Georgia State University | Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

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Andrew Young School Magazine

WHERE POLICY HAPPENS

ISSUE 03 // SPRING 2018

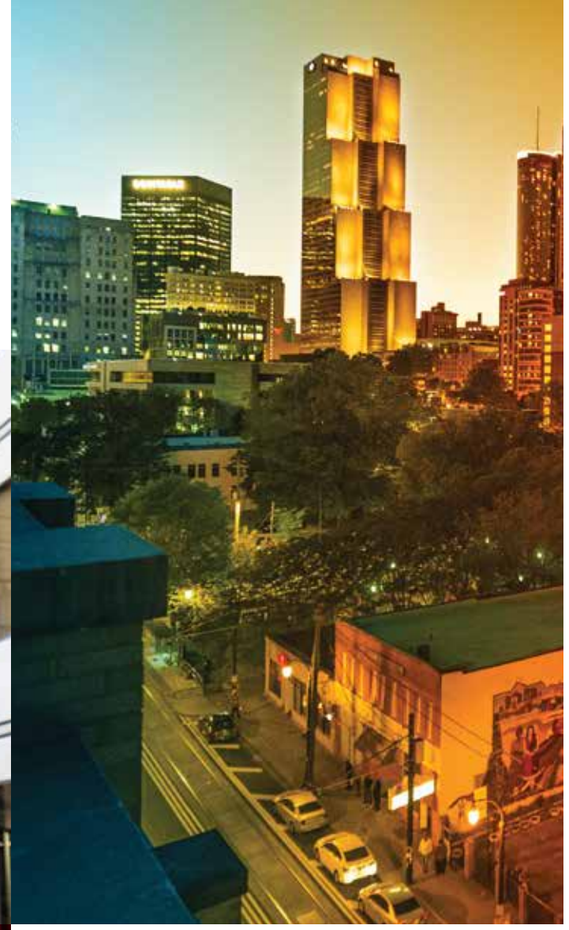
SCHOLARS IN THE ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES ARE UNIQUELY POSITIONED AND POISED TO ADDRESS THE

CHALLENGES OF THE NEW CITY

THE CITY OF THE FUTURE
Urban Studies Institute faculty on the framework of healthy cities: economic resilience, equity, inclusivity, environmental justice and sustainability.

THE GATHERING STORM
Distinguished University Professor Ann-Margaret Esnard works to make cities strong and resilient to disaster.

THE HURRICANE GENERAL
Maj. Gen. Brian Harris (B.S. '87) leads Army National Guard responses to civilian emergencies, most recently in Puerto Rico.



The Andrew Young School Magazine

ISSUE 03 // SPRING 2018

TO THE TOP

WE HAVE WRAPPED UP ANOTHER GREAT ACADEMIC YEAR.

After hitting a record $23 million in externally funded research in fiscal year 2017, we have secured a top 20 spot on the U.S. News & World Report's list of Best Graduate Schools in Public Affairs. Our departments and centers are all generating buzz, and our stakeholders are taking notice.

Within our pages, you will read about the vision and work of several of our oustanding faculty and staff. Urban Studies Institute Director Jan Nijman and his team are working on policy solutions critical to addressing the problems cities around the world are facing. Distinguished Professor Tim Sass has created a new lab through which he, Dan Kreisman, other faculty and external partners will develop and evaluate policies and programs. Their first challenge is to provide better outcomes for K-12 and technical school students. And our Georgia Health Policy Center is advancing research and helping create policies and programs that improve health and well-being in our schools and communities.

Our students and alumni continue to make waves around the world, and their stories are inspiring. Criminal justice alumnus Brian C. Harris, aka the "Hurricane General," led the U.S. military response in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria last fall. M.P.P. candidate and Fulbright student Kirill Protasov was a delegate in a working group of Stanford University's prestigious U.S.-Russia Forum. M.P.A. alumna Christina Cummings is helping a historic Atlanta neighborhood strengthen its business corridor. And M.S.W. candidate Kimberlee Beasley is leading a local housing authority's campaign to end smoking. We're immensely proud to call these students and alumni our own.

Today, advanced technologies, the gig economy, data analytics and artificial intelligence are quickly changing the landscape for everyone. Our school is engaged at several levels, investing in the infrastructure our faculty and staff will need to help our students and alumni compete in this new world. That investment will enable our faculty to produce quality research that best advises policy-making for new challenges.

I'm thrilled to have joined the university as Dean of the Andrew Young School and invite you to follow our work. We're on a journey to develop leaders in public and nonprofit management and stewards of policy who are prepared to meet the collective obstacles of the future.

Sally Wallace
Dean

The Andrew Young School Magazine

WHERE POLICY HAPPENS // SPRING 2018

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The **Andrew Young School Magazine** is dedicated to reporting how the people, research and outreach at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies help shape public policy decisions and management practices to advance economic opportunity, human rights and social justice across the globe. It is published by the Office of the Dean twice a year. Georgia State University, a unit of the University System of Georgia, is an equal opportunity educational institution and is an equal opportunity affirmative action employer.

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Lost Class

Middle-income Americans are a dying breed.

BETWEEN 2000 AND 2013, the share of middle-income households in the United States dropped 3.6 percentage points to 45.6 percent. Where did this population go?

Economists writing for the Center for State and Local Finance conducted a state-by-state examination of the changing relationship among low-, middle- and high-income households. They found that as middle-class households shrank, the share of low-income households increased in all but three states while high-income households grew in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The magnitude of the reduction in middle class households varied by region. The larger loss was in the Midwest, followed by northeastern states, the West and the South.

The Midwest also showed the largest increases in high-income households, although the differences across regions were not large.

The policy brief, "The Loss of the Middle Class," explores occupation, industry composition and other factors associated with the interstate differences in the nation's household income shares.

A HEALTHY FOUNDATION

New Initiative improves health and wellness for public housing residents.

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION has awarded Georgia more than $390,000 for a partnership that will create opportunities for improving health and wellness with residents in public housing.

The Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) and Southface, a nonprofit organization that promotes sustainable communities, will create Healthy Green Building plans to inform housing and grounds renovations in collaboration with local public housing authorities and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The joint venture will also design a Health and Housing Learning Academy to build capacity with local stakeholders, including residents, and conduct a multi-year evaluation to quantify impacts over time.

"This initiative not only aims to implement health-promoting programs and policies at public housing authority partner sites," said Leigh Alderman, a senior adviser at GHPC, "it is designed to contribute to the evidence base on how housing and public health organizations can intentionally build health and well-being into housing policy and programs."

NEWS

$23 MILLION

Sponsored research funding in the Andrew Young School reached a record high of $23 million in fiscal year 2017, a 74 percent increase over the previous fiscal year. This record includes grants for interdisciplinary research with other Georgia State colleges and schools.

TO BE, OR NOT TO BE, A CITY

The Center for State and Local Finance and the Fiscal Research Center provides analysis for city feasibility studies in Georgia. Andrew Young School studies have included those for the proposed cities of Eagle's Landing (Henry County) and Skidaway (Chatham County), as well as South Fulton and Tucker, which both incorporated in 2016.

WHAT VALUE CULTURE?

South Africa's cultural communities can now track the economic impact of their events with the South African Festival Economic Impact Calculator. Developed by economist Bruce Seaman and the South African Cultural Observatory's chief research strategist, the new online tool allows communities and sponsors to estimate the degree to which the cultural economy can increase the size of the local economy.

WELCOME HOME

Immigrant-friendly cities are on the rise.

A new wave of local government policies aimed at improving the success of immigrant populations has emerged across a number of cities nationwide. Joining traditional integration efforts that focus on the legal status and rights of immigrants, these new policies emphasize their economic integration and contributions to community development and economic revitalization.

As of July 2015, 50 cities in 31 states — including 15 cities in the South — had joined Welcoming America, a national grassroots cooperative that started in 2009 to provide a place for immigrant-welcoming communities to share resources and ideas.

Researchers Xi Huang and Cathy Yang Liu recently examined these cities' characteristics in a Center for State and Local Finance report. They looked at geography and demographics, the cities' programs aimed at helping immigrant populations and the rationale behind establishing a Welcoming City.

On average, these cities differ systematically from others in demographic characteristics, economic conditions, fiscal capacity and political orientation, suggesting that participation as a Welcoming City is a complex decision conditional on a series of urban realities.

Welcoming Cities tend to have more foreign-born residents as a percentage of their population along with a denser network of immigrant-serving organizations than other cities, showing the strength of interest groups and local support.

However, they have higher unemployment rates on average: 11.4 percent in 2010 compared to 9.5 percent in other cities. Welcoming Cities also had a smaller share of manufacturing in 2010, with manufacturing jobs making up 9.7 percent of local employment compared with 11.6 percent in other cities.

The researchers identified four primary sets of strategies these cities use to attract and retain immigrants: business development, workforce development, community development and public safety. There are strong economic development rationales behind these policies, they conclude.

The analysis serves as a framework to better understand the Welcoming Cities initiative and to further the conversation around and implementation of improved immigration policies.

CLIMATE CONTROLS

FEDERAL AND LOCAL HOUSING POLICIES such as mortgage tax deductions, minimum lot sizes and lax regulations may inadvertently contribute to higher carbon emissions, according to economist Kyle Mangum.

His latest research on the regional impact of such policies found some may tilt homeowners towards higher-emission cities. It also suggested the need for a more thorough examination of these policies, he said.

"Policies that reduce a consumer's housing costs increase the demand for larger homes that use more energy," he said. "Policies that determine lot sizes often create lower-density cities, leading to more gasoline consumption. Both results have direct effects on carbon emissions."

GROWING WITH GREENSPACE

by Michael Halicki (M.P.A '09), Executive Director, Park Pride

Atlanta is a greenspace paradox. On the one hand, it is a place of lush greenery where our communities and neighborhoods are nestled within a rich urban forest that is its defining ecological feature. On the other hand, the City of Atlanta lacks publicly accessible parks.

While two-thirds of Atlantans live within a 10-minute walk of a park or publicly accessible greenspace, one-third do not.

Another defining feature of our city is its booming population growth. The development associated with that growth creates tensions as trees are felled daily under the banner of progress, and opportunities to create new parks take a back seat to market forces.

However, the City of Atlanta is attempting to bring these tensions into balance through an ambitious long-range planning effort led by Tim Keane, commissioner of planning and community development, and Ryan Gravel, the visionary behind the Atlanta BeltLine.

Atlanta City Design, as the plan is known, prepares for a potential doubling of the city's population over the next 25 years. It also calls for an urban ecology framework that begins with an inventory of the city's natural assets and ends with a specific set of policy actions designed to increase access to nature and to protect nature as the city grows and develops.

Park Pride, a local nonprofit that engages communities to activate the power of parks, is a stakeholder in the Atlanta City Design process. Park Pride challenges city leaders to think big about the role parks, trails and greenspaces could play in the future of Atlanta.

We are aided by partners like Trees Atlanta, which brings expertise about Atlanta's tree canopy, and The Conservation Fund that helps to acquire parkland on behalf of the City of Atlanta's parks department.

As city leaders plan for a doubling of population over the next 25 years, Park Pride has encouraged a similar goal be set to double the amount of parkland accessible to city residents.

It is worth noting that a doubling of population would still leave Atlanta less dense than many other peer cities, thus giving us a rare opportunity to maintain our tree canopy and increase our access to parks even as we grow.

Keane recently pointed out that we're in a position to use nature as a parameter around which we design things. How to do that? One way is by increasing population density in areas of the city that already have the infrastructure to support it, ensuring access to transit, sidewalks and parks already in existence. Another way is to rely more heavily on our emerging trail network — including the Atlanta BeltLine and PATH — to connect people to people, the city and nature. Atlanta stands to be the most trail-connected city in the United States by 2025 should all the proposed trail projects come to fruition, according to the PATH Foundation.

Atlanta has the opportunity to serve as a model for other cities that have historically been victims of sprawl. We're in a position where embracing both of our defining features — growth and greenspace — could result in a scenario, if done right, of having our forest and having more people live in it, too, of growing and urbanizing, while at the same time protecting, preserving and even expanding the ecology of our city.

Chartered Economy

Charter schools' economic impact on communities

GEORGIA HOMES CLOSER to startup charters schools have higher property values than those farther away, according to a report by the Center for State and Local Finance.

"Georgia households were willing to pay three-to-five percent more to be within a half-mile of startup charter schools with priority attendance zones. This effect increased to roughly eight percent in the city of Atlanta," said economist and coauthor Peter Bluestone.

The report authors examined home sales from 2004-13 near 52 startup charter schools.

In Atlanta's suburbs, households seemed willing to pay 2 to 6 percent more for charter schools without priority zones, depending on their relative distance from the schools. This suggests that a startup charter school can diminish the relationship between the quality of a zoned traditional public school and higher home values by offering an alternative.

The findings suggest there could be similar effects in other large metropolitan areas.

NEW CITY DOLLARS

WHEN PEOPLE VOLUNTARILY CHOOSE TO FORM A CITY, residential property values and property taxes in the new city are more likely to increase, according to economist Carlianne Patrick. Property values can increase 4 to 5 percent within two years after the new municipality is incorporated and 12 to 13 percent over time.

In "Demand for New Cities: Property Value Capitalization of Municipal Incorporation," (*Regional Science and Urban Economics*), Patrick and Christopher Mothorpe examined the incorporation of seven new cities in metro Atlanta over a decade, beginning with Sandy Springs in 2005.

"The formation of new cities is one response to counties in metro Atlanta and across the U.S. providing urban services to increasingly diverse populations in unincorporated areas," said Patrick. "People have voluntarily chosen to incur additional costs to receive the real and perceived benefits of having a municipal — rather than county — government provide services. They may also use it as a way to limit redistribution through taxes and public goods."

The most important predictor for putting a parcel "at risk" of being included in a newly incorporated city, they found, was its potential for such a redistribution, or how much higher the property values (and property taxes) were in the parcel's neighborhood than in the unincorporated area.

The study will help county and new city governments consider the fiscal consequences of incorporation.

"I expect we will continue to see a demand for cities in metro Atlanta and similar cities," Patrick said. "If that is the case, it is important for policymakers to know a couple of things: first, whether home buyer behavior reveals that, on average, they value the net benefit of incorporation and second, how the new city's property tax base might be expected to change."

HELD BACK

Institutional challenges in desegregated schools may undermine oportunities.

Education policy for Jurée Capers is a question of structures. What are the structures — systems or environments — inside and outside educational institutions that affect underrepresented populations?

"In general, I explore how institutions like school districts or schools affect outcomes for those groups. For example, structural racism and institutional biases are being discussed now. I want to learn more about how people operate in those structures that dictate what they do," said Capers, assistant professor of public management and policy.

In a recent study published in the *American Review of Public Administration*, Capers used data from the nation's 1,800 largest school districts to compare the level of disparity in academic grouping across racial groups. The topic was suggested by her dissertation, which examined why school districts would continue to pursue desegregated schools when the courts have suggested there's no need, and the effect this decision has on school boards, teachers and students.

"I realized the systems in racially balanced, diverse schools and districts are probably a little different than those in segregated schools, but I didn't know how," she said. "How do the persons inside these two different school environments interact with the students? Does the environment make it more or less challenging for minority teachers to use their positions to push for equity in gifted education for minority students?"

Although Capers found minority students underrepresented in gifted education courses in desegregated and segregated school districts, they were more likely to be underrepresented in desegregated districts.

The research supports her theory that structural factors are important in predicting student outcomes.

"The broad assumption and desegregation literature finding that desegregated schools are better for minority students is not supported," Capers said. "There are institutional challenges in desegregated schools that undermine the opportunities that minority students receive.

"The racial balance of school districts is a structural factor that should continue to be considered in discussions of school equity, quality and performance."

RICHER WIFE, HAPPIER LIFE

Family well-being grows faster when the wife's wages are higher.

FAMILY WELFARE — an economic measure of satisfaction or well-being — grew faster during the 1990s and 2000s in U.S. households where wives earned higher wages than their husbands, Andrew Young School economists and their colleagues have found.

Despite this trend, evidence found in their research indicated many families still find the idea of wives earning more than their husbands distasteful, supporting previous survey results.

The share of families in which the wife earns a higher wage than her husband has grown consistently over time, from 16 percent in 1994 to 18 percent in 2003 and 21 percent in 2012.

Julie Hotchkiss, Robert Moore, Fernando Rios-Avila and Melissa Trussell used data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Population Survey to assess the impact of the last two decades of economic change on the welfare of married households. Their research was published in the *Review of Economics of the Household.*

NEWS

ASSESSING THE UNDERLINE

The Health Foundation of South Florida funded a health impact assessment for The Underline, a proposed parks and trails project in Miami. The study, conducted by the Georgia Health Policy Center, provided recommendations on how the project can promote health and equity through increased physical activity and social connections, and mitigate potential traffic-related hazards.

THE WAIT GAIN

Ambulance response times slowed an average 19 percent as private insurance and Medicaid coverage expanded under the Affordable Care Act. New research by economist Charles Courtemanche and his colleagues reveals the added strain to emergency response systems as more insured users gain access to emergency medical services.

Community Wellness

Local teens train as health workers to serve the needy.

FORTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE CHANGING the health and well-being of their community, five people at a time.

The students from the underserved Tri-Cities area of Atlanta are the first in the nation to be trained as community health workers. The new program, which pays local students to attend, provides educational and economic opportunities while improving access to health education and care in underserved communities.

Upon completing their training, the students began monitoring the health of five family or community members and connecting them to needed resources. They offer basic services such as blood pressure screening, provide education about healthy living and link residents to health services.

"I realized that community health workers really are for the community," said KIPP Atlanta Collegiate High School student Razaar Williams, a 2016 graduate of the program. "I really like communicating with people not just my age. That is a competency we learned about which will help me not just as a community health worker, but as a person."

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The program began in 2014 when the Atlanta Regional Collaborative for Health Improvement (ARCHI) brought together stakeholders from the Tri-Cities area and provided support to guide a community engagement process. The resident-driven Tri-Cities Stewardship Committee recognized community health workers could help make improvements in the health of local residents. Rather than hiring these workers, Tri-Cities decided to train its own.

"The community health worker program is an ideal ARCHI project," said Robyn Bussey from the Georgia Health Policy Center. "It includes community residents and organizations in the design and implementation of the program, and it touches on three ARCHI priorities—care coordination, healthy behaviors and pathways to advantage for students and families."

BREAKING THE HABIT

Student Kimberlee Beasley (M.S.W.) plans smoking cessation campaign for public housing residents.

ATLANTA 911 DISPATCHER KIMBERLEE BEASLEY responds to calls from people who find themselves in a variety of health and safety crises, speeding assistance their way. Now an intern with the East Point Housing Authority, Beasley is learning how to prevent residents from suffering their own personal health crisis by co-leading planning for the authority's smoking cessation campaign.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) introduced regulations in 2017 requiring housing authorities to create smoke-free campuses. All East Point Housing Authority properties, which house about 560 individuals, will be smoke-free by July 31.

Beasley is helping the authority build resident buy-in by holding public feedback sessions to determine the scope of the ban — whether to allow smoking areas — and to help finalize its violation process. Their comments will also inform the authority's "Smoke-Free Campus" marketing campaign.

"The agency is trying to decide which way to go," said Beasley. "We are also trying to get our residents to understand the bigger picture, that it's a HUD policy change. We do expect there will be a backlash."

To date, most resident feedback has been from non-smokers, many of whom allow others to smoke in their homes. Concerns have centered on how the policy will be implemented and whether violators will have to move. Some fear being falsely accused and penalized.

"The residents are giving us potential issues to consider," Beasley said. "We have some who've been here 30-plus years. To tell them now they can no longer smoke in their home can be troubling. We have to consider these residents and reevaluate the penalties and violation process. We also want to make sure they understand we will provide smoking cessation resources.

"We know quitting smoking is hard, but we also want the residents to realize that continuing smoking is harmful for them and everyone who lives with that smoke. Everyone is impacted. We will find the best way to convey that message."

Best in Class

Georgia APEX program provides school-aged children access to mental health services.

One in five children in the United States has a diagnosable mental health disorder, but only 21 percent of those who need mental health services receive care, research has found.

It is difficult for schools to ignore issues that may impair a child's ability to focus, engage and learn in the classroom. For this reason, Ann DiGirolamo and Deana Farmer of the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC), in partnership with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), are exploring integrating children's mental health programs into schools as a potential way to address these issues.

The Georgia Apex Program builds infrastructure and increases access to mental health services for school-aged youth throughout the state. During the 2015-16 school year, DBHDD funded Apex to improve access to needed behavioral health services.

"Children's behavioral health is a serious public health problem that affects the children involved, their families and society as a whole," said DiGirolamo. She directs the GHPC's Center of Excellence (COE) for Children's Behavioral Health, which provides technical assistance in program implementation, evaluation and program sustainability to Georgia Apex Program grantees.

Apex granted funding to 29 community mental health agencies that worked with schools across the state to increase access to care, expand early detection and increase partnerships with community mental health providers. The program served an average 951 students per month during 2015-16, according to a preliminary COE program evaluation. Providers formed partnerships with 136 schools throughout Georgia and provided more than 20,000 mental health services in the schools.

"The program has made significant progress towards meeting its objectives," said Danté McKay, director of the Office of Children, Young Adults and Families at DBHDD. "We will leverage the lessons learned to inform future program planning and administration."

PLAN GLOBAL, SHOP LOCAL

Alumna Christina Cummings (M.P.A. '11) leads underserved business districts to sustainability.

ATLANTA'S CASCADE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD has a champion in Christina Cummings, a project manager in the Department of City Planning's new Economic Development unit. Once a small business owner herself, she helps communities strengthen sustainability through their small businesses.

Cummings manages Cascade Next, the city's new "community activation tool." The initiative, a partnership between Economic Development and the department's Atlanta City Studio, is building momentum among the more than 100 businesses in the Cascade Heights Commercial District and support from its neighboring community.

To start, she helped put together a series of strategic listening sessions that brought together more than 250 stakeholders from the neighborhood. A group of area business leaders then decided to create the Cascade Business Association. Cummings helped the new association get organized, get its leadership seated and write the organization documents. The association provided the framework for its volunteers to take the lead and move the initiatives further.

"We knew that to make substantive change to the commercial corridor, businesses had to be at the center of the conversation," she said. "We support them, but they have to be the driver."

Cummings produced the Cascade Next Business Breakfast Series to expand financial literacy, helped form strategic planning and signature-event planning steering committees, produced a comprehensive marketing profile to attract investment and brought in a panel of financial experts to discuss loan programs and resources.

She has introduced Cascade's business owners to a Storefront Redesign Program that provides matching grants to bring business owners together with architects and a design team from the Atlanta Design Studio. Together, they plan façade improvements.

"Business districts are stronger when the owners see, talk, network, know and pool their resources with each other," Cummings said. "Cascade's owners are starting to see themselves as a collective."

The district is also attracting the attention of others.

"Cascade Heights is the pilot for our model: convene, engage, share overall goals and then let the community drive the initiatives to get the end results," Cummings said. "More communities are being considered."

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT'S
2019 RANKINGS OF AMERICA'S BEST GRADUATE SCHOOLS

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HEALTH

#59	Social Work

**U.S. News & World Report's 2019 Best Graduate Schools in Public Affairs rankings were based solely on peer assessment survey results from directors and department chairs who represent 282 master's programs in public affairs and administration.*

THE CITY OF THE FUTURE

HOW WILL TOMORROW'S METROPOLES ADDRESS THEIR PHYSICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES?

by JENNIFER GIARRANTANO

In the late 1990s, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce president Sam Williams brought the city's top executives in industry, higher ed and government together for an Industries of the Mind economic development initiative. Their goal was to attract more technology workers and investment while a "War for Talent," as many called it, was being waged among cities around the nation.

"We were all trying to recruit, grow and retain a highly educated workforce – millennials!" he said. "The top criteria for companies looking to relocate were highly educated workers and an ability to hire them quickly. Atlanta had a competitive edge in both retaining local college grads and attracting them from around the Southeast. We needed to tell our story nationally, and much louder."

Atlanta's message worked. But "unintended consequences," including gentrification, began pushing lower wage earners out of the city.

"Now we've got to fix that issue," says Williams, a distinguished professor of practice in Georgia State University's new Urban Studies Institute (USI).

"The jobs of the future are increasingly found in major urban areas," agrees Distinguished University Professor Jan Nijman, the institute's director. "As this development continues, metropolitan and regional areas will continue to grow."

Nijman's research has taken him to cities in West Europe, South Asia and various parts of North America.

Metro Atlanta is projected to add a population about the size of metro Charlotte, N.C., by 2040.

"Atlanta is a prime example of vigorous urban growth accompanied by new possibilities, but it also demands the right policies and management," says Nijman.

"How do you manage the growth and challenges of the city, and those of the suburbs and exurbs around major cities? The stability of neighborhoods, the ability to provide affordable housing, transportation, mobility and access to healthcare and other public goods are becoming increasingly important."

Cities of the future must be dynamic in providing decent livelihoods. They must be resilient, the policy-induced ability of an economy to withstand – or recover from – the effects of external shocks like extreme weather events or those that arise out of economic openness. They must provide social inclusion and make all groups of people within a society feel valued and important.

Sustainability is also a necessity.

"Cities must meet the needs of today's population without compromising those of future generations," Nijman says. "Sustainable development includes environmental, social and economic sustainability, urban and regional systems that must be fed and kept moving. As urban populations increase, the management of society becomes the management challenge of cities."

A fundamental challenge is how to align the traditional foci that guide the development of growing cities – housing, transportation, safety, health, education and economic development – with the citizenry's demand for more equitable governance, responsive policies and responsible public management. Economic resilience, equity, inclusivity, environmental justice and sustainability are the new framework with which urban communities will build better futures for all.

Urban research universities have a unique responsibility in researching and addressing these challenges. The Urban Studies Institute advances Georgia State's urban mission through interdisciplinary research and teaching. Its work, examples of which follow, will lead to a better understanding and more effective management of the complex challenges facing cities and urbanizing regions.

LIVING IN THE INCLUSIVE CITY

Dan Immergluck was working towards his bachelor's degree at Northwestern University and living in its residential College of Community Studies in the 1980s when Chicago's first black mayor, the dynamic Harold Washington, was elected.

"The residential college was connected to people in the new mayor's administration, so we had guest speakers from the administration come to talk about how to make Chicago more equitable," he says.

This focus on equity in urban development grabbed his attention and hasn't let go.

His career led him to work in community development on Chicago's West Side in the early 1990s. Later, while working at Chicago's Woodstock Institute, he helped then state senator Barack Obama announce a plan to help regulate subprime mortgage lenders in the state.

Immergluck eventually spent a dozen years helping Chicago neighborhoods build urban equity – with housing policy his focus – while earning a Ph.D. He is now a professor in the Urban Studies Institute.

"From the 30,000-foot level," he says, "one of the themes of my work has been trying to help people understand affordable housing as a part of a city's infrastructure instead of as a solely private good. When we think of affordability, we think of lower-income folks who are not severely burdened by housing costs, so that they pay no more than 30 percent of their income for rent or mortgage and taxes."

Providing affordable housing combats poverty and inequality, according to Immergluck.

"Affordable housing is really about the 'inclusive city,' a city where growth is shared and the benefits of new jobs and the tax base the city gets from new employment can be used to educate and provide services for all kinds of folks," he says. "It's really key that people, particularly those of modest means, have housing options. For example, if we force people into poor-quality rental housing, it causes all kinds of problems, including poorer educational and employment outcomes. The best way to provide for families and neighborhoods is to provide stable, affordable housing and, as they gain income, provide options for them to purchase homes."

Immergluck also emphasizes the importance of providing fair and affordable housing financing.

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE, EQUITY, INCLUSIVITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY ARE THE NEW FRAMEWORK WITH WHICH URBAN COMMUNITIES WILL BUILD BETTER FUTURES FOR ALL.

"We have a lot of evidence that when housing financing is fair and affordable, home ownership provides benefits to both families and neighborhoods," he says. "How so? It builds a way for families to accrue a financial asset. It gives them an opportunity to put their sweat equity into the asset, and by doing that, they not only improve the house, they benefit the neighborhood. They become more invested. The key is to provide good rental and home ownership options."

He cautions that housing finance policies can have a segregating impact on who lives where.

"Overly tight mortgage markets hurt both rental and homeowner options," he says, "because we need to loosen up those credit markets a bit and provide more options, provide a little more help with down payment assistance and more flexible, yet still responsible, underwriting."

He points to proposals to remake Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac as totally private entities.

"We don't want to privatize the housing finance system," he says. "Risk-based pricing is a problem. Now, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac pool the risk, and everyone is offered roughly the same rates. If they are privatized, that won't happen. High-risk families will be pooled differently and charged more, while they are least able to afford it. The higher the rate you give them, the more likely they are to default, or its cost will force them to buy into lower-income neighborhoods where the houses are cheaper."

There are policy solutions that, if adopted, would support an inclusive city.

"We need to begin looking at housing as 'infrastructure for cities,'" Immergluck says. We need to provide much more local and state funding for housing, in general, especially in growing cities.

We build transportation infrastructure with bonds that fund that infrastructure. We need to do the same thing with housing.

"To do this, we must understand there's a public benefit to investing in affordable housing that serves folks who work in restaurants and provide basic services, like city and office workers, the young and elderly, a very diverse set of folks, including those who make less than $35,000 a year."

There has been some recent, incremental action along this line in Atlanta, he says.

"The city has just issued $45 million in housing opportunity bonds to provide more affordable housing. These bonds allow housing to be less expensive by financing development at a low cost. It's not enough, but it is a start."

Immergluck follows the affordable housing policies emerging in other states. Chicago, he notes, has mandated inclusionary zoning – like Atlanta's BeltLine – where neighborhoods are targeted.

His policy research has brought national attention to the topics of affordable housing and finance.

SUSTAINING SOUL AS CITIES, SUBURBS GROW

Jean-Paul Addie enjoys his weekday walking commute. Door-to-door, it takes him from Atlanta's Old Fourth Ward and along Auburn Avenue to his office near Five Points, the historic center of the city.

Many who take the same walk may see downtown Atlanta as a collection of things: the imposing Odd Fellows Hall and welcoming Sweet Auburn Bread storefront, the new sidewalk in front of Big Bethel AME Church or a MARTA bus blowing by those working, wandering or touring the street.

Addie sees it differently.

"Through my work, I see the city as being a space of difference and diversity, a space of social processes and relations rather than as a collection of things," he says.

Addie, an assistant professor, identifies himself as a critical urban geographer who questions the world we live in and considers how to make it better.

"Critical urban geography problematizes power structures and power dynamics," he says, "but it also forces us to think

about how we can build more progressive, inclusive and emancipatory cities. It's about how we take deep, fundamental questions about politics and power and underlying systemic social dynamics and think about how cities are produced, governed and experienced by different social groups: by class, race, gender, ethnicity, age, etc. It's a process that challenges normative assumptions about the city."

With more than half of the world's population now living in towns and cities, Addie believes it is time to redefine what "city" means. This definition is the core area of interest in his research on the human experience and production of cities.

"The majority of urban growth in American and European cities, and cities globally, is not happening in established urban cores," he says. "It's happening on the periphery in increasingly diverse and dynamic 'suburban' fringes. Between the wealthy outer suburbs and downtown, there is an amorphous, de-centered urban fabric which some of my Toronto colleagues have termed the 'in-between city.'

"The in-between city is both disconnected and hyper-connected. There are interstates connecting vast areas, airports, massive intermodal facilities, power stations and refineries alongside large educational institutions. There's wealth and there's poverty.

"This is an important landscape. We are witnessing the suburbanization of race, of poverty, of working-class and immigrant communities. When these things are pushed out, it challenges a lot of the ideas we have that associate inequality and racialized neighborhoods with being inner city and urban. 'Urban' problems are now found in the suburbs, and we need to take this seriously when we engage and address such issues."

Addie's research in this area began in Over-the-Rhine in Cincinnati, a working-class neighborhood which in the 1970s and '80s was a hub for local government and community organizations that supported its low-income, predominantly African American community. By the 1990s, the neighborhood's Italianate architecture was rediscovered and gentrification began.

"Through a series of urban policy interventions – some well-intentioned, some not – the community that was being served was displaced," says Addie. "Low-income residents were taking Section 8 housing vouchers across the Cincinnati metro area. They experienced displacement and dispersal from the central city, which makes coming up with a social service infrastructure and policy interventions to serve such marginalized urban inhabitants much more difficult.

"The challenge now is what we do about this dispersal. This question has forced me to look at the issues of cities at an expanded scale: large metro regions and the processes happening in city-regions globally."

Addie's research examines the role universities play in this landscape.

"Universities house a tremendous wealth of knowledge and experience on engaged community development," Addie says. "They are really well-positioned to think about and tackle urban challenges at a scale that transcends local city politics.

"The question is, how do you mesh higher education institutions along with a broadened geographic understanding of changing metro landscapes? Here it becomes important to recognize the value of the urban expertise housed within our universities."

WITH MORE THAN HALF OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION NOW LIVING IN TOWNS AND CITIES, ADDIE BELIEVES IT IS TIME TO REDEFINE WHAT "CITY" MEANS.

MOVING TO THE EQUITABLE CITY

Christopher Wyczalkowski was a financial planner living in Atlanta's Buckhead neighborhood when he and three others, including MPA alumna Rebecca Serna and Georgia Health Policy Center research associate Michelle Rushing co-founded the Citizens for Progressive Transit (CfPT).

"I had an office and apartment on MARTA stops and decided to get rid of my car. Then I decided more people should be doing this," he says. "Our purpose was to get like-minded people together to discuss how we can improve transit in Atlanta."

They formed CfPT as a grassroots, all-volunteer coalition of concerned Atlanta citizens and organization leaders interested in public transit.

"We met a lot with the Sierra Club, Jobs With Justice, Concerned Black Clergy and everyone who had a stake in MARTA that we could get to come together," he says. "We had several quarterly meetings with MARTA's executive committee to give them a grassroots view of things. We also disseminated information and raised awareness for transit. We were cheerleaders for it."

Wyczalkowski's interest in public transportation didn't stop there, however. As a doctoral student in the Andrew Young School's joint public policy degree program with Georgia Tech, he pursued research on the effects of transportation systems on neighborhood change. Now a postdoctoral researcher with the Urban Studies Institute, he continues in this line of research.

"Transportation is important. It's the lifeblood of a city. We get around, or we don't have a city," he says. "So we have to look at public investments like public transportation, where there has to be some social equity."

In his first article, published in *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, Wyczalkowski and his co-authors looked at bus transit and where low-income people live in metro Atlanta.

"Our goal," he says, "was to better understand how public transportation can be used to expand their choices."

They found that census tracts with better access to public bus transportation – in both cities and suburbs, but particularly the suburbs – had a higher proportion of low-income households.

"Policies that improve bus access to transit in underserved areas, like the suburbs, expand residential opportunities for the poor and help decentralize poverty," Wyczalkowski says. "Governments that fail to expand transit access – whether due to fiscal problems or discriminatory planning – run the risk of re-concentrating poverty in certain neighborhoods."

For his dissertation, Wyczalkowski examined the effects of MARTA transit stations on neighborhood change.

"My analysis looked at the whole system and the pieces as they developed," he says. "The key finding seems to be that we actually saw a gentrification around MARTA stations overall, as people with higher educations and higher incomes moved into those areas."

His overall goal is to better understand how transportation policies can be used to expand housing choices.

"Low-income people use mass transit more than higher income," he says, "but there also seems to be a difference in the mode used. Heavy rail attracts more high-income people. You don't see them riding a bus. They will pay a higher price for accessibility to those stops."

Buses, on the other hand, have greater potential as a policy solution for low-income riders. Bus routes are also better designed to serve Atlanta's lower-density land use.

"There's nothing inherently different between the modes of public transportation. Ridership is simply a cultural phenomenon," he says. "Atlanta needs more buses than rail. This is where advocacy comes in."

MANAGING THE NEW URBAN DIVIDE

Technologies such as the internet and smart phones are changing how people perceive and use city spaces, according to the institute's newest faculty member, assistant professor Fei Li.

"Advancements in information and communication technologies greatly extend the outreach of a person, making an average individual who may have never left her hometown more of a "global citizen," she says. "However, the growing dependence on these same technologies can be detaching people from the cities and neighborhoods they live in. An immigrant worker in New York City, for example, may feel in every sense 'closer' to his people back home in a small Irish town than to those living across the street from his apartment."

Li explains that technological innovations, rather than simply neutralizing the significance of physical distances, may be preserving, if not enhancing, certain distances in urban societies.

"The stratification of technologies in cities goes beyond the traditional 'digital divide' between haves and have-nots," she says. "It goes to the spectrum of different devices/services people can
afford or have access to, their various levels of technology literacy, and the different ways they make use of technologies.

"To understand inequalities and inclusion in the future city will require a better understanding of the new digital divide, and how it affects individuals' behavior and well-being in the physical city."

LEADING INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ON URBAN RESILIENCE

Georgia State's Urban Studies Institute (USI) faculty received $1 million from a $12 million National Science Foundation grant in October 2017 to support a project that will help cities prepare for climate change. It will do so by co-developing the knowledge needed to promote resilient cities in a future that will look very different from today.

Sustainability scientist David Iwaniec is a member of the National Science Foundation's UREx Sustainability Research Network's (UREx SRN) executive team and a senior sustainability scientist with the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability. Now an assistant professor at Georgia State, he is leading the research and management for this new transdisciplinary initiative.

"The UREx SRN echoes the Urban Studies Institute's interdisciplinary approach to problem-solving and innovative thinking, with a focus on social justice and implementing solutions," he said. "In co-developing solutions that address extreme events — flooding, storms, drought and heat waves — we need to use this opportunity to look beyond the typical five-year time horizon and fail-safe adaptation strategies to build not only resilient, but sustainable and equitable cities."

The grant brings Georgia State into the UREx SRN, a five-year project joining 25 institutions in teams of social scientists, planners, engineers, ecologists, climate scientists and policymakers.
Their research focuses on building resilience to climate-driven extreme events in nine cities in Latin and North America.

THE GATHERING STORM

As natural disasters unfold at an ever more rapid clip, professor ***Ann-Margaret Esnard*** is researching how cities can prepare better and bounce back faster.

by **ANN HARDIE**

The unrelenting howling.

That is what Ann-Margaret Esnard remembers most from nearly 40 years ago when Hurricane Allen tore through the small Caribbean Island of St. Lucia, where she grew up. Esnard rode out the Category 4 storm under a table in her family's living room.

"That sound," she says, "was the most terrifying thing."

The 1980 hurricane pummeled the Caribbean and parts of the tEast Coast and is credited with more than 200 deaths. As a young person, Esnard had seen other vicious storms, but she says Allen was the one that awakened her to the potentially devastating impacts of hurricanes.

"You go outside and see downed trees and power lines and houses with rooftops blown off and windows blown out," she says. "You wonder if your island is ever going to recover."

Four decades later, Esnard, the interim associate dean for research at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, has spent most of her academic career studying how communities can minimize the impact of disasters and bounce back if they do get hit. Her research has delved into the circumstances that make areas vulnerable to storms, the role that housing and land development play in the recovery process and the factors that cause people to be displaced from their homes for long periods of time.

Esnard's work could not be more critical given the increasing number of weather-related disasters.

"Last year was an exceptional year, with one disaster after another after another," she says, citing the hurricanes that affected Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, and the wildfires and mudslides in California.

In 2013, Georgia State recruited Esnard, a Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Public Management and Policy, as part of the university's Second Century Initiative to encourage interdisciplinary, collaborative research.

"Esnard's work on these complex problems exemplifies the agenda that Georgia State has undertaken as part of the Second Century Initiative," says Provost Risa Palm. "Her work will make cities such as Atlanta stronger and even more resilient places."

While Atlanta isn't prone to severe natural disasters given its inland location, the city's robust economy and accessibility could make it a likely landing place for people uprooted by future disasters.

"We are absolutely a potential destination for evacuees," Esnard says. "And given Atlanta's existing challenges with traffic congestion, aging infrastructure and housing affordability, that is something we have to plan for."

Growing up in the Caribbean, Esnard experienced hurricanes as something to be feared and avoided, not studied and obsessed over.

"Disasters were a bad experience that I stored somewhere in the back of my brain," she says. "I never thought that my journey would one day take me to a point where disaster is an ever-present thought."

Although her home of St. Lucia is known for its laid-back culture, Esnard was educated in schools that followed a strict British model, where students were ranked according to their grade point averages. She flourished under the pressure.

"It was tough love. I always wanted to make sure I was in the top," says Esnard, who describes herself as "competitive," "highly motivated" and "highly organized."

After a short stint as a high school teacher, Esnard left St. Lucia in 1987 to attend the University of the West Indies in Trinidad, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in agricultural engineering. She followed that with a master of science degree in agronomy and soils from the University of Puerto Rico in Mayagüez.

"I always assumed I would stay in the Caribbean," she says. "I thought I would be out there in the fields, helping to make sure that we had good crop yields using appropriate irrigation systems." It was the subject of her undergraduate thesis.

That assumption fell apart when Joseph Esnard, her high-school sweetheart whom she married in 1990, was accepted as a doctoral student in plant pathology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

"I quickly realized that I needed to get back to studying," she says.

(Today, Joseph develops algorithms for automated systems, and the couple has two sons: Josh, an entrepreneur whose hair- and beard-shaping patented tool, The Cut Buddy, was featured on the reality TV competition "Shark Tank" and Kriston, a ninth grader at Decatur High School.)

While at UMass, Esnard decided to pursue a doctorate in regional planning, deepening her expertise in geospatial analysis and geographic information systems (GIS).

"I love that you can combine data in certain ways to inform planning and decision-making," she says.

It was during a postdoctoral program at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill in 1995 that Esnard began to think about how to apply geospatial analysis to disaster planning. She had gone to Chapel Hill to hunker down and publish articles based on her dissertation, which focused on using GIS technology

for planning education. But Esnard is a collaborator by nature, and it did not take long for her to start hunting for another joint project.

She began working with David Brower, a UNC professor and one of the country's foremost experts on coastal zone management, helping him develop a hazard mitigation plan for the town of Nags Head on the Outer Banks, a strand of barrier islands along the east coast of North Carolina that is constantly battered by storms from the Atlantic Ocean. For the project, Esnard used GIS technology to analyze land use, critical infrastructure and other data to assess the property and infrastructure at risk from hurricanes, storm surges and flooding. That information was later used by public officials and the private sector to shape policies on land development and housing.

"This experience really did flick a switch for me — that you could use this kind of analysis in disaster planning," Esnard says. "We can't prevent natural disasters. The question is, how do we minimize the loss of lives, God forbid, and the loss of property?"

On Aug. 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina tore into the Gulf Coast at 170 miles per hour, decimating coastal Mississippi and Louisiana. The storm itself exacted tremendous damage, but its aftermath — more than 50 breached levees and floodwalls, the highest-ever recorded storm surge — was catastrophic. More than 1,800 people died, and damage was estimated at $125 billion. (In 2017, Hurricane Harvey — which hit Houston particularly hard — tied Katrina as the costliest storm on record, although the death toll was much lower, with 108 confirmed deaths.)

"Hurricane Katrina changed everything," says Esnard, who delineates her academic career as pre- and post-Katrina. "After that storm, it became painfully obvious that we had to think about 'long-term' and 'recovery' in a more nuanced way."

Post-Katrina, planners also had to grapple with issues involving the large numbers of people displaced from their homes — sometimes permanently.

"We had not really talked about long-term displacement before. Now people were scattered in Texas, in Alaska, all over the country," Esnard says. "Some got on planes with only the clothes on their back. Those images are still burned into my mind. It's 13 years later, and parts of the Gulf Coast have not fully recovered."

When the hurricane struck, Esnard had just begun teaching at the Florida Atlantic University campus in Fort Lauderdale, where some Katrina-affected families relocated. Esnard and a university-based team of urban planners and public administration faculty received a National Science Foundation grant to study long-term displacement after the storm.

"We needed to better understand whether people would be able to return quickly or would leave their homes and not come back at all,'" Esnard says.

Their research led to the development of a tool, the Index of Relative Displacement Risk to Hurricanes, that is being revisited after last year's hurricane season.

"We were the first group to develop this tool where you could look at a map and find out, 'Wow, this area has a high risk of displacement or this area has a low risk,'" she says.

Esnard and her team identified several factors that affect displacement: social networks (the more support, the more likely people are to return), homeownership (renters are less likely to go back) and area of employment (those who work in the tourist industry may not have jobs to go back to in coastal cities).

Esnard has a keen interest in the recovery efforts in Puerto Rico, which was hit with a one-two punch from hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017. As the American territory struggles to restore even basic services, more than 200,000 Puerto Ricans have sought refuge in Florida and elsewhere.

"For the receiving communities, there are all kinds of issues to consider," Esnard says. "How do you provide adequate housing, job opportunities and resources at schools for traumatized children?"

At the core of strong cities are strong schools. Esnard and colleagues from the School of Public Health are in the middle of a research project to help schools recover more quickly following a disaster. The implications of their work, which is being funded by the National Science Foundation, extend far beyond the classroom.

"How fast communities get back on their feet depends on how fast schools get back on theirs," Esnard says. "If schools are closed for long periods of time, children's educational attainment and job prospects dim, which makes communities — particularly those facing repeated disasters — less resilient over time."

Esnard is co-leading the project with Betty S. Lai, an assistant professor in the School of Public Health and an expert on post-traumatic stress in children who have experienced large-scale natural disasters. Lai calls Esnard the perfect partner.

"I'm a child psychologist with a background in statistics who is very focused on individuals," Lai says. "We know that after disasters, children are at risk for developing mental and physical health problems. Yet we can't really understand individuals without an understanding of the larger community, which is where Ann-Margaret — and her focus on infrastructure and community resources — comes in."

Esnard credits the collaboration with better educating her on the human-scale impact of disasters.

"Working with Betty," she says, "my research has become more informed by an understanding of the dilemmas that children and families face."

Their research team is analyzing eight years of data on 465 Texas schools affected by Hurricane Ike, which occurred in 2008. They are looking at a wealth of information — including academic performance, attendance and the length of a school's closure — trying to discern why some of the affected schools have thrived while others haven't.

The researchers aren't far enough along to provide answers, but by focusing on data common to most schools, they believe their final recommendations will be on point for institutions no matter where they are, whether the Gulf Coast or St. Lucia or Atlanta.

"It's clear: There will be future disasters. Climate change is real," Esnard says. "There is so much to study. There is so much to plan for."

"We can't prevent natural disasters. The question is, how do we minimize the loss of lives, God forbid, and the loss of property?"

JUST SAY "NO"

Reviving the war on drugs will undo recent gains in reducing crime rates and prison populations.

by **DEAN DABNEY**

An officer and his dog walk the halls at a school in Indianapolis. AP Photo/Michael Conroy

THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN WAGING A WAR ON DRUGS FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS.

Hundreds of billions of dollars have been spent on this long campaign to thwart the production, distribution, sale and use of illegal drugs. This sustained investment has resulted in millions of drug offenders being processed through the American criminal justice system. It has also influenced crime control strategies used by American police.

Under President Barack Obama, there was a period of reform and moderating of tactics. But President Donald Trump's attorney general, Jeff Sessions, is announcing plans to return to "law and order" approaches, such as aggressive intervention by law enforcement and use of mandatory minimum sentences by prosecutors.

I recently co-authored a book with University of Louisville criminal justice professor Richard Tewksbury on the role of confidential informants. In my view, a return to a "law and order" approach would undo recent gains in reducing crime rates as well as prison populations and would further strain tense police-community relations.

DRUGS ARE DIFFERENT

Unlike violent or property crimes – which usually yield cooperative victims and witnesses – police and prosecutors are at a disadvantage when fighting drugs. Drug users don't see themselves as crime victims or their dealers as criminals. Police thus have limited options for identifying offenders. Alternatives include the use of undercover operations or conducting aggressive crackdown operations to disrupt the market in real time. But sneaking up on or infiltrating secretive and multilayered drug organizations is not easy to do, and usually produces only low-level offenders. Poor police-community relations don't help. Heightened enforcement and punishments have made matters worse by increasing the secrecy and sophistication of the illegal drug market and forcing police to develop criminal intelligence on offenders.

So how do police gather criminal intelligence on drug crimes?

The most honorable way is to rely on law-abiding sources who see the criminal activity and feel compelled to report it to the police in order to stop the problem.

The second option is for police to turn to a paid informant who is familiar with the drug operations to set up a buy or inform on the criminal activities of others in exchange for money.

A third option is to apprehend known drug offenders and coerce them into divulging information on higher-ups in exchange for a lighter sentence. We call these folks "indentured informants" because they "owe" the police information. If they don't follow through on their end of the deal, they face the weight of criminal prosecution, often through heavy mandatory minimum sentences.

As police-community relations have eroded over time, police have slowly but surely increased their reliance on criminal informants – especially to develop cases on higher-level criminals.

CONSEQUENCES OF COERCIVE TACTICS

Mandatory minimum sentences serve as a strong motivator to snitch. It has become the "go-to move" for authorities.

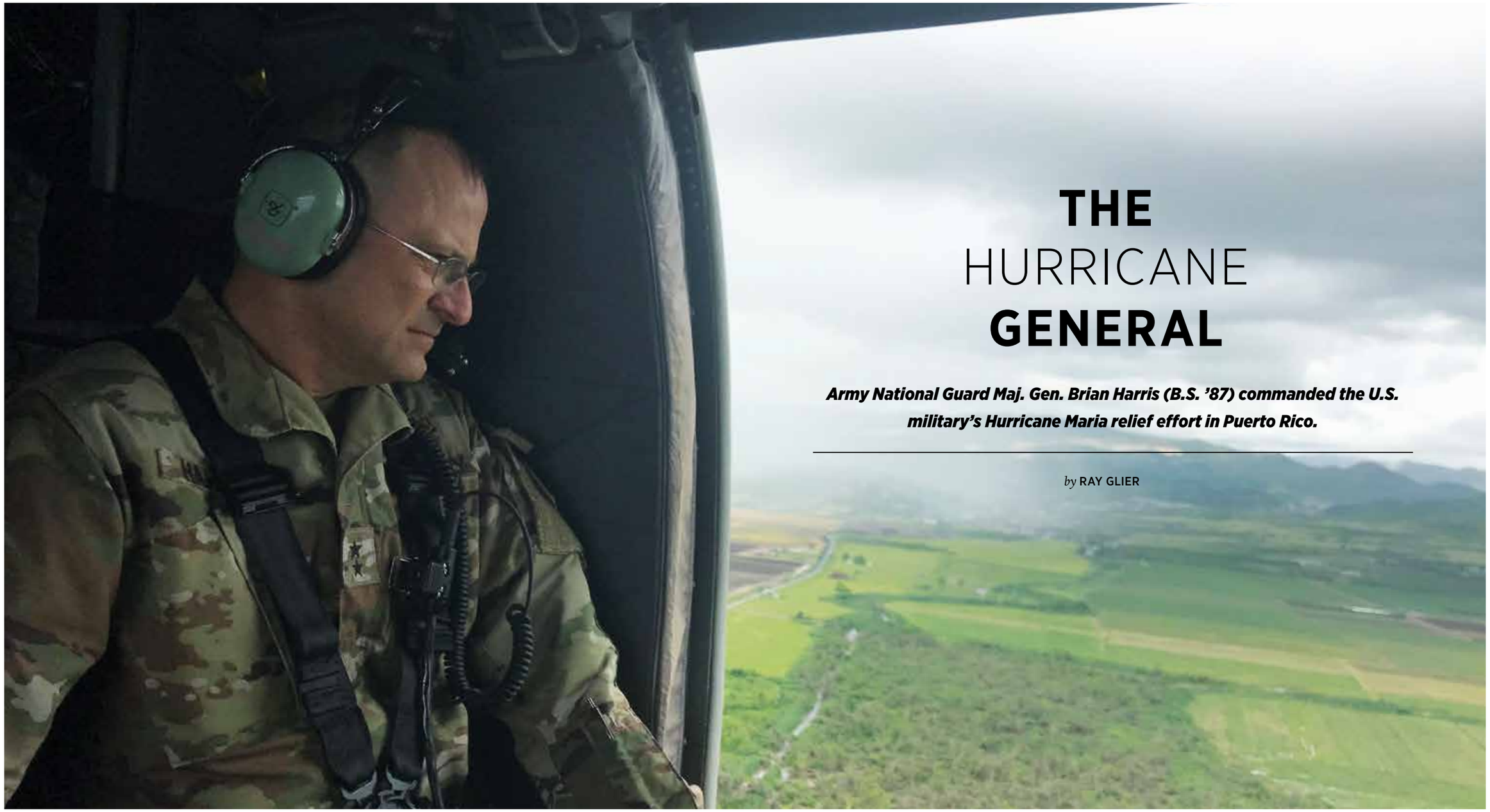
Not surprisingly, drug dealers fight back against this coercive method of getting evidence with a "stop snitchin'" campaign. Retaliatory violence often erupts, and it becomes harder for police to get evidence from both criminal and civic-minded informants who fear reprisals from drug dealers. Anger grows against police who are perceived as not following through on promises to protect witnesses or clean up neighborhoods.

There exists yet another wrinkle in the equation. Reliance on harsh drug sentences and confidential informants has become part and parcel to how other types of criminal cases are solved. Witnesses or persons privy to information in homicide or robbery cases are routinely prodded into cooperating only after they find themselves facing a stiff penalty due to their involvement in an unrelated drug case. Here again, this produces short-term gains but long-term complications for criminal justice authorities as states move to decriminalize or legalize drugs. What happens when prosecutors working violent or property crime cases can no longer rely on the threat of mandatory minimum sentences to compel individuals to provide information?

By exploiting intelligence sources and putting them at risk, the war on drugs has pitted the police against residents in drug-ridden communities. This runs contrary to the ideals of community policing, in which trust and legitimacy are essential to members of the community and law enforcement collaborating to prevent and combat crime.

The past decade has witnessed significant reforms within the criminal justice system, particularly as it relates to drug enforcement. Authorities have sought to integrate a public health approach into the long-standing criminal justice model and adopt a more patient and long-term view on the drug problem. In the end, the reliance on informants and mandatory minimum sentences creates numerous unanticipated negative consequences which will continue to grow if we revert back to them.

Dean A. Dabney is a professor of criminal justice & criminology.



THE HURRICANE GENERAL

Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Brian Harris (B.S. '87) commanded the U.S. military's Hurricane Maria relief effort in Puerto Rico.

by RAY GLIER

When the wind stops and the water is rising, Maj. Gen. Brian Harris (B.S. '87) will have his boots in the muck as the destruction mounts.

Harris specializes in military response to civil emergencies, especially hurricanes. He worked the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in New York and New Jersey, Hurricane Harvey in Houston and Hurricane Irma across the eastern seaboard.

Last October, Harris was deployed to Puerto Rico to support relief efforts after Hurricane Maria crippled the island. A 155 mph Category 5 monster, the storm caused about $100 billion in damage and knocked out power and cell phone service. It was the worst disaster to ever hit the U.S. territory. As of January 2018 — four months after it made landfall — the death toll was still unknown, and more than half of the island was still without power.

Back when Harris, now 53, was studying criminal justice at Georgia State some 30 years ago, his social work professor gave him a piece of advice. As vital as the boots Harris laces up, this advice has ridden with him from war zones in Afghanistan and Iraq to poverty-stricken neighborhoods around Atlanta.

"Dr. Howard told me, 'Always look at things through the eyes of the person you are trying to help,'" Harris says. "That really stuck with me."

As a police officer and a soldier, Harris has been helping people in terrible situations for the last three decades. He's frequently face to face with distressed, angry and despairing people, those who have lost hope entirely.

People can lose everything. Harris understands.

Tested by wars, hurricanes and crime, Harris has fused his doctrine of empathy with the military discipline he first acquired from the Georgia State ROTC. He earned his commission in the Army National Guard in 1984 when he was still a student.

Shortly after graduation, Harris began another career in uniform as a police officer with the DeKalb County Police Department. He was a full-time cop and a part-time Army officer. He excelled at both.

As a cop, he oversaw the Tucker Precinct and led the Special Operations Team for the county until his 2015 retirement. As a soldier, he served two tours of duty in Afghanistan and multiple infantry and armor officer assignments and became a combat adviser to the Afghan army in a region with nine provinces and 9,000 Afghan soldiers.

Harris' ability to channel sternness and empathy at the same time reflects his vast experience as a lawman and infantryman.

"With his demeanor and the way he does things, he was the right guy for this job," says Capt. Jason Mercado, the public relations man for Harris' troops in Puerto Rico.

Mercado is not just some apple polisher for the boss. He's Puerto Rican, and those were his people who were homeless and desperate for assistance from the mainland. Trust was in short supply, and Mercado endorsed Harris to his people.

"He knows people," Mercado says.

Mercado says Harris helped cut through bureaucratic red tape when he took over in Puerto Rico.

"He told us, 'We're here to alleviate human suffering and support the people of Puerto Rico,'" Mercado says. "So when we had a Ford F-350 pickup outside, we didn't wait. We loaded it up with food and water and delivered it to a church, and the church took it up to the mountains."

Harris arrived in Puerto Rico a few weeks after Maria hit, and the island was still reeling. When he took command of 8,618 men and women from his boss, Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, he was given the gargantuan tasks of supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Puerto Rico National Guard.

Harris' troops were from Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and they were dropped on an island reduced to sticks and rubble.

Harris ensured they focused on civilians while President Trump's sound-bite sparring with Puerto Rican leadership dominated headlines.

"We stay above the fray of all the political gnashing of teeth," Harris says. "Our job is to provide services for saving lives and bring comfort to the people of Puerto Rico."

Maj. Gen. Harris in Cayey, Puerto Rico coordinating disaster relief during the Hurricane Maria response.

There are 78 municipalities in Puerto Rico, but the 21 mountainous towns in the center of the island posed the biggest challenges.

"The problem was the storm hit the whole island so hard that a lot of their capabilities were knocked out," Harris says. "We had to help the government of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico National Guard stand up and catch their breath."

Using military helicopters to replace power poles one by one, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had installed about 600 generators by mid-November. One of Harris' jobs was managing the logistics of tons of supplies arriving all at once.

"Everyone threw everything at us," he says, "but there were only two working ports. You can only unload so much at one time. It was like trying to fit a bowling ball down a funnel."

After weeks of structuring and galvanizing the island's relief and rebuilding efforts, Harris turned over control to the Puerto Rico National Guard at the end of November.

Maj. Gen. Harris patrolling a harbor with the U.S. Coast Guard in New York after Hurricane Sandy.

"We stay above the fray of all the political gnashing of teeth. Our job is to provide services for saving lives and bring comfort to the people of Puerto Rico."

In Afghanistan, there were two ways of dealing with insurgents. U.S. troops could overwhelm a village with superior numbers and firepower and question every male walking around. They might find the bad guys, but they'd also offend everyone and pit the whole village against the rude Americans.

"Instead, we'd go talk to the village elders," Harris says. "Then we could isolate the two or three insurgents and pluck them out. That's when they started to have confidence in the American Army."

He used the same tactic when he was put in charge of the Tucker Precinct of the DeKalb County Police Department.

"In the past, when you'd have a spike in robberies, law enforcement would flood the area and lock up everything that moved, and the robberies would go down," Harris says. "A couple of weeks later, of course, the robberies would go back up because you hadn't removed the problem.

"Instead, we started doing more community events and neighborhood watches, and we focused on getting information. It was not about arrests. It was about finding these crews of criminals. We cut crime in half in our precinct."

Harris then took over the department's Special Operations Team, becoming the assistant chief for the whole force. Still, he managed to stay on the street.

"You'd never expect to see an assistant police chief anywhere listening to the radio and jumping in a command car and turning on his lights and siren because he heard an armed robbery go out," says Maj. Scott Gassner, chief of staff for the DeKalb police. "Brian did that. He was a police officer first and a chief second.

"If there was a hot call in his precinct, he was going. If there was a traffic fatality or a bomb threat, he was going. The guy never turned off."

Harris worked the more mundane tasks too, like pulling cars out of ditches during Atlanta's ice storms or getting a water buffalo off a main thoroughfare. He was everywhere.

"When he asked me to come with him over to Special Operations, my only hesitation was if I had enough energy to keep up with him," Gassner says. "That's just the way he is. The man really cares. In our line of work, that's big."

BIG DATA GOES TO SCHOOL

Georgia State University has received $3.9 million to create the Georgia Policy Labs, a collaboration between the Andrew Young School and government leaders to improve academic, career and life outcomes for students across the state.

Led by economist and Distinguished University Professor Tim Sass, the labs will work with school districts and state agencies to identify research priorities, analyze existing policies, design enhanced programs and train public officials how to embed evaluation into decision-making.

The labs, funded by a grant from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, houses two major initiatives: the Metropolitan Atlanta Policy Lab for Education (MAPLE) directed by Sass, and a multi-state Career and Technical Education Policy Exchange (CTEx) directed by assistant professor and economist Dan Kreisman.

For the MAPLE project, Sass is working with five school districts in the metro Atlanta area to use data and analytics to evaluate existing policies and design new initiatives to help area students succeed.

"MAPLE will use cutting-edge research methods to evaluate current policies and determine potential new policy initiatives to improve outcomes such as attendance, discipline, test scores and graduation rates," he said. "Our goal is to reduce dropout rates, increase post-secondary enrollment and give all students the opportunity to live productive, successful lives."

CTEx, the second initiative, is focused on career and technical education (CTE). In partnership with school districts in Atlanta, CTE systems in Arkansas, Tennessee and Michigan, and researchers from the University of Connecticut, the University of Tennessee and the University of Michigan, CTEx will analyze the impact of CTE programs and share their findings with policymakers across the country.

Kreisman was also recently awarded a $400,000 grant from the Smith Richardson Foundation for his research project, "Are Schools Building a Skilled Workforce?" Sass received another grant of nearly $112,000 from the National Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research for his research.

BURNING BRIGHT™

THE CAMPAIGN FOR GEORGIA STATE

AYS BETTERS BURNING BRIGHT GOAL

GEORGIA STATE GOAL

$300 MILLION

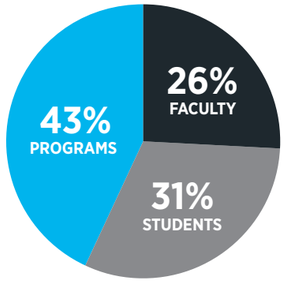
AYS GOAL / RAISED*

$10 MILLION / $12.4 MILLION

 # OF GIFTS* / % OF GOAL*

6,820/124

WHERE THE MONEY GOES



AYS ENROLLMENT

2,200

AYS SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED ANNUALLY

40

To learn more about Andrew Young School giving opportunities, contact Amanda Puche at ***awatkins9@gsu.edu***.

* As of 1/22/2018

AWARDS, HONORS & PUBLICATIONS

Professor **James C. Cox**, the Noah Langdale Jr. Chair in Economics and director of the Experimental Economics Center (ExCEN), was appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Public Finance Review*. **Cox**, **Vjollca Sadiraj** and Ulrich Schmidt (University of Kiel) were named the Economic Science Association Editor's Award Winner for 2015 for "Paradoxes and Mechanisms for Choice under Risk" (*Experimental Economics*).

The Phi Beta Kappa Society selected professor **Paula Stephan** to be a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar for the 2018-19 academic year.

Assistant professor **David Iwaniec** joined the 2018 Governing Board of Cities and Climate, making the **Urban Studies Institute** a recognized partner of the Cities and Climate Conference.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police appointed Professor Emeritus **Robert Friedmann** co-chair of the Community Policing Committee.

Assistant professor **Kristie Seelman** and **Mary Beth Walker**, associate provost for strategic initiatives and innovation, received the Council on Social Work Education's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression Scholarship Award for their paper, "Do Anti-Bullying Laws Reduce in-School Victimization for LGBQ Youth?" **Seelman** published "The Apparatus of Social Reproduction: Uncovering the Work Functions of Transgender Women" in *Affilia* in January.

Assistant professor **Mirae Kim** was awarded the inaugural Createquity Arts Research Prize for her study, "Characteristics of Civically Engaged Nonprofit Arts Organizations: The Results of a National Survey."

Georgia State University named clinical associate professor **Glen Ross** the 2017 Study Abroad Program Director of the Year.

David Garcia (M.P.A., CNP) was invited to join the national board for the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance. Garcia is City Impact Manager – Atlanta for The Mission Continues.

Professor **Bruce Kaufman** published "How Capitalism Endogenously Creates Rising Income Inequality and Economic Crisis: The Macro Political Economy Model of Early Industrial Relations" in *Industrial Relations*.

Professor **Dean Dabney**, Brent Teasdale (Illinois State), assistant professor **Glen A. Ishoy**, Ph.D. candidate **Taylor Gann** and Bonnie Berry (Social Problems Research Group) published "Policing in a Largely Minority Jurisdiction: The Influence of Appearance Characteristics Associated with Contemporary Hip-Hop Culture on Police Decision-Making" in *Justice Quarterly*.

Professor **Gregory Lewis**, Ph.D. candidate **Rahul Pathak** and visiting lecturer **Jonathan R. Boyd** (M.P.P. & Ph.D. in Public Policy) published "Progress toward Pay Equity in State Governments?" in *Public Administration Review*.

Clinical assistant professor **Lorenzo Almada** published "It's a Cruel Summer: Household Responses to Reductions in Government Nutrition Assistance" in the *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*.

Assistant professor **Michael Pesko** published "The Effect of E-Cigarette Indoor Vaping Restrictions on Adult Prenatal Smoking and Birth Outcomes" in the *Journal of Health Economics*.

Assistant professor **Jonathan Smith** published "Updating Human Capital Decisions: Evidence from SAT Score Shocks and College Applications" in the *Journal of Labor Economics*.

JOIN US AS WE MAKE POLICY HAPPEN

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