John Mendeloff has been the director of the RAND Center for Health and Safety in the Workplace since January 2007. His Oakland office keeps him close to his other job as a professor at the University of Pittsburgh.

“My research at RAND is multi-disciplinary,” Mendeloff said. “It cuts across many areas of public policy involving prevention and compensation for work illnesses and injuries. We are also trying to influence public policy to improve what you might call the infrastructure for research in this area: How do we get more reliable data? How can we get studies with stronger research designs that can generate more credible findings?”

It’s no surprise, then, that Mendeloff’s appointments at Pitt span from GSPIA, to the School of Public Health and also the School of Law. These programs represent the same multi-disciplinary approaches to creating and evaluating public policies that RAND researchers employ every day. Mendeloff helps his students to understand the intersections these disciplines share through GSPIA courses like Program and Policy Evaluation (Fall ’09) and Health Policy (available Summer ’10).

Mendeloff’s research offers students a chance to interact with the ideas and studies that RAND generates to guide policy-making on a local, regional and even international level. Mendeloff’s recent studies examine the effects of OSHA inspections on workplace injury rates, the role of firm size in providing safety and measures to predict future safety performance. Most recently, Mendeloff led a study of Pennsylvania policy that grants a discount to firms on their workers’ compensation premiums if they agree to have a certified safety committee.

“We found that when companies complied with the policy requirements, they did show noticeable improvement in their injury rates,” Mendeloff said. “However, non-compliance was found to be more
the rule than the exception, and so we recommended increased sanctions for firms that took the discount money but failed to meet the requirements.

Pittsburgh is fortunate to be home to one of three main RAND offices in the country. RAND, a non-profit organization, seeks to improve policy and decision-making through research and analysis. GSPIA benefits from the proximity of RAND and its researchers. Forrest Morgan, another professor at GSPIA, also works for RAND. And there is a RAND employee on GSPIA's Board of Visitors.

Mendeloff has been a part of the University of Pittsburgh's teaching staff since 1993. He shared his advice after years of service and said, "Be sure to develop analytical skills, realize that persistence is a good trait for effectiveness," and perhaps most importantly, "figure out what you like doing."

New Student Cabinet Elected

After an exciting election, with a run-off for president, GSPIA's 2010-2011 Student Cabinet includes: Ian Young (president), Caitlin Rice (vice-president), Daniel Scarnecchia (treasurer), Jessie Schauffert (secretary), Marie DeAeth (social chair), Richa Pokrel (MID representative), Laura Smith (MPIA representative), Jay Rickabaugh (MPA representative), Qing Hu (international student representative), Jonathan Livingston (PhD representative) and Chad Corrigan (MPPA representative).

The new Student Cabinet will be inaugurated on Fri., Jan. 22. A celebration will be held beginning at 6 p.m. on Jan. 22 at Peter's Pub in Oakland.
public and urban affairs at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and director of the Center for Disaster Management, discussed the impact of disaster relief efforts in Haiti with PCNC's NightTalk on Mon., Jan. 18. Comfort was also interviewed by a New Zealand radio news show about the disaster.

**STUDENT ARTICLE FEATURED IN POST-GAZETTE**

Christine Waller (MPIA/GPE ’11) was recently featured in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette for her article, "Holiday Musings: Distant Culture and Continent Can Feel So Close." Waller's article reflects on her study abroad experiences in Peru.

**Pitt Political Review, GSPIA Edition Seeking Papers**

Students tirelessly work on term papers each semester to culminate their class experience into insightful written work. These papers often go unnoticed after the completion of the term. But thanks to a few motivated individuals, GSPIA students now have the opportunity to publish some of their best graduate work to showcase their research talents.

The GSPIA edition of The Pitt Political Review is now accepting research and policy paper submissions for the 2010 edition. Papers exploring diverse policy issues and innovative perspectives on domestic and global political, economic and security questions are acceptable. The deadline for submission is Mon., Feb. 1. For submission criteria, click [here](#).

The GSPIA edition of the Pitt Political Review was founded in December 2008 as part of the Fund for Student Initiatives (FSI). The publication is meant to foster professional exchange and mutual improvement by motivating students to think critically and analytically about contemporary issues. All GSPIA students are welcome to participate in the publication by submitting papers or serving on the publication board.

See the last issue of the [Pitt Political Review, GSPIA Edition](#).
At the invitation of Dean John Keeler, 25 members of the three DC Dean's Councils convened at the Old Ebbitt Grill on Thurs., Jan. 14. Council members were updated on GSPIA's expanding international partnerships, increase in graduate applications and record number of Presidential Management Fellowship nominees. The main topic of discussion was how to increase corporate sponsorship opportunities with GSPIA. Members offered suggestions on how to partner with corporations and involved faculty and staff in these partnerships.

Members of the DC Dean's Alumni Councils in attendance include: Sam Adcock (MPIA '87), Jill Bezek (MPIA '88), Mark Bittinger (MPIA '93), Kate Brentzel (MPIA '99), Steve Garber (MPIA '93), Lisa Helmer (MPIA '02), Beth Hoffman Leon (MPIA '88), Donald Mahley (MPIA '71), Bryan Marcus (MPIA '02), Michael Marks (MPIA '78), Sara Olds (MPIA '08), Ulyana Panchishin (MPIA '98), Bill Pierce (MPIA '85), David Reimer (MPIA '85), Alissa Repanshek (MPIA '04), Beth Rossman (MPIA '87), Cheryl Sella (MPA '82), Tom Short (MPIA '78), Roger Simmons (MPIA '70, '79), Richard Sommerfeld (MPIA '77) and David Weekman (MPIA '90).

The DC Dean's Alumni Councils will convene again in summer 2010.

**Alumni Update - Kay Brown, MPA '84**

You might say Kay Brown's life has come full circle since she started her career as a caseworker for the county's child welfare program in Erie, Pa.

She's still dealing with welfare, nutrition assistance, and other issues that profoundly affect the lives of many people. The difference is the scale.
If last year, someone had predicted that I’d spend the fall semester interning at a television news organization, I’d never have believed them. I’d have said, “This is not the reason why I came to GSPIA. I didn’t come to a policy school to get into television broadcast. What does Global Political Economy have to do with journalism anyway?”

In the spring, a friend suggested that a model for my career might be that of 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.

So in the summer, when I was doing a policy internship at the Institute for New Democracies working on the project with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC, I found out about the CNN internship. I applied and was surprised to be accepted.

In mid-September, I moved to Atlanta, GA to start as an intern at CNN Headquarters. I was assigned to the International Assignment Desk. But as it turned out later, along with my internship at the Desk, I landed a whole string of different internships. My first three weeks I spent with the assignment desk, learning peculiarities of CNN’s newsgathering operations throughout the world, booking guests, assisting the editors in getting the 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 futures department.

I rotated among different CNN production units and moved from one show to another. One week I would be with CNN Domestic, then would shift from satellites to the wire. During a week in October, I spent some time with BackStory, the international show anchored by Michael Holmes.

Yet getting an internship in the CNNI Newsroom was not the ultimate stroke of luck. In November, my supervisor asked what show I would choose to spend a week with. Long before I sought to pursue my 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 spend a week with her new interview show “Amanpour.” The supervisor said he would think about it.

I never found out what his thought process was, but next week I found myself in New York interning for “Amanpour.” There I learned that it takes a group of 14 people to produce the world’s best show. I saw what it requires to plan the program in the breaking news industry, to stay committed to quality and perfectionism, to channel aesthetic enthusiasm so 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 peace talks 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. It was a journey exploring history as it happened both for them and for me.

In planning for an internship, I benefited from my conversations with great mentors, especially Dr.
Dunn and Dr. Goldstein (Goldy). They made me consider career paths that I would not have considered. Goldy was right about getting out into the world, going into the field and talking to people. I had a flood of experiences that complemented my coursework and changed my thinking more than I could ever imagine possible in just five months.

Most importantly, I discovered that dreams do come true and that what Ted Kennedy said at the end of his book - "if you'll 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" - is also true.

Mila wrote several pieces about her internships at efeuilleton.com with details about interning at CNN International News and "Amanpour."