Trustees Approve Creation of Sanford School

With its unanimous vote of approval on May 9, the Duke University Board of Trustees established the Sanford School of Public Policy. The change will be effective on July 1, 2009. It’s a proud moment for the students, faculty, staff and alumni of the institution that Terry Sanford started back in 1971, as well as a testament to its growth, maturation, success and extraordinary promise.

For some, this announcement may elicit a raised eyebrow and a puzzled comment: “Wonderful! But wait … I thought Sanford was a school.” Indeed, the popular U.S. News & World Report rankings of graduate programs group Sanford alongside other top-10 public policy schools. With our undergraduate, master’s and PhD degree programs; our distinguished faculty; our accomplished, influential alumni; and our wide assortment of interdisciplinary research centers, the confusion is understandable. Sanford was already a complex organization, engaged all over the world and active on many levels. Nevertheless, the “school” designation hasn’t been official until now.

So, aside from the name, what’s different?

By itself, the name change doesn’t mean much. What means a great deal, however, is the transformative power this change brings. As Duke’s tenth school, Sanford has freedom to be more entrepreneurial in pursuing the goals I’ve outlined in this column over the last 24 months.

Our goals include growing our faculty in a set of key policy areas; maintaining class sizes similar to today’s in order to enhance (Please see page 2).

Teaching Award Named for Tifft, Wash Post Veterans Join DeWitt

Susan Tifft, the Patterson Professor of the Practice of Journalism and Public Policy, displays student signatures in a commemorative book presented to her during a farewell dinner on March 23. An undergraduate teaching award has been established in Tifft’s honor. The DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy named Philip Bennett, former managing editor of The Washington Post, to fill the Patterson Chair, while Post database editor Sarah Cohen will take over the Knight Chair in the fall. (See stories, pages 4-5.)

Faculty Team Examines Life After Test Scores

Do high-stakes tests indicate anything except the ability to do well on tests? Twelve Sanford faculty will correlate test scores with other data to examine outcomes for young adults in North Carolina. The project will include a research workshop series and a conference in the fall of 2010. The work is backed by a major grant from the Smith Richardson Foundation. (See story, page 6.)
**Fairfax Brings Concrete Change to D.C. Neighborhood**

*By Jackie Ogbum*

Sanford Board of Visitors member Justin Fairfax (PPS '00) has a long and impressive list of leadership and public service positions on his resume. As an undergraduate at Duke, he was president of the National Panhellenic Council and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and was chosen as the graduation speaker for his PPS class.

After graduation, he served as a Young Trustee on Duke’s Board of Trustees, was Tipper Gore’s briefing coordinator at the 2000 Gore/Lieberman presidential campaign headquarters in Nashville, and worked as Sen. John Edward's personal assistant during his 2004 vice presidential campaign.

He earned a law degree from Columbia University where he was selected as a member of the Columbia Law Review and clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Gerald Bruce Lee. Now he is a senior associate in litigation at WilmerHale in Washington, D.C.

But the place where Fairfax perhaps most brought his public policy skills to bear was on that most clichéd task of local government: fixing potholes. Actually, it was more than just potholes; it was 30,000 feet of new paving on alleys and streets of crumbling brick, scattered gravel and broken asphalt in the neighborhood where he grew up.

Between the end of the Gore campaign and the time that Fairfax enrolled in law school, Fairfax was working as a legislative correspondent in Edwards’ U.S. Senate office on Capitol Hill. He moved back in with his mother in the Eckington area of northeast Washington, D.C.

“The place had issues,” he said, “the common urban problems of decay, disrepair and drugs.” He joined the neighborhood civic association, which at that time was a handful of people, mostly seniors, meeting in the local church basement.

Fairfax teamed up with a childhood friend from the neighborhood, Kenyan McDuffie, and began pulling other people into the organization through neighborhood events, such as clean-up days. Soon, young parents and newer residents were involved. Fairfax thought the broken state of the streets was the perfect metaphor for the state of the neighborhood and a good place to start to turn things around.

At first, people were understandably skeptical that anything would change, Fairfax said, because the area had been neglected for decades.

“The only things more often and more badly broken than the streets in the neighborhood were past promises to fix them,” he said. However, Fairfax remained optimistic, engaged the community, developed a public policy strategy and pushed forward. Eventually, the entire neighborhood bought into this vision, and people became excited about the possibility of helping to literally lay the foundation for a brighter future for their beleaguered, but beloved, neighborhood.

“I used my PPS training to navigate the city bureaucracy,” he said. There was initial resistance from the city, but Fairfax’s group got a commitment from the mayor’s office and the project became a line item in the city budget.

Fairfax left for law school in 2002, and by the time he returned to DC in 2005 a large swath of the streets were paved. “They have been a catalyst for improvement in the neighborhood,” he said. “They are literally the ground we stand on.”

His aunt still lives in the neighborhood, as does his mother, who has since remodeled her house. Some former residents who had left returned, including McDuffie, and others have improved their properties. The experience was further proof to Fairfax that everybody can make a lasting, positive difference in the lives of individuals and communities.

“Wherever you are is your public policy realm,” he says.

**Director’s Letter (continued from cover)**

mentoring relationships between students and faculty; increasing student aid; and expanding the Sanford School’s role in the life of Duke University. Our mission is no less than creating profound change— in each student, in institutions, and in policies that affect the human condition.

This transition happens to fall during one of the stormiest times in our nation’s economic history. But rather than relinquish our ambitions in this era of shrinking budgets, we’re carefully managing our commitments and adjusting the pace with which we pursue our goals.

Despite the financial turmoil, in a little less than three years the school raised $36.6 mil-

lion in cash and pledges. Response to our new annual fund, particularly from our loyal alumni, has been very encouraging and is already enhancing the educational experience for our students. We’ve added energetic and talented faculty in global health, environmental policy and social policy, and more will join us this fall.

When Terry Sanford founded the Institute of Policy Science and Public Affairs (as it was then known) he envisioned it as a key element of the university’s mission of service. Today, Duke University’s overarching goal of “putting knowledge at the service of society” is an extension of Sanford’s goal of service. The recent election of Barack Obama, it is fair to say, has given important new life to that mission.

The opportunities offered by today’s chal-

lenges to a new generation of students—stu-

dent inspired by the president’s leadership, undergirded by a newfound commitment to public service and facilitated by the faculty and resources of Duke University—are reasons to be excited about the future, and hopeful for it. We are seizing the moment to help realize the aspirations of our students through the creation of a school not only worthy of them, but also up to the challenges they face.

Best regards,

Bruce Kuniholm
MPP Student Starts Duke Vets

By John Massie

Duke student veterans have been relatively unknown on campus—but that’s changing thanks to Michael McInerney (MPP ’09), who recently started the Student Veteran’s Association on campus.

The organization, also called DukeVets (www.dukevets.org), aims to identify the number of undergraduate and graduate student veterans on campus, develop student veteran support services and provide student veterans with a chance to network.

“Duke seemed very open to doing anything they could for us as a population,” said McInerney, a U.S. Army Major on active duty who plans to teach at West Point after obtaining his degree. “But they didn’t know how to identify them or know what we wanted or needed.”

One of DukeVets’ initial projects is to make Duke more financially accessible to veterans by lobbying the university to take part in the Yellow Ribbon Program. Under the 2008 Post-9/11 GI Bill, the government will provide veterans with money equivalent to the tuition cost of the most expensive public school in the state.

Duke President Brodhead has expressed interest in the program, which begins accepting applications from institutional partners on June 1. If all goes as planned, Duke may offer up to 40 scholarships for veterans starting next fall, McInerney said.

Vice President for Student Affairs Larry Moneta, who worked closely with McInerney to form DukeVets, said one of the inspirations for starting the group was the success of the picnic hosted for Duke veterans and military families last fall before the Duke-Navy football game. More than 100 people attended the event.

Another reason McInerney started the group was to create an unofficial way for veterans to meet and talk.

“I noticed when I [started the] program, a lot of students haven’t even met anyone in the military. A lot of times there are experiences that are easier to talk about with other vets than with everyone you go to school with every day,” he said.

McInerney was born in Germany and grew up in a military family. He earned his degree in economics at West Point in 1999 and has worked in Germany, Macedonia, California and Iraq.

A version of this article appeared in The Chronicle.

Sanford Briefs

Dual Degree Offered by PIDP • The Master’s Program in International Development Policy and Duke Law School now offer a dual degree. Students in the three-year program study concepts including rule of law, rights-based approaches to development, and good governance. Students seeking the JD/MIDP enter the Law School in June with other dual-degree students and must complete 72 credits of law school course work, 24 credits of PIDP coursework and six credits of PIDP ungraded research.

Scholarships Awarded • The Duke Center for International Development has established a new scholarship in honor of Oliver Oldman, who for many years directed and nurtured the International Taxation Program (ITP) while it was hosted at Harvard Law School. The Oliver Oldman Memorial Scholarship will be given each academic year to a student enrolled in the one-year master’s Program in International Development Policy with a specialization in international taxation. The first scholarship was awarded to two people: Abdelmonem Lofty Mohamed of Egypt and Nuria Tolsa Caballero of Spain.

CCFP Offers Seminar for N.C. Legislators • Faculty and research scholars with the Center for Child and Family Policy presented the annual Family Impact Seminar in Raleigh on Feb. 23. Legislators and state agency representatives attended presentations about “Evidence-based Policy: Strategies for Improving Outcomes and Accountability.” The seminar addressed how to develop programs that work and how this approach to policy can improve outcomes and lower costs. Jenni Owen, director of policy initiatives for CCFP, organized the seminar and created the briefing report, which was distributed to legislators and other stakeholders across the state.

PPS Student Gives Sermon • Gregory Morrison, a sophomore PPS and history major, was selected as the 2009 student preacher in Duke Chapel on Feb. 22. “I am both thrilled and humbled to have the opportunity to preach in Duke Chapel,” said Morrison. “Having a student preacher is a great ministry of the Chapel and really allows the undergraduates to connect with the congregation and vice versa.”

Two New Programs Offer MPP Students International Study

Two new partnerships will give MPP students more opportunities to gain international experience by studying overseas.

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has joined with the Duke Program in Global Policy and Governance, a summer program in Geneva, Switzerland, to offer a course on human rights and humanitarian assistance. The course is one of four in which students learn from leading global policymakers while working in internships at international agencies, NGOs and government delegations.

“It is real testament to the growing reputation of our program in the international policy community that UNITAR would choose to partner with us,” said Director of Graduate Studies Frederick “Fritz” Mayer.

In addition, a new exchange program with the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin will allow a Sanford MPP student to spend his or her third semester in Berlin, and will bring a Hertie School MPP student here.

“This is a great opportunity for students interested in international policy,” said Mayer. “Berlin is a terrific location for anyone interested in European issues or global policy and governance.”

Rogerson Leads Internet Speech Project • Daniel Solove, George Washington University law professor and author of The Future of Reputation: Gossip, Rumor, and Privacy on the Internet, led Sanford on April 3.

PPS Student Gives Sermon • Gregory Morrison, a sophomore PPS and history major, was selected as the 2009 student preacher in Duke Chapel on Feb. 22. “I am both thrilled and humbled to have the opportunity to preach in Duke Chapel,” said Morrison. “Having a student preacher is a great ministry of the Chapel and really allows the undergraduates to connect with the congregation and vice versa.”
Washington Post Journalists to Join Sanford Faculty

Two Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists have been appointed to chairs in the DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy and will begin teaching in the fall. The appointments will enhance the center’s research and teaching initiatives that focus on new models for news in the Internet age.

Philip Bennett, who in four years as managing editor of The Washington Post helped lead the newspaper to 10 Pulitzer Prizes, was named the new Eugene C. Patterson Professor of the Practice of Journalism and Public Policy.

Sarah Cohen, an expert on computer-assisted investigative journalism, was appointed Knight Professor of the Practice of Journalism and Public Policy. Cohen, database editor at The Washington Post since 1999, will lead DWC’s computational journalism initiative.

“I am absolutely delighted at Philip Bennett’s decision to come to Duke and join the faculty at the school of public policy,” said Sanford Institute Director Bruce Kuniholm. “He brings a wealth of experience on the international front, and his peers were glowing about his extraordinary creativity as a thinker and his skills as a mentor.”

Cohen’s expertise is an ideal match for DeWitt’s interest in developing the emerging field of computational journalism, said DWC Director James T. Hamilton.

“Watchdog journalism is increasingly at risk in the media marketplace,” he said. “Computational journalism holds the promise of combining traditional public records and database work with new methods and tools from other disciplines to help renew watchdog coverage.”

In addition to teaching undergraduate courses, Cohen will help lead the development of open-source reporting tools that will help lower the costs to journalists of discovering and researching stories, Hamilton said.

Bennett joined The Post in 1997 as deputy national editor, became assistant managing editor for foreign news in 1999, overseeing 20 international bureaus, and rose to managing editor in 2005.

During his tenure as managing editor, The Post investigated secret CIA prisons abroad and the wide influence of Vice President Dick Cheney. He also helped lead the team whose reporting on shoddy care of veterans at Walter Reed Army Hospital won the coveted Pulitzer Prize for Public Service in 2008. It was one of six Pulitzers The Post won last year.

The Patterson Chair, endowed by a gift from the Poynter Fund, is named in honor of the former editor-in-chief and chief executive officer of The St. Petersburg Times. It has been occupied since 1998 by former Time magazine writer, editor and book author Susan Tiff, who is stepping down at the end of this academic year.

Cohen shared the Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting in 2002 for The Post series, “The District’s Lost Children,” which uncovered failures by child welfare agencies that contributed to dozens of children’s deaths. In 2007, she was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Public Service for her role in “Harvesting Cash,” a series of more than 20 articles that spotlighted abuses of the U.S. farm subsidy system.

She also shared the 2009 Goldsmith Award for Investigative Reporting. She has taught journalism courses at the University of Maryland and is the author of Numbers in the Newsroom: Using Math and Statistics in News.

Cohen earned her undergraduate degree in economics at the University of Carolina at Chapel Hill, and began her career as an economist at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Knight Chair at Duke was established in 1990 by a gift from the Knight Foundation. Washington Post columnist William Raspberry held the post from 1995 until his retirement in June 2008.

Hart Leadership: Summer Study on Four Continents

By Leslie Griffith

Twenty students have received grants for summer community-based research projects with Service Opportunities in Leadership (SOL). SOL, a core element of the Hart Leadership Program, is an intensive 12-month leadership program that combines academic coursework and community-based research with mentoring and leadership development.

“These ambitious students have designed some of the most fascinating research projects I have seen in the history of the SOL program,” said Alma Blount, director of the Hart Leadership Program. “What impresses me is their eagerness to serve their community partners, and to be as creative and flexible as possible in facing the challenges that come their way.”

The SOL students take a spring preparation course before launching their summer research projects. The group will be spread across four continents, from Asheville, N.C., to Accra, Ghana. Upon their return to Duke, the students will take Blount’s capstone seminar.

The students’ research projects include a range of topics from HIV/AIDS education in Honduras to civic engagement in Bosnia and families in transitional housing in Texas.

Polly Kang, a PPS major with a minor in economics, will work with Neuginsunwon (Young Buddhist Association) in Seoul, South Korea. She is a certified rescue diver and has conducted research with Project AWARE, a coral reef awareness program.

Camino de Santiago in Spain and has worked with the Young Buddhist Association and U.S. Embassy on several service projects in South Korea.

Nandish Shah (PPS ’10) will partner with Crews n’ Health Mobile in Phoenix, Ariz., this summer to assess the organization’s efforts to implement nutrition education for homeless and low-income families.

Shah of Charlotte, N.C., is pursuing a certificate in health policy. Recently, he worked with Duke peers to create and teach a nutrition curriculum for middle school students at Durham School of the Arts.

Caitlin (Cat) Crumpler (PPS ’10) of Charlottesville, Va., will work with the Bald Head Island Conservancy in North Carolina to assess the effectiveness of its environmental education initiative.

She is a certified rescue diver and has conducted research with Project AWARE, a coral reef awareness program.

A complete listing of SOL student projects is available online: www.pubpol.duke.edu/sol
Teaching Award Named for Tifft

The Sanford Institute has established the Susan Tifft Undergraduate Teaching/Mentoring Award in honor of the longtime Eugene C. Patterson Professor of the Practice of Journalism and Public Policy, who will step down in July.

Beginning next year, the award will be presented during the annual commencement ceremony to an outstanding professor teaching an undergraduate public policy course.

“Susan is an inspiration to teachers,” said Jay Hamilton, director of the DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy. “She successfully challenges her students to be both educated readers and active citizens. The long-term connections she forges with students are a reminder of how a Duke education can be part of a lifetime love of learning.”

Since 1998, Tifft has taught “Reporting Public Policy Issues,” “Who Owns the Press,” “Watchdogs and Muckrakers,” and “News as Moral Battleground,” a course focusing on ethical dilemmas in media.

In announcing the award, Institute Director Bruce Kuniholm said students appreciate Tifft for challenging them with heavy workloads, asking probing questions, providing detailed writing feedback and, for many, serving as a lifelong mentor.

“She empowered her students to approach their assignments as professionals, with the confidence that they were valued as adults and trusted to get on with the work,” Kuniholm said. “Her courses helped them acquire a more sophisticated and nuanced understanding of how news decisions get made, and of the links between public policy and journalism.”

Kuniholm noted that students consistently give Tifft’s teaching high ratings. On three occasions in three separate seminars, she received perfect scores. One student praised Tifft as “the most outstanding professor I’ve had in my four years at Duke. She’s the most insightful, bright, wise and engaged woman at Sanford.”

Tifft graduated from Duke in 1973 with a degree in English, worked for the Sanford Institute’s first director, Joel Fleshman, and became a Young Trustee.

“There is nothing Duke or the Sanford Institute could have done that would have pleased or honored me more,” Tifft said. “I have loved being a journalist and author, and still get a kick out of seeing my byline, but I have come to treasure teaching more. Nothing compares to the thrill of one mind meeting another, or the light bulb going off in a student’s head.”

Tifft’s contributions to students were recognized at a March 23 dinner in her honor attended by many former and current students, as well as by her mentor, Eugene C. Patterson, former editor-in-chief of the St. Petersburg Times.

Student Business Incubator Opens

With the Feb. 9 opening of DU Hatch, Duke University students now have a place to grow their business ideas into fledgling companies.

“That this is a multi-school effort involving Pratt, Fuqua, Trinity, Law and the nascent Center for Public Policy is a reflection of the many dimensions that necessarily go into entrepreneurship in the public interest,” said Tom Katsouleas, dean of the Pratt School of Engineering.

Lawrence Boyd, associate director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Research Commercialization (CERC) at the Pratt School, is the director of the new incubator, located in the Teer building on West Campus. Other opening event speakers included Bruce Kuniholm, director of the Terry Sanford Institute; Blair Sheppard, dean of the Fuqua School of Business; and George McLendon, dean of the Trinity College of Arts and Sciences.

DU Hatch will give young entrepreneurs the resources to grow their businesses and connect them with outside funding sources, lawyers and local business people. It offers a mentoring program that helps students partner with faculty, industry or alumni, as well as a “coaches-on-call” initiative, in which professionals donate their expertise to new companies.

The Sanford Institute has been involved in the planning of DU Hatch through the Hart Leadership Program’s Entrepreneurial Leadership Initiative (ELI), begun by Professor of the Practice Tony Brown. Christopher Gergen, visiting lecturer in PPS, began directing ELI in 2007.

Two former ELI students are involved with the new program. Justin Healy (’10) is part of SpinFuSe, one of the first five businesses in DU Hatch. The company organized a system to supply orthopedic equipment to surgeons in developing countries. Lina Feng (’10) is part of Duke Student Ventures, a group that supports student entrepreneurs and helps screen candidates for the incubator.

Awards Honor Alumna and Students for Journalistic Excellence

Alumna Karen Blumenthal (’81) accepts the Futrell Award from Jay Hamilton, director of the DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy. At right, Ben Cohen (’10), makes remarks after being named the 2008-09 Melcher Award winner. Both were honored at a March 31 dinner attended by Duke student journalists, alumni journalists and award sponsors.

Blumenthal’s career as a business reporter, bureau chief, editor and writer has spanned nearly 25 years, including two decades at the Wall Street Journal. Since leaving the newspaper in 2007, she has written books including Grande Expectations: A Year in the Life of Starbucks’ Stock; Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX, which won the Jane Addams Children’s Book Award; and Six Days in October, a book for young people on the 1929 stock market crash. She gave the Futrell Lecture on media coverage of the financial crisis.

The annual Futrell Award for Outstanding Achievement in Communications and Journalism honors a Duke alumna. It was established in 1999 by Ashley B. Futrell Jr., in tribute to his father, Ashley B. Futrell Sr., for his career contributions to Duke University and to the profession of journalism. The award includes a cash prize and an engraved goblet.

The annual Melcher Family Award for Excellence in Journalism honors a Duke undergraduate for the best article published in the past year. Cohen was selected for his article “Leveling the Playing Field: The Impact of Race on the Search for Duke’s Next Head Football Coach,” (The Chronicle, December 6, 2007). Also recognized was Robert L. Copeland for his three-part series “DUPD Plagued by Attrition” (The Chronicle, April 15, 2008).
Study Examines Links Between School Test Scores, Other Measures of Success in Early Adulthood

By Jackie Ogburn

OGs, Benchmarks, NAEP, NCCLAS—North Carolina schoolchildren wade through an alphabet soup of standardized tests each year. Do these tests really predict a successful young adulthood for the student? Do poor scores mean higher risk for criminal activity?

A dozen Sanford Institute faculty members will examine these and other questions through the project Beyond Test Scores: Schooling and Life-Course Outcomes in Early Adulthood, funded by a two-year grant of $692,000 from the Smith Richardson Foundation. Charles Clotfelter, Z. Smith Reynolds Professor of PPS, is the principal investigator.

“This is an opportunity that doesn’t happen often,” he said. “It’s extraordinary to have such a large number of faculty working together on a sustained and integrated set of research topics.” The project will link data from the North Carolina Education Research Database with other data sets, and will include six initial research topics, a research workshop series, and a conference in the fall of 2010.

The project will have enormous importance for educational policy, particularly the research pertaining to community colleges, Clotfelter said. Community colleges are numerically a large part of secondary education, but are included in only a small fraction of the research. They play a large role in training young people who are not the top students, but who are being strongly affected by global changes and the recession.

The resulting research will have policy implications for issues such as reforming state accountability programs, how remedial programs should be used, identifying effective policies for reducing criminal behavior, and lessening the impact of trade-related economic downturns.

Since the project began in early January, the research team has met for a series of workshops every two weeks. The workshops include guest speakers who know the state policy terrain, such as officials from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and the Employment Security Commission. Public policy graduate students and faculty from other Duke departments and local universities also will be brought into the workshops.

“We have hired a full-time statistician, D. J. Cratty, to do the computing heavy lifting,” Clotfelter said. Cratty will help link the student data in the N.C. Education Research Data Center to previously unconnected data sets on enrollment and performance in community colleges and universities, employment, the criminal justice system and family formation. The resulting detailed longitudinal micro data will allow new research on young people’s important life decisions and the consequences for both the development of their productive capacities and their personal well-being.

In addition to Clotfelter, the research team includes Sanford faculty members Elizabeth Ananat, Philip J. Cook, William A. “Sandy” Darity Jr., Kenneth A. Dodge, Anna Gassman-Pines, Christina M. Gibson-Davis, Jim Johnson, Helen F. Ladd, Clara G. Muschkin, Seth Sanders, and Jacob L. Vigdor. Charles Thompson, Lora King Professor of Education at East Carolina University, is also part of the research team.

Exhibit, Panelists Address Teen Pregnancy

Hanna Schuler and baby Isaac Schuler look at photographs in the exhibit, “Raising Them Right” in Rubenstein Hall. Photographer Amanda Van Scoyoc (right) introduces the topic during a panel discussion on April 8. Panelists were Sarah Brown, CEO of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy; Susan Cupito, director of YWCA Greensboro’s teen parenting program; Carolyn Halpern, professor of Maternal and Child Health at UNC, Chapel Hill; and Fantasia Johnson, a former teen mother and Durham social worker. The exhibit can be viewed on weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., through mid August.
School Progress vs. Student Scores: Which Incentive Leads to Success?

By Jana A. Alexander

Federal and state school accountability programs overlap in North Carolina, creating a grab bag of acronyms and mixed messages for schools and teachers. The state’s ABCs of Public Education, which requires end-of-course (EOC) and end-of-grade (EOG) tests, has been in place since 1996. The federal NCLB Act of 2001 added its accountability measurement, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), to the mix.

A new Center for Child and Family Policy (CCFP) study will use information from the North Carolina Education Research Data Center to determine which incentive program, if any, has the greatest positive impact on student scores on standardized tests. The study received federal funding for a four-year period beginning March 1, 2009. Principal investigators are Jacob Vigdor, professor of PPS and economics, and Thomas Ahn, a CCFP research associate.

“North Carolina schools, teachers, parents and students have been getting mixed messages for years,” Vigdor said. “Under the ABCs, all of the teachers at a school can receive bonuses because student test scores improved, but NCLB often labels the same school as ‘bad’ because it did not meet adequate yearly progress.” The state incentives are based on year-to-year improvements in test scores, while the federal NCLB considers whether students achieve a specific proficiency threshold.

Elementary schools offer the best environment to evaluate the effects of these policies, Vigdor said, because K-5 children usually have a single teacher. This makes it easier to link students and student outcomes to specific teachers, he said.

To infer the causal effect of accountability incentives, the study will focus on schools that fall just above or just below the performance objectives in place for the state and federal programs. These otherwise comparable schools will be subjected to different sanctions, or different threats of sanctions. This “regression discontinuity” research design is considered a close substitute for the gold standard, randomized experiments, Vigdor said.

The schools that get into trouble with NCLB but not the state, he said, are schools that teach disadvantaged children. In these schools, students can post dramatic improvements in test scores but still not reach the proficiency level, because they were at a low level to start.

“North Carolina is looking for improvement that a teacher can affect,” said Vigdor. “No Child Left Behind is all about proficiency, and the teachers may respond by throwing up their hands and giving up because they are less likely to be able to move students from whatever their status is at the beginning of the year to being proficient. The NCLB incentives feel more like ‘punishments.’ ”

The federal program imposes sanctions on schools that fail to make AYP. The first year, the school is on probation. The second year, the district must offer transfers to all students. The third year, the school must offer a supplemental educational program. However, the burden for enforcing and funding these mandates falls to the states.

With NCLB, previous studies have shown that teachers are incentivized to focus on students who are on the cusp of proficiency. The result is that NCLB “leaves behind” children who are far from attaining proficiency, as well as those who are already proficient, Vigdor said.

Preliminary results from other studies show that the North Carolina’s ABCs program, which pays cash bonuses of up to $1,500 to certified staff and teacher assistants in schools that attain expected or exemplary growth, does produce student test score improvements.

“The NCLB incentives feel more like ‘punishments.’”

There are numerous different state-level accountability programs in place across the country, and they are all mixed up with NCLB, according to Vigdor. This study will provide insight about the specific incentives in place in North Carolina, but can speak to larger issues.

The U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences (IES) is providing the majority of project funding. Other funders are The Spencer Foundation and the American Enterprise Institute. The North Carolina Education Research Data Center, which is located within CCFP, provides researchers and the broader policy community with ready access to the data they need for policy-oriented research.

Conference Probes Race, Memory

Memory studies, an emerging field of academic research, focuses on the ways cultures create and transmit stories about origins, identities and the past. Incorporating literature, history, psychology, education and the visual arts, among other fields, the objects of study include history books, memorials, museums, archives, oral traditions and material artifacts.

A four-day conference, “Monuments & Memory,” took place April 14-17 at the Sanford Institute to explore what gets remembered about both race and racialization.

Sponsored by the Research Network on Racial and Ethnic Inequality, the conference drew a diverse audience, including a group of scholars christened the “truth squad,” by William “Sandy” Darity Jr., professor of PPS and African American studies. They challenge historical accounts that underestimate the significance of the slave trade in world and U.S. history.

Other group members are Ronald Bailey of Savannah State University, Karen Fields, an independent scholar, Joseph Inikori of Syracuse University and Barbara Solow.

The conference was anchored by literary readings by Sofia Quintero and John Edgar Wideman. Quintero read from her novel Picture Me Rollin. Wideman shared his novel-in-progress which explores the lives and eerily similar deaths of Louis Till and his son Emmett Till. Participants also viewed and discussed the film Nat Turner: A Troublesome Property, led by Peter Wood, emeritus professor of history at Duke.

Panels explored how monuments shape collective memory and the psychological and sociological factors that influence memory. In his keynote talk, “Specificity of the Atlantic Slave Trade,” Bailey stressed how politics, psychology and culture influence our reluctance to accept the centrality of the slave trade.

Conference cosponsors were the Sanford Institute, the history department, the Mary Lou Williams Center, the African and African American studies department, and the Arts and Sciences councils, all at Duke, along with the Institute for Arts and Humanities at UNC-Chapel Hill.
James Begins Study of Health Effects of Desegregation in Pitt County

Building on more than 20 years of research in eastern North Carolina, Sanford Institute Professor Sherman James is beginning a community case study that will tell a more complete story of how civil rights advances affected the health of African Americans.

James’ three-year project, titled “After the Walls Came Tumbling Down: The Health Legacy of the 1960s Civil Rights Era in a Southern Community,” earned a prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Award in Health Policy. The study focuses on Pitt County between 1965 and 1980, “a transformative period in our nation’s history,” said James, the Susan B. King Professor of PPS.

During the period James will study, African American gains in voting rights, housing, education, employment and access to medical care were mirrored in their improved health outcomes. Rates of infant mortality and cardiovascular disease among blacks in Pitt County, as elsewhere in the South, fell dramatically, although they never declined to rates experienced by whites.

A number of studies have connected civil rights legislation and progressive social policies with improved health among black Americans. James’ community case study will go further, examining “what these changes looked like at ‘ground level’ and how they might have fostered major improvements in the health of black Americans — in a specific Southern community…”

Although largely poor and rural, Pitt County is distinct in many ways from the rest of eastern North Carolina due to the presence of Pitt County Memorial Hospital and East Carolina University and Medical School in Greenville, the county seat.

Through a combination of quantitative analyses of public health statistics, detailed reviews of public expenditures, oral histories, and content analyses of local media reports, James’ research will depict the influences of various societal factors on the narrowing of black/white health disparities.

A unique aspect of the project is James’ dialogues with some key players in the community’s journey away from segregation. During a three-month sabbatical in Pitt County in 2005, James collected 38 oral histories.

He talked with respondents about how civil rights legislation had affected their lives in the areas of medical care, jobs and housing. Among the interviewees was Dr. Andrew Best, a general practitioner and the only black doctor in the county in 1965.

In the early 1960s, Best and Dr. Malene Irons, a white woman pediatrician, co-organized a community interracial committee aimed at promoting desegregation in Pitt County, beginning with hospital-based infant care. In the mid 1960s, federal legislation mandating nondiscriminatory use of all federal funds enabled the consolidation and expansion of their pioneering civil rights activity in both the medical and non-medical arenas.

A rapidly expanding middle class population, black as well as white, along with the rapid growth of medical care services in the area during the 1970s, make Pitt County an ideal laboratory to investigate early influences of civil rights legislation and related social policies, James said.

James noted that the impact of civil rights legislation in key areas of American life has been mixed. After initial gains in the areas of employment, housing, education and health from the mid 1960s to the early 1980s, progress in narrowing black/white gaps has stalled. In fact, U.S. health disparities linked to race, socioeconomic status and geographic location have been increasing for the past two decades. Currently, nearly 50 million Americans lack any health insurance coverage, and racial-ethnic minorities are over-represented among the uninsured.

James developed relationships in the region through his two-decades long research known as “the Pitt County Study,” an NIH-funded longitudinal study of the psychosocial, economic and behavioral precursors of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity among the county’s black population. The Pitt County Study began in 1988, with follow-up interviews and data collection in 1993 and 2001.

The RWJF Investigator Awards in Health Policy are awarded to "innovative scholarship with the potential for contributing significantly to improving health policy in the United States.” Sanford professors Philip Cook and Frank Sloan have previously received RWJF awards.

New Website Tracks Drug Use Among N.C. Adolescents

A new website developed by a Duke University researcher can help people better understand the nature of substance abuse problems in North Carolina’s 100 counties and track trends over time.

The website, “Substance Abuse among North Carolina Adolescents,” (substance abuse.srsi.duke.edu) taps publicly available data on substance abuse indicators.

Elizabeth Gifford, a research scientist with the Duke Center for Child and Family Policy, incorporated administrative data on arrests from the State Bureau of Investigation, details on emergency room visits from the N.C. Division of Public Health and self-reported measures from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (YRBS) Survey and the Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS).

According to Gifford, the site provides policymakers and practitioners at the state, county and local levels useful information for planning prevention strategies, determining community service needs and evaluating the benefits of alternative programs and policies.

“The goal of this website was to simplify the process of assessing community need,” Gifford said. “Community groups seemed to be spending so much time trying to understand what their needs were around substance use. Alternatively, if the information is more readily available, communities can dedicate their time to having the next conversation — that is, what are the top priorities and strategies for serving their community.”

The site was produced in partnership with The UNC Greensboro Center for Youth, Family, and Community Partnerships and the N.C. Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services. It was funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
Patenting and Licensing Monopolies Create Problems in U.S. Genetic Testing

Patenting of genes has not resulted in a pattern of exorbitant pricing or restricted access to tests for diseases such as Alzheimer’s and breast cancer, Duke University researchers reported in the March 26 issue of Nature magazine.

However, patents and exclusive licenses that establish genetic testing monopolies are creating significant problems for patients and physicians, the authors found. Robert Cook-Deegan, research professor of PPS and director of the Center for Genome Ethics, Law and Policy (GELP); Misha Angrist, lecturer in PPS; and Subhashini Chandrasekharan, also of GELP, authored the paper.

The Nature commentary, “The dangers of diagnostic monopolies,” is based on eight case studies conducted by Duke health policy students over the last two years. The studies were conducted for the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health and Society (SACGHS), U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, which is assessing whether patenting restricts patient access to genetic tests.

The draft report to the secretary of HHS from the task force, including the Duke case studies, is available online at http://oba.od.nih.gov/SACGHS/sacghs_public_comments.html. The public comment period was scheduled to close on May 15.

“Although our findings detect no pervasive effects that consistently help or hinder clinical access to genetic testing, there is much room for improvement in patenting and licensing, through action by university technology licensing offices, federal oversight and self-policing by commercial patent licensees,” Cook-Deegan said.

Cook-Deegan said the most surprising finding was that prices of patented, exclusively licensed tests are not dramatically or consistently higher than prices for tests lacking a monopoly. For example, unit prices for breast cancer testing—provided solely by Myriad in the United States—are comparable to similar tests for genetic susceptibility to colon cancer, which are available from many laboratories under nonexclusive licenses.

This is contrary to the pattern seen in drug pricing, where exclusive patent rights are linked to substantially higher prices. The study did not address why the pattern differs, but there are theories, Cook-Deegan said.

“Diagnostic tests are reimbursed by formulas that compare new tests to similar existing tests, making large price jumps difficult to justify. Moreover, diagnostics have not been a big profit center historically; companies aren’t used to making massive profits from diagnostics. There also has been a lot of public controversy focused on access to these tests.”

Other common assumptions examined in the case studies are that allowing gene patents will speed up development of tests, and that test quality might suffer without competition. Neither was consistently true, which suggests that patenting was not the primary influence on either innovation or quality. However, the authors noted that monopolies do exacerbate concerns about test quality.

The federal government “has not exercised its considerable clout” in this arena, Cook-Deegan said. It has not used Medicare’s and Medicaid’s market power to decide coverage and set reimbursement rates for tests, which would ensure that all patients who need a genetic test get one. Nor has the government ever taken control of a patent in a case where a patent-holder’s actions have eliminated tests from the market or led to poor quality testing, as is possible under the 1980 Bayh-Dole Act, he said.

Universities are particularly important players. Because their research finds genes associated with disease, they own a highly disproportionate share of gene patents for genetic tests. Universities owned 75 percent of the patents examined in the case studies, compared to less than 3 percent of all U.S. patents, Cook-Deegan said.

Health Policy Briefs

Global Health in China • Two Sanford faculty members, Kathryn Whetten, associate professor of PPS and community and family medicine, and Don Taylor, assistant professor of PPS, community and family medicine, and nursing, will teach in Beijing, China, this summer in the new Global Health Diploma Program. The program offered by the Duke Global Health Institute and Peking University will take place on PKU’s campus and will be co-taught by Duke and PKU faculty. The program is supported by the Ministry of Education of China. Thirty students will participate in the first class of the program, which is the first of its kind to focus on global health in China. Two other Duke faculty members, Sumi Ariely and Gary Bennett, also will travel to Beijing to co-teach the 80-hour curriculum. Topics covered are: Introduction to Global Health Issues; Comparative Structure and Finance in Health Systems; Health Promotion; and Global Health Ethics. Upon completion of the course and submission of a final research paper, students will receive a diploma signed by administrators from each university.

The Program on Global Health and Technology Access • PGHTA, directed by Dr. Anthony So, professor of the practice of PPS, has completed its project with UNICEF on ready-to-use therapeutic foods in eastern Africa. The program developed recommendations for improvements to the supply chain of the foods to malnourished children in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. Also, on Feb. 26-28, PGHTA hosted the ReAct Secretariat Meeting at Duke.

Action on Antibiotic Resistance (ReAct) is an international network of scientists, clinicians, policy advocates and civil society groups working on the issue of antimicrobial resistance.

Gene-Environment Interactions • The Center for Child and Family Policy held a conference at Sanford May 18-19 to examine recent findings concerning gene-environment interactions and their importance in three realms: science, clinical practice and public policy. Ken Dodge, director of CCFP and professor of PPS, gave opening remarks. Robert Cook-Deegan, director of the Center for Genome Ethics, Law & Policy and research professor of PPS, gave a presentation entitled “GxE in the Era of Full-Genome Sequencing: Some Lessons from the History of Eugenics and the Race-IQ Debate.”
Sanford Institute’s Public Policy Focus

Graduation 2009

Undergrads accept congratulations. Jin-Soo Huh, above left, graduated with distinction and was the undergraduate student speaker. Alison Dorsey, right, won the Terry Sanford Leadership Award.

At top, Jason Pate, 2008-09 president of the Public Policy Majors Union, and fellow PPS grad Ariel Levin, relish the moment. Families enjoy the graduate brunch in the Sanford Building.

At top, Professor Ken Rogerson presents Best Honors Thesis award to Lindsay Bayham. Faculty lead graduates into the ceremony, bottom. At left, Chetan B. Jhaveri, Fleishman Award winner, is congratulated by Professor Joel Fleishman.
The 2009 graduation ceremonies for the Sanford Institute of Public Policy honored 158 undergraduates, 43 Master of Public Policy graduates, and 42 Program in International Development Policy master’s graduates from 19 countries.

This year’s celebration was unique: Institute Director Bruce Kuniholm arrived toward the end of the graduate ceremony to announce that the Duke Board of Trustees had just voted in favor of creating the Sanford School of Public Policy, a milestone that has been in the works for four years.

“Their vote confirms Duke University’s commitment to advancing toward its goals even in challenging times,” Kuniholm said. He told graduates the change signals that, “Your stock, and Sanford’s, is on the rise — and there aren’t too many today who can say that.”

The MPP Outstanding Student Award went to co-winners Frank DiSilvestro and Daniela Santa Maria Doyle.

The Richard A. Stubbing Graduate Teaching/Mentoring Award was presented to Professor of the Practice of PPS Tom Taylor.

Four graduating MPP students received Presidential Management Fellowships: Vanessa Holcomb, Devin O’Connor, Benjamin Rae, and Celeste Richie.

During the undergraduate ceremony, Chetan B. Jhaveri, a Robertson Scholar, received the Joel Fleishman Distinguished Scholar Award for highest academic achievement in public policy studies.

Alison N. Dorsey received the Terry Sanford Leadership Award. She was recognized for her work to establish the Durham Community Consulting program, which trains Duke undergraduates to provide Durham nonprofit organizations with strategy and management consulting services. It is the only student-led group project ever funded by DukeEngage. (For a story on Dorsey, please see the Sanford website).


Bayham also received the Betsy Alden Outstanding Service-Learning Award.

Three public policy students won the William J. Griffith University Service award: Bayham, Jin-Soo Daniel Huh — who was chosen as the undergraduate student speaker — and Colin M. Tierney.

In his address, undergraduate student speaker Jin-Soo Huh encouraged his classmates to “… apply our talents and skills to make a meaningful impact in our hometowns, our country and the world.”
During his first semester on campus, Shawn Selleck (PIDP '09) was successful in getting Durham named as the first North Carolina city to support ONE: The Campaign to Make Poverty History.

ONE, cofounded by rock star Bono, is a global advocacy nonprofit working to fight extreme poverty and preventable disease. Selleck also led the Duke chapter of the ONE Campus Challenge to encourage students to become involved in poverty issues.

That's just one example of how Selleck balanced his coursework in the Program in International Development Policy master's program with advocacy related to global poverty issues.

Selleck has also met with several members of Congress, including representatives David Price and Brad Miller and Sen. Kay Hagan, on behalf of the citizen advocacy groups RESULTS and CARE International.

"Both ONE and RESULTS are recognized by politicians as groups that aren't going away," Selleck said. "They build relationships with congressional leaders."

In February, Selleck attended the ONE Power 100 Summit in Washington, D.C., a conference that brought together members of Congress, leaders of NGOs such as Oxfam, and other activists. Selleck met actor Anthony Edwards, best known for his role as a doctor on the television show "ER," who is working to build the first children's hospital in Kenya.

Duke University benefited from his advocacy skills this spring, when Selleck again traveled to Washington with the Office of Federal Relations. Selleck submitted a 500-word essay to earn a place in the group, which spoke to three N.C. representatives and both senators about higher education issues such as research funding and the visa problems of international students.

"It was the kind of job everyone at Fuqua dreams of," he said. On assignment in Latin America, he first became exposed to extreme poverty and began to question whether "helping BMW make an extra five dollars on a car" was worthwhile.

Then a friend from India told him about microfinance. Selleck soon realized, "Social problems are so much more fascinating than business problems."

He attended the 2006 Global Microcredit Summit in 2006 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, as an unaffiliated observer. The experience solidified his passion for the subject and led him to leave the corporate world to become Latin America project manager for FINCA International. But Selleck quickly realized his knowledge of the field was lacking.

"I was ignorant of the history of the World Bank, the IMF and poverty methodology," he said. The PIDP classes have given him the grounding he wanted, "especially (Professor Anirudh) Krishna's classes, which had such intense discussion about the history and the best ideas."

In spite of all the professional contacts his advocacy have brought him, Selleck's next step is more personal. After graduation this May, he plans to take a break.

"As a mid-career professional, I promised myself some time off," he's going to Brazil to visit friends, read, study Portuguese and "probably do some volunteer work."

By Jackie Ogburn

PIDP Student Hones Skills in Anti-Poverty Advocacy

Chong of Elk Grove, Ill., majored in English and economics. She traveled to Brazil with a Duke Students of the World (SOW) documentary filmmaking team last year to chronicle the impact of poverty, human rights abuses and environmental hazards. Chong has been involved in many organizations at Duke, including serving as Honor Council Chair and Undergraduate Judicial Board Co-Chair.

Tutt of Davis, Calif., majored in economics, biomedical engineering, and mathematics. He has written theses in both economics and biomedical engineering. In 2008, Tutt was awarded the Davies Research Fellowship in Economics, the Sustainable Energy Fellowship through the Global Institute of Sustainability, and the Phillips Foundation's Ronald Reagan College Leader Award. While at Duke, Andrew founded Duke Conversations Society, founded and served as editor-in-chief of the Duke Journal of Public Affairs and co-founded the Gothic Guardian, a monthly magazine of conservative student opinion at Duke.

Valdes of Miami, Fla., a sociology major, is a recipient of the Bill Gates Millennium Scholarship and the Hispanic Heritage Youth Scholarship. Since 2007, Valdes has worked as a student researcher for the Duke Center on Globalization, Governance, and Competitiveness. Valdes also conducted research for Euro-Info Consommateurs in Kehl, Germany, where she studied the impact of national laws on European Union consumers. Originally from Cuba, Valdes co-founded the Cuban-American Student Association at Duke and served in the leadership of Mi Gente, the largest Latino student organization on campus.

By Leslie Griffith

Three Grads Named Hart Fellows

Shawn Selleck (PIDP '09) with actor Anthony Edwards at a ONE conference on fighting poverty in Washington, D.C.

Shawn Selleck (PIDP '09) with actor Anthony Edwards at a ONE conference on fighting poverty in Washington, D.C.
Improving Health Care in India

By Gabe Starosta

Before coming to Duke to pursue a degree in international development policy, Anita Sharma spent four years in one of the poorest areas in the world. She worked intimately with residents in some rural parts of Jharkhand, a state in eastern India, and helped promote economic and social development and community health in the region through an NGO.

But the astounding lack of health care in Jharkhand—not in the American sense involving advanced technology and newly developed drugs, but in the most basic sense, involving affordable and effective treatment for common diseases—inspired Sharma to try to find a workable solution.

For her master’s project, Sharma focused on improving micro health insurance in India. She studied what health care financing options were available in poor, crowded areas—a huge percentage of the Indian subcontinent—and made recommendations on how to better provide medical coverage.

Sharma, who is trained in chemistry, believes a lack of government spending on health care is a key reason for the poor standard of living and health in India. “Indians provide for a greater proportion of health care costs from out of their pockets—hardly any Indians have health insurance—so many people become impoverished on account of health care costs, many more than in America,” she said.

Poor people in rural areas often have to travel several hours to be seen by the nearest doctor, Sharma said. To do so, they are forced to take a day off work, forgoing the wages they would have earned that day, which are frequently needed to survive. Medical care is costly, difficult to acquire and provides no assurance that the patient will be healed.

To remedy the situation, Sharma proposed that India set up a system of basic universal health care similar to that in Thailand and Colombia. Micro health insurance is characterized by low premiums and limited benefits, and is designed to serve low-income people. Furthermore, many Indian governmental programs target those living below the poverty line, but ignore the hundreds of millions of people living slightly above the poverty line. Sharma pushed for the government to open its programs to more people in need.

In the long run, Sharma hopes Indians can seek health care directly from the government, rather than NGOs, whose focus is restricted to certain areas and whose finances are limited. She urged the government to emphasize preventive care and education, so the rural poor can learn how to avoid common illnesses.

After graduation this spring, Sharma plans to return to India and work in the area of health care for marginalized communities.

Katia Dantas was one of eight graduating Rotary World Peace Fellows who received a certificate of accomplishment at the Sixth Annual Rotary Spring Conference on April 4, 2009. Also pictured, from left, are Mattias Lindstrom, SangHee Jeong, Ruben Gonzalez, and Pia Simonsen, with Professor Francis Lethem, program director, presenting.

Jentleson Discusses Middle East Policy with Syrian President

Professor of PPS and Political Science Bruce Jentleson was a member of a delegation that traveled to Saudi Arabia and Syria in January. During the visit, the group had a two-hour meeting with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The group left the meeting with the view that Syria has strong interest in improved relations with the United States, Jentleson said.

“Assad used the formulation ‘70/30’ of the interests we potentially share vs. ones we do not,” Jentleson said. “His emphasis was that we should focus on the 70, while working out the 30. He came back to a shared interest with the U.S. in fighting extremism, which he described as ‘a challenge facing the world.’ We may see the percentages differently, but the point is an interesting one.”

Jentleson said Assad noted that for progress to occur, four elements seemed central: a focus on interests, not ideology or past history as the basis for relations among states; recognition of the need to deal with “who is powerful,” whoever they are; emphasis on the interconnectedness of the region’s issues; and secularism vs. extremism as a central dynamic in the region, and a particular threat to Syrian stability.

The Assad meeting was covered by the Jerusalem Post, Agence France-Presse, and other international media. The trip was sponsored by the U.S. Institute of Peace and the Stimson Center for meetings related to USIP’s “Iraq and Its Neighbors Project.”

Watch a video or read Jentleson’s commentary about the meeting on the Institute’s web site: www.pubpol.duke.edu/news/features/jentleson_com030409.php
Students Apply Leadership Lessons to Hookup Culture at Duke

By Christine Hall

Grace Baranowski enrolled in the PPS course, “Women as Leaders,” during the drop-add window solely because it fit into her schedule and didn’t require a permission number. Although at first it was a choice of convenience, Baranowski said, “I could not have chosen a better class...”

The seminar class created a “zine” under the supervision of Rachel Seidman, assistant professor of PPS, as a final project for the course last semester. Titled “Duke Life: A Closer Look at the Hookup Culture,” the zine is a 22-page publication overflowing with quotes, statistics and personal narratives addressing the culture surrounding relationships at Duke.

“I wanted them to understand the courage and persistence that it really takes to try to make a difference,” Seidman said. “Putting them in this context let them see themselves as a part of tradition and history.”

The 11-member class chose to look at the hookup culture at Duke, Baranowski said, because of national media attention given to the topic as well as its prevalence in student life. Their zine includes evidence that contradicts the existence of a significant hookup culture. The information was drawn from a social relationship study conducted by Suzanne Shanahan, associate director of the Kenan Institute for Ethics, in late 2007. The survey, titled “Love on the Quad: Romantic Relationships,” reveals what Baranowski calls “a disconnect between reality and perception.”

“When I go out I’m not looking for a hookup. I’m looking to have fun with my friends.” —Freshman

“Even if you are not drunk, anything can still happen. I don’t drink and I have had my fair share of unfortunate, unfortunate hookups.” —Freshman

Fiction: No one at Duke is in a relationship.

Fact: 51% of Duke undergraduates have been in a committed relationship while at Duke.

The course examines the history of American women’s efforts to exercise leadership and make social change both inside and outside of the political system, and then looks at current issues concerning women and leadership. Seidman said she changed the syllabus this year to allow students to explore the role of women on campus. But creating a zine wasn’t part of her plan.

“The idea for a zine grew out of their conversations,” Seidman said. “What I like is that they pulled together both research and personal experiences, talking to peers and administration. They were thinking at a structural level about what are the contextual, broader issues shaping the hookup culture.”

Although the zine presents statistics that downplay the existence of that culture on campus, Baranowski said they don’t intend to be preachy or patronizing; rather the group’s aim is to give incoming students full information about the culture at Duke. The booklet includes several personal essays in which students talk about their own experiences with hook-ups.

“We’re not saying, ‘Don’t party.’ We’re just saying, ‘Party smart,’” she said. “Use moderation, common sense, and respect for yourself and your peers. Be aware of alternatives. In the end, do what you believe to be right.”

Baranowski has spearheaded efforts to continue working to publish and distribute the zine to the incoming freshman class. The students received a grant from the Kenan Institute for Ethics and funding from the Women’s Center, but Baranowski says more money is essential for the final product. She also explained that having a lasting change will take a significant amount of effort.

“In the end, transformation doesn’t filter from the top down,” she said. “Instead, cultivating conversations between individuals revolutionizes the culture from the bottom up.”

Faculty News

Assistant Professor of PPS Marc Bellemare gave four presentations of his paper entitled “Household Welfare and Multi-Commodity Price Risk: Evidence from Rural Ethiopia” March 13 at University of Ottawa; March 23 at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; March 19-21, SCC-76 Conference on the Economics and Management of Risk in Agriculture and Natural Resources, Galveston, Texas; and May 1-2 at the Midwest International Economic Development Conference, University of Minnesota. He also presented a second paper, “On the (Mis)Use of Wealth as a Proxy for Risk Aversion,” at the SCC-76 Conference.

Alma Blount, director of the Hart Leadership Program, spoke on “Educating for Democracy: How Higher Education Can Play a Leadership Role in Promoting Political Engagement Among College Students,” at Elon University to the Campus Compact national board of directors meeting in October 2008. She also participated in a three-day working group with educators and religious leaders on “From Whatever to Coherence— Toward a Cultural Shift in Support of the 20-Something Years” at Whidbey Institute in a three-day working group with educators and religious leaders on “From Whatever to Coherence— Toward a Cultural Shift in Support of the 20-Something Years” at Whidbey Institute at Chinoak, Wash., in November 2008.

Ann B. Brewster, research scientist of the Center for Child and Family Policy, received an $82,000 award from Wake County for a project entitled “Project AIM: A Middle School-High School-University Collaboration for Middle School Youth at Risk of Doping Out.” She is also the school liaison for the Duke School Research Partnership Office, now directed by David Rabiner, senior research scientist with CCFF.

Z. Smith Reynolds Professor of PPS Charles Clotfelter served on the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management PhD awards committee this year.

ITT/Terry Sanford Professor of PPS Philip Cook gave a presentation Jan. 10 on “The case for higher alcohol taxes,” at the National Alcohol Beverage Control Associate annual board meeting in Miami, Fla. At the UCLA Law Review Symposium on the Second Amendment Jan. 23 in Los Angeles, he presented his paper “Gun Control After Heller.” On Feb 13 he spoke on “Paying the Tab: the Economics of Alcohol Control” at the Maryland Population Research Center in College Park, and again March 4 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He gave an invited speech on “Lessons from Alcohol Taxation” at the Active Living Research Conference Feb. 20 in San Diego. At a National Academies’ workshop March 5, he gave an invited talk on “Shadow prices for crime.” On March 24 at the Villanova Conference on Catholic Social Teaching and Criminal Justice he gave a presentation about gun violence.

Ken Dodge, William McDougall Professor of PPS, wrote a column March 4 in the Raleigh News & Observer entitled “Let laws reflect evidence.” His Feb. 10 column for the Durham Herald-Sun was entitled “No silver bullets, but a silver lining in youth programs.” He gave a presentation on “Social Information Processing Patterns as Mediators in the Development of Aggressive Behavior” at the Second Herzliya Symposium on Personality and Social Psychology in Israel, March 24-26.

Robert M. Entman, visiting professor of PPS, who is on sabbatical from his position at George Washington University, gave the keynote speech “Surging Beyond Realism,” at the conference on Media, War and the Public Sphere, Austrian Academy of Science, Vienna, on March 5. At the symposium on Studying Reality by Analysing the News he gave a talk on “Framing Bias” at the City University London on March 31. He gave three lectures as a visiting professor, April 6-10, at the Zhejiang University Department of Political Science, Hangzhou, China. He gave the presentation “Science, Policy and Democracy in the Media,” at the workshop on Science, Democracy, and Global Environmental Regulation, at Princeton University, May 14-15.

Faculty Earn Promotions

A number of Sanford faculty members have received promotions and have new titles. Judith Kelley is now associate professor of PPS, while Robert Korstad and Jacob Vigdor both rise from the rank of associate professor to professor. Ed Skloot, director of the Center for Strategic Philanthropy and Civil Society, is now professor of the practice of PPS. David Schanzer, director of the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security, and Evan Charney are now associate professors of the practice.

Clay Johnson, a visiting lecturer in PPS, earned two Emmy Awards for a half-hour television program and a 30-second public service announcement about the nationwide digital television transition. Johnson, a faculty affiliate with the DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy, is a documentary producer at WRAL-TV in Raleigh. The awards were presented Jan. 24 in Nashville, Tenn., at the 23rd Annual MidSouth Emmy Awards. As the producer and writer for the programs, Johnson shared the awards with actor James Benedict and photographer and editor Jay Jennings.

James A. Joseph, professor of the practice of PPS, received a $200,000 grant from the Ford Foundation for his project entitled “Effective Leadership — A Program for Rising Mid-Career Leaders in Louisiana.”

Frank Sloan, J. Alexander McMahon Professor of Health Policy, and Lindsey Chepke of Duke’s Center for Health Policy, were awarded Honorable Mention for their book Medical Malpractice in the economics category of the 2008 PROSE Awards presented by the Professional/Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers.

Five Duke professors from across the university have recent secondary appointments in public policy studies, increasing the interdisciplinary reach of our faculty and offering new opportunities to public policy students. They are: Lori Benneker, assistant professor of environmental economics; David Brady, associate professor of sociology; William Chaife, the Alice Mary Baldwin Professor of History and co-director of Sanford’s Program on History, Public Policy and Social Change; Duncan Thomas, professor of economics; and Jeffrey Vincent, Clarence F. Korstan Professor of Forest Economics and Management. Also, Anna Gassman-Pines and Christina Gibson-Davis, both assistant professors of PPS, received co-appointments in Psychology and Neuroscience. Gassman-Pines and Gibson-Davis are faculty affiliates with the Center for Child and Family Policy.

Fernando R. Fernholtz, associate professor of the practice of PPS, received an award from World Vision Canada for a project entitled “World Vision East Sumba Revenue Mobilization Assessment.”

Anna Gassman-Pines, assistant professor of PPS, received a grant from the Foundation for Child Development for a two-year project entitled, “Paternal Employment, Family Functioning and Young Child Well-Being: A Daily Diary Study of Mexican Immigrant Families.” She presented two papers at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting in Denver, Colo., April 2-4, “Across the Generations: The Effect of Grandparent Income on Grandchild Outcomes,” with Assistant Professor of PPS Christina Gibson-Davis, and “Low-Income Mothers’ Work During Nonstandard Hours: Daily Associations With Maternal and Child Outcomes.”

(Please see page 17)
Faculty Publications


Kristin Goss, assistant professor of PPS, gave an invited talk March 2 at the University of Florida Political Science Department entitled, “Voice & Equality! Women’s Group Advocacy on Capitol Hill, 1878-2000.” She is serving this year as vice president and program chair of the League of Women Voters of Arlington, Va., where she is using social science theory and methods to explore ways to revive membership in this historically influential civic organization.

On April 15, Alex Harris, professor of the practice of PPS, and William deBuys spoke at the Center for Documentary Studies about their collaboration on River of Traps, a Pulitzer Prize finalist in general nonfiction in 1991. The book recently was republished by Trinity University Press.

Professor of PPS and Political Science Bruce Jentleson was named to the editorial board of the journal Political Science Quarterly. He gave the keynote address, “The Obama Foreign Policy: Challenges and Opportunities,” at a conference at the University of Montreal on March 5. He took part in a workshop on American Society and War at Harvard-MIT, March 27. At the Annual Conference of the International Studies Association (ISA) in New York City on Feb. 19 he presented a paper on “Strategic Leadership: America’s Global Role Amidst Systemic Change,” and was a discussant in a roundtable on Tom J. Farer’s Confronting Global Terrorism and American Neo-Conservatism. He gave a presentation at a conference on “The Political Economy of Global Energy Transitions” at UC-Berkeley on Jan. 28.

Associate Professor of PPS Anirudh Krishna presented a talk on Oct. 16, 2008, at Yale University on “Poverty Flows: understanding how poverty is made and un-made in contemporary India.” On Jan. 21, he presented a talk on “Future Poverty” at an international seminar organized by the Government of India and the United Nations Development Programme in New Delhi, India. He gave a talk on “The Myth of the Rising Tide: The Failure to Prevent the Growth of Poverty (Almost) Anywhere in the World” on April 14 at UNC, Greensboro, April 21 at UNC, Chapel Hill, and April 24 at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

Helen “Sunny” F. Ladd received a grant from Smith Richardson Foundation for a project entitled “Schooling in the Netherlands: What the United States Can Learn about School Choice, School Finance, and Educating Immigrants.” Ladd spent the spring term as a visiting researcher at the University of Amsterdam studying the Dutch education system. On March 17, she gave a presentation on accountability to the first meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Network in London. On March 1 she gave a presentation on her paper co-authored with Douglas Lauren on “Status vs. Growth: The Distributional Effects of School Accountability Policies” at the Center for the Economics of Education at the London School of Economics.

Alex Pfaff, associate professor of PPS, gave a presentation Feb. 11 on “Evaluating Deterritorialization Impacts of Protected Areas” at Stanford University at a conference on Connecting Amazon Protected Areas and Indigenous Lands to REDD Frameworks.

Laura Roselle, visiting professor, served as discussant for a workshop, presented two papers and chaired the International Communication Section’s business meeting at the International Studies Association meeting in New York, Feb. 14-19. The papers she presented were “Flags Flying, Guns Blazing: Patriotic Messages During Conflict” and “Conflict Models and Cyberinfrastructure Policy.” As president of the International Communication Section of ISA for 2008-2009, she oversaw a membership drive and the development of a cooperative relationship with the Information Technology Policy section of the American Political Science Association.


Jacob L. Vigdor associate professor of PPS, gave a presentation on his paper “The Economic Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina” at UNC, Chapel Hill in October, at Northwestern University and Georgetown University in December, and Syracuse University on Feb. 2. He presented his paper “Causal Inference when Assignment May Have Been Random: Peer Effects in North Carolina Elementary Schools” co-authored with Thomas Nechyba at the American Economic Association annual meeting on Jan. 4 in San Francisco. He served as a discussant at a Vanderbilt University conference “Rethinking Teacher Retirement Benefits Systems” on Feb. 19.

Associate Professor of PPS and director of the Center for Health Policy Kathryn Whetten has received a $50,000 grant from Emory University for support of the North Carolina HIV/AIDS Training and Information Center.

Ellen Mickiewicz, James R. Shepley Professor of PPS, spent two weeks in March and April as a visiting professor at the Moscow University for International Relations, lecturing and meeting with the vice president and dean. She also gave an invited lecture at Moscow State University. Her most recent book, Television, Power and the Russian Public, received a featured review in Slavic Review.

Anna Gassman-Pines, assistant professor of PPS, met with Hirokazu Yoshikawa during his visit to the Institute March 25 as a Sulzberger Distinguished Lecturer. The scholars have written several co-authored papers. Yoshikawa spoke on “Immigrants Raising Citizens: The Second Generation’s First Years of Life.” The Sulzberger lecture is hosted by the Center for Child and Family Policy.

Hirokazu Yoshikawa, professor of the practice of PPS, met with Anna Gassman-Pines, assistant professor of PPS, and William deBuys spoke at the Center for Health Policy during his visit as a Sulzberger Distinguished Lecturer. The scholars have written several co-authored papers. Yoshikawa spoke on “Immigrants Raising Citizens: The Second Generation’s First Years of Life.” The Sulzberger lecture is hosted by the Center for Child and Family Policy.
Alumni News

Alumnus Profile: Daniel Kight (MPP ’08)
Homeland Security Detail Takes Alum Around World

By Jackie Ogburn

Daniel Kight (MPP ’08) isn’t a member of the Coast Guard, but he flew in one of their helicopters any way as part of his job with the Department of Homeland Security.

As a Homeland Security Policy Honors Fellow, Kight spent eight months as the advance representative for Secretary Janet Ann Napolitano. When the secretary travels, Kight does the advance work, going to the location ahead of time to organize logistics of the trip.

“If the secretary is going to do something, I need to do it first,” he said. His helicopter experience preceded Napolitano’s flyover of the Los Angeles/Long Beach port complex. Kight rode in a Coast Guard Dolphin helicopter to make sure the route covered all the points she was interested in and to take notes for the briefing report he was preparing.

“It’s been a wild ride,” Kight says of his work so far. He’s traveled to hurricane recovery sites in the Gulf Coast and flood zones in Iowa, as well as to Mexico City, London, Paris and Berlin. Kight started in November 2008, working with Secretary Michael Chertoff. In addition to doing advance work, he also helps with the secretary’s daily briefing book. “One feature of this job is on any given day, I have a five minute period with the secretary,” he said. “I get to know them personally, in short bursts.”

During the transition between administrations, Kight was one of the few staffers left in place. It was the first such transition for the department created in 2003, so there were no established procedures for handling the work before all the new staffers came on board.

During Kight’s two-year fellowship, he will serve in three positions for eight months each. The 30 fellows in the leadership development program are posted to any of the 20 different sections of DHS. Kight’s final post will start in early 2010 in the Office of Policy.

Starting in May 2009, he’ll be assigned to the Secure Communities program in the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, a new program that intends to modernize and improve processes for identifying and deporting illegal aliens with criminal records. Kight said he’s looking forward to being involved in this program, in part because it directly relates to his MPP project research. His MPP project report for an immigrant advocacy group, El Pueblo, concerned a similar type of enforcement program. “I’ve shown my thesis to several officials already,” he said.

Reunion Weekend Draws Sanford Alumni to Special Events

Reunion Weekend always offers a packed schedule of tours, gatherings and presentations for alumni to enjoy, and this year the Sanford Institute added events to the mix. Several Sanford faculty members took part in presentations throughout the weekend of April 17-19.

To kick off the weekend, Alex Harris, professor of the practice of PPS and co-founder of the Center for Documentary Studies, discussed the importance of the environment in the arts with filmmaker Ross Spears (’69) on Friday afternoon. Spears’ new documentary series, Appalachia: a History of Mountains and People, aired on PBS in April. The two pointed out ways that documentary films can tackle environmental issues without turning away the audience by showing both the beauty and the threats.

On Saturday, two Sanford faculty members gave concurrent sessions in the morning. Professor of PPS and Director of the Center for Child and Family Policy Ken Dodge was part of the panel discussion titled Drinking on Campus and Policy Solutions, along with Philip Costanzo, associate director of CFP and professor of psychology and neuroscience, as well as other Duke faculty and administrators. Raising the drinking age to 21 decades ago has created challenges for college campuses and the effectiveness of the policy is still hotly debated. The panel considered the implications of reversing the policy.

In the Griffin Theater, a crowd of almost 200 heard Professor of PPS and Political Science Bruce Jentleson give an initial assessment of the Obama administration’s foreign policy approach. From terrorism, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the global financial crisis, human rights, global warming and the meeting with the G-20 leaders, in his first 88 days, Obama pursued a number of major shifts from the previous administration policies. Obama’s challenge now, Jentleson said, is to craft a coherent overall foreign policy strategy.

On the lawn between Sanford and Rubenstein buildings, the Public Policy Majors Union hosted a reception. The guest speaker was Neil Newhouse (‘74), founder of Public Opinion Strategies, a political and public affairs polling company. A Washington insider who has twice been listed on the “Money 20” of top political consultants, Newhouse shared his perspective on the Obama administration’s policy directions. Sanford Institute Director Bruce Kuniholm delivered the latest news about becoming a school.
Sanford Starts Alumni E-mail Newsletter

Did you know that former Hart Fellow Seyward Darby (T ’07) put her own slant on this year’s March Madness in a recent issue of The New Republic magazine? Or that Preeti Aroon (MPP ’06) blogs for Foreign Policy magazine? If you had received the first issue of the new Sanford alumni e-mail newsletter, you’d be in the know about these and other activities of former classmates.

The first e-newsletter went out April 3 to more than 3,900 Sanford alumni. Each bimonthly issue of the alumni newsletter will include alumni notes, school events, and faculty news and research. MPP and PPS alumni notes, formerly in Focus, will now be updated more frequently on the Sanford website. These changes are taking place as the Institute becomes Duke’s tenth school and begins more active engagement with alumni.

If you did not receive the e-newsletter, we may need your updated e-mail address. Please sign up at the Institute’s web site: www.pubpol.duke.edu/news/newsletters/. To share your professional and personal news, please send a message to Nicole Kubinsky at nicole.kubinsky@duke.edu.

Alums Speak to Prospective Students Butch Trusty (MPP/MBA ’08), center, a consultant at the nonprofit Bridgespan Group, talks about his experience in the MPP program to a group of prospective students on March 27. Listening are fellow MPP alumni, front row from left, Rob Lalka (’08), a Presidential Management Fellow at the U.S. State Department; Katie Astrich (’03), with OMB; and Christa Tuyford (’07), who works in the Duke Office of Durham and Regional Affairs.
Mark Your Calendar for Sanford School Celebrations

Great news!

On July 1, 2009, the Sanford Institute will become Duke's 10th and newest school, the Sanford School of Public Policy. Join alumni, faculty, staff and friends in celebrating this transformation during a variety of inaugural events throughout the academic year.

July 22, 2009
“Living Public Service,” a reception in Washington, D.C., hosted by Duke President Richard Brodhead.

Oct. 1-3, 2009
Fall Inaugural Celebration & Duke University Founders' Day
The Sanford School joins the Duke University community for the annual celebration of Duke's founding.

Added highlights include:
- Presentations by leading policy experts
- Policy briefings on health, energy and environmental policy with faculty and alumni
- Social events with alumni, faculty, staff and students
- Duke Football vs. Virginia Tech
- Toast to the new school

Nov. 9, 2009
Fareed Zakaria, editor and columnist for International Newsweek, host of CNN’s weekly foreign affairs program, “Fareed Zakaria GPS,” and author of The Post-American World, delivers the Sanford/Phillips Lecture.

April 16-18, 2010
Reunion Weekend, for returning undergraduate alumni in class years ending in 0 and 5, will feature public policy faculty and alumni in panel discussions.

Throughout the year
Coffee with the Dean provides an opportunity to engage with experts in global governance, media, social policy, international development, philanthropy and other policy arenas through a series of morning dialogues.

For more information, please contact ppscomm@duke.edu

Updates on these events and other plans in the works will be posted on the Sanford website: www.pubpol.duke.edu. Alumni can also look for updates in the new, bimonthly Sanford Alumni E-Newsletter.