

The Briefing

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W.J. Usery, Jr.

...We need a place for people to address workforce issues, a prestigious place they can go to and say, 'that's the place to go to talk to experts who are trying to find solutions'...

BILL USERY, JR.

W.J. USERY, JR., IS NAMED Distinguished Executive Fellow

The Andrew Young School has named former United States Secretary of Labor W.J. "Bill" Usery, Jr. a Distinguished Executive Fellow in Labor Policy. In addition, GSU has established a new chair, the W.J. Usery Professor of Labor Policy. Usery, a native of Hardwick, Georgia and president of Bill Usery Associates, Inc., is a national expert on workplace issues.

Usery's contributions to the American workplace span the last five decades. He counts five presidential appointments, including Secretary of Labor under President Gerald Ford and Assistant Secretary of Labor under President Richard Nixon. Under presidents Kennedy and Johnson he represented the industrial union at the Kennedy and Marshall space flight centers. After directing the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, he opened a consulting company in 1977. Usery was retained by a new GM/Toyota joint venture to negotiate a major workforce agreement that was the first of its kind. President Bill Clinton appointed Usery special mediator during the Major League Baseball dispute of 1994-95.

In his new role, Usery supports workplace-related research and activities in GSU's different colleges, forging new linkages among the university community. AYSPS faculty now have access to resources and contacts at the W.J. Usery Center for the Workplace for research that addresses workforce policy. The new Usery Lecture Series will invite notable speakers to campus.

AYSPS ESTABLISHES

american workplace CHAIR

The programs of the new labor policy chair will encompass a broad range of contemporary workplace and workforce issues. "We're interested in the effects of migration on the workplace, offshore placement of jobs, healthcare costs as an impediment to the growth of the labor force, workforce development issues and women in the workforce," says Dean Roy Bahl. "We will fill the chair with a senior scholar who embraces one or more of these areas of research."

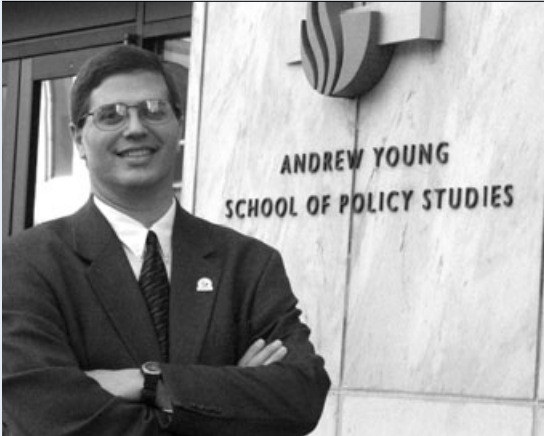
"The greatest asset a company has is its people," says Usery, who is concerned about today's workplace. "We will use the resources and contacts available to us through this chair to design workplace policies that will go well into the next century in America."

Usery says his greatest hope is that the new chair will successfully bring all people in the workplace together to solve issues. "We need people who – without bias – will look at the problems facing us in the workplace and will work to build consensus in addressing them. This work cuts across all areas: law, education, health, public

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INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

signals a thriving policy school



One of the challenges of being part of a thriving institution is learning to be comfortable with the dynamics of growth and change. Although this process exists to some degree in any growing institution, there is a natural tendency to resist change.

Both growth and change figure heavily in the current life of the Andrew Young School. We experienced it most significantly with our move last summer from various locations around the campus to the new Andrew Young School building. We experience it with the improvement in our students, programs and rankings. We experience it with all the new faces amongst our faculty and staff.

In 2004 we added Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta President and CEO Jack Guynn to our advisory board. In early 2005 we added four exciting new members who will be announced in our next issue.

We are in the midst of a faculty recruiting season where we will fill up to nine positions: five in Economics and four in Public Administration and Urban Studies. Three of these positions are endowed chairs in experimental and environmental economics, labor economics and human resource policy, and nonprofit sector studies. All will enhance the strengths of our faculty and program offerings.

Topping this growth, we have begun reviewing applications and selecting the incoming class of graduate students for the fall 2005 semester.

While we welcome new faculty, we also recognize the departure of several faculty members and staff. We are grateful for their contributions to the growth and development of the school and to the foundations they have laid for our future growth.

Verna Willis, a beloved, now retired, human resource development faculty member is profiled in this issue. Professors Ron Cummings and Paula Stephan have retired from full-time employment, but both have graciously agreed to continue working with the school part-time. They will be profiled in the next issue. We mourn the untimely loss of Claudia Lacson, the rural health systems developer for GHPC.

Growth and change, though sometimes bittersweet, signal the vitality and richness of our school and its programs. We invite you to note the growth benchmarks we will continue to report while our school matures as one of the nation's leading policy schools.

Robert E. Moore
Associate Dean

Winter 2005

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STEPHAN CONTRIBUTES TO

Noted labor economist Paula Stephan, professor of economics, was asked this year to serve on the study panels of two influential research and policy organizations. In July she began to work on a panel for the National Academies of Science Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy called together to study the Policy Implications of International Students and Postdoctoral Scholars in the United States. It is the fifth NAS committee she has served on.

She was asked to join the European Commission High Level Expert Group on Maximizing the Wider Benefits of Competitive Basic Research Funding at the European Level. In recent years, Stephan has served on several National Science Foundation Advisory Committees and several National Research Council committees, and has participated in the National Bureau of Economic Research Science and Engineering Workforce Project.

"Both the EC and the NAS have a tradition of bringing expert committees together to study issues of policy concern," says Stephan, who is recognized for her expertise regarding the scientific and engineering workforce in the United States and how it is funded. "The groups take a body of research and write a policy report that will get a lot of play in its relevant community. The committees are composed of scientists and engineers, as well as individuals like myself, who study the functioning of the science and engineering enterprise."

"There are a lot of stakeholders who are terribly interested in these issues," she says.

Stephan says her participation also enhances her teaching. "It is wonderful to interact with experts from around the world in all areas – industry as well as academic. It helps me bring interesting perspectives back to the classroom as well as to my own research."

prestigious panels

"The committees are composed of scientists and engineers, as well as individuals like myself, who study the functioning of the science and engineering enterprise."

PAULA STEPHAN



Paula Stephan

The NAS panel is taking a broad look at the impact of foreign graduate and Ph.D. students in U.S. schools. Stephan is one of 16 science and policy experts on the NAS panel that will write a report to help guide national policy. The goal is to find ways to recruit the best domestic and international talent, assuring that all top students interested in science and engineering are encouraged to pursue these careers. The panel's findings will be distributed in April 2005.

Stephan's research interests include the process by which knowledge moves across institutional boundaries. She investigates technology transfer and the contributions of immigrant scientists to the U.S. Her articles have been published in *Science*, *The American Economic Review* and other prestigious publications, and she is quoted extensively, most recently in a story published in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, "Is There a Science Crisis? Maybe Not" (July 9, 2004).

ATLANTA TOPS IN EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH

AYSPS economics faculty

Susan Laury, Ragan Petrie and Paul Ferraro brought a dozen Atlanta-based experimental economics and related behavioral researchers together for a "get-to-know-you" seminar at the new Andrew Young School headquarters in October. This event was the first of an annual series of meetings that will help build a "brand" image of Atlanta as a hotbed of experimental activity.

"Our idea," says Ferraro, "was to bring our local research community together to benefit from the critical mass of experimental research that is being conducted at GSU, Emory, Georgia Tech, Kenesaw State and other local colleges and universities. There is a lot of this work going on in Atlanta, and we all benefit from knowing more about each other's research.

"Georgia State has one of the only experimental programs in a policy school in the world," he continues. "The number of our faculty members working on experiments is unmatched among such schools. GSU also has the best lab in the South and one of the best in the nation, as well as a diverse subject pool sought by experimental researchers."

Ferraro, Laury and Petrie have found the Atlanta experimental community eager to hook up with others doing this kind of work. The group has planned another gathering next summer. "Together we are uniquely positioned to broaden the base of knowledge of 'behavioral economics,'" says Ferraro. "We expect that through this joint effort we can raise the reputation of Atlanta's strengths in experimental economics to join those of Los Angeles and the Boston/Cambridge area as hotbeds for this activity."

WELCOME TO 14 MARIETTA STREET,

New building at Five Points brings AYSPS together

HISTORY

The Fourth National Bank opened this building on the corner of Marietta and Peachtree streets in the early 1900s. Several floors were added in 1928. In 1966 the bank built a 41-story tower adjacent to its home, reducing the height of the original building by half and resurfacing it in the white marble that covers it today. Architect: Cecil A. Alexander



Basement safe deposit boxes



Original facade



Fourth National Bank Building



“Graduate students often gather in the Cyber Student Lounge at lunchtime, holding lively conversations on global topics.”

Project coordinators Cynthia Pembroke and Paula Stephan check construction progress.

“Faculty and research associates who before had been in different buildings started collaborating in new ways — from the very first day!”



OUR NEW HOME



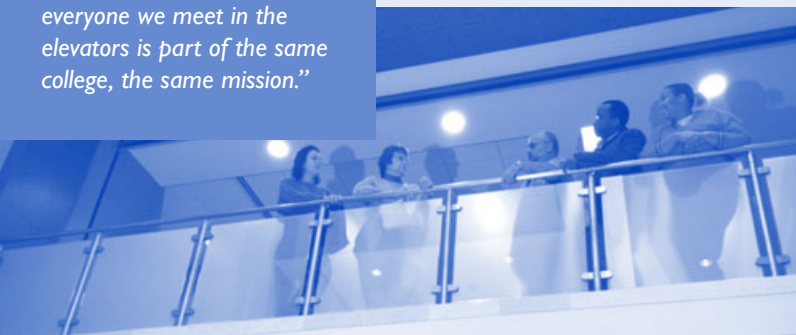
“The seminar space on the 7th floor has changed the feel of our seminars: no more worries that you can’t see – or hear – the presenter!”



“The open-access computer labs are used by students night and day.”



“It feels so good to know that everyone we meet in the elevators is part of the same college, the same mission.”



NOTABLE SPEAKERS ENRICH THE AYSPS EXPERIENCE

In any given week, particularly on Friday, it is not unusual to find a seminar room full of students, faculty and often other visitors listening to an outstanding visiting scholar, government or business leader invited to campus through one of several seminar series. The departments and centers at AYSPS are currently conducting several distinct series, helping to expand knowledge in areas as specialized as econometrics or environmental and experimental economics, or as broad as health and education policy.

“Our guest speakers deliver expertise and insights in subject areas that complement our curriculum, adding great value to our



Dr. Ronald Ferguson

program,” says Associate Dean Robert Moore. “It makes a significant difference to our students and faculty that they receive so many opportunities to interact with leading policy experts and practitioners in their chosen academic field.”

Series hosted by the Andrew Young School include the Applied Econometrics Workshop, the Microeconomics Seminar Series, the Fiscal Research Center Seminar Series, the Environmental and Experimental Economic Seminar and the new Dan E. Sweat Lecture Series, all coordinated

by faculty in the Economics department. The International Studies Program runs the ISP Lecture Series, and the Georgia Health Policy Center hosts an annual Child Policy Speakers Series, which this year is sponsored by the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation.

FRC Director David Sjoquist says the school finds it desirable for faculty and graduate students to be exposed to the ideas and research of faculty from beyond AYSPS. “It is part of the intellectual life of the university,” he says. “The actual seminar is part of that, but informal discussions during the day with the visitor, who is normally an expert on a specific policy topic, are perhaps even more important.”

For the Sweat lectures, Sjoquist says the principal purpose is to expose students and the community to the research and ideas of an expert on some significant education or community policy issue. The inaugural speaker for this series was Dr. Ronald Ferguson, economist and senior research associate at Harvard University, whose topic was, “The Racial Gap in Education Outcomes: Confronting the Challenge.”

Speakers come to GSU from around the world. All seminars and lectures are free and open to the public.

More information is available online under “Seminar Series” at <http://aysps.gsu.edu/events/seminars.htm>. AYSPS also posts a monthly calendar at <http://aysps.gsu.edu/calendar/index.htm>.

ISP offers policy solutions, one country at a time

When governments of transitional or developing countries decide to update and improve their fiscal policy, their starting point is often the International Studies Program at AYSPS, where new projects are announced every month. Recent ISP announcements reflect the team's continued success at researching, analyzing and providing policy options that work.

6

INDIA PLANNING FISCAL REFORM

The Government of India and USAID have hired ISP's fiscal experts to aid the Indian Ministry of Finance in developing policy options for the government's program of state fiscal reforms. This project follows an earlier USAID India-sponsored fiscal assessment of state governments. Mark Rider, associate professor of economics, is principal investigator for both projects.

"Most states in India operate with an unacceptably high level of debt and high revenue deficits," says Rider. "India's central government is pursuing a program to help its states move their revenue deficits to zero, then to address their debt problem. Our job is to help them develop a useful set of options for reform."

Rider began working on this project as technical advisor to an Indian study tour that talked to federal and state government officials in the United States, Canada, Russia, Australia and Brazil. Rider says the tour was developed to give Indian officials the opportunity to learn how other federalist countries deal with fiscal issues such as state government finance, borrowing, intergovernmental transfer systems and value-added taxes.

The ISP team, which includes Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, director of ISP, and Dean Roy Bahl, will help India's finance ministry develop a white paper that outlines the options. In February, in-country fiscal experts led by the ministry will conduct a group review of the document with the objective of reaching consensus on the recommendations before they are presented to the Indian government for consideration.

SUCCESS IN SWAZILAND

Swaziland's Cabinet recently approved a system of intergovernmental fiscal transfers recommended in a study prepared by the ISP team for the Swazi Ministry of Finance in December 2003. This system is considered critical to implementing the country's 1996 Urban Government Policy. It will shift public funding from Swaziland's Central Government to popularly elected local councils, providing them the means to deliver local public services.

ISP's objective was to assist the government in establishing a system for allocating intergovernmental fiscal transfers in a predictable and timely manner. The study proposes improvements in the regulatory and budgetary framework for local governments, local financial management and accounting reforms, and a re-orientation of the coordinating role of the Department of Urban Government within the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

"The approved transfer system harmonizes recurrent grants into a single formula-based transfer and provides for the introduction of formula-based capital development grants," says ISP Senior Associate Jamie Boex, an assistant research professor of economics at the Andrew Young School who led the Swaziland study.



Many more ISP projects underway

The India and Swaziland projects are just two of several projects currently managed by the ISP team. A short list of current projects shows the magnitude of ISP's impact on fiscal policy in developing and transitional countries around the globe. In this semester alone,

- ISP held a training course in Modern Public Expenditure Management for high-level budget analysts from the Bureau of the Budget in Thailand. The two-week course was led by PAUS Professor Katherine Willoughby.
- ISP collaborated with the Southeast Asia division of the World Bank to provide three weeks of training in Budgeting and Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks for high-level officials from Bhutan.
- ISP continues to support the implementation of a formula-based grant system in Tanzania with funding from the Danish government (DANIDA). (See *The Briefing, Research 2004*.) Additionally,



Jamie Boex

the Government of Tanzania has awarded ISP a \$200,000 contract to study the country's overall framework of local government finance.

- ISP was given a task order from Development Alternatives Inc. under the Fiscal Reform in Support of Trade Liberalization worldwide project to provide research, training, assessments and technical assistance in all areas related to fiscal reform and to fiscal aspects of trade liberalization. ISP will specifically examine how fiscal policies and management interact with the issue of corruption.
 - In another task under this fiscal reform project, ISP is supporting the development of a research unit in the Vietnamese national assembly to assess the revenue impact of changes in trade and fiscal policies in Vietnam.
- Get more information on ISP's technical assistance projects, by country, online at <http://isp-aysps.gsu.edu/projects/index.html>.

FOCUS ON POLICY FOR THE DISABLED

THE PROGRAM FOR REHABILITATION LEADERSHIP continues to support the implementation of national policy that protects the rights of the disabled. In May it hosted the Region IV Independent Living Conference at the Renaissance Atlanta Downtown. The conference attracted more than 100 disability rights activists, state agency personnel and federal program specialists from eight states who work primarily in the areas of vocational rehabilitation and independent living services.

The conference included a reception honoring Lois Curtis and Elaine Wilson, whose legal battle prompted a landmark 1999 Supreme Court decision protecting residential rights for the disabled. Curtis and Wilson, disabled Georgians, challenged the state to provide services in their communities rather than at the state-run psychiatric facility. Professionals working their cases agreed that community-based supports would serve them best.

The Supreme Court decision, commonly referred to as the Olmstead Decision, among other guarantees reinforced the use of the American with Disabilities Act to help certain individuals move from institutions to communities. "States cannot use inadequate funding arguments to avoid community placements," reads a July 13, 1999, press release of the Arc of the United States, a national volunteer organization that monitors policies that impact the mentally disabled and their families.

Deon Locklin, director of PRL at the Andrew Young School says that conference participants appreciated the opportunity to recognize these national heroes for their important contribution to the disability rights movement. "The Olmstead Decision triggered national public policy change," she says. "All states are now required to develop a plan for compliance, each outlining how they will support community integration of individuals with disabilities."

The conference offered training, workshops and general sessions relating to the independent living movement, including capacity-building, planning, service delivery, and funding strategies and opportunities. Other areas included legislative information and involvement, and tools for information tracking and reporting.

While PRL continues to focus on matters of national disability policy, it also serves as the southeast region's premier provider of training and education for organizations that serve and support individuals with disabilities.

This summer, the United States Department of Education announced it had awarded PRL a \$750,000 grant to create an RSA (Rehabilitation Services Administration) Scholars Program. The grant enables PRL to provide academic scholarships to a dozen students who are pursuing a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling at GSU during each of the next five years. This project, a collaborative effort with GSU's Department of Counseling and Psychological Services, will be administered through AYSPS.

"This is the first project of its kind for PRL," says Locklin. "It links a master's degree program with our customers in the public sector. Competition was fierce, so the award was a pleasant surprise." Locklin says PRL staff worked closely with administrators from the Georgia Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation Program, to conceptualize the five-year project. For more information on the RSA Scholars Program, Locklin invites those interested to call the PRL offices at 404-651-3532.

Editor's Note: The Atlanta Journal and Constitution reported on December 10, 2004, that disability rights advocate Elaine Beverly Wilson, 53, died of heart and lung problems the previous Sunday at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta.

Regional Leadership Forum's 10th Anniversary

honors vision

"It's not easy to create a citizen's league, a Regional Leadership Forum in a town that hasn't had one, when no one knew what it was about," said speaker Harry West at the RLF's annual meeting in October. The RLF has been a full partner with the Andrew Young School since October 2004. ("Rieck heads Regional Leadership Forum," Spring/Summer 2004)



Harry West

"You've come a long way, but you've still got a long way to go ... Be bold, not reticent. Take on issues. Slug it out, occasionally."

HARRY WEST

West, the former director of the Atlanta Regional Commission, co-founded the Regional Leadership Institute with the late Manual Maloof, former chairman of the DeKalb County Commission and the late Gov. George Busbee. The event paid tribute to "the visionary leadership and passionate commitment" of these leaders to celebrate RLF's 10th anniversary.

Chairman Doug Hooker confirmed that more people are learning what a civic league is about when he presented the RLF annual report. He announced that membership and dues for the previous year grew 34 percent and 37 percent, respectively, to 373 members who contributed more than \$40,000. Corporate support is growing, with BellSouth joining Georgia Power, Georgia-Pacific, Delta Air Lines, Northside Hospital and other major corporate sponsors. He listed RLF's many

forums, which are attracting growing audiences. His report reflected the success of the new strategic plan RLF began implementing in January 2004.

"RLF has never been in a better position," said Hooker, "and I think these facts support that assertion."

In his speech, West told how he approached Maloof and Busbee about strengthening the role of the civic sector, which he calls "one leg of a three-legged stool that includes business and government." He closed by encouraging the more than 200 members present to get even more involved. "You've come a long way," said West, "but you've still got a long way to go. We've got to see all three legs of the stool working together to promote regional cooperation. ... Be bold, not reticent. Take on issues. Slug it out, occasionally."

Harry West cared about the region, said RLF member Wayne Hill who, with Robert L. Brown, Jr. and Ann Cramer, paid tribute to the honorees. "He brought us together as a board, and he brought us together as a region," said Hill. "Many of you are here because of Harry West." Cramer reminded the audience of one of Busbee's favorite sayings, "I'm proud to be the work horse, not the show horse." And Brown said that Maloof was an effective public servant because he "loved government for what it could do for the people."

In closing the meeting, Hooker announced that the board had created the RLF Founders Award as a lasting tribute to the night's honorees. The award recognizes individuals who have effected long-term, positive change in the Atlanta region. RLF founder and former chair Dick Myrick presented the inaugural RLF Founders Awards to Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and RLF member Bill Bolling, founder of the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

Get the latest information on the events and activities of the Regional Leadership Forum at www.rlfatlanta.org or contact RLF's Executive Director Steve Rieck at srieck@gsu.edu.

american workplace CHAIR

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administration and economics," he says. "How we deal with workplace differences, how we organize them and refine them and bring attention to them, will be unique to this position."

From expert consensus builder to university fellow

Usery's circuitous 27-year journey to the academic world began when his term as Labor Secretary ended, he says. "There was not another job waiting. I hadn't looked for a position and I wasn't quite sure what I was going to do next."

He called his friend, former labor secretary and Secretary of State George Shultz, who suggested he seek an academic appointment. "Shultz told me I should be sharing my back-

ground at a university. And I told him that I didn't know whether I wanted any part of a university at that point. That's when I decided to form Bill Usery Associates. But I never forgot his advice," says Usery.

"I was fortunate to build a very good business somewhere in the middle – between labor and management – while consulting on responsible labor relations. As a result, I did a lot of work for every other president after President Ford." Usery points to the Toyota/GM agreement as one of his greatest accomplishments. "Not only was it the first major joint venture to bring new automobile production to the U.S. at a time the country was flush with imports, it established a foundation for future relations," he says.

Usery credits a chain of events started by staff and advisors to GSU for changing his mind about working with a university. A visit from GSU President Carl Patton, Vice President Tom Lewis and former Governor Joe Frank Harris secured his commitment to found the Usery Center. His papers reside in the Pullen Library's Southern Labor Archives.

In the last year, he says, the thought of making a greater personal commitment to GSU had taken on added significance.

"I have been involved over the last 50 years with giants that grew out of World War II, the War Labor Board, national defense and the Atomic Energy days. There have been huge, significant changes in the world

and the workforce. You can't go to the workplace today and look at it as it was in 1952, when I first came into the business. You can't look at it as the same type of workplace it was in the 1970s, when I was Secretary of Labor," he says.

"Everything has changed. We need a place for people to address workforce issues, a prestigious place they can go to and say, 'that's the place to go to talk to experts who are trying to find solutions and to build consensus for the workplace'.

"I do think, in remembering what George Shultz said earlier, that the best place to share the unique experiences I've had is through the university," says Usery. "I certainly agree that one of the finest schools here is the school of policy studies. Andrew Young's name is a great name for this school, because he has certainly done great things."

Usery Center & Archives

**ALSO AVAILABLE
AT GSU**

Recognized as one of the nation's top mediators, Usery is highly regarded for his success in coordinating the federal government's labor-management relations activities in both the private and public sectors. He founded the **W.J. Usery, Jr. Center** at GSU in 1997 to further public awareness and understanding of labor-management relations and other human resource issues.

The Usery Center can aid organizations looking for innovative solutions to workplace problems and issues. Its staff assists business, industry and government professionals, students and the public with research, training and other tools that aid in its mission to influence and shape the workplace. For more information, go to www.userycenter.org.

The **Southern Labor Archives**, which houses Usery's papers and memorabilia, contains the largest collection of workplace and labor relations records in the Southeast. Founded in 1971, it is housed in the Special Collections and Archives section of the GSU Library. Material from the collection is available online at www.library.gsu.edu/spcoll/labor/.

RESEARCH TEAM
TACKLES THE GROWING
PROBLEM OF

obesity

Evidence of America's obesity problem is everywhere: from increases in the sizes of coffins and clothes, to volumes of new diets and surgical procedures. There is now even a patent for a car system that will weigh dieters and alarm them when they've strayed.

The boom in obesity began in the late 1970s. Since then, the percentage of adults who are obese has doubled. It has tripled among children. Between 1980 and 2000, the percentage of obese adults grew from 14 percent to 30 percent while the percentage of overweight children rose from 5 percent to 14 percent.

Last March, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predicted that if current trends continue, by 2005 obesity will overtake smoking as the leading cause of preventable death in the United States.

A team of economic and health policy researchers at AYSPS are studying the rapid acceleration in the obesity rate in the United States. Their goal is to find policy solutions that will address the causes of this serious epidemic.

Inas Rashad, an assistant professor of economics whose pri-

mary research interest is obesity, has found the direct and indirect causes of this epidemic are widely varied. Genetics, declining physical activity and increasing consumption of unhealthy foods are some direct causes. Indirect causes include the higher percentage of working mothers, lower food costs, rapid growth of the restaurant industry, and increases in cigarette taxes and prices that have subsequently decreased the number of smokers.

GHPC researcher Mary Ann Phillips says the best way to address childhood obesity is through school, community and family interventions that change nutrition and physical activity patterns. Rashad underscores the importance of such interventions. "Overweight children are extremely likely to become obese adults," she says.

GHPC is working to reduce the incidence of childhood obesity in partnership with the Philanthropic Collaborative for a Healthy Georgia, a consortium of foundations with a shared interest in improving health throughout the state. ("GHPC supports unique healthcare collaborative," Spring/Summer 2004)

The center is also working to improve public health programs aimed at obesity prevention. GHPC was recently asked by Georgia's Division of Public Health to help implement the CDC Grant for Obesity Prevention and Control in Georgia. The grant funds a statewide assessment of current nutrition and physical activity programs and training needs related to obesity prevention. "Our findings will help Georgia's public health officials implement best practices in nutrition and physical education programs throughout the state," says Phillips.

In addition to their work with public health officials and community leaders to tackle Georgia's obesity epidemic, Rashad and Phillips are exploring opportunities for federal and foundation funding to support research and programs that will further address Georgia's obesity problem.

— Sallie Barker, GHPC

HRSA GRANT TO HELP GHPC HELP THE UNINSURED

Georgia Health Policy Center was recently tapped by the state to implement a major federal grant aimed at reducing the number of uninsured.

Georgia is one of only nine states selected for the grant to design pilot programs that have the potential to make health insurance more available and affordable throughout the state.

Made possible by a \$400,000 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the pilot planning project will allow Georgia to empower four of its communities to develop public/private partnerships and programs that positively impact the number of uninsured in their respective regions.

GHPC researcher Glenn Landers says these community programs could put a dent in the number of uninsured. Programs will be designed in the rural communities of Dalton and Brunswick, and in two urban centers, Atlanta and Macon.

"Each of the selected communities has developed multi-county, multi-agency collaboratives focused on improving the health of their regions," Landers said. "This grant will allow these collaboratives to take their efforts even further to develop new and shared ways to absorb the cost of the uninsured."

— Sallie Barker, GHPC

how tax policy shapes small business

Does tax policy affect the investment decisions of small businesses? Can the tax system impede the creation and growth of small firms? Do some policies promote tax evasion by entrepreneurs and small businesses? Do others encourage self-employed individuals to save more for retirement?

Although entrepreneurial firms have long contributed to the nation's economic activity, policy-makers have just begun to ask how taxes impact important investment and savings decisions made by small businesses. Interestingly, says Associate Professor of Economics Mark Rider, much of the existing body of research on tax policy and business has focused on larger firms.

As economic development officials look harder into the job growth created by entrepreneurial firms, they have begun to generate a great deal of interest in the related tax policy research of Rider and his co-authors. Their articles, recently published in leading economic journals and books, are receiving attention in the general press as well. (See R. Glenn Hubbard, "Let's Talk Taxes," *The Wall Street Journal*, September 8, 2004: A18.)

"Although the health and vitality of small businesses are a matter of substantial policy concern, there has been little systematic investigation of how tax policy may affect entrepreneurial behavior," says Rider. "It is important to know exactly what these policy impacts are, and how they may support or deter entrepreneurial investment and growth."

In their chapter, "Entrepreneurs, Income Taxes, and Investment," (*Does Atlas Shrug? The Economic Consequences of*

Taxing the Rich, Harvard University Press 2000) for example, authors Robert Carroll, Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Rider and Harvey Rosen examine how an entrepreneur's tax situation may affect his or her investment behavior. They looked at tax return data for sole proprietors before and after the Tax Reform Act of 1986, which lowered marginal tax rates, and found that higher income tax rates discouraged entrepreneurs from making capital outlays. "When a sole proprietor's marginal tax rate goes up, the probability that he or she buys capital assets goes down," they write, noting that the magnitude of such responses is quite substantial.

Further analyzing this data, Rider and his co-authors then looked at how the drop in marginal rates after the 1986 act affected small business growth as measured by gross receipts in, "Personal Income Taxes and the Growth of Smaller Firms." (*Tax Policy and the Economy* 15 [2001]) They focused on the empirical relationship between a sole proprietor's personal income tax rate and growth in receipts, and found that "individual income taxes exert a statistically and quantitatively significant influence on firm growth rates." Their findings imply, they write,

that a sole proprietor whose marginal tax rate decreased from 50 percent to 33 percent would see a 28 percent increase in his or her receipts.

In "Differential Taxation and Tax Evasion by Small Business,"



(*National Tax Journal* 51 [4]) Rider and David Joulfaian examine the compliance patterns of small businesses that are taxed at different rates. The IRS estimates that some entrepreneurs, depending on the business, underreport income by as much as 60 percent. Rider and Joulfaian find that for the self-employed, income below a certain threshold is subject to the self-employment tax (SECA), which raises their total tax liability. Based on the evidence, they conclude that this different tax treatment helps explain the disparity in voluntary income tax reporting by the self-employed.

Tax policy can influence retirement savings. In "The

effect of tax-based savings incentives on the self-employed," (*Journal of Public Economics* 85 [2002]) Rider and co-author Laura Power find that taxes have a substantial effect on both the decision to contribute

and the amount contributed to tax-deferred retirement savings plans. "The contributions of self-employed individuals to tax-deferred retirement plans are responsive to changes in their tax price," they write.

Rider continues to look at the impact that tax policy has on small businesses, most recently in his research for the Jamaica tax reform project through the International Studies Program. "It is widely believed that entrepreneurship is an important source of economic growth and employment in the U.S. economy. Therefore, it is important to examine the effect of taxes on this sector of the economy," he says.

Arts and cultural institutions are like fingerprints. Their presence represents a community's unique cultural identity. Neighborhoods, cities and metropolitan areas often point first to their arts and cultural landscape when promoting their high quality of life. A robust arts community is as important to a region's economic health as education, housing and other key amenities.

As arts infrastructure grows in importance, communities are taking a closer look at programs to provide sustainable funding that will support and expand their arts and cultural institutions. The market has so far failed at consistently supporting the risk-taking inherent in creative non-profit enterprises and the bold acts of inclusion and accessibility that would attract broader, more diverse audiences.

Public support strengthens the capacity of local arts providers. It allows them the resources to develop new activities that encourage broad-based participation. It brings new audiences together with

Research seeks broader support for arts funding

old, helping develop a shared sense of community.

Art serves a public good. Yet shrinking funding and rising operational costs are making it nearly impossible for many arts and cultural institutions to keep their doors open.

Recognizing these challenges, metropolitan Atlanta business and civic leaders have begun exploring options for developing sustainable arts funding says Michael Rushton, an associate professor of public administration and urban studies. In a September 2003 report for Research Atlanta, Rushton began to look at whether taxes could be used to support the arts in the metro area. ["Will Atlantans support a tax for the arts?" *Research Issue 2003*]

In his latest Research Atlanta report, *Sustainable Funding for the Arts: What can Atlanta learn from the Detroit experience?*, Rushton provides the first known detailed empirical examination of voting pat-

terns for arts funding in the United States. He does this by matching Census Tract data to the precinct-level results of Proposal K, a failed referendum on arts funding in Detroit. Graduate student Wenbin Xiao provided research support.

What lessons can Atlanta learn from the Detroit vote? In November 2002, Rushton writes, voters in two Detroit counties rejected a proposed increase in their property taxes, a portion of which was for 17 major arts and cultural institutions with the remainder returned to the local communities where the taxes would have been raised. The vote was close.

"Metro Detroit's media reported four consistent objections to the proposal," says Rushton. "Voters had defeated

a similar culture tax in 2000. They felt the arts should be market driven, and that low-income residents who would be taxed would have neither the time nor the resources to visit the institutions. They objected that metro Detroit residents who weren't being taxed – those outside the two counties – would benefit."

Rushton uses Census and polling data to profile the type of voters who supported Proposal K, as well as those who did not. "Our estimates suggest that the person most likely to vote 'yes' on Proposal K was an African American who rented his or her residence in an area close to Detroit's cultural center. This voter holds at least a bachelor's degree, does not generally drive or own a car, and is likely to vote the Democratic ticket," he says.

"Income, the value of owner-occupied housing, gender, age or parental status did not appear to have a significant impact on a person's vote, one way or another."

Rushton ends the report with conclusions for Atlanta drawn from Detroit's experience.

The full report and previous studies are available online at www.researchatlanta.org.

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What really drives state-level policy innovation?

and strategic interaction of a state's key policy decision makers and interpreters; its legislators and judges.

Roch examines state policy change with co-author Robert Howard of the GSU political science department in their article, "State Policy Innovation in Perspective: Courts, Legislatures and Education Finance Reform." In their research, Roch and Howard develop a new framework for studying policy change and innovation that can be used as a model in areas beyond education finance reform.

They created this new approach, they write, because models formulated from the traditional framework fail to account for the actions and perspectives of each respective policy-maker. "For instance, legislative and judicial actors at the state level have different perceptions, different motivations and exist in varying institutional structures and designs." Their findings support their belief that it is the interaction of each actor's perspectives, motivations and structures that foster policy innovation.

"A framework that fails to capture these mechanisms falls short of generating accurate predictions about when policy change will, in fact, occur," says Roch.

"Our results indicate that institutional constraints, or political factors, help direct the attention of key policy-makers," says Roch. "Retrospective factors, like the extent of the problem in the state, seem to have a larger influence on state courts, particularly when judges are appointed rather than elected. Prospective factors are more likely to influence state legislatures, such as the resources available to address the problem."

Roch and Howard believe that their work is an important addition to previous work in understanding state-level policy innovation. "Because we emphasize the interactive process of legislative and judicial decision-making within the state structural and information environment," she says, "our framework will allow others to better predict the likelihood of policy change." However, they also caution that certain limitations of their analysis should be kept in mind when considering results.

If you want to understand why policy reform occurs at the state level, says Assistant Professor Christine Roch (PAUS), you must understand the relationship between policy change and the expectations

STUDY SHOWS beauty & gender matter

Discussions of "The Beauty Myth," gender wars, queen bees and "Men are from Mars" dominate popular culture. Yet while much of the attention has been focused on the social impacts of beauty and gender stereotypes, an Andrew Young School economist is approaching the subject in an entirely new way.

Ragan Petrie is finding that how people act on their perceptions of beauty and gender can have lasting, major economic impacts. Previous labor market studies have shown that these long-held stereotypes can have an effect on earnings. Yet only in the last few years have economists begun to seriously consider their causes and consequences, says Petrie, an assistant professor in the Environmental Policy Program who uses economic experiments to examine the impacts of social preferences on economic decision-making.

In "Beauty, Gender and Stereotypes: Evidence from Laboratory Experiments," Petrie and co-author James Andreoni explore the impact of beauty and gender in a public goods experiment and find that appearance can matter, although not always the way one might expect. For example, beautiful people earn more money in their study, but only if their decisions are private. Once their decisions are made public, this "beauty premium" disappears.



"We find that beauty and gender have significant and sometimes unexpected effects on earnings," they write. "Furthermore, the behaviors and apparent stereotyping we find may provide some clues into why gender and beauty are so important in the labor market." People often work in teams, where certain individuals can "set the tone" for the work group. Their research finds that gender and beauty may affect which people in the group are emulated by others, how much retribution they may take against shirkers and how cooperation is used to reward generous actions. "In the end, the beauty and gender of the individuals in the group will affect the cooperation and success of the group as a whole and the earnings of its individual members."

The full text of Petrie's and Andreoni's article is available online at www.gsu.edu/~ecorap/research/beauty.pdf.

Does the Endangered Species Act work?



The earliest piece of federal legislation written to protect and conserve wildlife in its natural habitat, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, is no less controversial today than it was 30 years ago. Why? According to Paul Ferraro, an environmental economist and assistant professor at AYSPS, no one has conducted a well-designed empirical study of the ESA's effectiveness.

"Many people believe the Act places an unfair burden on private landowners," says Ferraro. "On the other side, many biologists and economists are concerned that it may be ineffective at achieving substantial recovery of endangered species. But even after thirty years, no one knows exactly how well the act works."

"This is a huge deal. Biodiversity is declining worldwide, and ESA is our centerpiece policy tool for dealing with the issue." In fact, as many as one-third of the native species in the United States are at risk, according to NatureServe, a nonprofit

conservation organization that collects and manages biodiversity data on more than 20,000 plant and animal species. In a 2002 Nature Conservancy report that analyzed this data, Georgia ranked among the top 10 states with the greatest level of risk for disappearing species.

"If the act is ineffective," says Ferraro, "then everybody should be aware of that."

So Ferraro and Monica Ospina, an AYSPS student pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics, have found a way to use empirical research in a unique, ongoing project to detect whether the ESA has had a positive or a negative effect on endangered species in the United States. "We are examining the question in a way no one has tried," he says.

Ferraro believes the key problem is that no one knows whether endangered species would be any worse off if they were not listed. "But we can't observe that, because they're listed. We don't know what the counterfactual looks like," he says. Earlier researchers either did not use a control group or they simply used unlisted species as a control. "You must have a control," he says, "and you must have the right control, a group similar to the endangered species, except that one is listed and one is not. You want them to be roughly similar in all the characteristics you think would affect recovery."

For their research, Ferraro and Ospina are using "matching," a technique that he says is relatively new in policy work. "Matching is mainly used in labor economics," he says. "It has been used probably less than 10 years in the economics and policy fields. Nobody has published its use in conservation economics.

"Matching allows us to take a larger data set and use a more sophisticated method to get at the question: can we detect a net effect?" Using measures of species recovery between 1993 and 1997, Ferraro and Ospina have estimated the size and significance of ESA listings on species recovery for 490 vertebrates.

Ferraro volunteers what their research has found to date, but only with a caveat: "Our preliminary findings suggest that the ESA listing, by itself, does not appear to affect the probability that a species will recover or decline. However, we are also finding that the combination of substantial government funds for recovery initiatives with an ESA listing does lead to a substantial increase in the probability of recovery and a decrease in the probability of decline," he says.

"Our caveat, and this is critical, is that we don't believe our analysis right now is a good enough case without expanding and improving the data set. Statistical studies can often change: you add a new variable, you expand the data set to cover more years, and all of a sudden your results disappear or change." He and Ospina will improve and expand their data set before they release a final report.

This is a huge deal. Biodiversity is declining worldwide, and ESA is our centerpiece policy tool for dealing with the issue.

PAUL FERRARO

AYSPS WELCOMES NEW FACULTY



Hoover

GARY HOOVER is an assistant professor of economics. After receiving his doctorate in economics from Washington University in St. Louis in 1998, he became an assistant professor at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, where he was named a James I. Harrison Family Endowed Teaching Excellence Faculty Fellow. He was promoted to associate professor prior to joining AYSPS.

Hoover's research interests are public policy analysis, public finance, income distribution and labor economics. He is at the forefront of examining unethical behavior, such as plagiarism in scholarly journals, in the economics profession.

PATRICIA KOTA is Director of Community Health Systems Development with the Georgia Health Policy Center. She leads a team of community health system developers who provide technical assistance to rural and community health networks across the country. Previously, Kota directed a successful rural community health network in New York and facilitated the establishment of a regional network that linked urban and rural communities across an eight-county region. From 1990-1995 she served as New York's rural representative on the Public Health Council and was a founding member and first president of the New York State Association for Rural Health.



Kota

DOUGLAS KRUPKA is an assistant professor of economics. He earned his Ph.D. at the Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies at the University of Chicago, where he went for his masters degree in 1997 after graduating from the University of Virginia. His dissertation, "Location-specific Human Capital, Migration, and Amenities," examines the relationships among investments in location-specific human capital, migration and the attractiveness of different kinds of cities. Krupka's research interests are labor and urban economics, microeconomics and environmental economics.



Krupka

LINDSEY LONERGAN joined GHPC as a research associate. She works on a variety of projects from Medicaid case management to building community leadership capacity. She also provides technical assistance to strengthen rural health networks throughout the country. Previously, Lindsey worked for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where she reviewed Medicaid managed care waivers and demonstration plans and S-CHIP state plan amendments. She also developed and managed special projects related to managed care and health care financing. Lindsey earned her Masters



Lonergan

in Health Science with a concentration in health policy from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.

CHRIS PARKER worked as a physician with underserved communities and faith-based organizations in Kingston, Jamaica, before joining GHPC. Today, he works on a wide-range of projects, including the examination of select Community Health Initiatives on behalf of the Commonwealth Fund, an assessment of the public health districts in Georgia, and an examination of the issues surrounding health care coverage for the uninsured. He has facilitated work to support and assist the Central Georgia Cancer Coalition as they planned for designation as a Regional Program of Excellence. Chris is a graduate of the Rollins School of Public Health where he completed his MPH degree in Health Policy and Management in 2001.



Parker

INAS RASHAD earned her Ph.D. in Economics at the City University of New York Graduate Center, completing "Essays in the Economics of Obesity" under the supervision of Michael Grossman. Joining AYSPS as an assistant professor in the Department of Economics, her research interests are health economics, labor economics and public finance.

Rashad's current research centers on the rapid acceleration of the obesity rate in the U.S. and on finding causes and solutions for the epidemic. She is interested in demand-driven health economics problems such as risky teenage sexual behavior and drug abuse. Her research has been funded by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases of the National Institutes of Health. She has written for *Dallas Morning News* and has been cited in numerous articles. Her articles have appeared in *Journal of Health Economics*, *Public Interest* and *Gender Issues*.

PETE TERREBONNE, who joins the Environmental Policy Program as assistant research professor after earning doctorate and graduate degrees in economics at Emory University, works with environmental policy issues, especially issues that relate to water resources. His publications have appeared in *Public Choice*, *Eastern Economic Journal* and the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*. His current applied work with the Environmental Policy Program includes evaluating engineering models of river basins, evaluating the effectiveness of residential water demand management programs, and conducting field work related to Geographical Information Systems.



Terrebonne

— Sallie Barker, GHPC, contributed

GOVERNOR
NAMES

Thomas to GRTA Board



Gov. Sonny Perdue appointed Jeanie Thomas to the 15-member board of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority in July. Thomas is a senior research associate in the Fiscal Research Center.

GRTA assists the Governor's Office in developing transportation policies, and helps to establish priorities for transportation funds. The authority works with state and regional agencies on transportation planning, monitors the effectiveness of air quality improvements and promotes the coordination of land and transportation planning.

"These issues are addressed most effectively when GRTA works cooperatively with the public and its partners," says Thomas. An example is GRTA's partnering with 11 metro counties and the City of Atlanta to operate the Xpress bus system, which began operations in June. Before then, less than half of these counties had offered mass transit services.

In May, Thomas returned to the Fiscal Research Center after spending more than a year "on loan" to the Governor's Office as Perdue's chief policy advisor in transportation, economic development and natural resources. While there, she helped guide development of the \$15.5 billion Fast Forward transportation plan, assisted in developing Georgia's first statewide water planning legislation, and helped coordinate the work of the Governor's Advisory Council on Land Conservation Partnerships. She has been with GSU since 1997.

Thomas says she feels very fortunate to help address these policy issues at this unique time in Atlanta's history. She believes the region will continue to add residents and businesses that will fuel its future transportation challenges. "I think it is critical to make transportation investments that are cost effective, timely and accountable to the public," she says. "As a region, we need to explore the political feasibility of additional transportation and transit funding sources. Each of these issues will directly impact the quality of life in our region."

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minyard

A HEALTH CARE HERO

Georgia Health Policy Center Director Karen Minyard was selected as a finalist in the *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* Health Care Heroes Awards in May.

Each year the publication honors organizations and individuals who have demonstrated excellence and deserve recognition in the health care community.

Minyard was nominated for the work she has done for rural communities in Georgia. Prior to becoming director of GHPC, she worked for years with rural Georgia communities, helping design systems that provide access to health care.

Minyard has logged more than 200,000 miles, traveling to rural communities throughout Georgia and helping to harness the local, state and national, public and private resources needed to improve health at the community level. Her work with Georgia communities has been cited as a model for the nation by the Center for the Study of Rural America.

Minyard earned a doctorate in business administration from GSU, joined GHPC full-time in 1999 and became its director in 2002.



— Sallie Barker, GHPC

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Claudia Lacson's life revolved around her great passion for improving health in poor and underserved communities.

A physician from Bogota, Columbia, Claudia joined the Georgia Health Policy Center in 1999, where she improved access to health care and the health status of populations in Georgia and nationwide. She worked with more than 70 rural communities across Georgia, and was part of a project that spanned rural communities in 37 different states.

Claudia Lacson

Health Care Advocate



"Claudia had an unyielding concern for people in poor health in poor communities," said Tina Anderson Smith, a senior research associate at GHPC. "She would go into communities with large numbers of very sick people and help them improve their access to health services. A lot of lives were saved because of the work Claudia did."

Claudia Lacson, 38, died in July of tuberculosis meningitis. She is survived by her husband, Romel, of Alpharetta, her parents, Mariela and Fernando Amaya, of Miami, and a sister, Carolina Amaya, of Miami.

The family requests donations be made to Georgia State University Foundation, Claudia Lacson Memorial Fund for Rural Health at 33 Gilmer St., Atlanta, GA 30303.

— Sallie Barker, GHPC

ALUMNUS REALIZES DREAM TO “POVERTY-PROOF” GSU STUDENTS

Students can learn to better manage their personal finances and get a handle on debt courtesy of a new course and workshop offered by AYSPS. Both are the dream of Alumnus Ralph Moor (B.C.S. '37), whose major gift to the school made them possible. “My concern is in keeping students from becoming bankrupt, homeless or ‘among the least of these’ by learning how to budget

edge or even ahead of the curve when he visited Johnson’s class in November. “Every book, radio, television, newspaper story, etcetera, seems to concentrate on how to create debt most advantageously, how to manage debt, or how to get out of debt,” he said. “I want our course to teach people how to stay out of debt and to live debt free. Everyone has money to spend, but how you



course is quite good. In fact, word of the innovative curriculum is expected to generate more interest among students in choosing economics to meet their core requirements, or to consider economics as a major.

Professor Paula Stephan has led eight Credit Card Craze workshops, which were so well-attended they were nearly standing room only. “Credit cards are easy for students to get,” says Stephan. “More than eight out of ten undergraduates have at least one – half have at least four. The median amount of debt students carry on these cards is \$1,800. More than a fifth owe between \$3,000 and \$7,000 in debt. Unfortunately, students do not often know

the conditions that come with the cards, like high late fees, increased interest rates, and fees for uses like cash advances.”

Stephan’s workshops, part of the Freshman Learning Communities at GSU, warn students about the costs of using credit, the consequences of compound interest, and the effect of bad credit on future outcomes. Stephan also provides links to resources that will help with credit card debt and information on credit reports.

“Debt is one of the major reasons that students drop out of college,” she says. “Bad debt can create tremendous problems for people for years to come – even after it is cleared up.”

More than 500 students have attended the workshops, a number representing roughly one-fifth of all GSU freshmen. Another 40 are enrolled in the course.

Alumnus Moor said he was favorably impressed with Johnson and Stephan’s dedication to the new program. “The students are very responsive to this approach,” he says. In fact, he is so pleased with the course and workshops that he recently added to his initial bequest to the university. His generous support echoes the slogan he suggested to Johnson’s students:

“If you cannot keep up, how in the world can you catch up?”



their money,” said Moor in an earlier interview for *The Briefing*. (Winter 2002)

The course is *Economics: The Way We Live*. “It’s a new approach to introductory microeconomics,” says instructor Janet Johnson, “a way to show our students practical economics at work.” She says the curriculum was written to appeal to students from all backgrounds. It teaches basic economic principles using real-world experiences that engage students in interesting issues early on. “We make the course relevant to what is going on in their lives now,” she says.

Moor told students their class was either on the cutting

spend it makes a difference.

“It’s a sign of maturity when you get old enough that your wants don’t hurt you. My objective is that anyone taking this course will be ‘poverty-proofed’ for life.”

Johnson reports that informal feedback on the new



On the Go

James Alm traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico, in May to begin work on an evaluation of Puerto Rico's tax policy as part of a Center for the New Economy/Brookings Institution joint project on economic policy in the commonwealth. In July, he chaired a session on China's economic policy at the Chinese Economic Society Annual Conference in Atlanta. He was in Washington, D.C., in August to chair a meeting of the Academic Advisory Council that will help to provide oversight on a joint cost of collection study run by the Multistate Tax Commission and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

The **Atlanta Outreach Consortium** has entered a partnership agreement with Atlanta Public Schools to support the 21st Century Community Learning Centers curriculum and program development. A cadre of undergraduate students from AOC institutions will provide service as teaching assistants while faculty will offer ongoing evaluation of the program's best-practices methods.

University of Toronto Professor **Richard Bird**, the Distinguished Visiting Professor of Economics at AYSPS, spent two months this fall in the International Studies Program, where he collaborated with faculty and graduate students and presented the lecture, "Getting it Right: Financing Urban Development in China."

Karlease Bradford, formerly with the Neighborhood Col-

laborative and now the business manager for Domestic Programs, was recently elected to serve a two-year term on GSU's Staff Council. She joins AYSPS representatives **Sue Fagan** and **Charlotte Petrek**, who was also elected Staff Council Parliamentarian. **Sally Fowler** and Petrek also have been elected to serve as University Staff Senators for two years.

Douglas Campbell, who finished his Ph.D. in the Department of Economics at AYSPS last year, joined the faculty this fall as a visiting assistant professor.



Campbell

In June, **Alan Essig** left the Fiscal Research Center to accept the position of executive director at the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, a newly created nonprofit that will focus on social issues. During his time with the FRC, Essig developed a strong reputation on budget issues. His valuable contribution to the FRC will be missed.

The **International Studies Program** introduced a macroeconomic policy course in the fifth successful year of its Fiscal Policy Summer Training Courses, expanding its offering to four courses. Designed for government officials and policy makers from developing and transition countries and for their peers in international donor agencies, these courses are led by a panel of distinguished faculty and leading fiscal policy experts

with worldwide experience. The program is directed by **Jorge Martinez-Vazquez**, ISP director.

Marian Garcia-Valinas, assistant professor in the Department of Economics at the Universidad de Oviedo in Asturias, Spain, was a visiting scholar from May to July. She obtained her Ph.D. in Economics from Oviedo in January 2003, graduating summa cum laude. Her research interests are efficiency in the public sector, local government debt and environmental economics.

Congratulations go to **Felix Rioja**, who has been promoted to associate professor with tenure.

Dorie Taylor, assistant director of Domestic Programs, graduated with distinction with a B.A. in Sociology from GSU this summer and was awarded the College of

Arts and Sciences Dean's Scholarship Key. She was also a winner in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities. She began GSU's Ph.D. program in sociology in the fall. AYSPS congratulates a wonderful staff member on her academic success!

The Department of Economics completed another successful summer internship program under the supervision of Professor **Neven Valev**. Nine students from top universities around the country worked with AYSPS faculty on various research projects.

Congratulations also go to **Yongsheng Xu**, who has been promoted to full professor.



Xu

GEORGIA'S SAAKASHVILI VISITS GEORGIA



AYSPS co-sponsored the August visit of Georgia's new president, H.E. Mikheil Saakashvili, to the Southern Center for International Studies, where he shared his vision for the future of his country with more than 400 guests.

George Clark © Southern Center for International Studies

Faculty News

AWARDS/HONORS/GRANTS

Department of Economics

Roy Bahl served as an external examiner for the economics department at the University of Mauritius.

Paul Ferraro received a \$55,000 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct an evaluation of global initiatives to protect marine turtles.

Shif Gurm and **William J. Smith** received a grant from the University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research to work on the project, "Barriers to Employment and Welfare-To-Work: Evidence from Georgia."

Bruce Kaufman's book, *Industrial Relations to Human Resources and Beyond*, was selected as one of the Noteworthy Books in Industrial Relations and Labor Economics of 2003 by the Industrial Relations Section at Princeton University.

Department of Public Administration & Urban Studies

The 2004 NASPAA (National Association of Schools of Public



Bourdeaux

Affairs and Administration) Annual Dissertation Award went to **Carolyn Bourdeaux** for

her paper, "Can Public Authorities Just Get Things Done? An Analysis of Politically Buffered Institutions in a Contentious

Policy Arena." This award recognizes significant research conducted by a doctoral candidate in the field of public administration.

Amy Helling was appointed associate editor of the *Journal of the American Planning Association*.

Bill Waugh was appointed to the Planning Commission of the City of Decatur after serving two years on the city's Waste Management Advisory Board.

NEW PUBLICATIONS - A SELECTION

Department of Economics

James Alm with **Sally Wallace** and Fitzroy Lee. "How Fair: Federal Income Tax Progressivity 1978-1998." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* (forthcoming); with Amanda Lee. "The Clean Air Act Amendments and Firm Investment in Pollution Abatement Equipment." *Land Economics* 80(3): 433-447; with Mikhail Melnik. "Sales Taxes and the Decision to Purchase Online." *Public Finance Review* (forthcoming).

Roy Bahl with **Sally Wallace**. "Fiscal Decentralization and Fiscal Equalization within Regions: The Case of Russia." *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting and Financial Management* (forthcoming).

Paul Ferraro. "Targeting Conservation Investments in Heterogeneous Landscapes: A distance function approach and application to watershed management." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 86(4): 905-918.

Ragan Petrie, with Jean-Paul Chavas and Michael Roth.

"Farm Household Production Inefficiency in the Gambia: Resource Constraints and Market Failures." *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* (forthcoming).

Department of Public Administration & Urban Studies

Carolyn Bourdeaux.

"A Question of Genesis: An Analysis of the Determinants of Public Authorities." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* (forthcoming).

Carol Hansen with C. Kontoghiorghes.

"Identification of key predictors of rapid change adaptation in a service organization: An exploratory study that examines the link between rapid change adaptation and organizational capability." *Organizational Development Journal* (forthcoming).



Hansen

Judith Ottoson, **Greg Streib**, **John Clayton Thomas**, **Mark Rivera**, and Beth Stevenson. "Evaluation of the National School Health Coordinator Leadership Institute." *Journal of School Health* 74(5): 170-176.

Centers & Programs

Tina Anderson Smith and **Karen Minyard**. (GHPC) "The Role of Targeted External Facilitation and Technical Assistance in Improving the Clinical Relevance and Financial Viability of Rural Health Systems." *Health Systems in the World: From Evidence to Policy*. Papazisis Publishers: Athens, Greece 2004.

PRESENTATIONS

Department of Economics

James Alm presented a paper with William Kaempfer on the "Incidence of State Income Taxes," at the Western Economic Association Annual Meeting in July.

Roy Bahl presented "Fiscal Decentralization in India" at the Fiscal Decentralization to Rural Governments in India meeting in New Delhi, India, in June co-sponsored by NIPFP and The World Bank; he presented two days of lectures on Fiscal Decentralization to the Provincial Finance Commissions in Lahore, Pakistan, in August.

Paul Ferraro was the plenary speaker at the 21st Biannual Workshop of the Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia in Hanoi, Vietnam, in May; in August he presented, "Measuring the Effectiveness of Listing under the U.S. Endangered Species Act" with Monica Ospina (a graduate student in economics) at the 12th Annual CAMP Resources Workshop in Wilmington, N.C.



Gurm

Shif Gurm presented, "Patents, R&D and Lag Effects: Evidence from Flexible Individual Effects

Count Data Models" at the 11th International Conference on Panel Data at Texas A&M University in June.

Susan Laury presented, "Altruism Spillovers" at the Annual Meeting of the Eco-

conomic Science Association in Amsterdam, Holland, in June; in August she presented, "Altruism Spillovers" at the Public Economic Theory Meetings in Beijing, China.

Bruce Seaman was invited to open the annual meeting of the Federation of Tax Administrators, where he presented, "The Economics of Cigarette Taxation: Lessons for Georgia." The meeting convened in Newport, R.I., in August.

In July, **Paula Stephan** presented "Early Careers of Life Scientists" at the National Research Council Board on Higher Education and Workforce Board Meeting in Washington, D.C.; her report, "Adding Salary Data to the SED," at the National Science Foundation's Salary Panel Meeting for the Survey of Earned Doctorates in Arlington, Va.; and "Capturing Knowledge: The Placement of New Ph.D.s Working with Firms" at the Centre de Recherches Economiques de l'universite de Saint-Etienne in France.

Department of Public Administration & Urban Studies

Carolyn Bourdeaux presented, "Legislative Barriers to Budgetary Reform" and "Structure, Behavior and Financial Performance: An Empirical Analysis of American Airports" (with Alasdair Roberts) at the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management Conference in Chicago, Ill. in October.

Carol Hansen presented on qualitative research methods to doctoral students at the Graduate School of Business (Les Hautes Etudes Commerciales – HEC), University of Lausanne,

Switzerland, in June. She also served as an external expert for a University of Lausanne doctoral committee.

Bill Kahnweiler spoke about career development for human resource professionals at the 2004 Workforce Planning and Development Conference

hosted by the Georgia Merit System in Atlanta in September.

In October, **Gary Henry** presented his research, "School Readiness and Universal Pre-K" at forums organized by People for the American Way in Albuquerque and Los Angeles to get media coverage for the

New Mexico and Los Angeles initiatives for universal preschool.

Philadelphia's National Public Radio station, WHYY, in April invited **Michael Rushton** to talk about his research of arts funding in U.S. cities to respond to the city's plan to drastically cut arts funding.

A FAVORITE PROFESSOR RETIRES

VERNA J. WILLIS was appointed associate professor emerita in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies effective September 1, 2004, upon her retirement in August. Willis had joined GSU in 1988 to initiate what became an internationally recognized degree program in human resource development, which she chaired until 1996.

"Verna Willis has been a respected and productive member of our faculty in the area of human resource development," wrote department chair Lloyd Nigro in announcing her retirement. "She is greatly admired and held in great affection by her past and present students."

Willis graduated with a Ph.D. in Instructional Systems Design and Management from State University of New York at Buffalo in 1977. She says that she learned about the HRD position at GSU while working on a technical assistance project for the Research Foundation of SUNY in East Java, Indonesia. "It looked like a job with my name on it," she says. "In those days, there were few HRD faculty, and it was even rarer to find a program with a practitioner angle. No one offered a Ph.D. in HRD."



More than 600 students have gone through the HRD program since it began under Willis's direction. Among her many honors and achievements, Willis says she is most pleased with the contributions her students are making in Atlanta and around the world. "Many of our alumni have faculty positions in colleges and universities from here to the United Kingdom. One alumnus recently won an award for outstanding teaching. Our graduates are present in most major corporations here; and these are just a few examples of their contributions," she says.

Willis may be best known for her contributions to the study and practice of Action Learning in HRD. In 1991 she wrote an article proposing the need for corporations to add the position of Chief Learning Officer, which would focus human assets in the same way a CFO focuses on capital assets. She developed Action Learning exchanges and technical assistance projects between GSU and a university in Romania. Her 2003 book with Robert Dillworth, *Action Learning: Images and Pathways*, was nominated for the HRD Book of the Year Award; and she was appointed to the editorial board of a new journal, *Action Learning: Research and Practice*, where she authored the lead article for its inaugural issue in 2004.

Willis has moved her "base of operations" to her home in Orchard Park, New York, from where she says she hopes to do more international work. She recognizes and thanks Lloyd Nigro, Dean Bahl, Robert Moore, Paula Stephan and the faculty and staff at AYSPS for their support through her tenure at GSU. "Without their help and belief in what I was doing, I simply could not have gone forward with these programs.

"It has been a great 16 years. I wouldn't have missed it for anything," she says.

Pearson receives first Sweat award

The inaugural Dan E. Sweat Dissertation Fellowship was awarded in October to A. Fiona Pearson, a graduate student in sociology.

The \$5,000 fellowship is sponsored by the Dan E. Sweat Distinguished Scholar Chair in Educational and Community Policy. It is open to doctoral students at GSU who are writing dissertations in community or educational policy.

Pearson's dissertation topic is "Making Education Work: The Experiences of Georgia Welfare Recipients Pursuing a Post-secondary Education." Professor David Sjoquist, holder of the Sweat Chair and director of the Fiscal Research Center, says that the fellowship evaluation committee felt Pearson's topic was important, interesting and likely to be controversial. "We liked the motivation for her research as well as the policy implications," he says. "We believe her topic is in keeping with the policy issues that were of concern to Dan Sweat."

The fellowship is awarded annually. A copy of the application form is available online at http://frp.aysps.gsu.edu/application_form.pdf.



Choi wins dissertation fellowship



Ki-Whan Choi, who is working towards a Ph.D. in Economics, was awarded a \$10,000 dissertation fellowship from the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. His dissertation is entitled, "The Economic Effects of Land Value Taxation in an Urban Area under the Presence of Large Lot Zoning; an Urban Computable General Equilibrium

Approach." He also received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Korean-American Scholarship Foundation.

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy contributes to and improves the land and tax policy debate in the United States and the world. Its prestigious dissertation fellowships, awarded annually, support students who, early in their careers, make significant contributions to the tax and land policy knowledge base and develop ideas that will guide policy makers. For more information contact the Lincoln Institute at fellowships@lincolninst.edu.

Bill Waugh was a plenary speaker on "Hazards and Disasters in a Homeland Security Environment: Consequences of Federal Level Changes," and also spoke on "The National Response Plan: Implications for the Emergency Management Community," at the 29th Annual Natural Hazards Work-

shop, University of Colorado, Boulder, in July.

Centers & Programs

Glenn Landers (GHPC) presented "Using a Risk Adjustment Model to Compare the Costs of Nursing Facility Care with Four Medicaid Long-term Care Waiver Programs" at the

Student News

A research article by **S. Nicole Fehrenbach**, "Integration of Child Health Information Systems: Current State and Local Health Department Efforts," with Janet C.R. Kelly and Christine Wu, was published in the *Journal of Public Health Management Practice* in November. Fehrenbach is in the Ph.D. program in Public Policy.

Generosa Kagaruki, a graduate student in economics, is currently working in Tanzania for the International Studies Program as an advisor to the Ministry of Finance of Tanzania.

Nine new students enrolled in the joint doctoral program in public policy this fall, our largest class yet. New students come from Africa, Asia, South America and the United States. **Amanda**

Wilsker is an Andrew Young Fellow, **Kevin Fortner** is a Dean's Scholar Fellow and **Grace**



Wilsker

Chikoto is a Carolyn Young Fellow. Additional members of this class include **Gabriel Leonardo**, **Seong Soo Oh**, **Danika Parchment**, **Ravi Prasad**, **Abdul-Akeem Sadiq** and **Cathy Slade**.

In a new move for the joint doctoral program, some graduate research assistants this year are working for state, federal and international agencies. **Ignacio Navarro** is working for the Georgia Department of Education, **Monica LaBelle** for CARE and **Nevbahar Ertas** for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

WHO'S WHO WINNERS

AYSPS congratulates **David Boyd**, **Michael Collins**, **Blake Dettwiler**, students in Urban Policy Studies, and student **Kelley Martin** (B.S.H.R.P, earned a B.A.U.S.T. in '99) along with recent graduates **Bonnie Britt** (B.S.U.P.S.), **Glenda Crunk** (B.S.U.P.S.) and **Whitney Russert** (B.A. in Economics), who were recognized in 2004 by Who's Who Among Students in American Universities. All AYSPS students nominated received the award. Who's Who is a national organization that honors juniors, seniors and graduate students who exhibit outstanding achievements in citizenship, scholarship and community service.



Crunk



Landers

10th Annual International Symposium and Workshop of the International Society

for Research in Healthcare Financial Management in Baltimore in August.

Chris Parker (GHPC) presented "African Americans in America and What's Working" at Morehouse College's Holistic Wellness and Healing Conference for African Americans.

Alumni News

Former ISP Research Associate **Francisco Javier Arze** (Ph.D. in Economics '03) recently secured, with the assistance of ISP, an eight-month contract to work on World Bank Institute fiscal programs under its lead economist, Anwar Shah.

Bob Donaghue (M.S. in Public and Urban Affairs '90) now directs the Pollution Prevention



Donaghue

Assistance Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. He joined the division as assistant director when it was created in 1993. Bob_Donaghue@dnr.state.ga.us

Gregory Jones (M.P.A. '03) is director of research and publications for the GSU College of Law's Consortium for Negotiation and Conflict Resolution. Jones simultaneously earned three degrees at GSU: the M.P.A., a law degree and a Ph.D. in decision sciences. See his story in "The Third Degree" in *Georgia State Magazine* (Fall 2004).

Former Muskie Fellow **Serhiy**



Kostyuk

Kostyuk (M.S. in Urban Policy Studies, '03) now serves as the Chernobyl Recovery

and Development Programme reporting and communications officer for the United Nations Development Programme in Ukraine. CRDP addresses the lingering consequences of the Chernobyl accident. serhiy.kostyuk@undp.org.ua or skostyuk@msn.com.

David Rein (Ph.D. in Public Policy '03) has placed an article in the nation's top health ser-



Rein

vices research journal, *Health Services Research*. "A Matter of Classes: Stratifying Healthcare Populations to Produce Better Estimates of Inpatient Costs," is based on his dissertation. Rein's work has also been published in *American Journal of Managed Care* and *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*. He is a research economist at RTI International, a nonprofit research consulting company. drein@rti.org

Abhijit Saptarshi (M.P.A. '04), after completing an M.P.A. internship under the Georgia Governor's Internship Program, joined the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, N.C., in the fall to earn a Ph.D. in urban policy. ajsaptar@unc.edu



Saptarshi

Avon Thompson Whitehead, CPPO, CPPB (B.S. in Urban Policy Studies '04), a procurement and services officer for the Georgia Department of Economic Development, was recently tapped to serve a two-year term on the Diversity Committee for the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing in Washington, DC. She was named "2004 Buyer of the Year for the State of Georgia," and will represent Georgia for the "National Buyer of the Year" award in Anaheim, Calif. athompson@georgia.org

Former Mandela Fellow **Veronica Mafoko** (M.A. in Economics '00) e-mailed to update AYSPS on her newest

position after reading her name in an earlier *Briefing*. "It's nice to know that we are still remembered at GSU and all over the world via the 'net,'" wrote Mafoko, who now works in South Africa's Department of

Provincial and Local Government. As a director there, she deals with local government equitable share and related transfers to local government and other policy issues related to transfer programs.

Fillion runs new Senate Budget Office

MPA Advisory Board member Kevin Fillion (M.P.A. '95) heads an influential new Georgia office at an interesting time in state politics.

The 2002 election of Sonny Perdue, the state's first Republican governor in more than a century, and the General Assembly's rapid shift to a Republican majority in both the House and the Senate has brought many new faces to the Capitol.

Fillion was named director of the newly created Senate Budget office in October 2003, three months before the Legislative Session. He moved there after serving as director of the state's Budgetary Responsibility Oversight Committee Research Office. Fillion's first experience in government, after several years in the private sector, was the required 200 hours he logged in as a GSU MPA intern at BROCC.

The Senate Budget Office was created to develop budget documents specifically for the Senate. Since the early 1970s, the state's joint Legislative Budget Office had served both houses. After the 2002 election

created a Republican majority in the Senate, says Fillion, "they felt they needed staff who were loyal to the Senate, a budget office that would answer to the Senate. They wanted a place where they could walk in to get answers."

Fillion and his staff of six develop appropriations bills and documents that explain the bills. "Outside the session," he says, "we do a lot of reviewing, particularly of budget programs and contracts, and answer anything the senators want to know about the budget."

Georgia's general revenue stands at about \$16 billion, with federal and other agency funds contributing to a total \$30 billion annual budget, says Fillion. Sales and income taxes make up about 85 percent of the general funds generated by



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Korean economist, professor and businessman Yang-Taek Lim is a pragmatist and a poet. Well-studied on the barriers that prevent companies in many Asian countries from conducting business across borders, Lim has spent a good part of his career laboring on a vision that is ultimately poetic. Line by line, verse by verse, Lim has built a distinguished body of research encouraging the formation of economic relationships among countries in the region, most recently among China, Korea and Japan.

the state. By Georgia's constitution, the budget submitted must be a balanced one.

Fillion says the current economic climate makes it difficult to meet this law. "The state's expenditures are going to outpace normal revenue growth for awhile. Because of the dot.com bust, 9/11 and the recession, Georgia lost capital gains from the 1990s that we haven't gotten back. Some tough decisions have to be made."

To provide solid advice in this climate, Fillion says he is trying to do something a little different in his office. "The traditional budget person is an accounting person, and that's not my background. I am more interested in grooming evaluators to put a budget together, so that they can actually tell a senator whether a program is working or not working. They're willing to do cost analysis to do a budget.

"The traditional emphasis in state budgeting has been on 'what's new.' What I'm trying to drive for is not asking what's new, but asking what's best," says Fillion. "Given that we have this structurally imbalanced budget, and we have it for the foreseeable future, the only way you're going to get around some horrendous cuts is to cut programs that are inefficient, ineffective, or the need for them has passed."

Lim is a professor of economics at Hanyang University in Seoul, Korea, where he has taught since 1979 and was dean of the College of Economics and Finance. Lim graduated from GSU in 1978 with a Ph.D. in Economics after earning his bachelor's degree in political science at Korea University in Seoul. Professor Emeritus John J. Klein was his faculty advisor at GSU. "I knew where Lim wanted to go very early," says Klein. "He has always been very ambitious in wanting to make a difference in his country." They have maintained their friendship, sharing news and visits, since the late 1970s.

A prolific researcher and author, Lim has produced 35 books and nearly 100 articles. His latest published articles focus on the economic relationship of China-Korea-Japan and their technological cooperation. He says his speech, "Korea's Reunification and Peace Settlement in Northeast Asia," presented at the Korean Congressmen Seminar in North Korea in November was his most memorable activity in 2004.

Lim admits that his study of economics at GSU was related to his plan to become a good statesman. "Political science and economics are mutually correlated, just like two faces of a coin," he says. "A political scientist knows what kind of policy is needed, but he or she may not know how to analyze rigorously the potential effects of a hypothetically chosen policy. On the other hand, it is more difficult for an economist to become a good politician, because he or she may not know how to lead people."

Since 1994 Lim has operated a family business, I-HIT (International High Industrial Technology, Inc.), and the I-HIT research institute at Hanyang University, which develop and sell energy-saving technological products. His company in 2004 received a grant of one billion Korean won (nearly one million US\$) for a cooperative research project that, if successful, will be commercialized with additional government support. I-HIT is successfully marketing and distributing other breakthrough products as well.

Many prestigious awards, honors and appointments have been bestowed upon Lim in recognition of his outstanding career. He received the BWW Society (Bibliothèque World Wide) Global Solutions Award (2002), was named an outstanding research professor and was appointed an Honorary Lieutenant Governor by the State of Oklahoma. Yet Lim remains humble about his accomplishments. "I would like to say that I am not a successful man, but yet a working-hard-person for my dream."

Lim, who is also a published poet, offers AYSPS students the secret of his success: "Be confident about yourself all the time. Try to foresee what will challenge you. The person who is simply working hard with no farsightedness looks like a squirrel going round and round and will never become a leader."

Alumnus envisions an open Asian economy



ADVISORY BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

“The breadth of the work you’re doing at this school is just amazing to a newcomer.”



Jack Guynn

JACK GUYNN, president and chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, is the newest member to join the Andrew Young School Advisory Board. The bank is headquarters of the Sixth Federal Reserve District; its operations serve Alabama, Georgia and Florida, and portions of Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

In 1964, Guynn earned a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering at Virginia Tech and in 1969 a master’s in industrial management at Georgia Tech. He worked in several positions at the Atlanta Fed since joining it in 1964, and served as first vice president and chief operating officer from 1984 until he was named president and CEO of the bank in 1996.

Guynn attended his first AYSPS Advisory Board meeting in October. “The breadth of the work you’re doing at this school is just amazing to a newcomer,” he says.

During his career, Guynn has served on the boards of a variety of industry, professional, academic and philanthropic organizations, and he remains extremely active in the community. AYSPS is grateful that he has agreed to bring his knowledge and leadership in such a broad range of areas, on the economy and in the community, to bear on the success of the school.

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