Message from Dean Walker

Welcome back to spring semester! We have a lot going on as usual. Easily the biggest news is the GSU consolidation with Georgia Perimeter College. I hope you have read the articles (http://news.gsu.edu/2015/01/06/university-system-board-consolidates-georgia-state-georgia-perimeter/) and especially the FAQ (http://www.gsu.edu/2015/01/06/consolidation-qa-president/) with President Mark Becker. There are many, many issues still to be resolved, but I’d like to speak to a few points where there is clarity.

One of the things I have learned in my quick research and discussions with others is how many research universities encompass junior or community college campuses. Look, for example, at the University of South Carolina (http://www.sc.edu/about/system_and_campuses/index.php) and Penn State (http://www.psu.edu/academics/campuses). Each institution includes multiple campuses, some of which offer only associate degrees. So there is ample precedent for this consolidation.

Also, it is very clear that in the assessment of rankings (of universities or doctoral programs or departments), only the measures from the downtown campus will be used. So, for example, when CJC gets ranked as a doctoral-granting department, the criminal justice faculty now at the Georgia Perimeter campuses will not be included in the ranking metrics.

Note also that President Becker has said that the downtown campus does not now, and will not ever, offer associate degrees. No decisions have been made about whether, in the future, we might use the perimeter campuses to offer upper level courses, or maybe even masters’ programs. Many of the questions I have received deal with faculty/staff assignments. There are no plans to reassign faculty or staff positions to GPC. I am hopeful that we might have additional GTA positions for our Ph.D. students, though. And there will need to be liaisons between some staff of the campuses; I mean, we can imagine that our advising staff will communicate with theirs to better smooth transitions. I am looking forward to really examining data from GPC, as I don’t know much about their students or their faculty. I seem to recall that Dan Kreisman also has an interest in education policy research around community colleges; it looks like we will get the opportunity to do it!

NOTE: President Mark Becker will hold a town hall meeting regarding the Georgia State, Georgia Perimeter College consolidation today at 3:30 p.m. in Speakers Auditorium in the Student Center. Rob Watts, the interim president of Georgia Perimeter College, and Shelley Nickel, the vice chancellor for planning and implementation at the University System, will also be on hand to answer questions from the Georgia State community. Questions can be submitted in advance at: http://www.gsu.edu/2015/01/08/consolidation-forum-president/. Attendees can also submit questions during the event. The town hall will be livestreamed at gsu.edu.
Awards & Honors

Julie Hotchkiss, adjunct professor (Economics), research economist and senior policy advisor (Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta), and executive director (Atlanta Census Research Data Center – ACRDC), was installed as second vice president of the Southern Economic Association. The term is for two years.

Publications


Presentations

Nancy Kropf, associate dean for Research and Strategic Initiatives and professor (Social Work), presented “A Social Care Approach to Late Life Caregiving: A Multicultural Perspective” at the Putting Aging Research and Clinical Practice in a Cultural Context Conference, which was sponsored by the Chinese University of Hong Kong & the Gerontological Society of America in Hong Kong, January 3, 2015.

Paula Stephan, professor (Economics), made the following presentations:

- “Public Funding and Its Relationship to Research Outcomes” as the plenary speaker at the conference to celebrate the 25th anniversary of UNU-MERIT, University of Maastricht, Maastricht, the Netherlands, November 26-28, 2014.
- “Economic and Academic Growth-Any Relation” at the Conference Sustainable Science: What Remains of Science Funding” at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Berlin, Germany, December 1-3, 2014.

Barry Hirsch, professor (Economics) and W.J. Usery Chair of the American Workplace, made the following presentations:

• A paper coauthored with Chris Bollinger (University of Kentucky), Charles Hokayem (Centre College) and Jim Ziliak (University of Kentucky), “Trouble in the Tails? Earnings Non-response and Response Bias across the Distribution,” in the 2015 American Economic Association Meetings session, New Methods to Analyze Income Distributions in Household Surveys with Measurement Error, January 3, 2015, in Boston.

Sheila Blanton, child welfare specialist (Professional Excellence Program – Social Work), Laura Schroeder (pictured), research associate (Professional Excellence Program – Social Work) and Steven Smith (Clayton State University) presented “Limiting Technology Frustration in the Classroom” at the National Staff Development and Training Association Professional Development Institute in Louisville, Ky., October 14, 2014.


Julie Hotchkiss, adjunct professor (Economics) and (Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta), Nicole Baerg (University of Mannheim) & Myriam Quispe-Agnoli (University of Georgia) presented “Unauthorized Immigration and Electoral Outcomes” at the Southern Economic Association meetings in Atlanta, November 22-24, 2014.


Josh Hinkle, assistant professor (Criminal Justice & Criminology), made the following presentations at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology in San Francisco, November 19-22, 2014:

- With Sue-Ming Yang (George Mason University) & Laura Wyckoff (U.S. Justice Department), “The Disorder-fear Nexus: Implications of Using Broad Scale Measures of Disorder.”
- With Audrey Club, Ph.D. candidate (Criminal Justice & Criminology), & Su Ming Yang, “An Examination of Survey Design Issues in Fear Crime Research.”

James Marton, associate professor (Economics), presented “Evaluating the Impact of Private MCOs on Medicaid Service Utilization Patterns” at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 6-8, 2014. The paper is co-authored with Jeff Talbert (University of Kentucky) & Jenny Kenney (Urban Institute). He also presented the paper, “Medicaid Program Choice and Participant Inertia,” at the Southern Economics Association Annual Meeting, November 22-24, 2014, in Atlanta. The paper is co-authored with Aaron Yelowitz (University of Kentucky.)

Rachel Ferencik, senior research associate (Georgia Health Policy Center), presented “Systems Thinking Maps – Leveraging the Language of Leverage” on November 24, 2014. The presentation was recorded for distribution as a web seminar series and hosted by STELLA of isee systems. The web series will be used to provide users with practical exercises, tools and demonstrations that apply systems thinking to health care and other fields.
Beth Fuller, associate project director (Georgia Health Policy Center), presented “Georgia State University’s Commitment to Health in Communities” at the Atlanta Regional Housing Forum, University Roles & Relationships in Communities, on December 3, 2014, in Atlanta.

Glenn Landers, associate project director (Georgia Health Policy Center), presented the webinar “Leading through Health System Change: A Public Health Opportunity” to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on December 10, 2014 in Atlanta, GA. The webinar was the inaugural presentation for the CDC Policy Community of Practice.

Community Outreach

The Department of Public Management and Policy provided three half-days of training for 17 South Korean emergency managers, December 10-12, 2014. The program provided an overview of the American emergency management system, case studies of recent disasters, and the development of benchmarks and standards for emergency management. The group was sponsored by the Korean Ministry of Public Safety and Security, their national emergency management agency.

Economics Department Honors Two Top Experimental Economists

The Department of Economics honored distinguished scholars of experimental economics-John List, the Homer J. Livingston Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago, and Lise Vesterlund, the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Economics at the University of Pittsburgh—at a kickoff workshop prior to the Southern Economic Association 2014 Conference in Atlanta, November 21, 2014. The two panel sessions during the workshop were chaired by James Cox, professor (Economics), director (ExCEN) and the Noah Langdale Chair in Economics, and Michael Price, professor (Economics). http://goo.gl/P5ZNY9
(Left Photo L-R) ExCEN’s Director, James C. Cox, Associate Professor Michael Price and distinguished honoree John List. (Right Photo L-R) Panel Presenter, Catherine Eckel, Marolyn Lucy Gentles (ExCEN’s Administrator) and Honoree Lise Vesterlund.

Media

Paula Stephan, professor (Economics), was quoted in the following media:


Nancy Kropf, associate dean for Research and Strategic Initiatives and professor (Social Work, had her opinion piece, “Make it Safer for Aging Communities,” published as a Guest Column in the Atlanta Journal Constitution, January 3, 2015. [http://goo.gl/ZQf4D5](http://goo.gl/ZQf4D5)

Barry Hirsch, professor (Economics), was quoted in the Wisconsin State Journal article, “Right-to-Work Would Trim Union Clout, But Broader Economic Impact Unclear,” on December 14, 2014. [http://goo.gl/jyj0FM](http://goo.gl/jyj0FM). The same story was picked up by the (Wisconsin) Leader-Telegram.

Robbie Friedman, Professor Emeritus (Criminal Justice & Criminology) and director (Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange), was quoted and/or highlighted in the following media:

- Newton County (Ga.) Sheriff’s Office Newsletter, with Newton County Sheriff Brown as part of the GILEE Delegation to Israel, December 2014.


The Fiscal Research Center’s analysis on student scholarship organizations and their fiscal impact on Georgia taxpayers was featured in The Columbia County News-Times article, “Keep crony capitalism out of schools,” December 17, 2014. [http://goo.gl/flnF31](http://goo.gl/flnF31)

Congratulations

Elizabeth Searing, doctoral candidate (Public Management and Policy and M.A. Economics ‘11), has accepted a faculty position for fall 2015 as an assistant professor in the Department of Public Administration & Policy at the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, University at Albany – SUNY.

Congratulations to Jamia Luckett, administrative specialist (Criminal Justice & Criminology), on receiving her Master of Arts in Political Science from Georgia State University in December 2014.
Congratulations to John Gibson, assistant professor (Economics), and his wife Lauren on the birth of their daughter, Parker Anne Gibson who was born on November 24, 2014.