WHY IS WHAT WE DO IMPORTANT?
Each part of our mission at a policy school – the research, the analysis and the teaching – can have a lasting impact on the world around us by influencing how governments and non-profits make decisions and do business.

At the Andrew Young School, our teaching mission is valuable because understanding how to evaluate policy and make good decisions affects the world now and in the future. The story about our master teachers (p. 28) shows how highly we value this charge.

The students we teach can be the gatekeepers who design, decide and act on policy solutions. Proof of this impact is in the accomplishments of our alumni. Artidiatun “Arti” Adji (Ph.D. in Economics ’06), who directs a graduate program at Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia and helped design our latest Indonesian Master’s Program (p. 3), and the Honorable David Adelman (M.P.A. ’95), recently named U.S. ambassador to Singapore (p. 37), are two among hundreds of AYS graduates actively making the world a better place.

Our research mission, tying academic research directly to policy and outreach, and our entrepreneurial atmosphere gives our school a distinctive focus across Georgia State’s campus. Our published research consistently ranks at the top in measures of quality – as indicated by our latest award recipients like Andrey Timofeev (p. 5) – and quantity. More than $6 million in grants was recently awarded to the school (p. 23), and the Southern Economic Journal has ranked our economics department first among Georgia’s Ph.D.-granting institutions for its scholarly productivity. Our faculty members consistently publish more than 100 articles a year.

The policy research informs the policy discussions. High-ranking policymakers use AYS research to lay the framework for reasoned, evidence-based decision-making and actions in areas that include tax policy, health policy, education, the environment, the workplace, transportation and other infrastructure, disaster preparedness, public safety and others areas you will find in this issue.

Our international outreach can change world views. Recent examples include our partnership with an Indonesian university (p. 3) and fellowships that bring scholars from other countries to our campus (p. 26).

The Andrew Young School’s teaching, research and outreach has resulted in great brand recognition and significant external funding, and has helped attract students to the field of policy from around the world. The changes our research and alumni are making are positive and forward-looking, driven by evidence and reason.

Our school is looking at ways to continue its excellent work in placing graduates, retaining key faculty and staff and moving up in national rankings. We support the strategic planning effort of Georgia State University now underway. We are so looking forward to being a part of the great changes coming.

Mary Beth Walker
Dean
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Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
The Briefing
Summer 2010

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Cover Photo: Students compare notes on Gadjah Mada’s campus, Indonesia
Mary Beth Walker, professor and former chair of Georgia State University’s economics department in the Andrew Young School, was named dean of the school on June 10.

“Dr. Walker is the right choice to lead the Andrew Young School into the future,” said GSU President Mark P. Becker in announcing her selection.

Walker joined Georgia State in 1991 as an assistant professor of economics and was named an associate professor in 1997. She served as interim associate dean of the Andrew Young School in 2009 and was promoted to professor and chair of the department last July.

Her research interests include fiscal policy, education and health care, and she has had articles published in the *Journal of Urban Economics, Journal of Econometrics, National Tax Journal* and other scholarly journals.

Walker holds a bachelor’s degree in economics and math from Rhodes College in Memphis and master’s and doctorate degrees in economics from Rice University in Houston. Prior to joining GSU, Walker was an assistant professor of economics at Emory University and an instructor at Rice.

“Dr. Walker embodies the Andrew Young School mission to create and disseminate knowledge for policy makers and leaders in the public, nonprofit and business worlds, and to educate students to become the next generation of policy scholars and practitioners,” says GSU Provost Risa Palm.

“I am confident that under her leadership the Andrew Young School will continue its rise as one of the top policy schools in the country with a regional, national and global reach.”
Today, Indonesia’s next generation of fiscal policy experts are working towards advanced degrees in applied economics at Georgia State University and Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. In a cost-sharing agreement with GSU, USAID-Indonesia awarded $3 million toward a new three-year capacity-building program to train fiscal analysts from the country’s Ministry of Finance. These economists will be trained in using state-of-the-art tools and methodologies, which will strengthen their ability to develop the fiscal policy reforms that will continue to lead the country forward.

Regents Professor Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Indonesia’s former Minister of Finance (now a top advisor at the World Bank) and an AYS visiting scholar in 2002, and Vice Minister Anggito Abinmayu, head of the ministry’s...
Fiscal Policy Office, came up with the idea. “We discussed the possibility of building up the capabilities of the ministry in terms of all sorts of fiscal analysis,” says Martinez.

Martinez approached the USAID with an unsolicited proposal to fund the Georgia State collaboration with Gadjah Mada, where several AYS Ph.D. graduates are professors.

“Given ongoing changes in the Indonesian economy, the need is growing for well-trained economists to occupy a broad range of positions in fiscal policy analysis,” he says. “They will guide the country’s policy dialogue and further improve its governance.”

A NECESSARY PROGRAM
As many as 30 junior-level staff members of the Fiscal Policy Office at the Ministry of Finance — the country’s fiscal policy think tank — will earn dual masters’ degrees. Unique features of the program include courses with a focus on Indonesian economic issues, advisors and staff dedicated exclusively to program participants, and the use of advanced methodology and technology.

The program was designed by the staff of the International Studies Program in collaboration with AYS alumna Artidiatun Adji (Ph.D. in Economics ‘06), who directs the graduate program in economics and business at Gadjah Mada University.

“Indonesia faces pressing problems in the areas of political and fiscal decentralization and its attempts to sustain and manage its abundant natural resources,” says Adji. “Andrew Young School faculty are expert in these areas.”

Before coming to Atlanta, students attend a rigorous one-year English language-intensive master’s program that Adji leads at Gadjah Mada. She developed the program with AYS alumna Eunice Heredia-Ortiz, a former research associate II and ISP adjunct professor. They collaborated with Dean Mary Beth Walker and faculty advisors to develop the curriculum.

“We discussed what we need at the prep level at Gadjah Mada, which I blended into our regular degree program — with modifications,” says Adji. “We replaced math with Calculus I and II, added intensive English, and will train them on statistical analysis before they come to Atlanta.”

As part of their training at the Andrew Young School, the students will talk to public officials at locations that include Hall County, the Georgia Department of Revenue and the Fulton County tax assessor’s office.

“We collaborate with local governments in our training,” says Heredia. “They will take home lessons in how decentralized governments operate within the United States.”

“This is where we link academics with practice,” she says.

Adji says the program’s goal is to graduate 15 students each of the two years, but it may expand. “The head of our fiscal policy office says our government needs this program. And our university needs to increase the international exposure of our students to increase their competitiveness. The advantage is for the students as well as the country,” she says.

Before she recently accepted a job with a development consulting firm, Heredia managed the fiscal decentralization
and local governance training programs for the ISP. She had conducted several programs with Indonesian economists through earlier collaborative activities with Gadjah Mada. A native of Bolivia, she graduated from the AYS with an M.A. in Economics in 2002 and a Ph.D. in Economics in 2006.

“Indonesia has decentralized, giving its regions the decision-making powers,” she says. “They decide where to allocate resources. They set the budget and deliver the services. They are making decisions that used to be made by the central government. The country must enhance the capacity of the provincial and local government officials to make decisions,” she says.

**Creating lasting impacts**

“This is about partnering, about a unique relationship and program that not every university has,” says Robin Morris, vice president for research for Georgia State University. “It will benefit Georgia State as well as Indonesia.”

The program highlights the global reach of the Andrew Young School and the draw of its world-class faculty. It will advance a new group of leaders into roles that help build the policy infrastructure in their own country.
An interdisciplinary economics/political science experimental research project proposed by professor James C. Cox and Nobel Prize-winning economist Elinor Ostrom of Indiana University was awarded a three-year collaborative grant of $800,000 by the National Science Foundation in January. Their co-researchers are AYS Assistant Professor Vjollca Sadiraj and James M. Walker, a professor at Indiana University. The project, titled “Asymmetric Power in Paired Common Pool and Public Good Games: Experiments, Institutions, and Behavior,” will pair the two experimental settings that represent the most important forms of social dilemmas, situations where the short-term interests of individuals are at odds with the long-term interests of the group, within one systematic research program.

“Many public policies rely on outdated economic and socio-political theories. This research will help transform our knowledge about what motivates people to act as well as how different situations may impact that motivation,” says Cox, who directs the Experimental Economics Center. “A careful sorting out of how key underlying factors affect behavior and outcomes will provide a solid foundation for better theory and sound policy advice.”

Cox says the research will advance the understanding of how people are motivated to act in settings that represent core issues: inadequate public services, over-fishing, deforestation, water scarcity and pollution, for example. “Conventional belief predicts that selfishness leads to environmental tragedies such as global warming when there is common rather than private property. Our research will identify the properties of political-economic institutions that may prevent such tragedies within either private or common property.”

The research will help inform future policy making by broadening the capacity of citizens and policymakers to predict the likely outcomes of policy or rule changes that impact public goods, such as national defense and public safety, as well as common goods like higher education.

A Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar, Cox holds the Noah Langdale Jr. Eminent Scholar Chair. Much of his recent work centers on the study of the economics of trust, reciprocity and altruism with private property. The research of Professor Ostrom, co-founder and senior research director of the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis at Indiana University, centers on common property and how cooperation, rather than self-interest, motivates people.

“We had talked about developing a research project together for several years,” says Cox. He met Ostrom when he was on faculty with the University of Arizona. “She invited me to spend my sabbatical at her workshop. It is a privilege to be working again with such an incredible scholar,” he says.
How well are we doing?

AYS group evaluates customer and worker satisfaction for the State of Georgia

In 2006 Gov. Sonny Perdue created Georgia’s first Governor’s Office of Customer Service (OCS), charging it with promoting a strong customer-focused culture and continuously improving customer service within every state agency. The theme, “Faster. Friendlier. Easier.” epitomizes the state’s goal: to provide the best customer service in the nation and help place Georgia at the top of national rankings as the best managed state in America.

For this effort, the OCS contracted with the Public Performance and Management Group (PPM) to help develop and administer evaluations in the areas of customer service and employee satisfaction.

“We have conducted statewide surveys of customer perceptions of service quality and overall satisfaction with the state’s services,” says Deon Locklin, PPM’s director. “We targeted four major groups served by the state: citizens, cities and counties, companies that do business with the state, and state agencies that provide internal services to other state agencies.”

PPM’s surveys looked at five important service quality attributes: courteous, helpful, accessible, responsive and knowledgeable. Overall, says Locklin, Georgia’s scores were very encouraging. “Agencies have sustained a high level of service quality or shown a pattern of improvement since 2006. They have done a lot to embed customer service into their cultures.”

OCS director Joe Doyle leads the State of Georgia’s efforts to improve customer service. “We’re talking about teamwork, not just horizontal but vertical, where our people in charge work with our people on the front lines. The public service leadership in Georgia gets it and has acted in a way that gives all public servants the power to work together to make things better,” he says.

This effort is expected to continue. “The Office of Customer Service recently asked us to interview administrators from 35 state agencies to discuss how to sustain the emphasis on customer service, even after Gov. Purdue leaves office,” says Locklin. “It is clear that state leaders feel a sense of responsibility for carrying this focus forward.”

PPM also conducted state employee surveys to measure perceptions of workplace quality and overall employee satisfaction levels. “Research shows the positive relationship between employee satisfaction and customer satisfaction, so this is important data for the state,” she says.

The latest survey showed that despite difficult working conditions – furloughs, budget constraints, pending layoffs – state employees expressed a sustained commitment to the work they do, to service quality and to their positions. “We’ve used these findings to encourage state leaders to demonstrate that they value this employee commitment,” says Locklin. “In fact, this was a theme in Gov. Purdue’s State of the State address.”

Locklin says her group is proud to assist state decision-makers. “This research demonstrates the good partnership between the public sector and Georgia State University. We’re influencing policy, and they’re drawing upon our expertise.”
Atlanta – like cities all over the U.S. – has had to address a broad range of policy issues in recent years. Yet most of the urban policy case studies Professor Harvey Newman was using to teach his class were produced in the Northeast.

“Why were there no Atlanta case studies? The history of our city’s administration is deep and rich, but there was no practical way to teach it,” says Newman, who chairs the Department of Public Management and Policy. “Atlanta-based case studies could make our classroom teaching more interesting and effective.”

Last fall, he felt that the time was right to develop a series of Atlanta case studies. “We were going into a mayoral cycle, which seemed...
like a good time to reflect on the policy decisions made by Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin. We could sum up her work and look ahead to the city’s transition to a new mayor,” he says. “Our original goal was to assist the election cycle by injecting important policy issues in the debate and to frame the challenges that a new administration would face. We also wanted to provide Atlanta case studies to other policy schools. We felt they could learn from Atlanta’s experience.”

He shared his frustration that there were no Atlanta studies with his M.P.A. student, Michael Halicki, a consultant in a firm that works with the Atlanta Committee for Progress. Mayor Franklin had organized this elite group of business leaders to advise her on policy.

“Michael convinced the ACP that the case studies would be helpful to the election cycle and to the transition,” says Newman. In 1999 the Andrew Young School and ACP formed a partnership to produce reports on eight policy issues: ethics, public safety, engaging the private sector, economic development, watershed management, new efficiencies in government, City of Atlanta talent, and the city’s business model. Each case study would place the issue within context while examining the process used to address it, the options considered and the implementation of initiatives to solve it. It would also assess the results.

Eight AYS graduate research assistants helped Newman conduct about 40 interviews, researched best practices in other cities and wrote draft reports. For each case, the ACP identified key individuals to interview and prepared them to anticipate contact from Newman’s team, he says.

The research and first drafts on all topics were completed in the fall, says Newman. The ethics case study was completed, posted online and published as an editorial in the Atlanta Business Chronicle prior to the election. All studies were posted on the AYS website this spring.

Newman salutes the skills of his student researchers: Jeremy Greenup (Ph.D. in Public Policy), Glenda Crunk (M.P.A. ’08), Sanchita Sarkar (M.P.A. ’10), Tim Todd (M.P.A. ’10), Ife Finch (M.P.A.), Cameron Jones (M.P.A.), Janelle Jolley (M.P.A.) and Joy Woodson (M.P.A.). Several have expanded the topic areas they were assigned and will share the research with academic audiences.

“Joy, who worked on our public safety case, brought her background as a reporter for the crime beat at the L.A. Times to the project. She did a splendid job interviewing Atlanta’s former police chief and others. She had no problems asking the hard questions,” says Newman.

“Tim’s wife works for the Bureau of Water Management. He did an outstanding job gathering material and interviewing key people for the watershed management study. The founding director of the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeepers, Sally Bethea, gave us an incredible picture of the progress that’s been made in that policy area. Tim is now writing a conference paper based on this case.

“Sanchita is from Mumbai and was not familiar with local government as it is structured in the U.S. For her this was an incredible experience: to talk to people and learn about the operation of city government. She’s now doing an internship with a state policy agency.

“Everybody contributed and learned from the experience, and the project is moving to the next stage based on what they’ve accomplished,” he says.

Newman admits that in the last year he’s learned more about the City of Atlanta than he ever knew during his history at Georgia State. “I lecture on local government, and this experience has enabled me to talk about it in new and exciting ways, with insights on current research.”

He points to several reforms in place that have changed and improved the operation of Atlanta city government. "Are all the challenges solved? Is the mission accomplished? No. There’s more work to be done,” he says. “However, we’re much farther down the road than we were. The challenge going forward for Atlanta’s city government and new mayor will be to hire managers and department heads that will move this process forward.”

They will be able to learn where the city has been and best practices that will help take it where it should be, thanks to the Atlanta Case Studies.

The City of Atlanta Case Study Project is posted on the AYS website at http://aysps.gsu.edu/AtlantaCaseStudies.html.
To provide state policymakers current information and assist them with tackling the most complex issues related to health, the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) developed a Legislative Health Policy Certificate Program with funding from the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation. The program generates enthusiasm from Georgia’s legislators and staff.

“One of the most beneficial aspects of the program for me was the environment that was created for our learning, an environment that fostered communication. I was able to discuss challenging policy issues with colleagues in both the Senate and House as well as with Democrats and Republicans,” says Sen. Valencia Seay (D-Riverdale).

“We agree on where we want to be but we have different mindsets or paradigms on how to get there,” says Rep. Mike Keown (R-Coolidge). “This program helped me see solutions from a different point of view.”

Nineteen new certificate holders were recognized in the spring. More than 34 members of the General Assembly and their staff have earned the certificate. The GHPC hopes to offer the next program again within the next year.


**LEGISLATIVE HEALTH POLICY CERTIFICATES AWARDED SPRING 2010**

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Jeremy Betts
House of Representatives

Chase Jones
House Budget Office

Michael Brewer
Aide to Rep. Morgan

Rachel Moore
Senate Research Office
Bahl moderates AYS leadership panel

In October the Andrew Young School and Georgia State University hosted a “Conversation in Leadership.” Regents Professor Roy Bahl moderated a panel that included: former Ambassador Andrew Young; Harvard management professor and author Bill George, the former chairman and chief executive officer of Medtronic; and John Hope Bryant, founder, chair and CEO of Operation HOPE, Inc. and author of Love Leadership: The New Way to Lead in a Fear-Based World.

Link to video broadcasts and an online photo album of the standing room only event at http://aysps.gsu.edu/3412.html.

GHPC at State Capitol

Georgia policymakers who attended Rural Health Day at the Capitol on February 17 were given updates on the Georgia Health Policy Center’s work to improve health access and care throughout the state. GHPC, a sponsor of the Georgia Rural Health Association event, was recognized on the floors of the House and Senate.

Perspectives on Health Reform

The Georgia Health Policy Center presented health policy experts from several fields to help Georgia State faculty, staff and students sift through the fact and fiction surrounding national health reform at its program, Perspectives on Health Reform: Science, Fiction, and Fantasy, in November.

The GHPC-convened panel included faculty from Georgia State University’s Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, J. Mack Robinson College of Business, College of Health and Human Sciences, and College of Arts and Sciences. Presenters discussed potential health reform proposals in relation to: their impact on health equity, who pays, who is likely to benefit, the role of prevention, how financing drives delivery, and how employers may be affected.
The Andrew Young School hosts approximately 50 seminars and workshops throughout the year, providing interested students, faculty, alumni and friends easy access to some of the leading policy practitioners and ideas of the day.

Distinguished guests have included former United States presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, Cape Verde Islands First Lady Adelcia Pires, economist Paul Krugman and former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt.

A dozen annual AYS seminar and lecture series attract both well-known and emerging public policy experts in the area of fiscal policy, child policy, domestic programs, economics, environmental economics, experimental economics, health policy, international studies, labor and health economics, nonprofit studies, and public management and policy. The Seminar Series page, http://aysps.gsu.edu/seminars.html, lists all topics with a link to the AYS Calendar.

“The goal is to enrich the intellectual environment by inviting interactions with leading scholars from other institutions,” says Associate Dean Robert Moore, who admits that the connection works both ways. “They get to know us a lot better, too.”

Following is a sample of the Andrew Young School events that regularly attract breakthrough speakers to campus.

The Dan E. Sweat Lecture Series, which began in 2004, invites leading researchers in education policy to speak on campus. In September, sociology and education professor Amy Stuart Wells, the education director for the Center for Understanding Race and Education in Teachers College, Columbia University, presented “Metro Migration, Racial Segregation and School Boundaries: Education Policy in Changing Suburban and Urban America.”

At February’s program, economist Claudia Goldin assessed gender gap outcomes for MBA graduates working in the U.S. corporate and financial sectors in “The Career-Family Conundrum.” Goldin is the Henry Lee Professor of Economics at Harvard University and program director of the National Bureau of Economic Research’s Development of the American Economy Program, which explores the sources of long-run growth in the U.S.
Separately, the W.J. Usery Workplace Conference on Labor Market Issues and Policy attracts the nation’s top labor economists to the AYS to discuss some of the most critical issues facing the American workplace. Henry Farber of Princeton University gave the keynote address, “Long-term Employment and Job Security,” at the 2009 conference. Other expert presenters included Brigitte Madrian (Harvard University) on pensions and savings; Amitabh Chandra (Harvard University) on rising employee health care costs; Harry Holzer (Georgetown University) on the deterioration of wages, employment and workforce attachment of African American males; and Charles Clotfelter (Duke University) on the re-segregation of public schools and educational inequities.


The Nonprofit Studies Program in May co-hosted a lecture led by Dan Pallotta on his new groundbreaking book, Uncharitable, with partnering organizations: Woodruff Arts Center; United Way of Greater Atlanta; The Foundation Center-Atlanta; The Southeastern Council of Foundations and the law firm Alston & Bird. The program was taped for future viewing by Georgia Public Broadcasting.

The Andrew Young School publishes a calendar of upcoming events and offers RSS feed and iTunes broadcasts of taped events online at www.andrewyoungschool.org.

The U.S. Department of Education and the European Union have awarded $1 million to Georgia State University and the University of Venice for an undergraduate, transatlantic dual degree program in international economics and modern languages (IEML) that will begin in the fall. GSU’s Andrew Young School and College of Arts and Sciences will administer the program with the Università Ca’ Foscari di Venezia, (i.e., Ca’ Foscari University of Venice).

“In today’s world, it is increasingly important for economists to have a worldwide perspective,” says Associate Professor Shelby Frost, who co-directs the program with Richard Keatley, a lecturer for modern and classical languages in the Arts and Sciences college. “Globalization is the new reality, and people who understand the global economy stand a much greater chance of making better policy decisions to improve our world,” she says.

“Transatlantic degree programs are the wave of the future,” agrees Keatley.

Six students from Georgia State and six from Ca’ Foscari will be selected to participate each of the next four years, for a total of 24 students over the course of the grant. Each student will receive a $12,000 stipend to pay for educational and travel expenses.

Those selected for the program will spend more than a year abroad learning language and cultural perspectives, including a semester in France at the Université de Versailles, a third, non-degree-granting institution. Graduates will have earned two diplomas that will allow them the flexibility to work in a variety of developed and developing markets.

Georgia State’s proposal was funded by the federal ATLANTIS program, which is jointly administered by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education and the European Commission’s Directorate General for Education and Culture. ATLANTIS provides grants for up to four years to add a European-United States dimension to international curriculum development and related student exchanges.

Georgia State began offering the IEML degree program in 2006. It was designed to provide students the analytical tools needed to do economic research, policy analysis and consulting on global issues, along with language skills in French, German and Spanish necessary for working with major trading partners.

“The ATLANTIS grant adds Italian to the existing IEML program,” says Shelby, ‘while making it financially easier for students to add a study abroad component to their degree program.”

Find more information on the B.A. in IEML at http://aysps.gsu.edu/1475.html.
Financial crises erode confidence, reduce investment long after problems are resolved

Economic growth generally resumes about two to three years after a banking crisis, the time it normally takes to resolve any financial sector issues that contributed to the crisis. However, the real cost of a banking crisis is larger than the typical measures of fiscal cost or initial output loss, according to associate professors Felix Rioja and Neven Valev.

In “The Long Run Effects of Banking Crises on Investment,” authors Rioja, Valev and Ph.D. student Fernando Rios-Avila (Economics) explore how investment in capital, a key component of output, is affected by banking crises. They also look at how confidence in the banking sector impacts investment.

Their analysis of data for 150 countries, covering the years 1963 to 2007, shows that the ratio of investment to Gross Domestic Product was an average 1.5 percent lower each of the seven to nine years following a banking crisis. One of their measures of confidence is the number of recurrent banking crises a country experienced, suggesting that this prolonged reduction in investment is partially caused by a decline in confidence. “Uncertainty about the economy, the banking system, and a perception that a crisis may occur again can drag down investment for many years. Recurrent crises can depress investment by a sizable amount for a long time,” says Valev.

The authors suggest that further research is needed to investigate the effects of various policies to preserve or restore confidence and investment, and the range of policies available to contain and resolve a banking crisis. “Our analysis suggests that avoiding repeated crises, deposit losses and currency crises can reduce the long-term effect of banking crises on investment,” they write. “Which policies are most effective in reestablishing trust back to pre-crises levels is an important policy question.”

Lessons in tax reform

Pakistan tax policy research culminates in joint study released by the World Bank

The World Bank has released a comprehensive report that it produced jointly with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for the Government of Pakistan and the International Studies Program (ISP) at the Andrew Young School at Georgia State University: Pakistan Tax Policy Report, Tapping Tax Bases for Development (World Bank, 2009)

The report, published in two volumes, is based on a series of background papers written by a team of ISP, World Bank and FBR fiscal policy experts who conducted research for the Pakistan Tax Policy Review Project in 2008. The World Bank had awarded the ISP a $940,000 contract to work with the FBR to produce policy papers that analyze and evaluate Pakistan’s tax system and extract lessons from the international experience in tax reform to generate specific policy recommendations.

“This project complements the ongoing work of Pakistan’s Tax Administration Reform Project,” says ISP Director Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, who prepared both volumes with Kaspar Richter of the World Bank.

Why Georgia needs a fiscal checkup

Georgia is long overdue for a comprehensive checkup of its revenue structure. Given the 15 years of changes to the state’s economy and taxes since its last comprehensive review, the long-term financial health of the state’s revenue structure has been ignored too long.

The review should address three main questions:

- Does the current revenue structure minimize disruptions within the economy, promote economic development, and produce the appropriate growth in revenue? It should match the state’s economy and should not cause taxpayers to go to great lengths to avoid taxes.

- Does the distribution of the tax burden reflect the appropriate split between individuals and businesses, renters and owners, rich and poor, current residents and newcomers, etc.?

- Does the complexity of the revenue structure impede its administration?

Several issues need to be addressed. Here is a sample:

- Georgia’s telecommunication tax policy has not changed since the telephone company was a monopoly.

- The original property tax law was based on the principal that all property within a jurisdiction should be taxed at the same rate. Our move away from uniformity raises fundamental questions of how property should be taxed and for what purposes.

- Fuel taxes were adopted so that highway users paid for those roads. Is that principle still operative, or should we find another means of financing transportation?

- In a world where businesses are mobile, is the corporate income tax still the way to tax business?

- The sales tax base is capturing a smaller and smaller share of spending.

- Many fees have not been modified in many years, despite inflation. Is there a need to adjust the fee structure?

Such a review should be focused on finding the best way to finance the appropriate level of public services. It must consider the combined state and local government revenue structure since these finances have grown more intertwined. The current fiscal troubles across the U.S. should not be the motivation for making permanent changes to the state’s structure; rather, such changes should be out of concern for the long-term fiscal health of the state. Finally, the review should be based on solid research, but still reflect what voters support.

Ultimately, the review should provide a blueprint for a revenue structure that will make for a brighter future for all of Georgia. Hopefully the state’s revenue structure will undergo a complete checkup in the near future.

Excerpted from a guest column written by Professor David Sjoquist for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (January 19, 2010)
Recent Changes in State and Local Funding for Education in Georgia  
FRC Report 200/FRC Brief 200 (September 2009)

The 2001 recession, although relatively short and weak, had a significant effect on the fiscal conditions of local and state governments. How did this recession affect education spending in Georgia, and how did local school districts respond? In this report professors James Alm and David Sjoquist, director of the Fiscal Research Center and Domestic Studies, examine how the 2001 recession affected K-12 education spending in Georgia’s school systems.

Comparing Georgia’s Fiscal Policies to Regional and National Peers  
FRC Report 201 (December 2009)

In this report research associate and Ph.D. student Robert Buschman (Economics) analyzes the major components of Georgia’s state and local revenue and expenditure mixes relative to its peer states and finds that Georgia ranks relatively low – 34th – for its tax burden in national comparisons, which he attributes to a fiscally conservative political majority in the state and relatively lower costs of governmental services.

Fiscal Research Center releases new reports

Fiscal Research Center reports new releases

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Current Charges and Miscellaneous General Revenue: A Comparative Analysis of Georgia and Selected States  
FRC Report 202/FRC Brief 202 (December 2009)

In 2007 the tuition and fees Georgia collected to fund higher education were $4,493 lower than the U.S. state average per full-time student, ranking it 48th nationally. Georgia collected $41 per capita in state hospital revenue in FY 2006, considerably less than the U.S. state average of $106 per capita. In highway charges, Georgia collected $4.24 per capita, about a quarter of the U.S. state average. If Georgia collected the U.S. state average in these three categories – higher education, hospitals and highways – state current charge revenue would increase by approximately $1.46 billion. FRC research associate Peter Bluestone examines Georgia’s current charges and miscellaneous general revenue compared to AAA bond rated states, southeastern neighbor states and the U.S. average for fiscal years 2007 and 1992 in this report.

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<th>Major Categories of State Charges</th>
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New research series illuminates “Atlanta Issues”

A new research series, “Atlanta Issues,” focuses on issues relevant to the Atlanta region. The series is sponsored by the Dan E. Sweat Distinguished Chair in Educational and Community Policy and managed by Professor David Sjoquist, who holds the Dan E. Sweat chair. The reports can be downloaded at http://dansweat.gsu.edu.

In the first report, “2008 Property Taxes on Homestead Property,” Ph.D. student Kelley Dean (Public Policy) and Sjoquist present the property tax liability for homes in unincorporated areas of metro Atlanta’s 10 core counties and in the largest municipality in each of those counties. Their findings illustrate the differences in property taxes across jurisdictions and property values. (November 2009)

“Household Income Inequality in Atlanta, 1980-2007,” authored by Sjoquist and Ph.D. student Rayna Stoycheva (Public Policy), examines the distribution of income “Household Income Inequality in Atlanta, 1980-2007,” authored by Sjoquist and Ph.D. student Rayna Stoycheva (Public Policy), examines the distribution of income inequality in this area exhibits a much different trend than what has been observed nationally and for Georgia. (January 2010)

An Analysis of the Relative Decline in Employment Income in Georgia

Georgia’s population and job growth were among the highest in the country in both the 1990-2000 and 2000-2008 periods. In fact, from 1990 to 2000 Georgia ranked 10th among all states in annual rate of growth or per capita personal income. However, since 2000 Georgia’s rates of growth in per capita income and income per job have fallen to the second lowest rate among the 50 states. In this report John Matthews examines changes in employment income per job and points to emerging trends in the structure of the Georgia and Atlanta economies that underlie changes in employment income.


- **US**
- **Georgia**
- **Atlanta**
- **Birmingham**
- **Charlotte**
- **Jacksonville**
- **Miami**
- **Nashville**
- **Orlando**
- **Tampa**
- **Detroit**

![Graph showing earnings/employee annual average growth rate for various cities with different years](Image)
THE NATION’S struggle with obesity and its associated health risks extends to children as well as adults. Why? In Georgia alone, 18 percent of all youth (9th-12th grades) are overweight and another 14 percent are obese, a total of one-third of the state’s youth.

Studies have revealed that the school environment – physical education requirements, vending machine access and the nutritional content of lunches – influences a child’s weight. Aware of studies showing that more calories are consumed during rapid eating, Rachana Bhatt, assistant professor of Economics, speculated that something as simple as a rushed lunch could add weight to students. She found, however, little research devoted to the length of school lunches.

“I had come across newspaper articles and websites where parents were complaining that their children didn’t get enough time to eat at school and would come home complaining that their stomach hurt or they were hungry. I thought this would be an interesting area to investigate. School lunch times were an added dimension that might be a factor to childhood obesity,” Bhatt explains.

“When an individual eats, … It takes close to twenty minutes for … satiety signals to reach the brain, and only then will a person begin to actually feel full and stop eating” writes Bhatt. If school lunches are 20 minutes or less, students may eat too rapidly without registering a feeling of fullness and may possibly overeat.

In “The Impact of School Lunch Length on Children’s Health,” (W. J. Usery Workplace Research Group Paper Series, Working Paper 2009-10-1), her results show that just a ten-minute increase in assigned lunch length decreases a child’s BMI (Body Mass Index) and the possibility of being overweight.

Longer lunches, like physical fitness programs, nutrient-rich lunch foods and restricted access to junk foods, should be offered by the schools, and these factors are not interchangeable. “Children spend over 900 hours a year in school, and many of their lifestyle habits are developed in the school environment,” Bhatt writes.

BHATT APPLIES her primary areas of research, labor and economics, to other topics in education. In her study, “The Impacts of Gifted and Talented Education,” (W. J. Usery Workplace Research Group Paper Series, Working Paper 2009-10-1), she uses the National Educational Longitudinal Survey to examine 8th grade gifted programs. Her research follows student participants every two years to determine the program’s effectiveness in a number of categories.

Gifted programs vary widely in terms of structure: students may be taught all subjects, only some subjects, or may be taken from their regular class for a period of time. “These programs vary quite a bit across states as well as within states,” says Bhatt. “You can definitely see the dispersion in types of programs that exist.”

To the question, “Do gifted programs make the brightest student brighter?” Bhatt answers that the most statistically significant improvement is 8th grade math test scores. Reading and peer group composition is not influenced. In the long run, Bhatt finds, participation in a gifted program increases the probability that a child will take AP classes.

THE W. J. USERY WORKPLACE RESEARCH GROUP PAPER SERIES

Bhatt’s research is found in the W. J. Usery Workplace Research Group Paper Series, which publishes the work of scholars affiliated with the W. J. Usery Workplace Research Group. The focus of this series is policy-related research on the workplace, labor markets and human capital; the latter emphasizing work on education, health and risky behaviors. Go to http://aysps.gsu.edu/usery/Papers.html.
SOME OF THE NATION’S most violent criminals may be young offenders whose criminal activity is fueled by the anticipation of dying early.

Associate professor and economist Erdal Tekin teamed with Georgia State criminal justice experts Timothy Brezina and Volkan Topalli for the study “Might Not Be a Tomorrow.” (Criminology, 2009) Their findings indicate that young criminals are aware of the possibility of a shorter life span and focus more on the “here and now.”

“It turns out that the more you think you are going to die young, the more likely it is that you are going to engage in criminality and violence,” Topalli says.

The study is among the first to simultaneously include one-on-one offender interviews with an econometric analysis of nationwide adolescent data. It advances knowledge of why young people tend to pursue high-risk behaviors associated with immediate rewards, which include crime and violence.

Brezina and Topalli interviewed more than 30 young offenders in some of Atlanta’s toughest neighborhoods. They focused on the participants’ perception of risk with an emphasis on the attitudes and behaviors related to committing crimes.

“Many had been shot or stabbed and bore visible scars of physical trauma,” says Brezina. “They also expressed what criminologists refer to as a ‘coercive’ worldview; in their eyes, they occupy a dog-eat-dog world where it is acceptable, if not necessary, to use force to intimidate others and avoid victimization.”

More than 70 percent of those interviewed had been victimized, a far greater rate than among the larger population. “Most do not die early,” says Topalli, “but their illusion is that they will, and it is reinforced by the culture.”

Tekin analyzed data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, a comprehensive survey of more than 20,000 youth between grades 7 and 12 and their parents, designed to investigate adolescent health and risk behaviors. The survey includes questions on delinquent behaviors and whether subjects thought they would be killed by age 21 or live to age 35. Analysis of the results mirrored that of the interviews.

The implications for policy are significant. “It seems unlikely that threats of harsher criminal justice penalties will deter these fearless offenders,” says Brezina. “An alternative approach would be to confront the pervasive violence and other social ills that so many inner-city children confront in their daily lives – conditions that deflate hope and breed crime.”

http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/117996443/home

Above, left to right: Erdal Tekin and Volkan Topalli

Andrew Young School
Exactly how much new knowledge and inventions are American universities producing – and who is largely responsible for this output? Professors Paula Stephan and Shiferaw Gurmu, with visiting faculty member and alumnus Grant Black (Ph.D. in Economics), investigate these questions by analyzing patent activity in their paper, “The Knowledge Production Function for University Patenting.”

Notably, their results contradict findings by Chellaraj, Maskus, and Matto (2006) that patent counts are positively related to international Ph.D. students and negatively related to U.S. Ph.D. students. “[C]are must be taken in jumping to the policy conclusion that the United States’s ability to innovate, at least in universities, depends upon its ability to attract international graduate students,” they warn.

University patenting has increased exponentially over the years, from fewer than 200 patents issued in 1969 to almost 2,500 in 1997 and more than 3,400 in 2003. How does the presence of researchers – number and kind – affect the number and likelihood of university patents?

Stephan, Gurmu and Black divide researchers into faculty, postdoctoral students and Ph.D. graduate students, noting the rise of Ph.D. and postdoctoral students who staff research laboratories, especially in the U.S. They find that the number of university patents obtained rise with the number of researchers of any kind, whether faculty, post doctoral students or Ph.D.'s. Within the nation’s top-ranked research institutions, the results are essentially the same: the greater the number of researchers – of any kind – the greater the number of patents.

Whether foreign-born students contribute more to university patent production is a question of considerable concern given recent changes in immigration policy following 9/11, increased competition for graduate students outside the U.S., and the general lack of interest shown among U.S. citizens in pursuing Ph.D. training in the sciences, the co-authors write.

What they find is that international students seem to adversely affect patenting numbers, with a positive correlation between U.S. citizen Ph.D. students and patent production, and a negative relationship between temporary resident Ph.D. students and patenting. They speculate that language, cultural reasons and quality of training may make it more difficult for international students to contribute as much.


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Source: National Science Board, 2004
honor

**ECONOMICS**

Regents Professor **ROY BAHL** was asked to serve on the Board of Editors of the *Pakistan Journal of Applied Economics*.

**SPENCER BANZHAF** and **KURT SCHNIER** were awarded Lone Mountain fellowships from the Property and Environment Research Center in Bozeman, Montana. Banzhaf has been appointed a Faculty Research Fellow of the National Bureau of Economic Research.

**PAUL FERRARO** was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Conservation Strategy Fund. His paper, "What are the social impacts of land use restrictions on local communities? Empirical evidence from Costa Rica," co-authored by alumnus **KWAW ANDAM** (Ph.D. in Public Policy ’07) and others, was selected as one of three finalists for the T. Schultz Award for Best Paper by the International Association of Agricultural Economists.

**BRUCE SEAMAN** was named a co-editor of the scholarly journal, *Estudios de Economía Aplicada*.

**PAULA STEPHAN** received a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to support research for her book, *The Economics of Science*, and was invited to join the National Research Council’s Board on Higher Education and the Workforce.

**ERDAL TEKIN** is ranked among the top 200 young economists in the world according to RePEc (Research Papers in Economics) and was named research associate for the Children’s Program at the National Bureau of Economic Research. His article “The Relationship Between Suicidal Behavior and Productive Activities of Young Adults” (with Markowitz, S.) was first runner-up for the Southern Economic Association’s 2009 Georgescu-Roegen Prize.

**GEOFFREY TURNBULL** is an invited fellow of the Weimer School of Advanced Studies in Real Estate and Land Economics.

**SALLY WALLACE**, Pat Ketsche of GSU’s J. Mac Robinson College of Business, and Kathleen Adams (Emory) were awarded a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to study the incidence of public and private health care financing in the U.S.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**ECONOMICS**


ECONOMICS


SHIF GURMU presented “Bayesian Approach to Zero-inflated Ordered Probit Models, with an Application” at the 2009 Meetings of the Midwest Econometrics Group, Purdue University, Ind., in September.


PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

GEORGIA HEALTH POLICY CENTER

The Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) is the program home for Georgia Building Strong Families, a randomized control research project sponsored by Mathematica Policy Research under a grant from the Administration for Children and Families. GHPC received $405,818 as part of its five-year contract, bringing total funding to $5,870,080. KAREN MINYARD is principal investigator and CHRIS PARKER is project director.

As part of another five-year grant, the GHPC received $1,846,771 from the Office of Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration to provide technical assistance to recipients of their community-based grants. KAREN MINYARD is principal investigator and BEVERLY TYLER is project director.

ECONOMICS

RACHANA BHATT received $9,500 for her report, “The Impact of School Lunch Length on Children’s Health.”

JIM MARTON received $61,988 of a $399,414 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to study the effect of Medicaid reform on access to care, program sustainability and administrative efficiency in Kentucky and Idaho. The Urban Institute, the University of Kentucky and Boise State University are project partners.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded RUSTY TCHERNIS $200,000 for his study, “The Effects of Childhood Obesity on Participation in Multiple Nutrition Assistance Programs.”

ERDAL TEKIN received $58,825 of a total $115,542 awarded by the National Bureau of Economic Research for a study on the effects of food prices and food advertising.

PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

Georgia State University awarded CYNTHIA SEARCY a FY2011 Faculty Mentored Grant of $11,000 to research “The Financial Health of Georgia’s Charter Schools: Uniform Reporting for Financial Analysis.” Her mentor is Katherine Willoughby.

The Center for Natural Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure and Emergency Management at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill awarded WILLIAM WAUGH $245,904 for the Risk-Based Planning Project.

ECONOMICS


www.andrewyoungschool.org
A Georgia Department of Community Health grant of $280,000 was awarded to renew GHPC’s annual PeachCare for Kids Evaluation for 2010. Angie Snyder is principal investigator. An additional $150,000 was allocated for the production of PeachCare for Kids and Medicaid outreach and member materials. Mary Ann Phillips is principal investigator.

The National Network of Public Health Institutes awarded the GHPC a grant of $100,000, via a cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to assist in identifying key federal, state and local stakeholders in the Fort McPherson Base Realignment and Closure process. Karen Minyard is principal investigator and Holly Avey is project director.


Karen Minyard was awarded $30,207 by SharedCare, Inc., to work on a network development technical project and $25,000 from Access South Carolina for development work. Beverly Tyler is principal investigator.

Glenn Landers received $50,000 from Community Health Works to conduct a health needs assessment of Peach County; $35,600 from the Georgia Department of Community Health to create a program logic model for a Medicaid demonstration program; $85,000 from APS Healthcare for an external evaluation of Georgia’s Enhanced Care Program; and $25,000 from the Georgia Department of Human Services to evaluate the Aging and Disability Resource Center.

Deon Locklin (PPM) was awarded $209,000 by the Governor’s Office of Customer Service to conduct the Employee eCampaign Evaluation and a program of statewide surveys to evaluate customer satisfaction with state operations. (See story page 7.) She received $38,000 from the Georgia Department of Corrections to conduct an analysis of structural operations and a $149,482 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to provide rehabilitation long-term training.

The Georgia Department of Human Resources awarded David Sjoquist (FRC) a grant of $823,677 to collect, process and analyze information used by court-appointed monitors of Fulton and DeKalb county foster care programs under the Kenny A. Consent Decree. This project is in its fifth year.
On Bookshelves Now

**Challenging the Conventional Wisdom on the Property Tax**
Roy Bahl, Jorge Martinez-Vazquez and Joan Youngman

“Property tax systems were the subject of a 2008 conference, What Role for the Property Tax?, that compared theories with practice and was the basis for the volume. Key topics include how the property tax compares with other taxes in terms of efficiency; the political economy of property taxation and land taxation; behavioral responses to the property tax in terms of location choice or land use; tax bases and the fairness of a market-value tax base; taxing property transactions versus ownership; taxing rental versus capital value; the optimal revaluation policy; and the assignments of revenues and functions for property taxes. The book addresses the reason for the poor state of affairs in practice and explores issues in re-appraisal, horizontal equity, the ‘visibility’ of the property tax, and how the property tax compares with alternatives, such as the sales tax or a transfer tax imposed when a property is sold.” – Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

384 pp. • 2010 • $30 • ISBN 978-1-55844-200-9

**Decentralization Policies in Asian Development**
Roy Bahl and Shinichi Ichimura, eds.

“This book explores the important topic of fiscal decentralization in Asian countries and focuses on how government finance and administration are being reformed to bring budgetary decisions closer to voters. The focus on Asia is especially important because all countries in this region have been undergoing serious fiscal reforms in the past decade. They include one of the biggest decentralization reforms in Indonesia, significant reforms in democratic Philippines and Vietnam, which are in transition, and Japan, whose fiscal reconstruction program is covered extensively. India and China, which are also covered, are very special cases because of their size and because their policies must fit decentralization into a significant economic growth scenario.” – World Scientific Books


**Lives of the Laureates, Fifth Edition**
Twenty-Three Nobel Economists
Barry Hirsch and William Breit, eds.


384 pp. • 2010 • $44.95 (paperback) • ISBN 13: 9780195387452/ISBN10: 0195387457

**Budgeting: Politics and Power**
Carol W. Lewis and W. Bartley Hildreth

“A skilful balance of application and theory, Budgeting: Politics and Power by Carol W. Lewis and W. Bartley Hildreth is a comprehensive yet highly accessible introduction to the politics of budgeting. Unlike other texts on the subject – which typically focus only on budgeting at the federal level – this book emphasizes budgeting at the state and local levels to translate budgetary politics in a way that will be more relevant to the vast majority of students. In order to help students dissect the material and integrate it in a meaningful way, Lewis and Hildreth organize each chapter around key questions about core issues in a democracy. Informed by the authors’ own individual backgrounds and expertise, the text presents a thorough – and unbiased – account of the different arguments and political perspectives surrounding budgetary politics.” – Oxford University Press

456 pp. • 2009 • $29.95/£22.95 (cloth) • ISBN 10: 0-262-01276-6

**Social Enterprise**
A Global Comparison
Janelle A. Kerlin, ed.

“The first comparative look at how social enterprise is shaped by local conditions worldwide... Social enterprise – the use of market-based, civil society approaches to address social issues – has been a growing phenomenon for over twenty years. Gathering
essays by researchers and practitioners from around the globe, this volume examines, from a local perspective, the diverse ways in which social enterprise has emerged in different regions. Each chapter examines the conceptualization, history, legal and political frameworks, supporting institutions, and latest developments and challenges for social enterprise in a given region or country. In the final chapter, Kerlin presents a comparative analysis of the various models and contexts for social enterprise, showing how particular strengths in each environment lead to different enterprise initiative models.” – Tufts University Press


Handbook Of Research On Nonprofit Economics And Management
Bruce A. Seaman and Dennis R. Young, eds.

“Nonprofit organizations are arguably the fastest growing and most dynamic part of modern market economies in democratic countries. This Handbook explores the frontiers of knowledge at the intersection of economics and the management of nonprofit organizations. The authors review the role, structure and behavior of private, nonprofit organizations as economic entities and their participation in markets and systems of public service delivery, assess the implications of this knowledge for the efficient management of nonprofit organizations and the formulation of effective public policy, and identify cutting edge questions for future research.” – Edward Elgar Publishing

368 pp. • 2010 • £135 (hardback) • ISBN 978 1 84720 358 8

On the Go

JAMES ALM (Economics) presented “Taxpayer Information Assistance Services and Tax Reporting Behavior” co-authored with Todd Cherry, Michael Jones and Michael McKee, at the Queensland University of Technology in Australia, in October.

Regents Professor ROY BAHL (Economics) was appointed Professor Extraordinarius in the Economics Department at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, for 2009-2011.

JAMES C. COX (ExCen) presented “Is There a Plausible Theory for Decision under Risk?” at the First IDEISCOR Conference on Risk Sharing and Finance at the University of Toulouse, France, in September.

PAUL FERRARO (Economics), in collaboration with staff from the World Wildlife Fund and the National Wildlife Federation, helped design and implement an auction to buy back private grazing rights in the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge in Montana.

HARVEY NEWMAN (PMAP) chaired a meeting of the Undergraduate Programs Section and participated in sessions of the Nonprofit Programs Section and the implementation of the new accreditation standards at the annual meeting of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) in October.

Regents Professor JORGE MARTINEZ-VAZQUEZ (ISP) presented “Direct versus Indirect Taxation: Trends, Theory and Economic Significance,” co-authored with economics Ph.D. candidates VIOLETA VULOVIC and YONGZHENG LIU, at the Tax Systems Whence and Wither conference in Malaga, Spain, in September.

BILL WAUGH (PMAP) was an external reviewer of the School of Public Administration at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque in September.


DENNIS YOUNG (NSP) presented “The Economics of Nonprofit Governance” at the plenary session of The Conference Internationale sur la Gouvernance des Associations at the Conservatoire des Arts et Metiers in Paris in September.

JAMES ALM presented “Taxpayer Information Assistance Services and Tax Reporting Behavior” co-authored with Todd Cherry, Michael Jones and Michael McKee, at the Queensland University of Technology in Australia, in October.

Andrew Young School

SPARKS AWARD WINNERS

The AYS congratulates its 2009 Sparks Awards winners, MPA alumna GLENDA CRUNK and WANDA COOLEY, associate director of Academic Assistance. Named after Georgia State’s first president, the award recognizes faculty, staff and students who exemplify a willingness to go the extra mile with good humor and perseverance.

Glenda Crunk
Wanda Cooley
ECONOMISTS NURSINI and Sanusi Fattah are faculty members at Hasanuddin University in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. Nursini, (no relation to Fattah), is an instructor in the university’s economics department and a staff member in the Studies Center of Policy and Development Management. Fattah chairs the department’s Development Team and leads or consults for several policy centers, including a local government support program for USAID’s South Sulawesi Regional Office.

Nursini and Fattah are expert capacity builders in their home country, responsible for training local government officials and university students in fiscal decentralization and planning for regional service delivery. Their work brought them to the Andrew Young School at Georgia State last fall semester as visiting scholars in the International Studies Program.

“Under [Indonesia’s 2001] fiscal decentralization, the regions have to understand the authority and responsibility they’ve been given from the central government,” said Nursini. “We give them knowledge of the functions that are moving from the central government to regional government: planning, policies, strategies and actions.”

Nursini is writing what she hopes will become the definitive Indonesian reference book on public finance and fiscal decentralization. “I have learned many new things from Jorge [Martinez-Vazquez]. He gave us the right background on references and sources. I’m polishing the book to be a sound reference.”

Nursini found a wealth of resources for her new textbook. Hasanuddin’s faculty had been using 1987 training materials from the University of Birmingham in England. “Here we were given a lot of new materials in fiscal decentralization — more than 100 papers — as homework,” she said.

“There are many joint possibilities for research and work with Georgia State University,” they both agreed.

Enduring, sustainable international relationships often begin with friendly conversations between faculty and scholars who face similar challenges in teaching and research, no matter their time zone. This sharing of knowledge and practices benefits all parties involved and is vigorously promoted by Georgia State University in its strategic planning process.

“The International Studies Program hosts international scholars and faculty to expose our faculty and students to the variety of policy issues and ways to address them. They see a variety of different perspectives,” says Regents Professor and ISP Director Jorge Martinez-Vazquez. “While we provide important resources, our guests create opportunities for our faculty and students to produce groundbreaking policy research for economies in other developing countries. Lessons learned
China and provide a comparative analysis of fiscal decentralization in other countries. Professor Qichun Zhang teaches in the School of Economics and Management at Huazhong Normal University. Her research focus is intergovernmental transfer payments and the differences between China and the U.S. She plans to share her academic research with China’s governmental policymakers. “I found a lot of research literature, especially new books from Roy Bahl, Jorge Martinez, Sally Wallace and Jim Alm. My research field is a perfect match with what you do at the AYS,” she says.

Visiting scholar Xiaodong Wang is a lecturer and Ph.D. student who is working on a dissertation about environmental policy. Before coming to the AYS, she had studied two years in Japan and a few months in Germany. “My research is descriptive about the system in the U.S. For example, the government, legal system, policies, rules and laws – I want to know what they are,” she says. “It is good to find the difference in the way researchers and professors do research here.”

Visiting scholars and faculty enrich the learning environment at the AYS. For more information on current and former visitors through the International Studies Program, go to http://aysps.gsu.edu/isp/visiting_scholars_list.html.

Left to right: Yajun Gao, Xiaodong Wang, Qichun Zhang and Haibo Feng

often the lesson begins with a history primer, such as that provided by four visiting Chinese scholars who were interviewed in the fall. “Most Chinese know the history and tradition of America, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, but few Americans know important leaders in Chinese history. Foreign books describe the China of at least 50 years ago. We need to be more open and introduce ourselves to the outside,” they agreed.

These esteemed scholars – Haibo Feng, Xiaodong Wang, Qichun Zhang and Yajun Gao – are faculty at leading Chinese institutions of higher learning. They had come to the Andrew Young School to conduct research in the areas of fiscal policy, environmental policy, intergovernmental fiscal relations and local tax systems, including personal income tax.

Yajun Gao is an associate professor in the School of Public Finance and Taxation of Zhongnan University of Economics and Law. She joined the AYS in August for a year to compare tax systems in the United States with those in China. “Income gaps are very big in China. I’m interested in how to resolve the differences between the industrial cities and rural villages,” she says, noting that China is looking at major reforms in this area. She and her peers plan to return to their universities armed with many useful lessons in research and teaching.

“We are very interested to know how professors teach, how they organize their class, make it interesting and inspiring, and to know the courses that ended in December,” Associate Professor Haibo Feng with the Department of Public Finance of Jinan University conducted research for a study on fiscal reform and public goods provision in rural China.

“In China there are five levels of government,” he says. “While many scholars a few years ago wrote papers about the positive effects of fiscal decentralization on China’s economic growth, in recent years the reforms have led to negative effects in environmental problems, high housing prices, and local pursuit of growth in gross domestic product that is not sustainable development.

“We need to rethink China’s current decentralization system, especially below the provincial level,” he says. Feng’s study will examine the current fiscal system in China and provide a comparative analysis of fiscal decentralization in other countries.

While at the AYS for a year here at the university have lasting impacts abroad.”

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Master teachers key to growth in AYS degree programs

Frost joined the AYS as a visiting assistant professor and worked with Alm to develop the school’s “master teacher” model. “It was a trial run for both of us. As time wound down, Jim created the ‘clinical’ line — a non-tenure track line that did not require research — to keep me in the teaching mode. Now my niche is teaching large principles courses, the biggest sections and more of them.”

Associate Professor Jon Mansfield joined Frost as a master teacher in economics when the line was created. Newer clinical professors include Paul Kagundu, Grace O and Glenwood Ross in economics, and Zeynep Esra Tanyildiz in the Department of Public Management and Policy.

“A master teacher is someone who has made a conscious decision that teaching is what they want to spend their time and energy on,” says Frost. “It is someone who concentrates on thinking about teaching and delivery. They are always thinking about new ways to teach and want to stay on the forefront of new technologies and pedagogies.”

Undergraduate economics majors were counted at 100-150 when the AYS began its master teacher emphasis in 2003. “Now we’re in the range of 600 economics majors in only 7 years,” says Frost. “That is phenomenal growth. It seems the strategy of hiring experts in teaching is working.”

Undergraduate student Diego Rivera feared math, so he waited until the final semester of his senior year to take the math course he needed to complete the requirements for his degree, a B.S. in economics.

He registered, however, for the graduate-level class, Math Economics. “I decided to take on the challenge,” he says.

Rivera not only met the math challenge, he passed it with a grade average of 104. “I learned to love math,” says Rivera. He will enter the Ph.D. program in economics at American University in the fall.
Students benefit from the difference

“Being in Dr. Frost’s class felt like playing Who Wants to be a Millionaire,” says senior Shabina Lakhani, who took Frost’s Mathematical Economics for her B.S. in Economics. “She makes it fun and interactive.”

Senior Isaac Boring agrees, noting that he and others experienced several “aha moments” in her Mathematics for Economics class. In fact, afterwards, Boring changed his degree to a B.S. in Economics so he could take more math courses.

“Dr. Frost integrates textbook learning with technology and application in ways that keep students interested, engaged and wanting to learn more. Many of us walked into her classroom, our only experience with calculus being that of avoiding it at all costs. By the end of the term, we were amazed at how much we had learned.”

Economics Ph.D. candidate Alexander Brumlik credits Frost’s Econ 6030 course, Introduction to Math for Economists, for his success in the Ph.D. program, noting that “it takes a dynamic teacher; otherwise you get the ‘Death by PowerPoint’ lecture.” Frost sets the tone for every class with music related to the day’s lesson and uses technologies that keep class attendance and interest high, he says. “Shelby covers the entire syllabus, but her dynamic presentations and incentive mechanisms actually make her classes feel shorter. I have often heard students say, ‘Is that it? It’s time to go already?’ She cuts to the core of what is most important.”

Frost believes it is important for all teachers to take advantage of the teaching resources available, and she often teaches to them. “GSU’s Center for Teaching and Learning, housed through the Office of the Provost, is available university-wide. It’s where I picked up the learning style inventory,” she says. It offers technologies like clickers, too.

She often helps other AYS faculty, as well. “I learned, first of all that I had to motivate students,” says Clinical Assistant Professor Grace O, who came to the AYS from the University of Kansas in June 2008. “I thought that as long as they came to take my classes, they were motivated. But no. Shelby suggested that I use creative methods, like clickers, in class. I did and it was a good experience.”

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Frost is center director for the Georgia Council on Economic Education and often conducts its workshops. She has also won numerous teaching awards, including the first AYS Excellence in Teaching Award with Professor Harvey Newman.

“Teaching matters at the Andrew Young School,” says Frost. “We value it. The fact that we have people who specialize in teaching means something. This emphasis is not always present at a big research university.”
Economics

RESUL CESUR earned his Ph.D. in Economics and joined the AYS as a visiting assistant professor in August 2009. His research interests are health economics, labor economics, applied econometrics and related aggregate-level studies. This semester he is teaching courses in health economics, economics of poverty and public policy, principles of microeconomics and macroeconomics.

Clinical Associate Professor GLENWOOD ROSS came to the AYS from the faculty of Morehouse College after teaching there several years as an adjunct faculty member. His research interests are urban economics, economic development and economic pedagogy. He is currently engaged in an attempt to analyze the spatial allocation of economic activity as it relates to minority populations in urban settings and is investigating urbanization and poverty trends in post-apartheid South Africa. Ross who directs Georgia State’s Economic Studies Abroad Program in South Africa, earned his Ph.D. at GSU and M.A’s at Johns Hopkins and Wayne State universities.

Associate Professor RUSTY TCHERNIS is also a faculty research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research. His primary areas of research are applied econometrics, health economics and labor economics, and his work has been published in the Journal of the American Statistical Association, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Business and Economics Statistics, and Journal of Human Resources. The National Institutes of Health and the United States Department of Agriculture are among the institutions that have funded his research. Prior to joining the AYS, Tchemis was an assistant professor at Indiana University and a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School.

Visiting assistant professor ANTONIO SARAVIA came to the AYS as an instructor of economics at Arizona State University, where he won several teaching and research awards. His primary areas of interest are political economy, institutional economics, and development economics. His research has appeared in Constitutional Political Economy and various working paper series. While at Arizona State, Saravia was an assistant professor at American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

Public Management and Policy

KAREN UBELL is a visiting lecturer in the areas of law and public and nonprofit administration. She received her juris doctor, with honors, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her B.A. in public policy from the Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University. Prior to joining the AYS, she practiced law with an Atlanta firm, representing public and private companies in mergers and acquisitions and securities transactions with a specialization in public company corporate governance and securities compliance and reporting.

Experimental Economics Center

ILA ALFERO is associate to the director of the Experimental Economics Center. She joined the AYS in October following positions in public accounting, finance and management for the housing authorities of Bowling Green, East Tawas (MI), Indianapolis, Danville (IL) and Decatur-DeKalb, and as business manager for the SPC Regional School of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. Alfaro earned her M.PA. and B.A. in sociology from Western Kentucky University.

Georgia Health Policy Center

TANISA ADIMU is a research associate II with the Community Health Systems Development Team. She previously worked as a network coordinator for the National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer, a Community Networks Program of the National Cancer Institute located at Morehouse School of Medicine. Her interests include health care access, mental health, racial and ethnic health disparities, and community health program development and implementation. Adimu holds an M.P.H. from the Morehouse School of Medicine and a B.A. in Psychology from Spelman College.

Research Associate II JOHN BUTTS is also a member of the Community Health Systems Development Team. Prior to Georgia State, he was a regional coordinator with the Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living and served the State Tobacco-Related Health Disparities Coalition convened by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals. Earlier, Butts was with the Peace Corps in a rural community in Niger; West Africa, as a community health agent. He earned a B.A. in European studies from Vanderbilt University and an M.P.H. in international health and development from Tulane University.

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associates and staff

Research Associate I RACHEL CAMPOS conducts program development support for the Community Health Systems Development team. She came to Georgia State from a research firm in Atlanta, for which she oversaw evaluation plans for two federally funded programs. Her expertise is in planning, implementing and evaluating health promotion programs in both the public and private sectors. Campos earned an M.P.H. from Tulane University and a B.A. in Sociology from the University of New Orleans.

TAMANNA PATEL joined the Community Health Systems Development Team as a research associate II after working on tobacco control and prevention programs in Louisiana. She earned an M.P.H. from Tulane University and a B.S.Ed. from the University of Georgia.

GHPC’s Communications and Marketing Manager, LIZ IMPERIALE, joined the GHPC after serving in marketing positions at Georgia Tech and Habitat for Humanity of Wake County, North Carolina. She earned a B.S. in business administration with a concentration in marketing from Appalachian State University.

GSU alumna DONNA HADER is the AYS human resources officer; moving from a management position in the Provost’s Office. The former dean’s office administrator, AVANI RAVAL, was promoted to college business services officer with the working title of college promotion, events, facilities and safety officer.

SHANNAN HODGMAN, a former research analyst for the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education and legislative staff for the Nevada Office of the Governor, joined the Dean’s Office as administrative specialist-academic.

The Briefing editor and former freelance writer JENNIFER GIARRATANO is the public relations specialist for the AYS. She has written for clients in public policy, economic development, planning, education and small business development. She earned a B.A. in public relations from Auburn University.

Dean’s Office

The AYS recognizes and will miss the many contributions of Charlotte Petrek, who retired in December. Petrek filled several key positions in the Dean’s Office during her 13 years of dedicated service to Georgia State University, the latest as college personnel and facilities officer.
Model student leads U.N. teammates to victory

Senior James Dutton figures he and 35 other GSU students got about 12 total hours of sleep between March 28 and April 3 at the National Model U.N. Conference. They stayed awake sometimes as late as 4:30 a.m. writing resolutions and practicing debates and were up by 6 a.m. for opening caucuses.

But the breakneck schedule was well worth it, they say.

For the fifth consecutive year, Georgia State teams representing Mongolia and Tajikistan took home the top prize, Outstanding Delegation, from the largest Model U.N. simulation in the world – held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Uzbekistan team won the Distinguished Delegation award.

“By the end of the week, you’re a zombie,” says Dutton, the outgoing president of the Georgia State U.N. Association. “But it’s totally worth it because it takes that level of dedication and sacrifice to take the top award home every year.”

Dutton, a model student as well, was awarded the Andrew Young School’s 2010 Economics Award for earning the highest grade point average as an undergraduate in economics courses above the 2000 level. Formerly vice president of Student Life for the GSU’s Student Government Association, he was elected to serve as its president this spring.

For the full story, go to www.gsu.edu/41164.html.

Torch of Peace winner Manikowski

“It means a great deal to be prepared and ready to serve, and so this award means a great deal,” said former Virginia governor L. Douglas Wilder, directing his comments to the Torch of Peace award winners at the 27th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation on January 19, 2010.

AYS student Susan Manikowski (M.S. in Urban Policy Studies) received this year’s graduate Torch of Peace award in recognition of her work for the Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Services, the Civic League of Atlanta and Refugee Family Services, and her leadership in the Department of Public Management and Policy’s Community Network Student Organization. As a graduate research assistant, she maintained a 4.04 grade point average.

“Susan has shown the rare ability to be simultaneously engaged in numerous activities and excel in all of them,” says Assistant Professor Janelle Kerlin. “She has a passion for serving others and leadership qualities that are greatly needed in the nonprofit field.”

Manikowski is currently enrolled in the Peace Corps Master’s International Program and serving in Albania.

Held in the Student Center Ballroom, the King convocation is produced by AYS alumna Tonya Cook, program specialist for Intercultural Relations within the Dean of Students Office at GSU.
IEML major cycles ahead

A rising GSU senior, Oscar Clark races for the university’s cycling team and has racked up a pair of collegiate national titles. In December, the USA Cycling Development Foundation awarded him a $1,500 Joshua Kuck Memorial Scholarship to recognize his outstanding achievements in cycling safety, advocacy and education.

Academically speaking, Clark is tracking other cycles – those of the economy – as a major in the International Economics and Modern Languages degree program offered jointly through the Andrew Young School’s Department of Economics and the Department of Modern and Classical Languages in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Clark’s big break came last fall when he was tapped to ride for the Mountain Khakis as part of the professional cycling circuit. Clark often rides in the north Georgia mountains, some weeks putting up to 400 miles on various bikes. He also takes “relaxing” rides to Piedmont Park in Atlanta.

Clark hopes to continue racing professionally after he finishes his degree next year. “I don’t expect to go to the Olympics or race in the Tour de France. But I want to make a living riding my bike,” he says.

For the full story, go to www.gsu.edu/41589.html.

McGinnis paper wins awards

Graduate student Jasmine McGinnis went to the University of Texas-Austin for a fellowship last summer and returned to the Andrew Young School with an award from ARNOVA (Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action), the nation’s leading research association in this area.

McGinnis, a Ph.D. candidate in Public Policy and a graduate research assistant in the AYS Nonprofit Studies program, was invited to attend the 2009 Summer Fellowship Program at UT’s Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. Conducted in the GK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service, the program advances knowledge and prepares students to make contributions in the areas of nonprofit organizations, philanthropy and volunteerism.

Each fellow completes a research paper drafted for publication. McGinnis’s paper, “The Young and the Restless: Generation Y in the Nonprofit Workforce,” has won a $500 scholarship from the American Society of Public Administration’s (ASPA) Section on Public Performance and Management and the 2009 ARNOVA Best Poster Award.

“Winning the ARNOVA award helped me make the decision that this is a worthwhile research agenda,” says McGinnis, who has submitted her paper to a prestigious public administration journal. An early draft of the paper is online: www.utexas.edu/lbj/rgk/fellowship/2009papers/McGinnis.pdf.

For the full story, go to www.gsu.edu/41589.html.

International Studies Program research associate JUAN LUIS GOMEZ (Ph.D. in Public Policy) received a research grant from the Institute of Fiscal Studies, Ministry of Finance (Spain) for his project, “The Political Determinants of Regional Financing in Spain.”

The Southern Regional Education Board awarded KIM HOLDER (Ph.D. in Economics) a State Doctoral Scholar’s Program scholarship.

JASON POPE (M.A. in Public Policy) was selected as a NCST 2009 Student Scholar for his project entitled “Networks of Coordination: A Case Study of The Salvation Army, Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center and its Network of Senior Program Recipients.”


An article co-authored by FANG XIAO (Ph.D. in Public Policy) and Julia Melkers (Georgia Institute of Technology), “Boundary-Spanning in Emerging Technology Research: Determinants of Funding Success for Academic Scientists,” is forthcoming in The Journal of Technology Transfer.

The NONPROFIT STUDIES PROGRAM hosted a group of 35 master’s degree students from Spain and Latin America – majors in social economy and corporate social responsibility – at the Andrew Young School for a week of seminars and site visits, and an opportunity to learn along with students from PMAP’s Maymester Social Enterprise class in May 2009. Those selected had attended on-line degree programs of the University of Barcelona.

In today’s high-pressured job climate, Public Management and Policy students, alumni and potential employers of both can tap into a wealth of no-pressure career-oriented activities at the Andrew Young School.

Case in point: Federal government and nonprofit career information fairs were hosted by the PMAP department during the spring semester, and more than 80 different government and nonprofit agencies visited and recruited Andrew Young students.

On February 4, Nancy Fahey from the Congressional Budget Office led more than two dozen AYS students in an information session about CBO work and summer intern positions in Washington, D.C. “Our internships are like a 10-week interview,” she told the students. “You have enough time to learn, ‘Is this a good place for me, or not?’”

She later explained why the CBO sends a representative to the AYS campus. “Your students develop the quantitative and analytical skills that we need.”

PMAP offers a wealth of career resources. Go to http://aysps.gsu.edu/paus/career.html or contact Maggie Tolan, director of Academic Programs and Alumni Affairs at mtolan@gsu.edu to learn more.
Every year finds the Andrew Young School hosting a significant number of exemplary international students. Many have been invited to come to the United States for graduate-level study through programs that include the U.S. Department of State’s Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program, administered by IREX, and the Fulbright program of the Institute of International Education (IIE). This year was no exception.

Twelve of the 34 students sponsored by these two programs this year at Georgia State attended Andrew Young School programs: six Muskie fellows and six Fulbright scholars. In comparison, 11 such students were housed in the College of Health and Human Services, five in Arts and Sciences, four in the J. Mack Robinson College of Business and two in the College of Education.

These students continue to excel in their studies and extracurricular work while at the school. For example, M.P.A. candidate Michelle Forbes was presented with The Best Term Paper Award during this year’s AYS Honors Day celebration for her paper; “Planning for Volcanic Emergencies: Technological Advances and Challenges Facing Emergency Management Officials.” Alexandra Arkadieva was one of nine students tapped into the Georgia State chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha, the national honor society for public affairs and public administration. Photographs taken by Master’s candidates Otar Kantaria and Andrey Rybalov received awards in a GSU contest held in the fall.

The student experience within the Andrew Young School is richer for the presence of its international students.

From left: AYS students Reimbay Reiimbayev, Amin Ali, Robert Moore (associate dean), Alexandra Arkadieva, Andrey Rybalov, Zarha Murad, Yuriy Davydenko, Michelle Forbes, Otar Kantaria and Bauyrzhan Yedgenov at the 2010 Honors dinner.
JOHN WINTERS (Ph.D. in Economics ’09) is an assistant professor of economics at Auburn University at Montgomery. Jwinter3@aum.edu

An article by M. KATHLEEN THOMAS (Ph.D. in Economics ’00), “The Link between Advanced Placement Experience and Early College Success,” with Kristin Klopfenstein (Texas Christian University), was published in the Southern Economics Journal, 75(3), 873-891. Thomas is an associate professor of economics at Mississippi State University. kthomas@cibilan.msstate.edu

EMILY H. TURNER (Ph.D. in Public Management and Policy ’09) was awarded a $1,000 Research Award from the American Planning Association Housing and Community Development Division for her research on HOPE VI and neighborhood revitalization in Denver and Atlanta.

BENJAMIN CHUPP (Ph.D. in Economics ’09) is an assistant professor of economics at Illinois State University. bchupp@ilstu.edu

TONYA COOK (M.S. in Human Resource Development ’05) was inducted into the 2009 Who’s Who in Black America, 11th Edition; a second induction. Cook is program specialist for Intercultural Relations at GSU. Tcook3@gsu.edu

Recent graduate DENVIL DUNCAN (Ph.D. in Economics ’10) has accepted a faculty position at Indiana University.

NEVBAHAR ERTAS (Ph.D. in Public Policy ’09) joined the Department of Government at the University of Alabama Birmingham as an assistant professor last fall. nevbahar@uab.edu

Associate Professor of Economics Nikki McIntyre Finlay (Ph.D. in Economics ’98; B.A. in Economics ’84) has been granted tenure at Clayton State University. Also, the Bank of America awarded Finlay and Reza Kheirandish a grant for an economic research center to study metro Atlanta’s Southern Crescent region. According to Finlay, it is among the first research grants received by CSU’s School of Business. NikkiFinlay@mail.clayton.edu

JESULON S.R. GIBBS (M.A. in Economic Policy ’06), an assistant professor of Educational Leadership at South Carolina State University, received a $50,000 grant funded by the Thurgood Marshall Foundation with the U.S. Dept. of Energy to improve the integration of technology in graduate instruction. The project is titled, “Integrating Blackboard into Graduate Studies: Training Faculty and Students is the Foundation.” jesulongibbs@gmail.com

JUNGBU KIM (Ph.D. in Public Policy ’07), SEONG SOO OH (Ph.D. in Public Policy ’09) and TAEHYUN JUNG (Ph.D. in Public Policy ’09) co-authored “Funding for Disaster Recovery: Increased Taxes or Charitable Donations to Nonprofits?” International Journal of Public Administration, 33(3), 151-159. Kim is an assistant professor in the Public Policy and Administration department at Jackson State University, Jackson, Miss.; Oh teaches in the Politics and Public Administration department at California State University Stanislaus, Turlock, Ca.; and Jung is a postdoc fellow in the Public Policy department at Georgia Tech. jungbu.kim@sums.edu/toehyun.jung@gatech.edu

Brian McDougal

Nara Monkam

John Winters

Nikki Finlay

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Diane Caves, M.P.A.

In early February the U.S. State Department and HHS Disaster Mortuary Response team confirmed the death of Diane Berry Caves in the Haiti earthquake of January 12. A health policy analyst for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ms. Caves was in Haiti on a 3-week CDC assignment to support the work of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief when the earthquake struck.

AYS faculty and graduates remember Diane Caves as an engaging and dedicated student. She completed her M.P.A. degree in 2007 and was invited to speak at the year-end AYS Honors Day celebration. In 2009 she enrolled in the MPH program at Georgia State’s Institute of Public Health.

“Diane was one of our stellar MPA students,” says Professor Katherine Willoughby of the Department of Public Management and Policy. “She spoke at the honors dinner about the importance of public service and her commitment to effective public program management. This is a sad loss for the Andrew Young School.”

“Diane died while in service to her country, public health and the people of Haiti,” wrote CDC Director Dr. Thomas Frieden in an internal memo to CDC employees. In a tribute given by the CDC in March, her name was added to “this wall of heroes, who gave their lives in the service of public health,” he said.

The AYS Department of Public Management and Policy and a generous anonymous donor have created the Diane Berry Caves Fellowship in her honor. The fellowship will be awarded annually, beginning this spring, to the Master of Public Administration student who demonstrates academic excellence and a commitment to public service.

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Andrew Young School alumni embody the school’s founding vision of building a community of local, national and global leaders, those who connect the AYS in meaningful ways to their state or province, their nation and our world. A new map on the AYS alumni page tracks those connections, showing where our Ph.D. graduates are located today. This map is a beginning; we hope to eventually populate other maps with all of our graduate and undergraduate alumni – at least those who are willing to join us online.

Take a look at http://aysps.gsu.edu/for_alumni.html ... and then go to our online alumni survey to let us know where you are and what you are doing. Your communications with us will help build a thriving AYS/GSU alumni network. Who knows – it may also land you a starring role in one of our feature stories about AYS alumni.

Don’t be a stranger. Let us know more about you today at http://aysps.gsu.edu/alumni_survey.html.
Diplomacy defines Advisory Board member

ARNOLD L. MARTIN III’S passion for policy and diplomacy was sealed during the G-8 (Group of Eight Nations) Summit hosted by the United States on Sea Island, Ga., in June 2004. Among the six volunteers chosen to serve within the “Summit Zone” – out of 500 volunteers at the event – Martin witnessed how major economic and political policy decisions were made by leaders of the world’s eight largest industrial nations.

“I am a student of international relations and diplomacy because I believe that the world is truly going to thrive and improve through diplomacy,” says Martin, who aspires to a second career as a U.S. diplomat. He joined the AYS Advisory Board in 2008.

Martin’s work has placed him at the epicenter of one of the nation’s most pressing policy issues: housing and finance. Upon graduating from Morehouse College with a B.A. in real estate and finance, Martin worked as a licensed real estate appraiser and mortgage loan officer before founding Absolute Lending & Mortgage LLC in 1998. His work in mortgage lending and as chairman of the Affordable Housing Fair Lending Committee of the Mortgage Bankers Association of Georgia in the 1990s was recognized in a proclamation awarded by Gov. Zell Miller. He is an expert source for the news outlets CNBC and MSNBC, where he is often quoted regarding industry trends.

"Integrity and regulation are the biggest policy issues in our industry. Greater professional standards have shut many businesses down. The number of licensed mortgage lenders and brokers has declined by half in the last 12 months,” he says. “Mortgage businesses require significant expertise and experience in order to remain in this industry.”

As a board member, Martin says he will fuse his experiences in finance and diplomacy to assist in board development and advance the role he sees Andrew Young and GSU play in the world. “The greatest strengths of the AYS Advisory Board are those of its members and those whom it serves,” he says. “If I can bring people together who are helping to shape the world, I have helped out beyond the years I will serve.”