

The Briefing

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HOPE Scholarship Motivates Higher Performance

Two years after starting college, 1994-95 HOPE scholarship recipients are more likely to stay in school, earn higher GPAs and gain more credit hours than their peers, according to a recent evaluation conducted by the Council for School Performance.

The study compared the college performance of borderline HOPE recipients (those who earned an overall high school GPA between 3.0 and 3.16) to a similar group of students who

did not receive the scholarship. The comparison group was selected based on the students' GPA for core academic courses, allowing researchers to isolate the effects of the scholarship as a motivating factor, according to Dr. Gary T. Henry, Director of the Applied Research Center, which houses the Council for School Performance.

"Students who receive HOPE in their first year of college are staying in school at higher than expected rates, even when they lose the scholarship," Henry said.

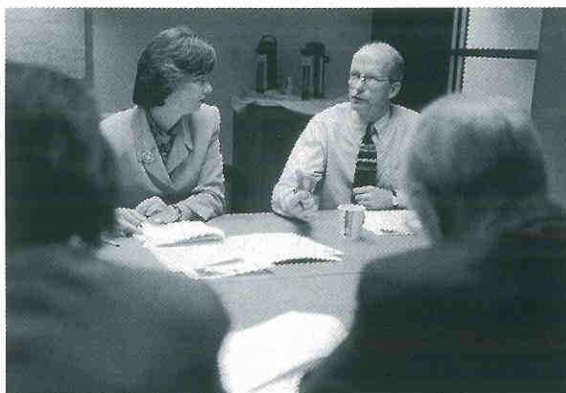
Tracy Johnson, a freshman at Georgia State University with a HOPE scholarship, agreed with Henry and added that the scholarship reduces financial stress, which helps her to focus on school.

"I have not had to worry about where my tuition comes from," explained Johnson, who said she plans to earn her degree in four years.

The scholarship not only reduces financial stress, but it provides encouragement that inspires students to push themselves academically, Henry said.

HOPE is a nationally-recognized program that provides Georgia high school graduates who earn an overall high school GPA of 3.0 or better with free tuition and fees and a book allowance at public colleges and universities. HOPE scholars must continue to earn a B or better average to retain the scholarship.

For more information on the HOPE scholarship, see: "Evaluation of the HOPE Scholarship Program." Applied Research Center, Council for School Performance, December, 1997.



Dr. Gary T. Henry, Director of the Applied Research Center, discusses study findings with members of the Council for School Performance.

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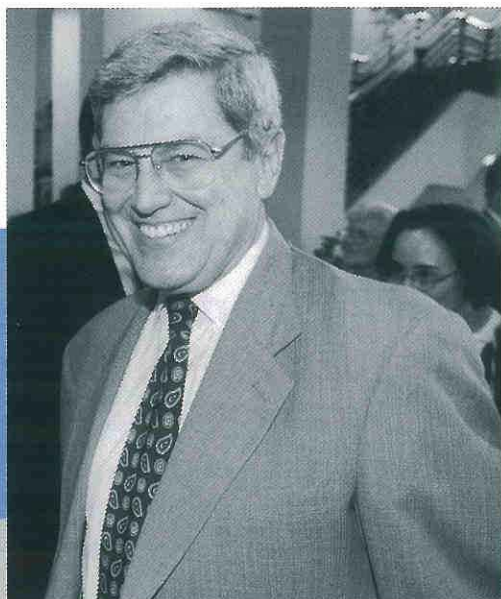
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Dean's Corner



If you are interested in receiving any of the publications mentioned in *The Briefing*, please contact Jay Stevens at spsjrs@langate.gsu.edu or if you'd like to learn more about the work of the School of Policy Studies, visit our Web site: <http://www.gsu.edu/~wwwsps/>.

2 A little over a year ago, Georgia State University President Carl Patton told me that we would soon have a college of policy studies, and asked me what we could accomplish in the first few years. Our faculties and research associates in economics, public administration and urban studies were quick to set the goal of becoming the finest policy teaching center and research think tank in the South.

Our first year was a wild ride. We published well in quality academic journals, worked in more than 30 countries, raised more than \$15 million in external funds and advised our state, and others, on fiscal, health, education and environmental issues. The economics department increased enrollments by one-fourth, our professional masters programs remained healthy and we graduated, and more importantly, placed, our

doctoral students.

The excitement and momentum of our first year has carried forward, as you'll read from these pages. We will grow our tenure-track faculty to 50 by the end of this year, and will have 15 professional researchers in place. We have joint-appointed faculty with the Colleges of Health Sciences and Education, and are looking forward to the same with the College of Law and the Department of Political Science.

Our new adventures are no less exciting: a building under renovation, a joint Ph.D. program in Public Policy Studies with Georgia Tech and, hopefully, a naming gift to go with a most prestigious name for our school in the near future.

Our ultimate goal is still a ways off, but we can see it.

Stay tuned.

Roy Bahl

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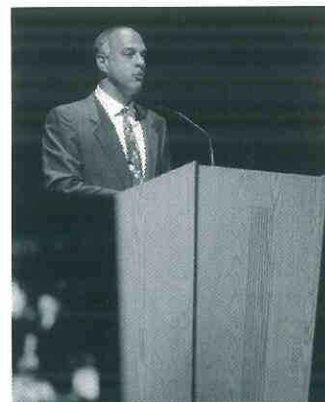
Environmental Policy



The environmental braintrust: Ron Cummings, Georgia State Eminent Scholar, Bruce Beck, University of Georgia Eminent Scholar, and Shaw Liu, Georgia Tech Eminent Scholar, were all local panelists at the teleconference.



Professor Laura Osborne takes a break at the teleconference.



Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell gives welcoming remarks at the conference, expressing concern over Atlanta's air quality.

Global Teleconference Held at Georgia State's Rialto Theater

In preparation for the December summit in Kyoto, Japan, thousands of Americans met via satellite this October to discuss the issue of global warming.

The White House Conference on Climate Change: The Challenge of Global Warming was broadcast October 6, at Georgia State's Rialto Theater. The School of Policy Studies' Environmental Policy Program, in collaboration with the Southeast Regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency, sponsored the teleconference in an effort to increase awareness of global warming and the policy options available for the reduction of greenhouse gases.

Following the remarks of President Clinton and Vice President Gore, speakers from national panels discussed various topics, including the possible impact of climate change on the United States; the role of technology in reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and potential economic implications.

Ron Cummings, Eminent Scholar and Chair in Environmental Policy at Georgia State, moderated the local panel's discussion of global warming issues and policies required to deal with them. Others serving on the local panel

include: Dr. Crawford Elliott, Georgia State Professor of Geology; Dennis Creech, Executive Director of Southface Energy Institute; Rita Kilpatrick, Executive Director of the Campaign for a Prosperous Georgia; Jim LeDuke from the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For more information, see the following new papers from the Environmental Policy Program:

Ron Cummings and Mary Beth Walker, "Measuring the Effectiveness of Voluntary Mobile Source Emission Reduction Programs: A Proposed Methodology."

Ron Cummings, Laura Osborne and Peter Terrebonne, "The Economic Impacts of Controlling NO_x and VOC Emissions in the Atlanta Region."



Vice President Al Gore talks via satellite with Americans about global warming and policy.

Environmental Notes:

Faculty of the Environmental Policy Program are actively involved with efforts by Georgia's Environmental Protection Division to develop policies that will reduce ozone in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Atlanta is currently in the "serious" category with respect to national air quality standards for ozone, and Professor Laura Osborne leads a research project focusing on the development of least-cost "packages" of control measures that meet the targets for reducing emissions of harmful gasses.

Professor Ron Cummings is playing a leading role in Georgia's new Voluntary Ozone Action Program (VOAP). Beginning May 1, 1998, the SPS team will visit with directors of state and federal agencies, as well as with the CEOs of Atlanta's major businesses, to define measures that they can adopt to reduce ozone levels. Professors Cummings and Mary Beth Walker are developing new methods for measuring reduced emissions from automobiles that can be attributed to the VOAP.

Assuring Health Care in Rural Georgia

Last July, Miller County almost lost their hospital. And they were not alone. Thirty counties in Georgia have hospitals and health care providers that are in financial crisis – which is why the School of Policy Studies' Health Policy Center stepped in.

With a grant from the Department of Medical Assistance, researchers from the Health Policy Center are able to help pilot communities like Miller County.

"Last year, as changes in the state Medicaid program were being contemplated, it became apparent that traditional providers for Medicaid and indigent patients were in jeopardy of financial crisis.

This was particularly true in the rural areas of Georgia," Karen Minyard, Research Associate in the Health Policy Center said.

The Health Policy Center, working in concert with many state agencies and organizations, has begun work on this project. Over the next few months, HPC staff will work with three to four pilot communities to develop a process for helping rural communities establish viable local health care systems.

India Taylor, executive director of the Miller County Chamber of Commerce, said Miller County is already benefiting from the program.

"July was really scary. We did not know whether or not we could keep our hospital open. Ledbetter (James

Ledbetter, Director of the Health Policy Center) found out about us and their help has been a wonderful blessing."

Miller County is currently in their first phase of the program – helping community leaders identify priorities.

"We are a small community and we do not have access to a university. We can now access their knowledge and their expertise to our benefit. We were at a state of desperation when they came to us. Now we are looking forward to the new year," Taylor said.

Each of the pilot communities will go through four phases. After the first phase, previously mentioned, community leaders and the project staff will develop a profile of the community that includes: identifying community and regional assets, demographic and

health status information, economic status of the community, financial and performance evaluation of the local providers, and a health needs assessment.

In the third phase of the project, community leaders and a national "blue ribbon" technical assistance team will work together to make decisions regarding the structure of the future local health care system.

In the final phase of the project, technical assistance will be provided for the community members as they implement their plans.

After fine-tuning this process in the pilot communities, the project staff will be available to provide similar support to other communities throughout Georgia.



Research Associate Karen Minyard and HPC Director James Ledbetter.

"July was really scary. We did not know whether or not we could keep our hospital open ... Their (Health Policy Center) help has been a wonderful blessing," said India Taylor, executive director, Miller County Chamber of Commerce.

Healthcare for Uninsured Children:

Due to recent federal legislation known as the Children's Health Insurance Program, states must now provide health insurance for low-income and uninsured children. The Health Policy Center has laid the groundwork for implementing this new program here in Georgia. Work on the project began six months ago when Governor Zell Miller endorsed the Center as the lead agency in the replication of Florida's Healthy Kids program. Since then, the Center has received a \$100,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson foundation and a \$3.5 million contract to design the most appropriate and effective program for Georgia. With much of the work underway, a program of this nature and magnitude will certainly improve health care access for many of Georgia's children.

Georgia State and Georgia Tech Join Forces

Imagine a Ph.D. in Public Policy where students may elect to study with professors from two excellent faculties. Imagine research faculty being able to choose graduate assistants from two pools of doctoral students. And imagine the ability to provide policy assistance to governments by capitalizing on the varied expertise of two universities in order to solve real world problems. Now it is possible.

Georgia State's School of Policy Studies and Georgia Tech's School of Public Policy have joined forces – creating the first joint degree

granting Ph.D. program in public policy in the nation.

The program will be up and running by Fall, 1998 and over 100 application inquiries had been received by December 1, according to Paula Stephan, Associate Dean of the School of Policy Studies. "We begin reviewing candidates this March and are really excited about the future of this program," Stephan said.

The public policy program will be a full partnership on all levels, including governance, administration, and instruction. Graduates will receive a doctorate in Public Policy

from both institutions.

The program is designed to prepare a new breed of skilled policy analysts, managers and evaluators in the fields of policy design and implementation, according to Lloyd Nigro, Professor of Public Administration, and chair of the Georgia State faculty committee that designed the program.

"The goal is to place graduates in highly responsible positions in universities, research centers, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and international institutions," Nigro said.

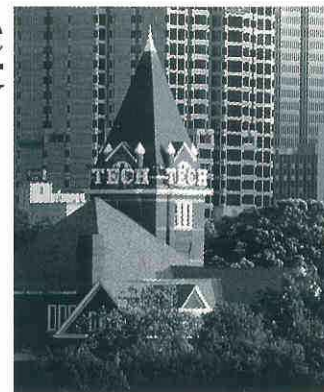
Students will be trained in a rigorous core of advanced

research methods, analytic concepts and techniques, drawing from many different disciplines. Doctoral candidates will choose two fields of concentration from a wide range of policy specializations and will have exciting opportunities to work with leading public policy scholars and researchers.

For more information, contact Ms. Wanda Cooley in the School's Office of Academic Assistance at (404) 651-3504, or via e-mail at <wlc@gsu.edu>.



Lloyd Nigro and Julia Melkers, Professors of Public Administration at Georgia State, played leading roles in the design of the joint Ph.D. program.



News from the Economics Department:

Economics enrollments are up 24 percent over the same quarter last year! More students are studying economics at all three levels of instruction – undergraduate, masters and doctoral. Chair Sam Skogstad attributes the increase in numbers to "innovative" scheduling, and to a renewed emphasis on quality teaching.

Rubin Saposnik retired from the economics department after 23 years of service to Georgia State. An economist of national reputation, he leaves behind a vibrant department that he helped create, numerous students teaching in universities, and a legacy of published papers and books. Rubin and Marlene are spending their first year of "retirement" in Prague where he is a visiting professor at the Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE).

The Numbers – There are now 39 economics doctoral students. Of the 82 Ph.D. students active within the college, 13 countries and 14 states are represented.

SPS Assists Russian IRS

A team of School of Policy Studies professors and graduate students, led by Jorge Martinez, Director of the International Studies Program, has successfully completed a second year of technical assistance to the State Tax Inspectorate for the City of Moscow – the largest Inspectorate in the Russian Federation.

Concentrating on the need to increase revenues and taxpayer compliance, SPS personnel have developed models and procedures to improve revenue forecasting, audit selection, and tax administration management.

Martinez described the time in Moscow as “the experience of a lifetime. It is fascinating to witness the transformation of a country from a closed economy and society to a market economy with democratic institutions,” Martinez said.

A unique feature of the SPS technical assistance program has been the close rapport between SPS and Russian personnel. Evidence of this rapport includes Martinez's selection to the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and the forthcoming book on tax administration in the Russian Federation to be jointly edited by Martinez and Dmitry Chernik, head of the State Tax Inspectorate for the City of Moscow.

“The volume and difficulty of the work could not have been completed without the scientific leadership of Jorge Martinez and his assistant, Bob McNab. A broad understanding of economics combined with the frenetic energy and work ethic of the team allowed us to realize all our goals in a short time,” Chernik said. (Robert McNab is a doctoral candidate in economics.)

Results of the joint program include the first survey of local tax offices in the Russian Federation, the first analysis of taxpayer data in the Russian Federation, the first employment of Western revenue forecasting methodology, and a series of jointly authored papers on improvements in tax administration in the Russian Federation.

New Readings from the International Studies Program:

Robert McNab and Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, “Tax Systems in Transition Economies,” *Handbook on Taxation*, John Richardson (ed.), New York: Dekker Publishing, forthcoming.

Robert McNab, Jamie Boex, Henry Huckaby, and Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, “Multi-Year Budgeting for the Russian Federation: A Review of International Best Practices,” *Report for the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation*, October 1997.



Professors Jorge Martinez, Sally Wallace, and Roy Bahl photographed from the steps of the Russian White House.

Travelers' Tales:

The School of Policy Studies continues its policy counsel to developing and transition-economy countries on matters related to intergovernmental fiscal relations. Recent work by economics faculty include: Jorge Martinez and Richard McHugh in Bangladesh; Sally Wallace in Yemen; and Roy Bahl in South Africa.

Public Administration faculty John Thomas and Gary Henry travelled to Vienna at the invitation of the Council of Europe to assist in developing joint programs for training and policy research.

David Audretsch, Professor of Economics, gave the keynote address at the International Conference on the Economics and Policy of Innovation, in Cremona, Italy in June.

Human Resource Development faculty have been on the move. Professor Carol Hansen is currently in Paris teaching for a semester at the Sorbonne. Associate Professor Verna Willis participated in a conference at the University of Ballarat School of Business in Australia this past summer.

SPS co-sponsored the International Conference on Technological Change and Dynamics of Firm Performance, with the Tinbergen Institute in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Professor David Audretsch and SPS Associate Dean Paula Stephan presented “How and Why Does Knowledge Spillover, The Case of Biotechnology.”

Honor Roll:

Donald Ratajczak, Director of the Economic Forecasting Center, was named Regents' Professor in recognition of his nationally acclaimed work in economic forecasting and his exemplary work as a Professor of Economics at Georgia State since 1973.

Roy Bahl, SPS Dean, was presented with the Aaron Wildavsky Award for lifetime achievements in public budgeting, by the American Society of Public Administration. The award was presented at a luncheon in Washington in October, at the annual meetings of the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management.

Research Atlanta was recently nominated by the Atlanta Regional Commission for a Golden Glasses award, recognizing the organization's visionary leadership in the community.

Recent Fiscal Research Program and Research Atlanta Publications:

"The Costs of Nonattainment: Atlanta Ozone Imbroglia," George William Sherk, Research Atlanta, November, 1997.

"A Population Profile of the City of Atlanta: Trends, Causes and Options," Mary Beth Walker, Research Atlanta, September, 1997.

"The Impact of MARTA on Station Area Development," Chris Bollinger, Research Atlanta, December, 1997.

"The Georgia Income Tax: Suggestions and Analysis for Reform," Sally Wallace and Barbara Edwards, Fiscal Research Program, November, 1997.

"The Sales Tax in Georgia: Issues and Options," Roy Bahl and Richard Hawkins, Fiscal Research Program, October, 1997.

"Economies of Scale in Property Tax Assessment," Mary Beth Walker and David Sjoquist, Fiscal Research Program, September, 1997.

Faculty Notes:

Public Administration Professors Katherine Willoughby and Julia Melker's paper, "The State of the States: Performance Based Budgeting in 48 out of 50" was recently accepted for publication in *Public Administration Review*.

Ron Cummings, the Noah Langdale Professor of Economics and Director of the Environmental Policy Program, co-authored, "Are Hypothetical Referenda Incentive Compatible?" *Journal of Political Economy*, June 1997.

Julie Hotchkiss, Mary Kassis, and Robert Moore, (Economics) published "Running Hard and Falling Behind: A Welfare Analysis of Two-Earner Families" in the *Journal of Population Economics*. The study found that the average 1990's two-earner family would prefer to receive the 1980's real wage package instead of what they actually face.

Robert Moore and Chris Bollinger, (Economics) have received a grant from the University to pursue a project on the

Scholarship of Teaching. They will survey students at various times throughout their courses to receive additional information on faculty effectiveness.

Mary Beth Walker, (Economics) co-authored the article "The Cultural Affinity Hypothesis and Mortgage Lending Decisions," which became the focus of an article in the Sept. 5 issue of *The Economist*. "Race and Housing: Locked Out or Priced Out," explored the issues outlined in Walker's article.

Professor David Audretsch has been appointed as chairman of the committee selecting the winner of the \$10,000 prize awarded by the International Joseph Schumpeter Society. The award, financed by *Wirtschaftswoche*, a German business newsweekly, is given to the scholar who's work advances "Capitalism and Democracy in the 21st Century." The winner of the prize will be announced this June in Vienna.

New Faculty:

Dr. Felix Rioja, who recently received his Ph.D. from Arizona State University, has joined the Department of Economics as an Assistant Professor. Through econometric models, Rioja has concentrated his work on the role of productive public expenditures for economic growth.



Ross Rubenstein and Felix Rioja.

Dr. Michael Foster, an economist and policy analyst, has accepted a joint faculty position in the Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies and the College of Health Sciences' School of Nursing. He comes to us from Vanderbilt University where he concentrated his research on the costs and effectiveness of children's mental health services and on the consequences of childhood poverty.

Dr. Ross Rubenstein has accepted a joint faculty position in the Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies and the College of Education. He was previously at NYU where he served as Assistant Research Scientist at the Institute for Education and Social Policy. Rubenstein's research focuses on education policy and finance, specifically school based budgeting and resource allocation.

Student News

The Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies welcomed more than 50 new masters students in its Master of Public Administration and Master of Urban Studies this fall. Included is the first class of joint MPA/Juris Doctor students.



(left to right) Fitzroy Lee, Sal Sehili and Joe Timmerman earned their Ph.D. degree in economics this year.

Fitzroy Lee has accepted an appointment in the economics department at Tulane University after working with the Economic Research Services division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Sal Sehili is now in Prague working as a research associate at the Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education, a think tank affiliated with Charles University and the Czech Academy of Sciences.

Joe Timmerman is now an assistant professor of economics at the University of Minnesota-Morris.

Dagne Faulk and Kate Gardner, Ph.D. candidates in economics, both had Washington internships last summer. Dagne worked in the Europe and Central Asia Department of the World Bank and Kate in the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress.

Wallace White, a student in Urban Studies, has been awarded the annual Georgia State "Torch of Peace" award. The award, given at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation, celebrates the qualities of community contribution, and the promotion of volunteerism.

Steve Maguire, a Ph.D. candidate in economics, presented "Determinants of Municipal Spending on Sports Stadiums," at the National Tax Association's 90th Annual Conference on Taxation in Chicago, IL, November 9-11, 1997.

International Program for Policy Training:

What do Ukrainians, Palestinians, Mozambiquans and Ugandans have in common? Simple. They completed a three-week summer course in fiscal decentralization. The course was held at Georgia State and was co-sponsored with the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank. With Professor Sally Wallace in the lead and World Bank officials as the faculty, the course mixed lectures, computer application and field trips to cover a range of topics related to local government finance, according to SPS Training Director Brad Moore.

We'd love to hear from you! Please send your comments regarding The Briefing via e-mail to spsjrs@langate.gsu.edu or write to:

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