MPP students find policy challenges in visit to post-Katrina New Orleans

By Sidney Cruze

More than a year after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast, the region is struggling to repair and rebuild. This fall, 11 Duke MPP students piled into a van and drove 13 hours to New Orleans, where they spent their fall break meeting with local leaders and listening to their concerns. The students believed that their education provided them with analytical skills that could help make a difference. They wanted to find ways to contribute to the city’s recovery by influencing current policies.

The trip laid the foundation for the Duke-New Orleans Post-Katrina Partnership, a Sanford Institute-based group that will encourage client work, internships and master’s projects focused on New Orleans.

“We see this visit as only the start of a sustainable partnership between Duke and the Gulf Coast,” said Rob Lalka (MPP ’08). “It’s an opportunity to make a difference unlike any other.”

The idea for the trip took shape when first-year MPP students Amanda (Please see page 5) and others at Duke University

What’s holding back gun control in America?

A sssistant Professor of PPS Kristin Goss examines the organizational, historical and policy-related factors that have stymied America’s gun control movement in her new book, Disarmed: The Missing Movement for Gun Control in America. (Princeton University Press, 2006). Below are excerpts from a short Focus interview with Goss. Also, please see Goss’s commentary on page 8.

What inspired you to write the book?

Goss: In April 1999, when I was in graduate school, I came home during the afternoon and flipped on the television. I was in Boston, but for some reason a local Denver anchorman was on my TV screen. He was describing live footage of the Columbine shootings, or rather, of terrified students being led away from the scene. Columbine High School is 10 miles from my childhood home; Columbine is the demographic twin of my high school. This hit me viscerally. Watching the live coverage that day, I found myself

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Mayer discusses new PhD in Public Policy Program

Duke’s new Public Policy PhD program is now accepting applications for the first matriculated class, which will begin the program in fall 2007. To learn more about this new program, Focus sat down with the Director of Graduate Studies Frederick “Fritz” Mayer.

What does the Public Policy PhD entail?

Mayer: A PhD in Public Policy is an interdisciplinary, applied social science degree. The primary thing that distinguishes this degree from others in the social sciences is its problem orientation. Public Policy PhD students are driven more by the problem they’re seeking to address than by a desire to improve or develop theory or methods.

Our particular approach at Duke is to ask students to develop a primary specialty in one of the traditional disciplinary methods—political science, economics or sociology—and to develop depth in a particular policy area, most likely an area in which Duke has particular strength, such as globalization and development, social policy or health policy.

Why should someone interested in obtaining a Public Policy PhD come to Duke?

Mayer: Three features differentiate us from others. One is the particular balance between focus in a discipline and policy-area expertise. A second is the extraordinary breadth and depth of the faculty in this program—over 100 faculty members in 11 different departmental units. The genuine willingness of faculty in many different departments and disciplines to work with our PhD students is perhaps unparalleled.

Furthermore, Sanford Institute faculty lead more than a dozen interdisciplinary research centers and programs that explore a variety of policy questions. Third, we will be developing a set of core courses to be taken by every PhD student. These will be team-taught and will constitute the glue of the PhD program. They will give us an opportunity to define what it is that we mean by the study of public policy, and what constitutes the core ideas, methods and approaches in the field.

Who should consider pursuing a Public Policy PhD at the Sanford Institute?

Mayer: A student who is considering a PhD in Public Policy as opposed to a traditional social science discipline, there are two questions they should ask themselves: First, if you have your heart set on being an academic at a place like Duke and might, for example, want to be a member of a political science or economics faculty, then a Public Policy PhD probably doesn’t make sense for you.

If, on the other hand, you envision being an academic at a public policy school or another applied department in academia or being a researcher in a think tank or government organization, then a PhD in Public Policy is a more useful and flexible degree. The second question relates to intellectual preferences. Students should ask themselves if they are more interested in solving problems in society or pushing the frontiers of theoretical knowledge.

What is the admissions committee looking for in applicants?

Mayer: We want people who have demonstrated a capacity for research and a genuine interest in policy problems. We expect that most of our students will have some practical work experience, although that is not a requirement. The ideal applicant will have worked in a policy area for some time and be looking for a rigorous academic program that will empower them to contribute to solving the problems in their field.

Where do you see the program in five years?

Mayer: In five years we expect to have a community of 30 or so students in the program, which will be a real addition to the intellectual life of the Institute. By that time we hope to be graduating our first students, and better yet, to have placed them in top policy school teaching positions or at the World Bank or the Urban Institute. We’re very ambitious for the program. We believe that within five years we will be recognized as one of the top Public Policy PhD programs in the country, indeed in the world. But really, we’ll only have just begun. It’s the beginning of a program that will produce the next generation of leaders in the field of public policy.

For more information about the program, please visit www.pubpol.duke.edu/graduate/phd or e-mail PPPhD@duke.edu.

Cochran greets Duke students

U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), the 2006 Terry Sanford Distinguished Lecturer, greets students after a luncheon Oct. 19 at the Institute. Cochran, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, discussed Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts with MPP students who recently visited New Orleans. Later, Cochran’s public lecture focused on the Senate’s unique powers to influence policy, confirm presidential appointees and ratify treaties. For more on his talk, see News and Events on the Institute Web site pubpol.duke.edu.
Blogs, citizen media and public affairs reporting on the Internet

The following comments are excerpted from a virtual roundtable discussion sponsored by the Project for Excellence in Journalism, a Washington, D.C.-based research organization. James T. Hamilton, Charles S. Sydnor Professor of PPS and professor of political science and economics, was one of five experts who participated in a dialogue on “C hariting the Online Revolution.” Hamilton’s most recent related publication is the book, A Half the News: That’s Fit to Sell: How the Market Transforms Information into News. His comments are excerpted below. For the complete conversation, please go to journalism.org/node/1760

How ultimately do you think blogs and other citizen media will affect news reporting in America?

Hamilton: ... Blogs do possess the ability to remedy some failings of market-driven news outlets. There are specific circumstances where you can expect for-profit media outlets to get stories wrong: if situations involve repeated interactions with government sources, which causes reporters to pull punches or act as transcribers; if an information cascade starts which generates a prevailing view of a story, which makes it difficult for a reporter to go against the grain; or if information is costly to pry out of organizations but bloggers have knowledge because of their work...

Do you think the economic model of the Internet has to shift from an advertising-based model to something else for traditional journalism to survive at a level that we have become accustomed to? If so, do you have any thoughts on what that new model might be?

Hamilton: Media economics online are the most dismal for hard news. Four possible scenarios to generate more online content about public affairs are 1. Subsidize local watchdog journalism, perhaps through the creation by nonprofits of data and analyses that point to local problems... 2. Charging for content can work when people have intensely held interests. The product will have to be highly differentiated, e.g., the Times can charge for columnists but not breaking news. 3. Determine how to use information about reader interests to link local advertisers to local readers or aggregate local readers to national advertisers... 4. Keep the Federal Election Commission out of Internet content regulation. While profit-oriented media outlets may not always have incentives to cover public affairs, parties, candidates and interest groups do have incentives to reach voters... I hope the lines continue to be blurred on the Internet so that political information, even partisan-funded information, is less regulated there.

Looking more broadly, one trend we sense in the media culture is the paradox of more outlets covering fewer stories. As the audiences for particular news outlets shrink, newsroom resources are then reduced, but these outlets still feel compelled to cover the big events of the day. The result is more outlets covering those same "big" events and fewer covering much beyond that as much as they once did. How do you view this trend?

Hamilton: I agree... We need to distinguish, however, among the four different types of information demands people have in their roles as producers, consumers, entertainment seekers and voters. The markets for the first three types of information may work fairly well. If you don’t seek the information, you don’t get the benefits. Many online sources, blogs, peer-peer networks, search engines and media outlets help people find information to help them do jobs, buy products and simply relax. Yet the lack of influence that any one person has in politics means for many, a lack of expressed demand for political news. Papers owned by families and journalists motivated by civic responsibility once helped compensate for low demand and generate the effort needed for watchdog journalism. The potential decline of watchdog journalism at the local level is my greatest concern about media markets.

Hart Leadership News

Anniversary, new staff • As it approaches its 20-year anniversary, the Hart Leadership Program surveyed alumni, developed a new strategic plan and restructured its staff this year. Research scholar Rachel Seidman joined the Hart Leadership Program this fall to support faculty in pedagogy assessment and to train students in research methods. Seidman is an expert in U.S. history and women’s studies. Also, Assistant Director Bridget Booher left Hart Leadership after nearly seven years to return to Duke Magazine, where she is senior writer, and Seema Parkash came on board as program coordinator for the Hart Fellows and Service Opportunities in Leadership programs. Parkash graduated from Duke this year with a BA in political science. Hart Leadership will commemorate its anniversary in the spring of 2007 with a series of symposia and social activities. To request notification of events as plans take shape, please e-mail: hlp@pps.duke.edu

SOL and research • Now in its tenth year, the Hart Leadership Program’s Service Opportunities in Leadership (SOL) has refined its year-long leadership development pedagogy. In 2005-2006, the spring semester half-credit introductory course was redesigned, and is now a full-credit preparatory class that includes a rigorous research methodology training component. The course, “Border Crossing: Leadership, Value Conflicts and Public Life,” is co-taught by HLP Director Alma Blount and Visiting Assistant Professor Steve Schewel.

Twelve students in the course were awarded grants for summer research service-learning (RSL) projects with community-based organizations. They worked with organizations in North Carolina, Vermont, New York, South Korea, England, South Africa, Belize, India and Costa Rica. Their research projects cover a range of issues, including HIV/AIDS stigmatization, women entrepreneurs in rural agricultural businesses, child victims of domestic and sexual violence and the integration of refugee children into schools and communities. The 12 students enrolled in the SOL capstone course, “Adaptive Leadership” (PPS 137) with Blount this fall. The course examines a leadership framework for working productively with value conflicts in groups and institutions and the ethics of problem-solving work.

ELI Fellows • The Enterprising Leadership Initiative (ELI), headed by Professor of the Practice of PPS Tony Brown, selected 10 ELI interns and two ELI Fellows. The opportunity allows Duke undergraduates and recent graduates to work with entrepreneurial social and business organizations. During the summer, the ELI interns were located in New Haven, Boston, Durham, Cambridge, Washington, D.C., and Santiago, Chile. Their work spanned a variety of issues, including fair trade, investment banking and consulting services for small inner-city businesses, adult education and funding for local public schools. The two ELI Fellows are working in Akron, Penn., with Ten Thousand Villages, which offers a marketplace to artisans in the developing world.
### Sanford News Briefs

**Ted Turner to speak** • In a lecture sponsored by the DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy, CNN founder and cable TV entrepreneur Ted Turner will present “Reflections on Media and Politics” Dec. 4 at 3 p.m. in Geneen Auditorium (Fuqua School of Business). The event is free and open to the public.

**Institute launches new Web site** • The Sanford Institute launched a new Web site this fall, with photos and news on faculty, students and alumni, along with searchable databases of people, faculty working papers and student research projects, and more. Check out the changes at pubpol.duke.edu.

**Supreme Court case prompts action** • Sanford Institute faculty and researchers were among 553 education scholars who submitted a social science statement to the U.S. Supreme Court in October, urging the Court to permit the continuance of voluntary race-conscious student assignment plans in U.S. public schools.

Two cases before the court — from Jefferson County (Louisville), Ky., and Seattle, Wash., — challenge the right of local school authorities to maintain integrated schools with desegregation guidelines. In both districts, two students who were denied their first choice school have sued.

In the statement submitted to the court scholars cite research showing the educational and community benefits of integrated schools for both white and minority students, documenting the persisting inequalities of segregated minority schools and examining evidence that schools will resegregate in the absence of race-conscious policies. The Sanford signers were Charles Clotfelter, Ken Dodge, Elizabeth Glennie and Joel Rosch.

**Volcker addresses BOV** • Former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker spoke to the Institute’s Board of Visitors Oct. 27 about the needs and challenges in training professionals for ethical public service. Volcker was at Duke Law School earlier that day to discuss the scandal involving the United Nations’ Oil-For-Food Program. Volcker headed the committee that investigated allegations of fraud and corruption in the program.

**Kondracke speaks at Duke** • Sanford Institute Board of Visitors member Marguerite W. Kondracke, president and chief executive officer of America’s Promise: The Alliance for Youth, spoke at the Fuqua School of Business Oct. 31. The speech, “Every Child, Every Promise: Mobilizing the Business Community to Make Young People a Priority” was part of the school’s Distinguished Speakers Series. During her 30-year career, Kondracke has been both an entrepreneur and a public servant.

## Bellemare hopes his students learn to think like economists

By Sidney Cruze

“A study of less developed countries is to economics what the study of pathology is to medicine ... That difference is that in economics pathology is the rule: less than a quarter of mankind lives in developed countries.”

— J.E. Stiglitz (1989)

Assistant Professor of PPS Marc Bellemare includes Nobel Prize-winner J.E. Stiglitz’s quote at the head of the syllabus for his seminar on the Microeconomics of International Development Policy because he believes it highlights the purpose of development microeconomics.

“In reality, there are market failures all the time, and I want my students to have the analytical framework, or tools, to take empirical data from these situations and formulate policy recommendations for them,” he said. “Too often people working for government and non-government organizations have a broad knowledge of economics that doesn’t incorporate these concepts.”

“...what ultimately matters is that we get the story right so we can make policy decisions that improve people’s lives.”

Bellemare joined the Sanford Institute faculty this fall after completing his PhD in applied economics at Cornell University. He devotes his research to analyzing the building blocks of developing economies, such as individuals and households, and looking at ways in which different transaction costs influence their participation in markets.

“In Kenya for example, a man who has to walk four hours to get to the market so he can sell his goods would consider transportation to be a transaction cost. Other examples are bidders who rob people traveling to market or bribes people must pay just to participate in the market. The key is to look at these costs to determine which ones matter, then develop policies that can intervene and help increase market participation.”

Bellemare hopes his student will be able to think like economists when they leave his seminar. For him, it was time spent out of the classroom that helped him make the transition from student to scholar. While researching his dissertation in Madagascar for nine months, he was on his own, without access to phone or email, and had to learn to trust his decisions. During that time he also became painfully aware that many people live in dire poverty with little prospect for improving their standard of living.

“Microeconomics is a hugely technical subfield of economics, and I enjoy that,” he said. “But what ultimately matters is that we get the story right so we can make policy decisions that improve people’s lives.”

Bellemare’s interest in the different components of developing economies translates into a fascination with the technical aspects of playing the electric guitar, a hobby of his since age 13. He admires rock guitarist John Petrucci as well as jazz greats Wes Montgomery and Grant Green. When he is not practicing his instrumental skills he enjoys the artistry of Italian author Umberto Eco.

“I’m attracted to virtuosity and people who are masters of technique,” he said. “But as for my scholarship, I’m not interested in technique for technique’s sake. My goal is to use the tools of microeconomics to inform policies and to increase the welfare of people who need it the most.”
Sheldon, a Tulane graduate, and Lalka, a former New Orleans Americorps volunteer, met and discovered they shared a love for the Crescent City.

“We talked about the realities facing New Orleans a year after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and how many people have forgotten the city,” Sheldon says. “We all focus on 9/11, but Katrina is just as important from a policy perspective. This is the first time in America we have the chance to totally rebuild a city. The question is, how do we rebuild it right?”

Twenty-four hours later they had prepared a proposal outlining a New Orleans public policy trip for MPP students. Their goals were to give Sanford Institute students a chance to see the disaster-stricken region, to highlight the many unresolved policy issues facing the city and to find ways Sanford students could contribute to the rebuilding process.

The graduate program and the Sanford Institute both provided funding for the trip. “It was clear from the outset that the students planned to follow up with policy work, so we could easily envision the trip's benefits,” said Frederick Mayer, associate professor of PPS and director of graduate studies. “Plus, we want to create an atmosphere where students can create new initiatives and play leadership roles in them.”

While in New Orleans, the students met with leaders from the city council, the Louisiana Recovery Authority, the Neighborhood Housing Service of New Orleans and the Audubon Institute. They looked at breached levees and heard Tulane geology professor Stephen Nelson explain that the flooding could have been avoided if the levees had been built as originally designed.

“We heard about all the governance failures that have affected the city, we began to realize how places like the Terry Sanford Institute can affect real change for the region,” Lalka said.

The trip deepened students' understanding of the devastations the displacement has been for area residents and highlighted the complex policy issues involved in rebuilding. Already students are planning to spend more time in the region. One is considering a move to New Orleans after she graduates and others hope to do their MPP internships there.

“Before going on this trip, I wanted to go overseas, but now I’m 99 percent sure I’ll do my internship in New Orleans,” Sheldon says. “I’ll see many of the same development needs I would see in Africa or Latin America, and New Orleans is a place I know and love.”

Back at Duke, the group's goals include an online forum where policy-minded students can exchange ideas about ways to help rebuild the city. They also plan to reach out to the Duke community with messages about opportunities to help the Gulf Coast and to take on New Orleans clients for their spring MPP consulting projects. One group of students will work with New Orleans city council President Oliver Thomas to help attract skilled professionals to the city as it attempts to rebuild industry; another will help Louisiana’s Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu’s office rebuild the 1,300-acre City Park.

Students remember the trip as the experience of a lifetime; one that gave them a chance to get involved in what Thomas called “the Civil Rights issue” for their generation.

“I learned that I’m in the right program,” Sheldon says. “I’m glad to be at the Sanford Institute, but I’m also asking myself, ‘Why am I studying economics and statistics? What am I going to do with it?’ The trip showed how my classes are preparing me for this field. I know this is what I want to do to make a difference.”

**Student Highlights**

**Defending Guantanamo detainees** • David Chick, a Rotary World Peace Fellow in the Sanford Institute, has been working with Duke Law students in the Guantánamo Defense Clinic, formed in October 2005 to assist with defense of prisoners being held in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, on suspicion of terrorist activities. Chick, formerly a practicing lawyer in his native Australia, is one of four students who assisted with the legal representation of David Hicks, the so-called Australian Taliban who was captured by Northern Alliance fighters in Afghanistan in late 2001. The story of the defense clinic can be found online in the July/August issue of Duke Magazine.

[duke.magnet.duke.edu/dukemag/issues/070806/justice1.html](duke.magnet.duke.edu/dukemag/issues/070806/justice1.html)

**Student research** • MPP student Mark Mitchell had an article published in the July/August 2006 edition of the Journal of Zoo Biology, which he co-wrote while working at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago.

The article, “One Year Later: Evaluation of PMC-Recommended Births and Transfers” presents an analysis of the effectiveness of protocols for cooperative species population management programs at member zoos and aquaria.

**MPP awards** • Second-year MPP students Donna Lavadriere and Mark Mitchell were chosen as the first recipients of the Stubbing Memorial Fellowship Award. These $1,000 awards honor the late professor Dick Stubbing’s legacy and recognize MPP students who exemplify qualities of outstanding future public servants. Both winners were recognized for stellar academic records in their first MPP year and for service as class leaders and members of student organizations.

**Melcher Award** • The DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy named PPS major Jeff Stern the 2006 Melcher Award winner for his article “Family Man: The Story of Three Men Who Share a Tent by the Tracks Just Off Main Street” published in The Independent on March 26, 2006. Seyward Darby, English major, won special recognition for her article “Mission in Mississippi: N.C. Medical Volunteers Bring Hope, Aid to Katrina Victims” published in The Chronicle on Sept. 13, 2005. The Melcher Family Award for Excellence in Journalism, created by Richard Melcher, ’74, recognizes the best article by a Duke undergraduate.
Institute welcomes new BOV members

Seven new members joined the Sanford Institute Board of Visitors this fall, while Lionel Johnson, Margery Kraus, Michael “Buz” Waitzkin, Linda Hart, Mitch Hart and Dale Royal concluded their service. The new members are:

Richard A. Berzon (MA ’84) is a technical advisor for the U.S. Agency for International Development. Berzon works to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS-related health services delivery programs in developing countries.

Dennis M. Crumpler is a general partner at CIMCO LLC, an investment management company focused on technology and real estate.

Ralph Eads III (AB ’81) is president of Randall & Deway, the leading specialist investment bank in the oil and gas industry.

Milledge A. Hart IV (AB ’87) is managing director of Pagemill Partners, an investment bank focused on mergers and acquisitions.

Patti S. Hart is the former chairman and CEO of Pinnacle Systems, a leading provider of digital video solutions for beginners to broadcasters.

James F. Wickett is the executive vice president of corporate development for Macrossion Corp. He is responsible for spearheading Macrossion’s intellectual property licensing, strategic partnering and acquisition strategies.

Maggalena Yesil was a recent venture capitalist at U.S. Venture Partners (USVP). She has been an early-stage investor in several successful companies, including Valicert, Salesforce.com, 3Ware, Securify and Claria.

Gun Control (continued from page 1)

Helen Ladd

asking. “Where is the gun control movement in this country?”

As you were conducting research for your book, what, if anything, did you learn that surprised you?

Goss: I was surprised at the number of gun control groups that were created because of a child’s experience with guns, where the child was either the victim or the perpetrator. Most often the child was the victim. I thought the groups would be more centered around crime control in general.

At the end of your book, you imply that the groundwork laid during the Columbine era will produce a national gun control movement if gun control leaders give people more opportunities to get involved in the effort. Do you think this is likely to happen?

Goss: They are moving in that direction. It’s partly a question of resources. There is competition between national groups—and between state and national activists—because financial support for gun control has always been scarce. It’s also partly a question of strategic choices. The national groups tend to think the answer to gun violence is national legislation. But because President Bush and Congress have been so hostile to their agenda, the groups have been forced to pay more attention to what can be accomplished on a state level. The two biggest groups, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence and the Brady Campaign, are both working better with state groups. One example is the recent demonstration in Harrisburg, Penn., where some 2,000 people gathered to lobby Pennsylvania legislators for stronger gun control laws. The Brady campaign helped set up the coalition.

What is your current research focused on? Is it related to gun control?

Goss: It grew out of the gun-control work. While researching my book, I began trying to identify the leaders of the gun control movement. Women have historically taken the lead on social reforms, so I asked myself, “Where are the women?” I was puzzled by their absence. Then I heard that a New Jersey mother, Donna Dees-Trombes, was organizing a march on Washington. I called her that day and began studying her efforts as they unfolded.

I attended the march and surveyed about 800 people. The surveys showed that most of them were feminists—highly educated, white, suburban women with a history of activism in various rights-based movements. I thought it was interesting that all these feminist activists were mobilized around an issue that was not explicitly feminist. I’m now working on a book about how the policy priorities of women’s organizations have changed since the Civil War. I’m interested in looking at what issues have been championed (and orphaned) at different points in time, and the implications of those choices.
U n dergrad certificate in C hildren in C ontemporary Society launched

T he Center for Child and Family Policy is launching a new undergraduate certificate program, “Children in Contemporary Society,” beginning with the spring 2007 semester. The program will allow students to pursue a cohesive set of interdisciplinary courses now taught in several departments, including psychology, public policy, sociology, economics and education.

“This topic is potentially of interest to a lot of people,” said Christina Gibson-Davis, assistant professor of PPS, “but there was no systematic way to pursue it.”

The certificate program, which Gibson-Davis directs, will give students opportunities to conduct empirical research that informs policy and practice and addresses important problems facing children and families in contemporary society. All students will write a thesis based on their research.

A new course, “Children in Contemporary Society,” is the cornerstone, or introductory course. In the spring, it will be taught by Clara Muschkin, a sociologist and researcher with the Center for Child and Family Policy. The certificate program was spearheaded by Center Director Ken Dodge, along with Nancy Hill in psychology, David Malone in education and Ken Spener in sociology.

To complete the certificate, students must take three required courses, one methodology course and two electives. For more information on the new certificate, contact Gibson-Davis at cgdavis@duke.edu.

Center for Child and Family Policy — Coming Events

Dec. 6, 12-1:30 p.m.
Science to Service: Substance Abuse Prevention Seminar Series
Denise Kandel, professor of sociomedical sciences, Columbia University.

Dec. 12, 2 p.m.
Belinda Tucker, director of the Family Research Consortium IV and professor, psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences, UCLA.

Jan. 10, 12-1:30 p.m.
Science to Service: Substance Abuse Prevention Seminar Series
James Shah, associate professor of marketing and psychology, Duke University.

Jan. 17, 12-1:30 p.m.
Child and Family Research Seminar Series
“Development of Response Decision Making and Antisocial Behavior,” featuring Reid Fontaine, research scientist, Center for Child and Family Policy, Duke University.

Jan. 30, 3:30-5 p.m.
Sulzberger Distinguished Lecture Series
Karen Appleyard and Lisa Berlin, research scientists, Center for Child and Family Policy, Duke University.

Global Health Briefs

Program wins NIH grant • The Program on Global Health and Technology Access, headed by Senior Research Fellow of PPS and Law Anthony So, has garnered a three-year, $800,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to explore “Building a Technology Trust in Genomics.”

The research project will “explore the potential of technology trusts — enabling collective action by the public sector involving diverse stakeholders — to pool intellectual property and to cultivate collective norms that can harness to R&D promising genomic technologies that yield benefits for the poor and excluded.”

So, the principal investigator, is working with Research Professor of PPS Bob Cook-Deegan and Duke Law School Professor Arti Rai on the project. In addition, two researchers have been hired — Eric Giannella, an expert in innovation landscapes and intellectual property licensing, and Corrina Moucheraud Vickery, who is experienced in project management, qualitative research and global health topics.

New global health course • Duke Global Health Fellows participated in a new course in Geneva this summer, organized by Fellows Program Director Anthony So in partnership with the World Health Organization's Globalization, Trade and Health Program.

The fellows, including MPP student Christine Jolley, joined WHO staff for the course, “Health Policy in a Globalizing World,” which covered disease threats in a globalizing world, trade and health issues and global health governance.

The Fellows also made seven site visits, from the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and UNAIDS to the World Trade Organization and the WHO’s Shock Room, where emerging epidemics are tracked.

Research Professor of PPS Bob Cook-Deegan co-taught a session for the Fellows on intellectual property rights for genomic and traditional knowledge with Duke Law School graduate Shakeel Bhatti, head of the Genetic Resources, Biotechnology and Associated Traditional Knowledge Section at the World Intellectual Property Organization.

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Close look shows progress in Latino student achievement

By CHARLES CLOTFELTER, HELEN LADD and JACOB VIGDOR

In the red-hot debate on immigration policy in the United States, some pundits point to the poor academic performance of Latino students as evidence that the melting pot isn’t working the way it used to. Reports based on national tests show Latino students score far below non-Latino whites and that this achievement gap is just as large in middle school as in elementary school.

But new research done using data from North Carolina reveals that these reports tell only half of the story. In fact, the school careers of Latino students tend to be marked by steady progress, not stagnation. Instead of wringing our hands over the academic failures of Latino students, we should be trying to learn more about why they, and their schools, have achieved the success they have.

It is true that Latino students lag behind the Anglo majority in any snapshot of student performance. Based on the widely reported National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), administered every few years to a large representative sample of American students, the Latino/white gap at both fourth and eighth grades is large. In both reading and math, the gaps between Latino and white students are nearly as large as those between blacks and whites.

“There’s more to this story than these doleful deficiencies, as our study of North Carolina math and reading test scores reveals.”

Social scientists have spilled a lot of ink explaining this gap, attributing it to such things as limited English proficiency, differences in child rearing, low incomes, large class sizes, inexperienced teachers and weak engagement with school. A report issued this year by the National Research Council concluded that Latino students are trapped in a “self-perpetuating cycle of academic disengagement and under-achievement.”

There’s more to this story than these doleful deficiencies, as our study of North Carolina math and reading test scores reveals. The state test results can be used to calculate achievement gaps for different racial and ethnic groups in the same way the NAEP scores are used for the nation, and the results look similar. In fact, the gap in North Carolina calculated in the conventional manner not only fails to shrink between third and eighth grade, it actually gets bigger.

However, our North Carolina data allowed us to look more deeply at this issue than is possible with the NAEP data. Just as a still photograph gives the viewer little sense of which way an object is moving, most previous studies of Latino students can tell us little about whether individual students are progressing or stagnating.

By using an encrypted database that protects students’ identities, we were able to chart the progress of thousands of Latino students, and hundreds of thousands of students overall. We recorded the test scores of each student who was in a public school in third grade and who remained in the state’s public schools for six consecutive years.

When the analysis is confined to these unchanging groups of students, an entirely different picture emerges. This perspective reveals that the average Latino student actually makes steady progress grade by grade, in comparison to the average white student. In math, the Latino/white gap is reduced by a quarter between third and eighth grade, and in reading it shrinks by even more.

Furthermore, once we adjust for the lower parental education and higher poverty rates of Latino students, they actually outperform their Anglo counterparts by the time they reach sixth grade.

If individual Latino students are doing so well as they get older, why do the snapshots provided by NAEP scores—and cited so frequently in the debate on immigration policy—look so bad?

The answer is simple. Because of steady immigration, thousands of new Latino students enter public schools, at many different grade levels, every year. Although our data show that these students tend to make steady progress as they get older, they usually arrive at school with a fair amount of ground to make up, and they pull down the average for all Latino students in the process. Thus, the achievement gap with whites as conventionally calculated looks high and persistent.

... the average Latino student actually makes steady progress grade by grade, in comparison to the average white student.”

A source research shows, however, the constant influx of new students arising from immigration disguises an important fact: once in school, Latino students tend to acquire the language and social skills needed to progress academically. Steady progress, not stagnation, marks their elementary and middle school years.

We should remain concerned about what happens to Latino youth when they reach high school, for their dropout rates remain too high. But rather than despairing about how the public schools have failed Latino children or how the United States cannot deal with immigrants, we should look at what we can learn from the success of these Latino students in elementary and middle school and seek to replicate this experience in later grades.

Clotfelter, Ladd and Vigdor are public policy professors at the Institute. Their working paper drawing from this research, “The Academic Achievement Gap in Grades 3 to 8” is available online at papers.nber.org/papers/W12207.
Making it harder to learn where killers get their guns

By KRISTIN A. GOSS

Where do killers get their guns? We may be asking, where do dangerous individuals get their guns? A mazingly, amid the rash of killings in our schools, Congress has been quietly working to make answering that question even more difficult.

In September, the House Judiciary Committee approved a bill that would bar the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Explosives (BATFE) from disclosing information from its effort to trace the hundreds of thousands of guns used in crime each year. The bill, backed by the National Rifle Association (NRA), is a political move to derail gun-control advocates’ lawsuits against scofflaw gun dealers.

But the gag order would affect much more than the lawsuits, which are in legal limbo anyway. The bill would deprive anti-violence advocates, scholars, state and local law enforcement officials, even members of Congress of vital information about the black market for guns operating in our midst.

A second NRA-backed bill, passed by the House to “modernize and reform” BATFE, would make gathering gun-trace data even more difficult. Under the bill, federally licensed gun dealers would no longer be required to keep their sales records organized according to regulatory protocol, but simply to maintain “custody.” In practical terms, according to regulatory protocol, but simply to maintain “custody.” In practical terms, accord-

ation, are vitally important to the success of citizens’ movements.

In my book on gun politics, I argue that pro-control groups have been unable to mobilize their grassroots sympathizers in part because their opponents have blocked federal agencies from collecting and disseminating information that would help citizen advocates make their case.

To understand the political importance of authoritative government data, ask yourself this: Where would the anti-tobacco movement be today if cigarette companies had prevented the Surgeon General from documenting the health hazards of smoking?

Where would the anti-drunk-driving movement be had beer companies stopped the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration from counting alcohol-related deaths?

But unlike their counterparts in the anti-smoking and anti-drunk-driving movements, gun-control advocates have been on the losing end of a decades-long political battle over government data. This year’s House bills are just the latest chapter in a sordid history of assaults on BATFE and its efforts to quantify America’s illegal-gun problem. But another, and in some ways more interesting case, is that of U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

In the early 1970s, a handful of medical professionals began arguing that gun violence was a public health issue, and a decade later the CDC established a small program to study gun violence from this novel perspective. Perhaps because of its size (about 1/10 of 1 percent of the CDC budget), the NRA was slow to recognize the threat posed by the CDC and its research. But when the public health approach started gaining traction in Washington, the NRA took a number of steps to stop the CDC’s violence program in its tracks, eventually lobbying Congress to eliminate the program entirely. To stave off elimination, the CDC stopped funding outside researchers, but that was not enough. In 1996 Congress stripped the gun-violence program of its funds and stipulated that no injury-prevention dollars could be used to “advocate or promote gun control,” a provision that remains in place.

The NRA and its congressional allies understood all along what gun-control groups were slow to realize: Letting good data fall into your opponents’ hands is a bad idea. Getting Congress to prevent citizens’ groups from knowing the truth about illegal firearms markets may be the gun lobby’s idea of smart politics, but it is terrible policy.

Where do killers get their guns? We may never know.

Goss is assistant professor of public policy studies and political science at the Institute and the author of Disarmed: The Missing Movement for Gun Control in America. This commentary appeared in the Newark Star-Ledger, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Raleigh News & Observer, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Des Moines Register, and The Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, Miss.)

Excerpt

An historic gift, an opportunity to lead

By JOEL FLEISHMAN

In June 2006, about 100 years after Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller Sr. established foundations and other endowed institutions to be named for themselves, Warren Buffett, in a stroke that caught the attention of much of the world, announced that he would give away $31 billion, over a period of years, to a foundation named not for himself but for two other major donors—Bill and Melinda Gates.

In one fell swoop, Buffett, revered as “the great investor,” won first place for himself as “the greatest divestor” in history for giving away for the public good the bulk of his lifetime accumulation of wealth—more than three times, in 2006 dollars, what John D. Rockefeller Sr. and Andrew Carnegie gave away combined...

Fleishman, professor of PPS and law, directs the Foundation Impact Research Program. Read his entire commentary on the Sanford Institute Web site, pubpol.duke.edu [Select “News and Events.”]
Jentleson invited to roundtable

Professor of PPS and Political Science Bruce Jentleson was among a panel of experts invited by The Century Foundation and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation to participate in an Oct. 5 roundtable discussion, “International Responses to Iran’s Nuclear Program” in Washington, D.C.

The panelists looked at Iran’s political landscape and internal dynamics, the United States and European roles in resolving the dispute, and ways past the current impasse. Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and Under-Secretary of State Thomas Pickering moderated. Other panelists were Volker Perthes, director of the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs), Berlin; and U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (N.J.).

Jentleson’s comments were based in part on his research on the international community’s success in transforming relations with Libya — gaining disarmament and cessation of terrorist funding — through a combination of incentives and sanctions.

Jentleson echoed Perthes’ insistence that in order to be successful with a combined carrot and stick approach, the United States needs to clearly establish that regime change is not its agenda. Jentleson believes that sanctions and negotiations are necessary and should occur “simultaneously, not sequentially.”

He also noted that the success of sanctions depends on the internal dynamics of Iran, about which there are varying analyses. Jentleson outlined his ideas in a paper, Sanctions against Iran: Key Issues, commissioned by The Century Foundation. A summary of the discussion is available online at www.tcf.org.

The Century Foundation is a nonprofit public policy research institution.

Fleishman Fellows’ projects examine civil society projects on four continents

During their month-long research sabbaticals this fall, the 2006 Fleishman Fellows in Civil Society conducted research on topics ranging from AIDS prevention efforts in Ethiopia to democratic systems in Siberia and sustainable fisheries management in the Philippines. A summary of their research reports, presented Oct. 31, follows.

• Frehiwot Alebachew, founder and executive director of Save Lives Ethiopia, examined behavior change communication (BCC) as a strategy for preventing AIDS transmission among young adults. Save Lives Ethiopia is an NGO whose mission is to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and mitigate its social and economic impact.

• Claudia Maria Correa Gonzalez, technical director for the Colombian Foundation for Environmental and Childhood Development (FPAA), studied institutional competency among child-advocacy groups in Colombia. She surveyed 70 FPAA-grant-funded nonprofit organizations to identify strengths and weaknesses in their efforts to address the needs of young children.

• Tony Ehrenreich, provincial secretary for the Western Cape for the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), researched the World Trade Organization (WTO) and emerging trade liberalization regulations to assess the potential for multilateral organizations like the WTO to undermine democratic governments’ agendas and their accountability to the electorate.

• Liza Lim, executive director of the Institute of Social Order (ISO) at Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines, did a case study of the ISO’s experience in facilitating the partnership between a fisher’s coalition and local governments. The partnership was created to jointly implement activities aimed at protecting and rehabilitating coastal and marine resources in Northern Lamon Bay to ensure their long-term sustainability.

• Sarah Lindemann-Komarova, founder of the Siberian Civic Initiatives Support Center Foundation, explored the effective application of a “trickle-up” strategy for democratic development in Siberia from 1994 to the present. Her research challenges much of what is being said and written about the current status of democracy in Russia.
Global Policy News Briefs

Duke Center for International Development recently completed its fifth year of executive education programs this summer, welcoming 126 participants from 42 countries. Directed by DCID, the programs draw upon Duke faculty as well as other international experts and attracts participants from all over the world.

The Project Appraisal and Risk Management (PARM) program included 31 participants from international government ministries and agencies, development banks and utility authorities. Using real and applied case studies, lectures, group discussions, participant presentations and computer exercises, the four-week program focuses on financial, economic, stakeholder and risk analysis as well as risk management of major public sector investments. PARM is directed by Professors of the Practice Graham Glenday and Fernando Fernholz.

Tax Analysis and Revenue Forecasting (TARF) and the Program on Fiscal Decentralization and Local Government Financial Management (PFD) take place each June. TARF, a four-week program directed by Professor of the Practice G.P. Shukla, covers the economic foundations of tax policy, revenue forecasting, statistical techniques, and computer-based revenue estimation models for the value added tax, personal and corporate income tax, excises, property tax and trade taxes and taxes on natural resources. This year 31 participants attended, largely from Ministries of Finance and revenue agencies.

The PFD, directed by Professor of the Practice Roy Kelly, lasts three weeks and focuses on the theory and practice of fiscal decentralization, local revenue policy and administration, user charges, property taxes, business taxes, intergovernmental transfers, performance budgeting and financial management, and public-private partnerships. In addition, special sessions explored the linkages between decentralization and poverty, growth and corruption. PFD hosted 21 participants.

DCID’s summer programs concluded with the three-week Budgeting and Financial Management in the Public Sector Program (BUDGET) directed by Glenday and Shukla. This program is organized around four modules: budget and the national economy, budget processes and frameworks, budgeting and financial management techniques, and public sector reform. The 43 participants represented a wide range of public institutions, including ministries responsible for finance and planning.

DCID Summer Executive Education Programs mark successful fifth year

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A new book edited by Dennis A. Rondinelli, senior scholar researcher in the Duke Center for International Development, explores the dynamics of change through which governments, social organizations and the private sector in Asia are adjusting to rapidly changing international trends. The book, Globalization and Change in Asia, is scheduled for publication in December by Lynne Rienner Publishers under the auspices of the Pacific Basin Research Center at Soka University of America.

Anirudh Krishna, Sanford assistant professor of PPS, contributed a chapter on “Mobilizing Social Capital: Community Responses to Globalization.” Contributors explain how and why governments, social organizations and private enterprises in Asian countries have responded to globalization and how government development policies seek to capture its benefits and mitigate potentially adverse effects.
**Faculty News**

**Philip Cook,** ITT/Terry Sanford Professor of PPS, presented a paper on “Drinking and smoking—substitutes or complements?” at the first research conference of the American Society of Health Economists in Madison on June 5. He also was invited to speak to the European Economics Association on August 25 in Vienna on “Rational Violence.”

**Graham Glenday,** professor of the practice of PPS, led a seminar at USAID headquarters in Washington D.C., in April for officials of donor agencies and international financial institutions involved in fiscal reform in developing countries. In March, he presented his paper “Compliance Strategy: Where is Sub-Saharan Africa headed?” at a World Bank workshop in Cape Town, South Africa. In March, he presented a report prepared jointly with Professor of the Practice G.P. Shukla titled “Belize: A Review of Public Expenditures” for the Inter-American Development Bank to senior officials of the ministries of finance and national development in Belize City.

**Kristin Goss,** assistant professor of PPS, presented a paper titled “Are Women’s Groups Still Relevant in Policy Debates?” before the International Political Science Association’s 20th World Congress in Fukuoka, Japan, in July.

**James Hamilton,** Charles S. Sydnor Professor of Public Policy Studies and director of undergraduate studies, presented a paper titled “News that Affects: Case Study” at the International Political Science Association’s 20th World Congress in Fukuoka, Japan, in July.

**Tony Brown,** professor of the practice of PPS, talks to students as they work on group projects outside the Sanford Institute lawn this fall.

**Faculty Publications**


Bruce Jentleson, professor of PPS, was named to serve on the jury that will select the 2007 Lionel Gelber Prize, given for the world’s best non-fiction book on international affairs. He participated in a working group, “Force and Legitimacy in the Evolving International System: U.S.-African Dialogue,” sponsored by the Brookings Institution and the Institute for Security Studies, near Cape Town, South Africa, July 18-20, and gave a lunch-tea address in London on July 17, “Democracy and Reform in the Middle East,” at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Jentleson also responded to media queries concerning the Middle East and North Korea, including Voice of America, the Christian Science Monitor, and WCBS Radio.

Roy Kelly, professor of the practice of PPS, continues to serve as resident fiscal decentralization advisor to the Ministry of Economy and Finance in Cambodia. Kelly also participated and made several presentations on local government revenue policy and tax administration at the Workshop on Improving Local Public Services in Thailand, organized by Chulalongkorn University and the World Bank Institute, in Phuket, Thailand, in May.

Sanford Institute Director Bruce Kuniholm, critiqued six papers in Istanbul at a conference on the U.S. and Turkey in preparation for a volume on the subject. He also spoke at the Institute’s annual internship reception in Washington, D.C., in July.

Professor of PPS Helen “Sunny” Ladd presented a paper called “How and why do teacher credentials matter for student achievement?”, co-authored with Charles CotTERel and Jacob Vigdor, at a June conference in Djion, France, organized by the World Bank on “The Contribution of Economics to the Challenges Faced by Education.” Ladd participated in the spring conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management in Park City, Utah, for which she co-authored a paper on PhD and undergraduate programs in public policy around the country. She gave a presentation on teacher labor markets in developed countries at a conference at Princeton University in April. The papers from this conference will appear in a volume of The Future of Children called “Excellence in the Classroom.”

Aenne Martin-Stapel, research scholar, Center for Health Policy, gave a presentation this summer at a United Nations Assembly event sponsored by the Physicians for Human Rights, titled “Developing A Winning Round 6 Global Fund Proposal: Lessons from M alawi.”

Topics raised by Senior Research Scholar Natalia Mirovitskaya in her courses for DCD were selected by the Project Management Institute (PMI) [Washington, D.C., chapter] as the focal point for their D tober expert exchange forum. The forum discussed linkages between economic growth, environmental protection, security and democracy, as well as ways to develop institutions that address environmental threats, help alleviate poverty alleviation and promote peace.

Dennis Rondinelli, senior research scholar in the Duke Center for International Development, participated in the 5th Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration, in Madrid 27-31 in New York. He was reappointed to a four-year term as a U.S. member by the U.N. Economic and Social Council.

David Schanzer, visiting associate professor of the practice of PPS, gave a congressional briefing on “Port Security and Cargo Inspection Technology: What Is Valuable and Deployed Now” on June 12.

Anthony So, director of the Program in Global Health and Technology Access, moderated and presented on a panel, “From Tax to Tobacco Control: Models for Sustainable Financing” at the World Conference on Tobacco or Health in Washington, D.C., in July. In partnership with the American Cancer Society, he also organized and hosted a two-day meeting “Strategic Priorities and Networking for Tobacco Control in Southeast Asia,” at the Sanford Institute. He presented at, and helped to organize, a seminar on “Enabling Effective Pharmaceutical Procurement” at the Open Society Institute in New York at the end of July.

Joseph Tam, visiting assistant professor of PPS, delivered a lecture at the Oak Ridge Center for Advanced Studies (ORCAS), Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Tenn., on July 14 titled, “Decision-making in Science and Technology Policy Using Cost Benefit Analysis.”

James to lead SER

Susan B. King Professor of PPS Sherman James was named president-elect of the Society for Epidemiologic Research, the largest professional society of epidemiologists in the world. Sherman is the first black person to hold this office. He’ll serve as president-elect in 2006-07, president in 2007-08, and past president in 2008-09.

New Bass Fellow Gunther Peck, the Fred W. Shaffer Associate Professor of History and associate professor of PPS, was inducted into the Bass Society of Fellows at the annual faculty awards dinner on May 4. Peck was recognized for excellence in undergraduate teaching and research.

Fulbright in Spain

Professor of PPS and Political Science Bruce Jentleson was awarded a Fulbright as a senior research scholar in Spain for 2007, during which he will work on his book, First Principles: Force and Diplomacy in the Contemporary Era. He also has appointments as a senior visiting research fellow at Oxford (Centre for International Studies and St. Antony’s College) and senior research fellow at the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Legislative honor

Jim Johnson, visiting professor of the practice of PPS, received the Carter/Hillard Legislative Staff Award for 2006, given by the Legislative Services Agency Directors of the Southern Legislative Conference. The award was made at the conference’s annual meeting in Louisville, Ky., on July 31.

Paper wins prize


Jacob Vigdor, associate professor of PPS, presented “Does Urban Decay Harm the Poor?” at the National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute workshop on the Economics of Real Estate and Local Public Finance, in Cambridge, Mass., in July. He also presented “The Academic Achievement Gap in Grades 3 Through 8,” a paper jointly authored with PPS professors Charles Cotterel and Helen Ladd, at the Institute for Research on Poverty summer workshop at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in June.

MPP Notes

Ruhi Gandhi ('05) married Amit Shah on May 20 in Cerritos, Calif. Ruhi works with IBM Consulting in Washington, D.C.

Xing Hu ('05) has a new position as senior “intrapreneur” at A Shoka Youth Innovations Initiative in Washington, D.C.

Kim Williams ('05) has a new position at Louisiana Family Recovery Corps in Baton Rouge, La., rebuilding child and family policy programs after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Lori Allen ('04) is engaged to Ryan Karaiian, planning a June 2007 wedding in Louisville, Ky. Lori works for Public Consulting Group in Charlotte, N.C.

Creecy Chandler Johnson ('04) is now assistant attorney general in the Consumer Protection Division of the N.C. Office of the Attorney General.

Elaine Lai ('04) completed a four-month detail in Alaska with the Tropica Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center. Learn more about Corrales in the News section on the Sanford Institute Web site: pubpol.duke.edu.

Creecy Chandler Johnson ('04) has a new position with the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center in Vernal, Utah, where she works in water permits and watershed programs.

Trina Hedrick ('03) was promoted to native aquatics project leader for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources’ Northeastern Regional Office in Vernal, Utah, where she oversees conservation and recovery activities for all native aquatic species in the region.

Kevin Hutchinson ('03) has a new position with Public Consulting Group in Raleigh, N.C., working with N.C. state and local governments.

Mike McBriery ('03) and his wife, Julie, and big sister, Callie, 2, are pleased to announce the arrival of Samuel James McBriery, born May 2.


Robert O bando Prestol ('02) and Meghan Endrickson (PPS '99) were married on Feb. 4 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, where Roberto is director of the National Institute of Public Administration (INAP) and Meghan is the senior contracts and grants associate for Family Health International.

Tim Saintsing ('02) has a new position as director of operations at Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Jennifer N. evin ('03) and Chuck Anderson ('03) were married on June 10 at Old Town Hall in Fairfax, Va. Joining them to celebrate were classmates Meagha n Muldoon Mann, A my Murphy, Katie Tedrow A. Stritch, Kevin Hutchinson, Nick Cornelisse, Jason DeRouise, Heather Lee, Gustavo Flores-Macias, Seth Messner, Katie McClure Anderson ('04), David Andersen ('04), Chloe Metz ('04), Lauren Herr ('04), Tim Green ('04), and Megan Fotheringham ('04).

Melanie Kadic ('02) accepted a position as senior associate with Collaborative Communications Group, a consulting firm in Washington, D.C., that specializes in K-12 public education. Melanie recently got engaged and is planning a 2007 wedding.

Lisa Frack ('01) and her husband, Doug Chamblin, welcomed their second child, Georgia, on March 20. Lisa and her family live in Portland, Ore., where she works at the H U D Regional Office on community development and affordable housing block grants.

Lisa Jaworski Murphy ('01) joined A valere Health, a consulting firm that specializes in healthcare policy and management, in Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth Tolles Robbins ('01) and her husband, James, announced the birth of Rachel Janna Robbins on April 2. Beth left her position as an Army spokesperson at the Pentagon and is now the current operations officer for the Soldiers Media Center in Crystal City, Va.

GREG Behr ('00) will leave the Forbes Funds in November to become the new executive director of the Grable Foundation, which provides educational opportunities for young people in southwestern Pennsylvania. Greg lives in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Wendy Brown ('00), and her husband, Greg Kang, welcomed a daughter, Sarah Haee-Wong Kang, on July 13. Wendy and her family live in Richmond, Va., where she is director of workforce development services research for the Virginia Community College System.

Elizabeth Field Singer ('00) and her husband, Chris, welcomed a son, Henry Gage Singer, on May 19. Elizabeth is a senior analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C., where she just completed a review of HIV/AIDS prevention funded under the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

Brad Keller ('00) married Alexandra Bradley on June 3 in Richmond, Va. Classmates Ellen Weiss ('00), Josh Fowkes ('02), and Carolyn Forno ('00) joined the celebration. The Kellers live in Washington, D.C., where Brad works at Westat.

Kristen Pecorine Pennington ('00) was promoted to manager of sustainable solutions for the northwest region for CH3M Hill in Seattle, Wash.

Kevin Carroll ('99) left his position as staff director of the Energy Subcommittee of the House Science Committee to become chief of the Energy Branch at the Office...
of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C.

Sekou Kaallund ('99) was honored as a top “40 Under Forty” achiever by The Network Journal, a magazine that focuses on African-American professionals and small business owners. On June 22 in New York, N.Y., Sekou is director of securities and fund services at Citigroup Corporate Investments in New York, N.Y.

Shannon Szymczak ('99) and her husband, Brian, welcomed a daughter, Jillian May Szymczak on May 18. Shannon and her family live in Austin, Texas, where she is corporate budget manager for the City of Austin.

Yi-Ju (Eva) Chiang ('98) is an analyst for the Transportation Department in the City of Sacramento, Calif.

Danny Werfel ('97) was promoted to deputy controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C.

Jenny Schulstad ('95) married Mike Brailey on July 23 in Seattle, Wash. Jenny is a vice president at APCO Worldwide in Seattle.

Leonardo Alvarez ('93) left the Federal Department of Telecommunications for a new position as director of training, evaluation and career development for the Federal Electoral Institute in Mexico.

Paul Brathwaite ('93) received the inaugural Brenda Pillors Award in March from the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding in recognition of his work to foster better relations among the various ethnic causes and organizations on Capitol Hill. Paul is executive director of the Congressional Black Caucus and was featured in the Washington Post in June as part of a summer series “Being a Black Man.”

Oiga Corrales ('92), manager of the Model Forest Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, was featured in a western Newfoundland newspaper, The Western Star, when she presented a talk on the challenges of the model forest program for the Western Newfoundland Model Forest Partnership. Oiga and her husband, David Feingold ('92), live in Costa Rica.

Shelia W. Hite Chavis ('92), her husband, Kevin, and son, Kyle, are adopting a 2-year-old son, Mekhi, whom they have been fostering since 2004. Shelia is an attorney at Brent A. Adams & Associates in Raleigh, N.C.

Eric Christopherson ('91) now directs the assessment center for iSA FE, Inc., a nonprofit that helps youth to act safely and responsibly on the Internet.

Michael Sorrell ('90) is part of the founding team of The C School, which uses advanced political, corporate, and communication strategies to prepare coaches for professional success. Mike is president of Victor Credo, LLC, a consulting firm that specializes in representing professional athletes and coaches and public affairs problem solving in Dallas, Texas.

Jess Hale ('88) published an article on the Commerce Clause and solid waste management in the Tulane Environmental Law Journal and was appointed as an associate commissioner to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws for Tennessee. Jess lives in Nashville, Tenn., where she is an attorney for the Tennessee General Assembly.

Tim Baden ('87) was a student at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (National Defense University) for the 2005-06 year, and has returned to FEMA as a special assistant to the FEMA deputy director.

Mark Messura ('87) was promoted to executive vice president at Cotton, Inc. in Cary, N.C., where he is responsible for management of corporate research programs and global supply chain operations.


Barry Shelley ('75) and his partner, Brenda Wyss, welcomed a baby girl, Sofia Nettie Shelley-Wyss, in November 2005. Barry and his family are spending July-December 2006 in El Salvador where Barry is working as a senior research associate for PRISMA, the Salvadoran Program for Research in Development and the Environment. When they return, Barry and Brenda will share a professor position in the economics department at Wake Forest College in Nortorn, Mass.

DC Area Alumni: To receive the newsletter of the Duke Club of Washington, be sure your contact information is up to date at www.dukealumni.com. DCW is an active alumni club that sponsors many events and activities. Learn more about them at www.dcw.org.
Alumnus Profile: Chad Sarchio (PPS ’92) By Elizabeth Gill

The undergraduate public policy major doesn’t aim to train future lawyers, but Chad Sarchio (PPS ’92), nevertheless credits the Sanford Institute with developing in him the strong critical thinking and decision-making skills that have helped him become successful in his career as a prosecutor.

“The Institute gave me the tools to make decisions about how to approach cases and the ability to consider how opponents might make their arguments,” Sarchio said. In addition, courses on negation and persuasion have assisted him in working with judges, juries and criminals, he said.

Especially valuable was his internship with the Deputy Chief of Staff of Personnel at the Pentagon. Thanks to that experience he had “an idea of what the standards were when I entered the real world… The internship caused me to confront the realities of being an adult, entering the real world and being a practitioner.”

He is also grateful for a budgeting course that he took with the late Dick Stubbing, professor of the practice of PPS. Although he does not create budgets in his work, because he understands the budgeting process, he said, “I’m more easily able to suggest projects and new initiatives that are more readily acceptable to administrators.”

Sarchio earned his law degree from George-Washington University (GWU) in 1995 and served in the Judge Advocate General’s (JAG) Corps in Fort Bragg, N.C. During his time at Fort Bragg he served six months in Bosnia as a senior foreign claims commissioner.

Next, he accepted a position with the U.S. Attorney’s Office, where he had interned as a law student, and worked on cases ranging from petty crime to homicide. Recently he was loaned to the Senate to investigate the preparations for and response to Hurricane Katrina on the federal, local and state level.

In August, Sarchio began a new position working with the Department of Justice’s Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Under the Patriot Act, the DEA has received additional responsibilities in the area of drug trafficking because of drug revenue's ties to international terrorist organizations. Sarchio also is an affiliated faculty member at GWU and an adjunct professor of criminal law at the JAG school.

Alumni in the News

Alternative fuel road trip • Mark Pike, PPS ’04, traveled from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles, Calif., this summer in a Flex Fuel vehicle using only E85, a gasoline alternative. The road trip was sponsored by the Center for American Progress Action Fund, Ford Motor Co., and others to promote alternative fuels. Two fellow Duke alums, William Feldman and Lucas Schaefer, went along. Their adventure, complete with video and audio clips and alt fuel resources, is chronicled on a blog at www.kicktheoilhabit.org/roadtrip.

Public service award • Francesca Tenconi, a 2006 Duke joint PPS/psychology graduate, received the Jefferson Award for her work as founder and director of the Children’s Skin Disease Foundation. Created when she was 16, the foundation raises money for medical research and supports children and their families. The Jefferson Awards are administered by the American Institute for Public Service, a national foundation. Tenconi’s story was told in the San Francisco Chronicle and featured on CBS 5 TV in San Francisco.