Loudermilk, Portman gifts create new fellowship & support scholarships

Influential Atlanta business and civic leaders have signaled their support for the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies with generous gifts. R. Charles Loudermilk, founder, chairman and CEO of Aaron Rents, Inc., and world-renowned architect and developer John Portman and his wife, Jan, recently made major contributions to the school. They will be used to fund a new fellowship and scholarships and to create a distinct new lecture series.

Loudermilk establishes fellowship

The Jean Childs Young Fellowship was created with Loudermilk's generous $500,000 contribution. He directed the school use the gift to create a lasting memory of Andrew Young's late wife, a highly respected advocate for education and human rights. "I love Jean. She made her mark on this town," says Loudermilk. "When you were around her, you knew what she stood for. This school and university have made such a difference, as she did."

The fellowship will provide financial assistance to select graduate students who study public policy with an emphasis in education and children. The remainder of this gift will fund a lecture series named for Jean Childs Young that will focus on education and child policy.

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STREIB SELECTED TO LEAD PAUS

Professor Greg Streib has been selected to chair the Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies. He succeeds Professor Lloyd Nigro, who had served as chair since 2001.

A public administration faculty member at Georgia State since September 1986, Streib's career at the university reflects the changes that preceded PAUS's current position as one of the two popular academic departments that make up the Andrew Young School: first as assistant professor of public administration in the Institute of Public Administration (1986-1992), which was then located in the College of Public and Urban Affairs; then as an associate professor of public administration in the Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies in the same college (1992). He was promoted to professor in 1997.

As he moves into his new role, Streib says his vision for the department is "to increase the value of our..."
New faculty and programs keep our school at the forefront

A decade ago we did not exist as a policy school, but only as a small program in a college of business. Another decade into the future, I expect that we will also be very different from what we are today.

This sort of growth and change makes for an exciting place to be. It is part of how we attract top new faculty members to join us, and part of the selling point for our graduate programs as well. We seek to grow and develop in a way that is responsive to our environment (local, state, national and international) and the policy needs of today’s world. Sometimes these changes gradually emerge over time and sometimes, like now, they are large and evident even by casual observation.

Recently we hired two new senior faculty members to endowed chairs to lead major collaborative efforts in nonprofit studies and experimental economics. We are already seeing great things emerging from Dennis Young and James Cox. We continue to draw in very talented people to our junior faculty ranks as well, seeking always to build strength on strength.

Additionally, we are instituting two new undergraduate programs that we think will be very popular with our students and will prepare them well for interesting and challenging careers in today’s world.

The first new program is a Bachelor of Science with a major in Public Policy. While many fields contribute knowledge useful to public policy, no single discipline has yet given students the ability to synthesize information and knowledge across disciplines to better formulate comprehensive analyses of existing or proposed policies, enabling them to present these analyses in a useful way to decision-makers. By allowing our students to study a wide variety of policy areas through different departments, our new B.S. will help them develop a unique understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of public policy.

The second is a new Bachelor of Arts with a major in International Economics and Modern Languages (IEML). Globalization is the single most important development impacting our economy. As markets internationalize, the volume of trade, employment and new capital investment becomes increasingly sensitive to world economic conditions and policies, creating a host of new opportunities and challenges. The IEML major combines coursework from both the Economics and Modern Languages departments, creating a unique interdisciplinary major that gives students the analytical tools needed to do economic research, consulting and policy analysis on global economic issues, along with the oral and written language skills needed to work in the native language of several of our major trading partners.

Both the B.S. in Public Policy and the IEML major are a natural fit with, and ideal complement to, the global focus and programs of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. We are excited for the new opportunities they will provide our students.

Robert E. Moore
Associate Dean
Carolyn Young Scholarship cultivates emerging leaders

“A cornerstone of his philosophy on leadership, it is the cultivation and education of tomorrow’s leaders in countries with emerging economies, particularly those that suffer from an historic underinvestment in higher education.

AYSPS presents a generous Carolyn McClain Young Leadership Fund Award to up to four future leaders from Africa and the Caribbean every year, helping to build the human infrastructure necessary to “fix the roads,” so to speak, in these economies. The academic successes exhibited by this year’s recipients – Kwaw Andam, Grace Chikoto, Solomon Tesfu and Moreblessing Dzivakwe – serve as proof that such strategically targeted scholarships do yield a proportionally large return on investment.

The Carolyn Young Award was established to provide advanced educational opportunities for government officials, junior executives in national finance ministries and other young people who show potential for being significant policy leaders in their countries. Recipients are chosen by departmental admission committees.

Recipient Chikoto from Harare, Zimbabwe, is working towards a Ph.D. in Public Policy. She says she enjoys the school’s global nature and its challenging curriculum. “We have people from all over the world, and as such we don’t feel too far away from home. I particularly like the ‘international feel,’ which reminds me a lot of my alma mater, Africa University. Owing to the exposure and training one gets in this school, I feel more confident about myself, as a person, than I did before coming into the program.”

Andam, from Ekumfi-Atakwa, Ghana, in May received an M.A. in Economics. The award has enabled him to pursue his dream of studying for a doctoral degree in public policy. When he graduates, Andam hopes to apply his analytical skills to help developing countries resolve some of the difficult policy questions they face. He is grateful to Andrew and Carolyn Young for their generosity.

Dzivakwe’s goal is to conduct field research for a nonprofit organization back home. An M.P.A. candidate from Gweru, Zimbabwe, she says the award provided a great opportunity to learn from the many different cultures and countries represented by AYSPS students, from Latin America to Russia. “This award gave me an opportunity to see the other side of the world,” she says.

Everyone appreciates the advantages the Carolyn Young Award has afforded them. “I do know for sure that I would not have survived in this country if I did not have the award. I thank God for that, and I am grateful to Ambassador and Mrs. Young for blessing us in this way,” says Chikoto. “In fact, the award is a reminder that we have to be accountable and that we owe it to ourselves and to society to give back in some way, for this award is indeed a rare and heaven-sent opportunity.”

“Carlson Y oung Scholarship

“I admire the Good Samaritan for picking up people on the side of the road, but I don’t want to be the Good Samaritan. I want to fix the road to Jericho, so people don’t get beat up there,” Andrew Young has said.
The Andrew Young School’s work in China and with Chinese nationals has helped significantly improve the country’s economic, administrative and governance performance in the public sector. The school’s involvement impacts 1.3 billion Chinese, a population four times larger than that of the United States.

This history began almost 20 years ago. Dean Roy Bahl and Professor Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, who conducted groundbreaking studies in the areas of fiscal decentralization and tax policy in China, initiated a relationship that continues to strengthen and grow. It includes the training of Chinese government officials and education of their top scholars. The school provides technical assistance and conducts research in China, while inviting visiting scholars and graduate students to extend their studies in Atlanta. An AYSPS faculty member from China, Associate Professor Yongsheng Xu, conducts research in economic theory that is highly regarded by many of the world’s leading economists.

“This interaction enriches our school and hopefully it helps the fiscal environment in China,” says Bahl.

Faculties in China
This summer, Professor Sally Wallace will travel to the Beijing campus of Peking University to conduct a class on public finance and property taxation in China. Her class repeats her visit last summer to teach at the university’s Shenzhen campus. While there last year, she visited the faculty of Xiamen University in Xiamen to discuss tax reform in their country and the growing pressure for local taxation and decentralization.

“There’s a big push in China on public finance and property taxation that’s relatively new,” says Wallace. “Decentralization has grown since the tax and intergovernmental reforms of the 1990s. Local governments have been trying to increase their fiscal ‘strength’ by looking for more revenues that they can control, and property taxes would be typical local government revenue. However, in China there is no ownership of property, so the property tax is a tax on the rental use of land.

“The newer focus locally is on whether they can create a property tax that is more closely aligned with a true tax on the value of land while retaining the tax on the rents,” she says.

Policy Studies at AYSPS
In 1999 Bahl wrote what many view as the authoritative text on Chinese tax policy and intergovernmental fiscal relations, Fiscal Policy in China: Taxation and Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations. Martinez is best known in China for his work on equalization transfers.

The school’s work in China does not end at the Great Wall. Spring semester, 17 students from China were enrolled in AYSPS graduate degree programs: Huiping Du, Yinghua Lu, Daoyuan Wang (M.A. in Economics); Fujun Wang, Meng Wang, Yue Xu, Xinhua Zhao (M.P.A.); Li Zhang, Shiyuan Chen, Yinghua Jin, Baosen Qui, Hanji Wu, Xinye Zheng (Ph.D. in Economics); and Hai Guo, Zhenhua Hu, Wenbin Xiao, Lei Zhang (Ph.D. in Public Policy).

Often these students return home, making a difference in a policy, academic or management capacity. Daoshu Wang, who earned an M.A. in economics, is deputy director of the policy division in China’s national tax bureau. Minglai Zhu, who earned an M.A. in economics and a Ph.D. in risk management at Georgia State, is a professor at Nankai University. Li Zhang, who earned her Ph.D. at the end of 2005, is a research associate in the International Studies Program at Georgia State.

Several distinguished Chinese visitors have shared their knowledge at AYSPS. Yu Hung Hong from the Lincoln Land Institute, who works in the area of public finance in China, spoke at a recent fall seminar. Visiting faculty and scholars have included Huang Ran, a deputy director in China’s Ministry of Finance while here, and now a deputy tax commissioner in Anhui Province; Xue Wu, editor of an important journal, Public Finance in China; Yuangen Yang,
deputy director of the Policy Research Division in the Ministry of Finance; and Zhihua Zhang, also from the Ministry of Finance. Other policy experts from China often visit; many take classes at the International Studies Program’s Fiscal Policy Summer Training Courses.

China now is one of the world’s leading economies, in 2005 second only to the United States when measured on a purchasing power parity basis. (The World Factbook, CIA). Yet the country, on a basis of per capita income, is still classified as “lower-middle-income,” and 150 million Chinese live below international poverty lines.

Recognizing the importance that sound fiscal policy can play in improving China’s domestic outlook, the Andrew Young School will continue to support and improve the country’s knowledge base in this area. Faculty, staff and students will also continue to learn from government policymaking in one of the most dynamic economies in the world.

Guyana is a tropical country in northern South America about the size of Idaho. Its population is nearly 770,000. Yet Guyana’s deficit of professionals trained in social statistic data gathering and analysis suggests that this may be one of the few numbers about the country of which anyone is certain.
The Andrew Young School often hosts distinguished guests, experts on domestic and international policy issues. Many come to learn from the policy experts’ presentations as well as to share their knowledge at AYSPS-sponsored lectures and seminars.

Distinguished guests within the last year have included Rwandan President Paul Kagame, First Lady of Cape Verde Islands Adelcia Pires, former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and Henry Levine, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Asia in the International Trade Administration’s Office of Market Access and Compliance. In March the school co-hosted a lunch for environmentalist Wangari Maathai of Kenya, the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Babbitt visited the campus at the invitation of the environmental policy program to discuss his new book, “Cities in the Wilderness: A New Vision of Land Use in America.” He is promoting an open-space national policy that balances the needs for human settlement and community with preservation of the natural world.

Pires visited last fall on behalf of the nonprofit organization Building the Bridge: Cape Verde Care Agency to raise awareness of the plight of children in her country.

Levine’s lecture touched on his responsibilities, which include market access concerns and compliance with international trade agreements that affect U.S. companies operating in China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Mongolia and the member countries of ASEAN.

Walter R. Mead, the Henry A. Kissinger Senior Fellow in U.S. Foreign Policy from the Council on Foreign Relations, is considered among the country’s leading students of American foreign policy. He visited to present his latest book, “Power, Terror, Peace, and War: America’s Grand Strategy in a World at Risk,” which provides an account of the Bush administration’s foreign policy and its strategy for the world.

It is not unusual for a faculty member to present to invited guests. Late last summer, the Georgia Council of International Visitors asked economics professor Bruce Kaufman to lead a seminar on the American labor movement for 14 visiting dignitaries from around the world.

Often, distinguished guests come to AYSPS for training. Jamaican government officials Paul Lai, Theodore Mitchel, Andrew Stephenson and Orlin Weise were on campus to work with professors Sally Wallace, Mark Rider and Felix Rioja in the economics department to get hands-on experience using models they developed to assess the revenue effects of proposed tax legislation for the Jamaica Tax Reform project.

For the latest information on upcoming lectures and seminars, go to the “Events” page at http://aysps.gsu.edu/events/index.htm.

W.J. USERY DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

The WJ. Usery Distinguished Lecture Series presented Alan B. Krueger from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University as its guest speaker for 2006. Krueger is the Bendheim Professor of Economics and Public Policy, director of the Survey Research Center and director of the Industrial Relations Section.
AYSPS in September presented His Excellency Paul Kagame, president of the Republic of Rwanda, with the Andrew Young Medal for Capitalism and Social Progress. This honor, developed by the school, is awarded to individuals selected by the Advisory Board of the Andrew Young School who have contributed in very special ways to the development of dynamic and robust free economies based on socially responsible capitalism. Only two other recipients have received this honor: former U.S. presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter.

After 30 years in exile, Kagame returned to Rwanda in 1990 to lead the Rwandan Patriotic Army in the struggle for the country’s liberation. Four years later, he was appointed vice president and minister for defense in the Government of National Unity. In 2003 he was elected Rwanda’s new president in a landslide victory in the country’s first democratically contested multiparty elections.

“… President Kagame’s vision, understanding, character and leadership were forged during one of the most brutal and dehumanizing times in all of human history. …

“For his understanding that economic development must benefit all people, that investing in people will benefit the productivity and innovation in the national economy and that engaged people are less likely to be involved in conflict. … President Kagame is committed to the concept that social progress and economic growth are inseparable. …

“For his tireless work and leadership in creating regional economic partnerships that support stability and strengthen the economic interests of Rwanda and the surrounding nations. President Kagame’s support and leadership in COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) is evidence of his understanding that the stability of Rwanda is dependent on the stability of the surrounding nations ….

“In President Kagame’s words, ‘We are waging a war against poverty, disease and ignorance, and it is one that we are determined to win… There is no shortcut to socio-economic development, and building a nation whose watchwords are unity, peace and progress.’”

RECEPTION HONORS MEMORY OF GEORGIA ECONOMIST

FORMER GEORGIA GOVERNORS, including Roy Barnes (top left) and Joe Frank Harris (bottom left), well-known economists and other dignitaries attended an Andrew Young School memorial reception honoring Dr. Henry “Hank” Thomassen, chief economic advisor to every Georgia governor since the early 1960s. The reception was held in the first floor lobby of the school in the fall.

Thomassen, an esteemed advisor and popular speaker, during his 40-year tenure at the Gold Dome projected tax revenue estimates and helped develop Georgia’s annual budgets. Before he began advising Georgia governors, starting with Carl Sanders in 1963, he taught economics at universities including the University of Nebraska, Emory and Georgia State.

In honor of his memory, the Hank Thomassen Collection has been established in the AYSPS Research Support library. This collection of hundreds of economics and history books was donated to the school by his family.
RACL is an independent, nonpartisan organization that exists to engage the citizens of metro Atlanta in developing regional solutions to regional issues. It was formed by the merger of three key organizations – Research Atlanta, the Regional Leadership Forum and the Atlanta Metro Group – the first two of which were affiliated with the Andrew Young School. RACL has kept this affiliation intact. Deborah McCarty, formerly head of Research Atlanta, will continue to direct research programs for RACL. Steve Rieck, director of RLF until it was merged, served as interim chief officer of RACL until its new CEO was named.

Rieck reports that each of the three legacy organizations brings a unique set of competencies to the table: “Research Atlanta had established a long, distinguished reputation of performing critical, unbiased research for use by government and other decision makers. The Metro Group, founded by the business community in 1991, had been visible and proactive in advocating sound public policy. Regional Leadership Forum, the only true ‘membership’ organization among the three, was tasked with promoting civic engagement.”

The Regional Atlanta Civic League in July announced its selection of Karen Webster Parks as its chief executive officer.

Webster Parks comes to the position after three years of providing business development, leadership development, corporate philanthropy management services and consulting through Karen Webster Parks LLC. She was senior corporate vice president at Beers Skanska, Inc., a commercial construction company, before forming her company.

In the 1990s she served four years on the Fulton County Commission, one as vice chair. Prior to joining the commission, she held several positions for the county including chief of staff to the commission chair; executive director, intergovernmental/interagency and executive assistant to the county manager; director of the Solicitor General’s Office Victim Witness Assistance Program; and law clerk with the State Court of Fulton County.

Webster Parks has received numerous honors and has served on the boards of many regional nonpartisan, government, civic and nonprofit organizations. She earned an undergraduate degree in history at the University of Virginia and an M.P.A. at Georgia State University in 1991.
Dan Sweat Chair promotes a better Atlanta

As committed in its pursuit of a better Atlanta as its namesake, the Dan E. Sweat Distinguished Scholar Chair in Educational and Community Policy is being used to actively promote the discovery and dissemination of policy that may help build a better city of Atlanta. Fiscal Research Center Director and Professor of Economics David Sjoquist holds this chair.

Research examines Atlanta

In the last couple of decades, metropolitan Atlanta has been the growth engine of the Southeast. Even the city of Atlanta, which had seen population declines from the mid-1960s to the 1990s, has seen a small but positive increase in population and changes to its demographic and industry make-up.

Although various explanations for the reasons behind these trends have been offered, no one has really tried to figure out what happened in the city and why,” says Sjoquist. “Just as important is the question of what the future holds. What trends will affect the city? What may happen to its economic base? What policies should be adopted to prevent it from becoming the southern equivalent of a rustbelt city?”

To begin the process of exploring these issues, the Dan Sweat Chair last July put out a request for proposal seeking research papers that explore recent trends and future prospects for the city of Atlanta.

“Our goal is to attract some of the best research and analysis from the leading faculty in different colleges around Atlanta,” says Sjoquist.

It is expected that this research will be collected in a book and presented at a future conference he is organizing called The City of Atlanta: Recent Trends and Future Prospects.

Three Sweat Fellowships Awarded

The Dan E. Sweat Dissertation Fellowship was recently awarded to Georgia State doctoral students Dexter Blackman, Abdu Muwonge and Velma Zahirovic-Herbert.

The $5,000 fellowship is awarded to support the completion of research that addresses an urban, community or education issue. It must also have some policy relevance. The dissertation can be based in disciplines that include anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science or sociology.

Blackman, a Ph.D. candidate in the history department, is from Decatur, Ga. His dissertation title is “Stand Up and Be Counted: Black Student Athletes, the Sixties and the Myth of Black Athlete as Racial Advancement.” Muwonge, an economics Ph.D. candidate from Uganda, has been profiled in other Briefing stories for his work in Uganda and his selection as a World Bank Young Professional. His dissertation title is “School Quality, Housing Prices and Liquidity: The Effects of Public School Reform in Baton Rouge.”

“This work is really outstanding,” says Sjoquist. “They’re doing some very interesting things.”

The next round of applications for this fellowship will be accepted in the fall. For more information and an application, go to http://frp.aysps.gsu.edu/dansweat/.
Impact study informs votes on major redevelopment

On October 13, the Atlanta Development Authority presented “An Analysis of the Fiscal Impacts of the Atlanta Beltline Tax Allocation District (TAD)” prepared by Bruce Seaman, associate professor of economics at AYSPS. This study finds that the Beltline funding mechanism, a tax allocation district, is not projected to impose “excessive financial burdens on the City of Atlanta General Fund.”

Although the city would have to budget for a greater number of city services in the redevelopment area, Seaman’s study finds that these costs will be manageable up to 30 years, when the TAD ends. From that point on the city’s expenses in the redevelopment area are projected to break even.

Budgetary Effects

“In fact,” Seaman writes, “even if one ignores the longer term net positive budgetary effect over 32 years, the revenue shortfall over the projected 25-year period represents essentially a purchase by the citizens of Atlanta of about a 33 percent increase in recreational park acreage, expanded and better integrated inner-city public transportation, and significantly more balanced growth within the various areas of Atlanta at a cost of about $11 per person per year, or 1.7 percent of the Atlanta General Fund budget.”

Supporters had pushed for an October 17, 2005, Atlanta City Council vote on a major proposed redevelopment called the Beltline. The council vote did not occur until November 7.

“The shortage of information about the financial impact of the Beltline is one of the issues that apparently contributed to the delay of a City Council vote on creating a tax allocation district to pay for the Beltline project.” (“Beltline economic study says Atlanta can afford it,” The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Oct. 13, 2005)

“Supporters had pushed for an October 17, 2005, Atlanta City Council vote on a major proposed redevelopment called the Beltline. The council vote did not occur until November 7.”

The Atlanta Beltline Tax Allocation District had been proposed as the primary funding mechanism for the $2.2 billion to $2.6 billion redevelopment of a 22-mile loop of railroad right-of-way linking 45 neighborhoods in the inner city. The Beltline will bring jobs, parks and trails, streetscapes and housing, among other benefits, to 2,900 acres of long-neglected urban property. The TAD is projected to pay for $1.6 billion of the redevelopment’s cost.

The Beltline TAD vote is “YES”

► On November 7, the Atlanta City Council approved the Beltline TAD.
► On December 12, the Atlanta Public School Board approved the Beltline TAD.
► On December 21, the Fulton County Commission approved the Beltline TAD.

“The Beltline is an ambitious, long-term project that will unite communities and reconnect neighborhoods currently separated by rail lines,” said Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, responsible for much of the momentum behind the project. “I want to thank the community groups and organizations that supported the Beltline vision and thank the Atlanta City Council, the Atlanta Public School Board and the Fulton County Commission for their overwhelming support of the project.”
States debating universal pre-k policy cite AYSPS research

RESEARCH CONDUCTED AT THE ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL RARELY SITS ON THE SHELF. Case in point: a Los Angeles Times editorial in April cited an AYSPS study on Georgia’s universal pre-kindergarten program to support its position opposing an upcoming ballot referendum supporting a similar program in California.

“Universal preschool does not appear to raise test scores. In Georgia … pre-schooled children fared much better academically in kindergarten, but the advantage faded by third grade. … A study in Georgia found former preschoolers did equally well once they reached school, regardless of whether their preschool teachers had a two-year, technical or bachelor’s degree. … There are better reasons to raise taxes, and better ways to improve educational achievement.”

(PRESClOOL PRETENSIONS, APRIL 14, 2006)

Although his research was used in the editorial, Gary Henry, PAUS professor and principal investigator, says his findings differed. “Personally, I come to the opposite conclusion,” says Henry. “The evidence clearly shows that children benefit from pre-k. Although some of the benefits are given back in elementary school, they do better if they attended Georgia pre-kindergarten. Many other studies show long-term benefits.

“The L.A. Times editorial writers are correct in saying that we don’t find that teachers with different types of college degrees have different impacts on their children. A big difference in the California referendum and the Georgia program is that the referendum would require pre-k teachers to be certified. While this will make their program more expensive than it needs to be, I believe that the benefits will outweigh the costs.” Henry’s research on Georgia’s universal pre-kindergarten program is often cited nationally.

In a May 7 story, L.A. Times staff writer Seema Mehta refers to several findings in the study, “An Evaluation of the Implementation of Georgia’s Pre-K Program: Report of the Findings from the Georgia Early Childhood Study (2002-2003),” co-authored by AYSPS researchers Bentley Ponder, Dana Rickman, Andrew Mashburn, Laura Henderson and Craig Gordon. She uses these to report the similarities and differences in the two programs and results expected if the California proposal is passed. “Some analysis of the Georgia program that has already been done has implications for California,” she writes.

The findings cited reveal higher gains by students in private pre-k centers than children attending pre-k in public schools and the fallacy that a teacher who meets the state’s certification requirements had a more positive impact on achievement. Among other news, the story shows how implementation and funding of the program proposed for the California proposition differs from Georgia’s successful program.

This report is one of many research studies conducted by Henry and his team to assist Georgia’s pre-k administrators in refining the state’s decade-old educational program and to inform those in other states who are developing or expanding similar programs.

“South Carolina is proposing a program based on the Georgia pre-k program model, based in large part on our studies,” says Henry. Henry and his team hope to begin a new study this fall, which will follow the growth and development of a group of three-year-olds from the Georgia pre-k program into the schools. “Our studies show that serving children living in poverty or from working poor families at age four is not sufficient to level the playing field when they enter kindergarten. These children make great gains in pre-k and kindergarten, but if we can serve them in a stimulating, language-rich preschool class at age three, they may enter kindergarten better prepared for school success. We are currently seeking foundation and community support for the preschool program and funding for the research.”

The series of pre-K reports, including the study cited above, are available at www.arc.gsu.edu/publications.htm#pre-k-reports.
POLICY RESEARCH

REPORT ASKS

“Is state corporate tax uniformity possible?”

The Multistate Tax Commission was established because of concerns over the lack of uniformity among state tax systems. In the Fiscal Research Center report “Cooperation or Competition: The Multistate Tax Commission and State Corporate Tax Uniformity” (FRC Report No. 110, August 2005), W. Bartley Hildreth, Matthew Murray and David Sjoquist explore the history of the MTC and its efforts to achieve uniform state corporate income taxes.

The present system of state corporate income taxes results in a pattern of taxation that does not operate efficiently or equitably for companies who operate or sell to customers in many states. Adverse economic effects, excessive compliance costs and revenue loss are cited as common problems.

The report, which the authors presented before the National Tax Association in May 2005, looks at the MTC and what it has accomplished. Although uniformity has not been achieved, Sjoquist and his co-authors do find solid evidence that state corporate tax systems have moved toward greater uniformity since the MTC was formed. Yet significant inter-state differences remain.

Drawing on the theory of cooperative behavior, the authors make the case that some states would lose under various forms of tax uniformity. If it is not in their self-interest, they are not likely to adopt a common corporate income tax system. For example, states with a uniform tax structure would not be able to use the tax to provide incentives aimed at spurring economic development.

To the credit of the MTC member states, the commission “has faithfully pushed the need for uniformity and cooperation against the competitive nature of states and the forceful challenge of corporate taxpayers,” they write.

“Is state corporate tax uniformity possible?” notes FRC Director Sjoquist, who holds the Dan E. Sweat Chair. Many businesses benefit from special tax provisions that would disappear if all states had the same corporate tax structure.

Given the competitive nature of states, what would it take to achieve fairly equal state corporate income tax structures? The authors conclude that a voluntary compact as promoted by the MTC should not be expected to bring about uniformity and suggest that if uniformity is desired, it would likely require some form of federal action. But it is not clear to the authors that the federal government is interested in joining this issue. Furthermore, states are highly resistant to federal intervention.

“Fundamentally, the conflicting goals of sovereignty and uniformity clash,” the authors write. Thus, they do not see federal action as a solution.

FRC reports are available at http://frc.gsu.edu/frpreports/index.html.

EconPort MOVES TO AYSPS

EconPort, an online microeconomics library that focuses on the use of economics experiments, has been moved to the Experimental Economics Center at AYSPS from the University of Arizona. Its support team is led by center director James Cox, Noah Langdale Jr. Chair in Economics and Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar, and includes Susan Laury, associate director; J. Todd Swarthout, operations director; and Kevin Ackaramongkolrotn, senior research associate. It will be supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation.
Policy issues and U.S. presidential elections make fairly interesting dance partners. Depending on the election cycle and what is top-of-mind with voters, issues such as abortion, energy costs, gun control or social security may take a lead when they decide whom they will elect.

Immediately after the 2004 election, writes PAUS professor Greg Lewis, many analysts emphasized religious and cultural divides in the electorate to suggest that the religious right and several state amendments banning same-sex marriages played a dominant role in motivating President George W. Bush’s supporters – his electoral base – to get out and vote.

Later, the analytical consensus shifted more towards an emphasis on incumbency, terrorism and perceptions of character.

Lewis takes a closer look in “Same-Sex Marriage and the 2004 Presidential Election,” an article published by the American Political Science Association in PSOnline, the web-based edition of PS: Political Science & Politics in April 2005.

He uses both individual and state-level data to re-examine the role of same-sex marriage in the election, controlling for factors that were most likely to have changed their impact on voters since 2000 – September 11, Iraq and the changing economy. Where necessary, he also controls for party identification, ideology and several demographic characteristics. In these analyses, he finds that “other issues mattered much more, but that attitudes toward same-sex marriage had a statistically significant and meaningful impact on both individual voters and state vote totals.”

Marriage ballot mattered

“Same-sex marriage mattered in the 2004 election, less than some issues but more than most,” concludes Lewis. “Survey data indicate that the war in Iraq, the economy, and terrorism all had larger impacts on vote choices. In the state level analysis, Bush support jumped in the states hardest hit by the World Trade Center bombing, and the vote was significantly more ideological in 2004 than 2000.”

Still, Lewis argues, “Two-fifths of survey respondents said that same-sex marriage was an important issue in the presidential race, and the 13 state constitutional amendments on the ballot confirm its salience. Six months before the election, marriage-supporters were substantially more likely than politically and demographically similar others to support Kerry.”

Lewis closes his article with a provocative question. “Popular disapproval of homosexuality influenced Bush’s share of the 2004 vote and may have contributed to party switches by New Hampshire and New Mexico. The vote was close in Ohio despite relatively high disapproval of homosexuality. Would it have turned out differently without same-sex marriage on the agenda?”

EconPort was created in 2002 by a team from the Economic Science and Artificial Intelligence laboratories at the University of Arizona under the direction of Cox. The site offers users experimental economics news, a variety of online economics experiments, an online microeconomics text tied to the experiments, a collection of microeconomics resources available online and a glossary of terms.

Science magazine noted the move in the “Netwatch” section of its 31 March 2006 issue. “… Hosted by Georgia State University, EconPort brims with resources for researchers and teachers interested in economic experiments. …”

To take a look at the site, go to www.econport.org.
DIR]ector Karen Minyard says community safety nets are important because they support people who, for various reasons, fall through cracks in the health care system. Populations such as migrant workers, the uninsured or those on Medicaid in need of supplemental help, and those who face cultural, geographical or financial barriers to health care are often in need of safety net services.

Minyard says this study will explore innovative ways to meet the needs of such vulnerable populations and the providers who serve them. “The study will help support those who work on the fringes of the health care system and take care of people no one else will take care of,” she says.

The project is funded by a $500,000 grant from the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Georgia through the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta. Work began last November and will continue through March 2008.

While this grant allows GHPC to study and work with metro-area programs to improve access to health services, Minyard says its implications will be valuable to communities throughout Georgia and the United States.

“This study is an important opportunity for the Georgia Health Policy Center,” Minyard says. “Helping communities improve health is at the heart of the work we do.”

GHPC HELPS COMMUNITIES find coverage

Governments are in a quandary when it comes to reducing the rising number of uninsured citizens. Georgia, like many states, has begun turning to local communities for answers to its billion-dollar problem.

More than 1.5 million Georgians age 64 or younger, 16 percent, lack health insurance. It costs the state $1.5 billion annually for the reported cost of care provided and at least $300 million for the nominal cost of care not received and days absent from work. GHPC estimates that a family of three earning $50,000 a year pays at least $800 in premiums and taxes annually to cover the cost of providing health care to the uninsured.

Recognizing that about 70 percent of all uninsured Georgians are full-time workers or the dependents of full-time workers, communities are taking action to reduce the number of working uninsured. Program Director Glenn Landers, a senior research associate at GHPC, is coordinating a statewide study of this trend made possible by a series of grants from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the state of Georgia.

“Although each community is different, each has united local representation from health care, business, civic and government sectors to focus on health and develop new and shared ways of providing coverage for the uninsured,” says Landers. “By convening a diverse group of community leaders and stakeholders to focus on health, these communities are building the local capacity needed to put a significant dent in the number of Georgia’s uninsured and improve health status overall.”

A Georgia Health Policy Center study of seven metropolitan Atlanta counties is measuring the demands on the urban health care safety net. Its findings will be used to analyze the issue of shrinking access for those who face significant barriers to health care in Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb, Forsyth, Gwinnet, Clayton and Henry counties.

Those often in need of safety net services

- migrant workers
- the uninsured
- those on Medicaid in need of supplemental help
- individuals facing cultural, geographical or financial barriers
“Communities are well-suited to positively influence lifestyle choices,” says Karen Minyard, GHPC director. “I have seen the tremendous power communities have to transform health care financing and delivery systems in ways that help people live healthier lives.”

For example, the Lowndes County Partnership for Health, which started with a community focus on obesity, diabetes and health screenings, now serves as a national model for “Well Workplace” and “Well Church” programs. Community Health Works in Macon enrolls uninsured individuals with high-risk, high-cost medical conditions into a care management program that takes advantage of the donated services of community providers.

GHPC has led the state’s most comprehensive study to date of the uninsured, collecting data to formulate and evaluate policy options and plan pilot projects to reduce the number of uninsured citizens in Georgia. Minyard and Landers emphasize the role of grassroots education in helping communities change for the better.

The center’s research will include administering 30 experiential learning modules in communities across the state to increase public discourse about the uninsured and to learn what messages resonate with state audiences.

“Knowledge about uninsured Georgians must increase from the community-level up so that, ultimately, policy results that improves the quality of health care delivery,” says Landers.

GHPC research publications are available at www2.gsu.edu/~wwwghp/publications.htm.

The Georgia Health Policy Center provides tremendous service to the state of Georgia and beyond. The quality of its work to inform health policy decisions is a point of light for Georgia State, the University System and decision makers at local, state and national levels.”

Dr. Rhodes Haverty

Beauty is more than skin deep, researchers find

To twist a phrase, pretty does as pretty is according to Erdal Tekin, assistant professor in economics and a fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research. In “Ugly Criminals,” he and co-author H. Naci Mocan cite research that shows how a person’s earnings are positively related to his or her perceived beauty. “Better-looking people sort themselves into occupations, and sectors within occupations, where an earnings premium exists on beauty,” they write.

These findings led Tekin and Mocan to look at the other side of the coin. “If beauty commands a positive earnings premium in the legal labor market, and if criminal activity is a labor market choice … where the decision to engage in crime is made by comparing the financial rewards from crime to those obtained from legal work, then it is expected that less attractive people sort themselves into the criminal sector,” they write.

Tektin’s and Mocan’s analysis of data from three waves of Add Health, a nationally representative sample of young adults from the U.S. interviewed in 1994, 1996 and 2002, found evidence that a person’s perceived beauty impacts his or her criminal activity.

“Specifically, we find that unattractive individuals commit more crime in comparison to average-looking ones, and beautiful individuals commit less crime in comparison to those who are average looking,” they write. “Beauty also impact individuals’ interaction with the criminal justice system. …attractive females are less likely to get detained, arrested or convicted.”

Where does this self-selection begin? The data set suggests that it begins in high school. Perceptions of “ugly” are firmly embedded in teen culture – in movies, songs, books, even a popular cheer:

U.G.L.Y. You ain’t got no alibi
You ugly! Hey! Hey! You ugly. …

“Being an unattractive student in high school may have hindered human capital development,” says Tekin, “possibly through teacher and peer interactions.” The report cites a study in which preferential treatment of better-looking kids by teachers generates confidence and social skills in these kids which lead to better communication skills and higher wages.

“Ugly Criminals” has been published by NBER and IZA (The Institute for the Study of Labor in Germany), and is under review at an economics journal for publication. It has garnered extensive media interest, with Tekin appearing on Fox News and many radio stations, and stories in the Washington Post, The Atlanta Journal & Constitution and other major newspapers.
**PRESENTATIONS**

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

Bulent Anil (Ph.D. in economics candidate), David Sjoquist and Sally Wallace presented “Employment Costs of Dislocation: HOPE VI in Atlanta” at the 2006 American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association Mid-Year Meeting in Washington, D.C., in May.

Jim Cox presented “Small- and Large-Stakes Risk Aversion: Implications of Concavity Calibration for Decision Theory” (co-authored with Vjolca Sadiraj, visiting research assistant professor) and “On the Empirical Plausibility Theories of Risk Aversion” at Laval University in Quebec City, Canada.

Paul Ferraro led the session, “Payment schemes for ecosystem services,” sponsored by the University of East Anglia, the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and others in England in March.

Erdal Tekin was a panelist for the sessions, “Defining Self-Sufficiency” and “Child Care Subsidies and Employment” in April at the Child Care Policy Research Consortium’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & URBAN STUDIES**

David Pitts presented “Public Management, Autonomy, and Organizational Performance” at the Second Conference on Empirical Studies of Public Management at Texas A & M University in May.

Christine Roch and Amanda Wilsker (Ph.D. in public policy candidate) presented “The Influence of Evaluations of Personal and Collective Experiences: Considering Parents’ Evaluations of Their Children’s Schools” at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago in April.

Bill Waugh participated in the Disaster Symposium session on “Citizen Participation in the Face of Conflict: Community Voices on the Rebuilding and Planning of Neighborhoods in the Wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita” at the Environmental Design Research Association Conference in Atlanta in May; in April he conducted a workshop, “Emergency Planning: Protecting Your Nonprofit’s Assets,” for the Foundation Center.

Dennis Young spoke at the conference, “NGOs, Development and Sustainability Planning for Rural Health” presented by The Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership in Pittsburgh in April.

**CENTERS & PROGRAMS**

Pat Kota (GHPC) presented “Sustainability Planning for Rural Health Networks” at the National Cooperative of Health Networks’ Annual Conference in Scottsdale, Ariz., in April.

Karen Minyard (GHPC) moderated a discussion and with Chris Parker presented “Triple Layer Chess: The Application of Systems Thinking to Align Public Policy and Improve Health in Georgia” at the National Network of Public Health Institutes’ annual conference in New Orleans in May.

**ATLANTA CENSUS 2000 RELEASES PAPER**

The Fiscal Research Center program, Atlanta Census 2000, has released Census issue 9, “The Geography of Education Attainment in the Atlanta Region,” written by Cecille Wathne and Joey Smith (FRC). Atlanta Census 2000 is a collaborative effort between the Atlanta Regional Commission and FRC. Reports of the program can be viewed at http://atlantacensus2000.gsu.edu.

**NEW PUBLICATIONS – A SELECTION**

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**


**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & URBAN STUDIES**

AWARDS/HONORS/GRANTS

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Paul Ferraro received a National Science Foundation grant for a project entitled, “Private Provision of Public Goods: Applying Matching Estimators to Evaluate Direct Payments for Tropical Forest Conservation” (with coauthors).


AYSPS RESEARCH AVAILABLE AT SSRN ONLINE

AYSPS has begun publishing the Andrew Young School Research Paper Series on the Social Science Research Network’s Web site, www.ssrn.com. The added availability of all working paper series from the school’s various research centers on the SSRN site now allows broader and more open access to the research of faculty and staff.

Bill Waugh received the IAEM Presidential Citation at the International Association of Emergency Managers 2005 National Conference for his work with the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. His book, Living with Hazards, Dealing with Disasters (M.E. Sharpe, 2000) was announced among the top 10 books that emergency management graduate students should read and the top 20 readings for professional emergency managers at the 8th FEMA Higher Education Conference last June.

Katherine Willoughby and Greg Streib were awarded a grant by Georgia’s Office of Consumer Affairs to study identity theft in Georgia; Willoughby received the Outstanding MPA Alumnus Award from North Carolina State University in Raleigh in May.

Dennis Young has joined the advisory boards of the Foundation Center regional office in Atlanta and the International Academic Advisory Committee of the Vivekananda Institute for Leadership Development in India.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & URBAN STUDIES

Carolyn Bourdeaux and Christine Roch were awarded Faculty Mentoring Grants by Georgia State University. Their mentors are Katherine Willoughby and Gary Henry, respectively.

Gary Henry was invited by the National Research Council to serve on a blue ribbon committee examining Green Schools.

Yuriy Kitsul, Douglas Krupka and Ragan Petrie were awarded Research Initiation Grants from the Georgia State Research Services and Administration for their research projects.

Inas Rashad has been appointed a faculty research fellow in the Health Economics Program at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

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Michael Rushton was chosen co-editor of Springer-Verlag’s Journal of Cultural Economics; Bruce Seaman (Econ) was named to its Editorial Board.

Karen Minyard (GHPC) is one of only eight members on the board of the National Network of Public Health Institutes, which earlier this year held a meeting at the CDC in Atlanta.
on the go

AYSPS ECONOMICS RANKS AMONG THE TOP

The Andrew Young School’s Department of Economics ranks 17th in the latest National Science Foundation’s national ranking of economics programs as reported in Academic Research & Development Expenditures, published by NSF. To get this report, go to www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf04330/.

James Alm, chair, economics department, was in Kiev, Ukraine, from November 7 to November 11, for a World Bank project on payroll tax reforms.

Roy Bahl presented a workshop for officers from the Government of Pakistan Provincial Secretariat and Finance Department in Lahore, Pakistan, in September and traveled to Islamabad to review research proposals by Finance Department staff in the provinces.

Jamie Boex (Econ/ISP) and Andrey Timofeev (ISP) traveled to Windhoek, Namibia, in April to facilitate the National Conference on the Development of an Intergovernmental Transfer System. Timofeev remained in-country to follow-up with region site visits and meetings with key sector ministries.

Paul Ferraro (EPP/Econ) visited Costa Rica in September as part of an international expert panel convened by the Government of Costa Rica to evaluate its initiative to construct national and international markets for ecosystem services.

Susan Laury (EPP/Econ) spent six weeks as a visiting fellow with CSIRO (the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization) in Adelaide, Australia, last summer and two more as an invited visitor at Griffith University in Brisbane and the University of Melbourne.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Marie Durham was promoted to administrative specialist-academic in the Dean’s Office.

In December 2005, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono appointed Sri Mulyani Indrawati as the country’s new Minister of Finance. Sri Mulyani was a visiting professor at AYSPS in 2001-02 as part of the USAID-funded Indonesian Masters Program in Applied Economics.

Jon Mansfield (Econ) has been appointed clinical associate professor.

Bonnie Naugle recently accepted a position as the media and technology coordinator for the Dean’s Office.

Lakshmi Pandey (FRC) and Dana Rickman (GHPC) have been promoted to senior research associate.

Avani Raval, associate to the dean, was awarded the GSU Alumni Association Sparks Award that recognizes the university’s unsung heroes – faculty, staff and students – who exemplify a willingness to “go the extra mile” with good humor and perseverance.

Christine Roch (PAUS) and Neven Valev (Econ) were both tenured and promoted to associate professor.

Althea Rutherford has been promoted to administrative specialist in GHPC. She joined the center in 2001 as a student assistant.

Klara Sabirianova Peter, a Ph.D. candidate in Public Policy, conducted a training seminar for Guatemala’s government budgeters and agency staff in Guatemala City in May. They presented a lecture, “Performance-based Budgeting and Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks,” and led special exercises and discussions with a group of 50 government officials. Their work to support efforts to advance a results-oriented budgeting system in Guatemala is a collaborative effort with the World Bank Institute and ISP.

Under the International Studies Program, Professor Katherine Willoughby (PAUS/ISP) and Juan Luis Gomez, a Ph.D. candidate in Public Policy, conducted a training seminar for Guatemala’s government budgeters and agency staff in Guatemala City in May. They presented a lecture, “Performance-based Budgeting and Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks,” and led special exercises and discussions with a group of 50 government officials. Their work to support efforts to advance a results-oriented budgeting system in Guatemala is a collaborative effort with the World Bank Institute and ISP.

GUATEMALA

Pictured left to right are Juan Luis Gomez, Migara De Silva (WBI), Katherine Willoughby, Ana Fruttero (WBI), Juan Blazquez (WBI) and Leonid Bogadnov (Center for Fiscal Policy, Moscow).

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Before joining AYSPS last fall as an assistant professor, KLARA SABIRIANOVA PETER was a visiting assistant professor in economics at the University of Michigan; she also served as director for the Russia/CIS Programs at The William Davidson Institute in UM’s Business School. At Urals State University, Yekaterinburg, Russia, she was associate professor of economics and associate dean in International Affairs (School of Economics). Her research interests focus on labor market issues in transition economies and applied econometrics. She earned a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Kentucky and an equivalent degree at the Russian Academy of Sciences. Her latest research projects include “Structural Change, Mismatch and Worker Mobility: Evidence from Russia” with John Earle, “Firm Survival and Growth under Soviet Planning and During the Transition to a Market Economy” with Jan Svejnar, and “Privatization, Firm Entry, and Human Capital.”

Assistant Professor YURIY KITSUL, who also joined AYSPS last fall, completed his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was an instructor and teaching assistant. He earned an M.A. in Economics at National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in the Ukraine. His research and teaching interests include financial economics and econometrics as well as financial markets, macroeconomics and microeconomics.

The Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies welcomed ERIC TWOMBLY to the Nonprofit Studies Program as an assistant professor last fall. He has written widely on the determinants of charitable giving in metropolitan areas, the fiscal capacity of nonprofit organizations, and the ability of advocates to improve worker compensation in the child care industry. He recently completed a multiyear assessment of child services focused on the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and a study of the economic activity of the region’s nonprofit sector.

Twombly is an associate scholar at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., where he served as a senior research associate before joining the faculty at Georgia State. He received a Ph.D. in Public Policy from George Washington University, where he was an assistant professorial lecturer in the School of Public Policy and Public Administration.

His research for the Nonprofit Studies Program focuses on social service provision by community-based organizations and wage setting in the nonprofit sector.

VJOLLCA SADIRAJ has joined the AYSPS faculty as an assistant professor of economics. She earned a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Amsterdam in The Netherlands and a degree in mathematics from the University of Tirana in Albania. Her fields are experimental economics, microeconomic theory, game theory and public economics. Before coming to AYSPS, Sadiraj was a research associate in the Economic Science Laboratory at the University of Arizona.

H. SPENCER BANZHAF, an assistant professor in economics, will conduct research in conjunction with the Environmental Policy Group. He received a Ph.D. from Duke University and came to AYSPS from a position at Resources for the Future in Washington, D.C. His main area of research is environmental and resource economics.

Assistant Professor of Economics JONATHAN RORK will also conduct FRC research. He received a Ph.D. from Stanford University, and joined the faculty here after teaching at Vassar University. His research focuses on urban and regional economics, and state and local finance issues.

Georgia Health Policy Center recently welcomed ANGIE SNYDER, who joined the staff as a senior research associate in child health policy. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from Tulane University and a Master of Philosophy from Yale, where she also is a doctoral candidate in health policy with an epidemiology concentration.

Snyder spent more than six years as a public health adviser for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Her work with the CDC’s National Immunization Program provided valuable experience in children’s health policy and removing barriers to ensure appropriate immunizations of children from birth to two years of age.
Expert faculty tapped for policy advice

Decision makers at all levels of government, from federal to states and cities, frequently call on the policy experts at Andrew Young School to help them arrive at workable solutions. While our fiscal policy faculty and staff get a lot of public attention for their work, domestic and abroad, the school’s knowledge base is just as often tapped to help formulate policy in health, education, child welfare, economic and community development, disaster management, transportation, the environment and many other critical areas.

A sampling of recent appointments and calls for assistance follows.

Gov. Sonny Perdue appointed Georgia Health Policy Center Director Karen Minyard to the Cervical Cancer Elimination Task Force, which brings together an elite group of health care and cancer experts to review data regarding cervical cancer and recommend strategic activities that will reduce its burden and costs to Georgia. Senate Resolution 165, by which the nine-member task force was created, called for the governor to appoint a representative from GHPC.

Also at the request of the Governor’s Office, GHPC engaged a diverse group of stakeholders in a two-day conversation about Medicaid last fall. The meeting was designed to invite Georgians to offer their advice on how to improve the health status of Medicaid consumers. GHPC provided the qualitative and quantitative research needed to introduce the discussions about Medicaid reform.

Gov. Perdue also appointed PAUS Professor John Thomas to the Georgia Commission on Child Support, which conducted a comprehensive review of the state’s child support guidelines.

Mayor Shirley Franklin appointed Professor Sally Wallace, associate director of the Fiscal Research Center, to the Early Child Care and Education Task Force for the City of Atlanta. At the state level, Wallace was tapped as a member of the Georgia Child Support Economics Task Force, involved in the experts group conducting the economic report for the Georgia Child Support Guidelines revision. Nationally, she was appointed to the Experts Group of the National Intergovernmental Forum organized by the National Association of Public Administration to advise on the status of intergovernmental fiscal relations in the U.S.

Economics professors David Sjoquist and Bruce Seaman were selected to represent Georgia State on a Board of Regents committee preparing a report on the impact of the state’s research universities on the quality of life in Georgia. Sjoquist and John Matthews, senior research associate, were called last fall to address the House Study Committee on Impact Fees – HR 230. Sjoquist and Wallace were guest speakers at a fall Policy Session on Education.

Visiting scholars bring the world to school

EVERY YEAR THE ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL WELCOMES VISITING FACULTY AND SCHOLARS FROM THE U.S. AND AROUND THE WORLD. They come knowing that their research and teaching will benefit by their immediate access to the expertise and resources available at the school. Yet their presence also adds greatly to our academic environment. They bring unique perspectives and alternative policy experiences that often generate rich discussions likely to expand a student’s point of view.

Scholars and professors who have visited the economics department in the last year include Chiara Franzoni of Italy, Emilson Silva from New Orleans, Chris Harmse from South Africa and Katja Birr-Pedersen from Denmark.

Franzoni’s area of expertise is the economics of technology transfer. She received a Fondazione IRI research prize to support a research project which she conducted with Professor Paula Stephan during the 2005-2006 academic year. Franzoni earned her Ph.D. at the University of Bergamo, Polytechnic of Turin and University of Brescia, Italy.

Professor Silva of Tulane University visited the International Studies Program for two months last fall, after Tulane was damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Professor Harmse visited from the University of Pretoria. While on campus he gave several lectures on various sections of “The Global Economy” course.

The Environmental Policy Program hosted Birr-Pedersen from the Danish National Environmental Research Institute last fall. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in economics at the Danish National Environmental Research Institute. Her work experience includes a position at the United Nations Development Programme, Global Environment Facility, in New York City.
Officials alarmed at the changes in Fulton County have tapped several policy experts at AYSPS for help. Commissioner Nancy Boxill appointed Robert Eger to a commission tax force to study the county’s future. Mark Rider was appointed by Commission Chairman Karen Handel to the Future Fulton team, an independent, non-government group analyzing alternative service delivery approaches for the county led by Georgia State alumnus Roger Tutterow. John Matthews, Joey Smith and Lakshmi Pandey have helped the City of Atlanta study a possible annexation of south Fulton.

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission invited Shelby Frost to join an advisory committee of the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators to help develop an exam for certification of Georgia high school economics teachers.

Disaster and government management expert Bill Waugh, professor in PAUS, frequently consults on terrorism, the management of large-scale disasters, emergency planning, and other management and planning areas. In just a few of his many advisory roles in the last few years, he has served on expert panels on the Homeland Security Advisory System, applying natural hazard lessons to Homeland Security and Homeland Security education and training, and using community rating systems to encourage risk reduction.

These are just a few of the many policy experts at AYSPS. The “Experts Guide” online lists all of the faculty experts by index, topic and name. Go to http://aysps.gsu.edu/people/expert_topics.htm.

continued from page 1

Jean Childs Young was a lifelong advocate for the welfare of children. In 1979 she chaired the United States Commission of the International Year of the Child. She established and chaired the Atlanta Task Force on Education, and later co-founded the Atlanta-Fulton Commission on Children and Youth. Young participated in many historic civil rights events, including the 1965 Selma march.

Loudermilk founded Aaron Rents, Inc., now a publicly traded company, in 1955. A pioneer in the furniture rental industry, the company is a national leader in the rental, lease ownership and specialty retailing of residential and office furniture, consumer electronics and home appliances with nearly 1,200 stores in 46 states, Canada and Puerto Rico. Loudermilk is a long-standing friend and supporter of Ambassador Young and his family in their lifetime of work to promote human rights.

Portman gift to fund scholarships

John and Jan Portman, long-time friends of Georgia State University, have helped to promote the Andrew Young School’s mission to provide quality policy education with a major gift to the school’s scholarship fund. In making their contribution, they join Advisory Board member and major contributor Mike Mescon as among the first AYSPS supporters to grace the school’s new building with a named space.

The finely detailed, state-of-the-art “John and Jan Portman Conference Room” is located within the dean’s office suite on the sixth floor. It is fitting that the space carries the Portman family name.

John Portman, one of Atlanta’s leading architects, developers, business entrepreneurs and business leaders, has left his design imprint on commercial development around the globe. In 1953 he established a two-man architectural firm in downtown Atlanta that in 1968 became John Portman & Associates. He pioneered the role of architect as developer, starting with the Atlanta Merchandise Mart and Peachtree Center and more recently with the Shanghai Centre in China. He is an active participant in Atlanta’s civic and community affairs, and was a founding member of the city’s Action Forum, a bi-racial group of black and white business leaders who helped make Atlanta a model for race relations in the 1960s. Staff, students and alumni are grateful for this strong show of support and for what the gifts will provide our students, says Dean Bahl. “We appreciate these contributors and their efforts on behalf of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. Ambassador Young is very pleased that the names of Jean Childs Young, Charles Loudermilk and John and Jan Portman will be permanently associated with our school,” he says.

Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter was the featured speaker at a May Neighborhood Collaborative program, “Volunteers – the Gift that Keeps on Giving.” This event recognizes the several hundred senior volunteers that the collaborative recruits, trains and places in community agencies every year. The collaborative also sponsors three federal grants for these volunteers. Donna Bulbulia directs the Senior Corps programs.
Shena Ashley (Ph.D. in Public Policy) presented “Philanthropy in the Knowledge Economy: The Incubation of Intellectual Ideas” at the annual conference of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) in Washington, D.C.

Nevbahar Ertas (Ph.D. in Public Policy) was awarded a prestigious American Educational Research Association dissertation grant supported by the National Science Foundation and the National Center for Education Statistics.

Presenting papers at the National Tax Association Conference in Miami last fall were: Shiyuan Chen (Ph.D. in Economics) presented “A Theory of Trading of Club Goods and Its Application to Jurisdiction Formation” (with Sally Wallace and Yongsheng Xu); Eunice Heredia-Ortiz (Ph.D. in Economics) and Mark Rider presented “India’s Intergovernmental Transfer System and the Fiscal Condition of the States”; and Dmitry Shishkin (Ph.D. in Economics) presented “The Potential Price Effects of Intergovernmental Equalization Schemes.”

Andrew Chupp (Ph.D. in Economics) presented “The Effects of System Level Competition on Georgia’s Public Schools” at the 2006 Association of Private Enterprise Education Meeting in Las Vegas in April.

Jerome Jordan (M.P.A.) was awarded the International City/Council Management Association Local Government Management Fellowship.

Shundreka Mims (M.P.A. and M.S.-UPS) has joined DeKalb County’s Workforce Development, Business Relations unit as business relations job developer coordinator.

Mvundura’s (Ph.D. in Economics) abstract, “Women’s Midlife Reproductive Health: New Directions for Research” was a student poster presentation at the Academy Health Annual Research Meeting in Seattle in June.


Robert Watts (Ph.D. in Public Policy), a senior policy advisor for the University System of Georgia, was named interim president of Georgia Perimeter College last July.

“ECONOMICS PH.D. CANDIDATE ABDU MUWONGE knows the pressure of deadlines. He learned from the World Bank that when he returned to the Andrew Young School from Uganda, he would have just a few months to complete his dissertation draft before traveling to Washington, D.C., as a prestigious World Bank Young Professional. As such, Muwonge joins an elite group of 35 outstanding candidates from the world’s top universities selected to participate in a challenging program that will prepare them for World Bank careers.

Muwonge notes that these finalists were selected from a pool of nearly 10,000 candidates. “The process is very competitive and I regard myself fortunate to have made it to the last 64, later on to be among the 35,” he says.

His faculty advisor, Professor Sally Wallace, says, “Abdu’s appointment in the YP program is the start of a terrific career for him. We couldn’t be more pleased to have one of our students accepted into this very selective, high-profile position. His field work will be invaluable to his work at the World Bank – we are very proud of his accomplishments.”

Muwonge was in Uganda to conduct field work necessary for his dissertation. For this work he has received several significant research grants including the Carolyn McClain Young Scholarship Award. (See “Research grants send doctoral student to Uganda,” Research issue, 2006) By March he had completed data collection and data entry for about 310 farmers drawn from four districts in Uganda: Kabale, Mukono, Tororo and Kayunga. He says that he is grateful to the school for the richness of the academic opportunities offered in his field of interest.
Bonello and Farbstein receive the Torch of Peace Award

Graduate students Alethea Bonello (M.P.A. ’06) (above) and Bryce Farbstein (M.P.A./J.D.) were each presented with a 2006 Torch of Peace Award during Georgia State’s 23rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation in January. This honor is awarded to students, faculty and alumni who have demonstrated an outstanding ability to facilitate or promote positive race relations at the university and the community at large. More than half of the student award recipients since 2001 have come from the Andrew Young School.

Youth field director of the Southeast Region for the NAACP, Bonello mentors and directs youth and college students in seven states. Every spring she conducts a regional conference that attracts more than 700 youth. She serves on the Minority Recruitment Advisory Board of the American Red Cross and is a member of the National Council of Negro Women. Bonello was nominated for the award by the Rev. Nelson B. Rivers, III, chief operating officer for the NAACP and Aprille Blair, president of the Georgia State University Chapter and winner this year of the Torch of Peace Award for alumni.

Feeling there was a need for education, awareness and diversity training in responding to acts of bias that occur on campus, Farbstein has been instrumental in helping the University Campus Climate Committee develop its Bias Response Initiative. He is assisting the University Senate Cultural Diversity Committee in pursuing an undergraduate curricular requirement focused on diversity issues, and is helping to plan the Cultural Diversity Fair at the College of Law. Farbstein is president of the Jewish Law Student Association.

For the last seven years, AYSPS alumna Tonya Cook (M.S. in Human Resources Development ’05) has been event coordinator and chair for the convocation. She works in the Office of Student Life and Leadership as a program specialist in intercultural relations.

The Andrew Young School sends its congratulations to Bonello and Farbstein for this recognition of the many important ways they serve our community, and to Cook for consistently producing such an important, exciting event.

Below, Elisabeth Omilami, Arnita Welch, Tonya Cook and Shekema Tinch Holmes of Rachel’s Daughters, Inc. Welch and Holmes received the Hosea Williams Award for Community Activism.

M.P.A. CANDIDATES MARY ELIZABETH DAVIS AND REBECCA KAYE WERE FINALISTS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT FELLOWS PROGRAM sponsored by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. The program’s purpose, quoting its website, “is to attract to federal service outstanding men and women from a variety of academic disciplines and career paths who have a clear interest in, and commitment to, excellence in the leadership and management of public policies and programs.” As finalists, Kaye and Davis were invited to participate in a federal job fair where they will join a U.S. agency that will hire and train them.

“We want to encourage more students to participate in this program,” says PAUS Department Chair Greg Streib. “It may be a good option for several of our students.” Information and applications are available online at http://www.pmf.opm.gov/.
The Andrew Young School celebrated its tenth annual Honors Dinner in April at the Student Center Ballroom on campus. Dean Bahl and Associate Dean Moore presented 39 awards from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies including the Carolyn McClain Young Leadership Fund Award and the new Harold Ball Economics Award. Students were additionally awarded more than 100 other honors including service awards and naming to the national honor societies, Pi Alpha Alpha and Omicron Delta Epsilon.

More than 280 honorees and guests attended the event, which was coordinated by the Office of Academic Assistance. Keynote speakers were Raul Alberto Ponce-Rodriguez, an economics doctoral student from Mexico who was awarded the Jack Blicksilver Scholarship in Economics, and Barbara Williams, an M.P.A. student who received the Dan Sweat Award. They spoke of their experiences at the school.

Honors Day awards winners and their photos are presented on the Andrew Young School’s website at http://aysps.gsu.edu/acassist/honorsday/index.htm.
degrees, enhance faculty productivity and build better relationships with the community.”

Streib’s research interests are local government management, applied research methods, and information management and policy. He has established an expert reputation in research and consulting with a focus on public and nonprofit management, policy analysis and evaluation, and on e-government and the use of Internet technologies.

“My goal is to contribute to the body of practical knowledge aimed at improving the practice of local government management,” says Streib. Professional standards in public management are higher nationwide as a result of the International City/County Management Association knowledge assessment tool that Streib led a Georgia State team in designing. (See “PAUS team evaluates professionalism in local government” in Spring/Summer 2005 Briefing.)

Streib’s research is widely published in prestigious academic journals in his field that include Public Administration Review, Administration and Society and Public Performance and Management Review. He has published book chapters and served on and chaired a number of panels that include the Georgia Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration. He has served on a number of advisory committees for local governments and nonprofit organizations, and has reviewed articles for several of the top academic journals in his field.

In addition to his role as principal investigator on the team developing the ICMA knowledge assessment instrument, Streib has received major grants and awards for projects that include an effort to develop rules and regulations for managing a Georgia immunization registry and an evaluation of a major welfare reform project in Fulton County, Ga. He has consulted on projects for the State of Georgia, the American Cancer Society and the Salvation Army, among others.

**PAUS adding new degree programs**

In addition to the four degree programs PAUS has traditionally offered – an undergraduate major in Urban Policy Studies, the Master of Public Administration, a Master of Science in Urban Policy Studies and the joint Ph.D. in Public Policy – the department is building new degree programs and concentrations in public policy, public health and human resources. New elective classes have been added to the nonprofit management track for the M.P.A.

“The B.S. in Public Policy is a challenging option for students with an interest in governance, policy formulation and contemporary issues,” says Streib. “These are students interested in making the world a better place.” Their next step might involve working with a nonprofit organization, government service or a professional degree.

Streib considers the M.P.A. with a career track in Public Health a fantastic option for students interested in leadership positions in health-related organizations.

The B.S. in Urban Policy Studies with a specialization in public and nonprofit human resource policy is intended for students with an interest in the management of human resources in public and nonprofit organizations.

**Students bridging academics and community**

PAUS graduate students in 2005 founded a new student organization, the PAUS Network. Their goal is to connect public administration and urban policy students, faculty and alumni by hosting social functions, guest speakers and other events. The network supports students in social and professional areas and acts as an information resource. Rebecca Peed and Rosa Jupiter were the founding officers, and Professor Ted Poister is faculty advisor.

Several PAUS graduate students also founded and participated in Students for Progressive Transit, the newest campus-wide organization housed within AYSPS. Bringing together students interested in advocating transit use in metro Atlanta, its organizers have already generated news of its work in the local media.

Streib says that PAUS will continue to build on the strong degree programs, successful M.P.A. internships, exciting study abroad programs and engaging student activities that make it one of the more popular academic departments at Georgia State. Talented, entrepreneurial faculty members and broad-based community support for this department also offer its sought-after students future career success.

For more information about PAUS and its programs, go to www2.gsu.edu/~wwwpau/.
Michael Adams (M.S. in Urban Policy Studies ’04) is a planning engineer II for the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Josh Bornstein (M.P.A. ’05) has joined the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He is a Presidential Management Fellow assigned to the CDC’s Office of Security & Emergency Preparedness. This position resulted from the CDC internship he completed while earning his M.P.A. dsx26@cdc.gov

The American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter appointed Harris Bostic II (M.S. in Urban Studies ’94) director of its “Prepare Bay Area” campaign, a three-year program to train San Francisco residents how to respond to major disasters. BosticHIIusa.redcross.org

Rev. Dr. Bruce Cook (M.P.A. ’78), founder of the Crime Victims Advocacy Council in Atlanta, presented summer workshops during the National Organization of Victims Assistance Conference and to 200 Community Youth Workers of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. He recently completed a federal grant in Atlanta’s Vine City neighborhood that equips churches to counsel crime victims in their communities. askcvoc@aol.com

Congratulations to Tonya Cook (M.S. in Human Resource Development ’05), who will be included in The Chancellor’s List® 2005-2006, in recognition of her academic achievements as a graduate student. Cook is a program specialist in the Office of Student Life and Leadership at Georgia State. praisezeta@yahoo.com

Indiana University Southeast Associate Professor Dagney Faulk (Ph.D. in Economics ’99) was recognized in September by Louisville’s Business First magazine in its 10th annual listing of “Forty under 40” professionals who play an important role in the community. She also received IUS’s School of Business Distinguished Service Award for 2004-05. dfaulk@ius.edu

Jerrell Harris (M.S. in Urban Policy Studies ’05) has a new job as the residence coordinator for the Department of Housing and Residence Life at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. jharris58@email.uncc.edu

Isfandiarni (M.A. in Applied Economics ’03) received a fellowship from the Asia Pacific Leadership Program at the East West Center University of Hawaii.

Kathryn Lookofsky (M.P.A. ’01) was recently named director and CEO of the Downtown Development Authority, Ga. She has moved to Athens from Jonesboro, where she was director of downtown development and historic preservation for the city. KathrynLookofsky@aol.com

Donald McCartney (M.P.A. ’05), a first assistant secretary with the government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, has been appointed counselor/consul (deputy high commissioner) to Canada. He took up his appointment this spring in Ottawa, Ontario. donaldmmccartney@yahoo.com

Mercy Ngungu, PMP (M.S. in Public Administration and Urban Studies ’03) has earned certification as a Project Management Professional, a globally recognized credential awarded by the Project Management Institute. Ngungu, project director with the Georgia Department of Community Development since 2004, says she plans to combine her policy knowledge with her project management discipline to maximize the results of her work on government agency projects and initiatives.

Carol R. Scotton (Ph.D. in Economics ’00) accepted a position as assistant professor of economics and business & management in the Department of Economics at Knox College in Galesburg, Ill. cscotton@knox.edu

Albert “A.J.” Sumell (Ph.D. in Economics ’05, M.A. in Economics ’03) recently joined the Department of Economics at Youngstown State University, Ohio, as assistant professor. ajsumell@ysu.edu

The National Institute of Governmental Purchasing awarded Avon Thompson, CPPO, CPPB (B.S. in Urban Policy Studies ’04) its 2005 National Award for Buyer of the Year at its annual conference in Anaheim, Calif. Thompson is manager of procurement for Georgia Department of Economic Development. athompson@georgia.org

Daoshu Wang (M.A. in Economics ’01) in December moved to the Zilliant as vice president of pricing science. Williams will manage the company’s pricing science and modeling team. Loren.Williams@zilliant.com

Chauncia Willis Cuellar (M.P.A. ’01), the City of Tampa’s new emergency management coordinator and an instructor at the Emergency Management Institute at the National Training Center (FEMA) in Emmitsburg, Md., put Professor Bill Waugh’s (PAUS) Disaster Management class through a bioterrorism tabletop exercise during a spring visit. Chauncia.cuellar@tampa.gov.net

Alumnus encourages M.P.A.s to consider consulting careers

“An M.P.A. is an M.B.A. with a focus on government instead of business,” says Thad Juszczak, a 1976 graduate of Georgia State’s M.P.A. program. Now a senior manager in the Global Public Sector practice at Grant Thornton LLP, he visited campus in the fall to encourage M.P.A.s to consider entering the private sector as one path to a government service career.

“Government agencies today depend on consultants to bring specialized expertise and/or short-term staffing to public sector projects,” he says. Grant Thornton consults with federal, state, local and international governments in the areas of financial management, performance management and information technology, with a focus on improving management and operations. Its staff of 400 is based in Alexandria, Va., just outside of Washington, D.C.

“We have traditionally

“During his two-year tenure, Goldenburg has helped secure funding to take the center from a $28,000 deficit to a six-figure surplus,” wrote Mekado Murphy in the Visions Today story announcing the honor. “He worked to land the center its most recent grant – $100,000 from the state – to renovate the Mark Segal Ballroom.” In 2005 he solicited a $274,000 gift from an individual donor to retire the mortgage on the center, allowing it to redirect funds to program development.

“For these reasons, as well as his ability to unite the community behind the center,” wrote Murphy, Goldenburg was named the magazine’s first Visionary of the Year.

“I think Dolph provides a shining example of how far a person can go after receiving an M.P.A. from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies,” writes M.P.A. Megan Mathews, J.D., who e-mailed AYSPS with news of her friend Goldenburg’s award.

Prior to leading the William Way LGBT Community Center, Goldenburg was development director for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, among Atlanta’s 50 largest nonprofits, and for Trinity Community Ministries, a homeless service organization in Atlanta. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Georgia State, earning a B.S.W. as well as an M.P.A. He credits the school for his success in the nonprofit community.

“I’ve taken the knowledge learned at the Andrew Young School to effectively turn around a nonprofit that had significant deficits for several years,” says Goldenburg.
The Andrew Young School is pleased to announce the creation of the Rick Anderson Scholarship for City of Atlanta Employees. Georgia State alumnus Rick Anderson established this scholarship with a gift of $25,000 to the school.

“I’ve always believed in giving back, just in a general sense,” says Anderson. “This was a way for me to recognize and honor three institutions that were very important in my life: the City of Atlanta, Georgia State University and Andy Young.”

Anderson’s gift will provide scholarships to undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in the degree programs of the Andrew Young School. City of Atlanta employees in the Department of Finance will be given first preference for the award, although any City of Atlanta employee may be considered if they qualify. The scholarship selection committee, established by AYSPS faculty, will work with the city’s Human Resources Department to advertise the scholarship to city employees.

Anderson began his career with the City of Atlanta as an accounting assistant. He advanced through several accounting and financial analyst positions while pursuing his M.P.A. “When I got my master’s degree, the city had a tuition reimbursement program. I know a lot of city employees take advantage of Georgia State, so I’m confident that there will be a lot of interest,” he says.

Anderson served twice as chief financial officer for the city and was associated with the city for more than 25 years, including a position as budget director in the administration of Mayor Andrew Young. At Georgia State, he earned a B.S. in Urban Life and Urban Studies in 1971 and a Master of Public Administration in 1974. He says that being able to combine practical experience with academic study contributed greatly to his success.

Now retired, Anderson and his wife, Barbara, are in the process of moving to Gainesville, Fla., where he grew up. He says that opportunity brought him to Atlanta. “The chance to work and finish my degrees was a big consideration.

“Georgia State University is a great resource for city employees. Its proximity makes it very easy for people to combine their working experience with a very good academic experience. That’s what I did, and I’d like to make it possible for others to do the same thing,” he says.