

The Briefing

Summer 1999

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Nigerian leader: Democratic reform is top priority

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo promised a Georgia State University audience in March that his planned democratic reforms will improve the lives of his country's citizens and remove the taint of political corruption that has long plagued Nigeria.

"We want to put the past behind us...and we want to see what we can achieve under a democratic system," said Obasanjo, 61, who took office in May. "I believe the way to stamp out corruption is to start with the leader. We will run a very open and transparent government."

Obasanjo, whose public address at Georgia State drew a standing-room-only crowd of 425 people, visited Atlanta in part to discuss economic policy issues with academic experts at the School of Policy Studies. He is widely regarded in the United States as a defender of democracy, having voluntarily stepped down as Nigeria's president in 1979 to make way for a civilian government. He became Nigeria's first elected president after 16 years of military rule.

"I believe the way to stamp out corruption is to start with the leader. We will run a very open and transparent government." — Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo

The Atlanta trip, facilitated by Ambassador Andrew Young, public affairs professor of policy studies at Georgia State, was part of a world tour that also included stops in New York and Washington, D.C.



NIGERIA'S NEW LEADER: *Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo (right, with Georgia State economics doctoral student Femi Alao) visited Georgia State in March to talk with economic experts in the School of Policy Studies. Obasanjo said he wants to improve education, health care and other social and economic problems that have held his country back.*

Obasanjo referred frankly to his country's bleak reputation among world leaders, and pledged to work toward national unity, a reformed military and improvements in health care and education.

He said he was particularly disturbed by the state of Nigeria's schools.

"I went to a place where three different classes were being taught by one teacher, and they were under a balboa tree," he said. "No classrooms. They were sitting on stones or the roots of the tree. Now, I wonder what kind of learning you can expect."

Obasanjo's speech was sponsored by Georgia State's School of Policy Studies and the International Student Association Council. Economics doctoral student Femi Alao, who hails from Nigeria, took part in the program.

Since its inception, the School of Policy Studies has been fortunate to host a variety of visitors, a practice that has become integral to what we are about. We've had heads of state, legislators and directors of agencies, and academics who come to present seminars or participate in our young-faculty visitors program. We always have two or three visiting faculty each year and host numerous visiting scholars, supported, for example, by Muskie funding. Then, there are the rising-senior-student interns who spend seven weeks with us each summer and numerous prospective students who come to learn about our graduate programs. A list of all our visitors would take far more than my allotted space; instead, I'll focus on what visitors add to the school.

First, and most obviously, visitors enhance our scholarship. A quick read of our annual report demonstrates the number of papers co-authored by visitors and faculty members. Seminars, such as the Environmental Policy Seminar Series, are key to our work, both as a learning experience and as a forum where collaborative relationships are forged. Many of us were experimental innocents when Ron Cummings introduced the Experimental Economics Lab three years ago. Some of us still are, but the seminars have provided numerous examples of the creative uses of experimental economics and our scholarship has clearly benefited.

Second, visitors are one important way we learn about issues of concern to policy makers. Frequent meetings with legislators and congressmen, for example, provide suggestions for research agendas for centers. The Fiscal Research Program recently released a report on real estate investment trusts as a result of discussions with U.S. Rep. Michael "Mac" Collins, R-Ga.

Third, visitors provide a powerful way to reach out to the community. The visit of Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo attracted a large number of people from the Atlanta community (see story, page 1). Our forum on outsourcing the management



of schools brought together individuals in the community who share a common concern over the quality of public schools (see story, page 4). The Georgia Health Policy Center's forum on end-of-life care provided a venue where concerned citizens could learn about how other states have addressed the issue (see story, page 3).

Finally, visitors provide an effective way to build networks. Our recent Palestinian trainees (see photo, page 8) were led by an official who first came to Georgia State more than two years ago as part of a training program in public finance. The young-faculty visitors program provides a means by which new faculty are encouraged to collaborate with senior scholars in the field. And job placements for students frequently arise because of contacts made through visitors.

Space constrains continuing the list of what visitors add to the school. Suffice it to say, the visitors program is integral to what we do. We think it's a two-way street, and that visitors take away positive experiences from the School of Policy Studies. But that's the topic of another column.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Paula Stephan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Paula Stephan
Associate Dean

Summer 1999

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Copies of the School of Policy Studies **1998 Annual Report** may be requested by calling Avani Raval, Office of the Dean, at 404-651-0953, or e-mail prcair@langate.gsu.edu.

Health Policy Center *examines life and death*

*"...in this world
nothing is certain
but death and taxes."*

— Benjamin Franklin, 1789



Cooney

Of Benjamin Franklin's two certainties, taxes attract most of the talk. Few people like to gab about death and dying, whether the inevitable seems far away or close at hand, researchers say.

"Very few people in Georgia's nursing homes and hospitals — less than 10 percent — say they have an 'advanced directive,' or instructions about how they want to be taken care of at the end of their lives," says James Cooney Jr., professor of health administration and associate director of the Georgia Health Policy Center, a research unit of the

School of Policy Studies. "And probably only a fourth of those have their written instructions available when the time comes for them to be taken care of."

Cooney is leading a field study of 12,000 nursing home patients to find out more about end-of-life care for elderly Georgians. The research is an effort of the Georgia Collaborative to Improve End-of-Life Care, a coalition of doctors, nurses, hospitals, nursing homes, insurers, businesses and advocacy groups. The organization's three-year, \$3 million end-of-life initiative is designed to improve end-of-life care for all Georgians.

Improving end-of-life care

Escalating news reports of physician-assisted suicide, along with recent research that shows people fear *how* they may die more than death itself, have prompted health-care policy experts nationwide to begin looking for ways to ensure that people die with as little pain — and as much dignity — as possible.

"There's been a body of scientific evidence building that people are not satisfied with end-of-life care, and that there are changes that can be implemented that would be consistent with best medical practices," says Jim Ledbetter, director of the Health Policy Center.



Ledbetter

Improving people's death experiences is not an oxymoron, he adds.

Patients prefer death in familiar surroundings, with loved ones nearby, as opposed to being hooked up to life-prolonging machines in a hospital, according to a recent study by American Health Decisions, a national coalition of citizens' groups.

Obstacles to improving dying experiences include outdated laws that regulate how doctors can prescribe pain-relieving drugs, as well as physicians' lack of training in how to deal with patients whose prognosis is imminent death.

"Having been on the faculty of several medical schools, you don't talk about death. It's not a desirable outcome," Cooney says. "When you're raised in that environment, it's very difficult to change."

And when it comes to public discourse on dying, the silence can be deafening.

"(Dying) is important to all of us once," Cooney says. "And in any given year, less than 1 percent of the population of Georgia dies. Death is highly individualized, highly personalized. So it's very hard to get institutional attention on this."

Educating the public

Health Policy Center researchers and their partners are trying several ways to educate health-care professionals and the public about end-of-life care. For example, the collaborative has developed a document, to be distributed to the general public, that prompts people to answer specific questions, such as whether they want to receive ventilator assistance and if they would like to donate their organs.

The form also allows patients to designate representatives to speak for their interests should they be too sick to make care decisions themselves. The form and an educational program is being tested in eight Georgia communities.

The end-of-life project also will likely include other components, such as:

- Community evaluations to determine what public and health-system policies might pose barriers to improving care at the end of life, and suggestions for removing those barriers;
- Patient and family surveys to find out where deaths occur and whether they are consistent with how patients want to be treated;
- Training programs for doctors, nurses, nursing home administrators, lawyers, legislators, ministers and other professionals;
- And public education to inform the dying and their families about available options for improving the death experience.

Private management of public schools: making it work



DEBATING SCHOOL REFORM:

U.S. Rep. Johnny Isakson (R-Georgia), former chairman of the state Board of Education (far right), discusses controversial school privatization efforts with (from left) Neil Shorthouse, president of Communities in Schools of Georgia, a nonprofit dropout prevention program; Robert Ingram, a member of the Miami-Dade County Board of Education; Sally Sears, reporter for WSB-TV's news team; and Sam Marie Engle, associate director of Research Atlanta. The panel debated contractor management of public schools during a televised public forum in May.

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For the private management of public schools to succeed, administrators must specify how much they expect students' performance to improve, according to a recent study by Research Atlanta Inc.

Successful school-management contracting also calls for strong community support, the report shows.

Researchers examined several major school systems, including those in Baltimore, Minneapolis and Hartford, Conn., to analyze how various cities and counties have coped with allowing private firms to run their schools. The data indicates that contracting can help schools improve their performance and accountability — if school systems are prudent consumers of management services, said Sam Marie Engle, co-author of the report and associate director of Research Atlanta.

Clearly defined expectations were the single most important ingredient to successful contracts, the report shows. School systems where contracting did not succeed failed to state expected student performance outcomes. The more successful arrangements were anchored in a detailed, performance-based contract and built upon a solid foundation of community consensus.

"The contract is the critical ingredient here," said co-author Benjamin Scafidi, assistant professor of economics in the School of Policy Studies.

"The biggest fear with contracting is loss of accountability in the school. The contract situation can offer greater accountability because a system can specify exactly what kind of performance the school is expected to achieve.

"Incentives for achieving set goals — as well as penalties for not achieving goals — are essential. The system also should reserve the right to terminate the contract for poor performance, an accountability measure the current system doesn't

have. Currently, public school teachers and administrators face few penalties for failure."

Atlanta city schools and a handful of other Georgia school boards are considering private management to beef up schools that are producing less-than-stellar students.

Fewer than 200 public schools nationwide have had experience with private management to date. But even if a system decides not to contract with a private company, the recommended decision-making process holds valuable lessons for systems trying to hold their schools accountable for student performance, experts say.

"Contracting as a solution is neither good nor bad — what's good or bad is how it is accomplished," Engle said. "There are some schools in our area that are in desperate need of reform. Something, contracting or not, must be done. The status quo — persistently low performing schools — is not acceptable."

Other key points from the study:

- The **more freedom** the contractor has over the job, including personnel and curriculum decisions, the more positive the results.
- Contractors need **at least three years** to boost student achievement, unless there are large declines in school performance that are independent of systemwide factors.
- **Other reform strategies** should be pursued if no bidding contractor presents sufficient evidence to show it would likely increase student achievement.

The full report is available through Research Atlanta's web site at www.researchatlanta.org. Research Atlanta Inc., a nonpartisan, independent, nonprofit research center, is affiliated with the School of Policy Studies.

Lewis finds key to success

Twenty-two years ago, Jim Lewis planned to parlay his undergraduate business degree into a sales job in a Fortune 500 company.

Instead, he never left the student organization he founded as a senior at Georgia State University. Today, Golden Key National Honor Society awards millions of dollars in scholarships to outstanding students and has 282 chapters at colleges and universities in the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand.

"I had no idea that I'd be devoting my life to a non-profit organization," says Lewis, who continues to serve as the honor society's executive director. Soon after receiving his undergraduate degree, he returned to Georgia State as a graduate student, earning a master of public administration degree in 1983. Lewis now teaches an MPA course at Georgia State called "Marketing in the Nonprofit Sector," a part of the program's non-profit career track.

Honoring grade-A students

Sitting at a conference table in his office at Golden Key's headquarters in Atlanta, Lewis — who at age 43 could still pass for a college student — muses on his career commitment to recognizing students' academic achievement.

"I feel as though I'm really

blessed...I don't consider it a job, I consider it a way of life," he says.

"I wake up every morning and I'm excited about coming to the headquarters or visiting with students from around the country, and I don't think I can be happy doing anything else."

Lewis was a 21-year-old student leader in the mid-'70s when he noticed that the same few students, including himself, got multiple invitations to join various honor societies recognizing academic performance.

"There were a lot of students who had very good grades, but because they were working, or because they weren't involved in campus activities, they weren't known to the student body or the faculty. These students were overlooked," Lewis said.

"If you got into one society, you got into all of them. Instead of being *inclusive*, they were *exclusive*."

At the time, Lewis was taking a marketing class taught by David J. Schwartz, author of the motivational bible *The Magic of Thinking Big*.

"Through his course, he challenged us to think about opportunities and never limit ourselves...and I wanted to give something back to the campus," Lewis says.

He sold the idea of a new honor society to students, faculty and administrators, designed a crest and motto, and registered Golden Key as a nonprofit student organiza-

STILL GOLDEN: *Jim Lewis (master of public administration, '83) founded the Golden Key National Honor Society at Georgia State in 1977. The organization now has more than 800,000 lifetime members.*



tion at Georgia State. More than 300 students joined within two weeks.

A second chapter was chartered at nearby Morris Brown College, and soon Lewis was traveling throughout the Southeast to help students start campus chapters of their own.

Recognition with a mission

From the beginning, the organization stressed not only good grades, but also community service and diversity, Lewis says.

Now, after more than two decades, Golden Key is still evolving to meet the needs of Generation X — college students who are busier and more critical than their predecessors, Lewis says. That means taking on causes that

are crucial to today's youth.

Golden Key's "The Best of America" program sends members to elementary and high schools to talk to kids about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, and the importance of a college education. The organization also helped raise \$5 million for AIDS and HIV-infected patients.

"We're cutting edge," says Lewis. "If we were the same organization that we were 20 years ago, I wouldn't be here and it wouldn't be a fun place to work."

Golden Key, whose members represent 160 nations, also is working to develop chapters in more countries outside the United States.

"This is really embracing diversity in its true form," Lewis says.

Timothy P. Burgess (master of public administration, '79) recently was named associate vice president for finance and administration at the University of Georgia. He had served as director of the Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget since 1995. Burgess also had taught a master's level course in public budgeting at Georgia State.

Richard Hawkins (Ph.D. in economics, '96), authored "The New Local Revenue Roller Coaster: Growth and Stability Implications for Increasing Local Sales Tax Reliance in Georgia," a report examining the relative growth and stability of the property tax and local sales tax bases across Georgia counties.

Richard A. Hunter (Ph.D. in human resource development, '97) has accepted a position as manager of ethics and compliance at BellSouth Corp. He is responsible for helping to develop and monitor corporate processes that support ethical business conduct.

Brett Katzman (bachelor of science in economics, '92) completed his doctoral degree in economics at Duke University in 1997. An assistant professor at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Fla., he recently received Excellence in Teaching awards from the university and its School of Business Administration.

6 Justin Kirouac (master of public administration, '98) is an economic development specialist in the city of Duluth's planning and development department.

Christopher Dewayne Lee (Ph.D. in human resource development, '98) is director of human resources at Floyd College in Rome, Ga.

James W. Lewis (master of public administration, '83) recently received the President's Award from the Georgia Society of Association Executives. Lewis is founder and executive director of Golden Key National Honor Society (see story, page 5).

Salvador Lopez (Ph.D. in economics, '96) is vice president for Latin American programs for the University of Mobile's Latin American branch campus in San Marcos, Nicaragua.

Tom Tully (master of public administration, '96) is assistant county manager for Floyd County in northwest Georgia.

Let us know where you are! If you have a degree from Georgia State in public administration, economics, urban policy studies, human resource development or other programs now offered by the School of Policy Studies, we want to hear from you! Fill out and return the "Alumni News" portion of the envelope inside this newsletter to:

Betsy Robertson
School of Policy Studies • Georgia State University
University Plaza • Atlanta, GA 30303-3083

Or contact us at:

Phone: 404-651-4328 • E-mail: b-robertson@gsu.edu

Karen P. Akins, a student in the master of public administration program, recently received the Peter Lind Memorial Scholarship from the Georgia chapter of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired. Recipients are chosen based on scholastic achievement and community service.

Femi Alao, a doctoral student in economics, has accepted a position as a researcher at the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where she will examine the effectiveness of population-based interventions for prevention and control. Her work will be used to develop the economic evaluation component of the Guide to Community Preventive Services.

Tamieka D. Bates, a student in the master of public administration program, received the Dan Sweat Scholarship for studies in the public administration field during Honors Day ceremonies in March. Established to honor the late Dan E. Sweat, a Georgia

State alumnus and longtime Atlanta civic leader, the scholarship is awarded annually to public administration students with career interests in public service.

David Bowes, a doctoral student in economics, has accepted a position as a research associate at the University of Cincinnati's Center for Economic Education. He plans to graduate in August.

Four SPS students were nominated and chosen as members of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges in April. They are: **Jennifer Annison** and **Johnny Ross**, both senior urban policy studies majors; **Margaret Fowke**, a graduate student in the master's in public administration program; and **Joel Shuler**, a senior economics major.

Kelly Brown, a Ph.D. student in economics, has accepted a position as an economist with the federal Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C. She plans to graduate this summer.

William V. Cristman received both the Economics Award and the Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award from the School of Policy Studies during Honors Day ceremonies in March.

Economics doctoral student **Dagney Faulk** has accepted a position as assistant professor of economics at the University of Indiana-Southeast. She plans to graduate this summer.

MaryAnne F. Gaunt and **Kristina Stroede** each received a public administration academic achievement award from the School of Policy Studies during Honors Day ceremonies in March. The award is presented annually to students with the highest grade-point averages in the master of public administration program.

Alumni News

Student News

DeKalb County sanitation director **Charles A. Hammonds** received the Dan Sweat Scholarship for studies in the public administration field during Honors Day ceremonies in March. Hammonds is a student in the master of public administration program.

Economics doctoral student **Steve Maguire** has accepted a position as an economic analyst with the Congressional Research Service in Washington, D.C. He plans to graduate this summer.

Anthony L. Martin received a Master of Public Administration/Juris Doctor Academic Achievement Award and the Best Term Paper Award from the School of Policy Studies during Honors Day ceremonies in March. The academic achievement award is presented annually to the student with the highest grade-point average in the School of Policy Studies' joint MPA/JD degree program. Martin's paper, "A Proposal for Evaluating the Impact of the New York State Family Act on Judicial Decisions," was selected for the Best Term Paper Award by a faculty committee.

The following School of Policy Studies seniors received faculty scholarship plaques for outstanding academic achievement by maintaining a perfect 4.0 grade-point average while earning a prescribed number of credit hours: **Heather L. Alhadeff, Kenneth W. Darling, Sally B. Fowler, William P. Primm Jr. and Johnny D. Ross**, all urban policy studies majors; **David W. Oliver and Joel D. Shuler**, both economics majors.

Student probes international sources as free-lance reporter

When she's not writing articles on complicated trade matters for newspapers and magazines around the world, Marcela Szymanski likes to watch bugs.

"I like to observe nature and animal life. I really concentrate fully in insect and planetary behavior, maybe because I do not have to wonder about their political motivations," Szymanski says with a laugh.

A master's student in economics, Szymanski only occasionally takes a bug-watching break from her work as a free-lance reporter covering the European Union, international economic and financial news, and NATO for the Mexico City daily newspaper *Reforma* and other international publications.

"I always wanted to be

a journalist, since I can recall wanting to be something," she says.

A Mexico City native, Szymanski received a bachelor's degree in communication from the Universidad Anahuac. A former press attache at the Mexican Embassy in Brussels, Belgium, Szymanski spent nearly two years as a correspondent for CNN's Spanish-language news division, covering NATO and the European Union.

"It would take me a lot of time to do the information packages for CNN because there are a number of obstacles that are difficult for the public to see when you're watching TV," Szymanski says.

"If you only hear what the English say, it's not because the English are the leaders, it's simply because the reporter



SPEAKING OUT: Graduate economics student Marcela Szymanski discusses the relationship between the European Union and Latin America, and the influence of the United States, as a guest of Atlanta Women in International Trade in February.

does not understand another language... So that's a bias of the information that is received in America."

Szymanski, who speaks four languages fluently, honed her news judgment by critically questioning sources and pouring over NATO reports. After moving to Atlanta with her husband, she began investigating academic programs that would help her cover the international economic beat more accurately.

Szymanski also wanted to improve her ability to explain economic policy to the public.

"When the economist speaks, everybody has to listen," Szymanski says. "I really need to *understand* what they are saying... because when you really get to know economists, they have a lot of doubts themselves."

Journalists can help the public better understand economic policy by explaining economists' assumptions and theories in layman's terms, and providing examples, she added.

Scholarship benefits students with career experience



Keels

A new Georgia State scholarship will be awarded each year to a non-traditional-age student who is pursuing a degree in economics.

The family of the late Carole Keels (Ph.D. in economics, '93) recently established the endowed scholarship in her name. Keels, a former graduate teaching assistant, died in January.

"Carole was one of the most determined individuals I have ever met," said Paul Farnham, GSU associate professor of economics. "When she decided on a goal, just stay out of her way and let her charge ahead."

At age 38, Keels returned to college to finish a bachelor's degree in finance from Mercer University's Atlanta campus. After graduating in 1984, she went on to receive both master's and doctoral degrees from Georgia State. Keels was later named assistant professor of economics and management at the University of Minnesota's Morris campus.

The first Keels scholarship is expected to be awarded next spring to an outstanding student with significant career experience who is pursuing a college degree. To contribute to the scholarship fund, contact Anne Bramlette, director of development for the School of Policy Studies, at 404-651-3927, or e-mail prcawb@angate.gsu.edu.

International Studies Program, partners garner \$20 million grant



Martinez-Vazquez

The School of Policy Studies and two partners have been awarded a \$20 million U.S. government contract to advise central and eastern European and former Soviet Union countries on tax policy and other economic issues.

The college shares the five-year grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development with Deloitte & Touche Tomahtsu, an accounting and consulting firm, and the Urban Institute, a nonpartisan economic and social policy think tank based in Washington, D.C.

"International initiatives put Georgia State University in the vanguard of world affairs, and make us analyze and, we hope, solve 'real-life' problems and issues that policy makers face in many countries," said Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, director of the School of Policy Studies' International Studies Program.

Depending on the needs of the countries involved, the grant could involve opening another overseas office, or maintaining the School of Policy Studies' Moscow office even after its current research project there ends.

Georgia State researchers will finish their work on a major tax-advising project for the Russian government in October. The \$16.5 million Russian Fiscal Reform project — the largest grant in the history of the university — was awarded to the School of Policy Studies by USAID in December 1997.

Russian government officials will receive a final report by early 2000 containing researchers' suggestions on tax reform and legislation, tax administration organization, the introduction of a pilot real-estate property tax and other issues.

The shift in global politics from communist and socialist governments toward democracies and capitalist economies has opened doors for American policy experts. Lack of tradition and the organization to handle an open-market system are the biggest impediments to the transition from a communist to a capitalist society, Martinez-Vazquez said.

"One critical institution is a tax administration with the ability to collect taxes for the delivery of public services," he said. "In Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union, there was no tradition of voluntary compliance with tax payment. Actually, people did not pay taxes ever. The state was able to get resources by other means, such as fixing prices and wages. This is why our work in Russia is so critical to the future of an open and market-oriented society."

Still, only time will break down cultural barriers to change in Eastern bloc countries, Martinez-Vazquez said.

"In the past, the state seemed oppressive and not the friend of the people," he said. "A culture of survival developed over the years, in which citizens had to bypass official control and institutions to survive. Getting rid of this mentality will truly take several generations."

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In Training



Palestinian governmental officials spent two weeks with School of Policy Studies faculty in May to learn about public finance and budgeting. Katherine Willoughby, associate professor of public administration and urban studies, and Ross Rubenstein, assistant professor of public administration and educational policy studies, led the training sessions. Pictured (front row from left) are Omar Albusttami, Jehad Khouri and Abdalhaleem Swaisa; (middle row from left) Fayez Maraqaq, Sonya Carter, chief administrative officer for Union City, Costandi Marzouka, Jamil Nabtiti, Mohammad Zaineddin, Tawfiq Abuhaish, Willoughby and Jehad Hamdan; (back row from left) Elia Qaisieh, Rubenstein and Nabil Jammal.

Child-centered teaching gets best results

Four-year-olds who were allowed to paint, play and otherwise explore their own interests in pre-kindergarten were more successful in kindergarten than fellow Pre-K students who followed a more traditional curriculum, a new state-funded research study shows.

"A child-centered approach to teaching seems to be most beneficial for students at the Pre-K and kindergarten levels," said Gary Henry, director of the School of Policy Studies' Applied Research Center. The center, one of the largest academic survey research facilities in the Southeast, just completed the second year of a 12-year study of Georgia's Pre-Kindergarten Program.

A "child-centered" approach to teaching allows students to satisfy their natural curiosity by choosing activities from among many resources in the classroom, such as books, toys, art supplies, blocks, games, puppets, balls, sand or water tables, and musical instruments.

The study found that children who were taught by child-centered teachers in Pre-K were rated higher in communication, behavioral and academic skills by their kindergarten teachers than children taught by academically focused Pre-K teachers, or teachers who used a combination approach. The child-centered learners also were considered by their kindergarten teachers to be better prepared for the kindergarten year.

"Interestingly, when we asked the children's parents what they believed to be the most important direction for the kindergarten curriculum, most said that 5-year-olds should have an academic focus — that is, that activities should be directed



Henry

toward reading and math," Henry said. "But the research indicates that children who draw social and emotional growth and knowledge through creative, individualized play actually do better in kindergarten — particularly if there is a continuation of the child-centered curriculum at that level."

Other findings from the study:

- Eighty-three percent of parents interviewed agreed or strongly agreed that their kindergarten-age children progressed in school faster as a result of being enrolled in Pre-K.
- Most kindergarten teachers said they believe their students were better prepared as a result of the Pre-K program in seven out of eight skill areas, including pre-reading and pre-math skills.
- About a quarter of the kindergarten teachers sampled said they were able to exceed the amount of pre-reading and pre-math instruction that they were previously able to do as a result of the Pre-K program.
- Researchers categorized 49 percent of the Pre-K teachers and 42 percent of the kindergarten teachers in the sample as employing a child-centered teaching style.

Funded by Georgia's Office of School Readiness, the longitudinal study follows a sample of children from Pre-K through their school careers to analyze the effects of Georgia's lottery-funded program for 4-year-olds on future educational success. For the second year of the study, researchers followed 3,201 children into 1,672 kindergarten classes. The report combines surveys of teachers and parents, test scores, and observations of a random sample of classrooms.

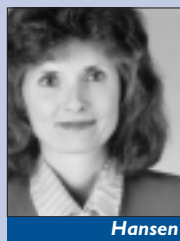
On the Go

School of Policy Studies Dean **Roy Bahl** traveled to South Africa for USAID in March to advise the Ministry of Constitutional Development on government finance. He also traveled to Bangkok in February to speak at World Bank-sponsored workshops on decentralization. Bahl visited Moscow in February to participate in an intergovernmental fiscal policy seminar for the World Bank. He traveled to Indonesia in May on behalf of USAID to evaluate the state of local budget and manage-

ment accounting practices and develop policies to bring those practices in line with international standards.

Arthur Brooks, assistant professor of public administration and urban studies, and joint appointment in economics, has been invited to lecture on cultural and nonprofit economics at the University of Barcelona this summer.

Kelly Edmiston, assistant professor of economics, traveled to Papua, New Guinea, Jan. 29-Feb. 13 with the World Bank to evaluate fiscal decentralization efforts.



Hansen

ment, is serving as a visiting professor this summer at the Institute for Organizational Psychology, University of Mainz, Germany.

Jon Mansfield, visiting assistant professor of economics, is teaching economics courses at the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education in Mexico City this summer.

Carol Hansen, associate professor of human-resource develop-

Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, director of the International Studies Program and professor of economics, traveled to Warsaw, Poland, in December on a World Bank mission to help with European Union fiscal issues. He also visited Mexico in March to advise on intergovernmental fiscal relations with the World Bank. Martinez-Vazquez then trekked to Armenia in April to present information on expenditure assignment during a conference sponsored by the World Bank and the Academy for Educational Development.

Awards & honors

Julia Melkers and **Katherine Willoughby** (public administration & urban studies), awarded \$30,000 by the Sloan Foundation to fund work on a project with the Government Accounting Standards Board regarding performance measurement in state and local governments.



David Sjoquist
(Fiscal Research Program and economics)

received Georgia State University's Alumni Distinguished Professor Award in May.

New publications

10

Applied Research Center, results of the Georgia State Poll, in March.

Roy Bahl (dean), *Fiscal Policy in China*, University of Michigan Press, February 1999.

Arthur C. Brooks (public administration & urban studies/economics), "Do Public Subsidies Leverage Private Philanthropy for the Arts? Empirical Evidence of Symphony Orchestras," in *Non-profit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*. Another article, with co-author Roland Kushner, "The One-Man Band by the Quick Lunch Stand: Modeling Audience Response to Street Performance," is forthcoming in the *Journal of Cultural Economics*.

Fiscal Research Program, a report related to the Georgia State Poll for the Georgia Economic Developers Association, in March.

Shif Gurmu (economics), with co-authors P. Rilstone and S. Stern, "Semiparametric Estimation of Count Regression Models," in the January 1999 issue of the *Journal of Econometrics*.

Amy Helling and **Ted Poister** (public administration & urban studies), "U.S. Maritime Ports: Trends, Policy Implications and Research Needs," accepted for publication in *Economic Development Quarterly*.

Julie Hotchkiss and **Robert Moore** (economics), "On the Evidence of a Working Spouse Penalty in the Managerial Labor Market," in the April 1999 issue of *Industrial & Labor Relations Review*.

Keith Ihlanfeldt (economics), a report on economic development policy for the Fiscal Research Program in January. The report addresses five weaknesses in Georgia's economic development program and recom-

mends policies to overcome those weaknesses.

Bruce Kaufman (economics), "Expanding the Behavioral Foundations of Labor Economics," in the April issue of *Industrial & Labor Relations Review*.

Harvey Newman (public administration & urban studies), *Southern Hospitality: Tourism and the Growth of Atlanta*, University of Alabama Press, June 1999.

Lloyd Nigro and **Bill Waugh** (public administration & urban studies), "Workplace Violence Policies of U.S. Local Governments," in the fall 1998 issue of *Public Administration Review*, and "Local Government Responses to Workplace Violence: A Status Report" in the fall 1998 issue of *Review Of Public Personnel Administration*.

William J. Smith (Fiscal Research Program), "Exemptions From State and Use Tax: Solid Fuels Used by Manufacturing Firms," a policy brief

that discusses the issues and revenue loss associated with exemptions in solid fuel from sales taxation, in January.

Paula Stephan (associate dean), with co-author David Audretsch, "Knowledge Spillovers in Biotechnology: Sources and Incentives," in the *Journal of Evolutionary Economics*, Vol. 9, No. 1, 1999.

Neven Valev (economics), with co-author John Barron, "International Lending by U.S. Banks," forthcoming in the *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*.

Bill Waugh (public administration & urban studies), "The Fiscal Risk of All-Hazards Emergency Management OR the Political Hazards in Rational Policy," in the *International Journal of Public Administration*.

Katherine Willoughby and **Julia Melkers** (public administration & urban studies), "Implementing PBB: Conflicting Views of Success," forthcoming in *Public Budgeting and Finance*.

Recent Presentations

Arthur Brooks (public administration & urban studies/economics) was invited to present the keynote address at the Georgia Society of Association Executives' annual meeting in May. He also was asked to present research on the relationship between government subsidies and private philanthropy to non-profits at a June conference at the Indiana University Center for Philanthropy.

Kelly Edmiston, **Shannon Mudd** and **Neven Valev** (economics), have been invited to present a paper



A CENTURY OF PHYSICS: Guest lecturer F.M. Scherer, Aetna professor of public policy and corporate management at Harvard University, makes a point during a discussion of the contributions of physics to economic growth. The School of Policy Studies also welcomed lecturers James Adams (University of Florida), Sally Sleeper (Carnegie Mellon University) and Dan L. Philen (Bell Laboratories/Lucent Technologies) during "Industries of the Mind: Physics and Economic Growth," a symposium held in conjunction with the American Physical Society's centennial celebration in March.

at the PHARE ACE Competition and Investment Summer Seminar Aug. 27-Sept. 5 in Slovakia. The seminar is coordinated by the Center for Economic Development, Slovakia.



Shif Gurmu
(economics)
"Semi-parametric Estimation of Multi-

variate Count Models with Applications to Health Care Utilizations," at the winter meeting of the Econometrics Society Jan. 5 in New York. He also presented the paper March 25 at the University of Georgia.

Amy Helling (public administration & urban studies) was invited to participate in a conference on the coordinated renewal of civil infrastructure sponsored by the Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems in April at the New York Academy of Sciences.

Gary Henry (Applied Research Center) testified recently before the National Assessment Governing Board at the invitation of the chair, Mark Musick, regarding the Voluntary National Test and the need to use such a test for educational accountability at the state and local level.

Gregory B. Lewis (public administration & urban studies) and Pablo Alonso, a doctoral student at American University, "Public Service Motivation and Job Performance: Evidence from the Federal Sector" at the American Society for Public Administration annual meeting April 11 in Orlando, Fla.

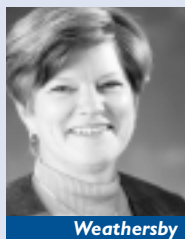
Laura Taylor (Environmental Policy Program), "Economics and the Environment" to area high-school students during the Atlanta Rotary Club's "You and the American Economy" program Feb. 22.

Bill Waugh (public administration & urban studies) spoke on the impact of global terrorism at the annual Professional Development Institute of the Greater Atlanta Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers March 17 at Fort McPherson. His honorarium was contributed to the Atlanta Food Bank.



Waugh

Jeanie Weathersby (Council for School Performance), "Staff Development and Student Achievement: Making the Connection in Georgia Schools,"



Weathersby

March 22 at Oxford University in England.

Verna J. Willis (public administration & urban studies) and Robert L. Dilworth of Virginia Commonwealth University, "Action Learning as a Strategy for Inducing Psychological, Cultural and Organizational Boundarylessness," at the annual international conference of the Academy of Human Resource Development March 6 in Arlington, Va. The article is published in *Proceedings*. She also presented a half-day introduction to action learn-

Scholarship established to honor late econ professor



Blinksilver

The family of Georgia State University economics professor emeritus Jack Blinksilver has established a memorial scholarship in his name to be awarded annually to a School of Policy Studies student.

Blinksilver, 72, died April 15 at his residence from complications of pneumonia and a heart attack.

"Jack was everybody's friend and everyone's mentor," said Sam Skogstad, chair of the Department of Economics. "He was so distinguished, yet so humble... Jack joined no factions, had no enemies and had no character flaws. And anyone who knows Jack's children and who knew Jack knows that he lives on, to the tremendous advantage of the world."

A visiting professor at Harvard Business School in 1961-'62, Blinksilver authored *A History of the Life Insurance Company of Georgia* and edited *The Business History of the United States*. A graduate of Northwestern University, he joined Georgia State in 1955 and retired in 1991. Blinksilver, an economic historian, was an avid book collector and was a partner in his son's bookstore, Aspen Book Shop of Stone Mountain, for more than 20 years.

He is survived by his wife, Edith Blinksilver, emeritus professor of literature at Georgia Tech; two sons, Paul Blinksilver and Robert Blinksilver; a daughter, Diane Blinksilver Aja; and two granddaughters.

To contribute to the scholarship fund, contact Anne Bramlette, director of development for the School of Policy Studies, at 404-651-3927, or e-mail prcawb@langate.gsu.edu.

Ogram condolences

The School of Policy Studies also extends condolences to the family of Bill Ogram Jr., a retired GSU economics professor, who died Jan. 30.

Ogram, 75, helped form the GSU Institute of International Business in the early 1960s. He held a doctorate in economics from the University of Illinois and served on the GSU faculty from 1959 to 1990. From 1982 to 1996, Ogram taught part of the year at the École Supérieur de Commerce in Paris. He is survived by his wife, Toni Ogram, a daughter and three grandchildren.



Willis

ing for members of the Atlanta-based Southeastern Society

for Organizational Learning on Jan. 22 and a workshop for corporations with human-resource development issues arising from globalizing business operations March 3-4 in Arlington, Va.

DAN SWEAT

BellSouth creates chair honoring late Atlanta policy maker

BellSouth Corp. recently donated half a million dollars to Georgia State University to create a new chair in educational policy studies honoring **Dan E. Sweat**, a university alumnus and respected Atlanta policy-maker. The distinguished chair will be a joint faculty position shared by the School of Policy Studies and the College of Education.

Sweat, who died in February 1997 at age 63, received a bachelor's degree from Georgia State in 1957. For 15 years, he served as president of Central Atlanta Progress. In 1992, at the request of former President Jimmy Carter, Sweat moved on to manage The Atlanta Project, which would prove to be a model for grassroots community involvement for cities around the country. Later, he became head of The America Project, which spread the news about the work of The Atlanta Project to other cities wanting to mount similar efforts.



CHECK MATES: *Pictured are Roy Bahl, dean, School of Policy Studies; Carl Patton, president, Georgia State; Tally Sweat, wife of the late Dan Sweat; Phil Jacobs, president, BellSouth Georgia; and Sam Deitz, dean, College of Education.*

ANNE W. BRAMLETTE



MOVING IN: *Anne Bramlette, founder and former executive director of the Georgia School Age Care Association, will lead the School of Policy Studies' fund-raising efforts.*

GSU alum named SPS development director

The School of Policy Studies welcomes **Anne W. Bramlette**, founder and former head of the Atlanta-based Georgia School Age Care Association, as the college's new director of development.

Bramlette graduated from Georgia State University's College of Urban Life in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in urban administration. She will facilitate the School of Policy Studies' fund-raising efforts, including corporate and individual giving.

As executive director of the nonprofit Georgia School Age Care Association, Bramlette raised funds for the organization and managed budget growth from \$40,000 to \$1.6 million annually. She also has served as project director for Save the Children Child Care Support Center, as a legislative aide and campaign consultant, and as an information specialist for the Atlanta Regional Commission, then headed by the late Dan Sweat.

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