From the Director:

This has been another exciting year for the Stanford Public Policy Program, in some ways too exciting. The bad news, of course, was the economic downturn with its adverse impact on academic budgets and student job prospects. The important contributions that our alumni provide, both as career mentors and donors, have become even more important to the program. We hope to expand both of those roles as the program grows.

One piece of good news is that in June we graduated our first two MPP students, Joel Mehler (who also earned an MS in Electrical Engineering) and Kenisha Dilliard (a joint JD/MPP student). A second item of good news is that our plan for a co-terminal M.A. degree in Public Policy was approved by the University’s faculty senate. We will begin to accept applications this fall. Third, the B.A. program was renewed for a new five-year term (2010-15) by the senate following its periodic and very positive curriculum review.

The new co-terminal M.A. in Public Policy will have two tracks, one for Public Policy majors, and the other for non-majors. Majors will complete a 35-unit concentration in health policy, environment and energy policy, regulatory and intervention policy, or international policy, plus a 10-unit practicum. Non-majors will take an intense 45-unit version of the Public Policy core curriculum.

Last autumn the program hosted what we hope will be an annual non-profit career forum, with representatives from local and national foundations and not-for-profit organizations. Paul Brest, a member of our M.P.P. program faculty and president of the Hewlett Foundation, took the lead in organizing the event.

We were delighted this spring to have economist Alice Rivlin, the founding director of the Congressional Budget Office and a former director of the Office of Management and Budget, as the 2009 Zale Lecturer. Also contributing to an upbeat spring quarter, the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR), our parent organization, devoted the entire issue of its May Policy Brief to précis of four honors theses by Public Policy seniors Daniel Berring, Joseph Ayers, Jessica Lee and Daniel Steefel. The SIEPR Policy Brief is included with this newsletter.

We now have faculty-supervised practica for both the B.A. and the M.P.P. programs. The M.P.P. program alone will have five or six teams of up to five students each working on six-month-long projects, starting in October. In 2010/11 the number of teams may double. This means we have a continuing need for policy research projects commissioned by government agencies, NGOs, and philanthropists. Public Policy alumni who have ideas for such projects, especially those located in the Bay Area, are urged to contact me.

Bruce M. Owen, Ph.D. ’70
Director
BruceOwen@stanford.edu
**Master of Public Policy - Class of 2009**

**Kenisha Dilliard:** Kenisha graduated with a joint JD/MPP degree. She was the Social Events Committee Co-chair for the Law Association, and served on the Executive Committee for the Black Law Students Association. Her MPP Practicum project was a study of potential solutions to alleviating overcrowding at Mariano Castro Elementary in Mountain View, CA. Kenisha was a summer associate at Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich and Rosati in Palo Alto and Washington, D.C., during 2006-2008. She will return to Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich and Rosati as a Corporate Law Attorney in January 2010. During the summer Kenisha will be studying for the California Bar Exam.

**Joel Mehler:** A Master of Public Policy degree was awarded to Joel Mehler. Joel completed his Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 2007. He was a Tisdale Fellow at the Business Software Alliance in the Public Policy Division, where he worked on issues including intellectual property and cybersecurity. He was also a Research Engineer at the Toyota InfoTechnology Center in Palo Alto, working on advanced vehicle positioning and guidance technologies. Joel volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, New Graduate Student Orientation at Stanford, and for Rebuilding Together. He was a course Teaching Assistant for Cost-Benefit Analysis and Evaluation with Professor Kessler, and was the head course assistant in E40 “Introduction to Electronics.” Joel served with his two Public Policy classmates on a practicum project evaluating policies aimed at alleviating overcrowding at Mountain View’s Mariano Castro Elementary. After graduation, Joel will begin work in Washington, D.C.

**Bachelor of Arts - Class of 2009**

**Mafope Alao:** During her time at Stanford, Mafope was active in many campus groups. She was a member of the Stanford African Students Association; the Nigerian Students Association; “Moving Word: Expressions of Faith,” Stanford’s Praise Dance Group; InterVarsity Christian Fellowship; and the Stanford Gospel Choir. Mafope also tutored elementary school students through the Ravenswood Reads and Ravenswood English programs, and was a Math Instructor at Santa Rita Elementary School with Foundations for Education. Mafope attended the Berlin Overseas Studies Program and speaks German. Mafope worked as a Credentials Student Aide at the Admissions Office, where she organized undergraduate admissions applications, and as her dorm’s head house host for Stanford Admit Weekend. As part of the senior practicum course, Mafope worked on the student team evaluating opportunities to expand the Prison University Project at San Quentin State Prison. Mafope will continue her studies in the School of Education in the Stanford Teacher Education Program pursuing a Master of Arts in Elementary Education.

**Douglas Alfaro:** Douglas held multiple leadership positions during his time at Stanford. He was a Public Policy Peer Advisor, as well as Sponsorship Manager for two years and an athlete for four years with the Stanford Triathlon. He also helped reestablish the Latino Business Student Association at Stanford, and served as that group’s Vice President. Douglas attended Stanford in Washington, where he interned at the U.S. Department of Education in the Office of Planning Evaluation and Policy Development. He also participated in the Bing Summer Seminar in Thailand, where he studied education, political economy, and globalization. Douglas was an Operations Fellow with SEE College Prep, providing resources to help deserving students get into college. He also worked as a Finance Officer at Gumball Capital, Inc., and interned as a Business Associate at Wells Fargo Business Banking Group. This year, Douglas served as a Technology and Innovation Policy Intern at NASA-AMES Research Center in Mountain View. Douglas is a Monster.com Diversity Leadership Program alumnus, a Sun Valley Writer’s Conference Fellow, and earned the Ford Spirit of Accomplishment Scholastic Award. After Stanford, Douglas plans to pursue a career in local government.
Jennifer Bernal: Jenny earned a B.A. in Economics and Public Policy. She attended the Bing Overseas Study Program at Oxford. Jenny was a research assistant in the Finance Department at the Graduate School of Business. In this position, she collected and analyzed data of firms in financial distress, trying to determine if different uses of credit lines could help them escape their financial situations. She also interned for Hamilton Lane Advisors in San Francisco, as part of the Fund Investment and Co-Investment Teams. At Stanford, Jenny was Corporate Relations Officer for the Latino Business Student Association. She was Treasurer for Kimball Dormitory. Jenny was also a competitor and recruiter for the Stanford Ballroom Dance Team. After graduation, Jenny will continue her work at the Hoover Institution in the Office of Condoleezza Rice. She is currently an assistant aiding Dr. Rice in her research and administrative tasks.

Joseph Ayers: Joe was a Professional Baseball Player with the Yakima Bears, an Arizona Diamondbacks Affiliate. Joe was selected twice in the Major League Baseball draft, while pursuing his degree at Stanford. During the summer, Joe was a baseball player and coach, directing team-sponsored sports camps for several hundred children ages 8-18. He was a research Intern at Oceana, Inc., in Juneau, Alaska. At Stanford, Joe published a Policy Brief in a Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research publication on how student athletes are fairing through high school, college and the working world. Joe also earned the Boston College Athletic Director Award for Academic Achievement. Joe was the first native born Alaskan to receive Division I athletic scholarships and play baseball for Stanford University. Joe has accepted a job working as a Research Analyst for RCM Capital Management in San Francisco this summer.

Jennifer Bernal: Jennifer earned a minor in Studio Art, and is graduating with honors from the Center for International Security and Cooperation. Her thesis examined organized crime and the struggle to reform intelligence in Mexico. Jennifer attended Stanford in Washington, interning at the Global Strategy Institute of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Jennifer was director of the Student Organizing Committee for the Arts. She was a member of the residential staff at Stanford’s French House, and Financial Officer for the Mexican Students Association. Jennifer was a Public Policy Peer Advisor, and involved in Stanford in Government, serving on the board of senior advisors and as the Director of D.C. Fellowships. Jennifer worked as a residential counselor and teaching assistant for the Educational Program for Gifited Youth in Singapore and Istanbul. Jennifer will return to work with that program in London.

Daniel Berring: Danny is graduating Phi Beta Kappa, with University Distinction, and with honors. For his thesis, Danny explored the influence that communities have on recidivism rates in California. He is also graduating with a minor in Chinese, and attended an overseas program in Beijing. Danny was a Stanford Law School Research Assistant and a member of the Stanford Debate Society. He served as President of Delta Kappa Epsilon. Last summer, Danny was Stanford in Government’s GAO Fellow in Washington, D.C., where he worked with the Government Accountability Office assessing the organizational resilience of the IRS. Previously, he interned in the Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein. Danny spent a summer as a Cultural Liaison in Immersion at Learning Enterprises in Quan Feng, Anhui Provence, in China. Danny will begin full-time work in January as a Business Analyst at McKinsey & Company in Los Angeles.

Emily Brauer: Emily was Vice President of the Stanford Team working with Bahati Education supporting the Tanzanian ambassador to the U.N. in starting an all-girls secondary school in Tanzania. Emily was awarded a fellowship for this service work, and lived in Tanzania for three months. Emily also studied in Madrid for a quarter. She was a Stanford Tour guide, a member of the Gaieties cast, and a member of the Stanford Shakespeare Society. She held several leadership positions in the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Emily was a member of the practicum team analyzing high-speed rail options for the City of Palo Alto. Last summer, Emily worked for the Parthenon Group. After graduation, Emily will move to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the summer to work for a public policy institute, and then will begin work as an Associate with the Parthenon Group in San Francisco.
Class of 2009

Jeremy Bronfman: Jeremy had a concentration in the economics of climate change, and he is graduating with a minor in History. Jeremy is the founder of Forgen Energy, an independent oil and gas exploration and production company based in Dallas, Texas. Jeremy served as a general partner for Forgen Capital, a private wealth management investment advisor; and as a partner and analyst for Iroquois Capital, a New York based hedge fund that provides financing for small public companies in technology, biotech, and industrial sectors. He is on the Board of Advisers for start-ups, Green Owl Records and IncentAlign. Jeremy worked as an intern for Endeavor, a non-profit organization supporting entrepreneurship in developing countries, where he consulted for companies from Santiago and Paragonia. During his time at Stanford, Jeremy was on the Board of Directors for Stanford Hillel. Jeremy will attend Harvard Business School in the fall to pursue an MBA.

Leah Calvo: Leah held a leadership position in Stanford in Government, serving on the Committee for Campus and Community Partnerships. She taught civics to middle school students. Leah was a Structured Liberal Education writing tutor, held a dormitory staff position, and was a member of Alpha Phi Omega. She attended the Bing Overseas Study Program at Oxford, and also worked as a student researcher earning the Cancer Research Training Award with the National Cancer Institute. Leah interned in several offices in the Washington, D.C., area, including the Office of Minority Health; the Institute for Alternative Futures; and in the Office of Congresswoman Susan Davis. Leah began working in Senator Edward Kennedy’s Health Policy Office in February. There she worked as an intern with the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, researching health reform efforts and food and drug safety concerns.

Lizzie Choi: Lizzie attended Stanford in Washington, and interned at the Department of Education in Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality working to increase the number of AP courses in low-income schools. She was a peer advisor for Stanford in Washington and Public Policy. Lizzie was a Summerbridge teacher with Downtown College Preparatory in San Jose. She was also a research assistant in the Culture and Emotion Psychology Lab. Lizzie participated in Tutti Music Tutoring, teaching violin to middle schoolers, and earned the Friends of Music Scholarship. She was a member of the practicum team that consulted at San Quentin State Prison. Lizzie devoted considerable time and commitment to Bible study and other faith activities, and was an active member of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Lizzie will continue her studies in the School of Education in the Stanford Teacher Education Program pursuing a Master of Arts in Education.

Mark Donig: Mark was a participant in the Bing Overseas Study Program in Berlin. He had two essays published while at Stanford— the first was a commentary on Mark Twain’s “The War Prayer,” published in the Republic of Georgia, Japan, and the U.S. A Stanford Daily Op-Ed was also re-published by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. Mark was Co-President of the Stanford Israel Alliance. He was also the student delegate between the Stanford Israel Alliance and Coalition for Justice in the Middle East, forging closer ties among the two groups and creating a Middle East Dialogue Group. Mark was a teacher at a local Hebrew School; Co-Founder of Cal Sucks Shirts; Radio Talk Show Host for KZSU 90.1 FM; and a Stanford Daily Columnist. Mark will continue his studies at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel, pursuing a Master of Arts in Diplomacy.

Amber Hampton: Amber was awarded honors in Education. Her thesis examined what cultural capital students build through participation in the Brooklyn Music and Arts Program, and how this capital is valued or devalued in certain contexts. Amber was awarded an American Educational Research Association Grant and the Dean’s Award for Academic Excellence. Amber served as an officer and Housing Coordinator for the Stanford Japan Exchange Club. She was Community Service Coordinator for the Black Student Union; Program Coordinator for the Black Community Services Center; a tutor for Upward Bound; and a member of Delta Sigma Theta. She worked as a research assistant at the John Gardner Center. Last summer, Amber worked in the Private Wealth Management group at Goldman Sachs in San Francisco. Amber will return to Goldman as a Financial Analyst.

Eva Jellison: Eva is graduating with a secondary major in Economics. She was Team Captain and a member of the Varsity Fencing Team. She was also the Western Regions Champion from 2006-2009 and an NCAA All-American in 2006, 2007 and 2008. Eva was President of the Roosevelt Society, a student run policy think tank, and participated in Summer Research College, where she worked as a Research Assistant for Professors Jon Kroscnick and Neil Malhotra. She was a researcher for the Political Psychology Research Group, and co-authored a paper on optimal questionnaire design. Eva was a Stanford University peer mentor. She worked as a research assistant at The Beacon Hill Institute in Boston and was a member of the practicum team that consulted for the City of Palo Alto. Eva plans to spend the summer in Massachusetts catching Red Sox games and figuring out what’s next.
Matthew Kinskey: Matt is graduating with honors. In his thesis, he evaluated how changes in school district revenue affect academic performance in the Texas Public School system. During his time at Stanford, Matt served as the Financial Manager for the Order of Omega, the Stanford Greek Honor Society. He also served as Kitchen Manager for his fraternity, Sigma Chi. He was a student volunteer for the East Palo Alto K-8 Academy and was a lifeguard for Stanford. Matt also participated in the Charles R. Blyth fund, a student-led portfolio management group at Stanford. Last summer, Matt was a financial and marketing summer manager for AT&T in San Ramon as a part of their Leadership Development Program. After graduation, he will begin work at Capital One in McLean, Virginia.

Jessica Lee: Jessica is graduating with honors in Public Policy as well as with a minor in Chinese. Her honors thesis explores the efficacy of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Jessica attended Stanford in Washington, where she interned at the Department of Justice, in the Voting section of the Civil Rights Division. She was a member of Stanford Judicial Panel, Mock Trial and Directed the 2006 Stanford Mock Trial High School Symposium. Jessica worked as an intern at the Legal Aid Foundation in Los Angeles and at Oak Hill Investment Management. Jessica was also a volunteer basketball coach at the Boys and Girls Club in East Palo Alto and a peer advisor for the Public Policy program. After graduation, Jessica will begin work as an Investment Analyst at Bivium Capital in San Francisco.

Erik Lorig: Erik was a tight end and defensive end for the Stanford Varsity Football team. He received All-Pac 10 football honors following the 2008 season, and was also named to the Pac-10 All Academic Team and earned commendation as a Stanford Honors Athlete. Erik worked as a counselor for the Stanford strength, conditioning and leadership camp. He volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club of East Palo Alto, and served as the Executive Secretary of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity. Erik also worked as a Venture Capital Intern at Acuity Venture LLC. Next Fall Erik will return to Stanford to play a fifth year of football for the Cardinals and begin preparing for the NFL draft. He also plans to begin his co-terminal degree in Communications.

John McCormick: Johnny is graduating with University Distinction. He completed his honors thesis through the Center for Security and International Cooperation. His project evaluated Iran’s role in the insurgent movement in Iraq. Johnny was a member of Stanford Men’s Rugby Team and received the Kmenivic Fellowship, an award bestowed by his teammates for exemplifying the culture and values of the team. Johnny was the 2009 Senior Class President. He served in a number of roles for Learning Enterprises International, Inc., including Managing Director. Johnny tutored for Habla el Dia, and was a peer advisor for the Public Policy Program. He is a member of the Order of Omega, the national Greek Honor Society, and was awarded the Joseph Mancini Leadership Award by Sigma Alpha Epsilon National. Johnny was a member of the practicum team that analyzed high-speed rail for the City of Palo Alto. After graduation, Johnny will be traveling to New Zealand and plans to begin service in the United States Marine Corps next spring.

Ngoc-Tu Ngo: Tu was the first public-school student from Vietnam to be admitted to Stanford on a full scholarship. She served as co-president and now Board Member of the Southeast Asian Service Leadership Network, which aims to build young service leaders of Southeast Asia and has trained 500 students worldwide. Tu received a Haas Summer Fellowship to set up a computer training program for visually impaired students in Ho Chi Minh City, and served as the local coordinator for Stanford Medical Projects, through which Stanford doctors provide free rural medical clinics in Vietnam. She worked in the education, investment and consulting industries in Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore and Hong Kong, and plans to keep moving back and forth between Asia and the U.S. in her future work. After graduation, Tu will return to Vietnam for her summer fellowship and to begin her for-profit Education Startup, Yola (Your Online Learning Assistant), which will bring English language training to Vietnam.

Daniel Philpot: Daniel is graduating with a minor in History. He pursued his concentration in Education Policy. Daniel was the kitchen manager at 717 Dolores for two years and served as a residential counselor at the Education Program for Gifted Youth (EPGY) summer institutes on campus last summer. Aside from studying, Daniel played soccer and also played guitar in a band on campus called “The Boise Noise.” Daniel will begin his Master’s degree in the STEP program at the Stanford School of Education this summer. After graduate school, he plans to teach high school, in either US History or Government, and to coach soccer.

Interested in joining Stanford Public Policy on Facebook?

Search for ‘Stanford Public Policy’ on the ‘Groups’ Page, submit a request to be added and you are all set!
Eric Showen: Eric is graduating with University Distinction and a secondary major in Economics. He was awarded the Stanford Alumni Association’s Award of Excellence. Eric served as President of Stanford in Government. He was Chief Financial Officer for the Business Association of Stanford Engineering students, and served in the Class of 2009 Executive Cabinet. He led an Alternative Spring Break to New Orleans. Eric was a Teaching Assistant in Intermediate Macroeconomics, and a research assistant at Stanford. He was resident assistant for a Graduate School of Business summer institute, and attended a Stanford overseas seminar in Belgium. Eric participated in Stanford in Washington, interning at the White House Office of Management and Budget. He returned to D.C. to work in the Security and Exchange Commission’s Office of Economic Analysis. Eric served on the practicum team working for the City of Palo Alto. This summer, Eric will reach Global Economics in Beijing, followed by travel. Eric will then begin work in San Francisco with Bain & Company as an Associate Consultant. He will matriculate at Harvard Law School in 2011.

Daniel Steefel: Daniel is graduating with University Distinction and with honors in Public Policy. His thesis explores the effect of Blue Laws on fatal automobile crashes. Daniel attended Stanford in Washington and interned at the Department of Treasury in the Office of the Undersecretary for Domestic Finance. He also worked at J.P. Morgan Securities as an Investment Banking Analyst within the Tax-Exempt Capital Markets group, and participated in the Tuck Business Bridge Program at Dartmouth. Daniel worked as a campus tour guide, and was a member of Sigma Chi, where he served as the Financial Manager. He also participated as a tutor in Upward Bound. After graduating, Daniel will serve as a Consultant with Bates White in Washington, D.C.

Kristina Yang: Kristina is graduating with a primary major in Economics. She was a research assistant for Michael May and worked on a policy report for the Norwegian government on nuclear proliferation. Kristina was a recipient of the Hoefer Prize for Excellence in Writing and was inducted into the Order of Omega honor society, to which she also served as President for two years. She was House Manager for Grove Houses and was Kitchen manager. Kristina was a Summer Analyst for Conerstone’s San Francisco office, was a Congressional Intern for Representative Van Hollen and intern for the Office of the Vice Chairman for the Board of Veterans’ Appeals in Washington, D.C. After graduation Kristina will begin work in New York City as an analyst for Conerstone Research and in two years will begin her Law degree at Columbia University.
Sandy Allen, Class of 1994

After five years as a program officer with the James Irvine Foundation, Sandy joined the City & County of San Francisco Controller’s Office in September 2004. As a project manager in the City Services Auditor division, Sandy works to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the services provided by City agencies -- with a focus on public transportation and health and human services. Sandy has been married to her Stanford sweetheart since 1996, and last summer they welcomed their first child, Dominic.

Steve Churchill and Rosemarie Day, Class of 1988

Steve and Rosemarie live in Somerville, MA with their three children, Kate (10), Andrew (10), and Ellie (4). Steve works as a lecturer-on-law and clinical instructor at Harvard Law School. He teaches classes on lawyering skills and employment civil rights, supervises law students at a legal clinic, and represents low-wage workers in employment discrimination cases. He also serves as the president of Fair Employment Project, Inc., a non-profit he co-founded in 2007 to provide legal information and assistance to workers. Rosemarie works as the Deputy Director of the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority, a quasi-public agency created as part of the Massachusetts health reform law. She helped the agency grow from 2 to 50 employees and has been deeply involved in the successful implementation of the country’s boldest experiment with universal health care coverage. Rosemarie has held many other great jobs in state government and feels she owes a lot to the start she got in public policy at Stanford (she also welcomes summer interns!).

Darron Evans, Class of 1998

Darron is the 8th grade Humanities Lead Teacher at Centennial College Preparatory Academy, a charter middle school in Huntington Park, CA. He’s got two semesters down and one to go to complete work for his administrative credential through the Charter School Leadership Academy at Loyola Marymount University.

Kathryn Knowles, Class of 1998

In January, Kathryn started a new job as Business Development Manager for BolognaFiere, the international exhibition and events center in Bologna, Italy where she has been living with her husband Marco since 2000. In June, she was elected to the city council of San Giorgio di Piano, a town of 9,000 inhabitants in the province of Bologna. In her free time, Kathryn is usually running with her local club and managed to get in 3 half-marathons this season, the best of which was in the historical center of Prague.

Lisa Krim, Class of 1991

Lisa lives in Bethesda, Maryland with her husband, Andy Schwartz, and her two boys, Ethan (8 years) and Gideon (3 years). She has worked at Georgetown University for over eleven years, and currently serves as Associate General Counsel. Lisa was profiled along with other lawyers who have taken different paths in a book edited by Stanford Law Professors Alan B. Morrison and Diane T. Chin called “Beyond the Big Firm: Profiles of Lawyers Who Want Something More.”

Berkeley Burbank, Class of 1995

Berkeley is working in acquisitions and development at Alco Management, Inc. in Memphis, TN. Alco is among the 50 largest owners of affordable housing in the country. Berkeley’s focus is on the preservation and renovation of low-income housing that was originally developed in the 70s and 80s.

Colleen Flaherty Manchester, Class of 2002

Colleen recently completed her 2nd year as an Assistant Professor in Human Resources and Industrial Relations Department at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. This past year she became involved with the undergraduate honors program and now teaches a two-course sequence on writing an honors thesis modeled after her experiences with the Public Policy honors program. Colleen continues to conduct research on employer-provided benefits and HR practices, recently adding work-family or flexible work policies to her research agenda.

Eve Peters, Class of 2004

After returning from a year in Buenos Aires, Eve continued to work on her startup MIXTT.com - a social networking/dating platform. They were honored to present at TechCrunch50 in September of 2008, raised some angel funding in early 2009 and are currently in development for the upcoming release of their 2nd version. This fall Eve will continue leadership at MIXTT while also beginning Law School at UC Berkeley’s Boalt Hall.

Cristina Sepe, Class of 2008

Cristina spent the past year as a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow through the Congressional Hunger Center. The first part of her fellowship was with a local anti-hunger group where she worked to increase participation in the Baltimore City Public School System’s breakfast program. She then spent the latter half of the fellowship year with a national advocacy organization collaborating on a document defining the faith community’s commitment to economic justice and poverty alleviation, as well as providing analysis on domestic poverty, asset building and stripping, and tax policy.

Kevin Ummel, Class of 2006

Kevin recently accepted an Erasmus Mundus scholarship from the European Union that will support him to spend two years studying Environmental Sciences at universities in Hungary, Greece, and Sweden. He will be moving to Budapest in early September. Kevin has spent the last few months living and traveling throughout Korea, India, Kazakhstan, Taiwan and China.

Rahul Young, Class of 1997

Rahul is working as a Senior Manager in Climate & Environmental Strategy at ICF International in San Francisco. Rahul manages a team working on green business strategy, energy efficiency, and carbon footprinting for companies like Yahoo!, Google, eBay, and Time Warner. Last October when not using his Public Policy degree to try to save the world, he got married to his longtime girlfriend (Meg Pearson, ’99) in a debauched karaoke-fueled stage-diving ceremony and reception. Nowadays, once the work day’s over, you can find him playing frisbee golf in Golden Gate Park.
Alumni Profiles

Kevin Lashus, Class of 1994

Kevin Lashus is a Senior Attorney with FosterQuan LLP in its Austin, Texas office. He is Board Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Kevin graduated from Stanford University in 1994. At the time, he and the rest of his Public Policy senior thesis team were putting together a proposal to privatize Social Security under the supervision of John Cogan.

Kevin went on to attend and graduate from The University of Texas School of Law—where today, he is an Adjunct Professor teaching a Spring seminar on “Emerging Issues in National Security Law”.

After graduating from Law School, Kevin was hired by then Attorney General John Cornyn (now the junior Senator for the State) as an Assistant Attorney General where he defended state-wide law enforcement officers in federal and state litigation. In the days after September 11, Kevin moved on to the U.S. Department of Justice in 2002, and, in 2003, became Assistant Chief Counsel with the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Kevin was at the San Francisco Department of Justice office until 2007 and later was at the Minneapolis/Saint Paul office—advising special agents during national security investigations, criminal immigration prosecutions, and worksite enforcement actions. Kevin was a member of the National Security Team.

Kevin has published numerous articles and is a prominent speaker at the national level on employer sanctions and corporate compliance.

Kevin is married to Jennifer Maynard (’96 Human Biology/Civil Engineering), and they have three girls, Lara (4), Lyssa (3), and Leah (6 months). Jennifer is a Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin.

Emma Yuen, Class of 2006

Emma Yuen grew up on the wet and verdant Hamakua coast of the Big Island of Hawaii. Her family owned a small organic farm that sold bananas to the local grocery stores and lychees, a succulent asian fruit. In High School, she was offered a part time clerical job at Hawaii's only environmental newsletter, Environment Hawaii (Environment-hawaii.org). In that job uploading articles on their website and filing news stories, she was able to learn about all sorts of environmental issues in her beloved islands. Invasive species, extinctions, climate change, development - so much was threatening the biodiversity and wilderness area that was so precious to her. She began to write feature stories for the publication, and lead service trips to help control the enormous wave of threats that were rapidly changing Hawaii.

Emma chose to go to Stanford University because she knew of many professors who were studying Hawaii, and interested in conservation, like Peter Vitousek and Gretchen Daily. But instead of focusing her studies on the biological sciences, she knew that many of Hawaii's problems would only be solved by changing policy. While learning about biology and transmitting that knowledge could help to change policy, Emma felt that many of the basic ecological processes had been proven - but decision makers were not turning those findings into action.

Emma quickly decided to study organizations, environmental issues and legislator's responses to them, as well as ethical and judicial issues in the environment. While majoring in public policy with a focus in the environment and natural resources, she was also president of Students for a Sustainable Stanford. This student group sought to change Stanford's policies and actions on many issues, from recycling to organic or local foods, to climate efficiency. After graduating, Emma stayed at Stanford to complete her masters coterm degree in Sociology.

Then, Emma was finally able to go back to her home of Hawaii. She found a job working for the State government for the Natural Area Reserves System, which is a land designation that seeks to conserve native ecosystems for future generations. She works to find new areas to add to the System, and also administers projects that protect these spectacular places from the ever-present threats, especially invasive species.

Emma lives on the island of Oahu and when not working, hikes, sails, snorkels, and surfs. She hopes that more people passionate about conserving biodiversity and wilderness places will come to Hawaii, the “endangered species capital of the world,” where hundreds of species of birds, plants, and insects are close to being lost forever.
Mackenzie Lee

"Don’t ask, don’t tell" is the familiar term for the U.S. military policy on homosexuality mandated by federal law. The policy prohibits anyone who “demonstrate(s) a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts” from serving in the armed forces of the United States based on the rationale that this “would create an unacceptable risk to the high standards of morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion that are the essence of military capability.” From an economic viewpoint, Don’t Ask Don’t Tell (DADT) can be considered as a contract between the government and individual servicemen that assigns the government the right to control soldiers’ expression of sexual identity.

This article begins with a discussion of optimal military protection and the military contract. It then covers the large-scale economic implications of DADT viewed through discrimination economics theory. Next, it explores the small-scale effects of DADT on unit cohesion and military recruitment. Finally, it concludes with some policy recommendations.

Optimal Military Protection and the Military Contract

A military's effectiveness (ME) is contingent on multiple factors: the number of enlisted troops (n), their level of training (t), the amount and quality of equipment available to them (e) and unit cohesion (c): ME = e^n * h(t + e).

Since an effective military is a public good, it cannot be provided without government intervention intended to attain a socially efficient level of military services. Thus, the government enters into mutually beneficial contracts with soldiers that promise benefits such as salary, retirement funds, medical care, and tuition assistance. In turn, the soldier confers to the government certain personal rights to the government such as the freedom of personal conduct and the right to trial by jury. Specifically, when a soldier enters this contract, DADT requires that soldiers give up their right to the expression of their sexual orientation.

DADT’s Effects on the Market for Security Forces and the Labor Market for Recruits

Walter Block and Michael Walker, pioneers in the field of discrimination economics, define discrimination as the act of preferring one thing, one person, or one situation over another. There are both pecuniary gains and real costs to having straight people engage in interactions with gay people. Conversely, there are unrealized opportunities for exploiting human capital with a ban on gays in the military.

However, the costs resulting from discrimination can be minimized in a competitive market. Let us assume that there are other producers of military services other than the government. Some producers will have a lesser prejudice against gays than the government. Some producers will have a lesser prejudice against gays than the government. Some producers will have a lesser prejudice against gays than the government. Some producers will have a lesser prejudice against gays than the government. Some producers will have a lesser prejudice against gays than the government.

In the case that DADT exists, it is assumed that straight soldiers’ strong dislike to associate with gay service members will be intensified if service members are allowed to declare their homosexual orientation. Consequently, i would decrease, overall c would also decrease and military performance would suffer. From the viewpoint of a gay soldier, since the law is already enacted, then he or she will have had conceivably weighed the costs of maintaining silence about his or her homosexuality and the benefits of enlisting in the army and derive more benefit from joining the army. Thus, i would remain constant and military cohesion would not suffer.

However, empirical data suggests that when gay soldiers enlist they do not necessarily have all of the information about the costs of maintaining silence about their sexual orientation. In addition, a RAND report published in 1993 concluded that the ban could be lifted without “adversely affecting the order, discipline, and individual behavior necessary to maintain cohesion and performance.” From an economic standpoint, there is large body of evidence that suggests that overturning DADT would be economically efficient. The economic consequences of the ban are large costs associated with a suboptimal amount of recruits and the loss of valuable talent. Still, the analysis suggests that unit cohesion will be maintained at an appropriate level if the ban is kept in place because openly gay servicemen would disrupt the unit. However, empirical findings have pointed towards an opposite conclusion. Thus for the army to attempt to attain economic efficiency, it should enact more specific legislation that regulates the behavior of gay servicemen. It should impose limits on homosexual conduct to a degree, but should at the very least grant servicemen the option to declare their sexuality. This would economize on many costs related to recruitment and replacement of discharged service members and allow for the army to exploit the abilities of skilled gay soldiers, working towards economic efficiency.

2. Includes equipment related to intelligence.
5. This model is examined first from the viewpoint of a gay soldier, since the law is already enacted, then he or she will have had conceivably weighed the costs of maintaining silence about his or her homosexuality and the benefits of enlisting in the army and derive more benefit from joining the army. Thus, i would remain constant and military cohesion would not suffer.

Mackenzie is a Public Policy Senior and coterm student in MS&E. He has conducted research on militarized interstate disputes and the accountability of political leaders with the Freeman Spogli Institute. At the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Mackenzie conducted research on regional development initiatives in South Eastern Europe. He is interested in the intersection of economics and LGBT legislation.
In addition to realizing the external costs of unmet organ demand—fiscal and citizens, in a market in which they need no extra protection. Conversely, scholars argue that a ban on the poor will be disproportionately convinced to sell their organs to supplement their incomes. One of the most complex arenas related to organ sale is the relation to the poor. A major concern is that the poor will be disproportionately convinced to sell their organs to supplement their incomes. The largest fiscal externality to the United States is the cost of dialysis. Under NOTA, Medicare covers full dialysis treatment. However, each kidney transplant saves Medicare an estimated $95,000. In addition, people with kidney failure would be able to re-enter the workforce, resulting in more economic growth and tax revenue (Matas 6).

Larger scope externalities exist as well. Because supply is restricted, sellers of organs can extract monopoly prices for organs they do manage to sell on the black market. One devastating effect of the increased price is to exacerbate organ theft. Children are stolen and killed to harvest and sell their organs (Scheeper-Hughes 14). The lucrative pricing dilutes the deterrent efforts against organ sales, increasing costs of enforcement (Bilgel 11). A decrease in organ price spurred by an increase in supply would reduce these negative activities. Negative externalities would also exist in a market that legalized organ sales. Organ vendors might incur unexpected costs such as rising health insurance or costs. Also, the poor may be subject to asymmetric information, a market failure in itself. There are issues of emotional or psychological distress associated with organ sale, but these risks are considered allowable under current laws encouraging donation, so this argument has little weight.

According to scholars in the field of law and economics, the objective of law should be to maximize economic welfare. It is proper to account for moral aversion and its effect on welfare when considering whether or not to legalize organ sales; however, it is likely that the benefits from organ markets outweigh the costs to those who are averse to the transaction. A 1990 Gallup poll showed that 85% of people support the current market based on altruistic donations while only 20% of people were card-carrying donors (Woan 430). Most objections to a compensated market are voiced by “nonparticipants,” those not actively seeking an organ in a failing system (Woan 433).

One of the most complex arenas related to organ sale is the relation to the poor. A major concern is that the poor will be disproportionately convinced to sell their organs to supplement their incomes. Conversely, scholars argue that a ban on the sale disproportionately hurts the poor by taking away a source of income from someone who arguably needs it the most (Matas 18). Banning the sale of organs, if truly meant to protect the poor, is inefficient. While justification of the law claims to protect the poor, it actually may disenfranchise and treat them as second-class citizens, in a market in which they need no extra protection.

In addition to realizing the external costs of unmet organ demand—fiscal and exploitative—we must see the issue as a tradeoff. Gary Becker argues: “Unless American society can live with its conscience when it turns a blind eye to these terminally ill patients, a more efficient system of balancing the demand and supply of organs must come forward” (Woan 431). Ultimately, society must decide how best to meet the demand for organs. Because of the free market’s ability to maximize the welfare of producers and consumers, the commodification of organs is the logical policy that should be pursued to solve this problem.

Once drugs are part of the legal market, contracts between consumers and suppliers, as well as between retailers and manufacturers, will be created and breaches of contract will be settled within the judicial system. As a result, substance-related disputes such as gang wars and street violence will decline. Moreover, there may be a reduction in income-generating crime since drug legalization will cause a drop in drug prices, making the risks to suppliers of being arrested non-existent. Under the current policy of prohibition, the price of drugs is a function of the cost of the actual drugs, the cost of transportation and distribution, the extra precautions taken to avoid detection, and the risk premium for suppliers who risk being caught and imprisoned:

\[
\text{Price of drugs} = f(\text{drugs + transportation + extra precautions taken to avoid detection + risk premium})
\]

Following legalization, the variables "extra precautions taken to avoid detection" and "risk premium" will no longer be included in the price. In addition, more suppliers will be willing to enter the drug market now that it is legal, further causing the price of narcotics to drop. With fewer addicts resorting to theft, murder, or illegal employment to earn money for exorbitantly-priced drugs, income-generating crime could decline.

The War on Drugs and the U.S.'s current prohibition of narcotics has clearly failed to curtail drug use. From an economic perspective, a policy that legalizes drugs in the United States has the potential to greatly increase the overall economic welfare of society.


**Jessica is a recent Public Policy graduate with honors, a concentration in Law and the Legal System, and a minor in Chinese. During her time at Stanford, she studied in Beijing, China, was a member of Stanford Mock Trial, and interned at the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles.**

**REBECCA SCHINDEL**

Under the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) § 388, the owner of a vehicle is liable for any damages resulting from the negligent use of the vehicle by any person operating the car with the express or implied consent of its owner. In 2000, this vicarious liability law was first employed to hold lessors accountable for accidents committed by drivers of leased vehicles. As a lessee can more readily prevent an accident than a lessor, this law marks an inefficient assignment of risk and induces a net loss of social welfare. In examining how liability would be allocated were VTL § 388 not imposed, I conclude that the most economically efficient method of assigning liability and reducing market externalities is through a regulatory system that requires all lessees to hold sufficient liability insurance.

There exist three primary reasons why lessors should not be held accountable for the actions of their lessees. First, lessors do not directly benefit from their lessee's actions. As Daniel Koevary argues in a 2005 article for the Fordham Urban Law Journal, “[T]he lessor’s liability is based on the negligence of the lessee, not the lessor’s own actions.” At the margin, consumer surplus increases with each additional use of the car; it follows that a lessee ought to be held responsible for the actions from which he directly benefits, rather than further lowering lessee surplus and creating a disincentive to transact.

Second, lessees face a tremendous challenge in trying to regulate the behavior of each of their individual lessees. Just as employers are not responsible for sexual harassment by low-level employees because the cost of preventing such incidents is prohibitive high, enforcing strict liability in the lessor-lessee relationship offers no “beneficial allocative effects.”

Third, lessee liability does not internalize the costs placed on injured parties by the lessee’s negligence. As lessors do not benefit from the use of their assets and cannot efficiently monitor the use of their cars, saddling them with accident liability merely shifts the externality from one third party to another.

Rather than mitigating the effects of a market externality, a vicarious liability law reduces aggregate social welfare. Vicarious liability claims totaled over $6.5 billion dollars between January 2000 and June 2003, creating a considerable disincentive for lenders and automakers to lease in New York State. The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers – which includes Chase Auto Finance, General Motors, Ford Motor Company, DaimlerChrysler, Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Dodge, Hummer, Hyundai, Jeep, Oldsmobile, Pontiac, Porsche and Subaru – discontinued leasing in New York. The few retail banks and car companies that continued to lease charged an additional $50 to $100 to their customers’ monthly payments.

In effect, leasing contracts with vicarious liability foster adverse selection. If the lessor believes that 25% of its lessees will cause damages for which the company will be responsible, then the heightened monthly payments mark the distribution of these expected costs amongst all lessees. However, the only consumers who would be willing to pay the excess charges are those who believe they are likely to incur damages. If only the least cautious drivers choose to lease, then the leasing company would be forced to absorb even greater costs. Rather than prompting the efficient level of liability allocation, this type of contract would eventually push most leasing companies out of business.

A Coasian analysis suggests that lessors could agree to offer “normal” monthly leasing payments in exchange for lessees reassuming the risk of an accident. The only way to ensure that the lessee will uphold his part of the bargain is for the company to require all lessees to hold adequate liability insurance. In principle, this Coasian transaction would induce the same outcome as a government regulated mandate.

Beyond reducing the externality presented by financially insolvent lessees, lessee liability insurance induces the socially optimal level of accidents by making the lessees of the car act more like the owner of the vehicle. Lessees not only pay monthly insurance payments, but also suffer increased premiums or dropped insurance should they act negligently. As both effective-owner and driver, these customers now have an unqualified incentive to equate the marginal cost of preventing and paying for accidents with the marginal benefit of avoidance. By curbing the distinction between those who purchase their cars versus those who lease, mandatory liability insurance simplifies regulation, which in turn reduces aggregate costs and encourages transactions. Such government regulation would potentially spur greater economic activity and increase general social welfare.

6. This is analogous to the problems created by voluntary insurance schemes, in which the “above-average risk” group drives up the price of insurance. Unwilling to subsidize the riskier group, the “below-average” risk group drops out of the insurance. The resulting downward cycle can be stopped by employing price discrimination or by preventing people of below-average risk from dropping out. (Posner, 110.) For the purposes of leasing, it is difficult to accurately distinguish a safe driver from a risky one, and it is not legally possible to forcibly coerce customers into a lease.

**Rebecca is a Public Policy Senior. She is involved in Stanford in Government and attended Stanford in Washington in Spring Quarter 2009. Rebecca will be a peer advisor for the Public Policy Program during the 2009-10 academic year.**
**Writing in the Major Showcase**

**Daniel Berring**

Crafting policy on prostitution is seldom an exercise in economics. In its application of economic principles to an issue traditionally dominated by moral fervor, however, this paper begins to buck the trend.

Using standard economic theories, one can determine the circumstances in which prostitution should be banned or legalized. Analyzing the potential costs and benefits that result from legalizing the practice to generate a decision making model is essential to this task. Using the tenets of Welfarism⁴ as a standard of judgment, one could consider the welfare of all interested parties within a community – prostitutes, clients, and those uninvolved in the direct exchanges. Before drawing any conclusions, the evaluator must evaluate how a policy (legalization for example) affects community welfare through a welfare-driven cost-benefit analysis: Welfare = β₁ [Benefit] - β₂ [Harmed] + ε

From a Welfarist standpoint, whether or not prostitution should be legalized or banned depends on a variety of circumstances. The normative standard appeals to maximized community welfare⁵, but which policy results in this welfare maximization is contingent on the dynamics of the relevant community. Some communities observe the most aggregate social welfare with prostitution legalized. Other communities may find the opposite. In whatever community, the policy that results in the greatest aggregate community welfare should be enacted.

Breaking down communities into relevant parties (those who benefit and those who are harmed) helps facilitate this process. For some, criminalization decreases welfare. For the prostitute, this criminalization limits investment opportunities and restricts a potentially lucrative avenue for income. For a client, prostitution bans limit access to a valuable service and distort a market for sexual services in potentially inefficient ways. For individuals uninvolved in the practice but sympathetic to prostitutes, clients, or just the idea of legal prostitution, restricting the practice impinges on welfare. Alone, these deterrents make prostitution bans seem economically ill-advised, channeling commerce and behavior to an ideological and inefficient end. In this light, legalization seems like good policy.

However, these bans might serve to benefit another portion of the community. Individuals opposed to the practice might benefit from the bans. For whatever reason, their welfare might be adversely affected by the creation of a legal sexual exchange. Additionally, legal prostitution might exhibit negative externalities that disproportionately damage a community. These individuals and effects each deserve further examination.

It should be noted that a Welfarist cost-benefit analysis has its share of drawbacks. The most immediate question concerns whether all welfare should be considered equal. Should fairness be considered at all, rather than mere maximization of community welfare? Perhaps a Prostitution Monster⁶ exists within the community and skews the analysis. Kaplow and Shavell note the possibility of compensation, but such compensation is unlikely to take place in real world circumstances.

This problem and other difficult (if not impossible) measurements of welfare⁷ show the limitation of a welfare based cost-benefit analysis. These shortcomings further emphasize the importance of including other normative models to complement a helpful – but not wholly sufficient – Welfarist cost-benefit analysis in the decision making process.

2. Where Welfare is the expected welfare generated within the relevant community following a policy’s implementation, where [Benefit] is a vector of all those who will benefit from legalization (increased welfare) and [Harmed] is the set of appropriate coefficients, where [Benefit] is a vector of all those who will be harmed from legalization (reduced welfare) and ε is a vector of appropriate coefficients, and where / represents the unaccounted effects on the welfare of the relevant environment (externalities or enforcement in this case).
3. Much like the proposed Utility Monster, the Prostitution Monster would generate such a high amount of welfare that its gains would outweigh a community-wide opposition in the final analysis.
4. Individuals are often unaware of what exactly composes his welfare function. And even if he had perfect knowledge, there might be a high incentive to lie in order to direct the analysis in advantageous ways.

**Armando Jose Perez-Gea**

This paper explores how political parties function as warranty providers for public officials and how mandating affiliation with a political party is beneficial for voters.

This paper proposes an economic way of understanding elections as contracts between the electorate and candidates. This is an answer to the idea that the only way for the electorate to enforce the public officials’ electoral promises is by voting against them on the next election (Posner, 2007).

Political parties provide warranties for public officials and candidates seeking public office. When the electorate votes an individual to public official, they form a contractual relationship with the official, and thus require a warranty system to ensure the individual performs the expected duties of his position. Political parties, being the conglomeration of public officials, are uniquely positioned to provide this warranty. Because government is composed of several public officials that have power over each other, the best person to ensure that one public official does his duties is a fellow public official. This means that political parties are the most effective warrantors of a public official’s actions because a group of public officials (in other words, a political party) can greatly limit the actions that can be taken by a fellow public official.

Political parties are most effective when each public official is mandated to join a political party. This is in practice the same as ensuring that every candidate to public office has a warranty and that elections are more competitive. If some of the public officials had no party affiliation, then those public officials would have no institution warranting their performance. This would be similar to thinking of the political party as a board of directors and an individual public official as a manager. Just as the board of directors “has the power to oust management”, the political party has the power to stop the political career of public officials by not nominating them anymore and by the fellow members of the political party being willing to run against the said public official and even not supporting the bills proposed by the public official.

If every single public official is affiliated with a political party, then individual public officials have a greater cost if they are to disobey the contract. Because the whole political party is likely to suffer if some of its members are acting in a way against the electorate, then the members of the political party are likely to police each other’s actions for two reasons: to ensure each official’s actions are in accord with the expectations that the public has of the political party for fear of the whole party will be punished because of reckless actions of one official, and in the case that both public officials were to compete for the same public office, to use the actions as a proof that the other public official is less likely to achieve the contract with the electorate (by winning an election). If every public official were to be a member of a political party, the information costs will be decreased because the electorate can have more confidence that the individual with whom the contract is being made is not only capable of performing the task, but is also very unlikely to disobey the contract; in other words, the individual would be a good agent of the electorate.

1. “The existence of [the board of directors'] power both provides incentives to management to perform well (or at least not too badly) and enables management to be replaced when it flounders disastrously,” Posner, R. (2007). Economic Analysis of Law. Wolters Kluwer Law & Business.

### Armando Jose Perez-Gea

Armando is a Public Policy Senior. His intellectual interests lie in the intersection between the academic fields of economics, philosophy, and political science. He enjoys the modeling involved in political economy and positive political theory, and the careful understanding of ethical and social concepts of political philosophy and normative political theory.
Damon Jones

Damon Jones is an economist with a research focus in public finance and taxation, labor economics, behavioral economics and field experiments.

He recently received a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California at Berkeley. He is currently spending the year as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research. Next summer, he will join the faculty at the University of Chicago, Harris School of Policy as an assistant professor.

Damon received his B.A. in Public Policy, with a minor in African and African-American Studies from Stanford in 2003. After graduating, Damon worked for a year as a research assistant in the Metropolitan Policy Program of the Brookings Institution, in Washington, D.C. before returning to graduate studies at UC Berkeley.

During the 2009-2010 academic year, Damon will teach Public Policy 104/Economics 150: Economic Policy Analysis.

Jeff Strnad

Jeff Strnad’s research is spread across the fields of taxation, public finance, finance, and empirical analysis. He has published leading works on the taxation of financial instruments. Professor Strnad is an innovative teacher of quantitative methods, creating original courses in empirical analysis and game theory.

Before joining the Stanford Law School faculty in 1997, he was a professor of law and economics at the California Institute of Technology and the John B. Milliken Professor of Taxation at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law. Professor Strnad earned his B.A. from Harvard University and a J.D. and Ph.D. (Economics) from Yale University.

An integral member of the Public Policy Graduate Program Faculty, Professor Strnad currently teaches core courses in Econometrics and Research Design to MPP and MA students.

Professor Strnad holds a courtesy appointment as Professor of Economics with the Stanford University Economics Department. He is a Charles A. Beardsley Professor of Law.

Russell Hancock

Russell Hancock began teaching in the Public Policy program at Stanford this Spring quarter. Along with former Palo Alto City Manager Frank Benest, Russell co-taught the seminar PUBLPOL 135: Regional Politics and Decision Making in Silicon Valley. The course included case studies on transportation, workforce development, housing and land use, and climate change. Silicon Valley provides a unique backdrop to view public policy, given the region is composed of 40 cities and four counties without any overarching framework for governance.

Russell is President & CEO of Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network, a position he has held since 2003. In this role Dr. Hancock is best described variously: as a civic leader, community gatherer, institution builder, social entrepreneur, and outspoken advocate for regionalism. Russell founded the annual State of the Valley conference, a “town hall” meeting attracting more than 1,500 leaders for a day spent in dialogue and discussion about the Valley’s opportunities. The conference features the release of Joint Venture’s Silicon Valley Index, a document now receiving national and international attention.

Russell’s leadership in the Silicon Valley region builds on earlier work he led as Vice President of the Bay Area Council (1994-1999). There, he spearheaded the campaign extending BART to the San Francisco Airport. He also directed a broadly-based effort which ultimately created the Bay Area Water Transit Authority, charged with delivering a high-speed ferry system to the San Francisco Bay.

Educated at Harvard in the field of government, Russell received a Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University. Fluent in Japanese, Russell returned to Stanford in 2000 to become the inaugural director of the Shorenstein Forum for Asia-Pacific Studies, Stanford’s gathering place for ranking officials, senior executives, journalists, and scholars who shape outcomes in the Pacific Rim. Dr. Hancock was recruited away from Stanford to take the helm of Joint Venture at a time when the organization was in a period of transition and instability. He is credited with the growth and increasing influence of the organization, to the point where today it is recognized as Silicon Valley’s clearinghouse for regional analysis and collaborative, non-adversarial approaches to solving the region’s problems.
# 2009 Morris and Edna Zale Lecture in Public Policy

## “Public Policy-making in an Economic Tsunami”

On April 30th, Public Policy students and faculty attended a lecture given by the 2009 Zale Award recipient, Alice M. Rivlin. Alice Rivlin was the first director of the Congressional Budget Office and director of the White House Office of Management and Budget during the first Clinton Administration. She is an expert on the budget and urban issues as well as fiscal, monetary and social policy. Students enjoyed Dr. Rivlin’s perspective on the current economic environment, and particularly, how she might approach today’s challenges if she were still OMB Director. After the talk, Public Policy students joined Rivlin for dinner. Conversation ranged from her thoughts on the public sector, her career journey, and thoughts on balancing personal life with work. Rivlin exuded a sense of “normalcy” that was candid and refreshing to audience members.

Dr. Rivlin began her talk by remarking on the uncertainties of the current economic situation and stated that the challenge of budget-making has never been greater. She noted that it is difficult to predict how the financial crisis will affect the future as we haven’t experienced anything like it before. The Congressional Budget Office has forecasted that the recession will “last well into 2009” and that the economy will begin to recover, albeit slowly, in 2010.

Rivlin asserted that the uncertainty about the health of the financial sector compromised all current forecasting efforts. She said economic models used by forecasters are based on the experience of the post World War II period, and not since the 1930’s have we experienced a downturn caused by crisis in the financial sector. Continued instability in the financial sector and credit tightness could deepen the recession and delay recovery. Rivlin expressed that the strength of the U.S. dollar is imperative. One of the great take-aways from the evening with Rivlin involved her thoughts on the importance of a strong dollar in the current recovery.

Dr. Rivlin described her experiences as CBO director, and contrasted her experiences in the mid-1990s with the current economic situation. Her descriptions of the economic challenges faced by the Obama administration and the 111th Congress were reported as “refreshingly clear and candid.” One student commented that Rivlin had a more apolitical perspective than was expected; she was more of a “budget balancer.” Rivlin affirmed that the current economic challenges cannot be solved by one political party, but requires non-partisan analysis coupled with bipartisan cooperation.

In answering student and faculty questions after her talk, Rivlin discussed specifics of social security and Medicare policy. She expressed that health care reform involves uncertainty, but social security reform doesn’t involve uncertainty in the same way. She said that a group of any six students in the room could get together and “solve social security”, and asked for ideas from the audience on how to do this. Rivlin didn’t delve into details, but illuminated her view that some big problems are simple to solve technically (if not politically), while others are difficult to solve both technically and politically.

Dr. Rivlin’s talk was refreshing and informative in light of the current “economic tsunami.” Several in the audience commented that it was the “best they’d seen.” One student commented that this “allowed us to interact with a leading policy expert on specific issues that will prove increasingly important to our generation.”

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**Public Policy Coterm Approved!**

The Public Policy Program is pleased to announce that in April, the University approved our request to award a coterminal M.A. degree.

Starting in the 2009-10 academic year, Stanford will offer a coterminal M.A. degree in Public Policy, available to undergraduates whether or not they major in Public Policy. This coterminal degree responds to the need for an intellectually rigorous pathway for undergraduates to approach careers of public service. The first applications for the program will be due in November, 2009, and February, 2010. Admission standards have not yet been set for 2009-10. Because of resource constraints the program will be highly selective.

Additional details on the coterm degree, including degree requirements for Public Policy and non-Public Policy majors, are available online at http://publicpolicy.stanford.edu/coterminal

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On November 17, 2008, the Public Policy Program hosted the Non-Profit Career forum (co-sponsored by SIEPR) for students interested in careers in Philanthropy and the Non-Profit Sector. The Career Panel portion of the event was moderated by Paul Brest, President of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in Menlo Park, and Public Policy faculty member. Panelists included: Barry Newstead, a Partner in the Bridgespan Group's San Francisco office. Mr. Newstead advises nonprofit and foundation leaders on strategy and organizational development; Ivan Barkhorn, managing director of Redstone Strategy Group, in Boulder, CO. Redstone offers strategy, operations, and organizational design services across a wide range of industries, including non-profit services; and Smita Singh, Director of the Global Development Program at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Smita is developing the Foundation’s new philanthropic program to address major global development challenges.

Below are some of the questions the panelists answered:

- What kind of jobs can Stanford students, and especially Public Policy students, hope to find in philanthropy, consulting firms doing business in philanthropy, or NGOs being supported by philanthropists?
- Is graduate training necessary? Useful?
- If students want to “make a difference” in the world, is it useful to first work for or with granting organizations?

Graduate Program News

This year we graduates our first M.P.P. students. From the 2007-08 inaugural group of three M.P.P. students to our incoming class of 22, the graduate program has been well-received at Stanford University by students and faculty alike. Minor modifications on the core curriculum, including supplementing the 2nd year practicum with research methodology and increasing the coursework on statistical inference, are expected to continue during the initial years. The M.P.P. practicum projects for 2009-10 are listed below. Groups of 4-5 students from the M.P.P. and International Policy Studies (I.P.S.) programs work together with a client during the Autumn and Winter on a particular policy question.

MPP Practicum Projects, 2009-2010

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<th>Project</th>
<th>Client</th>
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<td>Sub-national Capacity Building for the Next</td>
<td>CalEPA/California Air Resources Board</td>
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<td>International Climate Change Agreement</td>
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<td>Pension Reform in California</td>
<td>Office of Governor Schwarzenegger/Dept. of Finance</td>
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<td>Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Finance in India</td>
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<td>Human Trafficking</td>
<td>Asia Foundation</td>
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<td>D.A. Discretion in Filing Charges for Similar Offenses</td>
<td>Judicial Council of California/ Various non-profits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluating the Effectiveness of U.S. Economic Aid to Afghanistan</td>
<td>US Army/USAID</td>
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The Public Policy Program and Development

The growth and quality of the graduate and new coterminous programs in Public Policy are limited only by available funding for student aid, support and faculty resources. The anticipated costs for these two programs is $1.5 million/year. For graduate students in Education and in Humanities and Sciences who are planning academic or policy careers, funding is an especially significant challenge. Our ultimate objective is to compete successfully for the very brightest students in the world with aspirations to participate in public policy debates and to provide those students with the tools they need to evaluate and advocate sound solutions to the economic, social and political challenges of the century ahead. One of America’s most successful industries is higher education. If we can maintain that competitive edge by expanding capacity efficiently in the face of huge increases in the demand for policy-related graduate education, Stanford University can continue to attract first rate minds and influence world events.

We have several areas of opportunities for interested donors:

- naming the program
- loan forgiveness for public service
- student fellowships and support

For further information, please contact Jane Bessin, Director of Development, at 650-724-6329 or jbessin@stanford.edu

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New Home for Public Policy!

The future home of the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR) and the Public Policy Program will be the new John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn building. This building is currently under construction, with a planned opening in early 2010. The building is located between the Landau Economics Building and the Arrillaga Alumni Center on Galvez Street.