JUSTICE FOR ALL
Alum helps Georgians facing the death penalty get the defense they deserve

DISARMING PROPAGANDA
How one grad student works with Muslim states and religious leaders to gut ISIS' recruitment appeals

ADVANCING DEMOCRACY
Globetrotting alum brings technology to foster fair and honest elections
HELP LIGHT THE WAY

We’ve reached a defining moment in Georgia State’s history. The university has become a national model for closing the achievement gap, and we’re driving the revitalization of downtown Atlanta. We’re lighting the way to a brighter future and we need your help to get there.

Find ways to give at BURNINGBRIGHT.GSU.EDU

The Andrew Young School Magazine
ISSUE 01 // FALL 2016

02 FROM THE DEAN
04 URBAN LAB
14 Q & A
17 OPINION
18 JUSTICE FOR ALL
Alum helps Georgians facing the death penalty get the defense they deserve
20 DISARMING PROPAGANDA
How one grad student works with Muslim states and religious leaders to gut ISIS recruitment appeals
22 ADVANCING DEMOCRACY
Globetrotting alum brings technology to foster fair and honest elections
24 TRUST OR CONSEQUENCES
Field experiments help Pakistan improve governance, counter Taliban
WE NEVER STOP GROWING

THE ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL TURNS 20
THIS YEAR. It has been great to reminisce about those early years when some of us were assistant professors and the fun we had under founding dean Roy Bahl’s leadership, hiring great faculty and building the school and its programs. It’s also a good time to remember the meaningful work that has taken place in all sectors of the school, work that has changed policy and policymakers.

The Fiscal Research Center, established right before the founding of the school, has consistently been a source of hard evidence on the implications of tax policy in the state. The International Center for Public Policy has worked in developing countries around the world, building capacity in Indonesia, Guyana, Russia and more.

Our academic programs started strong and have prospered, and our school now ranks in the top 10 percent of U.S. schools of public affairs.

Two strong academic programs joined our school in 2011, broadening the policy issues we can tackle. Faculty in the School of Social Work have supported the state’s efforts to professionalize child protective services and work on multiple issues in community development. Faculty from Criminal Justice & Criminology have contributed widely to the analysis of criminal justice policy — surely one of the most pressing policy issues of our time and a field in which our founding dean took great interest.

Our school, along with the rest of Georgia State, has benefited enormously from the university’s strategic plan and its dual focus on student success and interdisciplinary research. We now graduate about 600 students every year, up from around 100 back in 1996–97. Our participation in research initiatives such as the Second Century Initiative and the Next Generation program has brought us outstanding new faculty working in diverse areas such as health information technology, urban land use, evidence-based policy and more.

The strategic plans of both the Andrew Young School and the university as a whole have led us to establish a new Urban Studies Institute. We look forward to the exciting initiatives that will be undertaken there.

Finally, our newly designed magazine is also an outcome of our strategic plan. We made a commitment to raising our profile through a better communication strategy. Let me know how you like it.

Mary Beth Walker
Dean
Nijman Heads New Urban Studies Institute

JAN NIJMAN, A WORLD-CLASS SCHOLAR IN INTERDISCIPLINARY URBAN research, joined Georgia State in August to lead the Urban Studies Institute. Funded by Georgia State’s Next Generation initiative, the institute will focus attention on the complex urban challenges facing cities across the globe — and their solutions. Faculty and researchers involved will transform multidisciplinary research into relevant policy analysis for urban stakeholders while deepening the university’s engagement with policymakers, bureaucrats, nonprofit and business leaders, and other institutions. The institute will be housed in the Andrew Young School with the School of Public Health as a partner.

RANKINGS
RISE
The Andrew Young School ranked No. 23 overall and rose in four of five categories in U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Public Affairs Graduate Schools” 2016 issue.

20 YEARS OF POLICY EXCELLENCE
July 1, 2016, marked the Andrew Young School’s 20th anniversary. See how we’ve grown at nyys.gsu.edu/20th-anniversary-timeline.

THE 1%
RePEc, the world’s largest bibliographic database dedicated to economics, ranks the Andrew Young School’s Experimental Economics Center No. 12 out of 1,676 such centers, placing it among the world’s top 1 percent of experimental institutions and economists.

CHARTER SCHOOL GRADS EARN MORE AS ADULTS

CHARTER SCHOOL GRADUATES earn more than students who attend conventional public schools, according to the nation’s first large-scale study of the effects of charter schools on earnings in adulthood. Maximum annual earnings were about $2,300 higher for those aged 23–25 who attended charter high schools versus conventional public schools across the state of Florida, according to economist Tim Sessa, a Distinguished University Professor, and his co-author.

They also found students who attended charter high schools were more likely to attend a two- or four-year college by an estimated nine percentage points, reinforcing their previous findings that students who attend charter high schools are more likely to enroll and persist in college.

The study, published in the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, was funded by the Joyce Foundation.

$2,300 HIGHER FOR THOSE AGED 23–25 WHO ATTENDED CHARTER HIGH SCHOOLS

shortening the school week to four days has a statistically significant positive impact on elementary school students’ academic performance in mathematics, according to new research by Andrew Young School dean and economist Mary Beth Walker and her co-author. Reading scores are not affected.

They found little evidence that moving to a four-day week compromises student academic achievement, an important finding for U.S. school districts seeking ways to cut costs without hampering student achievement. Published in Jufairiain, Finance and Policy, the study analyzed the impact of a four-day school week on student achievement by comparing fourth-grade reading and fifth-grade math test scores from the Colorado Student Assessment Program for students who participated in a four-day school week versus those who attended school in a traditional five-day week.

“What interested me about our results is they were completely opposite to what we anticipated,” Walker said. “We thought that — especially for the younger, elementary school kids — longer days on a shorter school week would hurt their academic performance because their attention spans are shorter. Also, a longer weekend would give them more opportunity to forget what they had learned.” Although the shortened school week did not affect reading outcomes, “the idea that the calendar change did not have the negative effects we expected was an important result,” Walker said.

“The results are only applicable to smaller and more rural school districts, she noted, and further studies should be performed to understand the effects on urban school districts.

STUDENTS SECOND GLOBALLY

ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL GRADUATE STUDENTS Christabel Gharani, Aaron Lichkay, Afroze Charania, Alan Tipert and Kelly Parry were among the 18-member team, Making Energy Great Again, which placed second in the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration’s second annual Student Simulation Competition. Competing teams drew 375 graduate students from 135 universities throughout the United States and Europe. They developed projections and created comprehensive policy solutions to contain global climate warming through the year 2100.

“From a judging point of view, you couldn’t help but be enthusiastic,” said clinical assistant professor Joseph Hacker, who judged the Georgia State team with faculty from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte and Texas A&M University. “The material students worked with was extremely complicated, and they jumped in and really made it happen.”
SINGLE WOMEN LEAD ENTREPRENEURIAL GROWTH

Self-employment is growing faster among single women who live in communities that support entrepreneurship and innovation than among men and married women, according to economist Carli-anne Patrick and her co-authors.

More single women will continue to choose an entrepreneurial career path as their abilities, education, self-confidence and age at first marriage continue to rise, they found.

This study is the first to recognize the diversity of self-employment decisions made by women and the impact of various individual, household and local economic and cultural forces on their decisions. It was published in Small Business Economics in March 2016.

While the number of self-employed married women is double that of single women — 8 versus 4 percent — the only growth in self-employment rates during the last decade has come from single women.

Self-employment rates have been associated with higher levels of economic growth, so understanding the factors that affect women’s employment choices is important to policymakers involved in economic development. However, in evaluating those policies that support self-employment, it is also important to understand outcomes, such as earnings, job creation and profits, the report suggests.

“If women are choosing between not working and self-employment, then efforts to help them become self-employed will create a job and generate earnings for someone otherwise out of the labor force,” Patrick said. “Such policies can contribute to wealth creation and economic growth.”

SUN RISES ON REDEVELOPMENT FINANCING TOOL

REVENUES FROM ATLANTA’S 10 tax allocation districts (TADs) were expected to post strong growth by the end of the city’s 2015–16 fiscal year with a projected revenue increase of nearly 30 percent, or $21.5 million overall. The new projections are the first glimmer of progress following years of lackluster growth, according to a new report by the Center for State & Local Finance.

A TAD is a public finance tool that works like tax increment financing and is used in Georgia to spur redevelopment.

THE CITY’S USE OF TAX INCREMENT FINANCING HAS CREATED NEARLY $2.5 BILLION IN NEW TAXABLE VALUE

Despite the Great Recession’s effects on real-estate, employment activity in Atlanta’s TADs, the city’s use of tax increment financing has created nearly $2.5 billion in new taxable value, a better than 10 percent increase, said Dick Layton, an expert in Georgia municipal finance and author of the report.

Still, the Great Recession created hurdles that may have a lasting impact on Atlanta’s future use of these districts, Layton said. This includes concerns about management over the years of Atlanta’s redevelopment program, the accumulation of unused funds in certain TADs, high administrative costs for some TADs and issues associated with the ongoing evaluation of TAD progress in meeting economic development goals.

Learn more about TADs and their impact on Atlanta at csf.gsu.edu/publications/deep.

Georgia’s Film Tax Credit Takes the Stage

GEORGIA’S FILM INCENTIVE HAS ATTRACTED movie and television industry executives from all over the world to build major studios and produce blockbuster films and television series. In fiscal year 2015, these productions were reported to have had an overall economic impact of $6 billion across the state, which is now fondly known as the “Hollywood of the South.”

Film industry employment in Georgia, which holds the nation’s fifth highest share in this area, rose more than 60 percent in five years. Florida, which ranks third, rose 27 percent.

The Fiscal Research Center provided a detailed description of Georgia’s film tax credit and film industry in a policy brief published earlier this year. It found that in 2014, 38 states had film tax incentives with credit rates ranging from 14 percent in Montana to 58 percent in Alaska. Georgia’s was among the most generous at 20 percent, and an additional 10 percent credit can be earned by including an embedded animated Georgia logo.

The Georgia film tax credit has cost the state an estimated $925 million in used credits between 2009–14. During the same period, employment in Georgia’s film industry increased 62 percent to 4,109, compared to a 9 percent increase in private employment.

Takes the Stage

Georgia’s Film Tax Credit

GEORGIA’S FILM INCENTIVE HAS ATTRACTED movie and television industry executives from all over the world to build major studios and produce blockbuster films and television series. In fiscal year 2015, these productions were reported to have had an overall economic impact of $6 billion across the state, which is now fondly known as the “Hollywood of the South.”

Film industry employment in Georgia, which holds the nation’s fifth highest share in this area, rose more than 60 percent in five years. Florida, which ranks third, rose 27 percent.

The Fiscal Research Center provided a detailed description of Georgia’s film tax credit and film industry in a policy brief published earlier this year. It found that in 2014, 38 states had film tax incentives with credit rates ranging from 14 percent in Montana to 58 percent in Alaska. Georgia’s was among the most generous at 20 percent, and an additional 10 percent credit can be earned by including an embedded animated Georgia logo.

The Georgia film tax credit has cost the state an estimated $925 million in used credits between 2009–14. During the same period, employment in Georgia’s film industry increased 62 percent to 4,109, compared to a 9 percent increase in private employment.
Africa’s Greatest Assets

School Partners with White House Leadership Initiative Again

The International Center for Public Policy hosted 25 accomplished young professionals from Africa at its six-week Public Management Institute in June and July. Their presence marked a second year of partnering with President Barack Obama’s Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders Initiative.

The Mandela Washington Fellowship empowers young leaders from sub-Saharan Africa through academic coursework, leadership training, mentoring, networking, professional opportunities and support for activities in their communities. “We geared the program towards future leaders in the public and nonprofit sectors and showed them how government, at different levels, impacts policy,” said Shereen Bhan, assistant director of ICEPP and the YALI program manager. “All of Atlanta Veteran’s Farm market was visit Atlanta Veteran’s Farmers Market.

The community’s participation stood out for fellows like Jonathan Maphosa, deputy general counsel of the South African Reserve Bank. “The course content is well balanced with appropriate site visits, which is proving invaluable in marrying the learning from the workshops with practice in the various public management offices we visit.”

The Mandela Washington Fellowship empowers young leaders from sub-Saharan Africa.

DON HUNT WAS one of only six doctoral students nationwide to receive the competitive Bureau of Justice Statistics Graduate Research Fellowship. He will fund his dissertation, “Exploring the Impact on Crime of Removing Cash from the Economy through the Electronic Benefits Transfer Program.” Hunt runs the fraud analytics department at Worldpay U.S., one of the largest processors of transactions globally. His department deals with crimes focused on fraud, laundering and identity theft, with a goal of “getting ahead of criminals,” Hunt said. “We take information and run statistical analysis to make our systems better, so they can’t be penetrated in the future.”

Hunt’s department also joins law enforcement in the field to investigate cases of fraud. Hunt will present his research to the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the American Society of Criminologists at its November conference. He plans to graduate in the spring with a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice & Criminology at the Andrew Young School.

DON HUNT WAS one of only six doctoral students nationwide to receive the competitive Bureau of Justice Statistics Graduate Research Fellowship.

CHILD DEATHS ARE PREVENTABLE when the community is involved. Anita Mbiye (M.S.W. ’16) and Misty Novitch (M.S.W. ’16) saw firsthand through their practical work with the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia (HMHB) and Results Atlanta. So they decided to tell others.

“Our graduating class can be the generation that made history by making preventable child deaths something that future cohorts read about in history books,” they co-wrote in an opinion piece for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution in May.

Mbiye and Novitch worked for HMHB and Results Atlanta through Georgia State’s School of Social Work, which offers a unique concentration in community partnerships. “The M.S.W program at Georgia State was specifically designed by local social workers based on what was needed in the profession and the community,” they wrote. “We look at the big picture — communities, organizations, societies. Community partnerships is about making stronger connections between organizations to better fill in the gaps in services, accomplish larger goals and meet the needs of all people.”

HMHB advocacy helped pass HB 649 (Georgia Lactation Consultant Practice Act) to help new mothers receive the assistance of certified lactation consultants. Results Atlanta is partnering with Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE) and other organizations, including HMHB, to pass the Reach Every Mother and Child Act.

“The good news is that there is a way to end preventable child deaths by 2035 if we are diligent and leverage partnerships,” Mbiye and Novitch wrote.

“Looking at the big picture through community partnerships, particularly as they relate to child welfare services, is important to the School of Social Work. Georgia State received a $2 million federal grant last fall to restart the Title IV-B Child Welfare Education Program.”

Working in partnership with the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), Georgia State and other Georgia universities with degree programs in social work offer financial support to students committed to careers in child welfare services. The program, managed by associate professor Deborah Whitley, is aimed at developing and retaining an educated, professional and stable workforce for DFCS.
A boarded up home in the Mechanicsville neighborhood near the Turner Field. (AP Photo/David Goldman)

CAMPUS SAFETY: TAKE NOTE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS attending universities in the United States, particularly females, may be at risk for violent, non-sexual victimization than their domestic counterparts. This is due, in part, to their choices in lifestyles and activities, according to a new study by criminologist Leah E. Daigle, student Chrystina Hoffman (M.S.) and their co-author.

Using data from the American College Health Association’s National College Health Assessment II, they assessed the extent to which international college students experience violent victimization, comparing their risk to that of domestic students. They also examined whether gender moderates this relationship for the international students.

Female international students were significantly less likely to be victims of violent, non-sexual crimes because they are more isolated from the typical college experience that produces victimization, they found. Collectively, international students experience college differently from students born in the United States.

"International students, both male and female, are less likely to enter as first-year freshmen and report lower rates of drug use, binge drinking and having a disability," said Daigle. "These conditions have shown, in previous research, to raise students' risk profiles and can potentially shape their vulnerability to victimization.

The article, "The Extent and Risk of Violent Victimization Among International College Students Enrolled in the United States: A Gendered Analysis," was published online in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence.

SHAPE Fights the Good Fight

GEORGIA IS MAKING progress in its battle against childhood obesity, according to a recent Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) article published in the Journal of the Georgia Public Health Association. The study examined the progress of the state’s Student Health and Physical Education (SHAPE) childhood obesity prevention initiative.

It found a decline in the obesity rate for low-income, 2- to 4-year-old children, stabilization of body mass index of school-aged children, and improvement in percent-ages of boys and girls with increased aerobic capacity. When the SHAPE initiative started in 2012, 59 percent of Georgia’s students were in the Healthy Fitness Zone for body composition. Under Georgia SHAPE, the goal is to have 69 percent of Georgia’s children achieve a healthy weight range by 2023.

"Progress in addressing childhood obesity is slow and steady. It is being accomplished due to a diverse set of stakeholders engaging in a statewide coordinated effort that, along with the creation of the Georgia SHAPE Initiative, contributes to population-based health with regard to childhood obesity and aerobic capacity measures," said lead author Debra Kibbe, a GHPC senior research associate.

The goal is to have 69 percent of Georgia’s children achieve a healthy weight range by 2023.
Suicide Risk Rises When Bathrooms Are Battlegrounds

Transgender university and college students are at a significantly higher risk for suicide attempts when their campus experience includes being denied access to bathrooms and gender-appropriate campus housing, new research finds.

"An alarmingly high proportion of the transgender individuals participating in this study—46.3 percent—had a history of attempted suicide," said author Kristie Seelman, assistant professor of social work.

The rate of attempted suicide was even higher among those who had been denied access to bathrooms (60.5 percent) or gender-appropriate campus housing (60.6 percent), which was significant differences, she said.

Seelman’s research recommends institutions of higher education put policies and a network of faculty and staff in place to address harassment and victimization, provide access to safe, gender-appropriate bathroom and housing options, and establish well-funded, competent mental health services to meet transgender students' needs.

Her article was published in The Journal of Homosexuality this past February, just three months before the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights and the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division released new federal guidelines prohibiting public schools from forcing any student to use bathrooms and other facilities inconsistent with his or her gender identity.

VICTIMIZATION, RACE AND THE MENTALLY ILL

African-Americans who are mentally ill are at greater risk of being repeatedly victimized than are mentally ill Caucasians, according to a new study by criminologists Christina Pastico (Ph.D.’15), Brent Teasdale and Leah Daigle.

The study, published recently in the Journal of Quantitative Criminology, is the first to analyze the re-victimization of persons with serious mental illness by race.

Using data from the MacArthur Violence Risk Assessment Study, the researchers found the rate of recurring victimization among African-Americans remained stable over time while it declined for whites the first year after release from inpatient psychiatric hospitalization.

The findings suggest African-Americans with mental disorder encounter a number of social and cultural barriers to seeking help, including limited access to and underuse of mental health services.

“Lower-income urban communities with larger high-need populations, such as homeless and formerly incarcerated individuals, are dependent on publicly funded health care programs for mental health services,” Teasdale said. “Yet the availability of these services varies across location, affecting the care options available to many African-Americans who suffer from mental illness.”

He and Daigle are associate professors at the Andrew Young School.

The authors suggest interventions such as improving the accessibility of mental health services for underserved populations and reducing the social and financial barriers to their use.

INTERNET OVERUSE LEADS FAMILIES TO CONNECT AND CONFLICT

Today’s family dinner table, college students often sit with a fork in one hand and a mobile device in the other as they surf the Internet. Their immediacy or real-time exposure to world news and events, ultimately making them more politically and socially aware, is a positive effect.

However, at the same time, focused conversations are often hampered, according to new research from child welfare expert Susan Snyder and her colleagues.

Their study is the first to show how college students in the United States with Problematic Internet Use (PIU) perceive the role the Internet plays in their families. To get the results, the authors conducted a qualitative study of 27 U.S. university students who self-identified as problematic Internet users.

“We wanted to better understand students with Problematic Internet Use, or those who reported spending more than 23 hours a week on the Internet on non-school or non-work-related activities, and who experienced Internet-associated health or psychosocial problems,” said Snyder, assistant professor of social work.

“Specifically, we wanted to understand how the Internet affects students’ family relationships positively and negatively.”

On the plus side, these students reported their time on the Internet often improved family connectedness when they and their family were apart. However, their excessive Internet use led to increased family conflict and disconnectedness when family members were together.

Most students with PIU felt their families also overserved the Internet, with parents not setting enough limits for either parent or sibling Internet use.

Young adults are at an especially high risk for behavioral addictions, said Snyder. Problematic Internet Use is considered a behavioral addiction with characteristics similar to substance abuse disorders. It has been linked with negative mental health consequences such as depression, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, hostility, social phobia, alcohol abuse, self-injures and sleep difficulties.

College students may be especially vulnerable to developing PIU for reasons that include free Internet access, large blocks of free time, courses that require Internet connectivity, and who experienced Internet-associated health or psychosocial problems. It is considered a behavioral addiction with characteristics similar to substance abuse disorders.

It has been linked with negative mental health consequences such as depression, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, hostility, social phobia, alcohol abuse, self-injures and sleep difficulties. College students may be especially vulnerable to developing PIU for reasons that include free Internet access, large blocks of free time, courses that require Internet connectivity, and who experienced Internet-associated health or psychosocial problems. It is considered a behavioral addiction with characteristics similar to substance abuse disorders.

14 SYMPTOMS OF COMPELLING INTERNET USE

Rate yourself from 0–4 on the Compulsive Internet Use Scale (CIUS)* for each symptom. A total of 21 or greater indicates compulsive Internet use.

0 = Never
1 = Seldom
2 = Sometimes
3 = Often
4 = Very Often

1. I find it difficult to stop using the Internet.
2. I continue to use the Internet despite intention to stop.
3. Others (such as parents, children and friends) say I should use the Internet less.
4. I prefer to use the Internet instead of spending time with others.
5. I am short of sleep due to Internet use.
6. I think of the Internet when I’m not online.
7. I look forward to the next Internet session.
8. I think my Internet use should be less frequent.
9. I have unsuccessfully tried to spend less time on the Internet.
10. I rush through homework to get back on the Internet.
11. I neglect daily obligations (work, school or family) to use the Internet.
12. I use the Internet when feeling down.
13. I use the Internet to procrastinate, or get relief from negative feelings.
14. I feel restless, frustrated, or irritated when the Internet is unavailable.

WHEN AND HOW DID YOU EXPAND INTO STATEWIDE POLICY ISSUES?

I was appointed director of the Fiscal Research Center in 1997. We tried to anticipate the policy issues the General Assembly would consider during its next session. We'd identify topics by talking to people, scanning newspapers and reading between the lines, then have reports waiting for them. We didn't know when people cited or used the research, but the information was available to them. That changed rather quickly. We started getting calls from General Assembly members or staff who'd say, "We're thinking about this bill. Would you look at it and figure out what the implications would be?" People from both sides of the aisle — the Office of Planning and Budget and Senate research staff — all called. We also were doing research for members of Congress. Now, whenever the question is public finance, budget or revenues, the Fiscal Research Center gets the calls. The Fiscal Research Center hosts the state's experts in public finance.

ECONOMICS PROFESSOR DAVID SJOQUIST BUILDS BETTER COMMUNITIES IN A VERY PUBLIC WAY.

HOW DID YOU DEVELOP AN INTEREST IN POLICY?

My interest preceded my employment. I attended graduate school in Minneapolis, where the Citizen’s League met every other month for breakfast. Mayoral candidates and others would come to talk about the issues. The league also formed study teams, which I joined, to research community issues and develop policy recommendations. I learned then that what really interested me was informing public policy. Why? The issues are local, and they’re in people’s faces all the time.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST MAJOR ROLE IN INFORMING POLICY DECISION-MAKING?

My first role was serving on advisory groups for Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson and Georgia Senator Paul Coverdell. But Research Atlanta was my first significant role. I served on the board and as president in the 1980s, and then as executive director in the 1990s. The research focused on the city, but we also looked at metro issues — everything from the airport to the zoo. The reports had an impact. For example, the research informed the development of the Arts Council, now the Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund.

WHEN AND HOW DID YOU EXPAND INTO STATEWIDE POLICY ISSUES?

I was appointed director of the Fiscal Research Center in 1997. We tried to anticipate the policy issues the General Assembly would consider during its next session. We'd identify topics by talking to people, scanning newspapers and reading between the lines, then have reports waiting for them. We didn't know when people cited or used the research, but the information was available to them.

That changed rather quickly. We started getting calls from General Assembly members or staff who’d say, "We’re thinking about this bill. Would you look at it and figure out what the implications would be?" People from both sides of the aisle — the Office of Planning and Budget and Senate research staff — all called. We also were doing research for members of Congress. Now, whenever the question is public finance, budget or revenues, the Fiscal Research Center gets the calls.

The Fiscal Research Center hosts the state’s experts in public finance.

ECONOMICS PROFESSOR DAVID SJOQUIST BUILDS BETTER COMMUNITIES IN A VERY PUBLIC WAY.

HOW DID YOU DEVELOP AN INTEREST IN POLICY?

My interest preceded my employment. I attended graduate school in Minneapolis, where the Citizen’s League met every other month for breakfast. Mayoral candidates and others would come to talk about the issues. The league also formed study teams, which I joined, to research community issues and develop policy recommendations. I learned then that what really interested me was informing public policy. Why? The issues are local, and they’re in people’s faces all the time.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST MAJOR ROLE IN INFORMING POLICY DECISION-MAKING?

My first role was serving on advisory groups for Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson and Georgia Senator Paul Coverdell. But Research Atlanta was my first significant role. I served on the board and as president in the 1980s, and then as executive director in the 1990s. The research focused on the city, but we also looked at metro issues — everything from the airport to the zoo. The reports had an impact. For example, the research informed the development of the Arts Council, now the Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund.

WHEN AND HOW DID YOU EXPAND INTO STATEWIDE POLICY ISSUES?

I was appointed director of the Fiscal Research Center in 1997. We tried to anticipate the policy issues the General Assembly would consider during its next session. We'd identify topics by talking to people, scanning newspapers and reading between the lines, then have reports waiting for them. We didn't know when people cited or used the research, but the information was available to them.

That changed rather quickly. We started getting calls from General Assembly members or staff who’d say, "We’re thinking about this bill. Would you look at it and figure out what the implications would be?" People from both sides of the aisle — the Office of Planning and Budget and Senate research staff — all called. We also were doing research for members of Congress. Now, whenever the question is public finance, budget or revenues, the Fiscal Research Center gets the calls. The Fiscal Research Center hosts the state’s experts in public finance.

ECONOMICS PROFESSOR DAVID SJOQUIST BUILDS BETTER COMMUNITIES IN A VERY PUBLIC WAY.

HOW DID YOU DEVELOP AN INTEREST IN POLICY?

My interest preceded my employment. I attended graduate school in Minneapolis, where the Citizen’s League met every other month for breakfast. Mayoral candidates and others would come to talk about the issues. The league also formed study teams, which I joined, to research community issues and develop policy recommendations. I learned then that what really interested me was informing public policy. Why? The issues are local, and they’re in people’s faces all the time.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST MAJOR ROLE IN INFORMING POLICY DECISION-MAKING?

My first role was serving on advisory groups for Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson and Georgia Senator Paul Coverdell. But Research Atlanta was my first significant role. I served on the board and as president in the 1980s, and then as executive director in the 1990s. The research focused on the city, but we also looked at metro issues — everything from the airport to the zoo. The reports had an impact. For example, the research informed the development of the Arts Council, now the Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund.
The terror attack at the Pulse Club in Orlando

by DR. ROBERT FRIEDMANN

Many of the same policies that were in place leading up to the Orlando shooting are still in place in many parts of the United States. While there have been some recent policy changes, most of the policies that were in place leading up to the Orlando shooting are still in place. The policies that were in place leading up to the Orlando shooting are still in place.

One of the recommendations was a major change to the income tax. It popped up at the very end of the deliberations and was included without any analysis. I'd started looking at it before the report was finalized and realized it would mean a huge revenue increase. I also looked at the distributional impact of the income tax proposal and found that people below $100,000 would have a tax increase, those above would have large tax cuts. I went back to Rep. Channell and showed him the findings. As a result, the recommendation was refined. Just this year I and a co-author published two papers that found the HOPE scholarship reduced the probability that college graduates would earn a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) degree. Students were likely concerned that they would have a lower grade point average (GPA) if they majored in STEM, which would make them ineligible for HOPE. As a result of these findings, Speaker Pro Tem Jan Jones sponsored House Bill 801 to give STEM students a bump up in their STEM grades. The bill passed both houses and was signed into law by Gov. Nathan Deal.

Another citizen member, Dave Williams, and I got other citizen members together, and we all kept pushing until citizen members had a strong voice. We also expanded the type and scope of issues the commission addressed beyond transportation. DeKalb County is going through a lot of changes. A couple of years ago, I served on its Government Operations Task Force. We had a huge agenda and lots of conversations but had not developed recommendations. I went ahead and drafted a set of recommendations. Essentially all of the recommendations passed. Several of the recommendations, such as ethics reform, called for the General Assembly to pass legislation, which it did.

What difference do you feel community service makes?

The social values instilled in me by my parents have led me to contribute my skills and expertise to the betterment of society. My research, which flows from those values, is largely motivated by a desire for better public policy. But while publishing papers on policy is an important and necessary step in influencing policy, you won’t have much impact sitting in some isolated ivory tower. I see advising policymakers and sitting on boards and commissions as important in transforming policy research into actual policy. You need to work with policymakers if you are really going to affect policy.
Death penalty convictions in the United States have significantly declined in recent years. Death sentences are dropping, executions have declined, and studies show the public prefers alternatives such as life without parole over the death penalty.

In Georgia, no new death sentences have been handed down since 2014. Mitigation specialist Anupama Vishwamitra (M.S.W ’06), director of mitigation in the Office of the Georgia Capital Defender, is committed to seeing this new trend stay the course.

Before the state established the Capital Defenders Office in 2003, local judges were responsible for finding attorneys willing to take death penalty cases. Private defense lawyers were paid far less for politically unpopular trials that took them away from their paying practices, causing many to go bankrupt. These challenges led to the office’s creation.

The office now provides significant resources to those facing the death penalty and pays for the cost of their defense. It ensures they are represented by specially trained attorneys who work in tandem with the office’s mitigation specialists, fact investigators and other experts. There are 43 employees statewide. The 11 mitigation specialists typically work four or five active cases while fact investigators can work as many as 20.

Although there have been no death penalty convictions in two years, executions continue to take place. As of June, Georgia had executed five people in 2016.

“Individuals who were executed this year had trials many years ago when mitigation investigation — the way we have perfected it and the way the field has developed — didn’t exist,” Vishwamitra said.

“In fact, many defendants were given new trials over the years because of the poor quality of the mitigation investigation before the creation of this office.”

Capital litigation, with a keen focus on mitigation investigation, upholds the legal rights and fair representation of offenders.

“In our investigations, we find information that can help explain the crime, like mental illnesses that have gone undiagnosed or without medication, or more frequently, how a school system or family may have failed the client,” Vishwamitra said.

“The common thread in all of my clients’ lives is that they’ve experienced trauma at some point. They’ve all been victims. Poverty, mental illness, parenting, PTSD, learning disabilities, racism: these things lay out the trajectory of their lives, and when you put it all together, you don’t see any other way their lives could have gone.”

As mitigation specialists, her team’s role is to tell the full story.

“It’s harder to convince people to kill somebody once they know their story, where they come from and how they got to where they are,” Vishwamitra said. “In Georgia, I think the decline in death penalty convictions has everything to do with how specialized our office has become in defending death penalty cases.”

“The Capital Defenders Office also offers support for the victims of their clients’ crimes, whenever possible.

“We believe it is our duty and responsibility to acknowledge the victims, their loss, and serve as a resource for them,” she said. “This work is not about denying the wrong that happened. It’s about coming up with a better solution as a society.”
ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL

AS WHOLESOME AS A BITE of fresh peach pie, Berkeley Teate does not come across as someone playing a pivotal role in combating terror. In her latest graduate assistant position, however, she conducted research that helped Muslim religious leaders and scholars identify the flaws in ISIS propaganda and develop counter-messaging strategies to discredit the rhetoric and address the rise of Islamophobia.

Teate was a graduate assistant in Gov. Nathan Deal’s Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs in September 2015 when The Carter Center called.

“I had applied earlier that year to the center for a fellows position,” she said. “I’m very strong in regional politics, and my master’s studies have helped me build my research and policy writing. That’s what they were most interested in.”

She joined The Carter Center’s Conflict Resolution Program in January.

Teate wrote research papers, took notes at meetings and formulated briefs that are shared on the program’s website and with governments, civil society and clerics. The project’s goal is to have an impact on the dangerous tide of Islamophobia that countries have been experiencing because of government policies that narrowly address the issue of violent extremism, according to the program’s website.

Politics and international affairs have always interested Teate. It took her a while, though, to transition from her Gwinnett County political roots and interest in economics to her passion for social issues and human rights.

After graduating from Georgia Southern University with a degree in political science and international studies, Teate landed an administrative internship in fall 2012 with Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus during the general election.

“Reince was newer at that point, and he put me to work on the Tampa Convention, had me organize all the contact information, I’d write briefs on what was going on each week — national and state elections — and I traveled a great bit,” she said. “It was a great experience, but it helped me realize I wasn’t interested in campaign work or elections. I was more interested in research and writing. I also learned you either have to work at local or state levels or abroad to get things done. At the national level, it’s difficult. From my experience, there are too many players.”

Her experience in the Governor’s Office confirmed her thoughts.

“State and local politics work,” she said. “They get things done.”

Teate returned to Atlanta and began work as a policy studies undergraduate adviser at Georgia State. “As an adviser for two-and-a-half years, I got to know the Andrew Young School well. Its public policy graduate programs offer a lot of skill sets I had developed, like evaluation, policy analysis and statistics methods.”

She decided to pursue a master of public policy (M.P.P.) degree with a concentration in planning and economic development.

Two semesters into her M.P.P. program, while still an adviser, Teate decided she’d better get back into the political realm. She landed in the Governor’s Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs.

“It was a great experience,” she said. “I sat in on Education Reform Commission meetings with senators, the chancellor and commissioners, taking notes I formulated into briefs for [the governor’s] policy adviser.”

She also accepted an internship in the trade office of the British Embassy in Atlanta.

“It was a good opportunity to do research on the mobility industry in Atlanta, the Southeast and the United Kingdom. I study our strengths and am putting together a long-term report.”

The work includes a trip to Nashville for a United Kingdom trade investment conference.

Teate will work at The Carter Center until December. Now a fellows program assistant, she continues to write and advise.

“Once I graduate, I’d like to do something similar to what I do at The Carter Center: research and policy-based writing for areas of conflict,” she said.

To that end, she is studying Arabic, and she and her husband plan to relocate to Washington, D.C.

“I’d eventually like to be a policy adviser like Huma Abadan, the chief policy adviser for Hillary Clinton,” Teate said. “I like that role, the policy advising. I don’t have to be in the spotlight to make my mark on the world. In the policy world, it’s more about getting your writing out there than your voice.”
Nearly all countries in the world call themselves democracies, yet less than half of these countries are democratic. Economist Daniel Bruce (M.A. ’14), who has worked on the national elections in several countries, feels presidential elections in the U.S. are a cakewalk by comparison.

“In countries experiencing major political transitions or where democracy is quite new, citizens have real concerns about the possibility of rigged elections or election-related violence,” said Bruce. “That’s why governments invite organizations to observe and assess the electoral process — to validate credible elections and promote peace.

“In the United States, our system is based on trust. We have what seems to be a sound process in place, including strong media and strong accountability systems. If someone were able to manipulate election results, we’d know. Powerful media hold feet to the fire, as does a voter base that consumes the media.”

In his work as a program associate for The Carter Center’s Democracy Program, Bruce has supported election observation projects in countries such as Tunisia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Guyana.

Weeks before election day — before the blue pens, ballots and large plastic bins were set up in polling stations across these countries — Bruce trained cadres of election monitors how to collect and submit data during the elections. The data they collected in the field was used to evaluate the election process using tablets and a piece of open-source software called ELMO that Bruce helped The Carter Center develop. He analyzed and interpreted the data in real time to inform public reports on the quality of the election process, reports that were then released and disseminated by The Carter Center.

“If the election process has gone well, The Carter Center’s reports will build confidence in the whole process,” he said. “If parts of the process don’t go well, the reports will draw attention to problematic areas and offer recommendations for remediation and improving the process in the future.”

Bruce joined The Carter Center as an intern while studying for his master’s degree at Georgia State. He had just ended an internship with the United States Agency for International Development’s Bureau for Africa’s Office of Sustainable Development in Washington, D.C.

“My interests are in international development, broadly, and the skills I developed while studying at the Andrew Young School nudged me into the data analysis side,” he said.

Upon graduation, he joined the Democracy Program and started in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where he spent two weeks training civil society leaders to use ELMO in their own grassroots election observation efforts. These efforts ultimately led to the deployment of 600 local citizen reporters throughout the country to monitor its pre-election process.

He then moved on to Tunisia for its legislative, presidential and presidential run-off elections.

“The autocratic government was ousted in 2011 following the revolution of the Arab Spring. In 2014, Tunisian citizens elected a president and legislature for the first time in their history,” he said. “It was definitely an historic moment for all involved and an accomplishment all Tunisians should be proud of.”

Guyana was The Carter Center’s 100th election center mission.

“Guyana had been under the rule of the same party for nearly 25 years,” Bruce said. “They had a competitive election, where the opposition party won, and although tension was present in some areas, the process was relatively peaceful.”

Democracy Program activities are conducted upon invitation by a country. They are coordinated with the activities of their national groups as well as of other global nongovernmental organizations with similar missions.

“A growing base of civil society groups want to be involved in monitoring their own election processes,” Bruce said. “They want to hold their governments accountable. More and more often, international organizations are increasing efforts to build the capacity of civil society to carry out election observation and promote democracy and peace.”

Bruce left The Carter Center in March 2016 to join the Montana Office of Public Instruction as a data and research analyst.

“It’s a different field for sure, a different environment,” he said, “but I’m excited about the public service component and the opportunity to influence better policy and social outcomes.”
Economists Musharraf Cyan, Michael Price and Mark Rider were training Pakistan government officials in Islamabad when they learned seven Taliban gunmen had opened fire on a primary school in Peshawar, killing 141 people. It was December 2014, and the trainees had come from the country’s northwestern territories, where the attack occurred.

The trainees were learning how to evaluate the impacts of programs they hoped would improve trust in government for citizens in Pakistan’s conflict regions. This trust, they knew, would be required to counter radicalism and insurgency in areas that had been under Taliban control.

The impact would be extensive.

“More than 34 million people in the northwestern provinces of Pakistan were destabilized by the war,” Rider said. “The militancy there has led to more than three million refugees.”

After their training, the officials returned home with survey materials and plans designed by Cyan and his colleagues, Andrew Young School faculty and researchers in the school’s International Center for Public Policy (ICEPP). In just a few months, they had conducted more than 10,000 field and phone surveys in communities at the epicenter of the Taliban-infested border region of Pakistan: Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and the contiguous province, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

The World Bank had contracted with ICEPP to design and manage impact evaluation studies of its multi-million-dollar Post Conflict Needs Assessment Program.

“They and the Pakistani government wanted answers on what they need to do or rebuild to prevent conflict in the future,” Price said. “This was their big umbrella for the research. Trust, happiness and increased life satisfaction are key precursors of economic development. Increased trust and general perceptions of trust of others are both important elements of economic growth.”

The ICEPP team’s work would also inject science into the region’s governance.

“The World Bank is big on evaluation,” Price said. “They want their recipients to measure the impacts of the interventions they’re funding.”
The World Bank invested $600 million and set up a multi-donor trust fund in 2010 to reinvest in the redevelopment of Pakistan’s conflict areas. After the national government cleared the militancy out of the region, it used the money to rebuild infrastructure and institutions for responsive and accountable governance, improve the water supply and provide urban services and education. It reformed the law to encourage citizen participation in governance, adding the Right to Information and Right to Public Services acts. Its High Court also set up a grievance system for the poorer, marginalized communities in the provinces.

These incentives, designed to improve the quality of life for millions of Pakistani citizens, were targeted for evaluation by The World Bank and other agencies. They awarded Cyan and his team an initial grant of $240,000 to develop the evaluation tools, train local officials to conduct the surveys and analyze the results.

“A tiny minority of militants is shaping not only the perceptions of the West, but also perceptions within Pakistan. We now have evidence that rejects that attitude.”

“We learned which of those programs were having positive effects and restoring citizen trust in the state, and which were not,” Cyan said. He offered a public health intervention as an example. “Tuberculosis is an important health concern around the world, but we’re working in an area of militancy where polio vaccinators sometimes are killed because of deep-seated biases,” Cyan said. “We built and tested a tuberculosis health literacy intervention that produced a higher recognition of symptoms and led to greater readiness to seek health care.”

Rider described their research about the attitudes of parents in northwestern Pakistan toward educating girls.

“SCIENCE SHAPES ANTI-TERROR STRATEGY”

Cyan, Rider and Price returned to Islamabad in June 2015 to meet with Pakistan government officials and executives from The World Bank, DFID and other funding agencies and countries. After listening to the governor of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa welcome the gathering, they presented their findings.

“For most of these 13 programs, awareness led to increased trust,” said Price. “The citizens we surveyed perceived changes in the quality of service delivery. They believed the government was providing better services. So these new programs and policies are having the biggest impact on the people one would want to impact. They are the real consequences of having weak governments and institutions. Now they are doing things to prevent that from happening in the future.”

The research has also led to improved service delivery. “We found in the tuberculosis program evaluation, for example, that direct communication with citizens — either in person or over the phone — in all cases improved their perception of government. It is another building block for peace, restoring...”

“Aid in 2016 is not just charity — it is national security. Though of course we know that aid alone is not the answer, it is also true that when aid is structured properly, with a focus on fighting poverty and improving governance, it could just be the best bulwark we have against the extremism of our age.”

— Bono, cofounder of ONE and lead singer of U2, in testimony before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, April 12, 2016.
trust and minimizing militancy,” Cyan said.

The World Bank and the government are using the ICEPP team’s research to prioritize the funding for and redesign of projects for their next, larger phase of reinvestment in the country.

“The World Bank and its partners in Pakistan will use our findings to inform any further policy choices the government should make,” Rider said. “Our work encourages governments to institutionalize program evaluations and design strategies to restore citizens’ trust in post-conflict environments.”

Cyan agreed.

“Overall,” he said, “we’ve helped Pakistan build local capacity to carry out program evaluations. Although these governments are shy of innovation, they were much more ready to experiment with new approaches when we demonstrated that their policy innovations can be studied via rigorous analytical methods to see whether they work or not.”

Cyan and his team recently received another $514,000 World Bank grants to continue this work in FATA and in an additional Pakistani province.

“We will continue working with governments to promote the use of evidence in decision-making,” said Price. “For example, we know very little about how you rebuild lives following conflicts. How do you rebuild and grow? What are the impacts of resettlement? What are the benefits when people return? Given Syria and the mass movement of refugees, this is important.

“In Pakistan, you’re talking about a nuclear power. It’s not just one country impacted. It’s a region, and the stakes are really high.”

“It is impossible to exaggerate this region’s geopolitical significance,” agreed Rider. “It’s where Osama Bin Laden was killed by U.S. forces. It is the home of Malala Yousafzai, who was shot on a school bus by militants for advocating for girls’ education. We are very proud of what we have accomplished in a very turbulent, yet strategically important, region of the world.

“Unfortunately, regional conflicts are a growing problem. Consequently, there is likely to be growing demand for research like ours regarding evidenced-based strategies to restore citizens’ trust in post-conflict regions and countries.”

WHERE WE WORK

The work of the International Center for Public Policy is interdisciplinary, engaging more than 20 faculty members from several Georgia State academic departments who lead research, teaching, technical assistance and training activities for developing countries.

ICEPP PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Cambodia
China
East Timor-Leste
India
Indonesia
Lao People’s Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Nepal
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Vietnam
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA
Bulgaria
Czech Republic

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHERN AFRICA
Egypt
Gaza Strip
Jordan
Syria
West Bank

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
Congo
Cote d’Ivoire
Malawi
Nigeria
Rwanda
Swaziland
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Colombia
Guatemala
Guyana
Honduras
Jamaica
Nicaragua
Panama
Peru

AWARDS, HONORS & PUBLICATIONS

Ph.D. student Krytstelnyn Carabolis was awarded the American Society of Criminology’s highly competitive 2016 Feth D. Parker Fellowship for Racial and Ethnic Diversity.

Associate professors Leah Daigle and Brent Tosdahl win the world’s top 100 criminologists, according to the research article, “Measuring the Quantity and Quality of Scholarly Productivity in Criminology and Criminal Justice: A Test of Three Cited-Based Models,” published in Scientometrics.


President Barack Obama published a paper about the Affordable Care Act in the Journal of the American Medical Association in July in which he cited the National Bureau of Economic Research working paper “Impacts of the Affordable Care Act on Health Insurance Coverage and Enrollment,” was reported on in several media outlets, including the Washington Post, Time magazine and USA Today. She was appointed to the Council on Social Work Education’s Council on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression in June.

Professor Paulo Stephan was named a National Associate of the National Academy of Sciences’ National Research Council in June.

Economics faculty Andrey Timofeev and Neven Volver developed forecasting models for the government of Jordan that will be used by its Ministry of Finance to track developments in the macro economy and to plan budget revenues and expenditures.


Assistant professor Carlianne Patrick was awarded the 2016 William H. Mierlyn Research Excellence Medal at the Southern Regional Science Association meeting in Washington, D.C., in April 4 for “Demand for New Cities: Property-Value Capitalization of Municipal Incorporation.”

Alumnus Roman Roeb (Ph.D. ’08) joined the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre near Milan, Italy, as a research fellow in May.

Associate professor Kristie Seelam’s research, “Transgender Adults’ Access to College Bathrooms and Housing and the Relationship to Suicide,” was reported on in several media outlets, including the Washington Post, Time magazine and USA Today.

Professor F. A. Hayek Program for Advanced Study in Economics faculty received a National Associate of the National Academy of Sciences’ National Research Council in June.

Visiting Dissertation Fellowship from the F. A. Hayek Program for Advanced Study in Economics faculty received a National Associate of the National Academy of Sciences’ National Research Council in June.

Economics faculty Andrey Timofeev and Neven Volver developed forecasting models for the government of Jordan that will be used by its Ministry of Finance to track developments in the macro economy and to plan budget revenues and expenditures.

Ph.D. student Eric Van Holm received a Visiting Dissertation Fellowship from the Academic and Student Programs and the F. A. Hayek Program for Advanced Study in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at George Mason University’s Mercatus Center for the 2016–17 academic year.

Would you like to follow our faculty, students and alumni? Our bi-weekly Dean’s eNews reports on their achievements, publications in scholarly journals, major presentations and media activity. Sign up to receive these reports at aysps.gsu.edu/deans-e-news.
CANCER IS THE SECOND-LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN GEORGIA

The two leading cancer killers in Georgia are lung and colorectal cancer. As with national trends, death rates from these cancers and others are declining over time.

Advances in early detection and improved treatment options mean more people are living longer after a cancer diagnosis. The American Cancer Society estimates that from 2013 to 2016, cancer survivors living in Georgia are up from 356,000 to 410,740.

More than 75 percent of individuals who receive cancer care in Georgia do so in Commission on Cancer accredited institutions. There are 45 such institutions scattered across the state.