REAL LIFE POLICY
Where theory meets practice

FACULTY, STAFF
AND STUDENTS
in the Andrew Young School live out our mission every day. We strive to disseminate knowledge and methods for policymakers and leaders in the public, nonprofit and business worlds. We focus on the management, implementation and evaluation of policies that have impacts at the local, regional, national and global levels.

Several articles in this issue of The Briefing highlight our efforts to “walk the talk” of our mission. Our students benefit from instruction by professors who not only engage in designing and testing policy theory, but who are actively involved in implementing and evaluating real policies.

Much of our work affects citizens in other countries. The International Study Program’s summer training course in public policy provides public finance professionals from around the world cutting-edge tools and methods to enact and implement budget reforms in their home countries (p. 10). Associate Professor Neven Valev is in Bulgaria this year, studying the fiscal policy implications of a country’s decision to join the European Union (p. 12). And Regents Professor Roy Bahl, who has worked with the Chinese over 25 years on tax reform, has been back in Beijing, lecturing senior Chinese officials on tax assignments (p. 27). He has also visited with several of our alumni, who are successful academics and tax administrators in China.

We are just as busy on the domestic front. For example, the Georgia Health Policy Center’s work on health reform has gained national attention (p. 14). And in Georgia, the Fiscal Research Center is synonymous with tax policy. Director David Sjoquist was recently named by House Bill 1405 to serve on the Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness for Georgians, which is studying the state’s revenue structure and will make recommendations for structural changes (p. 5).

We are lucky that our students share our passion for understanding the importance of good policy. And our students are lucky to learn from such involved and accomplished faculty who work with policy and policymakers in the real world.

Mary Beth Walker
Dean

Georgia State University
Andrew Young School
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Wallace, who came to GSU as an assistant professor of economics in 1991, returned to campus after taking a year’s leave to serve as provost and vice president for academic affairs at the International University of Grand-Bassam (IUGB) in Cote d’Ivoire, Africa. (See story on p. 7)

Wallace says that her experience abroad has given her an increased appreciation for the big picture and how important it is to have an overall vision of where one is headed. “At IUGB we had to do a lot of work with very few resources, which is not that different than what we face here at GSU in this budget climate,” she says. “Learning what is critical and what is not is important. When you are building something,
Martinez and Peter receive Russia’s first
national applied economics award

Regents Professor Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, director of the International Studies Program, Klara Sabirianova Peter, assistant professor at the AYS, and Yuriy Gorodnichenko (UC Berkeley), were awarded Russia’s first National Prize in Applied Economics in April.

The prize was established in 2009 by a group of leading Russian think tanks and universities to promote high-quality analysis of the Russian economy. It recognizes the best published research devoted to the Russian economy with a purse of 1.5 million rubles ($51,000).


“Our close examination finds that large and significant changes in tax evasion following the flat tax reform are associated with changes in voluntary compliance that cannot be explained by changes in tax enforcement policies,” says Martinez-Vazquez. Among other findings, their research shows that “because of the strong tax evasion response, the efficiency gain from the Russian flat tax reform is at least 30 percent smaller than the gain implied by conventional approaches.”

Sabirianova Peter accepted the prize at the 11th International Conference on Economic and Social Development held in Moscow on April 8.
Mescon honored for lifetime achievement

The Georgia Council on Economic Education (GCEE) awarded Michael Mescon the organization’s first “Lifetime Achievement Award” at its annual meeting in May.

An AYS Advisory Board member, co-creator of the popular Policy Leadership class and dean emeritus of Georgia State University’s business college, Mescon founded the Bernard B. and Eugenia A. Ramsey Chair of Private Enterprise – the world’s first private enterprise chair – at Georgia State in 1963. Now more than 200 such chairs exist.

The award was conferred at GCEE’s annual meeting at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Former GCEE executive director Francis “Bill” Rushing introduced Mescon, reminding the audience that he was once called the “pied piper of private enterprise” by the Wall Street Journal and describing him as the “seed at the base of the tree of private enterprise studies.” Rushing held the Ramsey Chair until he retired in 2005.

“It is not just what someone does during their career; but what they continue to do for the rest of their lives,” says David Martin, executive director of the Georgia Council. “Michael has many legacies: his books, the chairs and those he has mentored.”

AYS offers new Ph.D. in Public Policy

A third doctoral degree program will be available beginning next fall semester at the Andrew Young School. Graduate students interested in earning a Ph.D. in Public Policy with concentrations in one of three areas – public and nonprofit management, public budgeting and finance, and policy analysis and program evaluation – can now do so in a new stand-alone degree program.

Other Ph.D. programs at the AYS include a Ph.D. in Economics and a joint Ph.D. in Public Policy with the Georgia Institute of Technology.

“The new Ph.D. in Public Policy offers a more focused program for students interested in pubic budgeting and finance, public and nonprofit management, and policy analysis and program evaluation,” says Professor Greg Lewis, who directs the joint Ph.D. program and will serve as director of the new Ph.D. “Eliminating administrative burdens on students should improve our students’ doctoral experience and allow them to take full advantage of the strength of the Andrew Young School’s faculty. We expect to attract a high-quality crop of students to our first entering class in 2011.”

Professor Harvey Newman, chair of the Department of Public Management and Policy, thanks Georgia Tech for the support it provided during the degree’s approval process. “We value the joint program with Tech, and will continue sharing core courses and making their concentrations available to our joint Ph.D. candidates,” he says.

http://aysps.gsu.edu/3673.html
If spending three weeks studying in Europe is your cup of tea, now is the best time to sign up for GSU’s 2011 study abroad program, “Policy Studies in Europe: Exploring Critical Issues, Strategies, and Solutions.” The program will run from May 4 to May 23.

The learning begins in Frankfurt, Germany, with stops in Strasbourg, Freiburg, Heidelberg, Trier, Luxembourg, Brussels, Bruges and Paris. Visits to the European Parliament, Chamber of Commerce Strasbourg, the Court of Human Rights, Environmental Protection Authority, NATO Headquarters and the OECD are peppered with opportunities to talk to influential business and government policy leaders. History and culture are also important components, with visits to the Louvre, a former concentration camp, a guided boat tour and a free day in Paris built into the schedule.

Program details, including the itinerary, are available at http://tiny.cc/t4naf, or contact Professor Greg Streib at 404-413-0116 for more information.

This program fills quickly, so don’t dally!
THE GEORGIA HEALTH POLICY CENTER (GHPC) is collaborating with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on a project that will make health promotion an important policy consideration in the redevelopment of Atlanta's Fort McPherson Army base.

"The goal is to create a supportive environment that will enable all people affected by the redevelopment to lead healthy lives," says GHPC Project Director Holly Avey, a senior research associate.

Their "Health in All Policies" approach is part of a broader initiative to build a healthier nation. As practiced in redevelopment, this approach will strengthen the link between good health and planning in areas that include land use, transportation, housing, education and employment.

"Health in All Policies facilitates opportunities for community, state and federal stakeholders to mutually explore health-promoting community design and development policies," says Avey.

Fort McPherson is one of more than 50 military bases targeted for closure or realignment by September 2011 under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC). The McPherson Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) is leading the redevelopment of the 487-acre installation as authorized by the Department of Defense. Others involved in the effort include the state, Fulton County, the cities of Atlanta and East Point, and civic groups in neighboring communities.

The GHPC has consulted with representatives of the McPherson LRA and a variety of federal agencies. "As we learn more about each agency's policies and their effects on health, we are able to create a Health in All Policies perspective that can inform a redevelopment process like BRAC," says Avey. Lessons learned also contribute to the CDC's interest in the creation of healthier communities.

Health Impact Assessment plays an important role in the Health in All Policies process. With this tool, the GHPC worked with stakeholders to identify focus areas of interest in the zoning blueprint for the redevelopment plan. Then GHPC conducted an assessment to determine the health impacts of these elements and identify specific opportunities to improve the health impact of the zoning.

"This approach was used to determine the health impact of improving access to green space," says Avey. "It measured access to fresh fruits and veggies through opportunities for community gardens, farmer's markets and urban farms. It also assessed the impact of restricting fast food, alcohol and tobacco products."

The findings of the Fort McPherson Health Impact Assessment are available on the GHPC website. Go to http://aysps.gsu.edu/ghpc/ to find the link, Ft. McPherson Interim Zoning Rapid HIA Recommendations.

Avey says the GHPC and CDC hope that what they have learned during this project will inform other large-scale redevelopments.

"We are working to develop a Health in All Policies framework that could be implemented nationally," she says.
GSU advances American-style learning in West Africa

Until recently, amusing BBC news segment called “Only in Africa” would punctuate the morning commute of Andrew Young School professor Sally Wallace and her husband, Brad Moore, as they drove to work down wide European-styled boulevards. Marshy lagoons dotted with coconut palms bordered one side of their drive while stylish commercial and residential high-rises jostled for position along the other. If it was a local holiday, they may have passed a goat riding on the back of a scooter or several goats jammed in a cab.

Wallace and her family returned to Atlanta in August after spending a year in Abidjan, the de facto capital of Côte d’Ivoire, Africa, where she served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at the International University of Grand-Bassam (IUGB). Moore, an alumnus of Georgia State’s J. Mack Robinson College of Business (M.A. in Taxation ’01), was the IUGB’s vice president for administration and finance.

They had moved to Africa after the presidents of GSU and IUGB signed a collaborative agreement to extend a beneficial partnership between the two institutions. IUGB awarded Georgia State a $900,000 grant for FY2010 to support program continued on page 8

Above: Images of students and the campus of the International University of Grand-Bassam, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
development activities. The partnership is a model for international education. Student and faculty exchanges enhance cultural awareness and advance academics while contributing to the economies of both countries and elevating Georgia State’s status as a magnet for international students.

**The Cornerstone**

GSU started working with officials from the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire and the country’s institutions of higher learning in a student exchange initiative in 1994. This work soon evolved into a partnership that eventually created the IUGB. “Many, many people from here collaborated with GSU to develop this university,” says Wallace.

Georgia State’s involvement has been extensive says John Hicks, associate provost of GSU’s Office of International Affairs, who directs the partnership’s grants and collaborations. “Our university has provided technical assistance and experts in curriculum development, advisement and registration, accounting, library science, information technology and other areas,” he says.

“Before IUGB opened, a number of Ivorian students earned their undergraduate and graduate degrees at Georgia State, and our faculty members participated in exchange and research programs with colleagues at other Ivorian universities. In 1998 GSU and the Agency for Education and Development in Côte d’Ivoire began working to establish IUGB, the only university in the country to offer English-language teaching modeled on the American system of higher education.

Classes began at IUGB in 2005, after a civil war delayed its opening, with eight students enrolled. The 2010 enrollment was 150, and the goal is 1,200 by 2014. IUGB’s 2+2 Exchange Program allows students to take two years of coursework in Côte d’Ivoire and then two years at GSU.

Faculty and staff from several Georgia State colleges and departments have worked with IUGB to develop a feasibility study, articulate course equivalencies, provide access to textbooks, design marketing and Web materials, evaluate IT needs and develop curriculum. During the 2008-2009 academic year, IUGB and GSU collaborated to produce the university’s first five-year strategic business plan.

“This important collaboration is helping to bridge IUGB from its birth to a four-year institution,” says Wallace.

**Higher Learning Georgia-style**

“IUGB is different for this part of the world because it is an English-language, American-styled university in francophone Africa,” says Wallace. “GSU’s partnership seeks to help IUGB attain international standards in education and research – with accountability and transparency as hallmarks.

“The American style of education is seen as a real positive force,” she continues. “There are great hopes and expectations for the IUGB.”

The Andrew Young School has been involved in several ways. “AYS faculty have been very supportive in advising on curriculum, Internet technology, human resources and course articulation. There is potential for additional collaboration in the form of a Center for Governance and Policy – a much-needed research center – based on the policy research center model that AYS grew from. GSU may send more faculty to IUGB to teach short-term courses and help establish important seminars and roundtables for public sector officials.

“At this point in time, IUGB is a small institution with a lot of potential,” Wallace continues.

“IUGB is poised to serve as a regional model of higher education in West Africa,” said IUGB President Salio Touré while visiting GSU. “But we cannot do it without the help of our friend and your institution, Georgia State.”

Wallace says that she has enjoyed bringing American-style learning to Côte d’Ivoire. “Success means a lot to the country and to the region – the model will be copied in many more countries. Quality higher education will raise the bar for accountability in the public and private sector. These students will add the human capital necessary to propel the economy forward.

“And IUGB will help link more bright students from West Africa to the United States and other parts of the world,” she says. “Being a part of this success was very unique and exciting!”

International University of Grand-Bassam: www.iugb.org

GSU Office of International Affairs: http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwoia/GSU_IUGB.htm

www.andrewyoungschool.org
For GSU’s partnership with IUGB, Ivorian students agree to spend their junior and senior years of study at Georgia State. For many, Atlanta is a whole new adventure, but not in the “Coming to America” way American students may imagine.

Residents of the Côte d’Ivoire are very familiar with the United States – its history and culture, politics and business. However, they have found that very few students they meet here know the first thing about Africa.

“I grew up in the city, I have never seen a lion,” says one visiting student. “But when I talk to my friends here, they ask questions about living in trees, living like Tarzan. It’s kind of funny, but also hard for me to believe. It has made me ask myself: Why do I know this culture and why don’t they know ours?”

Another Ivorian student agrees that Americans need to be more open to the world. “A lot of our American friends don’t know what’s out there.”

Students who come to Atlanta from the Côte d’Ivoire are like students all over: excited about making new friends and sharing their experiences with others.

Senior Maylis Allah-Kouame (B.S. in PUP) is the oldest sister of three. Her father was a corporate lawyer and now works as a human resources manager in Abidjan, where she grew up. Her mother works in insurance. Allah-Kouame wanted to study in the U.S. as a freshman, but says her parents weren’t ready to let her go. So she enrolled at IUGB, the only English-speaking university in her country.

Allah-Kouame’s favorite class at Georgia State is the Policy Leadership class, where the guest speakers are “amazing.” She says the teaching methods at GSU/IUGB are very different. “In high school we spoke French and followed the French way of conducting classes. The American system is more like a discussion. Grading is different. The passing grade in the French system is a 10 over 20, but over here that would be an F.”

Allah-Kouame would like to work at the African Development Bank when she graduates. “That’s my primary goal,” she says. “But the most important thing will be to get a job – any job. The economy is as difficult in Africa as it is in the U.S. right now.”

The youngest of four sisters, N’Guessan “Corinne” Konan Brou says hers is a typical African family. “Two sisters live in France – one is working and another is looking for a job. My other sister is about to be married.” Her father is a banker and mother works in planning and permitting for the government.

Konan Brou studied computer science while at IUGB, but decided to change her major here to International Economics and Modern Languages. When she moved to Atlanta in July, it was her first trip outside of her country. “English was the most challenging thing about coming here,” she says. “People who teach English at IUGB did not talk so fast. When I came here, everything was so fast that I was kind of lost.”

However, she enjoys having her own apartment on campus and paying her own bills. “In my country, families treat their children like a child until they’re about 30,” she says. “Here I’m on my own – independent.” Upon graduation, Konan Brou plans to find work in Côte d’Ivoire.

N’Guessan “Corinne” Konan Brou

Maylis Allah-Kouame
The International Studies Program (ISP) held its sixth annual week-long Summer School in Public Economics in July. Sponsored by the Fundación Rafael del Pino, Spain, in collaboration with the Instituto de Estudios Fiscales (Ministry of Finance, Spain) and the ISP, this year’s program brought two dozen Spanish university lecturers, researchers and public sector managers to Atlanta for training on the latest academic developments in fiscal policy and public economics.

Distinguished economics faculty from the nation’s prestigious academic institutions – Jonathan Gruber from MIT, Ed Glaeser from Harvard, Todd Sandler from the University of Texas, Richard Bird from the University of Toronto, W. Michael Hanemann from the University of California Berkeley and Richard Burkhauser from Cornell – along with Martin Ravallion, director of the Development Research Group of the World Bank, traveled to Georgia State to provide this training with Andrew Young School professors and fiscal policy experts Paula Stephan and James Alm, and Glenn W. Harrison, director of the Center for the Economic Analysis of Risk in GSU’s Robinson College of Business.

They led intensive, comprehensive sessions on titles such as “Modeling Fiscal and Monetary Policy with a Perspective of the Spanish Current Crisis” and “Public Economics and the Study of Terrorism,” along with the latest findings in areas such as tax compliance and evasion, housing and urban economics, fiscal federalism, health economics, science, environmental economics, and poverty and development.

“We get top-notch instructors every year. The quality of our program has been sustained – year after year – with a panel of people who are all pretty remarkable,” says Regents Professor Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, director of the ISP. He co-directed the program with José María Labeaga of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid this year. “It says something pretty good about the expertise at the Andrew Young School that we are consistently able to put together a fiscal training program of this quality.”

Amadeo Petitbo, director of the Fundación Rafael del Pino, and Jose M. Labeaga, director of the Spanish Instituto de Estudios Fiscales, were key supporters of this year’s program.

A seminar at the Fundación Rafael del Pino, scheduled for later this fall, will delve further into the issues and methodologies that were presented at the AYS.

Martinez says that the program is effectively building fiscal capacity in Spain. “The young professionals who attend return and talk to their peers, other professionals, about what they learned in Atlanta.” He is working to bring the program back to GSU for a seventh year next summer.

ISP program advances economics instruction throughout Spain

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The International Studies Program ran another successful session of its Public Policy Summer Training Course in August. Led by Professor Katherine Willoughby, this year’s USAID-funded course, Public Budgeting and Fiscal Management, introduced public sector finance officers and budget officials from developing and transitional countries to the latest developments in budgeting and fiscal management tailored to their experience and needs.

The people who attend the course are fiscal policy experts in their countries, says Willoughby, “They know what they’re supposed to be doing. They want to manage good, solid programs and balance their budgets.”

They come to Atlanta to tap into the expertise of ISP faculty who have worked in emerging countries with similar challenges. “Our experiences often open their eyes to some of the possibilities for change in their country,” says Willoughby. “For example, when we talked about performance management measures, I told them about my work in a state in India that produces and reports performance measures, but probably too many of them to be really useful. Examining such cases gives these officials ideas about what is going on in other governments and what is possible in their own countries.

“These experts are looking for better ways to manage donor funds, in particular. They need to know how to manage the flow of money. Or we may be talking about the budget process and performance initiatives and they ask, ‘How do we change the organizational culture in our government? How do we initiate performance reforms?’ Participants want to look at example after example and then consider what might work for them, given the political, governmental, social and economic context of their countries,” she says.

“We examine best practices in the U.S. and other countries, and we conduct a number of different exercises,” says Willoughby. “They look at what’s happening in their country and determine ‘Our budget law doesn’t allow for this’ or ‘Here’s what we could do to better accommodate changes.’

“I’ve always been struck by how this course has attracted people from all types of countries, that we’re all concerned with the same things — an educated public, safe streets, clean water — and that we all want to pay for it without going into debt. Different governments do talk about the same things when they look at budgets and fiscal policy.

“Our course opens their eyes to some of the possibilities for change in their country,” she says.

During the last five years, 160 government officials, policymakers and members of development agencies like USAID have received training in ISP’s summer courses.
Adopting a new currency?

Research on Bulgaria’s euro conversion will inform others

ON JANUARY 1, 2007, Bulgaria and Romania became the latest of 10 post-communist countries to join the European Union (EU). As required in their EU accession agreements, each of these countries must adopt the euro, the currency used by most EU institutions, as soon as they meet the necessary criteria.

“Deciding to change the currency of a country, however, is no easy task,” says Neven Valev, an associate professor of economics and senior research associate with the International Studies Program. Valev is in Bulgaria for the next year to study the country’s political economy and its implications for adopting the euro in a research project funded by the National Council for East European and Eurasia Research (NCEEER), of the U.S. Department of State. It is his second NCEEER-funded project.

NCEEER research grants are intended to inform U.S. policy in the region. Valev’s research will follow Bulgaria’s decision to adopt the euro in an effort to understand how rapid the expansion of the eurozone — those EU countries that have adopted the euro as their currency — will be.

“Most of the EU-accession countries are still debating whether to push for rapid adoption of the euro or to wait. In fact, only two of the transition countries have made the switch: Slovenia and Slovakia,” he says. “How rapidly the euro zone will expand eastward is a vital question for Europe and for the U.S., as the EU is the strongest ally and most important trade partner of the U.S.”

The NCEEER grant will fund two national surveys — one of households and one of businesses — to investigate the level of knowledge about the adoption of the euro, the perceived risks and benefits, the preferences of various social groups and firms over alternative exchange rate regimes, and the role of the global financial crisis on these preferences. Business and government officials across different industries and government agencies will also be interviewed on these issues.

The outcome will be a mapping of the perceived implications of adopting the euro across the economy: who is in favor, who is against, and why.

Valev’s findings will have longer-term implications for the region. “Although the data used in the project is from Bulgaria, it will inform the deliberations of several countries in the region that are in similar situations,” he says.

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ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Transportation today initiated a solicitation for the first highway project to be delivered through its new Public Private Partnership (P3) program. The Department issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the West by Northwest Project, which includes two complementary managed lane project segments, the Northwest Corridor and Western Corridor segments. (Georgia Department of Transportation press release, February 26, 2010)

THE GEORGIA DOT’S P3 PROJECT will bring economic investment and jobs to metro Atlanta at a critical time, from mid-to-late 2011 through early 2015. But the question is, how much? To plan for the initiative, the DOT wanted to know how many jobs and what kind of economic impact its investment would have on both metro Atlanta and the state.

Focusing on the short-term economic impacts of the construction project on the Atlanta region and state economy, authors John Matthews, a senior research associate, and professors Theodore Poister and David Sjoquist, director of the Fiscal Research Center and Domestic Programs and the Dan E. Sweat Distinguished Chair in Educational and Community Policy, provide answers in the FRC Special Report, “The Economic Impact of the Northwest Corridor P3 Project.”

The study estimates the total construction cost of the Northwest Corridor segment at nearly $923 million, including labor, materials, equipment and professional services. Because these expenditures will cycle through Atlanta’s and Georgia’s economies several times over, the total economic impact estimated for Atlanta is $1.45 billion, rising to $1.52 billion for the state.

The project is also estimated to spur the creation of 9,705 private sector jobs in Georgia, with 95 percent of the jobs and economic activity occurring within the 10-county metro Atlanta area nearest to the road construction. “These include jobs directly created by construction and additional jobs created to satisfy increased demand for local goods and services,” they write.

The authors estimate $507 million in additional income generated in the Atlanta region and nearly $529 million generated in Georgia over the construction period. “This works out to an average annual income per job generated of about $55,300 in the metro area and almost $54,500 over the entire state,” they write.

Although the report does not estimate the economic impact of the Northwest Corridor once it opens, it mentions some of the ongoing economic benefits to the area served by the new, higher capacity highway facilities like travel time and cost savings, improved traffic safety, increased land values and other comparative advantages.

The GDOT offers this report as a download on the front page of its P3 website: www.dot.state.ga.us/informationcenter/p3/projects/WbyNW/Pages/default.aspx.
GHPC assembles the Health Reform Work Group

Experts across GSU collaborate to explain national health reform bill

The Affordable Care Act – the federal health reform bill signed into law in March – is frequently debated and often met with confusion. While many people have strong feelings about this reform, few understand it.

To help clear the air, the Georgia Health Policy Center formed a Health Reform Work Group to study and explain the law. The group is a collaboration of faculty and staff from Georgia State University’s Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, J. Mack Robinson College of Business, College of Law, and College of Health & Human Sciences.

“Our team has extensive expertise in many areas of health including economics, insurance, law, financing, public and private coverage, long-term care, public health and more,” says Karen Minyard, executive director of the GHPC. “We are combing through the law as well as other related documents and interpretations so that we can help people understand the impact of health reform.”

Carefully analyzing the details of the new law, work group members have created a series of policy briefs to explain the likely effects of the health reform law, with the understanding that as the law is written into rules, it will be further interpreted. They are analyzing the effects on various players, including employers, patients and providers, the health care community, and state and local policymakers.

Group member William Custer is an associate professor and director of the Center for Health Services Research.
in the Robinson College of Business’ Institute of Health Administration. “It is important for all of these groups to understand the framework of the law, identify their choices both now and in the future under the law, and keep abreast of the regulations that will determine how the law is implemented,” he said.

The policy briefs are sent to national and local associations, nonprofits, state government and other interested parties. The first brief, written in April, provides an overview of health care reform. Other topics have included implications for the state, community-based organizations, health care providers and employers.

Each brief reveals potential challenges and opportunities that may lie ahead. For example, the law states plans to implement innovations to health care such as health “exchanges” for insurance and other health services, “navigators” that communicate information and facilitate education, school loans that attract medical personnel to underserved states, and increased preventive care and disease prevention programs.

Proof that people find this type of information useful resides on the GHPC’s health reform web page, which has garnered record web traffic after each policy brief is released. States from Florida to Wisconsin to Colorado have requested the work group’s assistance in analyzing the law’s potential impact within their borders.

The Health Reform Work Group has made presentations before congressional staff at the National Health Policy Forum, the National Network of Public Health Institutes and chambers of commerce. It has presented webinars for national organizations and conducted one-on-one briefings with key constituents.

For more information on the work group and links to the policy brief series, go to http://aysps.gsu.edu/ghpc/3685.html.
From data to table

Research on school nutrition programs serves White House policy

ON APRIL 16 Associate Professor Rusty Tchernis was a discussant on the panel, Conducting School-based Research: Getting Data, Access and Cooperation, at the Economic Research Service (ERS)/U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conference: Incorporating Behavioral Economics into Federal Food and Nutrition Policy.

Tchernis has received $425,000 from the USDA for his research on childhood obesity. In April he was among several leading economists from the nation’s premier universities at the conference to present and discuss ERS-funded research projects designed to improve federal diet and health policies.

Other participants included policy experts from the USDA, the Office of Management and Budget, and Health and Human Services; federal agencies and offices that were members of the White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity. About a month later, this task force released its Report to the President: Solving the Problem of Childhood Obesity within a Generation with a chapter devoted to healthy food in schools.

Coincidence or not?

When Tchernis began to focus his attention on the economics of childhood obesity, his research quickly caught the attention of policymakers in this area. His latest article with co-authors Daniel L. Millimet and Muna Husain, “School Nutrition Programs and the Incidence of Childhood Obesity,” uses panel data on more than 13,500 primary school students to assess the relationship between student participation in federally sponsored breakfast and lunch programs and long-run weight measures.

More than 30 million children participate in school nutrition programs daily. This article assesses the relationship between participation in both the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and child weight using data collected after recent program reforms. The authors also analyze the process by which children select into the pro-
grams and assess the impact of self selection on the potential for weight gain.

“These programs are viewed by many as critical to combating childhood obesity,” says Tchernis, “yet empirical research on their causal impact did not exist.”

After documenting a positive association between school breakfast and lunch participation and child weight, Tchernis and his co-authors find evidence that the School Breakfast Program is a valuable tool in the battle against childhood obesity, while the National School Lunch Program may actually exacerbate it. The article was published in *The Journal of Human Resources* this summer.

After the paper had been written and accepted, the USDA funded an extension of the work with a $200,000 grant. “We will go deeper into the issue in the extended research,” says Tchernis, “looking for causal effects and the effects of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as food stamps) as well as school nutrition programs.”

USDA support is significant on several levels, he says. “Not only does the USDA fund this work, it also facilitates the exchange of ideas among researchers, policymakers and people who implement these policies.”

Tchernis feels that more policy research on childhood obesity is needed because, in response to the epidemic, policymakers have acted in a number of different directions, particularly within schools. “We hope people will use our research to re-evaluate the role school nutrition plays in the overall school day – where it fits when planning class time, curriculum and child health policies. Schools should rethink the importance of allocating more time and resources on their nutrition programs,” he says.

In mid-August, Tchernis learned that he would receive another USDA grant of $225,000 to support the project, “Dynamics of Childhood Obesity,” with Millimet. Their new research will examine how childhood weight gains affect future weight gains. “To what degree do past weight gains cause higher weights at adolescence, and at what age do these weight gains become ‘sticky’?”

**awards/honors/grants**

**ECONOMICS**

ROY BAHL was appointed to the board of directors of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

H. SPENCER BANZHAF received the Best Article award from the History of Economics Society for “Objective or Multi-objective? Two Historically Competing Visions for Benefit-Cost Analysis.” *Land Economics* 85(1), 1-23.

PAUL FERRARO was appointed to the editorial board of the journal *Conservation Biology*.

BRUCE KAUFMAN was appointed principal research fellow at the Work and Employment Centre, University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom.

ERDAL TEKIN was appointed co-editor of the journal *Journal of Population Economics*.

**PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND POLICY**

W. BARTLEY HILDRETH was appointed to the Finance Committee of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration.

Z. ESRA TANYILDIZ is working on a research project through GSU’s Center for Teaching and Learning supported with a $1,000 grant from the Provost’s Office.

BILL WAUGH served as an external reviewer for the MPA program at the University of Louisville and on the Board of Scientific Counselors Ad Hoc Working Group for the review of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s emergency operations center and Director’s Critical Information Report program.

continued on page 18
publications

ECONOMICS


SHIF GURMU, GRANT BLACK (Ph.D. in Economics ’01) and PAULA STEPHAN. (2010). The Knowledge Production Function for University Patenting. Economic Inquiry, 48(1), 192-213.


PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND POLICY


BILL WAUGH. (2010). Looking for the FEMA Guy, Mayor, Local Planning Guy, Governor, and Others. Administration & Society, 41(8), 1004-08.

RESEARCH CENTERS


presentations

ECONOMICS


RACHANA BHATT presented “A Non-Experimental Evaluation of Curricular Effectiveness in Math,” co-authored with Cory Koeidel (University of Missouri), at the American Education and Finance Association annual conference in Richmond, Va., in March. MARY BETH WALKER presented “High School Crime and Academic Outcomes,” co-authored with Mary McGarvey (U. of Nebraska at Lincoln), at the same conference.

JAMES COX organized a session and presented “Bosses and Kings: Asymmetric Power in Paired Common Pool and Public Good Games” for the Behavioral and Quantitative Game Theory Conference on Future Directions held in Newport Beach, Calif., in May. The conference was sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research.
SHELBY FROST spoke at The Economics and Mathematics of the Global Financial Crisis teacher workshop at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga in June.

PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

CYNTHIA SEARCY presented “Are Adolescent Eating and Exercise Behaviors at School Related to Weight?” at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management’s annual conference in Washington, D.C., in November 2009.

BILL KAHNWEILER presented “Human Resource Development’s Status as a Profession: Where Do We Go From Here?” at the Academy of Human Resource Development’s Annual International Conference in the Americas in Knoxville in February.

JANELLE KERLIN presented the keynote address, “Social Enterprise Trends in the United States and Japan in Comparison with Other World Regions,” at the 12th Annual Conference of the Japan NPO Research Association at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan, in March.

GHPC presents posters at AcademyHealth conference

Georgia Health Policy research associates and staff shared their latest research findings with more than 2,400 health policy experts at AcademyHealth’s 2010 Annual Research Meeting during morning and evening poster presentations.

The conference, held this year in Boston on June 27 and 28, draws health services researchers and providers, key decision makers, clinicians, graduate students and research analysts from around the world together to discuss health policy implications, sharpen research methods and network with colleagues.

Poster presentations are commonly used to present research results in a unique and inviting format — a hybrid published paper/oral presentation — that invites discussion. GHPC researchers and staff who participated include:

- **Holly Avey** presented “Redeveloping Closed Military Installations with a Health in All Policies Approach,” with **Karen Minyard, Naima Wong, Jane Branscomb, Heather Devlin** (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), and student **Karen Cheung** (Ph.D. in Public Policy)
- **Angie Snyder** presented “Geographic Disparities in Service Utilization by Medicaid and CHIP-eligible Children with Autism,” with **Mei Zhou** and **Daniel Crimmins** (GSU’s College of Health and Human Sciences)
- **Jim Marton** presented “SCHIP Premiums, Health Status and Price Elasticity” with **Snyder, Zhou, Patricia Ketsche and Kathleen Adams** (Emory University)
- **Marton** also presented “Does More Public Health Spending Buy Better Health Outcomes?” with **Chris Parker, Minyard, and Peggy Honore** (University of Southern Mississippi)
- **Rachel Ferencik** presented “Using Collaborative Modeling to Improve Birth Outcomes” co-authored with **Snyder, Minyard, Devlin, Chris Soderquist** (Pontifex Consulting) and B. Denise Raynor (Emory University)
- **Glenn M. Landers** presented “The Impact of Medicaid Peer Support Utilization on Cost” with **Zhou**
- **Landers** also presented “Current Status of State-Based Public Health Surveillance of Alzheimer’s Disease” with **Devin**
- **Mary Ann Phillips** presented “Leveraging Philanthropic Investment to Improve the Health Care Safety Net through Targeted Research Translation” with **Minyard**
- **Minyard** presented “A Theory Based Approach to Public Health Institute Effectiveness Assessment” with **Phillips, Wong and Branscomb**
A great deal of effort is made during our early years to teach young people in schools the importance of citizenship in the state and nation. Yet little attention is given to the relationship of these ideas with the local community.

"Newman’s book teaches students about their role as citizens in the community and what they need to know to be effective citizens of local governments. This is important, he writes, because ‘the activities of local government are the most important in determining the quality of a person’s life.’” – Kendall Hunt Publishing Company

"Atlanta’s experience over the past 15 to 20 years is reflective of many cities, particularly those in the South and West. Thus, the story of how and why Atlanta has changed is informative for cities in general. What accounts for the positive turn-around of the city of Atlanta? What can other cities learn from Atlanta’s experience?

"This collection examines changes in the city of Atlanta over the past three decades and explores the factors associated with the observed changes. Beginning with several essays that take a broad focus on the city’s demographics and the city’s economy, the contributions then focus on more specific aspects of urban development, such as the changing face of retailing; income and poverty; race and ethnicity; the arts; transportation; and housing and gentrification. Later chapters..."
Karen Minyard, executive director of the Georgia Health Policy Center, was invited to speak at a National Health Policy Forum “Focus on Reform” session in Washington, D.C., in July. The NHPF disseminates “timely and policy-relevant information” on health policy issues to congressional and federal agency staff.

The session Minyard addressed was titled “Health Care Safety Net-Related Provisions.”

“The health care professionals, who are willing to provide care to the uninsured and underserved, form a loosely knit, frayed and often torn group that is called the health care safety net. It consists of a mix of people and institutions… and its financing is equally varied… [constituting] a complex web of providers and financing mechanisms,” said Jessamy Taylor, a principal NHPF policy analyst and manager of the session.

Minyard addressed the evolving role of safety net providers and the challenges and opportunities faced by federal, state and community agencies in implementing the provisions of the Affordable Care Act. She discussed the importance of aligning the needs of the uninsured, safety net providers and financing sources; discussed grant opportunities; and named eight critical activities – affordable prescriptions, managing chronic diseases, access to specialty and hospital care, prevention and wellness coordination, enrollment into eligible programs, strategies to cover low-wage workers, culturally and linguistically competent medical homes, and a coordinated care continuum.

The Georgia Health Policy Center focuses on community and public health, long-term care, child health, health philanthropy, public and private health coverage, and the underinsured. Minyard has directed the center since 2001.
KIMBERLY BASS, the senior administrative coordinator for the Georgia Health Policy Center, joined the AYS from GSU’s University Housing department. She has earned bachelor’s degrees in history and African American Studies from Mercer University and is pursuing an M.P.A. with a concentration in nonprofit management from Troy University.

MICHAEL BELL, a professor of practice in the Department of Public Management and Policy, joined the AYS upon retiring as chief financial officer of DeKalb County, Ga., a position he also held for the City of Atlanta. In the early 1980s he was the financial administrator of Atlanta’s Aviation Department, and after that was a governmental/investment banker in the private sector, where he represented a senior underwriter on the first $1 billion of airport revenue bond debt issued for the Denver International Airport. Bell has served on the boards of several special purpose authorities and pension funds, publishes in the area of exempt facility private activity debt and has taught governmental finance. He earned a master’s and doctorate degree in public administration, with an emphasis on public finance, from the University of Georgia.

Alumna ALICIA BRADY (M.S. in Urban Policy Studies ’08) returns to AYS as director of development for the Dean’s Office. She came to the AYS from the East Lake Foundation, Atlanta, where she managed the Annual Fund Campaign and other fundraising activities. Brady has received the President’s Volunteer Service Award and the Andrew Young School’s William R. Gable Award. She graduated cum laude from GSU’s College of Arts and Sciences with a B.S. in Psychology.

MONTSERRAT FERRE, a visiting Fulbright Scholar, joined the International Studies Program in August to conduct research on the relationship between fiscal decentralization and the conduct of monetary and fiscal policy in a monetary union. An economics professor at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili in Catalonia, Spain, Ferre holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the London Business School at the University of London, a master’s degree in economics from the London School of Economics and a diploma in European studies from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium.

TERESA HARRISON, a visiting scholar in the Nonprofit Studies Program and economics department, is an associate professor at the LeBow College of Business at Drexel University, where she was twice awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award. An applied microeconomist, Harrison’s research at the AYS will focus on competition within the nonprofit sector and also between nonprofits and for-profits. She earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Texas and a B.A. from Agnes Scott College. Harrison received a dissertation fellowship from the Social Science Research Council’s Program on Philanthropy and the Nonprofit Sector and has interned at The Urban Institute’s Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy.

Visiting scholar VAHDET KAYA is a lecturer at Duzce University in Turkey and a Ph.D. student in the Department of Economics at Istanbul University. He holds an M.A. in International Trade from Istanbul Commerce University and a B.S. in Economics from Istanbul University. His dissertation topic is exchange rate volatility and international trade.

JESSE LECY is an assistant professor in the PMAP department. A research fellow with the Transnational NGO Initiative at Syracuse University, he has provided humanitarian relief in Kosovo and studied civil society in Latin America. Lecy’s research focuses on understanding how nonprofits compete for resources and the effects of competition on organizational survival and performance, and he has worked on empirical issues of poverty measurement and statistical modeling of community well-being. Lecy earned an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in the social sciences from Syracuse University’s Maxwell School, an M.S. in Public Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon, a B.A. in Peace Studies from the University of St. Thomas, Minn., and is completing an M.S. in Applied Statistics at Syracuse.

RICHARD LUGER, associate professor, holds a joint appointment in the Department of Economics and the Department of Risk Management and Insurance in GSU’s business college. His research interests cover topics related to econometric methodology, especially for the analysis of financial markets data. Prior to joining GSU, Luger was an assistant professor in the Department of Economics at Emory University and a research economist at the Bank of Canada. He has published articles in the Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Time Series Analysis, Computational Statistics and Data Analysis and Journal of Empirical
Finance. Luger earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Montreal, a master's degree in economics from McGill University and bachelor's degrees from Concordia University and the University of Montreal.

Professor ELISABET “LISA” RUTSTRÖM holds a joint appointment in the economics department and the J. Mack Robinson College of Business. She came to GSU from the University of Central Florida, where she directed ExLab, a National Science Foundation-funded online experimental research site, and was graduate director in the Department of Economics. Rutström’s research interests focus on decisions under risk and uncertainty. She has published experimental research on public goods and externalities, learning and coordination, and hypothetical bias and valuation. She has also published applied policy research using Computable General Equilibrium models. Her research has also been funded by the Federal Highway Administration, the Danish Social Science Research Council and the Carlsberg Foundation. Rutström has published in journals such as Econometrica, American Economic Review, Games and Economic Behavior, the Economic Journal and the Journal of Environmental and Economic Management. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics and a Bachelor of Economics and Business Administration from the Stockholm School of Economics.

Media and technology specialist CORY WATSON is expert in web design and applications, strategic planning and marketing communications. Formerly a business manager and chief designer for an Atlanta print and graphic design company, Watson has worked or interned for World Vision U.S., the University of Georgia’s School of Social Work and the Wesley Foundation, and he co-founded the UGA student organization, Ignite UGA. Watson graduated magna cum laude from UGA’s Honors Program, where he earned a B.B.A. in Management and an M.A. in Nonprofit Organizations.

Visiting postdoc OLUFEMI OBEEMBE recently graduated from Obafemi Awolowo University in Ile-Ife, Nigeria. His Ph.D. focus on the economics of research and development supports his main research interest: industrial organization and business economics. Obembe’s research on corporate governance and firm performance has been published in Nigerian journals. While at the AYS this year, he will look more extensively on determinants of firm performance based on expanded database and current methodologies.

International Studies Program hosts world-class scholars

Visiting Professor JENNY LIGTHART, who joined the economics department for the summer, holds a chair in Macroeconomics in the Department of Economics of Tilburg University and is an honorary professor at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. She is also a senior research fellow at CentER, at Tilburg University, and CESifo, at the University of Munich, Germany. Formerly director of the Netherlands Network of Economics (NAKE), she has advised the International Monetary Fund’s Fiscal Affairs Department in Washington, D.C. Ligthart serves on an IMF panel of fiscal experts and consults for the Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research. Her research focuses on the macroeconomic repercussions of fiscal policy and the economic and welfare effects of policy instruments aimed at addressing tax evasion. She holds an M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Amsterdam and an M.Phil. in Economics from NAKE/Tinbergen Institute.

Visiting Scholar PETER VAN OUDHEUSDEN, also joined the economics department this summer. Working towards a Ph.D. in Economics at Tilburg University, he holds an M.Phil. and an M.Sc. in Economics from Tilburg. Van Oudheusden is a teaching assistant of Comparative Economic Studies and a thesis supervisor at CentER. His research interests include macroeconomics, public economics and economic growth.

Visiting Fulbright Scholar MAGOMET BATCHAEV joined the AYS from September through March to conduct research on taxes and economic growth in developed economies, particularly in the United States, and its applicability to the Russian Federation. An associate professor of economics in the Department of Accounting, Analysis and Audit at Karachay-Cherkessian State University, Batchaev holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia, Moscow. His research interests focus on fiscal and monetary policy, rural finance and credit infrastructure.
“Why is Nonprofit Leadership Education Critical in These Times” was the theme of the fourth annual Executive Leadership Program for Nonprofit Organizations (ELPNO) training session in June. Presented by the AYS’s Nonprofit Studies Program and two new partners, The Fanning Institute at the University of Georgia and the Institute for Leadership and Entrepreneurship at the Georgia Institute of Technology, the program addressed strategic thinking, finance and resource development, governance and leadership.

“Nonprofit leaders have the wider social perspective, the longer term horizon for success, and the public and market accountability to be the conscience and the catalyst to address the problems we now face,” said Professor Dennis Young, director of the Nonprofit Studies Program, in remarks he gave at ELPNO’s opening reception.

“It remains for nonprofit leaders to refine their skills and gain the knowledge they need to do this as well as possible. You need to lift your sights, from simply learning the skills that will allow your organizations to survive, to addressing the larger vision – how will we as a society address the manifold, intensifying critical problems that face us? That, in my view, is the best justification of investment in nonprofit executive education.”

Twenty-seven current and aspiring nonprofit CEOs from fields that include health care, social services, the arts, and international work completed the week-long residential program. Young, who also holds the Bernard B. and Eugenia A. Ramsey Chair of Private Enterprise, called this ELPNO the best ever.

“We brought new faces in to teach and speak and incorporated a special feature on improvisational leadership led by actors from Dad’s Garage, an Atlanta theater group.

“Scholarship funding from new and continuing sources enabled executives from economically strapped nonprofits to attend at reasonable cost,” he continues. “All in all, the program received rave reviews from those who attended.”

Russell Willis Taylor, CEO of National Arts Strategies, was keynote speaker. Deon Locklin, director of the AYS Public Performance and Management Group, AYS Advisory Board member of Private Enterprise, called this ELPNO the best ever.

Janet Johnson, AYS, adjusts badge for David Meyers, director of EMBRACE, a partner with the Fanning Institute

Left to right: Meyers, Paedia Mixon, executive director of Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta, and Michelle Krebs, community relations manager at Camp Twin Lakes, listen to Aware Thomas of the Georgia Citizens’ Coalition on Hunger
What causes people to engage in risky behaviors and what economic or social disincentives would discourage these types of behaviors? What are the implications of these behaviors for outcomes like employment and educational attainment, cognition and health?

Economists who have conducted research on risky behaviors presented and discussed their findings in 15 new papers addressing the economic causes and consequences of risky behaviors during the 2nd Annual Meeting on the Economics of Risky Behavior (AMERB) in March. Co-hosted by the Andrew Young School, DIW DC (German Institute for Economic Research) and IZA (Institute for the Study of Labor), the meeting was co-organized by Erdal Tekin, an associate professor at AYS, and Amelie Constant, executive director of DIW DC in Washington, D.C., and vice dean of the Graduate Center at DIW in Berlin, Germany.

Tekin and Constant had also organized the first AMERB conference held in Washington, D.C., in 2008. New experimental economics research presented at the conference shows that gender differences in risky behaviors may reflect social learning rather than inherent traits as suggested in previous studies. Another study revealed surprising findings about gender differences and the influence of alcohol consumption on adolescent sexual activity. Sessions focused on Risky Behaviors and Health; Smoking and Illicit Drug Use; Alcohol Consumption, Sexual Activity and Risky Behaviors; Risky Behaviors and Experimental Evidence; and Adolescents and Risky Behaviors.

“Behind our stuffy academic research titles lie answers to questions asked again and again in public health and public safety, by governments and courts, in schools and homes. The goal of our meeting is to improve policies and strategies aimed at reducing these behaviors,” says Tekin, who is also an IZA research fellow and a research associate for the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Plans are underway for the 3rd Annual AMERB Conference in Bonn, Germany, in April 2011. Find the call for papers at www.iza.org/conference_files/riskonomics2011.

The conference program and papers for the March conference are online at http://snipurl.com/139i25.
On the Go

JAMES C. COX (Economics) presented “Advances in Experimental Economics” at the Maison des Sciences Économiques, Centre d’Économie de la Sorbonne, Paris, in May. In June he presented “Is There a Plausible Theory for Decision under Risk? A Dual Calibration Analysis” at York University in Heslington, England; spoke on the topic, “Paradoxes and Mechanisms for Choice under Risk,” at the Denmark Conference on Risk and Time Preferences held at the Copenhagen Business School, Denmark; and was keynote speaker at FUR XIV: International Conference on Foundations and Applications of Utility, Risk and Decision Theory at St. James Park in Newcastle, England.

YOON JIK CHO (PMAP) was in Seoul, Korea, in June to present “Performance Management and Trust: U.S. Perspective” at the 2010 International Yonsei Public Administration Conference on Comparative Governance Studies.

JANELLE KERLIN (PMAP) presented “Comparative Social Enterprise and Historical Institutionalism: Towards a Conceptual Framework for Social Enterprise” at the 2010 Research Colloquium on Social Entrepreneurship held at the University of Oxford's business school in Oxford, United Kingdom, in June.


ANGIE SNYDER and NATALIE TOWNS (GHPC) have completed a needs assessment for the Georgia Department of Human Services on the domestic violence services in Georgia.

PAULA STEPHAN (Economics) made three presentations in Tokyo in March: “Economics of Science” at RIETI (Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry), “NIH Funding Strategy” at a seminar organized by Hitotsubashi University, Japan Bio-industry Association, Japan Pharmaceutical Industry Association and NEDO (an industrial research funding agency), and “U.S. Mechanism of Research Staffing and Funding” at a workshop organized by Hitotsubashi University, National Institute of Science and Technology Policy of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the National Science Foundation.

ERDAL TEKIN (Economics) was a visiting professor at Australian National University in March and April, and gave lectures at ANU, Deakin University and Griffith University.

SALLY WALLACE (Economics) presented a series of lectures at the African Tax Institute, University of Pretoria, South Africa, in March.

BILL WAUGH (PMAP) participated in an April meeting of the Emergency Management Accreditation Program Commission during which three state emergency management programs were accredited. He also participated on two panels, “The State of Emergency Management 2010: A Guided Discussion with the ASPA Katrina Task Force” and “Haiti’s Recovery: Getting Beyond the Challenges to Achieve Positive Outcomes,” as well as the annual Public Administration Review editorial board meeting during the 2010 National Conference of the American Society for Public Administration in San Jose in April.

Professor BRUCE KAUFMAN traveled to Beijing in June to present “Institutional Economics and the Minimum Wage” seminars at the Central University of Finance and Economics and Renmin University. While there he met with three Andrew Young School alumni who work at the universities. Kaufman (left) is shown with alumnus Baoyun Qiao (Ph.D. in Economics ’01), dean of the economics and finance department at Central University. Shown left is Kaufman with Xinye Zheng (Ph.D. in Economics ’06) and his wife, Li Zhang (Ph.D. in Economics ’05), both economics professors: Zheng at Renmin University and Zhang at Central University.
Fiscal policy for 1.3 billion citizens

An expert on China’s fiscal reform, Bahl lectures at Peking University

Regents Professor Roy Bahl, founding dean of the Andrew Young School, was in Beijing, China, in July to present a series of lectures on tax policy and tax assignment. There at the invitation of Peking University, he lectured to senior officials from the Chinese State Administration of Taxation (SAT) – China’s national tax body – and faculty from several universities.

“China’s national government is in the process of deciding whether to give significant taxing powers to its state and provincial governments,” says Bahl. “They are looking at fiscal policy issues and working to better understand international practices, evaluating the pros and cons of decentralization.”

Bahl is lauded as an expert on China’s tax reform. His seminal text, Fiscal Policy in China, Taxation and Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations (University of Michigan/ The 1990 Institute, 1999), is connected to several of China’s recent taxation decisions according to Norton Wheeler, an historian for the 1990 Institute.

“The Institute’s publication of the book … was important to American scholars of China’s economic reforms. Its significance soon expanded far beyond that, though. Xu [Shanda, then deputy director of SAT] thought highly enough of Bahl’s book that he sought permission to re-publish the book in Chinese translation and distribute it to SAT branches throughout China,” wrote Wheeler in a 1990 Institute newsletter: (September 2010)

“In several respects, policy developments in China have been consistent with recommendations Bahl made.”

During his visit, Bahl held a reunion dinner with several AYS alumni including Baoyun Qiao, (Ph.D. in Economics ’01), dean and professor of Economics at the China Academy of Public Finance and Policy, Central University of Finance and Economics.

China was not the only stop this season for the peripatetic Bahl, whose fiscal policy expertise is sought by governments around the globe. Other lectures scheduled through October have taken him to South Africa, Jordan, Colombia, Argentina and Taiwan.
SPENCER T. BRIEN (Ph.D. in Public Policy) was awarded the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy’s Dissertation Fellowship for his dissertation proposal: “Three Essays on the Formation and Finance of Local Governments.”

JAKE HERSKO (M.P.A.) who is preparing for a career in public finance, was awarded several major scholarships during the spring semester: the Government Finance Officers Association’s 2010 Daniel B. Goldberg Scholarship ($10,000); Georgia City-County Management Association’s 2010 Harold F. Holtz, Jr., Master of Public Administration Scholarship ($1,500); 2010 Atlanta Chapter Association of Government Accountants ($1,000); and the Andrew Young School’s 2010 Rick Anderson Scholarship ($500). Hersko, who is also a GSU 2010-2011 Urban Fellow, is an intern in the City of Roswell’s Finance Department.

AS A SIXTH GRADER in a Seattle public school, Jonathan Miller came face-to-face with activism and grassroots politics. He won a school essay contest, earning him a chance to cover 1999’s World Trade Organization conference in Seattle as a student correspondent.

When riots broke out downtown, he ended up having to watch the events unfold from his living room television instead of in the streets. But the experience led him to study policy-making and government.

“It was an awakening,” says Miller, an MPA student and this year’s recipient of the prestigious Dan Sweat Fellowship. “I was impacted by the passion and politics on the streets of my city. What I saw elevated my interest.”

Recently a research intern for KDH Research & Communication, a private public affairs research firm, Miller worked on evaluation projects that examined the organizational effectiveness of community-based health organizations, drugged driving and issues surrounding nonprofit executive compensation. He is now working on a project for The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta.

He received a scholarship from the Georgia Fiscal Management Council in August.

“I wrote an essay about my interest in economic development and how being able to leverage government and private dollars is integral to creating jobs and wealth,” he says. “The Georgia FMC awarded me the scholarship!”

Before joining KDH, Miller was an intern in the office of Gov. Sonny Perdue, where he worked with policy advisors on transportation and the economy. He also did a student consulting project with the Atlanta BeltLine, recommending strategies for future commercial growth and economic development.

“Atlantans need to start thinking about public transportation and thinking about how they will be able to integrate it into their lives,” he says. “It really isn’t a culture that has caught on like in D.C. or in European cities.”

In the future, Miller hopes to work in economic development. He is also keeping an eye toward holding a position in a public office. “It’s my most personal and truest goal,” he says.

—Sections of story excerpted from GSU Profile at www.gsu.edu/40857.html
Patrick Larson’s internship gave him a front row seat at national hearings that put chief executives of some of the world’s largest financial institutions in the hot seat. However, the hearings he witnessed were in London, not Washington, D.C., and the interrogators were members of Parliament and the House of Lords.

Larson, a spring 2010 MPA graduate, spent his final AYS semester as an intern at the U.S. Embassy in London. Assigned to the embassy’s Department of Economic Affairs, Larson says his position was largely a reporting job.

“I attended a lot of events dealing with economic issues of interest to the U.S. and United Kingdom, and would return and write summaries and reports for Washington and other U.S. embassies,” he says. He wrote “dailies,” or short summaries of events that were rolled into a London Daily Report, and “cables,” which were longer, more detailed reports about key legislation issues.

“I wasn’t there to go for coffee or wait in hallways for someone important,” says Larson. “The State Department let us choose the events that interested us.”

An earlier internship had put Larson in the Georgia Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget. In London he chose to report on a Parliamentary committee’s inquiry into whether financial institutions that had ties to the U.K. were too large to fail.

“I attended hearings where CEOs from these companies would have to come in and answer questions from Parliament’s Treasury Select Committee about their business in the U.K. and how they manage crisis. Parliament was trying to figure out what went wrong and what they could do to prevent the financial crisis from happening again,” he says. His cable was distributed to Washington and around the world, informing members of the State Department of Parliament’s actions and the results of their research.

“The internship provided Patrick a valuable opportunity to gain practical experience in the Foreign Service and a chance to learn many new and important skills in a fast-paced and demanding environment,” says Professor Harvey Newman, chair of the Department of Public Management and Policy.

Upon graduating, Larson became an intern for the Thomaston city manager’s office in west central Georgia. His long-term goal, however, is a career in the U.S. Department of State. His next step in that direction was the Foreign Service exam he took on June 8.

“The internship gave me the opportunity to experience the life of a Foreign Service officer and understand the challenges they face. I knew that this was the career I wanted to pursue, and the experience in London has made me much more confident that it is what I should be doing,” he says. “The internship gives me an advantage on my resume that other applicants may not have.”
National nonprofit taps NextGen Leaders at AYS

Congratulations to the GSU students who have been named Next Generation Nonprofit Leaders (NextGen) by American Humanics (AH) this year.

The program provides those who are named NextGen Leaders $4,500 scholarships and career coaches to help them complete AH certification. They will participate in 300-plus hour internships, a voluntary program evaluation and a multi-year longitudinal research study looking at the positive effects of providing competitive internship stipends on recruiting and retaining skilled entry-level professionals for the nonprofit sector. NextGen is underwritten with a generous grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Students selected as Fall/Winter 2010/2011 interns, followed by their degree programs and internships, all in Atlanta-based organizations, are:

• ROSHONDA CARTER, M.P.A., The Atlanta Women’s Foundation

GSU names Lamothe a McNair Scholar

Ludmia Lamothe (Public Policy/Accounting) was selected in March by Georgia State University to participate in the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, this program prepares promising undergraduates for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities throughout the year.

McNair scholars attend monthly workshops and seminars during the academic year. Each participant is supervised by a GSU professor through an eight-week summer research internship, during which they write papers for presentation.

Lamothe presented her paper, “Following the Money: Tracking Changes in the Local Government CFO Role,” in a colloquium with other McNair scholars the first week of August. Her work includes a survey of chief financial officers in Georgia governments.

“I’ve been interested in government budgets for awhile,” says Lamothe. “The gap in the news versus the literature does not properly represent the CFO.”

“Ludmia is in our public management and governance track, which has captured the imagination of many of our students,” says PMAP professor Greg Streib, Lamothe’s supervisor. “Her research on the role the CFO plays is important these days. Everybody is interested in this area.”

Lamothe hopes to continue her studies at Harvard University, where she plans to pursue an M.P.A. in International Development and a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government, and possibly a Peace Corps assignment. Her career goal is the World Bank or a similar organization.

www.andrewnoyschool.org
January found recent MPA graduate Melissa Trussell traveling to Saclepea, Liberia, with the West Africa Crossroads Corporation (WACC), a nonprofit faith-based organization. WACC’s mission is to develop self-sustaining resource facilities designed to help strengthen the economic, educational, physical and spiritual welfare of select communities in West Africa.

Trussell joined a five-member WACC team that spent nine weeks meeting with Saclepeans who worked in schools, businesses, churches and medical clinics. “We used the four pillars of WACC’s mission as guiding lines,” she says. “My team’s task was to get to know the people and their resources and determine the area’s greatest strengths and needs for WACC to be a better resource to them.”

The visit led WACC to provide funding and advice to a district-run teacher training program. “We reported that teachers want to teach better and students want to learn, so WACC is providing funding to make the training possible,” says Trussell, whose MPA specialization was in planning and economic development. She has entered the Ph.D. in Economics program at the AYS.

After nine weeks of interviews, Trussell reported on the weaknesses that WACC hopes to empower this community to change and the strengths it will support. “The biggest issue that we will deal with is the breakdown of the family structure, evident in the high rates of teen pregnancy, the economic subservience of women, inadequate education, gender-based violence and related issues,” she says.

“At the same time, the community’s spiritual side is its strongest asset. Pastors in the area are concerned about the issues and are working to address them.”

Trussell’s experience in Africa brought to life many lessons she had learned in the classroom. “We were taught that economic development is about working with people and systems that are already in place, and not about ‘knowing everything’ and moving in and making it happen,” she says.
FUNDED BY A GRANT from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the initiative is designed to encourage undergraduates to pursue advanced degrees in economics and policy studies.

During their stay in Atlanta, the 10 “Summer Policy Interns” in the program conducted research with faculty mentors, attended seminars and mixers, and visited policy institutions. Each gave a final presentation of his or her research project, which this year covered topics such as discrimination in urban housing markets, fiscal decentralization in ethnically diverse countries, retiree health benefits for older workers, and obesity reduction among first-year university students.

“Research shows that the program works,” says James Marton, an associate professor of economics and director of the program. “Many of our former interns have continued their educations in leading graduate programs around the country.”

In fact, a recent survey of the school’s 90 NSF-funded summer policy interns from 2002 to 2010 makes this case. Among the 78 percent of interns who responded, 59 percent were currently attending or had completed a graduate program, 32 percent planned to continue their education after completing college or sometime in the future, and nine percent had no plans to pursue a graduate degree.

Former AYS summer interns are enrolled in or have graduated from Duke, Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Oxford, Northwestern, University of Chicago, New York University, Georgetown, Boston College, Johns Hopkins, Minnesota, Michigan, Michigan State, University of Texas, Ohio State, American University, Virginia, and Maryland.

Go to http://aysps.gsu.edu/econ/1639.html to access all research papers from 2005 through 2010 and information on next year’s program.

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<tr>
<th>Summer Policy Intern</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>AYS Faculty Mentor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kendall Bryant</td>
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<td>Jim Marton</td>
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<td>Naomi Klein</td>
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<td>Lauren Fenner</td>
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<td>Michelle Syverson</td>
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<td>Elena Froelich</td>
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“It is a pleasure to speak to this graduating class. There is no finer program than the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies,” the Honorable Lisa M. Borders told the members of Georgia State University’s spring 2010 graduating class who attended the Andrew Young School’s inaugural Graduate Recognition Program on May 13.

“You are part of the youngest and brightest demographic in the United States, here in Atlanta, Georgia. Now you must act on what you have learned in your books. It’s on you, as the kids say,” she told them. Borders is president of the Grady Health Foundation and former president of the Atlanta City Council.

Families and friends packed the auditorium, cheering the Andrew Young School Ph.D., master’s degree and bachelor’s degree candidates present for the event. Total graduates from the Andrew Young School numbered 145 last semester.

James Marton, associate professor of economics, conducted the call to order; students and faculty entered to “Pomp and Circumstance” and Associate Dean Robert Moore welcomed the students and their families. The hooding and recognition were conducted by faculty members Marton, Moore, Spencer Banzhaf, Cynthia Searcy and department chairs Mary Beth Walker (Economics, now dean) and Harvey Newman (Public Management and Policy).

William “Joey” Smith, an assistant professor of economics at the University of West Georgia and Andrew Young School alumnus, gave the alumni address. The ceremony closed with a reception in the Student Center lobby.

“Never forget from whence you came,” said Smith. “You and Georgia State are now linked for life. Every good thing you do will reflect on the university and every good thing the university does will increase the value of your degree.”

To view the program and photos from this event, go to http://aysps.gsu.edu/5216.html. The photos can be downloaded.
The Andrew Young School of Policy Studies held its 14th Annual Honors Day Ceremony on April 21. Students Denvil R. Duncan (right), Ph.D. in Economics, and Mari B. McCoy (this page, bottom right), B.S. in Public Policy, were the invited speakers.
Rhonda Belser-Davis

Rhonda Belser-Davis (M.P.A. ‘08) is a Presidential Management Fellow with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, where she has worked the last two years. Rhonda says she always enjoys hearing from AYS students and graduates. rhondabelser@gmail.com

Gordon Kenna

Gordon Kenna (B.S. in Urban Government and Administration ’82) is the CEO of Georgians for Passenger Rail, which has worked closely with Professor David Sjoquist on oversight and management of an economic feasibility analysis for the proposed Macon-Atlanta line. GSU Provost Risa Palm sits on profit’s first chief operating officer, Halicki previously worked as a senior associate with an Atlanta public affairs firm and in several environmental organizations. Nonprofit management was his MPA concentration. mhalicki@southface.org

Sarah Jacobson

Sarah Jacobson (Ph.D. in Economics ’10) joined Williams College in Williamstown, Mass., this fall as an assistant professor of economics. Sarah.A.Jacobson@williams.edu

Candice Duggan

Candice Duggan (B.S. in Public Policy ’09) is a development officer at Habitat for Humanity’s headquarters in Atlanta. cdduggan@gmail.com

Michael Halicki

Michael Halicki (M.P.A. ’09) joined Southface Energy Institute in August. Chosen to serve as the Atlanta nonprofit’s first chief operating officer, Halicki previously worked as a senior associate with an Atlanta public affairs firm and in several environmental organizations. Nonprofit management was his MPA concentration. mhalicki@southface.org

Rhonda Belser-Davis

Rhonda Belser-Davis (M.P.A. ’08) is a Presidential Management Fellow with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, where she has worked the last two years. Rhonda says she always enjoys hearing from AYS students and graduates. rhondabelser@gmail.com

Kwaw Andam (M.A. in Economics ’06; Ph.D. in Economics ’08) was selected this year to join the World Bank’s prestigious Young Professionals Program. Competition for the program is fierce; the World Bank chooses up to 40 people annually from an applicant pool that can go as high as 15,000, with most exceeding the minimum requirements according to the World Bank.

The program is designed for “highly qualified, experienced and motivated individuals skilled in areas relevant to the World Bank’s operations such as economics, finance, education, public health, social sciences, engineering, urban planning and natural resource management,” as stated on the World Bank’s website. Candidates must have leadership potential, at least three years of relevant policy-level experience or study at the doctoral level, and a demonstrated commitment to development.

“Young Professionals is considered the elite way into a career at the World Bank,” says Andam’s advisor, Paul Ferraro, an associate professor of economics. “Right out of school, Kwaw secured a nice post-doc fellowship with the International Food Policy Research Institute, a member of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, an alliance of international centers that mobilizes science to benefit the poor.”

Ferraro and Andam have had two papers recently accepted for publishing by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, one of the top scientific journals in the world. Andam has also received several awards, including The Carolyn McClain Young Leadership Fund Award given by the AYS to future leaders from countries with emerging economies.

Andam joins AYS alumni Pablo Saavedra (M.A. ’01; Ph.D. ’09) and Abdu Muwonge (M.A. ’04; Ph.D. ’07) as the third Andrew Young School alumnus to join the World Bank Young Professionals.

“‘It’s a very prestigious program,” says Ferraro. “To have three alumni selected in the last five years is quite an accomplishment for Georgia State University.”

Kwaw Andam (right) and a district agricultural officer (left) survey farmers in Kisumu, Kenya, in June 2009 to evaluate the effectiveness of providing discount vouchers for maize seed.
Diligence and duty

**ALUMNUS DIRECTS USAID IN LEBANON**

GSU alumnus Jim Barnhart (Ph.D. in Economics ’04) was named the U.S. Agency for International Development’s (USAID) new mission director for Lebanon earlier this fall. He oversees an annual budget of $109 million and a staff of approximately 25 managing USAID programs designed to help the country strengthen its democratic institutions, promote economic growth, improve education and health services, and support water and environment programs.

Before traveling to Beirut with his family, Barnhart was USAID’s associate mission director for economic growth and education in Pakistan. He has focused his career on addressing economic and social issues in the Middle East, first in nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and later with the USAID.

“I feel like I’m living the dream,” said Barnhart in a phone interview from the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. “I am doing the job I always felt I should be doing. I feel very fortunate. Working in Beirut and managing foreign assistance for USAID is about as interesting and challenging and engaging as I can possibly imagine.”

Barnhart entered the program, finished his coursework early and joined the USAID. “Then I began my three-year odyssey trying to finish the final bit. Bruce Seaman, my dissertation advisor, was the central driving force in getting me to finish my dissertation,” he said.

“Jim was interested in real-world problems,” says Seaman, an associate professor of economics. “I remember discussions with him. There are some occupations where an economics Ph.D. is indispensable; the demands of his job required this credential.”

While at AYS, Barnhart worked with Regents Professor Bahl on a project examining the relocation incentives that governments provide private businesses. They found that businesses make decisions on a much broader scale than incentives would imply.

“I’ve used a lot of this knowledge in my work with USAID,” he said. “At the moment we are engaged in trying to provide solid economic reasons for the government of Lebanon to liberalize a number of different sectors – telecommunications, utilities, etc. The basic economic principles that I picked up at GSU, I use every day to help bolster that argument.”

“Jim was enthusiastic about his work here,” says Seaman. “The bureaucracy can be difficult to navigate, but Jim, he’s the type of diligent, stick-to-it person who can be effective. I’m thrilled – and not surprised – to hear where he is now.”
Alicia Philipp is president of The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, one of the largest and fastest-growing philanthropic service organizations in the nation. Also an alumna and long-time friend of Georgia State University, Philipp knows the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies inside, outside and upside down.

In fact, she chaired the advisory board for GSU’s school of urban policy studies during the formation of the policy school – later named the Andrew Young School – in 1996.

Her continued involvement as an annual lecturer for the Department of Public Management and Policy’s Policy Leadership course, frequent advisor to the Nonprofit Studies Program and AYS Advisory Board member illustrates her commitment to public service and the school.

It also gives her something back.

“I love coming to the Andrew Young School and teaching leadership,” says Philipp. “It is the highlight of my year.”

With assets of more than $651 million in approximately 650 funds, The Community Foundation provides support and guidance to thousands of nonprofit and faith-based organizations within a 23-county Atlanta region. In 2009 it distributed an estimated $142 million in grants, a record total.

“We have found that the strongest nonprofits work to advance policy. They not only do good work, they work to change the system,” she says. As an example, Philipp points to the Metropolitan Atlanta Youth Opportunities Initiative, through which youth in foster care have improved policies within the system that helps them transition into adulthood.

“Public will and policy fit with who we are and how we see nonprofits engaging in the community. Anyone in this field will do well to understand how nonprofits operate in the public policy environment.

“The Andrew Young School gives students the tools, the big picture and the awareness of what levers can be pushed to make change – how to make things happen. We need people who have these skills everywhere in the public, nonprofit and business sectors. Their knowledge is necessary to creating policies that are good for people,” she says.