It was a great year for the Public Policy Program at Stanford. Although the graduating class was smaller than normal (only eighteen students), the accomplishments of the 2008 graduates were phenomenal. Not least of these accomplishments: the program’s first Rhodes Scholar, Aaron Polhamus, and the graduation of Kjerstin Erickson, the founder and executive director of Forge, an NGO serving the needs of African refugees (http://www.forgenow.org).

In addition, a team of Public Policy seniors in the Winter quarter Senior Seminar Practicum studied environmental compliance and energy issues for the City of Mountain View and the Mountain View School District. The clients were pleased with the resulting analysis and recommendations, and two of the team members subsequently landed jobs with the Mountain View and the Redwood City governments!

It was a pleasure meeting so many Public Policy alumni at the Stanford in Washington 20th anniversary celebration last fall. Another important anniversary lies ahead: The year 2010 will be the 30th anniversary of the Public Policy major at Stanford.

The program needs alumni help in several areas. If you are associated with an NGO or agency, especially in the Bay Area, we would like to discuss possible practica and summer internships for our students. Whatever your line of work, our students need contacts and professional mentors in choosing careers and finding jobs. Your support can also help us compete for the best Stanford students through graduate fellowships and loan forgiveness programs, help with practicum expenses, and faculty support.

Most important, please stay in touch! We are proud of our alumni, and we make a point of mentioning your successes (with specific examples) in the annual commencement ceremony.

-Bruce Owen, Public Policy Program Director
Mishan Araujo
Mishan is graduating with honors. In her thesis, she examined the effect that sex education has on adolescent sexual risk-taking behavior. During her time at Stanford, Mishan actively participated and held leadership positions in a number of volunteer organizations. She was the financial manager and co-director of thinkBIG, the largest student-run conference in Stanford’s history. The conference brought together international leaders to address critical issues related to International Women’s Health and Human Rights, and Mishan received a Dean’s Award for her work related to the conference. Mishan was also chair of the Northern California Women for Hillary organization, President of Stanford Students for Choice and President of Stanford Israel Alliance. She also served on the board of Hillel at Stanford and on the board of the National Cervical Cancer Coalition. Mishan was a research assistant for both Professor Luis Fraga and for Mary Sprague. She was a legislative intern for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and she attended a Stanford overseas program in Chile. After graduation, Mishan will begin work as a research analyst for the Center for Effective Philanthropy in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Daniel Blocksom
Dan is graduating with Honors in Economics and with a secondary major in Public Policy. For his thesis, he explored whether the order in which candidate names are listed on a ballot can affect electoral results. Dan was a research assistant for the Psychology Research Group. For 2 summers, he participated in Summer Research College through the Public Policy Program, working closely with Professor Jon Krosnick. Dan was also peer advisor for the Public Policy program, as well as a nominee for the Dolores Liebmann Fund Fellowship. Currently, Dan is working at the Alliance for School Choice in Washington, D.C., and he hopes to attend law school at Stanford in the fall.

Eric Chen
Eric is graduating with honors in Public Policy as well as with a secondary major in Economics and a minor in Biological Sciences. In his thesis, he examined ballot order effects on electoral results in North Dakota. During his time at Stanford, Eric was an outreach intern with the Asian Liver Center at the Stanford School of Medicine, where he coordinated several outreach and fundraising events. He was a feature writer for the Stanford Bioscience Quarterly, and he co-founded Organ Donor Education, a student organization dedicated to increasing awareness on issues surrounding organ donations. Eric was also a research assistant for Professor Jon Krosnick and a legal intern for a Palo Alto law office. In addition, he served as a mentor for at-risk youth and was an instructor for the Educational Studies Program. This summer Eric will intern at the AIDS Legal Referral Panel in San Francisco as a Haas Center Urban Summer Fellow. In the fall, as part of a Stanford Public Interest Network (SPIN) fellowship, he will be working at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office in New York.

Amber Davis
Amber is also graduating with a minor in Spanish. Amber attended Stanford in Washington and a Stanford overseas program in Santiago, Chile. Amber participated in Summer Research College through the Public Policy program and also served as a peer advisor for the Public Policy Program. She worked for the Political Science department as a student assistant, and was a Resident Assistant for High School Summer College, a staff member for the Stanford Association for International Development, and a tutor for the Stanford Youth Program. Amber was a research assistant for the Sociology Department, an Immigrants’ Rights project intern for the ACLU in San Francisco, a research associate intern at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs in Washington, DC, and a volunteer for Community Legal Services in Palo Alto. She served as a peer mentor through the Stanford Undergraduate Academic Life office, was a member of Stanford Mock Trial, and a member of the Roosevelt Institution. Amber has accepted a job in Washington, DC as a legal assistant.

Kjerstin Erickson
Kjerstin attended Stanford in Washington, where she interned at the Fogarty International Center. She also made Stanford fundraising calls, tutored high school students, received a Haas Public Service Fellowship, and was a member of the Redwood Action Team, which is dedicated to protecting California’s redwoods. During her junior year, Kjerstin created FORGE, an international NGO dedicated to ending the cycle of war and poverty in Africa. She then took some time off from Stanford to dedicate herself full-time to being the Executive Director of FORGE. Kjerstin was named one of Glamour Magazine’s “Top 10 College Women” and one of CNN’s “People You Should Know.” She was a speaker at Stanford’s recent Policy Forum on Global Development (see page 9 for more on this) and was the keynote speaker at the International Youth Volunteerism Summit. Recently, as the Social Entrepreneur in Residence, Kjerstin worked on web-based social benefit ideas for YouWeb, a web 2.0 incubation company. After graduation, Kjerstin plans to return to Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo to continue her work with FORGE.

Oliver Ho
Oliver is graduating Phi Beta Kappa and with University Distinction. He is also graduating with honors. His thesis explored the effects of test-based student promotion on student performance in New York City, and he received the Lincoln Moses Award for his thesis. Oliver attended an overseas program at Oxford where he conducted research on Education policy. During his time at Stanford, Oliver interned at Brooklyn Defender Services and for the Working Families Party. He was extremely involved with the Stanford Men’s Rugby Team, serving as Vice President, webmaster, and equipment manager of the team. He also served as intramural supervisor for the athletic department. Oliver worked as a summer analyst for Xpress Myself, a New York based software company, and was a teaching assistant for Public Policy 105. Oliver received a Major Grant to conduct research for his honors thesis. After graduation, Oliver plans to return to New York and attend as many Yankee’s games as he can while they are still in the original Yankee Stadium.

Daniel Novinson
Daniel is also graduating with a minor in Economics. During his time at Stanford, he served as the managing sports editor for the Stanford Daily and wrote over 300 articles as a reporter for football and men’s basketball. He also served as sports director and play-by-play sports broadcaster for the student-operated radio station. Last year Daniel broke the story on Azia Kim, the student imposter at Stanford. The story became national, and he was interviewed by Fox News Channel and CNN. He was also awarded
Aaron Polhamus

Aaron is graduating with honors, Phi Beta Kappa, and University Distinction. His thesis explored strategies for sustainable rural microfinance in Peru and was supported by a Stanford Major grant. Aaron attended Western Washington University before transferring to Stanford as a junior. During his time at Stanford, Aaron participated in Stanford in Washington where he interned at the U.S. Department of Treasury, served as a student officer and Bible study leader for the Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, and worked as a research assistant for Professor Stephen Haber. Aaron also dabbled in rugby during his first year at Stanford, and participated in Upward Bound during his second. Over his 4 years in college Aaron also worked a writing tutor, worked part-time as a gym attendant, was a teaching assistant for Professor Paul Chen, and volunteered in homeless outreach. After graduation, Aaron will attend Oxford University to pursue MSc degrees in Applied Statistics and Financial Economics, funded by a Rhodes scholarship. This summer he will work as a deckhand on board a commercial fishing vessel in Petersburg, AK, and hopes to visit friends in California and elsewhere before beginning graduate school at Oxford.

James Rapoport

Jim played baseball for Stanford and was drafted to the St. Louis Cardinals in 2006. Jim finished his degree requirements during Winter of 2008.

Olivia Puerta

Olivia is graduating Phi Beta Kappa and with University Distinction. She is also graduating with a minor in Philosophy. Olivia is a certified mediator with the Dean of Students and Dispute Resolution Programs Services and the Santa Clara County Office of Human Relations. She was a research assistant for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute, and a summer intern for the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry. She also participated in STAND, an organization dedicated to reducing genocide in Darfur. Olivia was involved in a wide variety of other activities. She was the head peer academic coordinator for her dorm for two years as well as a researcher for the radio program "Philosophy Talk," and a food critic for the Stanford Daily. She tutored elementary school students in reading and math skills, and helped Stanford students on presentation skills through Stanford's Oral Communication Program. She also participated in a summer study abroad program in Mexico, and has been involved in acting and is an accomplished singer. After graduation, Olivia plans to work in the fields of public policy and public administration, and continue to pursue singing and acting.

Rudy Rubio

Rudy was extremely involved in Stanford Taiko, serving as the group’s fundraising coordinator, administrative director, capital improvement director and representative for the Asian American Activities Center. Rudy also participated in many education-related activities. He traveled to Jordan as an intern for American-Mideast Educational and Training Services. He was co-director for Project W.R.I.T.E. and campus campaign manager for Teach for America. In addition, he served as a writing tutor with Ravenswood Writes, a student assistant for the Program in Writing and Rhetoric, a course assistant for a practicum offered by the music department, and a teaching assistant for a course on philosophy and the real world. Rudy was also a Stanford University Peer Mentor, and a peer advisor for the Public Policy Program. He received a fellowship from the Institute for International Public Policy, and was a Gates Millennium Graduate Student scholar. After graduation, Rudy will travel to China as a member of Stanford Taiko, where he will perform in pre-Olympic ceremonies. In the fall, he will return to Stanford’s School of Education to pursue a Master’s degree in International Comparative Education and International Educational Administration and Policy Analysis.

Shivan Sarin

While attending the Stanford in Washington program, Shivan interned at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He also worked in DC as both a research and political intern for a government relations firm, Heather Podesta + Partners. In Virginia he interned with the Tim Kaine Campaign for Virginia Governor. Shivan was selected by the Indian Consulate as a United States Delegate to represent the U.S. in the "Know India" program. He also received a Stanford undergraduate research grant, and made the National Dean’s List. At Stanford, Shivan was a member of the Roosevelt Institution for four years, serving as president his senior year. He was also a Peer Advisor for the Public Policy Program, the National Fellowships Coordinator for Stanford in Government. He worked as a research assistant for a Stanford law professor, and served as editor of the Stanford Journal of International Relations. After graduation, Shivan will be in DC pursuing congressional staff positions on Capitol Hill.

Cristina Sepe

Cristina was chosen by her peers to receive the Ann Seminara Award for “The Graduating Senior Who Has Made the Most Important Contribution to Stanford.” She attended the Stanford in Washington program, interning with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Office of Public and Indian Housing. She participated in Summer Research College through the Public Policy Program, and was a research assistant for Professors Jon Krosnick, Sean Reardon, and Eric Hanushek. She also served as a teaching assistant for an undergraduate seminar on education and civil rights. Cristina was actively involved in a number of volunteer activities. She co-led an Alternative Spring Break trip and class on urban education issues in California. She also tutored elementary school children in East Palo Alto, led a Bible study group, was co-president of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, sang with the Stanford Gospel Choir, helped the Stanford Democrats with voter registration drives, and served as both a peer advisor for the Public Policy Program and a peer leader for the Stanford in Washington Program. After graduation, Cristina will begin work as a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow, where she will divide her time between a grassroots non-profit organization and a national
advocacy organization. Her future plans include attending law school and working on civil rights issues in education.

Jessica Thrower
Jessica was a lab technician at the Digital Production Lab of Stanford Libraries, and was a research assistant in the Laser Physics Laboratory at the University of Connecticut. She was a member of the Stanford Society of Physics Students and was its social chair during 2004. Jessica was actively involved in the Stanford Debate Society, and volunteered at Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto. Over the last two years she has worked for Stanford Student Housing as a student supervisor. Jessica is passionate about writing. Her radio essay, “Dr. Seuss and the Path to Advocating Human Equality,” was published on Professor Andrea Lunsford’s Everyday Writer website. After she finishes working for Student Housing in August, Jessica plans to make a cross-country road trip with her sister from Palo Alto to her new home in Boston. This summer Jessica will also begin pursuing a career in freelance writing.

Teresa Whinery
Teresa was a research assistant for the Mind, Culture, and Society Lab in the Stanford Psychology Department. For the lab, she synthesized the methodologies and findings of journal articles on various topics in the field of social psychology. She also coded language in these articles for future quantitative analyses. During the past two summers, she worked as a project development intern for the South Side Development Corporation in Dallas, Texas. For the organization, she planned and executed the 2nd annual South Side Urban Arts Festival, she worked with business owners to create a business association, and she gathered feedback from local residents and business owners to further the organization’s goals. With a strong interest in urban policies and urban design, Teresa plans to pursue a career in local government.

Nate Wilcox-Fogel
Nate spent 4 years as a wide receiver for the Stanford Varsity Football team; he will return for a fifth year in the fall. During his time at Stanford, Nate was an active member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. He served as an intern for Wachovia Securities and was a project assistant for “Christmas in April,” an organization which helps renovate homes for underprivileged families. He also worked with the Boys and Girls Club of East Palo Alto throughout his 4 years. Nate was on the Stanford Athletics Academic Honor Role. After graduation, Nate will complete his Master’s degree in Management Science and Engineering at Stanford. Over the summer, he will continue his training with the football team and work in finance.

John Woolley
John is graduating with University Distinction and is also graduating with a Bachelor’s in Economics. He attended an overseas program in Santiago, Chile. During his time at Stanford, John volunteered as a tutor and English teacher. He is co-founder of “Futuros Seguros,” a community education program aimed at personal money management for immigrants. John worked as a consultant for an internet publishing company and as an analyst for UBS Investment Bank. He played on the Stanford Men’s Rugby team and served as co-president of the Latter Day Saints Student Association (a group to which he still belongs). After graduation, John plans to travel in Europe and complete his pilot’s license. In the fall, he will return to Stanford’s Graduate School of Business where he will begin his MBA. He hopes to live in Latin America at some point and may pursue local politics.

Class of 2008 - Statistics
- 31% graduated Phi Beta Kappa and/or with University Distinction
- 75% received fellowships and/or at least one award or honor while at Stanford
- 44% wrote honors theses (more than the university average of about 20%)
- 63% were Research Assistants
- 25% received an undergraduate research grant
- 31% attended Stanford in Washington
- 19% attended a Bing Overseas Studies Program
- 94% had an internship
- 94% held a leadership position in one or more activities
- 100% were involved in public service
- 19% had a double or secondary major
- 44% minored in another subject
- 82% had already accepted a job offer or had plans to attend graduate school
Sean McIntosh, Class of 2002
Since September of 2004, Sean has been serving as a Foreign Service Officer for the U.S. Department of State. He married Alandra Ellington in August 2006 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, during his 1st tour of duty. His second assignment as Assistant Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay began in January 2008.

Michael Risch, Class of 1992
Michael is associate professor of Law at West Virginia University College of Law. He and his wife welcomed son Brighton Samuel Risch into the family in late 2005.

Liza (Rothchild) Kunz, Class of 1996
Since July of 2007, Liza has been a maternal-fetal medicine physician at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. She had a daughter, Morgan Sophia, born in 2006.

Aron Ketchel, Class of 2000
Aron graduated from Yale Law School in May of 2006. Subsequently, he served as a clerk for the honorable Mark R. Kravitz, District of Connecticut. Since 2007, he has been employed as an attorney at Calwell, Leslie, and Proctor in Los Angeles.

Miguel Marquez, Class of 1989
Miguel serves as General Counsel for the San Francisco Unified School District. Miguel spoke with Public Policy undergrads at the Winter Quarter Dinner in January of 2008. We were pleased to catch up with him.

Julie (Gilbert) Ohayon, Class of 1994
Julie is in private practice as a hand surgery specialist in San Diego. In 2005 she got married, and in late 2007, welcomed a daughter.

Julianne Cuellar, Class of 2005
Julianne is a research specialist for J.D. Power and Associates Marketing/Media Research. She has published several articles and traveled through southern Spain.

Katie Fitzpatrick, Class of 1999
Katie is working on a Ph.D. in Public Economics at Syracuse University. She completed her MPP at Georgetown in 2004.

Lorne Needle, Class of 1987
Lorne is employed as Vice President, Community Investment at United Way of the Bay Area. He is actively involved in SCHIP and recently got married.

Matthew Cordova, Class of 1994
Matthew is currently employed as Deputy Director, Planning Division Multinational, Interagency, and Civ-Mil Affairs. He continues to be active in sports, coaching a little league team and playing on the D.C. Stanford Alumni softball team in 2007.

Chris Wright, Class of 1981
After 19 years of practicing law at California’s largest mega law firm, Chris joined a startup involved in solar energy innovation based in Mountain View, California. Chris also attended the Winter Quarter dinner in January -- it was great to see you there, Chris!

Will Bullock, Class of 2004
Will started the Ph.D. program in Politics at Princeton in 2006 and will graduate in May of 2011.

Cindy Archer, Class of 1987
Cindy is a clinical professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

Carlos Lerner, Class of 1992
Carlos is assistant professor at UCLA Medical School and Medical Director at UCLA Children’s Health Center. Before moving to Los Angeles, Carlos lived for 6 years on a Navajo Reservation, working for the Indian Health Service. He has two daughters, ages 8 months and 3 years.

Cody Muhly, Class of 2002
Cody is a Fire Fighter/Paramedic with the Santa Cruz City Fire Department.

Tauran Brown, Class of 2005
Tauran completed Teach for America in June 2007 and is currently at the Ford School of Public Policy/Michigan Law.

Lakesha Jimmerson, Class of 2002
Lakesha is assistant administrator of River Region Health System in Vicksburg, Mississippi. She serves on the United Way Donor Investment Committee and is a board member of Haven House Family Shelter.

Derek Fears, Class of 2003
Derek recently graduated from Harvard Law School and subsequently took a 2 month trip around the world. His specialty is international financial law.

We want to hear what you are doing!
Please fill out the Alumni Data Base Update Form enclosed in this newsletter or fill it out on our website at http://www.stanford.edu/dept/publicpolicy/alumni
A. Mitchell Polinsky

A. Mitchell Polinsky is an economist whose major area of professional interest is the economic analysis of legal issues. He obtained a Ph.D. in economics from M.I.T. in 1973, taught in the Department of Economics and the School of Law at Harvard University from 1973-79, and joined the faculties of the School of Law and Department of Economics at Stanford University in 1979. He currently is the Josephine Scott Crocker Professor of Law and Economics in the Law School and a Professor by courtesy in the Economics Department at Stanford. Professor Polinsky is also the Director of the John M. Olin Program in Law and Economics at the Law School and a Research Associate of the Program in Law and Economics at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Professor Polinsky has been a Guggenheim Fellow, a Fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, and a past president of the American Law and Economics Association. He has published over 60 articles, mainly in the application of economics to tort, contract, property, and criminal law, and also on the economics of litigation. His textbook, An Introduction to Law and Economics (Aspen Publishers, Third Edition, 2003), has been used at over fifty law schools and economics departments in the United States and translated into Italian, Japanese, and Spanish.

In addition to teaching courses for the Economics department and Stanford Law School, Professor Polinsky teaches Economic Analysis of Law in the graduate program in Public Policy and advises numerous Public Policy students who are interested in the field of law.

Professor Polinsky has extensive experience as an economic consultant in litigation, focusing on cases on torts, contracts, violations of public law, and class actions. In his spare time he enjoys backpacking and flying (he is a private pilot with ratings in powered aircraft and gliders). Professor Polinsky and his wife, Joan, have two children.

Tammy Frisby

Tammy M. Frisby is executive director of the Bill Lane Center for the West and a lecturer in the Department of Political Science and the Public Policy Program at Stanford University. Frisby earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from Harvard University's Department of Government. Frisby studies Congress, state politics, and regulatory policymaking. Her current work includes research on the role of scientific knowledge and uncertainty in environmental regulation. She arrived at Stanford in the autumn of 2006 as a postdoctoral fellow at the Bill Lane Center for the West. Her qualifications for her appointment at the Bill Lane Center for the West include being a fourth generation Montanan and the year she spent as a ski bum in Utah.

During the 2008-09 academic year, Frisby will teach Political Science 2: Introduction to American National Government and Politics, with Morris Fiorina, and Public Policy 101/Political Science 123: Politics and Public Policy.

Graduate Program News

In June we finished the first year of the new graduate Master’s degree in Public Policy (MPP) program. The curriculum, made up chiefly of newly-designed graduate level courses that mirror the undergraduate core, was a success. The first three MPP students finished their core year, and will now embark on their concentration and practicum year. The inaugural year students are Joel Mehler, an electrical engineering master’s student, Erin Cumberworth, a PhD student in sociology, and Kenisha Dilliard, a law school student. The program admits only current Stanford grad students, although a co-terminal degree is in the planning stage.

Next year’s class will have about twelve joint degree students, including three MBA candidates and four law students. The second year MPP practicum (which also serves IPS master’s students) will have its first flight in 2008-09.
Masum Momaya  
Class of 1999

Since graduating with a double major in Public Policy and Feminist Studies in 1999, Masum Momaya has gone on to live, work and volunteer at the intersection of the two interdisciplinary areas of focus. She credits her leadership development opportunities with Sanskriti and Saheli, two South Asian student organizations, Stanford in Washington and the Public Service Scholars Program, along with her two majors, with giving her the confidence, courage and curiosity to keep asking – and responding to – meaningful questions.

Immediately following Stanford, Masum was part of the Coro Fellows program in San Francisco where she got to see what jobs in the “real world” were like – including running a labor union, being a broadcast journalist, starting a foundation, planning a political campaign, organizing a trade mission and working in city government. After that she went on to a combined masters/doctoral program in Human Development and Psychology at Harvard's Graduate School of Education. Writing her undergrad thesis at Stanford, which explored the connection between growth-oriented economic development policies and the trafficking of girls and women in sex work, led her to want to study human development, psychological anthropology and political psychology. She conducted her research in Washington, DC and was fortunate to teach a seminar at Stanford in Washington, where she had been a student in 1997. While in graduate school, she began serving on the advisory committee for Amnesty International’s Women’s Human Rights program and on the board of directors of the Third Wave Foundation, which funds progressive feminist activism led by youth ages 15-30 throughout the United States. Her research and volunteer experiences have allowed her to travel to some less frequently visited parts of the United States as well as live/work/research in other countries, including Mexico, Thailand, Belgium and most recently, Morocco.

Masum also has an interest in integrative medicine and has received certification in practicing mind-body therapies and teaching yoga, which she has been practicing for the past eleven years. Since last summer, she has been the Curator of a global, multilingual online exhibition entitled “Women, Power and Politics” at the International Museum of Women (www.imow.org). She enjoys bringing her research, teaching and activist skills together in this start-up type of entrepreneurial environment, a perk of being in Silicon Valley.

Rick Naimark  
Class of 1984

Rick Naimark graduated from Stanford in 1984 with an A.B. in Public Policy and was the recipient of the 1984 Dinkelspiel Award for Outstanding Service to Undergraduate Education. On campus, Naimark was Senior Class President, a Resident Staff Coordinator, and was involved in a variety of activities from music and theatre to student government and alumni affairs, serving as the student representative on the Stanford Alumni Association Board of Directors.

After graduation, Naimark attended the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where he earned a Masters degree in Public Policy with a focus on environmental and health policy. While at Harvard, he conducted research for the Institute of Smoking Behavior and Policy that helped lead to workplace smoking policies for Harvard University and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He also worked for the City of Seattle Mayor’s Office coordinating environmental policy issues.

Naimark has worked for the City of Phoenix for 22 years, starting out in the City’s Management Intern Program. He is currently a Deputy City Manager, with management responsibility for the City’s Bioscience and Biotechnology Initiatives, including the development of a new Downtown Medical School/Biomedical Campus, which is a partnership of three state universities and numerous private and nonprofit research entities. Naimark also supervises the City’s Parks and Recreation, Human Services, Library, Public Works and Public Defender Departments, and oversees the Rio Salado project, which is restoring the previously dry Salt River corridor to a vibrant wildlife habitat and recreation area. This May, Naimark helped lead the passage of a $1 billion voter initiative to fund park and preserve acquisition and construction.

Zack Cooper  
Class of 2005

Zack is a 2005 graduate of Stanford’s Public Policy program. While at Stanford, Zack wrote an honors thesis through the Center for International Security and Cooperation, which focused on Roman and British efforts to suppress maritime piracy and implications for combating terrorism today. Zack was also a four-year member of the rowing team and has proudly watched many of his teammates pursue their Olympic dreams.

After graduating from Stanford, Zack went to work for the Defense Department. There, he served in several offices within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, primarily focusing on long-term defense strategy. After two intense years at the Pentagon, Zack moved to the National Security Council office at the White House. He currently works for the Deputy National Security Advisor for Combating Terrorism, where he is responsible for organizing the U.S. government’s most senior standing body on counterterrorism.

During his free time, Zack enjoys cycling and working on a program to analyze international risk. Zack has enjoyed his time in Washington but is looking forward to having a little break from the government. In the fall, he will be returning to school to earn a Master’s in Public Affairs from Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School.

Rick Naimark  
Class of 1984
game and decision theory and empirical verification, and the other of which evolved into two camps, one of which emulates economics in its emphasis on analysis, and vice versa. Political science, to take the most obvious example, has that all of social science eventually will incorporate some forms of economic methods.

Most recently, as new technology has begun to permit scientific replication of experimental tests of hypotheses about human cognition and intuition, psychology and economics have begun to merge into overlapping fields with names such as neuroeconomics, behavioral economics, social psychology, moral psychology and experimental moral philosophy. Public policy analysis now addresses not merely market imperfections, government program evaluation and collective action issues but also policies involving cognitive failures, especially unconscious biases that interfere with rational decision making. In short, the social sciences themselves are converging, and public policy analysis is at the heart of the convergence.

What’s New in “Public Policy”

By Bruce Owen

As an academic subject, “public policy” is the application of analytical tools to the identification and evaluation of solutions to social problems. The subject is supposed to be practical, although there is also room for theory in the development of new and improved analytical tools. Public policy in this sense was a focus of classical philosophers from ancient times to the Scottish Enlightenment. Beginning in nineteenth-century Britain there was a transition from an identification of public policy with moral and political philosophy to a focus on “political economy,” and more recently primarily economics, as the intellectual home of public policy analysis. The effect of this transition, and of the Enlightenment focus on the scientific method, was gradually to jettison tools that did not meet evolving standards of rationalism and susceptibility to quantitative analysis. Much of Adam Smith’s work, for example, was based on intuition and a very casual empiricism that would be unacceptable in today’s discipline of economics, pretty much without regard to the merits of the ideas.

The narrowing of the academic approach to public policy to encompass not much beyond economics was brought about in part because of very rapid strides, especially after World War II, in the successful application of advanced mathematical modeling methods to economics, concomitant growth in the sophistication of econometric techniques and the growing availability of large bodies of economic and social data in electronic form. But the narrowing was also partly the result of the aspiration of many social scientists to embrace the scientific method as it is practiced in the natural sciences. Economics, of all the social sciences, came closest to this goal, and the others—sociology, political science, anthropology, psychology, and some aspects of law—were left with a choice: They could adopt the relatively “hard” models and methods of economics, and thereby narrow the scope of their inquiry, or they could focus on issues still too difficult or ill-defined for such an approach, using “softer” methods.

Economics has been so successful as an academic social science and as an influence in public policy debates outside academia that it almost seems possible that all of social science eventually will incorporate some forms of economic analysis, and vice versa. Political science, to take the most obvious example, has evolved into two camps, one of which emulates economics in its emphasis on game and decision theory and empirical verification, and the other of which emulates features of narrative history. The latter camp, once dominant, is now in decline. Similarly, most leading law schools today employ economists on their faculties, and many legal scholars approach law largely from an economic perspective known as “welfarism.” Economics, on the other hand has evolved to adopt techniques, methodology, and issues from other disciplines as well. Most recently, as new technology has begun to permit scientific replication of experimental tests of hypotheses about human cognition and intuition, psychology and economics have begun to merge into overlapping fields with names such as neuroeconomics, behavioral economics, social psychology, moral psychology and experimental moral philosophy. Public policy analysis now addresses not merely market imperfections, government program evaluation and collective action issues but also policies involving cognitive failures, especially unconscious biases that interfere with rational decision making. In short, the social sciences themselves are converging, and public policy analysis is at the heart of the convergence.

Stanford In Washington Celebrates 20 Years

It was great to see so many Public Policy alumni at the 20th Anniversary for Stanford in Washington on October 26 - 28, 2007. The Ronald Reagan Building was awash with faculty, current students, staff and alumni eager to celebrate the contributions that the program has made in their success. Many Public Policy and Economics alumni, such as Jennifer Cohen and Aaron Kabaker, sat down over boxed lunches and caught up on life since Stanford. Other recent Public Policy graduates at the reunion included Galen Panger, Shawn Chen, Robert Lepore, Russell Husen, Alayna Buckner, Daniel Kilduff, and Katherine Wang.

During the weekend festivities, Stanford President John Hennessy announced that Helen and Peter Bing have pledged their financial support for SIW, which is now known as the Bing Stanford in Washington Program. Many alumni commented that without Helen and Peter’s support the weekend cultural activites, such as attending the opera and Monticello, would have been missing from their Stanford in Washington building, complete with a state of the art distance learning center.

For many years, the on campus liaison responsibilities for the Bing Stanford in Washington Program were housed in the Haas Center for Public Service. On September 1st, 2007, the locus of this function...
moved from Haas to the Public Policy Program. Beginning in the Fall of 2008, the Public Policy Program will be making use of the new D.C. building facilities and, for the first time, will offer an SIW class (SIW 123, Economic Analysis and Public Policy, which is the equivalent of Public Policy 104) to Stanford students on-campus via distance learning. We’ll let you know how it goes!

Policy Forum on Reducing Global Poverty May 2008

On May 9th, 2008, the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR) hosted a Policy Forum on Reducing Global Poverty. Each SIEPR Policy Forum mixes leading researchers, top policy leaders, business and community leaders, and Stanford students. The forum seeks consensus solutions for critical policy problems, emphasizing effective economic approaches that help solve these problems.

This year’s Policy Forum had several key sessions: “The Economics of Poverty” offered a look by two of the world’s experts -- Jeffrey Sachs and William Easterly -- on the opportunities and challenges of reducing poverty through aid and economic development. “The Power of a Rising Tide,” examined the successful experiences in China and India, focusing on how each of these countries has moved hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. Speakers for this session were: Public Policy Program lecturer, Anjini Kochar, Scott Rozelle, and Nick Hope of Stanford. “Students Changing the World,” looked at students who are not just studying poverty reduction, but doing so through direct actions. Two teams of MBA and Engineering students discuss successful launching of extremely affordable products, and another session looked at student-founded efforts to improve conditions in Africa and elsewhere through micro-finance and economic development efforts. One of the student participants was our very own Kjerstin Erickson. Class of 2008, who is the founder and executive director of FORGE (see page 2 for more on Kjerstin). The “Knowing What Works” session included Paul Gertler of UC Berkeley, Hilary Hoynes of UC Davis, David Grusky of Stanford, and Johannes Linn of the Brookings Institution.

To learn more about the SIEPR Policy Forum and to view the agenda in its entirety, visit http://siepr.stanford.edu/policyforum

Public Policy Major Wins Hoefer Prize

The Hoefer Prize recognizes outstanding Stanford undergraduate writing in Writing in the Major (WIM) courses. This year’s Hoefer Prize was awarded to Public Policy major, Kristina Yang for her paper entitled “An Economic Analysis of Veterans’ Compensation Law,” written in Bruce Owen’s WIM course, Public Policy 106, Economics of Legal Rules and Institutions.

Kristina is a junior at Stanford University. She is majoring in Public Policy and Economics, with a concentration in Law and Legal Institutions. In addition to working as a research assistant for Stanford’s Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Kristina is a managing editor for the Stanford Journal of East Asian Affairs and served as Vice President for Recruitment on Stanford’s Inter-Sorority Council. After graduation, she hopes to work in management or economic consulting and eventually pursue a career in law.

The Public Policy Program and Development

The growth and quality of the new graduate program in Public Policy are limited only by available funding for student aid and for faculty resources. Teaching in the first phases will be done by existing Stanford faculty members from the various departments and schools across campus. Phase one of the program is aimed at current Stanford graduate students in law, management, education and the social sciences, through the award of joint degrees in these fields with an MPP (Master of Public Policy). Phase one will cost roughly $1M per year with no provision for student aid. For graduate students in Education and in Humanities and Sciences who are planning academic careers, funding is an especially significant challenge. Phase two will open the program to Stanford undergraduates who wish to obtain a co-terminal MPP and BA/BS in five years of study. We expect high student demand for phase two of the program and we anticipate the cost to be $1 million/year. 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 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

For further information, please contact Jane Bessin, Director of Development, at 650-724-6329 or jbessin@stanford.edu
2008 Zale Lecture
Success Against the Odds: The Escape from Global Poverty 1950-2008

On May 8th, the 2008 Zale Award Recipient, Professor William Easterly, spoke to an engaged audience of students and faculty. His talk, “Success Against the Odds: The Escape from Global Poverty” challenged many classical assumptions regarding aid and its relation to economic growth, the role of development institutions and strategies for directing economic development to decrease world poverty. Public Policy students were able to discuss these topics more in depth with Professor Easterly during dinner and many commented that his talk motivated them to be more strategic and creative when looking at policy solutions.

Easterly began with a brief overview of development theories as they have existed over the decades. Development experts in the 1950s advocated what Easterly refers to as a “Big Push” of foreign aid and state planning in an attempt to remedy poverty, though, argues Easterly, this approach did little in terms of generating economic growth. During the 1980s and 90s, development experts moved towards “reformed government policies of privatization and liberalization.” This did not work, either, he asserts. He cites the failure to move from Communism to Capitalism in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union and also states that “disenchantment” with growth regressions settled in as growth payoffs to policy reforms failed to materialize as predicted. According to Easterly, development experts in the new millenia can be lumped into two camps: The Mainstream Camp and the Starry-eyed Camp. Common belief amongst the “Mainstreamers” is that development experts know how to raise growth rates, while the “Starry Eyeds” revert to ideas of Poverty Traps and look to increase foreign aid as the solution to poverty alleviation. Many contemporary development experts express a lack of confidence in predicting which policies raise growth. In 2001, Easterly remarked on “the failure of development,” while Harberger lamented that “there aren’t too many policies that we can say with certainty . . . affect growth.”

At this point, the audience may have been wondering where Easterly was going with this line of reasoning. If nothing seems to be working and development experts themselves may have failed, the escape from poverty has not failed, asserting that “success against poverty reduction happened despite failures of development experts.”

He went on to offer suggestions as to what we can do to aid development. According to Easterly, Democratic Free Markets are the answer, as they allow for individuals to create solutions free of restraint or persecution. He advised the audience to look at levels of poverty and development rather than focusing on growth rates. He urged the audience to be “creative,” to act as social entrepreneurs, private entrepreneurs, and “advocates for individual freedom for all 6.7 billion.”

Easterly is Professor of Economics at New York University, joint with Africa House, and Co-Director of NYU’s Development Research Institute. He is also a non-resident Fellow of the Center for Global Development in Washington, DC and Visiting Fellow at Brookings during the academic year 2007-2008. Easterly received his Ph.D. in Economics at MIT. He spent sixteen years as a Research Economist at the World Bank. He is the author of The White Man’s Burden: How the West’s Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good (Penguin, 2006), The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists’ Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics (MIT, 2001), 3 other co-edited books, and 56 articles in refereed economics journals. His work has been discussed in media outlets like the Lehrer Newshour, National Public Radio, the BBC, the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, the Economist, the New Yorker, Forbes, Business Week, the Financial Times, the Times of London, the Guardian, and the Christian Science Monitor.

“...The Zale lecture was hands down one of my most memorable experiences here at Stanford. The speaker, Bill Easterly, had humility and a great sense of humor when it came to presenting his research. Aside from talking with him about his book, my favorite part of the night was having the chance to sit down over dinner and chat with Bill about a whole range of informal topics. From this I found out that he is a genuinely nice guy. All in all, the talk was fascinating, the dinner was delicious, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.”

-Johnny McCormick, Public Policy Junior

Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR) Groundbreaking

On May 12, 2008, donors, faculty and staff joined forces to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn building slated to open in the fall 2009 near the Landau Economics Building at Galvez Mall. The Public Policy program will be relocating from Encina Hall West to the new building. Make sure to come by and say hello next time you are on campus!
Stanford in Government: An Insider’s View of Sacramento in Action

By Tim Ford, Public Policy Program, Class of 2010

Insider’s Day in Sacramento provides students with a unique opportunity to experience firsthand some of the concepts they have encountered in the classroom. On February 27, 2008, the Public Policy Program and the Haas Center for Public Service, along with the Stanford Alumni-in-Government Club of Sacramento, the Stanford Alumni Association, the Stanford Associates, and the Stanford University Office of Government and Community Relations, hosted Stanford students interested in government in Sacramento for the third annual “Insider’s View to Stanford in Government Day.”

Having heard how enjoyable Insider’s Day is, I was excited. I am happy to report that I had a great and unique experience, too. First, we went to the Leland Stanford Mansion where we met Stanford alumni who are involved in state politics and policy, working in Sacramento as lawyers, capital fellows, and more. It is one thing to learn about state government in the classroom, but it is a completely different experience to meet people who spend each day living and breathing government. The alums were very enthusiastic and eager to share their experiences and to hear about ours as well. I even came away with a few business cards! One Public Policy alum I had the opportunity to speak with was Martin Carr (class of 1989), from the Law Offices of Belzer and Carr. Next, Stanford alums and committee chairs Michael Machado (California Senate Banking, Finance, and Insurance Committee Chair), Curren Price, Jr. (Assembly Elections and Redistricting), and Juan Arambula (Assembly Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy Committee Chair), participated in a lunchtime panel discussion on “Current Affairs & Politics in California.” The panel was moderated by former assemblyman and visiting lecturer in the Public Policy program, Joe Nation. The panel discussed the current California budget crisis, giving the audience an inside perspective into what may very well be the most pressing issues in California. Jack O’Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, gave an engaging and informative talk after the panel discussion.

After the lunchtime events, we walked over to the State Capitol to attend one of two “Classrooms Without Quizzes” seminars on either Global Warming or Education Reform. I attended the session on education reform, led by Senator Joe Simitian. During this discussion, Simitian, Bob Blattner (an education lobbyist) and John Affeldt (a public interest litigator) each discussed the challenges facing current education reform. The seminar on global warming included California Air Resources Board Science and Technology Policy Advisor Anthony R. Eggert, Former Assembly Member and Stanford Lecturer Joe Nation, and Stanford Lecturer Dr. Michael Wara, JD ’06.

The opportunity to take a step outside of the Stanford bubble and see our government in action was a great way to motivate students to take what we learn here on campus and get excited about applying it to our professional lives. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to see California government in action.

To join the Stanford Alumni-In-Government Club of Sacramento and stay informed about future local Stanford alumni-in-government events and activities, visit: http://www.stanfordalumni.org/lists

Curren Price and Juan Arambula

Students attending education reform seminar
Want to get involved?
Here are 3 things you can do right now:

1. Contact the Public Policy program to learn about serving on a job panel, becoming a program mentor, or attending upcoming Public Policy sponsored student events.

   Find out more at:
   http://stanford.edu/dept/publicpolicy/

2. Become a mentor for the Alumni Association through the Stanford Career Network.

   Find out more at:
   http://www.stanfordalumni.org/career/scn

3. Contact the Career Development Center to learn about the Career Shadow Program, Stanford Alumni Mentoring, Profiles of Success, Career Panels and Networking, and job posting.

   Find out more at:
   http://cdc.stanford.edu/alum/

Here’s to another fabulous year!
Wishing you and your families a wonderful summer . . .