FEATURES

1  Dean's Corner

2  Global GSPIA and the New China Connection
   Students Benefit from International Degree Programs,
   International Students and International Partnerships

4  G-20 Summit Brings Classroom Discussions to Life
   GSPIA Students, Faculty and Alumni Played Key Roles

6  G-20 Summit Student Experiences

8  Alumni Awards

DEPARTMENTS

School News
11  GSPIA Hosts International Political Economy Colloquium
12  Roscoe Robinson Lecture Highlights Diversity in Public Service
13  GSPIA Explores the Future of Philanthropy in Uncertain Times
14  Elected Officials Share Experience with Fellow Students

Center News
15  Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership
16  Innovation Clinic
18  Center for Disaster Management
19  Ford Institute for Human Security
20  Ridgeway Center

22  Student Experiences

26  Faculty News

28  Giving

30  GSPIA Celebrates 2010 Graduation

34  Class Notes

CONTRIBUTORS

John T.S. Keeler
Dean

William Dunn
Associate Dean

Harold Aughton, Editor
Director of Communications

Jacki Chura, MPIA 10'
Associate Editor

Christine Waller
Writer

Lorraine Keeler
Writer

PHOTOGRAPHY

Harold Aughton
Louise Comfort
Alexander Denmarsh
Dan Thompson

Cover Image: (from left to right) Qing Hu, Jinghan Zheng, Yifeng Yu
This issue of GSPIA Perspectives chronicles an unusually exciting year for our School and our city. For a few days in the fall the center of global gravity shifted to Pittsburgh for the G-20 Summit. President Obama hosted a formal dinner for world leaders just down the street at the Phipps Conservatory. Chancellor Mark Nordenberg awarded an honorary GSPIA doctorate to Manuel Barrasso, President of the European Commission. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev engaged in a lively discussion with an audience—including a contingent from GSPIA—in the Cathedral of Learning on the 50th anniversary of Nikita Khruschev’s visit to Pitt. And many of our students, led by Mila Sanina, participated in an innovative forum—“Voices of 21”—on our website to analyze and debate the meaning of the Pittsburgh summit. As President Obama reiterated throughout the meetings of September, Pittsburgh served as an inspirational setting given its record of resilience and renaissance in the face of economic challenges.

Last year I noted that the global economic crisis had a positive flipside for those of us who study public and international affairs: the stakes of governmental decision-making had never seemed higher and there was a renewed sense in the corridors of the School that our country needed “the best and the brightest” to step up and serve. The last few months have provided impressive evidence of this enhanced attraction to public service at the federal level—and of the extraordinary quality of our students. Many more GSPIA students entered the Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) competition this year than last year, and GSPIA ranked #12 among all policy schools in the number of students designated as finalists. By all accounts, our D.C. Center has served to encourage students to consider launching careers in the nation’s capital and our Washington-based Associate Director of Career Services, Jessica Hatherill, has done an excellent job of preparing students for the PMF competition as well as job hunting within the beltway.

As a comprehensive school, GSPIA remains committed to preparing students for careers at the local level as well and to directing faculty resources toward the resolution of dilemmas faced by city governments. Our Board of Visitors Chair, former Pennsylvania Governor Dick Thornburgh, stressed the importance of this dimension at our Board meeting in April. In this context, one of the most gratifying developments at the School this year has been the resounding success of Professor David Miller’s CONNECT project designed to enhance functional collaboration among government officials in Pittsburgh and its 35 contiguous communities. Housed within our Innovation Clinic and funded by six different foundations, CONNECT now has its own staff and, supported by a large contingent of students, is making news on a regular basis with its efforts to promote outside-the-box thinking on how best to address new urban challenges.

The cover story of this issue highlights the extent to which GSPIA, while retaining its important role within our region, has steadily become more globally focused and connected. New partnerships with universities in Japan, China, Indonesia and Australia have enhanced opportunities for our students at the same time that an influx of international students—especially from China—has provided new perspectives on a host of issues within our classroom and research centers. We are proud that GSPIA offers an increasing vibrant intellectual experience for our students, and that this fact has been recognized around the country and the world to such an extent that we set an all-time record this year for applications to our programs. On behalf of all of our current students, faculty and staff I would like to thank our 7,000 alumni who have made this possible both by demonstrating the value of a GSPIA education and by promoting the School through their networking, donations and moral support.

Sincerely yours,

John T.S. Keeler, Dean
Global GSPIA and the New China Connection

School Benefits from International Degree Programs, International Students and International Partnerships

GSPIA has had a substantial global dimension since its establishment more than fifty years ago. At a time when many public affairs and policy schools offered only the traditional MPA, founding Dean Donald Stone included a Masters of Public and International Affairs (MPIA) in the initial strategic plan for the school launched at Pitt in 1958. More MPIAs than MPAs were graduated for the first time in 1964, and the MPIA was also the predominant degree awarded from 1968 to 1970. However, for most of GSPIA’s first three decades the more domestically oriented MPA was the school’s most popular masters program; indeed, in the late 1970s, when the Masters of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) featured strong enrollments along with the MPA program, the MPIA accounted for only about 20% of masters degrees awarded.

Over the past two decades, however, GSPIA has steadily become more and more globally oriented. Since 1991 the MPIA has been the most popular degree option every year, and the new millennium brought the launch of the Masters of International Development (MID) program along with the phasing out of the MURP program. Successive deans have steadily shifted resources, especially new faculty positions, to the international degree programs so as to meet rising student demand for courses on every dimension of global affairs. As of this academic year, the School’s enrollment profile is essentially the opposite of the one witnessed thirty years ago: now nearly 80% of new students in two-year masters programs opt for the MPIA or its popular complement, the MID. Our new Board of Visitors includes three international alumni for the first time in the School’s history, and this year’s graduation speech will be delivered by one of the most distinguished among them: Shin-Bok Kim, now the Provost of Seoul National University in Korea. In short, the school has truly become Global GSPIA.

In this context, aside from adding courses taught in Pittsburgh, two other steps have been taken over the past few years to enrich the educational experience of our students. First, we have taken the lead role in launching a University of Pittsburgh Washington Center from which D.C.-based adjunct
professors with international expertise—for example, officials at the State Department and the Pentagon, often GSPIA alumni—can offer courses via video-conference. Second, we have engaged in a concerted effort to expand GSPIA’s partnerships with leading universities abroad.

In Europe, we now offer students the opportunity to earn an International Organizations MBA at the University of Geneva along with a GSPIA degree or to fulfill the internship requirement through participation in an innovative EU Studies summer program at the Free University of Brussels that enables students to interact with a wide range of European officials.

In Asia and the Pacific, we now offer students the chance to spend a term studying at the Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies in Kobe, Japan and we have just completed agreements that will provide similar opportunities in Australia (at Australian National University’s College of Asia and the Pacific), China (at Nanjing University’s School of Government) and Indonesia (at Gadjah Mada University’s School of Public Policy). Plans are now being made to establish comparable partnerships in South America and Africa over the next few years.

Our new connection with China is especially important at this juncture, not just because of China’s recent emergence as a mega-player on the global chessboard, but also due to the dramatic increase in China’s presence at GSPIA and Pitt more broadly. Just three years ago only 25 Chinese students applied to GSPIA. By 2010 applications from China had more than quadrupled: 104 Chinese students applied, fully 45% of all international applicants. We now have 14 Chinese students at GSPIA, many playing leadership roles in student organizations and others collaborating with faculty on research projects in a variety of issue areas. The chances are that more than 20 will be with us next year. In April leading specialists on disaster management from Nanjing participated in an international conference organized by Professor Louise Comfort; several visiting doctoral students from China will be working with Comfort next year at our Center for Disaster Management. Meanwhile, the University is now housing a Confucius Institute with ties to the university in Wuhan, Pittsburgh’s sister city, and the Provost has appointed a working group to make plans for opening a Pitt office in China. In many respects, therefore, the China connection—and GSPIA’s global role—can be expected to become even more important over the next decade.

"I think that GSPIA’s courses are very flexible, you can select not only courses from the program, but also other departments within the University."
- Fangzhi Ye

"The professors here are all very advanced and want to interact with students. They don’t just use textbooks; they encourage us to go out into society to investigate for ourselves."
- Chencheng Tang
G-20 Summit Brings Classroom Discussions to Life

GSPIA Students, Faculty and Alumni Played Key Roles

It’s not uncommon, particularly in a leading graduate school of public and international affairs, for the day-to-day classroom discourse to focus on policies made by world leaders. When leaders from twenty of the largest economies in the world decided to hold their annual summit in Pittsburgh, classroom discussions quickly turned into an opportunity for students to witness world leadership firsthand and participate in the broader global discussion. GSPIA students, faculty and alumni also played key roles throughout the G-20 Summit—acting as journalists, analysts, tour guides and translators.

Students formed a group, Voices of 21, representing the 21st voice at the summit. They wrote commentary, conducted interviews with faculty members (Dr. Carolyn Ban, Dr. Michael Brenner, Dr. Kathy Buechel, Dr. Jonathan Harris, Dr. David Miller, Dr. Tom Rawski, Dr. Nita Rudra and Dr. Alberta Sbragia) and developed news stories for GSPIA’s Web site. The project resulted in more than 4,000 visits to the site and special recognition by the U.S. Department of State, which featured the group’s work on the official G-20 Web site.

Three of GSPIA’s Chinese students worked with China’s delegation. A student from Brazil represented her home country and another GSPIA student had the opportunity to expand his internship experience while working for the City of Pittsburgh’s Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Office. Read more on the following pages about their experiences in their own words.
Dr. Louis Picard, professor of development at GSPIA, moderated a panel discussion on September 23. “The G-20 and Global Development,” featuring a number of policy experts from the Center for Global Development, ONE, African Development Group, and The Lindsey Group, weighed in on issues pertaining to the G-20 agenda, particularly related to Africa. Some panel participants focused on the role of development assistance programs offered by the G-20 and the G-20’s inability to cope with global challenges. Others stressed the importance of including African states in the summit—even holding a future meeting on the continent.

Dr. Carolyn Ban’s Managing International Organizations class welcomed a member of the European Union’s (EU) delegation to the G-20. Deputy Spokesman for the European Commission Delegation to the United States, Mattias Sundholm, discussed the EU’s history and evolution, its role in the summit and its opportunities and challenges. He also spoke about mutual investments between the U.S. and EU—the nations’ equal annual contributions to the United Nations—and G-20 diplomatic strategy toward the United States.

Bryan Marcus (MPIA ’02), a Foreign Service officer who manages the Belgium and Netherlands desk at the U.S. Department of State, was one of several alumni who returned to Pittsburgh to staff the summit. Marcus works with many GSPIA alumni at the department and is “amazed at how often Pittsburgh is mentioned in the Foreign Service.” He experienced a career high on this recent visit serving as the logistics coordinator for Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende and his staff.

University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg conferred an honorary doctoral degree in public and international affairs upon José Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission of the European Union (EU), on September 24. Barroso’s visit, which coincided with the global G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh, marked his second to the University.

Barroso stressed the importance of building bridges between Europe and the United States noting the “City of Bridges” as a great starting place. His three key messages to Pittsburgh: G-20 leaders must remain vigilant regarding the “fragile” global economic and financial situation, maintain pressure for reform of financial markets, and retain the “momentum of the G-20.” He also called for the U.S. and EU to work more closely to fight climate change.

The EU leader’s affection for the University and Pittsburgh was apparent. “Pittsburgh has been transformed by stressing the importance of new technologies, particularly information technology; medical research; biotechnology; nanotechnology; and robotics. The University—led with great skill and vision by Chancellor Nordenberg—has played a vital role in that effort, positioning Pittsburgh to capitalize on the knowledge societies of the future,” Barroso said.

Barroso also praised Pitt’s European Union Center of Excellence and its director, Professor Alberta Sbragia, calling her, “one of the most-respected scholars of the EU in the world.” He referred to the center as “a remarkable program that plays a leading role among the broader network of Centers of Excellence in the United States.”

The European Union Center of Excellence and European Studies Center are part of the University Center for International Studies (UCIS). The European Union Center of Excellence is one of only 11 centers in the United States to be recognized as an exemplary international studies program by the European Commission. The European Studies Center has been designated as a National Resource Center by the U.S. Department of Education.

ABOUT THE EU:
• Represents 27 European nations with a population of almost 500 million.
• Accounts for more than 30 percent of the world’s gross domestic product and 17 percent of the world’s trade.
• The European Commission, its executive branch headquartered in Brussels, proposes legislation and promotes its common interests.

ABOUT PRESIDENT BARROSO: José Manuel Barroso entered the Portuguese Parliament in 1985 and was elected prime minister of Portugal in 2002, serving until 2004 when he was appointed president of the European Commission. Barroso, who earned a master’s degree in political science at the University of Geneva and was a visiting professor in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, is the author of numerous publications and holds more than 20 decorations. In March 2010, the European Parliament approved his appointment as European Commission president for a second term.
Yifeng Yu

During the G-20, I volunteered at Media Welcome Center distributing information to journalists. I met reporters from CCTV, the leading national TV station in China, as well as journalists from Xinhua News Agent, the top national news agent in China. Since I majored in journalism in China, I also helped the Chinese Foreign Ministry Information Department translate English news into Chinese and briefed foreign journalists for news briefings.

The G-20 kept many too busy to see all the sites Pittsburgh has to offer, but I helped familiarize them with the area and convinced them to return for a future visit. I’m thrilled that such a big event was held in Pittsburgh and that I could contribute to hosting and helping guests from all over the world. Volunteering at the G-20 Summit made me proud to be a Pittsburgher and a GSPIA student.

Chenchen Tang

After a long series of training seminars and preparation, I started my first day volunteering for the G-20 Summit at the Welcome Desk Center in the Regional Enterprise Tower. The Pittsburgh G-20 Partnership gave each volunteer a special uniform with a green G-20 logo and a name tag. The most impressionable sight at the event was a blind woman speaking eight different languages. When I saw the eight flags on her name tag (each flag denoting her fluency in a language), I suddenly became aware of how great an opportunity it was to work with such talented people.

My most exciting experience was a conversation with General Hongfu Li of the Central Guard Bureau in China and other Chinese government officials. They were glad to see so many Chinese students taking an active role in the summit, were interested in learning more about student life in Pittsburgh and asked many questions related to the city’s history. I was proud to represent both GSPIA and my country in such a diverse forum. The G-20 Summit is one of the most unforgettable experiences of my GSPIA career.
Kerley Tolpolar

I began volunteering at the G-20 Partnership's Welcome Center in the Regional Enterprise Tower. My first mission was to walk with four other volunteers, some of them Pitt students, and try to break through one of the many checkpoints to get to the Westin Hotel, where they would work as attachés. After several hours, we were finally authorized to enter. The hotel's main hall was packed with a staff delegation members, their security personnel and the American security forces, including Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams—ingredients of an international affairs student's favorite environment.

On my way to the Sheraon the following day, I witnessed the protester's march. Although the images shown on TV portrayed a hostile environment, that was not what I felt walking past fences and barricades. For a Brazilian, used to a messy and violent reality, the streets of Pittsburgh felt safe and the policemen cordial. Once I reached the hotel, I joined other Brazilian volunteers anxiously waiting for a chance to see President Lula before he departed. He shook our hands and took time to pose for a picture. In seconds he was gone, perhaps like the G-20 Summit itself. In less than 48 hours, world leaders came and went, and changed Pittsburgh forever, just like the summit changed me.

Brian Bauer

I began an internship this year with the City of Pittsburgh’s Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Office. Leading up to the G-20 summit, I assisted other members of my office in reviewing “All-Hazard Plans” for various buildings and businesses hosting events.

During the summit, I worked at the Operational Support Unit (OSU) attached to the Multiple Agency Command Center (MACC) where my responsibilities and duties included monitoring potential threats, conducting situational and threat analysis, receiving logistical requests and monitoring surveillance systems. To work during a high profile event such as the G-20 has been a life altering experience giving me a true insiders’ view to how governmental agencies work together. I had an excellent opportunity to network with representatives from the Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Marshals Service, North American Aerospace Defense Command, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, National Counterterrorism Center, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Weather Service, several White House offices, and all of the various departments and agencies from the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania!
At the 2009 Alumni Awards Ceremony, GSPIA awarded the following individuals (from left to right): Buba Misawa, Dave Coplan, Tony Accamando, Dan Flaherty, Cathleen Laporte, (seated) Cheryle Campbell and Marshall Bond. Also pictured (standing third from left): Dean John Keeler.

Marshall Bond, MPA ’69, has served as Municipal Manager of Monroeville, PA, for 22 years. He previously worked for the Pittsburgh High Technology Council, the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce and Hampton Township. Bond is an International City/County Management Association credentialed manager, past president of the Association of Pennsylvania Municipal Management and the Monroeville Rotary Club, and Leadership Pittsburgh alumnus. He is a GSPIA Board of Visitors Member and represents the school on the Pitt Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Cheryle Campbell, MPA ’76, is Director of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Pittsburgh Field Office, where she has worked since 1972. She was previously employed by Lawrence County and Westinghouse Electric Corporation. She served as chair of the Federal Executive Board of Greater Pittsburgh and was honored by her peers as a three-time recipient of the Excellence in Government Award and 1997 Woman of the Year. She is a member of the University of Pittsburgh chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha, the national honor society for public administration, and the GSPIA Board of Visitors.

ALUMNI AWARDS

Recognizing distinguished individuals whose outstanding professional accomplishments bring honor to GSPIA and make them inspired role models to students
Dr. Sofian Effendi, MPIA '75, PhD '78, currently serves as a Decentralization Senior Advisor to UNDP Indonesia and is a GSPIA Board of Visitors Member. He was founding director of the Gadjah Madah University (UGM) Graduate School of Public Policy and Administration and later served as President of UGM. He has also held several high-level government positions, including Assistant Minister of State for Science and Technology, Executive Secretary of the National Research Council, Assistant Secretary of State for Policy Coordination and Evaluation and Chairman of the National Civil Service Commission of Indonesia.

Dr. Shin-Bok Kim, MPIA '72, is Vice President of Seoul National University (Republic of Korea), where he previously served as Dean of Academic Affairs and Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Public Administration. His government appointments include Vice Minister, Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development, and memberships on the Prime Minister’s Policy Evaluation Council and the Presidential Commission on Education Reform. Kim is past President of several Korean professional associations, and current Kyungwon University Foundation Chair and GSPIA Board of Visitors Member. He twice received the Order of Merit from the president and a 2008 GSPIA International Public Service Award.

Ambassador Donald Mahley, MPIA ’71, is the acting deputy assistant secretary for threat reduction, export controls, and negotia¬tions, U.S. Department of State. He is the Department’s former deputy assistant secretary for arms control implementation and special negotiator for chemical and biological arms control issues. Mahley heads the U.S. delegation to Biological Weapons Convention activities and is managing director of the United States National Authority for implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Earlier in his career, Mahley served as deputy assistant director for multilateral affairs at the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (6 yrs.), director of defense policy and arms control on the National Security Council (6 yrs.), and deputy director of defense plans for the U.S. Ambassador to NATO (4 yrs). He retired from the Army in 1992 with the rank of First Lieutenant. Mahley has taught at the National War College and West Point, spoken widely about arms control issues, and testified before Congress on numerous occasions.

Anthony Accamando Jr., MPIA ’71, is a retired communications executive, Vietnam veteran and activist for those affected by the Vietnam War. He is the co-founder of Friends of Danang, a Pittsburgh-based volunteer organization that raises money to support humanitarian projects in the city of Danang, Vietnam. He held several management positions with Adelphia Communications Corporation, most recently, as vice president of public and community affairs, and received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army in the rank of First Lieutenant.

A Distinguished Alumnus Award was bestowed to Dr. Shin-Bok Kim, Executive Vice President and Provost of Seoul National University, during the 2010 Graduation ceremony.
Dr. Buba Misawa, MPIA ‘85, is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Washington & Jefferson College, Faculty Director of the Keystone Study Away Consortium and President of the Consortium for Educational Resources on Islamic Studies based at the University of Pittsburgh. He has taught for Pitt's Department of Africana Studies, the University of Maiduguri (Nigeria), and the Saint Mary's University (Canada) Extension Program in Banjul, Gambia. He is the author of several journal and newspaper articles and is currently working on a book about West African conflict and security.

Alumni aged forty years or less who, through professional accomplishments and public service, have demonstrated the potential to become leaders in their chosen area of public and international affairs

Ehaab Abdou, MID ‘06
- Co-founder and Board Member, Nahdet El Mahrous and the Egyptian Federation of Youth NGOs in Cairo, Egypt
- Middle East Youth Initiative Advisor, Wolfensohn Center for Development Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

David Coplan, MPA/MSW ’93
- Executive Director, Human Services Center Corporation
- Director, Mon Valley Providers Council in Turtle Creek, PA

Daniel Flaherty, MPIA ’99
- Analyst, Bureau of Intelligence and Research U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C.

Cathleen Laporte, MPIA ’99
- Founder and President, Athletes for Charity in New York, NY

To learn more about GSPIA's alumni awards program or submit a nomination, visit www.gspia.pitt.edu/alumni.aspx
The first International Political Economy Colloquium (IPEC), “Globalization and Natural Resources,” was held in Phipps Conservatory on March 26. Prominent IPE scholars presented their work on natural resources. Erik Wibbels, Benjamin Cohen, Ronald Rogowski, Michael Tomz, Peter Rosendorff and James Caporaso served as discussants.

Submitted papers focused on the economic natural resource curse, the political natural resource curse and the relationship between natural resources and conflict. Many of the papers questioned the assumption that the level of natural resources in any country is determined exogenously and explored ways in which states can manage resources more productively. The relationships between international trade, human capital, conflict, domestic institutions and natural resources were also analyzed and discussed.

The authors highlighted differing causal paths and mechanisms in their analyses on natural resources and international and domestic factors. While many studies have explained how natural resources lead to war, Sara McLaughlin Mitchell and Cameron Thies presented Resource Curse in Reverse: How Civil Wars Influence Natural Resource Production. They found that civil war leads to a decline in oil exports and fisheries, but an increase in diamond export.

Nancy Bruné’s Openness and Natural Resource Management, Irfan Nooruddin’s Banking on Oil: The World Bank’s Role in Promoting Natural Resource Exploitation, Johannnes Urpelainen’s Environmental Regulation in the Shadow of International Trade Law and Nita Rudra’s Can Preferential Trade Agreements Save Lives? Openness and the Politics of Potable Water highlighted the role of international institutions and factors in natural resource availability, quality and production. Brune examined how international integration affects natural resource management while Rudra analyzed how trade affects access to potable water. Brune found financial integration to have a positive impact on growth in resource rich countries. Rudra concluded that participation in preferential trade agreements improve access to water in developing countries through information sharing and enforcement. Urpelainen developed a theory that challenges the conventional wisdom that international trade institutions constrain domestic institutions from enacting regulations. He showed that international trade agreements are associated with domestic environmental regulations. Nooruddin cited a case study of the World Bank’s oil exploration projects during the 1980s to show how critical the World Bank is in providing information, technology and credibility in the search and extraction of natural resources.

David Bearce and Jen Laks’ Towards an Alternative Explanation for the Resource Curse: Natural Resources, Immigration, and Democratization and Nathan Jensen and Noel Johnston’s Political Risk, Reputation, and the Resource Curse focused on domestic conditions and outcomes. Bearce and Laks questioned why many natural resource rich countries are dictatorships. They highlighted the role of immigration in delaying democracy and decreasing the cost of repression. Instead of a political resource curse, they proposed a political immigration curse. Jensen and Johnston explained that natural resource rents both increase the risk of expropriation and increase the incentive of governments to offer tax concessions to attract industry.

Finally, Sarah Brooks and Marcus Kurtz presented Endogenous Natural Resource Endowments: Rethinking the Political Resource Curse, which draws attention to the endogenous nature of natural resources. The growth of natural resources depends on human capital and natural resources endogenous to human capital. Therefore, two equilibriums result: high growth, available natural resources and good institutions; and slow growth, declining natural resources and poor institutions.

Future work will focus on addressing discussants’ and participants’ questions, comments and concerns. In addition, the participants hope to collaborate further in developing the study of natural resources within international political economy.
Roscoe Robinson Lecture Highlights
Diversity in Public Service

In March 2009, GSPIA dedicated one of its classrooms in honor of a school alum and national hero: General Roscoe Robinson Jr., MPIA ’64. Robinson is remembered for his dedication to public service and leadership in promoting diversity. GSPIA continues to honor this influential leader by encouraging others to speak about their own experience with diversity issues.

During the 2009-2010 academic year, GSPIA welcomed two alumni to speak as part of the Roscoe Robinson Jr. Memorial Lecture Series. In December 2009, Eugene Harris, MPA ’69, discussed some of the challenges and opportunities organizations face when implementing diversity programs. Harris, who currently serves as a professional human resource specialist, engaged audience members to weigh in on several of these issues.

As a human resource director for U.S. Steel and later the Allegheny Bar Association, Harris has served in various roles that have shaped successful diversity programs in businesses and organizations in Pittsburgh. He is currently providing organizational guidance on how to handle conflict resulting from diversity management issues.

“Diversity is like any other organizational strategy,” Harris noted. He explained that future leaders must find creative ways to implement diversification programs that strengthen institutional goals and strategies.

Pennsylvania State Representative Jake Wheatley, MPA ’00, of the 19th Legislative District spoke to GSPIA students and faculty in January 2010 as part of the series. Wheatley is the majority chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and the majority chairman of the Health and Human Services Subcommittee on Health.

“At GSPIA, I learned that whatever we do is supposed to further our service to the public,” Wheatley said in his opening remarks. His experience representing the Hill District in Pittsburgh has also taught him about the local and national challenges the U.S. faces in terms of making the public sector more inclusive.

“The diversity question is a major issue for this city and region,” Wheatley said. “And the more diverse we become in government, the more access we’ll have to a global world that is increasingly small. But this process has its own challenges.”

Wheatley began his career in politics working for a Pittsburgh City Council Member and made sure to inundate himself with local culture through volunteer work. As a result of his experience, he believes, “To get past all of the ‘isms’ [referring to diversity labels and stereotypes], we have to start understanding other people’s perspectives.” With this in mind, he said, “There’s no problem or challenge that we cannot solve.”

Eugene Harris, MPA ’69 (right) and Dr. Harvey White (left) discussed the impact of diversity programs in the workplace during the first Roscoe Robinson Memorial Lecture on Diversity and Public Service.
GSPIA Explores the Future of Philanthropy in Uncertain Times

The concept, and practice, of philanthropy is ever-changing and economic trends—especially in today’s uncertain economic climate—have affected the way many organizations give and receive funding for charitable projects around the world. GSPIA’s Philanthropy Forum has helped to explore some of these issues by creating a university-based environment that analyzes some of philanthropy’s biggest challenges.

“One of the principle ways that the Philanthropy Forum helps to build student leaders at GSPIA is by bringing in speakers to help us think through the future of philanthropy in uncertain times,” said Kathleen Buechel, director of the Philanthropy Forum and senior lecturer at GSPIA.

During the past academic year, the Philanthropy Forum has given students access to important international figures in the field of philanthropy. Each speaker shared a unique perspective to explore the topic of philanthropy beyond the traditional debate.

In December 2009, Jaqueline Novogratz, CEO of the Acumen Fund, discussed the philanthropic approach she applies in her global nonprofit venture. The Acumen Fund is a social investment firm that relies on the savvy of entrepreneurs to solve the problems of global poverty.

“Tremendous wealth is being created in the world today thanks to globalization and the power of technology and markets,” Novogratz said. “Yet there is a growing gap between rich and poor. Something must be done to extend the benefits of the global economy to the majority of the world’s population that lives on less than four dollars a day.”

Novogratz challenged students to consider a new development paradigm that focuses on supporting entrepreneurs who are working to make critical services like water, health, housing and energy more affordable for the world’s poor.

“Jaqueline Novogratz encouraged us to consider the use of philanthropic capital from a business perspective,” said Buechel, “and to move beyond traditional grant making to creating goods and services for the poorest people.”

“The Philanthropy Forum examines the innovations and implications arising from the field,” Buechel said.

In support of this objective, Michael Dahl, managing director and general counsel for Pew Charitable Trusts, spoke at GSPIA in March.

“Michael Dahl broadened our notion of philanthropy achieving more goals through public charity status,” Buechel said. “His message raised questions about the possibility that private foundations may be somewhat restrictive for the aspirations of philanthropy in our world today.”

Dahl described his experiences with Pew Charitable Trusts as the organization was converted from a private foundation to a public charity.

“A third and complementary topic we examined is how strategy can help foundations achieve greater social impact,” Buechel said.

This topic was addressed through a lecture from Paul Brest, president of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The Hewlett Foundation is tackling some of the toughest issues in philanthropy, like how to mitigate climate change. Brest argued that the uncertainty produced by today’s economic climate makes it more important than ever to focus on a few key elements of philanthropic strategy.

“For a goal or any strategy to be effective it must be based on a sound theory for change,” Brest said. He stressed the importance of tracking the results of strategy. “It’s not enough to identify a problem and propose a goal to solve it. You have to see where your strategy leads you,” said Brest.

“These lectures acquaint GSPIA students with people and organizations that are at the forefront of how philanthropy is moving beyond typical tools in achieving their goals,” Buechel said.

Other core activities of the Forum include a graduate level course, “Matching Money and Mission: Philanthropy and Society” taught by Buechel and the Student Philanthropy Project under the direction of GSPIA professor George Dougherty. In the Project, students gain hands-on experience with proposal writing and grant-making. This fall, students will participate in the culmination of a Philanthropy Forum research project that traces the history of philanthropy in Pittsburgh.

“Philanthropy is going to be a part of the business, public and NGO sectors,” said Buechel. “The Philanthropy Forum is helping our students gain the knowledge they’ll need to work more effectively in the long run.”
Elected Officials Share Experience with Fellow Students

Each year GSPIA prepares hundreds of young people to embark on new careers in the public, nonprofit and private sectors. But now, the student landscape is changing slightly as seasoned professionals enter the program, bringing years of community leadership experience to the classroom.

One such leader is Pittsburgh City Councilman, Bill Peduto. He is working on a Master of Public Policy & Management (MPPM) while also serving his second term as chair of the City’s Committee on Finance and Law.

Peduto said that for years he rarely thought about going back to school. “Then it became apparent,” he said, “that if I wanted to use what I’ve learned throughout 20 years of political experience, it was necessary to combine it with a master’s degree.”

“I’ve found perfect synergies between the classroom and my job,” he added. “Next week in class I’ll deliver a final presentation on my plan to create an LED energy-efficient lighting system in the City of Pittsburgh. Then I’ll modify this same presentation for public forums.”

Since his early 20s, Peduto has served in a number of political positions—on Capitol Hill as a campaign manager, as political director for a Pennsylvania State Governor and as a political consultant. Peduto believes that GSPIA is not only great training for his career in politics but also for positions beyond the public sector.

Dave Miller, director of the MPA program at GSPIA, realizes the importance of having elected officials in class. “They bring invaluable real-life experiences providing perfect case studies for younger students to learn from.”

Eloise Peet is another elected official who chose to study Public Policy and Management at GSPIA. She is serving her final term as a North Hills School Board Member. “I come to GSPIA with a background in neuroscience—and believe it or not, there’s a natural progression between neuroscience and GSPIA. Public policy, after all, is a science. And science has helped me to focus on the right questions as a public servant.”

Peet’s years as a School Board Member have convinced her that public servants must pursue ongoing training. “Well-meaning elected officials serve a noble cause, but when all is said and done, every one of us should know how to read a budget sheet.”

Beaver County Commissioner Charles Camp (MPPM ’10) also decided to return to school after years of public service. “The training I’m receiving at GSPIA is state-of-the-art. It’s been great for me and great for the people I serve,” said Camp.

One of Camp’s recent projects as County Commissioner has been to set up a new 911 emergency call center. Camp said that his on-the-job experience provides insights into how public policy operates. “GSPIA has taught me certain analytical techniques and decision making processes that have given my policy arguments more credibility,” he explained.

When asked about his interaction with younger students in the classroom, Camp smiled and said, “Coming back for a master’s degree has kept me young . . . I think some of us older guys are a valuable teaching resource for the students. They’re valuable for us because they see the world with a fresh, new vision. Sometimes the political world involves a lot of posturing and bluffing—not so much in the classroom. We’re all equal here.”
Leadership Portfolio Program Provides Hands-On Experience

JOHNSON INSTITUTE FOR RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP

Classroom learning is an important part of GSPIA’s mission to prepare future leaders, but hands-on experience is just as crucial and can only be gained through direct involvement in the field. Opportunities to complement classroom and experiential learning with customized leadership training are invaluable.

Joachim Boko (MPA ’10) has taken advantage of such an opportunity at GSPIA through his involvement with the Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership. In 2009, he was accepted as part of the Johnson Institute’s Leadership Portfolio Program.

“I decided to apply to the program because I plan to hold a leadership position when I return to my home country, Benin, on the West Coast of Africa,” Boko said. “I needed a program, not just a course on leadership, with a combination of different activities to develop skills.”

“The Leadership Portfolio program provides students with classroom and extracurricular opportunities to enhance their leadership skills and credentials,” said Dr. Kevin Kearns, director of the Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership and founder of the Leadership Portfolio Program.

The program also helps students learn about leadership through five main values: self-knowledge, global orientation, integrity, stewardship and accountability.

“I’ve learned a lot about myself,” Boko said. “To go into the job market, you need to know yourself and learn about work environments.”

Boko serves on the board of directors for North Hills Community Outreach, a local nonprofit organization. He reads books on leadership and attends related lectures. As part of the Portfolio Program, Boko also visits regularly with his mentor, Paul Hennigan, president of Point Park University in Pittsburgh.

Hennigan believes that the program’s mentorship component, which matches students with community leaders, is an effective component of the Leadership Portfolio Program. “Mentors have played a key part in my own career,” he said, “so I’m always looking to give back and I like to interact with students.”

Hennigan (MPA ’86) credits his GSPIA degree for helping him achieve professional success. “I have a special affinity for GSPIA and for the University of Pittsburgh,” Hennigan said. “I’ve watched the school evolve and am proud to see where it’s going.”

Shelley Scherer (part-time MPA) decided to apply to the program for different reasons. As a seasoned professional, Scherer has already served in various leadership positions, both in the private and nonprofit sectors.

“I joined the Leadership Portfolio Program because it offers an academic examination of leadership in addition to the practical service components,” Scherer said. “Before, I felt that you either have leadership skills or you don’t. The academic side of the program dissects this polarized thought a bit more.”

In 2010, ten students will graduate from the Leadership Portfolio Program. Each has had to complete six core activities: compile relevant coursework on leadership and accountability; attend approved lectures and workshops; serve in a leadership position on a nonprofit board of directors; write reflective essays or journal entries; engage in a mentoring relationship with a community leader; and, participate in a leadership book club on a bi-monthly basis.

“We believe that these activities help our students learn more about the core values that the Leadership Portfolio Program promotes,” Kearns said. “An effective leader integrates these values into their life in order to build a better world.”

The Leadership Portfolio Program, developed by the Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership, accepts several exemplary students each year to build leadership skills through mentoring with local officials (left). Joachim Boko, MPA ’10, meets with his mentor, Paul Hennigan, as a regular part of his Portfolio Program experience (below).
One year ago, a group of GSPIA students participated in the first Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT) with the Mayor of Pittsburgh, City Council members, community leaders, and local state representatives. This meeting formally established the Congress of Neighboring Communities—an Innovation Clinic project that represents one most unique exercises in inter-municipal cooperation in the United States.

“CONNECT’s mission is to coordinate the collective activities of the City of Pittsburgh and the 35 municipalities that share its border,” said Dr. David Miller, director of the Innovation Clinic, one of GSPIA’s five Centers of Excellence that facilitate activities to connect GSPIA and its students to the resolution of important public policy issues.

Southwestern Pennsylvania is one of the most fragmented jurisdictional regions in the country. For this reason, CONNECT’s role in creating opportunities for collaboration between the City of Pittsburgh and surrounding communities is vital.

“A lot of policy debate and public administration issues increasingly focus on municipal governance,” said Kathy Risko, associate director for CONNECT. “Many metropolitan zones have inter-municipal governance mechanisms in place, but few manage to effectively include the urban core.”

“One of CONNECT’s most unique attributes is its inclusion of the City of Pittsburgh as a core contributor to this ongoing inter-municipal dialogue with the surrounding region,” Risko said.

As the first alliance of the region’s population center, CONNECT has considerable demographic, economic and political strength. Its member communities represent 56% of Allegheny County’s population, 67% of Allegheny County’s jobs, a majority of seats on the local and state level and all three federal Congressional Districts.

The GSPIA students who are part of CONNECT’s staff have access to this alliance of community leaders and get first hand experience with municipal governance issues.

LJ Ulrich is a first year student at GSPIA pursuing a Master of Public and International Affairs (MPIA). He helps to direct CONNECT’s outreach strategy, assists in media relations and maintains the organization’s Web page and social networking sites. Recently, he has taken on additional tasks, researching LED lighting policy and federal stimulus funding.

“CONNECT offers hands-on leadership and project management opportunities and has enabled me to delve into and research real issues, work with municipal leaders and propose solutions to real problems in the community where I live and study,” said Ulrich. “I’ve also had the chance to network with government and business leaders.”

Dr. Miller knows how important GSPIA students are for CONNECT and the Innovation Clinic’s other projects as well. “We depend on student talent and energy to implement a wide array of projects and practical research in the public service sector,” he said.
The 24 resolutions, which GSPIA students helped to form, were approved at the first Congress last June and are now the major focus of the CONNECT staff’s work. Under the guidance of Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, the chairperson of CONNECT, as well as city and surrounding municipal leaders—five of whom are GSPIA alums—they are undertaking CONNECT’s first actions as a formal alliance.

“GSPIA students are following through on the process by working to implement resolutions in a real-world setting,” said Risko.

Some of the organization’s current commitments include: establishing CONNECT by-laws to formalize and complete its organizational structure; collaborating with Three Rivers Wet Weather to facilitate a unified plan to rehabilitate the region’s outdated sewage collection and treatment systems; and, working with Port Authority of Allegheny County to improve and federate public transit issues across communities.

Dr. David Miller, LJ Ulrich and Kathy Risko help direct the CONNECT program by increasing interactions between the area’s many municipalities.
Students Face Disaster Management Challenges

After a devastating earthquake hit Indonesia in September 2009, Comfort joined the Earthquake Engineering Reconnaissance team in Padang, off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. She has begun working with computer scientists to develop an early detection system for tsunamis. This system is key for high-risk areas like Padang.

In March, Comfort traveled to Haiti to examine the international response to the devastating earthquake that hit just outside Port-au-Prince. She made a follow-up trip in May with two GSPIA students and a team from the University of Pittsburgh’s Public School of Health to further analyze the situation.

“Being able to travel with students gives them exposure to actual disaster situations,” Comfort said. “It represents a real-world application of what they’re studying.”

In addition to the trip with Dr. Comfort, the Center for Disaster Management housed a research group during the spring semester to examine the international response to Haiti’s earthquake.

“Our students are a key part of helping us to work on time sensitive issues,” Comfort said. Another important project under the Center’s guidance is the Interactive, Intelligent, Spatial Information System (IISIS) which provides a means of monitoring and assessing a community’s vulnerabilities to risk.

For example, “Pittsburgh’s key threats include the city’s position as a transportation nexus for the movement of hazardous materials from east coast shipments, flooding and snowfall,” Comfort said. “All of these possible emergencies create interdependent vulnerabilities.”

The Center for Disaster Management has been working to develop an electronic dashboard that would provide a detailed knowledge base for the region—identifying the types of risk in specific areas.

“I carry this research into my classes,” said Comfort, who currently teaches a course called Managing Emergencies and Disasters. “I’m able to provide ground level perspective to help students understand what it’s like to be in a disaster.”

Some of the topics covered in the course include cultural sensitivity issues and respecting different disaster management approaches in coordinating response mechanisms.

“I try to engage my students and enable them to improve the disaster management process,” Comfort said. “Because in the end, people facing disaster share similar concerns and look to accomplish similar goals.”

GSPIA's Center for Disaster Management brings the challenge of responding to large-scale damage caused by any kind of unexpected natural phenomenon straight to the classroom. The past year has been particularly active for the Center because of three major earthquakes in different parts of the world, and Pittsburgh’s record-breaking series of storms during February 2010.

“We work on projects at a local, national and international level,” said Dr. Louise Comfort, director of the Center for Disaster Management—one of five Centers of Excellence at GSPIA.

This year, the Center’s work was crucial for providing expert analysis of responses to earthquakes in Indonesia, Haiti and Chile, as well as other local, regional and national studies pertaining to the coordination of organizations in various sectors including public health.

“Disasters shatter existing decision making processes and change the nature of working relationships—they are almost always inter-jurisdictional. One critical challenge is how to manage the response to disaster among different public, private and non-profit organizations,” Comfort said.

By studying inter-jurisdictional responses to disaster, the Center for Disaster Management has been able to identify where some management vulnerabilities are located.

“These points represent the greatest opportunity to push for change,” Comfort said.

Dr. Louise Comfort, director of the Center for Disaster Management, traveled to Haiti with two GSPIA students (bottom) to study the disaster and provide expertise for response operations.
Students Tackle Big Issues in Human Security

**FORD INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SECURITY**

For GSPIA students studying human security, some of the most interesting topics are also the most challenging. Does international aid given to countries emerging from crisis help long-term economic and political development? Do governments have a responsibility to protect citizens from extreme violence? How does political conflict in a country escalate to genocide? Tackling these big issues is one of the ways the Ford Institute for Human Security helps students take on leadership roles in developing policy debate and proposing practical solutions.

“The main skill that the Institute helps students gain is the ability to bring academic excellence to real world problems,” said Professor Taylor Seybolt, director of the Ford Institute for Human Security, one of five Centers of Excellence at GSPIA.

To accomplish this task, the Ford Institute supports three student research groups focused on legitimate governance, internal security and foreign aid. Each group conducts an in-depth analysis about large-scale problems that we face in today’s world.

“I want the students to grapple with how to frame a problem and how to intellectually structure a response,” Seybolt said. “This is one of the hardest things to do in policy research and analysis.”

The key to successful policymaking boils down to the details. “We start with a broad issue,” Seybolt said, “and we break it down into critically important component parts.”

One research group, for example, began with the question of how governments transition from dependence on aid to sustainable development. They refined their inquiry to examine a government’s ability to absorb aid during moments of crisis versus moments of relative stability. The researchers have compared levels of development aid and foreign direct investment in post-conflict countries, on one hand, with World Bank indicators of effective governance, on the other hand, over a span of 10 years.

“We found that there is no apparent relationship between the amount of aid delivered to a country and the ability of the state to govern effectively. The same holds true for foreign direct investment. This troubling gap might be due to weak institutional capacity to absorb those resources,” Seybolt said.

A second research group focused on the growing belief that governments are responsible for protecting citizens from violence, and if they cannot or will not fulfill this duty, then outsiders may intervene. Critics of the emerging norm of a “responsibility to protect” fear that it will lead to more military intervention. Research by the students at the Ford Institute indicates that so far this UN-supported idea has not increased the global incidence of military intervention. Furthermore, when there has been an intervention, government rhetoric of protecting civilians appears to have changed more than the actual practice.

The third research group is analyzing the conditions under which the escalation of internal strife reaches a tipping point from “normal” violence to mass killing.

“There’s very little understanding in academic and policy circles about the short-term triggers of genocidal violence,” Seybolt said. “There are many countries in the world where most of the factors that lead to genocide are present, but thankfully it doesn’t happen. In the few cases it does, we’re trying to figure out why.”

The Ford Institute for Human Security was founded in 2003 and has played an instrumental role in developing one of the first human security majors in the country. The Ford Institute and the human security major prepare students for careers with policy think tanks, non-governmental organizations in the U.S. and abroad and government agencies. The Ford Institute also helps to orient students in their research and long-term projects by providing online resources and academic and professional guidance.

“We want our students to think critically and creatively,” Seybolt said. “This skill will help them to propose practical solutions to the most important policy issues in our field. The learning process is a rewarding challenge.”

---

Students Tackle Big Issues in Human Security

Dr. Taylor Seybolt (far right), director of the Ford Institute for Human Security, engages with students involved in one of the research groups studying the effects of war on civilians.
Students on Campus Monitor Worldwide Terrorist Activities

Tucked away in a quiet corner of the third floor of Posvar Hall is a center with its finger on the world’s pulse. Sitting at their desks in Pittsburgh, Pa., students at GSPIA’s Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security Studies have the ability to monitor terrorist activities from Russia to Afghanistan to Guatemala—and strengthen the Center’s presence in the Security Studies field.

The man behind the Ridgway Center’s recent initiatives, its director, Professor Phil Williams, is an internationally recognized expert in security studies—and especially issues posed by transnational organized crime—who has advised both the United Nations and the United States government. One of the key new projects for Ridgway is the Monitoring and Analysis Group.

“Our students are looking at armed groups in the Niger delta, [terrorist group] al-Shabaab in Somalia, Russian-
Ukrainian relations, Afghanistan, maritime piracy, impunity in Guatemala; a whole set of issues,” Williams explains. “They provide background papers on the issues, which will be followed up every few weeks with an analysis of continuing developments.”

Using the same technology, another group of students is creating a database on maritime piracy, charting historical data and current updates. Timothy Coleman is one of the students working on the project: “We try to classify incidents—hijacking crew, stealing cargo, holding crew hostage, etc.—and their outcome, with the intent of understanding where hotspots are so researchers can eventually use this data to better understand emerging threats.”

The research is possible through the center’s subscription to STRATFOR, a private intelligence service and great resource for students, according to Williams. Eventually, both projects will be posted on the Ridgway Center’s website and made available to scholars and researchers everywhere, part of what Williams calls, “a key strategy for the center: increasing our web presence.”

Another key strategy is increasing networking opportunities for students, such as the one through Ridgway’s partnership with the U.S. Army War College’s Strategic Studies Institute (SSI) where Williams served as a visiting research professor for two years. “There are really good people there,” he says, “and our partnership has given the Ridgway Center a great collaborative relationship; it also gives our students valuable access to military expertise.”

In October 2009, Ridgway and SSI co-hosted a conference entitled “Drug Trafficking, Violence and Instability in Mexico, Colombia, and the Caribbean: Implications for U.S. National Security.” “It brought in people from several different countries—Mexico, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic,” says Williams. “It was very international and was attended by a lot of GSPIA students.”

Ridgway is also producing papers for an SSI monograph series. “There will be a lot of focus on Mexico, where there are incredible things happening right now,” Williams explains. “In Tamaulipas, which is south of Texas on the Gulf of Mexico, there have been incredible battles over the last few weeks between rival drug traffickers. The clashes have shown up on Twitter and on YouTube, but have not been fully reported by the media because of intimidation. The question we are asking is: ‘Why is the Mexican drug business so violent?’”

To answer this question, the Ridgway Center is planning to host a conference next September focusing on violent armed groups around the world. “Security studies is a very crowded field, so it’s important to carve out a niche,” says Williams. “The issue of violent arms groups has become a global problem that has different manifestations in different places, but it’s a problem we can monitor and comment on effectively.”

Williams also hopes the Ridgway Center will become a host to visiting scholars. “They will come here for a week or so and become part of the center for a short time. The idea is to become a very open, warm place where students and professors can kick around key security issues and challenges,” he says.

Last fall, Ridgway’s doctoral and master’s students had the opportunity to present to undergraduates from many colleges around the region. “For the students, it gave them the chance to present their projects in a professional forum; for the school, it was partly a recruiting device, but it also brought us back in touch with alumni teaching at those institutions,” says Williams. “We will do this again.”

To further facilitate the growth of the Ridgway Center, Williams is developing a steering committee linking Ridgway and GSPIA faculty, area studies directors and community members and a board of advisors from other institutions. “They will meet once a year and offer advice on what we are doing and in response, we will refine our programs.” Williams explains. “We are really after as much buy in as possible, to make the Ridgway Center a place where faculty and students will want to participate in a vibrant and dynamic analytical community.”

Students like PhD candidate Luke Gerdes have felt the effects of Williams’ efforts: “Working with Phil has been tremendously beneficial; it has opened doors to other research institutions that would otherwise be closed. Having him here will advance the prestige of the university by helping to place our students in positions where they can be recognized by members of the broader security community.”
I had originally planned to conduct research in Mexico City for one of my professors and start an internship in June. Swine flu, and the subsequent shut down of Mexico City, forced me to change my plans. It ended up being a fortuitous switch. I was able to return to Guatemala (the country that first inspired me to pursue international development) for the first time in four years. As opposed to previous trips where I volunteered with a rural community development organization, I spent the summer in Xela, Guatemala’s second largest city. My work at El Nahual helped me grow professionally and personally.

El Nahual, founded by a Guatemalan activist, has a vision of “educating for social development.” Through education, creativity, and with the support of caring adults, youth are able to develop the academic and critical thinking skills that will empower them and their communities to move out of poverty. Many youth who live in peri-urban and rural areas do not have access to full-time school, either because of their familial work obligations or because of the hidden costs of schooling, such as uniforms and books. Within the traditional school system, students were taught using rote repetition in classrooms of 40-plus youth. Our volunteers were encouraged to use creativity and personalized attention to encourage more critical thinking and creative expression.

My job was part fundraiser, part volunteer coordinator, and part after school principal. Throughout a week, my activities ranged from reading stories to a five-year-old student who was having a bad day to developing a marketing strategy for our end-of-summer fundraiser. I had to manage the schedules and activities of 10 to 25 volunteers, all with varying knowledge of Spanish and varying teaching expertise. And, I had to schedule office tasks around the weather—as our Internet connection would fail when the afternoon clouds rolled in.

The experience I gained became an invaluable point of reference during my second year at GSPIA. In my program evaluation course, El Nahual was the organization we referenced in developing our evaluation plan. In management, accounting, and economics of development classes, I asked myself, How would this work in El Nahual? Most importantly, my return to Guatemala reminded me why I want to work in development. As I told the volunteers there, “It’s all about the kids.” Despite the scheduling conflicts, the fundraising challenges, the failing Internet connection and the screaming students, I went to El Nahual every day excited about the mission of my work and the impact it was having. As I consider my post-GSPIA life, I look forward to finding a position as challenging and fulfilling as my time at El Nahual.

For more information about El Nahual Community Center, visit www.elnahual.org. ©
During my first year at GSPIA, I gained a thorough understanding of the complex and tenuous nature of post-conflict stabilization efforts.

Interviewing Ex-Combatants: A Study in Liberia

By Toby Taylor, MPIA ‘10

This summer, as I embarked on an internship in Liberia, I was provided the opportunity to integrate the skills I’ve learned at GSPIA into field work in a state attempting to recover from 14 years of civil war.

As an intern with the NGO Mediators Beyond Borders (MBB), I was asked to design and implement an evaluation of a rehabilitation and reintegration program for Liberian ex-combatants. Drawing upon research design and analysis skills gained at GSPIA, I created a survey to administer to participants and non-participants of MBB’s program, and then headed to Liberia to perform the evaluation.

Immediately upon my arrival in the country, the effects of the war were apparent. Though the sun had already set and heavy rain sent streams of water down the window before me, I could make out the unlit, makeshift shops that lined the side of the road as my vehicle weaved its way slowly through the pothole-stricken highway. Listening to the rhythmic putting of the windshield wipers and news coverage of the approaching testimony of Charles Taylor, the former Liberian President, I peered out the window. We passed multiple UN compounds and an increasingly dense urban landscape en route to the outskirts of Monrovia, where I lived for six weeks.

Having partnered with an individual from the Liberian NGO, National Ex-Combatants Peacebuilding Initiatives (NEPI), I began to conduct interviews with individuals in the cities of Buchanan and Monrovia. In my attempt to determine the extent to which ex-combatants had reintegrated back into Liberian society, I gained an intimate understanding of the difficulties and frustrations faced by individuals attempting to rebuild their lives in a society fractured by conflict. Similarly, I experienced firsthand the limitations that confront NGOs and the international community in their efforts to maintain peace in conflict-affected regions.

Working with MBB in a state recovering from conflict has proven to be the perfect complement to my coursework at GSPIA. This experience, combined with knowledge acquired at GSPIA, has allowed me to develop the skill set needed to pursue a career in the field of post-conflict reconstruction.
Behind the Scenes at CNN Headquarters: A Lesson in Global Journalism

By Mila Sanina, MPIA ‘10

I would have said, “I didn’t come to GSPIA, a policy school, to get into television broadcasting. What does global political economy have to do with journalism anyway?”

A friend once suggested that a model for my career might be David Gergen, who worked at the intersection of academia, politics and the media with his interest in policy being a central focus of his multi-faceted career. During a summer policy internship at the Institute for New Democracies in Washington, D.C., I learned of an internship opportunity at CNN. I applied and was surprised to be accepted.

In mid-September, I moved to Atlanta, Ga., to report as an intern to CNN Headquarters. I was assigned to the International Assignment Desk. I spent my first three weeks with the assignment desk, learning peculiarities of CNN’s newsgathering operations throughout the world, booking guests, assisting the editors in getting content from CNN’s reporters in Kabul, Istanbul, Paris, Jerusalem and Moscow.

As the internship continued, I was given more responsibilities and even pitched stories and researched assignments for the [features] department. I rotated among different CNN production units and moved from one show to another. One week I would be with CNN Domestic, and then would shift from satellites to the wire. During a week in October, I spent some time with “Back-Story”, the international show anchored by Michael Holmes.

When I thought my internship had peaked, my supervisor asked what show I would choose to spend a week with. Long before I sought to pursue a career in journalism, I had a dream to meet CNN’s Christiane Amanpour, the chief international correspondent, whom I admire for her uncompromising efforts to seek the truth, her courage and her ability to ask questions challenging conventional wisdom. I told my supervisor about my dream and asked if I could go to New York and assist with her new interview show “Amanpour.”

The following week, I found myself in New York interning for “Amanpour.” There, I learned it takes a group of 14 people to produce the world’s best show in the breaking news industry. It requires a commitment to quality and perfectionism and the ability to channel aesthetic enthusiasm to effectively organize and present different and, at times, clashing perspectives on current affairs.

While I was with “Amanpour,” Christiane interviewed Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. They discussed the peace talks that occurred between Israelis and Palestinians while Blair was on his visit to the Middle East. Covering the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, she talked with James Baker, who was U.S. Secretary of State when the wall fell, and hosted Dmitry Simes, president of the Nixon Center. Both shared their memories of the moment that hastened the collapse of the USSR.

I had a flood of experiences in five months that complemented my coursework and changed my thinking more than I could ever imagine. Throughout my experience, I recalled conversations with great mentors, especially Dr. Dunn and Dr. Goldstein (Goldy), who led me to consider career paths that I would not have. Goldy was right about getting out into the world, going into the field and talking to people.

Most importantly, I discovered that dreams do come true and that what Ted Kennedy said at the end of his book is also true: “If you persevere, stick with it, work at it, you have a real opportunity to achieve something. Sure, there will be storms along the way. And you might not reach your goal right away. But if you do your best and keep a true compass, you’ll get there.”
GSPIA’s capstone requirement compels students to put their education in action by engaging in an in-depth final project before graduation. For some students, the research for this project requires more than conducting interviews and focus groups—it involves international travel.

Anne Marie Toccket and Katie Muller (MID ’10) traveled to Nicaragua to complete research for their capstone requirement. Toccket and Muller—who both enrolled in the capstone seminar “Social Return on Investment,” taught by Dr. Sabina Deitrick, Tracy Soska (School of Social Work) and Kathryn Collins (PhD student)—decided to visit the country after realizing their local research on the non-profit organization Building New Hope would be incomplete without field interviews.

“We decided we didn’t have any other choice but to go,” remarked Toccket. The students solicited funding from the Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership and the Center for Latin American Studies to support their trip. After several hours traveling by plane and down a dirt path in a 1972 Ford tractor, Toccket and Muller arrived in El Porvenir, Nicaragua, to set up their temporary hammock homes while conducting research.

El Porvenir is located on the top of a mountain in the middle of a chain of volcanoes. The city is tucked far away from sprawling urban areas with the closest neighboring city over four hours away. Consequently, the economic growth in the area is limited to the agricultural sector, most specifically the coffee trade. Many of the coffee farmers struggle with competing in a highly diverse global market. Despite the efforts of non-profit organizations to help these farmers compete, the community impact of these programs is relatively unknown.

As a local non-profit organization, Building New Hope partners with coffee cooperatives in El Salvador to market and sell fair trade coffee. The partnership strives to diminish the impact of poverty in struggling areas like El Porvenir by supporting sustainable initiatives for farmers. Building New Hope’s programs help enhance the ability for farmers to earn decent income from the coffee trade by promoting fair prices and farmer education. Toccket and Muller collected quantitative data during their trip to measure Building New Hope’s direct impact on this small community.

“Through travel to Nicaragua and the visit to Building New Hope, Anne Marie and Katie experienced the project they were studying through direct interactions with the stakeholders. They gathered critical primary data that would have been unavailable without their visit,” notes Deitrick. “This material was invaluable in calculating the social return on investment of the project.”

The report generated by Toccket and Muller’s research provides tremendous insights into the quantifiable returns of Building New Hope’s programs in El Porvenir. Specifically, the report notes that organization’s program has increased wages for the farming community and improved the capacity to preserve and promote local ecosystems.

But Toccket and Muller did not just stop there—they quantified the conclusions included in the report. Through intensive quantitative analysis, the students concluded that every USD $1 invested in Building New Hope’s program yields USD $3.05 in social benefit—an astounding rate of return for any investor. Dr. Deitrick notes that the quantitative method used by the students would not normally be conducted by the non-profit itself. The report will eventually be featured on Building New Hope’s website.

“The Social Return on Investment Capstone project creates a double advantage for students,” explained Professor Deitrick. “They combine a skills-based GSPIA course with their own social interests in particular non-profit organizations.”

The students greatly appreciate the opportunities afforded to them during their capstone experience. “It’s a great learning experience,” noted Muller. “We hope our work will help the organization better analyze its use of investment in Nicaragua.”

Visit to Nicaragua Caps Capstone
Phyllis Coontz contributed to a story that appeared on ABC’s “Good Morning America” surrounding the controversy of Supreme Court Justice Nominee Sonia Sotomayor and whether female judges decide cases differently than male judges. Coontz’s own research suggests that there are basic differences in the way men and women make decisions.

Dr. Sabina Deitrick, co-director of the Urban and Regional Analysis Program and GSPIA professor, was quoted in the New York Times article, “Slumbering Pittsburgh Neighborhood Reawakens.” Deitrick, who analyzes development in the Pittsburgh area, commented on the extent of urban renewal in East Liberty and its resurgence as a major commercial area.

The New York Times interviewed GSPIA Professor Martin Staniland on cap-and-trade regulations for carbon dioxide in the airline industry.

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review interviewed Angela Reynolds on the potential impact of the 2010 U.S. Census on the city and region.

Louise Comfort discussed the impact of disaster relief efforts in Haiti on PCNC’s (Pittsburgh Cable News Channel) “NightTalk” and was also interviewed by a New Zealand radio news show about the disaster.

Louise Comfort received grants from NSF Rapid Response Research and Widgeon Foundation to conduct research and analyze the decision process involved in response and recovery operations following the earthquake in Haiti. Comfort has also played a major role in analyzing responses to the 2004 tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and the September 11 attacks.

Shanti Gamper-Rabindran was granted a semester-long faculty fellowship by the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) at the University of Pittsburgh for her research on environmental policy and seed funding for a pilot project from Pitt’s Center on Race & Social Problems. She also organized a panel: Self-Regulation and Voluntary Programs to Reduce Pollution—an Empirical Assessment at the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management. Panel members included researchers from Resources for the Future, Brookings Institution and the University of Michigan. Additionally, she presented her paper, joint with Stephen Finger, “Does Self-Regulation Reduce Pollution: Responsible Care in the Chemical Industry” at the Environmental Economics Seminar at the Kennedy School of Government as well as at the joint CMU/RAND/Pitt Health Economics and Policy seminar.

Dr. William Keller was presented the Donald M. Goldstein Teacher of the Year award during the graduation ceremony on April 29. Read more on page 27.


GSPIA Faculty in the News

Phyllis Coontz contributed to a story that appeared on ABC’s “Good Morning America” surrounding the controversy of Supreme Court Justice Nominee Sonia Sotomayor and whether female judges decide cases differently than male judges. Coontz’s own research suggests that there are basic differences in the way men and women make decisions.

Dr. Sabina Deitrick, co-director of the Urban and Regional Analysis Program and GSPIA professor, was quoted in the New York Times article, “Slumbering Pittsburgh Neighborhood Reawakens.” Deitrick, who analyzes development in the Pittsburgh area, commented on the extent of urban renewal in East Liberty and its resurgence as a major commercial area.

The New York Times interviewed GSPIA Professor Martin Staniland on cap-and-trade regulations for carbon dioxide in the airline industry.

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review interviewed Angela Reynolds on the potential impact of the 2010 U.S. Census on the city and region.

Louise Comfort discussed the impact of disaster relief efforts in Haiti on PCNC’s (Pittsburgh Cable News Channel) “NightTalk” and was also interviewed by a New Zealand radio news show about the disaster.

FaCuLtY neWs

Published Authors, Researchers, Presenters, Media Contributors within Talented GSPIA Faculty

Dr. Alberta Sbragia (left), director of the European Center of Excellence, unveils a portrait of former GSPIA professor Dr. Fred Bruhns to his widow Maxine (right) during a ceremony held to honor his accomplishments and the family’s ongoing contributions to the University. Maxine created the Fred C. Bruhns Memorial Endowment for GSPIA in 2008.

Kerry Ban was named the acting director of the EU Center of Excellence/European Studies Center for 2010. She was also recently published in the International Review of Administrative Sciences, 76,1, March 2010 for her paper “Reforming the Staffing Process in the European Union Institutions: Moving the Sacred Cow out of the Road.”

Kathleen Buechel received the Civic and Community Service Award from the YWCA at the 28th annual “YW Tribute to Women” for her work in the Pittsburgh community. The YWCA recognizes and honors women from the Greater Pittsburgh area who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in the workplace and in the community, and for their contributions to the organizations’ goals: the empowerment of women and girls and the elimination of racism.

Louise Comfort received grants from NSF Rapid Response Research and Widgeon Foundation to conduct research and analyze the decision process involved in response and recovery operations following the earthquake in Haiti. Comfort has also played a major role in analyzing responses to the 2004 tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and the September 11 attacks.

Shanti Gamper-Rabindran was granted a semester-long faculty fellowship by the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) at the University of Pittsburgh for her research on environmental policy and seed funding for a pilot project from Pitt’s Center on Race & Social Problems. She also organized a panel: Self-Regulation and Voluntary Programs to Reduce Pollution—an Empirical Assessment at the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management. Panel members included researchers from Resources for the Future, Brookings Institution and the University of Michigan. Additionally, she presented her paper, joint with Stephen Finger, “Does Self-Regulation Reduce Pollution: Responsible Care in the Chemical Industry” at the Environmental Economics Seminar at the Kennedy School of Government as well as at the joint CMU/RAND/Pitt Health Economics and Policy seminar.

Dr. William Keller was presented the Donald M. Goldstein Teacher of the Year award during the graduation ceremony on April 29. Read more on page 27.


Dr. Alberta Sbragia (left), director of the European Center of Excellence, unveils a portrait of former GSPIA professor Dr. Fred Bruhns to his widow Maxine (right) during a ceremony held to honor his accomplishments and the family’s ongoing contributions to the University. Maxine created the Fred C. Bruhns Memorial Endowment for GSPIA in 2008.
broad historical narrative of foreign aid, international security and diplomacy while emphasizing human development rather than economic development. Picard participated on a commission, which visited Southern Sudan in August 2009, to access the impact of a vote for independence. He also discussed foreign aid and policy with NPR's American Abroad Debra Amos.

Angela Reynolds received funding to complete a research project for the Allegheny County Housing Authority (ACHA). Reynolds will evaluate the impact of the ROSS Family Program on residents and evaluate the program's effectiveness in addressing the issue of economic self-sufficiency. Program administrators and participants and will prepare a final report of findings for the ACHA.

Nita Rudra was awarded a Hewlett International Grant from UCIS for planning, implementing and disseminating results of an international research conference, “Globalization and the Politics of Poverty and Inequality.” The conference will be held in January 2011 at the Indian Institute of Management, and is co-sponsored by Yale University’s Leitner Program in International and Comparative Political Economy. This is the first time that that the Hewlett Grant program has offered a “Major Impact Grant,” a single award of up to $5,000 for a project that demonstrates an impact on the international profile of the University of Pittsburgh, either through research, teaching, curriculum develop or the development of publications.


GSPIA Celebrates 2010 Graduation

The University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs held its 2010 graduation ceremony at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum on Thursday, April 29, 2010.
In his commencement speech, Dr. Kim challenged new graduates to become "global leaders" in their fields and explained to them that to do so they need to understand "diversity and mutual differences" and "communicate with people from different countries, cultures, religions, and beliefs."

At GSPIA’s 2010 graduation ceremony on April 29 the School honored, in the words of Dean John Keeler, “one of the most distinguished of our distinguished alumni,” Dr. Shin-Bok Kim (MPIA ’72). Dr. Kim, Executive Vice President and Provost of Seoul National University in the Republic of Korea, expressed his deepest gratitude to GSPIA for selecting him for the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

At Seoul National University, Korea’s most prestigious university, Dr. Kim served as Dean of Academic Affairs (1997-1998) and Dean of the Graduate School of Public Administration (1998-2000) before assuming his current positions. As a leading authority in the field of education, Kim has also served as Vice Minister of Education and Human Resources Development (MOEHRD), as Chair of the Advisory Committee for the MOEHRD, as a member of the Policy Evaluation Council in the Office of the Prime Minister, and as a member of the Presidential Commission on Education Reform. He is a past President of the Korean Association of Academic Societies, the Korean Association for Public Administration and the Korean Society for Studies of Educational Administration.

In his commencement speech, Dr. Kim challenged new graduates to become “global leaders” in their fields and explained to them that to do so they need to understand “diversity and mutual differences” and “communicate with people from different countries, cultures, religions, and beliefs.” He asked graduates to “ponder ways of making full use of the theoretical knowledge that they have acquired to bring about social change and development.” Finally, he told graduates that it was possible for them to realize their dreams while “contributing to the resolution of economic and social problems” of the world by making full use of their “well-cultivated expertise and leadership skills.”

Later in the ceremony the president of GSPIA’s newly-elected Student Cabinet, Ian Young, presented the Donald M. Goldstein Teacher of the Year award to Dr. William Keller. The Donald M. Goldstein Teacher of the Year award is given annually to the GSPIA professor who best exemplifies the pedagogical excellence and enthusiastic support demonstrated by “Goldy” in his 35-year career at GSPIA. Dr. Keller teaches courses in International Affairs focusing on Security Studies. “Dr. Keller shows a rare enthusiasm for teaching that is contagious,” noted Young. “He is genuinely interested in the success of his students, and is held in high esteem by not only his students but by his colleagues as well.”

Young also presented this year’s Staff of

Graduate School of Public and International Affairs • www.gspia.pitt.edu
the Year award to Renee Kidney, assistant director of student services, for her ongoing dedication and passionate support for “empowering students through her hard work and dedication to trouble shoot and solve problems.”

Associate Dean William Dunn presented GSPIA’s endowed graduation awards. Amy Bishop received the Gloria Fitzgibbons Memorial Award, for women who have demonstrated scholastic achievement and potential for leadership related to public and administration or planning. Gbetohu M. Joachim Boko received the Sergeant James “Rip” Taylor Memorial Award, for students who exemplify Sgt. Taylor’s spirit of public service. Gunes Ertan received the David E. Oeler Award, for excellence in the field of information service management, and Aruna Raman received the Taraknath Das Award, for outstanding scholarship related to Asia.

Dean Keeler presented the awards for students judged by the faculty to be the most distinguished graduates, in terms of both academic achievement and service to the school, in each of GSPIA’s five degree programs: Brian Colella (Master of Public Policy and Management); Daniel Blomquist and Johanna Carolina Forero-Pedreros (Master of Public and International Affairs); Paul Shetler-Fas and Aruna Raman (Master of International Development); David Tyler Gourley (Master of Public Administration); and Vera Achvarina (Doctoral Program). He then presented the Dean’s Award, for the student with the most distinguished academic record among all graduates, to Elizabeth Clark (MPIA).

In his speech, outgoing Student Cabinet President Wallied Shirzoi urged his classmates to share their gifts of knowledge attained at GSPIA with others. He also encouraged his fellow graduates to be “agents of change,” to “demonstrate a mastery of that one most essential skill: the ability to think, to reason, and to consider the global and long-term rather than the here and now,” and to create a better society so that in the end “no one will ever forget the impact of the empowered, energetic few who walked across this stage and left their mark on the world forever.”

... and to create a better society so that in the end "no one will ever forget the impact of the empowered, energetic few who walked across this stage and left their mark on the world forever."

– Student Cabinet President Wallied Shirzoi
On April 28, GSPIA welcomed Ernesto Butcher, chief operating officer for the New York-New Jersey Port Authority, as the guest speaker at GSPIA’s annual graduation luncheon. Butcher, who graduated from GSPIA with a Master in Public & International Affairs (MPIA ’71), noted that attending GSPIA seemed “accidental” at the time, but was an essential step in developing key leadership traits.

Butcher intended to become a clinical psychologist, but after serving in the Peace Corps in 1967, he became interested in international affairs and decided to attend GSPIA.

“My education at GSPIA was particularly useful to me. The nuts and bolts of public administration and understanding how the public sector works, as well as the things we learned about the international affairs arena—diplomacy, engagement, scenario building—were, and continue to be, critical in my day-to-day work.”

As a result of his outstanding career and dedication to public service, GSPIA Dean John Keeler bestowed Butcher with GSPIA’s highest honor—the GSPIA Distinguished Alumnus Award.

“This is an incredible honor,” stated Butcher. “Never would I have thought I would be back here receiving this recognition.”

During his speech, Butcher explained that after graduating from GSPIA he landed a management trainee position with the Port Authority. At the time, Butcher considered the position a stepping stone for larger career aspirations; he never thought he would remain at the organization several decades later.

“You can’t make a difference if you are not in public service,” explained Butcher. “You could be in the private sector doing amazing things, but in the public sector is where you get to impact the lives and the quality of people’s lives around you.”

One of the most challenging experiences in Butcher’s 38-year career with the Port Authority occurred on September 11, 2001. Butcher was thrust into a leadership role that he never thought he’d find himself in. “On that day, we lost 84 of our employees, including our chief executive officer. A large responsibility was placed on my shoulders,” Butcher said.

Butcher established a command center in Jersey City within hours of the attacks, which enabled Port Authority facilities to reopen immediately. He also coordinated the Port Authority’s response with local, state and federal agencies to assist in rescue and recovery efforts at Ground Zero.

It wasn’t until after the attacks that Butcher realized that he had been training for such a role his entire life. “Over the years, I experienced moments of having to be a leader. I had been prepared in leadership qualities from my education at GSPIA, even to the point where we devised scenarios in international affairs. But it’s not until one finds himself in a position of actually having to step up and be a leader that you recognize it’s happening to you. And in those moments, I became aware that I had been prepared for what needed to be done.”

2010 GSPIA Graduation Luncheon
Tragedy and Generosity Change Lives

Seventh grade is a time when children are more likely to be dreaming of a new video game or rooting for a favorite baseball team than making life-altering decisions. But for 13-year-old Brandon Mendoza, seventh grade was a time of intense grief—and a time to make the biggest decision of his life.

Brandon grew up in Brooklyn, New York. He and his mother moved frequently. “I changed schools at least four times from first to fifth grade and my grades reflected it,” said Brandon. When Brandon was in seventh grade, his older brother was murdered. In the wake of such intense grief, Brandon chose to dedicate his life to serving his community and others, as a way to honor his brother’s memory.

“It took a tragedy for me to recognize my potential and begin to pursue my dreams,” he said. To do so required him to focus on his education. Brandon settled into a new life and a new school in Pennsylvania with his father. “During high school, my routine was to complete my homework, study further for my classes, and read ahead so that I was never behind,” said Brandon. With hard work and determination, he completed high school and received an academic scholarship for his undergraduate degree.

When Brandon made the decision to pursue graduate school, GSPIA's location and academic reputation seemed to be the perfect fit, but financing that decision would be a challenge. Fully prepared to undertake the burden of student loans, Brandon was stunned when, a few weeks after receiving GSPIA’s offer of admission, a second letter arrived informing Brandon that he was selected to receive the Carl Ware Fellowship—a generous and prestigious award established in 2003 by alumnus Carl Ware (MPIA ’68 & ’73) to provide support to GSPIA students who come from traditionally underrepresented populations and who have overcome social adversity. “I plan on using my degree [Master of Public Administration] to help communities that are similar to the one I am from,” said Brandon. With the support of the Fellowship, Brandon promises to “continue to work hard and strive for excellence.”

For more information about giving to GSPIA, please contact Jean Hale, director of alumni relations and development, at 412-624-6660 or jmh73@pitt.edu.
UPDATE: Capital Campaign for the University of Pittsburgh and GSPIA

With a goal of $2 billion, the University of Pittsburgh’s capital campaign is the largest and most successful fundraising campaign in the history of Southwestern Pennsylvania; to date, the campaign has raised $1.4 billion. As part of Pitt’s campaign, GSPIA is seeking to raise $15 million by December 31, 2014. As of press time, we are at 72 percent of our goal thanks to the support of more than 2,000 donors!

To our many donors, “thank you” for your continued support, especially during these challenging economic times. GSPIA’s campaign priorities are student fellowship support and financial assistance; faculty recruitment and retention; and, strategic research investments. With each gift, the future of GSPIA is dramatically strengthened.

Gifts to GSPIA make it possible for Brandon (see story previous page) and motivated students like him from all around the globe to honor their commitment to public service. This past spring, the announcement of available funding from the Carolyn Ban Fellowship award drew a record number of applications—65—the highest since the award was first offered in 2008. Each applicant displayed outstanding academic achievement, leadership qualities, and deep personal commitment to alleviating some of the most pressing issues of our times. They accept responsibility for financing their education and they do so by juggling work and graduate school, by living frugally, by taking on burdensome loans, and by asking friends and family for assistance.

Your gifts have a tremendous impact on the lives of deserving students. On average, GSPIA is able to provide modest awards ($1,000 - $25,000), with an average award of $6,000 for in-state students, ($19,000 for out-of-state students) to approximately 100 (25%) of our students. Those of us at GSPIA have the privilege of witnessing the impact that your giving has on the lives of promising students—students who might otherwise be denied an opportunity to pursue an advanced degree solely because of financial need.

Please consider making a gift of any size to GSPIA by visiting www.gspia.pitt.edu and click on the “Giving” link at the top of the page, or by contacting Jean Hale, Director of Alumni Relations and Development, at 412-624-6660.

Donation Brings Real-Life Lecture Series
OREM IPSUM DOLOR SIT AMET, CONSECTETUER

Thanks to a generous donation from Saul Katz, GSPIA students studying security issues had an opportunity to learn outside the classroom from someone with real-life experience. On March 24, Dr. Dipak Gupta presented “Human Nature: Terrorism and Conflict” as part of the Saul M. Katz lecture series on Economic and Social Development.

The lecture, which was sponsored by the Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security Studies and the Ford Institute for Human Security, explored the dynamics of why and how individuals become affiliated with terrorist groups. Gupta offered new insight into the topic as he was a member of the Naxalite Maoist group in India during the 1960s.

He discussed the internationalization of grievances and the duality of identities that define human beings and highlighted the importance of political entrepreneurs—individuals who enter the political arena at a critical time and push an agenda toward a particular goal. Political entrepreneurs can sway how political grievances are represented by steering the mass public in a particular, responsive direction. Sometimes, Gupta noted, the actions recommended by these leaders can result in violence.

Through his personal stories—and research—Dr. Gupta provided a useful and concrete framework for students to analyze the individual participation of terrorist group members while also exploring broader issues related to development, group dynamics and other driving factors.
Megan Carmiowski, MPIA 09, is an Assistant Outreach Coordinator with International Orthodox Christian Charities in Baltimore, MD. Jessie Crabb, MPA '09, is the newest GSPIA graduate working on Capitol Hill, as Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff to Senator Robert P. Casey Jr.

Pamela Daley, MID '09, is working at Liberty's Promise as a Program Officer, responsible for implementing internship and education programs for low-income, immigrant youth in the DC Metro area.

Devona Delach, MPA/MPH '04, is the Medicare Product Integrity Manager at AmeriChoice, a UnitedHealth Group Company, in Pittsburgh.

Cynthia Dimitriu and Eric Donson, both MPA '08, celebrated their wedding on May 23, 2009.

Harry Eustace, MPA '00, is CEO of FMN Logistics, a Washington, DC-based provider of services for organizations looking to operate within Central Asia.

Brad Funari, MPA/JD '02, was named a 2010 Rising Star by Super Lawyers magazine, which recognizes the approximate top 5% of PA lawyers under the age of 40. He is an Associate in the Pittsburgh office of McGuireWoods LLP.

Rob Gile, MPA '05, accepted a position in the U.S. Department of State Office of Counterproliferation Initiatives, joining fellow alumni: Team Chief Anthony Ruggiero, MPIA '99; Edna Sidler, MPIA '90; and Mark Felipe, MPIA '88.

Peter Greenwood, MPA '08, is an Investment Funds Analyst with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and Monica Salazar-Greenwood, MPA '08, is a Junior Professional Associate at the World Bank in Washington, DC.

Dan Giovannelli, Esq., MPA/LAW '09, is Interim Director of the Global Solutions Education Fund Pittsburgh, an independent educational organization and local affiliate of Citizens for Global Solutions.

Michael Gumpert, MPA '00, serves as Executive Director for Artworks, a visual arts and education center in Downtown Trenton, NJ.

Kelly Hoffman, MPA '03, is Senior Project Coordinator, Business Development, for the City of Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development.

Julia Hustwit, MID '09, is a Program Specialist at the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, responsible for promoting green building practices in public housing.

Sungsoo Hwang, PhD '08, accepted a tenure track position with Yeungnam University in his hometown of Gyeongsan, South Korea.

Amy Inlander, MPIA/JD '07, serves as Assistant Counsel for the Washington Nationals Major League Baseball team.

Grace Jaramillo, MPIA '03, coordinates the International Relations program of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, FLACSO, in Quito, Ecuador.

Paul Kaliliponi, MID '08, is a researcher and doctoral student with the Operations and Information Management group at the Aston University Crisis Centre in Birmingham, UK.

Naim Kapucu, PhD '03, teaches in the Department of Public Administration at the University of Central Florida (Orlando) College of Health and Public Affairs. He also directs the Capacity Building Institute and coordinates the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program.

Kiko Ko, PhD '06, is an Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department at the National University of Singapore.

Jennifer Kush, MPA '09, is Assistant Director of the Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law & Public Policy at the University of Pittsburgh.

Ellen Kyzer, MPA '02, was hired as Director of Individual Giving and Prospect Management at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

Cecilia Lavena, MPA '09, is a doctoral student in the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark Campus.

Jennifer Legler, MPA '05, was promoted to manager of the Pittsburgh location of Ten Thousand Villages, a national fair trade retailer of Third World artisan handicrafts.

Marcel Leon, MID '09, is a Project Coordinator with IDDI, an NGO in the Dominican Republic that began a global fundraising campaign to aid humanitarian efforts in the aftermath of the earthquake in neighboring Haiti.

Ida Linden, MID '08, is a Regional Development Assistant in Teach for America's Bay Area office.

Michelle Massie, MPA '03, is a Workforce Analyst with the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, DC.

Heather Masterson, MPA/MSW '04, was named Assistant Manager of Individual Giving at the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

Whitney McIntyre Miller, MID/MSW '04, is a doctoral candidate at the University of San Diego School of Leadership and Education Sciences focusing on international post-conflict community building.

Donald Morrison, MPA '05, is a Program Analyst with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration.

Maria Victoria Whittingham Munevar, PhD '06, is a Senior Researcher in the Madrid office of CIREM, the Centre for European Investigation and Research in the Mediterranean Region.

Samson Murage, MPA '06, joined the staff of the Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board (Pittsburgh) in the role of Compliance Manager.

Philip Murphy, PhD '08, is an Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of International Policy and Management at the Monterey (CA) Institute of International Studies.

Montae Nicholson, MPA '07, is Supervisor of Human Resources and Support Services with Family Resources in Pittsburgh.

Karen Niedermeyer, MPIA '09, is Manager, International Trade and Foreign Policy Analysis, for Bayer Corporation in Pittsburgh.
Jennifer Novelli, MID ’03, Patricia Skillin, MID ’06; and Emily Stallings, MID ’09; helped to coordinate and implement a massive response effort in the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti as staff members of Pittsburgh-based medical relief organization Global Links.

Alissa Repanshek, MPA ’04, and husband Jake welcomed a daughter, Ellery Rae, in July 2009. She serves as Director of Alumnae Relations for Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania and Board President to the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association.

James Ricci, PhD, MPA ’04, is an associate lecturer at Cardiff University, a teaching and research university located in Cardiff, the capital city of Wales.

Kathy Risko, MPPM ’05, was named Associate Director of CONNECT, a GSPIA Innovation Clinic initiative focusing on intergovernmental cooperation in the Pittsburgh region.

Manda Sanders, MPPM ’02, is a Government Affairs Representative at Highmark in Downtown Pittsburgh.

SheaBrianna (Christi law) Scharding, MPA ’06, is the Township Manager of Cumru Township in Berks County, PA. She married Colin Scharding-Taras in May 2009.

Emily Stoddart, MPA ’08, accepted a position with Energetics, a DC-area consulting firm specializing in the fields of energy, environment, homeland security and global health.

Jennifer Swartz, MPIA/MBA ’09, is working as a Procurement Program Specialist in the White House’s Office of Management and Budget.

Florence Tateossian, MPIA ’03, is a Communications and Knowledge Management Analyst at the United Nations Development Programme in New York City.


Irene Tzinis, MPIA ’07, was promoted to Data Manager with ASRC Research & Technology Solutions, providing her the opportunity to work with international space organizations in Europe and Japan in addition to continuing projects for NASA.

Rebecca Vonada, MID ’08, is a Program Associate with Forest Trends, a conservation-focused nonprofit in Washington, DC.

Sarah Wheeler, PhD ’01, is an Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Charles Yhap, MID ’09, is the Executive Director of Confere Inservitus, a Pittsburgh nonprofit committed to confronting the issues of human trafficking, slavery and exploitation.

Chris Zurawsky, MPPM ’05, is Director of Communications and Public Affairs for the Association of American Cancer Institutes in Pittsburgh and President of the 14th Ward Independent Democratic Club.

1990’s

David Black, MURP ’90, is a Senior Researcher with the Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Program in Washington, DC.

Alison Bonebrake, MPA ’99, joined the DC office of Senator John Kerry as a Legislative Assistant on healthcare and education.

Erin Crowe, MPA ’95, and Dan Flaherty, MPA ’99, were married September 12, 2009. They are both employed at the U.S. Department of State.

Kevin Evanto, MPA ’96, serves as Director of Communications for Allegheny County.

Daryl Grecich, MPA ’91, is Director of Marketing & Programs Strategy for the International Trademark Association in New York City.

Thomas Griffin, MPA ’97, is Executive Director, Business Solutions, for Global Healthcare Exchange (GHX) in Louisville, Colorado.

Alan Lang, MURP ’92, was named Director of Global and Functional Affairs in the Bureau of Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.

Andrew Loza, MPA ’90, is Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, dedicated to increasing the quality and pace of land conservation, in Harrisburg, PA.

Gary Margolis, MPA ’97, is Program Manager for the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

Diane Meyers-Krug, MURP ’93, is a Transportation Planner with the Tri-County Regional-Planning Commission in Harrisburg, PA.

Elizabeth Ramborger, MPA ’99, joined the Chicago office of Arabella Philanthropic Investment Advisors as an Associate Director.

Andrea Rogers, MPA ’99, is a Senior Program Officer with American Jewish World Service in New York City.

Peggy Schrammel, MPA ’95, is Vice President, Patient Registries and Post Approval Studies, for United BioSource Corporation in the Philadelphia area.

Lisa Schmitt, MPA ’99, serves as Deputy Director, Enterprise Voice Service, for the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, DC.

Nadeem Shah, MPA ’99, is a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Washington, DC.

Mohamed Yamba, PhD ’95, is an Associate Professor in the Department of History and Political Science at California University of Pennsylvania.

1980’s

Richard Basom, PhD ’88, is Director of Research and Planning for Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, PA.

Randolph Brockington, MPA ’86, received a New Pittsburgh Courier Men of Excellence Award for 2009. He serves as Deputy Director for the Allegheny County Department of Human Services.

Andrew Caplan, MURP ’85, is a Litigation Analyst with international law firm Sullivan and Cromwell LLP in New York City.

Peter Capozza, MPA ’82, is Founder and Managing Director of Khulisa Management Services, a research, monitoring and evaluation firm in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Glenda Christy, MPIA ’81, is Senior Manager, Food Quality Assurance and Safety, for Pittsburgh-based supermarket chain Giant Eagle.

Carol DeFrances, PhD, MPA ’86, serves as Hospital Care Team Leader for the National Center for Health Statistics in Hyattsville, MD.

Myles Eldedge, MPA ’88, is Senior Director of the Research Triangle Institute’s International Development Group, in Research Triangle Park, NC.

Mark Gardner, MPIA ’83, is a Legislative Policy Analyst with the Bellingham, WA, City Council.

Dr. Paul Hennigan, MPA ’86, is President of Point Park University, a private liberal arts university located in Downtown Pittsburgh.

Lindley Higgins, MPIA ’88, is the Applied Research Manager in the DC office of NeighborWorks America, a national nonprofit providing financial support, technical assistance and training for community revitalization projects.

Anita Domalik Hogue, Esq., MPIA ’88, is an Associate in the Pittsburgh office of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, specializing in Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and employee benefits law.

Ellen Horan, MPA ’83, is President and CEO of the Greater Reading (PA) Chamber of Commerce and Industry, responsible for overseeing a staff of 16 and 2100 member companies.
Marita Kelley, MPA ’85, is a Policy Specialist with the PA Department of Community and Economic Development in Harrisburg. M. Eugene Mokeyane, PhD ’83, MPIA ’80, is CEO of the Free State Province (South Africa) Treasury Department. Allan Reiss, MPIA ’86, is CEO of Calvert Laboratories, a contract research organization specializing in pharmaceutical development, located in Scott Township, PA. Dr. Kenneth Smith, MPIA ’82, is President of Geneva College, a private Christian college located in Beaver Falls, PA. John Tolbert, MPA ’81, is the Community and Planning Development Director in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Pittsburgh Field Office. Beverly Tucker, MPIA ’81, serves as Operations Deputy Director with the Carolina Population Center, a community of scholars and professionals dedicated to the study of population issues, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. William H.C. Tingle, MPIA ’81, is Director of Sales for Latin America, Australia and New Zealand, for Hypertherm, Inc., a metal cutting product manufacturer, in Hanover, NH. Ahmed Zohny, PhD ’84, owns an international trade and business firm in Washington, DC.  

**1970’s**

R. Jerome Anderson, PhD, MURP ’74, is a Land Development Advisor in the Afghanistan Mission of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Terry Burkhart, MURP ’78, is CEO of the Bluegrass Area Chapter of the American Red Cross in Lexington, KY.

Ray Christman, MURP ’75, serves as Executive Director of the Livable Communities Coalition, a network of 50 organizations working to promote smart urban growth solutions in Metro Atlanta.

Dr. Charles Costanzo, MPIA ’79, is Assistant Professor of National Security Studies at the Air Command and Staff College, located at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL.

Tom Darr, MPA ’78, serves as Deputy Court Administrator in the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts in Mechanicsburg.

Patricia Fahey, MPA ’77, is Managing Project Director with the Center for Children & Families in Newton, MA.

Bill Fontana, MURP ’79, serves as Executive Director for the Pennsylvania Downtown Center, a nonprofit in Harrisburg dedicated to revitalizing PA’s downtowns, business districts and nearby residential areas.

Eric Fulmer, MURP ’75, is a Principal and Chairman of the Board at Mullin & Lonergan (M&L) Associates, a multi-disciplinary consulting firm with offices in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and Philadelphia. Also with M&L, Jenni Easton, MPA ’88; Whitney Finnstrom, MURP ’95; Laura Ludwig, MPA ’05; Bill Wasielewski, MURP ’93; and Marjorie Williams, MURP ’91.

Alan Gold, MPA ’77, is Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Medquist, Inc., a medical transcription software and services provider, in Mt. Laurel, NJ.  

Joanne Jackson, MURP ’77, was interviewed on the topic of growth in minority businesses by Annapolis, MD newspaper, The Capital. She has served 22 years as the Minority and Small-Business Enterprise Coordinator for Anne Arundel County.

Sidney Kalkai, MURP ’77, is a Senior Transportation Planner with the Pittsburgh office of L. Robert Kimball & Associates, an engineering and architecture firm. Willie Kelly, MPA ’79, is Director of Human Resources with Marlin Leasing Corporation, a provider of equipment lease options to small businesses, in Mt. Laurel, NJ.

Astrid Kersten, PhD, MPIA ’78, a Professor of Management at La Roche College, is a certified Global Human Resource Professional and Senior Professional in Human Resources, and writes and consults widely on organizational development and diversity management.

Kenneth Kukovich, MPA ’78, serves as the National Brownfields Coordinator with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC. Carl Luft, MPA ’76, draws on a 32-year career in local government and financial management as Owner and Director of a consulting firm in Delaware. Michael Marno, MPA ’78, was appointed by Governor Ed Rendell as a Judge in the Family Division of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas.

Dr. Walter J. McCoy, Esq., MPA ’72, MURP ’75, is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University in Houston. K.R. Rao, PhD ’76, is retired from electric utility provider Entergy Corporation and now has his own consulting firm in Brandon, MS. James Rieland, MPA ’78, called “a pioneer in juvenile justice” by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, retired after 35 years as Director of Allegheny County Probation.

David Siegel, MPIA ’73, serves as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Coordinator in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Sam Swanson, MPIA ’71, a Senior Policy Advisor and Analyst at the Pace Law School Energy and Climate Center, was appointed Board Co-chair of the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund.

Vickie Tillman, MPA ’76, was named Senior Vice President, Global Sustainability Business Development, for The McGraw-Hill Companies, New York, NY.

**1960’s**

Marshall Bond, MPA ’69, was the subject of articles in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in April and the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review in November 2009. He is set to retire from 22 years of service as Municipal Manager of Monroeville, PA.

Harry Eberhart, MPA ’64, is a City Planner for the City of West Haven, CT.

Gary Hansen, MPIA ’63, retired from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as Civil Society Division Chief in the Office of Democracy and Government.

Ed Katz, MPA ’67, is head of the International Office Moving Institute, based in Metro Atlanta. James Lowry, MPIA ’65, is a Senior Advisor specializing in workforce diversity, ethnic marketing, and minority business development in the Boston Consulting Group’s Chicago office. Bill Nugent, MPA ’66, was elected Treasurer of the National Regulatory Research Institute’s Board of Directors. He has served since 2004 as Executive Director of the New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners.

Jon Stoops, MPA ’69, retired as Finance Director for the City of Trotwood, OH.
IN MEMORIAM

Douglas Beaven, GSPIA '65, of Boston, MA, died in January 2010 at age 70. He founded IT company Virtual Agility and held positions with Church World Service, Booz Allen Hamilton, Coopers & Lybrand and Symmetrix Inc.

Andrew N. Farley, '64, died in May 2009 at age 74 in The Woodlands, TX. He was a retired Senior Partner with Pittsburgh law firm Reed Smith.

James Habron, MPW '74, of Pleasantville, NJ, died in December 2009 at age 76. He worked most recently for the Pleasantville Urban Enterprise Zone and previously served in the U.S. Department of State, the New Jersey State Highway Department and the U.S. Army.

Jacques Kozub, '64 of Washington, DC, died in May 2009 at age 77. During his career, he worked at the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank.

Nestor Nisperos, PhD '70, died in April 2009 at age 80. He was a professor at the University of the Philippines and President/Trustee of the National Defense College Foundation.

Andung A. Nitimihardja, MP '82, PhD '86, died in October 2009 at age 59. At the time, he was serving as Indonesia's ambassador to Mexico, Honduras and Costa Rica.

Mary Lou Smith, PhD, MPA '74, died in December 2009 at age 87 in New Haven, CT. A GSPIA Professor Emerita, she served as Director for the school’s former Institute of Urban Management Program Training and Development (ITOD), the school's former Institute of Homeland Security.

Doug Watkins (MPA '76), died in January 2010 at age 57. He was retired from 27 years of dedicated service as Upper St. Clair Township (PA) Manager.

Alumni Gatherings

PITTSBURGH

Members of the GSPIA community gathered at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association in October 2009 to celebrate Pitt Homecoming and to recognize the year’s alumni award recipients. Honorees Tony Accamando Jr., MPA '71; Marshall Bond, MPA '69; Cheryle Campbell, MPA'76; Dave Coplan MPAMSW '93; Dan Flaherty, MPA '99; Cathleen Laporte, MPA '99 and Dr. Buba Misawa, MPA '85; were in attendance, as were Marilyn Dadowkski, MPA '95; Lynn Daniels, MPA '79; Professor Emeritus Joe Eaton; Paul Fero, MPA '90; Erin (Crowe) Flaherty, MPA '95; Kevin Flannery, MPA '85 and Donna Flannery, MPA '78; Bill Friedman, MPA 78; Sharon Gratzmiller, MMPM '08; Marie Hamblett, MPA '03; Jessica Hatherill, MPA '03; Brian Hayden, MPA & MPA '91; Tim Little, MPA '89; Nannette Livadas, MPPA '07; Judge Mike Marmo, MPA '78; Ana Maria Mieles-Sciulli, MPA/JD '02; Tony Mottle, MPA '79; W. David Montz, MMPM '03; Steve Morus, MPA '86; Jennifer Novelli, MID '03; Keith Robb, MPA '70; Jacob Simon, MPA/JD '05; Patty Skillin, MID '06 and Ed Warchol, MPA '84.

JAKARTA

In December 2009, Dean John Keeler and Associate Dean Bill Dunn traveled to Indonesia to host a reception poolside at the Hotel Borobudur Jakarta in honor of 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Dr. Sofian Effendi, MPA '75, PhD '78. Other attendees included Dwi Wahyu Atmaj, MPA '95; Son Diamar, PhD '91; Henky Hermantor, MURP '89, MPA '89; Burhan Muhammad, MPA '93; Eddy Noor, MPA '90; Achmad Sanusi, MPA '95; D. Sudiman, MPA '84; Johannes Baptista Sumarin, PhD '91; Sri Edi Swasono, MPA '67; PhD '69; Tatag Wiranto, MURP '93; Supranawa Yusuf, MPA '95 and several Pitt School of Education alumni.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

GSPIA held a reception in March at the Royal Thai Embassy in Washington, D.C. Guests were welcomed by the Ambassador of Thailand to the U.S., Don Pramudwinai, and GSPIA alumni employed by the embassy: Minister-Counselor Pattrawan Vechasart, MPA '86; and Counselor Tanee Sangrat, MPA '92. Dean Keeler presented a Distinguished Alumnus Award to Ambassador Donald A. Mahley, MPA '71, for his years of service to the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Army and the National Security Council. Among the other alumni in attendance, Lindsey Anderson, MPA '90, James Beachler, MPA '82; Mark Bittinger, MPA '93; Jason Cohen, MID '06; Kathleen Connell, MPA '71; Dorothea de Zafra Atwell, MPA '65; Jeff Dilley, MPA '71; Ken Duckworth, MPA '94; Douglas Sube, MPA '69; Tom Keller, MPA '06; Ayanna King, MURP '99; Yolanda King, MPA '98; Theresa Laughlin, MPA '89; Joel Mitenbergen, MPA '76; James Moore, MPA '76; Bill Pierce, MPA '85; Ken Rogers, MPA '91; Cheryl Sell, MPA '82; Nadeem Shah, MPA '99, Chris Solomon, MPA '09; Rich Sommerfeld Jr., MPA '77; Maria Toshkova, MPA '06, Irene Tzinis, MPA '07 and Courtland Witherup, MPA '03.

In November 2009, GSPIA and the Pitt School of Law hosted “Understanding the Healthcare Reform Puzzle,” a panel discussion about current issues in healthcare and reform. Alumni from both schools participated as panelists, including, from GSPIA, Alison Bonebrake, MPA '99; William Pierce, MPA '85, Senior Vice President, APCO Worldwide; and Harvey “Chip” Amoe III, JD/MPA '03, Assistant Director, Federal Affairs American Society of Anesthesiologists.

CHICAGO

Representatives and graduates of GSPIA and Pitt business schools reunited in May at the Mid-America Club in Downtown Chicago’s Aon Center. From atop the building’s 80th floor, guests were treated to views of the city’s famous skyline and landmarks and a talk by Kim Taylor, MPA/ MBA ’96, on the topic of “The Entrepreneurial Mindset.” Richard Geiger, MURP ’95, and wife Angela, a Katz alum, addressed the group on behalf of the Pitt Club of Chicago.

DEAN'S COUNCIL

Alumni members in Pittsburgh, New York City and Washington, D.C., met on various occasions during the academic year to consult with Dean Keeler on a variety of issues related to the school, including curriculum, fundraising, reputation and visibility, student experience and career opportunities.

Get Involved

GSPIA offers many opportunities for alumni to give back of their time and talent, and to stay connected with the University of Pittsburgh and one another.

Alumni Briefings: Speak to students about your career experience on campus or via videoconference from Washington, D.C.
Alumni Legislative Network: Become an advocate for Pitt and higher education causes (PA residents).
Online Networks: Forge personal and professional connections via Facebook, LinkedIn, the Alumni Online Directory and the Pitt Career Network.
Pitt Alumni Association: Become a member for access to exclusive benefits and services, such as publications, advanced notice of events and discounts.
Pitt Alumni Recruitment Team: Represent the University at student recruitment events worldwide.
Reunions: Plan to attend celebrations held annually at homecoming or host an event in your area.
Travel Program: See the world and expand your knowledge in experiences with other Pitt alumni and friends.

Submit news and contact info updates to Emily Twargowski, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations and Development, 412-648-7430 or gspia57@pitt.edu.