-month-old twins, Jesse and Jordan. She lives in Las Vegas, Nev.

Scott Litch (’86) was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Association Forum of Chicago and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry in Chicago, Ill.

Miriam Saxon (’85) will complete Divinity School at Duke University and will be ordained as an Episcopal deacon on May 19 and then ordained as a priest six months later, in accordance with church canon law. Miriam and her family live in Hillsborough, N.C.

Hilmi Akil (’84) has recently moved to Washington, D.C., to serve as the representative to the United States for the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Sylvia Malm (’83) has been named a team leader at EPA for a project on source water and agriculture. Sylvia works in the prevention branch of the Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C.

Ran Coble (’77) is director of the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research in Raleigh, N.C., which has won two national awards for policy research from the Governmental Research Association, a group of 33 public policy groups in 22 states. NCGPR received the award for Most Distinguished Research for its study of key issues in higher education and governance of public universities, and an award for Policy Studies that Best Educate the Public for its study of opportunities and challenges in economic development in Eastern North Carolina. Ran was also elected 2007 president of the Governmental Research Association.

Undergraduate Notes

Henderson Jones (’02) married Rebecca Reyenga in Houston, Texas, on Nov. 18, 2006. Henderson is an associate at Underwood/Thomas PC in Madison, Miss., where the couple resides.

Kameron Matthews (’00) will graduate from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in May 2007, and will enter residency training with the University of Illinois-Chicago Department of Family Medicine. In May 2006, Kameron completed her law degree at the University of Chicago Law School. She intends to combine all her degrees toward a career in health policy.

Ingrid Sheriff Allen (’00) is a senior account supervisor in the health policy practice at Edelman Public Relations in Washington, D.C.

Harpreet Singh (’00) has left her position at The Bridgespan Group to join Eduventures as a senior consultant. Eduventures is a research and consulting firm in Boston, Mass., that focuses on the education sector, specifically higher education and K-12 industry vendors.

Brent McGoldrick (’97) has moved to Edelman Public Relations in Washington, D.C., where he has taken the role (Please see back cover).
As the 2007 Crown Lecturer in Ethics, Paul Rusesabagina, the real-life hero portrayed in the movie “Hotel Rwanda,” recounted his nightmarish experiences during the 1994 Rwandan genocide to a full house at Page Auditorium. Drawing on his 2006 autobiography “An Ordinary Man,” Rusesabagina told how he managed to save 1,200 refugees through persistence and patient negotiations as deeply rooted tribal violence raked his country. The Crown Lecture is endowed by a gift to the Institute from Lester Crown.