AFTER THE TSUNAMI
10 Years of Recovery and Resilience
“It’s not miracles; it’s not huge impacts. We weren’t successful with every child, but on average we have been able to prevent some of those [negative] outcomes.”


“I suspect they’re promising what’s going to happen anyway. All the trends are showing decreased consumption of high-calorie beverages, and so what better way to get a public relations boost than to promise to do what’s happening anyway?”


“We know that suicide increases among adults when communities are hit with widespread layoffs. Now we have evidence that teenagers are similarly affected.”


“The simple fact is you can’t have a war when there’s only one side. And right now, one class of Americans is almost entirely locked out of our political institutions.”


“Terrorism is about weak groups using fear to try to affect the world.”


“Congress has a vital and constructive role to play in foreign policy, but at the end of the day there is only one president. And that means that if they want to, 535 members of Congress get to be pigeons, but the president has to be the sculptor. He has to make the statue. They can dump on the statue.”

Ten years ago, on the day after Christmas, a tsunami in the Indian Ocean devastated the city of Banda Aceh in Indonesia, and left more than 160,000 people dead. Scholars Elizabeth Frankenberg and Duncan Thomas have spent the past decade working on a field project there, conducting repeated interviews with more than 30,000 people in Aceh, and documenting their changes in mental health, work, and family lives. The project, which is the subject of this issue’s cover stories, tells a story of breathtaking resilience. The first long-term study of its kind, the data has important policy implications for communities responding to disaster.

This type of innovative approach is a hallmark of the Sanford School. Two new research centers led by Sanford faculty have just been launched. William A. Darity Jr. leads the Duke Consortium on Social Equity, a collaborative effort of Duke scholars that will explore the disparities associated with gender, race, ethnicity and religious affiliation. New faculty member Matthew Harding will direct the Duke-UNC USDA Center for Behavioral Economics and Healthy Food Choice Research. The work of the center has the potential to improve the health of millions of people.

Our staff also has been crafting new programs to better serve our students. Two of them, the MediaLab Boot Camp for graduate students, and public-private internships for undergraduates, had successful pilots this summer.

This fall, we celebrated the career of Ellen Mickiewicz, James R. Shep-ley Emeritus Professor of Public Policy, on the occasion of the publication of her new book No Illusions: The Voices of Russia’s Future Leaders. A leading expert on Russia and the media, Mickiewicz held focus groups with students at leading universities in Moscow, the training grounds for future leaders, to understand their views on their country and ours.

During the past year, our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and Board of Visitors have been immersed in an exploration of how to take Sanford to its next level of greatness. We now have a clear vision for new strategic initiatives that will better position the school for creating even greater positive change in the world.

In newly created positions, Associate Dean of Strategy and Innovation Frederick Mayer and Director of Strategic Initiatives Ryan Smith are guiding this effort. I look forward to sharing more details with you about this exciting time in the life of the Sanford School.
STUDY TO EXPLORE LINKS BETWEEN POVERTY AND STEM EDUCATION

Last fall, Assistant Professor Anna Gassman-Pines was selected to attend a National Science Foundation sponsored meeting: Data-Intensive Research to Improve Teaching and Learning — An Ideas Lab to Foster Transformative Approaches to Teaching and Learning. The proposal her team developed during the Ideas Lab will examine the relationship between students’ socioeconomic states and STEM learning outcomes. It received $500,000 in funding from NSF.

The research team from Sanford, SRI International, Teachers College and the Association of American Geographers will use data from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly called “Food Stamps”) along with data on student performance from the NC Education Research Data Center at Duke to uncover possible links. They will work with stakeholders from schools and communities to identify interventions to improve STEM learning. The team met on campus in September to launch their work.

Gassman-Pines is co-principal investigator with Andrew Krumm of SRI. Sanford Lecturer Jenni Owens is also involved in the project.

“I’m excited about bringing social service and educational policymakers together with researchers in an active dialog throughout the project,” said Gassman-Pines.

ReneWable Geothermal Energy in Indonesia

Professor G.P. Shukla of the Duke Center for International Development (DCID) co-authored a publication with three World Bank authors on the potential of geothermal energy to meet Indonesia’s growing needs for electricity while reducing environmental impact.

DCID has been collaborating with the World Bank’s Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) since 2012 on the joint publication, “Scaling-Up Renewable Geothermal Energy in Indonesia: An Integrated Approach to Evaluating a Green Finance Investment.” As a result of the study, the World Bank awarded loans totaling $300 million to help Indonesia pursue environmentally friendly power projects for the first time.

Sustained economic growth in Indonesia over the past decade has led to increasing demand for electricity. In 2006, the government implemented a program to rapidly develop Indonesia’s abundant and relatively inexpensive coal resources. This approach has significant environmental impacts and increases Indonesia’s dependence on fossil fuels. To ensure more environmentally sustainable development, the government launched a second program in late 2008 to encourage the development of renewable energy sources, with geothermal power making up 40 percent of the target.

Duke Election Series

Six Sanford professors and two alumni are taking part in the Duke Election Series this fall. The series pairs scholars and practitioners from both sides of the aisle in weekly talks from September 18 through November 13. The issues discussed range from health care and education, to international affairs and income inequality.

Hart Leadership Assistant Director Tommy Sowers PPS’98, took part in the first discussion with a former advisor to the Romney-Ryan campaign, along with David Rohde, professor of political science, to provide a mid-term overview.

Associate Professor Don Taylor tackled health care issues with James Capretta MPP’87, former associate director of the Office of Management and Budget. Professor Peter Feaver examined international affairs, William Darity Jr., director of the new Duke Consortium on Social Equity, discussed income inequality and Mac McCorkle, MPP program director, examined North Carolina issues. Professor Nick Carnes was scheduled for the final talk, a post-mortem of the election.

The series was presented by the university’s Office of Public Affairs and Government Relations, the Duke in Washington Office, and the Forum for Scholars and Publics. DC participants connected via videoconference in the DC office to campus participants and audience who gathered in 011 Old Chem each Thursday afternoon.

WHITE HOUSE ACTIONS ON ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

On September 18, the White House announced plans to combat antibiotic resistance: an executive order signed by President Obama, a national strategy, the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) report on Combating Antibiotic Resistance and a $20 million prize for rapid point-of-care diagnostics. Sanford Professor Anthony So, M.D. served as a member of the PCAST Antibiotic Resistance Working Group and provided advisory input on its report.
The PCAST report includes recommendations to appoint a White House Director for National Antibiotic Resistance Policy, and to establish the Interagency Task Force and Presidential Advisory Council.

“We are especially pleased that the PCAST report calls for White House-level coordination and innovative approaches to financing new diagnostics and drugs, from prizes for diagnostics to de-linkage mechanisms,” said So. “De-linkage—which refers to approaches that divorce a drug company’s return on investment from volume-based sales of the antibiotic—might be particularly useful in helping to realign economic incentives.”

WOMEN MOBILIZING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MARCH

In July, Professor Natalia Mirovitskaya took part in the Women’s Mobilizing Meeting in New York City. The meeting brought together women’s issues organizations, feminist collectives, and nonprofits that serve women, locally and nationally, to mobilize participants for the Sept. 21 “People’s Climate March.” Mirovitskaya’s involvement is part of her longtime work on links between gender and development, which includes her participation in the 1991 World Women’s Congress for a Healthy Planet in Miami, Fla., and the 1995 Women’s Caucus at the 2nd World Women’s Congress in Beijing, China.

REVIEWING MILITARY JUSTICE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Since August, Professor of the Practice Thomas Taylor has been serving on the Judicial Proceeding Panel on Sexual Assault in the Military. The panel is reviewing military judicial proceedings for sexual assault cases. Taylor, former senior career civilian attorney for the Army, said the panel will meet monthly and provide reports to the Secretary of Defense and to Congress through September 2017.

**NEW BOV MEMBERS**

The new Sanford School Board of Visitors members are: Laura Bennett MPP’15, student representative. She spent the summer as an intern at the White House Council with Strong Cities, Strong Communities, working on economic policy concerns at the city level. She is a staff editor for the Sanford Journal of Public Policy.

Robin Daniel Lail, a native of Napa Valley, grew up among the family vineyards of Ingle-nook. After working at Robert Mondavi Winery, she co-founded Merryvale Vineyards. In 1995, with her husband, she founded Lail Vineyards. She is serving her third term on the board.

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Diego Quezada PPS’15, student representative, is president of the Public Policy Studies Majors Union. This summer he was an intern at the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C., and in the fall of 2014 is in the Duke Immersive program on human rights in Chile.

Former WTO Director-General Keynotes Summit at Sanford

Pascal Lamy, former director-general of the World Trade Organization, gave the Von der Heyden Lecture as the keynote address of the Duke Global Summit on Governance and Development in a Value Chain World on Oct. 30. The conference brought together top officials from major international organizations and academics in the field of global governance and economic development for three days at Duke University.

Global value chains are the face of the modern global economy. Rather than own all stages of production—from design to raw materials to manufacturing to distribution to sales—increasingly corporations outsource much of their production to suppliers around the world. The decades-long trend towards more GVCs has implications for international development, trade policy and investment by both governments and international organizations.

Gary Gereffi, Duke professor of sociology, was an early researcher in value chain analysis and co-chaired the summit with Sanford Professor and Associate Dean for Strategy and Innovation Frederick Mayer.

“The summit was a great example of how Duke can have an impact on a major issue of our time. The frank exchange between the world’s leading thinkers and policy-makers will help make the global economy more inclusive and more sustainable,” said Mayer.

A series of policy briefs on international trade, development, public-private partnerships and industrial policy will be produced after the conference, as well academic papers by some of the participants. The website for the summit, www.dukegvcsummit.org, will serve as a resource for policymakers and the interested public.

The conference was hosted by the Duke Center on Globalization, Governance & Competitiveness and the Sanford School.

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Sanford PhD Student Attends Conference with Nobel Laureates

By Jackie Ogburn

Sanford PhD candidate Ying Shi was one the young economists selected to attend the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting this summer. The five-day conference featured lectures by 19 Nobel Laureates in economics and was held on the island of Lindau, Germany.

Shi was most intrigued with the lecture by 2012 Laureate Alvin Roth. He talked about “repugnant markets and prohibited transactions,” such as selling kidneys or endangered species and surrogate mother services. “I got to ask him about the ethical implications of such markets,” Shi said.

There were 460 young scientists from 86 countries at the 60th Lindau conference, the fifth one focused on economics. The laureates led discussion groups and mingled with the fellows at meals and social events.

The fellows go through a lengthy nomination process that starts almost a year in advance. Shi had to make it through three levels of selection: the university, the Oak Ridge Associated Universities Consortium and then final selection by the Lindau Council. Mars Inc. provided support for her trip. Shi was nominated by Sanford Professor William Darity Jr.

“Ying Shi is one member of our cohort of outstanding PhD students who are concentrating in economics. She is exceptionally creative, curious and well trained in applied statistical methods,” said Darity.

Shi’s dissertation is focused on understanding why women are underrepresented in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

Darity has a good track record with nominating students for the fellowship. Dania V. Francis PhD ’13 was a previous fellow.

“The opening ceremony featured interviews with past student participants and laureates. It was great to look up and see a familiar face (Dania) speaking about the importance of multidisciplinary learning,” said Shi.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel gave a keynote address. Nobel Laureate for Literature Mario Vargas Llosa spoke, along with Robert J. Aumann, John F. Nash Jr., Sir James A. Mirrlees and Joseph E. Stiglitz.

NEW PHD CANDIDATES

Five new candidates joined the Sanford PhD program this fall. In addition, five new candidates began the University Program in Environmental Policy (UPEP), a joint PhD program with the Nicholas School directed by Sanford Professor Alex Pfaff.

Sanford PhD Candidates

Laura Bellows worked as the primary data specialist evaluating the Texas Home Visiting Program, at the Child and Family Research Partnership (CFRP) at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin. Bellows is a James B. Duke Fellow.

Mercy DeMenno was a technical policy analyst at Sandia National Laboratories. At several conferences she has presented papers co-written with Jeanne Logsdon on business participation in regulation reform, Citizens United and the human rights obligations of businesses.

Janelle Jones researched domestic labor markets at the Center for Economic and Policy Research. She served as an AmeriCorps volunteer, providing health education to low-income families in California and in the Peace Corps in Lanahuana, Peru. She is a Duke Graduate Fellow.

Joshua Rivenbark is a current second-year medical student in Duke’s eight-year MD-PhD Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP). Working in Rwanda, Rivenbark became aware of inequities in obtaining health care and has a strong desire to work on structural solutions.

Emma Zang earned her master’s in social science from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology last spring. Zang has participated in research on educational policy changes, social mobility and happiness in China.

UPEP Candidates

Farah Hegazi has worked at the Center on International Cooperation on implications of scarcities in energy, water, food and non-fuel minerals, and at the Environmental Law Institute on issues related to fragile states.

Justin Kirkpatrick worked on fisheries issues and offshore wind energy leases at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

Yating Li worked at the Energy Research Institute in China.

Stephanie Stefanski earned a master’s degree in environmental economics at Yale and has received an NSF fellowship.

Faraz Usmani worked at the World Bank on green and inclusive growth issues and on a carbon and energy transition project.

Tan Receives Horowitz Grant

Sanford PhD candidate Poh Lin Tan received a grant from the Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy this summer.

Fifteen doctoral students were selected from among more than 360 applicants for project grants on contemporary issues in the social sciences. Tan’s project is “Babies Having Fewer Babies: What Was Behind the 1990s-2000s Teenage Baby Bust.”
**KUDOS**

The American Political Science Association (APSA) has given **Nick Carnes** two awards for his book, *White-Collar Government: The Hidden Role of Class in Economic Policy Making*: the Gladys M. Kammerer Award for the best book published in the previous year on U.S. national policy; and the Alan Rosenthal Prize for Best Book or Article in Legislative Studies Written by a Junior Scholar That Has Potential Value to Legislative Practitioners. The awards were presented at the APSA annual meeting in Washington, D.C., on August 27.

**Bruce Jentle-son** has been appointed to the Provost’s Advisory Committee on Online Education at Duke and to the American Political Science Association Task Force on Public Engagement.

This year’s Dudley Sears Prize was given to **Anirudh Krishna** by the *Journal of Developmental Studies*, a leading international journal, for the best article published in 2013. He also won the prize in 2005. He is the only author in the journal’s history to win the prize twice.

**Helen Ladd** had an autobiographical chapter in *Eminent Economists II: Their Life and Work Philosophies*, edited by Michael Szenberg and Lall B. Ramrattan, published by Cambridge University Press. “Confessions of a Wellesley FEM,” sketches the evolution of her career and thinking as an economist. Two mentors, Wellesley Professor **Carolyn Shaw Bell**, her first economics professor, and Harvard Professor **Richard Musgrave** helped her find her place in a male-dominated field, both in research and managing an academic life. After teaching at Wellesley and Harvard, she came to Duke in 1986, with a focus on state and local public finance.

**Anthony So** has been appointed to the National Research Council’s Committee on the Illicit Tobacco Market: Collection and Analysis of the International Experience. So has also been appointed a member of the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology working group on antimicrobial resistance.

**Catherine Admay** has been appointed to the new position of Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies.

**Helen F. Ladd** is the Susan B. King Professor of Public Policy.

**Peter Lange**, professor of political science and former provost of the university, now has a secondary appointment in public policy.

**Ken Rogerson** is now associate professor of the practice of public policy.

**Frederick W. Mayer** has been appointed to the new position of Associate Dean for Strategy and Innovation. He will work closely with Dean **Kelly Brownell** on implementing the goals outlined in the Strategic Vision Plan developed last spring.

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**Tony Kushner**

2014 Crown Lecture in Ethics

Award-winning playwright Tony Kushner will give the 2014 Crown Lecture in Ethics at the Sanford School on Nov. 17. In a fireside chat format, Kushner will talk with Sanford Professor Philip Bennett about the intersections of ethics, art and politics.

Kushner’s work consistently grapples with controversial subjects, such as AIDS and the conservative counter-revolution, racism and the civil rights movement, Afghanistan and the West. His epic two-part play, “Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes,” won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and two Tony awards. Kushner was also the screenwriter for Steven Spielberg’s 2012 movie, “Lincoln,” which was nominated for an Academy Award. He received the National Medal of Arts in 2013.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For further information, please see www.sanford.duke.edu.

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**NEW FACULTY POSITIONS**

Eight Sanford School faculty members were rated in the top 5 percent in student evaluations for the 2013-2014 academic year: **Catherine Admay**, Liz Ananat, Evan Charney, Kip Frey, Cory Krupp, Stephen Kelly, David Schanzer and Jacob Vigdor.
student programs

MediaLab Boot Camp Gives Grad Students Hands-On Communications Experience

Universities are full of good ideas for how to change the world. But without good communication skills, those ideas may never reach wider audiences.

Twenty-eight Duke graduate policy students learned what it takes to get their messages across during “MediaLab: A Research Translation Boot Camp,” a special workshop offered at the Sanford School during fall orientation week.

The hands-on training session introduced students to a range of tools and skills to help them translate research findings into engaging forms for journalists, policymakers, and others who lack the specialized knowledge they acquire as policy students. The program developed by Alison Jones, communications director for the Duke Center for Child and Family Policy, and Karen Kemp, assistant dean of the Sanford School, was offered for the first time this fall.

Masters and doctoral students from the Sanford graduate programs, the Nicholas School and other programs spent two and a half days learning from faculty and professionals how to turn research into appealing graphics, how to pitch a news story, on-camera interview techniques, how to manage a social media presence and more.

Presenters included Sanford Professor Bill Adair, founder of the Pulitzer Prize-winning website PolitiFact, who explained the differences between “off the record” and “on background.” MPP alumna Shannon Ritchie and Professor Peter Ubel discussed the advantages and challenges of using social media in the policy arena. Marty Morris, former chief of staff for U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar and visiting lecturer with Hart Leadership Program, gave tips on how to get policymakers to pay attention to your message.

Other topics included graphics design for non-designers, effective charts and graphs, op-ed writing and press release writing. On the final day, the student teams presented work they produced based on research articles, with topics ranging from gun violence to adolescents’ cell phone use.

“It was the kind of workshop that every single public policy student who wants to make a social change should take,” said Sebastian Bowen MIDP’15.

Public-Private Internship Initiative

By Jackie Ogburn

Many public policy professionals move back and forth between jobs in the public and private sectors during the course of their careers. This past summer, five public policy majors had internships that combined both sectors through a pilot program developed by the Sanford Office of Career Services.

The five were selected through a competitive process, and were all placed in Washington, D.C., organizations. There were two different models of internships, one in which the student worked on public and private issues at a company, and one in which the student spent six weeks each with a private and public employer. Chelsea Decaminada worked at VOX Global, a public affairs and strategic communications firm, while Julia Durnan and Annabel Wang were at Nueva Vista Group, a lobbying and government relations firm. Rachel Gress worked at SAP, a software firm, and at the Federal Trade Commission.

Kelsey Sturman PPS’15 began her summer with the office of Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida and then moved to SAP.

“I appreciated being in the Senate office first, learning about how it worked and how hearings go. It was helpful to my work at SAP and there was a lot of crossover in issues, such as high-speed trading, cybersecurity and patents,” she said.

“It was a cool dynamic to work in both sectors and to see how they each shaped policy. It’s been one of the best things I’ve done at Duke and changed my mind about working in D.C.,” said Sturman.

The interns met several times during the process, including a dinner with Elise Goldwasser, senior internship director, after the annual Sanford on the Hill reception in July and again at the beginning of the fall semester back at Sanford. Their views on their experience were very positive.

“This summer’s success shows that students are eager to make connections between work in the private and public sectors and understand how the two sectors cooperate rather than compete. Today and in the future, difficult problems will be solved through these kinds of partnerships. Neither can do it alone,” said Goldwasser.
Summer School in India Immerses Students in Research, Challenges

By Kendal Swanson

This summer, ten Duke graduate students, myself included, representing a wide range of disciplines, and 20 students from India, came together as the inaugural cohort of the Summer School for Future International Development Leaders. Led by Sanford Professor Anirudh Krishna, the program brought us all to Udaipur, a city in the northwest state of Rajasthan, India, where the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) was our host.

Designed as a hands-on learning opportunity, this summer was as much an immersion into the culture and pace of the country as it was in the field of development. For most of us it was our first time in India and it brought us face to face with the challenges that much of the developing world struggles with every day. We also had the opportunity to work alongside a diverse group of students and professionals.

"The experience in India transformed my professional approach to working with people as well as my own perception of poverty," said my classmate Patricio Borgono. "The villages let me understand that poverty has many faces and poverty is more than a mere economic measure."

In the classroom we worked with Sanford as well as IIM faculty, learning about research methods from Krishna; about impact evaluations from Marc Jee-land; and further concepts and practices in development from Corinne Krupp and Erik Wibbels. Other faculty, guest lecturers from around India, and from our host university, IIM-Udaipur, further enriched our classroom experience.

We put these concepts and tools to work in our own original research projects. Each team of three students—one from Duke and two from India—spent 15 days living in and researching poor village communities. The teams were charged with identifying a specific need or challenge within their community and coming up with a creative and practical way to address it.

Our research opened our eyes to the daily struggles and pressing needs of rural life in India: delivering quality education and increasing student attendance, gaining access to safe drinking water and expanding medical services, and providing more job opportunities within the village.

My field visits to Banokda, the village to which my team was assigned, were the most challenging and at the same time most fulfilling part of my time in India. It is not easy to see the effects of poverty on human lives with your own eyes, especially when you begin to make real connections with those affected by it. But getting to make those connections and observe life beyond the statistics made for the most rewarding experience of the summer.

Our team focused on school attendance. My teammates, Vikas Bhatt, an NGO professional working in Udaipur, and Dhan Singh, a recent graduate from the state of Odisha, spoke to as many parents and children in our first two field visits as we could, using focus groups in each of the eight neighborhoods of Banokda.

After gathering information on 250 children, we found that only 53 percent reported going to school regularly. It was much worse for children of Scheduled Tribe families, of whom only 28 percent were attending regularly. Of the many reasons why so many children were not attending school regularly, we found that the SMC (akin to the PTA in the United States) was failing to foster a relationship between families and the school system.

This became the focus of our project proposal to our NGO—a strategy for improving interactions and communication between the community and the SMC. Bridging this gap will, we believe, result in improvements in attendance and ultimately keep more children from Banokda and villages like it in school.

I returned to Duke with a deeper understanding of development, new perspectives to consider, and real experiences with some of the lives that development work is intended to touch.

Kendal Swanson is a second-year graduate student in economics. She will work with Anirudh Krishna to coordinate next summer’s program.
After the Tsunami
10 Years of Recovery and Resilience

Stories by Mary-Russell Roberson

It’s been almost 10 years since the Indian Ocean tsunami killed an estimated quarter of a million people. More than 160,000 died in Indonesia’s Aceh province, where the tsunami wiped some coastal villages completely off the map — removing every building, every road, every bridge, every tree.

In some villages, not a single child survived.

In the immediate aftermath, people worldwide followed the story closely. For most, the fascination was short-lived. But not for Sanford professors Elizabeth Frankenberg and Duncan Thomas. They began collecting and analyzing data from 30,000 survivors in Aceh soon after the tsunami and are continuing to follow the group today.

Frankenberg is the principal investigator of the Study of the Tsunami Aftermath and Recovery (STAR), which collects data from Aceh tsunami survivors through in-depth interviews at regular intervals, including a 10-year follow-up survey this summer. The project also has access to household data collected about the group shortly before the tsunami. Frankenberg is a professor in the Sanford School of Public Policy. Thomas is the Norb F. Schaefer Professor in the economics department, with a secondary appointment in the Sanford School.

Frankenberg and Thomas have decades of experience working on population-based projects in Indonesia since the mid 1990s. Building on the lessons they’ve learned and the relationships they’ve built, they designed a survey and process of unusual depth and breadth (see sidebar page 11). This resulting dataset is fertile ground for researchers. Already Frankenberg, Thomas, and their collaborators have used the data to study a wide range of issues related to the impacts of the tsunami and recovery in multiple dimensions of health and well-being.

Resilience in the Aftermath of Disaster

Among all the results, one characteristic stands out. “The most startling thing we’ve seen is the level of resilience the population has shown,” Frankenberg said.

Thomas added, “There was a huge amount of psychosocial stress, and what’s astonishing is a lot of the people who had high levels of post-traumatic stress reactivity were able to rebuild their lives, broadly speaking, in ways that really surprised me.”
“The most startling thing we’ve seen is the level of resilience the population has shown.”

Interestingly, some of the people who were worst off in terms of psychosocial stress soon after the tsunami were doing the best five years later. In other words, a person’s condition immediately after the tsunami was not predictive of mental health some years on.

“There are very important policy implications,” Thomas said. “If you were to rush in, provide aid, and exit, you might not identify the right people who need assistance. You might not be targeting your resources effectively.”

By providing a scientific description of disaster recovery, Frankenberg and Thomas aim to inform public policy. “Knowledge in service of society is exactly what this is about,” Thomas said. “We stick to the highest quality of science because that’s what we can provide that’s going to matter for future policy.”

Visibly, the region has recovered, Frankenberg said. “If you visit the area, you have to look closely to see visible scars remaining either on landscape or within communities — it looks pretty normal. But there are some aspects that will never recover. It’s not easy to replace the mother for a child. There are missing teenagers and missing old people and missing grandparents.”

Orphanhood and New Babies

Because so many families experienced loss, the project has been able to provide data about survival, fertility following child mortality, orphanhood and remarriage.

Women, children and the elderly died at higher rates because survival required strength. Survey data tell a more nuanced story: people with more strength helped those with less. In households that included a prime-age man who survived, prime-age women were more likely to survive; if a prime-age woman survived then children in the household were also more likely to survive.

It’s long been a question in population science: do high levels of child mortality cause more births?

“The answer is yes,” Thomas said. Mothers who lost a child to the tsunami were more likely to have a child after the tsunami relative to those mothers whose children survived. In addition, in communities highly affected by the tsunami, even women who hadn’t lost a child were more likely to give birth, and women giving birth for the first time did so at younger ages.

Among orphans, the team found that those aged 9-14 were not worse off than non-orphans several years after the tsunami, as described by the measures collected in the survey. However, there were real costs for those orphaned at ages 15-18. Those children were more likely to leave school to marry and/or work. Perhaps communities and extended families are less likely to rally around
older orphans or perhaps older orphans are more likely to choose to take on adult roles. In any case, Thomas said the result can inform policy.

“It changes the debate on orphanhood;” he said. “Maybe there is a group that is very vulnerable and we can do something to help them.”

Among people who lost a spouse, a much higher percentage of men have remarried than women.

“That’s not going back to normal,” Thomas said. “The survey is raising lots of questions to which we do not have answers, but we will after 10 or maybe 20 years. Our goal is to follow them for 100 years, forever. What will happen to these kids, these women who got married, the ones who didn’t, and what will happen to their children?”

Collaboration Crucial to This Long-term Project

Longevity is one of the features that sets this project apart from others. In the absence of longitudinal data from other disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Sandy, data from the tsunami project can inform disaster recovery in other parts of the world.

“Culture matters immensely,” Thomas said, “but there are very basic results that have to be taken seriously as being potentially generalizable.”

Still, Frankenberg and Thomas hope to inspire more studies like theirs. “We’d love to help someone else get this type of project under way,” Frankenberg said.

Working with others is second nature to Frankenberg and Thomas, who have collaborated widely on the tsunami project, particularly with colleagues in Indonesia and at the University of California-Los Angeles, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Southern California.

“Without that, this project never would have been anywhere near as productive or successful,” Thomas said. “We really needed their expertise.” Collaborators include experts in mental health, epidemiology, demography, and even satellite imagery, which was used to help quantify damage from the tsunami.

They also collaborate with students and post-docs. Michael Burrows began working with Frankenberg and Thomas while earning his master’s in public policy from Sanford and is now a research manager with the project; he’s currently in Aceh working on the 10-year follow-up survey.

Nicholas Ingwersen began working with Thomas on another Indonesian project as an undergraduate at UCLA. After graduation, he began working on the tsunami recovery project and consulted for the World Bank. In 2009, he came to Duke to pursue a PhD in public policy in part to deepen his work on the tsunami project.

“It’s been an incredible experience,” he said. “The project itself is really interesting and — having seen a lot of work in developing countries — the quality of the work is phenomenal.”

Passing on Opportunities to Students

The work that Frankenberg and Thomas do with students is largely inspired by the way early experiences in their own lives shaped their careers.

Thomas was born and raised in Zimbabwe, living on the same farm where his mother was born and raised. After graduating from high school, he went to college in England.

“I had the incredible good fortune of having a faculty member tell me I should go do a PhD in America,” he said. “I didn’t have any concept of what it was to be an academic. It’s these very fortuitous events that motivate my teaching — my goal is to try to open doors for people reaching for things that don’t seem reachable.”

Frankenberg first went to Indonesia as an undergraduate at UNC, to do a research project on development. “I certainly didn’t think 30 year later I’d still be working there,” she said. “But the questions that seemed like they needed answering were so intriguing — that’s what pulled me in.”
After the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Elizabeth Frankenberg and Duncan Thomas collaborated with their colleagues at SurveyMETER, an NGO in Indonesia, to develop a longitudinal survey in Aceh to study the impacts of the tsunami and to track recovery. In developing the project, they worked with a government institution called Statistics Indonesia, which provided access to household data collected shortly before the tsunami. The resulting project, called the Study of the Tsunami Aftermath and Recovery (STAR), has been following 30,000 survivors ever since. The team conducted surveys every year for the first five years and is currently conducting a 10-year follow up.

Out of that group of survivors, 96 percent have participated in at least one follow-up survey, despite the fact that many lost their homes in the tsunami and have moved more than once since then.

PhD student Nicholas Ingwersen visited Aceh with Frankenberg in 2005. “We went to this one place where we were having trouble finding anybody,” he said. “On the map, what was a road is now the sea; where the house was is now a beach. It was an extraordinary effort to try to find these people.”

In fact, that first survey took almost a year. But Frankenberg and Thomas were persistent because they believed that the people who were hardest to find included those who had been most affected. “We put our resources into turning over every last stone,” Frankenberg said.

In the years since, the team has continued to refine the survey and the process. Local interviewers — 250 of them — are trained to interview with precision, patience and empathy, spending 4-5 hours with each household. The interview data is entered into a secure computer system, which includes features to help keep track of respondents. For example, if an interviewer discovers a respondent has moved, the new address is automatically shared with the interviewer of the appropriate territory.

The dataset allows comparisons between people from communities that were affected to different degrees. The team used satellite images and on-the-ground interviews to categorize each community as heavily affected, somewhat affected, or not directly affected.

The robustness and sheer volume of the survey data create opportunities for research into a wide variety of topics. Ingwersen’s PhD work illustrates the range: he’s doing one project on economic choices among adult survivors, and another on the growth of children who were in utero during the tsunami.

“We went to this one place where we were having trouble finding anybody. On the map, what was a road is now the sea; where the house was is now a beach. It was an extraordinary effort to try to find these people.”

“It’s neat to be able to work on a project where you can do all these different things [with the data], especially from the point of view of policy,” he said. “There are all these different ways these people’s lives can be affected and they’re all really important.”

Frankenberg and Thomas plan to make all the data publically available to the scientific and policy communities.

Survey of Tsunami Aftermath and Recovery (STAR): Breadth and Depth
No Illusions: The Voices of Russia’s Future Leaders

The future relations of the United States and Russia will be shaped by leaders studying at three of Russia’s most elite universities: Moscow State University, Moscow State Institute of Foreign Affairs and the Higher Economic School. In the spring of 2011, Ellen Mickiewicz, James Shepley Emeritus Professor of Public Policy and professor of political science, conducted focus groups with 108 students, Russia’s future leaders in business, government and politics.

In her new book, No Illusions: the Voices of Russia’s Future Leaders, Mickiewicz interweaves the comments and attitudes of the students with the context of Russian history and current affairs.

The students are intensely interested in the United States, but look to other countries for models of democracy for Russia, Mickiewicz found. They are patriotic, but savvy about government propaganda. They are passionate, articulate, sometimes sarcastic, and critical of their own leaders and of America. The following excerpts from her book give a glimpse of the Internet’s influence on the students’ worldview, and of how they see America and democracy.

EXCERPTS

Leaders of Russia’s future are critical not only of the United States, but of the way it practices democracy. [They] are highly critical of the growing income disparities in America and the endless greed and brutal competition that they identify with American democracy. Where once there was unalloyed respect and affection, there is now criticism — not for democracy (they look with favor on the Scandinavian model) — but of the world’s most powerful country.

The Internet has made a powerful difference among today’s and tomorrow’s leaders. These two generations do not know each other in Russia, where one government supporter accused the country’s future leaders of hiding behind their Internet screens.

No More Authorities

The country’s leaders have not been living in the world of the Internet; future Russian leaders have been living nowhere else. Julia specializes in international politics and comes from an ethnic republic inside Russia, but at some distance from Moscow. She gets her news mainly from the Internet and is also a great newspaper reader and microblogger on Twitter. She rather astutely sees how few are the options for anyone from any previous generation. She observes how partitioned off young people are now: “Basically the entire young generation is on the Internet… they are 90%. They don’t watch TV; if they read newspapers, then they regard them as prejudiced.”

When Kostya (Konstantin), a student of economics who is not from Moscow and doesn’t intend to vote, started talking in his focus group about [then-President Medvedev’s] blog, he said that he rarely, if ever, sees the blog. “Of course not. I haven’t been there for a long time. What is there to read about?” Kirill says: “A person can
be famous [or not]; it’s just that he has something to say. I think if somebody has those ideas, he ought to have something to say to you…” They expect leaders, of all people, to be passing on content to them; they expect to see discussion — as they do in school and on the Internet. There is nothing to give them confidence in the superior policy-making skills of the Duma.

What America is Like and Liking America

Olga, from Moscow, is specializing in economics. She describes America with the words “democracy,” “freedom of speech” and “modernism.” There is no ambivalence here. Clearly she has an unalloyed positive view of the United States and patiently points out to others at the table that no matter what they like or dislike about America, “I simply think that it is one of those countries that occupy a very important place in the world and which influences both us and everyone…” Anya, in a different group, says, “It seems to me that it would be simply naïve and infantile not to watch what goes on in the States.”

Not Every Democracy is Alike

Some of the participants who seem most interested in democracy are at the same time opposed to the imposition of “American democracy.” Artyom and Misha think deeply about this conundrum: America is the home of democracy; a worldwide revolution of ideas began there. Artyom and Misha do not like the emphasis on the market and the greed, lying, fraud and distrust it engendered.

None wants the old Russian autocracy or empire, and all want to be treated like citizens, not subjects. They want a democracy in which citizens can live their lives in peace, without the constant fear that they will be swallowed up by an economic or political maneuver.

What Went Wrong With Russia?

By Ambassador Jack F. Matlock, Jr.

Now that civil war is raging in Ukraine and U.S. and Russian leaders are trading insults and threats and imposing sanctions on each other, thoughtful citizens are asking what has happened since the Cold War ended, the Soviet Union broke up and, for a time, the Russian government acted like an ally. Has Russia “gone bad” under a megalomaniac dictator, or is there something quite different playing out here?

“Her detailed study of attitudes held by graduate students at some of Russia’s elite institutions of higher education provides a sobering reminder of the fact that others may perceive us in ways quite different from the images we entertain of ourselves and our actions.”

break-up of the Soviet Union. That was caused by internal contradictions, not pressure from the outside, and the break-up was led and orchestrated by the elected president of the Russian Federation.

In cooperating to end the Cold War and not only to free Eastern Europe from Moscow’s domination, but even to free the non-Russian republics of the Soviet Union, Russian leaders in 1991 thought they were becoming part of a Europe “whole and free,” one allied with the United States and Canada, in spirit if not necessarily in legal fact. The apparent rejection, particularly by the United States, brought to the first post-Cold-War generation of young Russians a sense of unfairness and humiliation typical of rejected lovers.

In coping with the serious challenges to American security, Russia will either be part of the problem or part of the solution. We must take the lesson implicit in Ellen Mickiewicz’s insightful study seriously if we are to move away from today’s fruitless and dangerous confrontations and once again find our way to a Europe whole and free and a Russia willing to pull its weight in dealing with global problems before they engulf us all.

Ambassador Jack F. Matlock, Jr. was a career foreign service officer, and served as ambassador to Czechoslovakia, 1981-1983 and to the USSR, 1987-1991. He was a member of the National Security Council during the Reagan administration. After leaving public life, he taught diplomacy at several universities, including Princeton and Columbia.
To Curb Violent Tendencies, Start Young

Agressive children are less likely to become violent criminals or psychiatrically troubled adults if they receive early intervention, says a new study based on more than two decades of research.

These findings from researchers at Duke, Pennsylvania State and Vanderbilt universities and the University of Washington are based on the multifaceted Fast Track Project, one of the largest violence-prevention trials ever funded by the federal government.

"We can prevent serious violence and psychopathology among the group of children who are highest risk," said Kenneth Dodge. "That's the essential finding from this study. It provides the strongest evidence yet that, far from being doomed from an early age, at-risk children can be helped to live productive lives."

Dodge directs the Duke Center for Child and Family Policy and is the William McDougall Professor of Public Policy at the Sanford School of Public Policy.

Beginning in 1991, researchers screened nearly 10,000 5-year-old children in Durham, Nashville, Seattle and rural Pennsylvania for aggressive behavior problems, identifying those who were at highest risk of growing up to become violent, antisocial adults. Nearly 900 children were deemed at high risk, and of those, half were randomly assigned to receive the Fast Track intervention, while the other half were assigned to a control group. Participating children and their families received an array of interventions at school and at home.

Nineteen years later, the authors found that Fast Track participants at age 25 had fewer convictions for violent and drug-related crimes, lower rates of serious substance abuse, lower rates of risky sexual behavior and fewer psychiatric problems than the control group.

The program's positive effects held true across four different sites around the country, among both males and females and among both white and African-American children.

The 10-year intervention amounted to $58,000 per child. However, that cost should be weighed against the millions of dollars that each chronic criminal costs society in imprisonment and harm to others, Dodge said.

"Prevention takes a considerable investment, but that investment is worth it," Dodge said. "Our policies and practices should reflect the fact that these children can have productive lives."

In future studies, Dodge and his colleagues plan to examine the cost-benefit question more closely.
The Meat of the Matter
on Antibiotic-resistant Infections

By Anthony So and David Wallinga

We soon may be re-entering the medical Dark Ages. That’s no Chicken Little proclamation. In 2011, the World Health Organization warned of a return to a pre-antibiotic era “where common infections will no longer have a cure, and once again, kill unabated.”

Antibiotic-resistant infections already sicken at least 2 million Americans a year, killing over 23,000 of them. That’s far more than AIDS — or Ebola for that matter.

Reducing the huge overuse of antibiotics, both in humans and animals, is key. This overuse accelerates the development of disease-causing bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has noted the strong scientific evidence that the use of antibiotics in food animals can harm public health by transmitting superbugs through our food supply to people.

The CDC estimates half of human antibiotics used and much of that used in food animals are unnecessary. According to data from the pharmaceutical industry, at least 70 percent of all antimicrobials sold in the U.S. are added to animal feed — typically not for treating sick animals but for promoting growth or substituting for better hygiene and infection control. These include human drugs like tetracycline and erythromycin.

Drastic reductions in antibiotic use on the farm are smart, and doable. Smaller family-run farms have helped create and expand the rapidly growing sector around organic and “wellness” foods, such as meats from animals raised in pastures or without antibiotics or added hormones.

But it hasn’t always been easy. Raleigh, N.C., hosted Farm Aid this fall, a benefit concert that for 28 years has focused on the challenges that continue to threaten the existence of family farms in America. Adding antibiotics routinely to animal feed allowed larger-scale meat operations to avoid, at least in the short-term, the changes in farm practice that deter unnecessary antibiotic use. Since 1999, producers in Denmark — the world’s largest pork exporter — moved away from routinely using antibiotics in feed and instead invested in alternative practices such as better farm hygiene, infection control and vaccines. The result was 50 percent less antibiotic usage per kilogram of meat produced. The industry became both safer and more efficient, and productivity rose. Taking similar steps, the Netherlands decreased antibiotic use in agriculture by nearly 70 percent in less than five years.

Some of the biggest food companies in the U.S. are starting to make large-scale change as well. Perdue, the nation’s third-largest poultry producer, announced that it has now cut use of human-approved antibiotics from about 95 percent of its chickens. Retailers like Chipotle and Chick-fil-A are betting their future on meeting what they see as a consumer preference for meat raised without antibiotics.

What’s now needed are major changes in public policy and leadership among elected officials, including in North Carolina. We are home to the world’s first case of an infection resistant to carbapenem antibiotics — one of our last lines of defense against drug-resistant “superbugs.” More to the point, the state is second in the country among pork-producing states and hosts the largest swine slaughterhouse in the world.

At the state level, North Carolina policymakers could offer incentives to farmers to use less antibiotics rather than the reverse. A North Carolina tax break on animal antibiotics as well as animal feed cost the state $140 million in 2011. Such a tax exemption clearly promotes rather than dissuades unnecessary antibiotic use.

In Washington, the North Carolina congressional delegation should call on the federal government to limit animal use of antibiotics for treating disease, not for growth promotion or other inappropriate reasons. We also must support farmers in introducing alternatives to antibiotics in animal production.

To hold food producers accountable, data on the sales and use of antibiotics must be transparent and publicly reported. The public deserves better monitoring of emerging drug resistance in our food supply, from farm to fork.

Anthony D. So, M.D., is a professor of the practice of public policy and global health at the Sanford School. David Wallinga, M.D., of Minnesota is director of Healthy Food Action. This commentary was originally published in The News & Observer on Sept. 12, 2014 and is reprinted by permission.
The Sanford School added six new positions to the core faculty for the 2014-2015 academic year. The new faculty bring a mix of scholarship and experience in positions that will strengthen the school’s key policy areas.

Natalia Mirovitskaya and Eric Mlyn have served at Duke for many years and received new appointments in the Sanford School. Deondra Rose received her first academic appointment as assistant professor, while Matthew C. Harding, Marcos A. Rangel and Steven Sexton all came to Sanford from other universities.

Natalia Mirovitskaya

Associate Professor of the Practice Natalia Mirovitskaya joined Duke University in 1995 as a visiting research professor of public policy and comparative area studies. She has published extensively on sustainable development, environmental security and peacebuilding, and has taught in several countries.

Mirovitskaya received a PhD in International Economics from the Russian Academy of Science in 1981. She began her professional life at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO), where her work focused on resource regimes.

While living through a period of radical societal transformation in Russia, Mirovitskaya combined her academic interests and social passions when she co-founded the Russian Association of University Women in 1991. As a vice president of the association, she developed collaborative projects with international women’s organizations and participated in several UN and other global initiatives to promote gender-sensitive policies.


“She worked at Duke, she says “has allowed me to find a supportive environment with colleagues from different disciplines. Having development professionals from around the world in your classroom is an invigorating intellectual experience.”

Matthew Harding

Assistant Professor Matthew Harding comes to Duke from Stanford University, where he was assistant professor of economics. At Stanford, he did innovative work on developing “Big Data” methods to better understand consumer behavior, using large data sets recorded by supermarket scanners or smart electricity meters.

“I call it deep data rather than big data,” said Harding. “Solving the most challenging problems of our time requires adding depth to data by linking many separate datasets and drawing on expertise across a number of different disciplines.”

Harding is interested in how people make decisions in a data-rich world and how that can shape policy solutions in health, energy and the environment. To improve individual and social welfare, he seeks to combine the use of three fundamental levers: prices, behavioral nudges and technology. As a faculty fellow in the Duke Energy Initiative, Harding will oversee the new Energy Data Analytics Lab, which seeks to derive data-driven solutions to challenging energy systems problems. He also is the director of the new Duke-UNC USDA Center for Behavioral Economics and Healthy Food Choice Research. (See story, page 18.)

“Solving the most challenging problems of our time requires adding depth to data by linking many separate datasets and drawing on expertise across a number of different disciplines.”
Eric Mlyn has spent his nearly 15 years at Duke building programs in experiential and civic education. As the Peter Lange Executive Director of DukeEngage and Assistant Vice Provost for Civic Engagement, Mlyn leads Duke’s signature civic engagement immersion program for students and guides civic engagement projects across the university.

Mlyn came to Duke in 2000 as the founding director of the Robertson Scholars Program. The program awards merit scholarships to selected students from Duke and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, who come together on both campuses for special seminars, leadership development and summer programs. A political scientist by training, Mlyn was an assistant professor at UNC, Chapel Hill, director of the Burch Programs and associate director at the Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence.

As a lecturer in public policy at Sanford, Mlyn hopes to “explore ways that civic engagement and service-learning experiences can lead students to realize the full potential of democratic citizenship.”

“I hope to explore ways that civic engagement and service-learning experiences can lead students to realize the full potential of democratic citizenship.”

Assistant Professor Marcos A. Rangel’s research examines the development and accumulation of human capital using the methods of demography and economics. He is interested in how decisions within families about investing in children interact with public policies, such as public education and health care, in both developed and developing countries.

Prior to Duke, he was an assistant professor at the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago, an associate economics professor at the University of Sao Paulo-Brazil and a visiting associate professor at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.

A native of Brazil, Rangel grew up in a mixed race family; his father is “mulatto,” his mother is blonde and blue-eyed and his siblings look different from one another. Mixed-race families are common in Brazil, and tonality is a way of classifying people, he said. This sparked his interest in studying the racial aspects of human capital, such as the interaction of skin tone and wages and the racial achievement gap in education.

“As a social scientist, I think skin color is going to be an increasingly pertinent issue in the United States, considering the demographic trends such as immigration and mixed marriages. I bring my Brazilian eyes to the study of the problem,” he said.

“I think skin color is going to be an increasingly pertinent issue in the United States, considering the demographic trends such as immigration and mixed marriages.”

Assistant Professor Deondra Rose researches how higher education policy has promoted greater equality for women and minorities in social and political arenas. She has examined landmark federal policies, such as the Higher Education Act of 1965, which provided college financial aid, and the 1972 Title IX amendment banning exclusion from educational programs based on gender, in combination with datasets to track the effects on gender dynamics in the United States.

In looking at the 1958 National Defense Education Act, part of the U.S. reaction to Sputnik, Rose realized “equality was an accidental outcome” of the act. The bill’s authors wanted to support not just education in science, but in literature and the humanities. It funded education at all levels and so helped girls as well as boys.

Rose is working on a book on how higher education policy in the latter part of the 20th century has affected women’s civic opportunities. “Title IX leveled the playing field, but it is now incumbent on the girls and the boys to show up,” she said. Prior to her graduate studies, Rose worked in education in Georgia and on political campaigns for a Georgia Senate candidate and a gubernatorial candidate in Minnesota.

“Title IX leveled the playing field, but it is now incumbent on the girls and the boys to show up.”

Steven Sexton, assistant professor, uses micro-economic theory to examine the intersection of sustainability, agriculture, energy and the environment. He has studied the effectiveness of California’s subsidies for residential rooftop solar systems, the economic impact of genetically modified crops, and the connection and trade-offs between raising crops for biofuel or for food. He is also a faculty fellow with the Duke Energy Initiative.

“Having seen the consequences of ineffective and missing environmental and energy policy in countries around the world, I am motivated to identify policy solutions that maximize environmental gains and minimize costs. A costly policy that does little to improve outcomes crowds out a policy that can improve the environment and energy security,” he said.

Sexton has been a triathlete since 2006, and tried out for a position on the 2012 Olympic team in the same year he was completing his doctoral studies at the University of California at Berkeley. He is on the board of directors of the USA Triathlon, the governing body for competitions in the United States.

Before coming to Duke, Sexton was assistant professor of agricultural and resource economics at North Carolina State University. He is a contributor to Freakonomics.com, writing on everything from the economics of shale gas to Christmas trees.

“I am motivated to identify policy solutions that maximize environmental gains and minimize costs.”
New Duke-UNC Research Center to Explore Ways to Encourage Healthy Food Choices

By Karen Kemp

Displaying fresh fruit more prominently in school cafeterias and asking students to pre-order lunches in the morning make it more likely that students will make healthier choices, research has shown. Finding similar techniques to encourage healthy and cost-effective choices among the 50 million American shoppers receiving federal food benefits is the goal of a new research center at Duke University and UNC, Chapel Hill.

In October, the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded $1.9 million to start the Duke-UNC USDA Center for Behavioral Economics and Healthy Food Choice Research (BECR Center). Matthew Harding, assistant professor at Duke’s Sanford School of Public Policy, will direct the research program.

“We’ll employ an innovative approach combining Big Data analysis with large-scale field experiments to pursue triple-win strategies,” Harding said, “policies that benefit consumers, are not hurting the bottom line for companies, and have broad impact on the public good.”

Since 2007, the number of Americans using USDA’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), popularly known as food stamps, has nearly doubled, reaching almost one-sixth of the U.S. population at a cost of $79 billion. Participation in the Women Infants and Children Nutrition Program (WIC) also expanded as unemployment levels remained high in many areas of the country. An average of 8.7 million people per month participate, and more than half of them are children.

“Almost 48 million Americans are using SNAP and in one-third of the cases at least one family member is employed,” Harding said. At the same time, for the first time in our history some states have adult obesity rates in excess of 35 percent, an epidemic that is a huge contributor to rising health care costs. Together, these trends create powerful incentives to seek better outcomes at lower cost — without additional taxes or regulations, Harding said.

In the highly competitive retail food industry, companies already know a great deal about what motivates consumers to buy, Harding said. The center’s research will harness the power of huge quantities of data on consumer behavior collected by food retailers to understand consumer behavior and develop a wide range of behavioral strategies to promote healthier food choices by all Americans.

The BECR Center will generate hypotheses about low-cost behavioral interventions and marketing strategies that stimulate healthy food choices, and then test them in field experiments. A USDA-funded research center at Cornell has tested some “behavioral nudges” in school cafeterias. “A lot of those things are good ideas, they work, so now we’re going to take them into a broader setting and try to change people’s behavior in stores, farmers’ markets and other places where people make food choices,” Harding said.

Food retailers must pay attention to changing consumer desires to compete, and if consumers become more interested in healthy eating, retailers will want to implement these changes, Harding said. A number of them endorsed the grant application, including Wal-Mart and the California-based Fresh & Easy supermarket chain.

“This is important research that has the potential to improve the health of millions of Americans,” said Kelly Brownell, dean of Duke’s Sanford School of Public Policy and a food policy expert. “Matt Harding has assembled an impressive team of people to work on very important issues.”

Alice Ammerman, who heads the UNC-Chapel Hill team, said BECR also will study WIC cost-containment strategies and behavioral economics approaches to increasing healthy food access for low-income populations. Ammerman is a professor of nutrition in the Gillings School of Global Public Health and directs the UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

“This research will begin with ‘listening sessions’ with WIC and SNAP customers, retailers and program administrators to understand what needs and barriers they are facing,” Ammerman said.

“We are delighted to see this collaboration with Duke, which represents an excellent blend of expertise and disciplines across the institutions,” said Barbara Rimer, dean of the Gillings School.

In addition to Harding and Brownell, other Duke collaborators are Dan Ariely, Gavin Fitzsimmons and Peter Ubel (Fuqua School of Business), and Mary Story (Global Health Institute). UNC partners, in addition to Ammerman, are Shu Wen Ng and Molly DeMarco, also of the nutrition department in UNC’s Gillings School of Global Public Health.
Beyond Broke: First Report of the National Asset Scorecard Project

In 2011, black families in the United States had easy access to only $200 cash from savings or investments and Latino families had $340. White families had access to $23,000. This is only one of the findings about the wealth gap in the report “Beyond Broke: Why Closing the Racial Wealth Gap is a Priority for National Economic Security.” Sanford Professor William A. Darity Jr. was a co-author of the report, published by the Center for Global Policy Solutions in April. It is the first publication for the National Asset Scorecard project.

“The primary goal is to find out the asset and debt position of people in communities of color and in the white population, and how the disparities play out among racial and ethnic subpopulations,” said Darity.

The report finds that home ownership is still a major driver of wealth creation, but during the Great Recession, African Americans and Latinos lost greater amounts of home equity than whites and have recovered more slowly. It also finds that people of color are more than twice as likely to have no financial assets or to have negative net worth.

The authors offer specific policy recommendations, such as fair pay for workers, mortgage relief programs, increased Social Security and low- or no-cost financial services.

Duke’s Research Network on Racial and Ethnic Inequality conducted 2,000 phone surveys in four cities: Los Angeles, Miami, Tulsa and Washington D.C. and are conducting an additional 500 face-to-face interviews in Washington, D.C. and Boston. The surveys will collect data on the national origin of respondents, allowing analysis of differences among Latinos, Asian, and African Americans from different countries.

“There are few datasets that identify groups at this specific level,” said Darity.

The research team is working on a template to allow for long-term research with regular updates and reports. The project is supported by a grant from the Ford Foundation.

The report was prepared by the Center for Global Policy Solutions in collaboration with the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, the Research Network for Racial and Ethnic Inequality, and The Milano Graduate School of International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy at The New School.

Darity to Head New Consortium on Social Equity Research

Duke’s Trinity College of Arts and Sciences has launched a new initiative focused on social equity, with William A. “Sandy” Darity Jr., the Samuel DuBois Cook Professor of Public Policy, African and African American Studies, and Economics, as the director.

The Duke Consortium on Social Equity is a community of scholars from different disciplines that will join forces to study the causes and consequences of inequality, as well as to assess and design remedies for inequality and its negative effects.

“Taking a cross-national comparative approach to the study of human difference and disparity, consortium researchers will range from the global to the local in exploring the social problems associated with group-based disparities and conflict,” said Darity.

The Consortium on Social Equity will bring several existing programs under one umbrella, including:

- the Research Network on Racial and Ethnic Equality, co-directed by Robert Korstad, professor of public policy and history;
- the Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity and Gender in the Social Sciences, directed by Kerry Haynie, associate professor of political science;
- the Center on Genomics, Race, Identity and Difference, directed by Charmaine Royal, associate professor of African and African American Studies (AAAS);
- the Global Inequality Research Initiative, directed by Jay Pearson, assistant professor of public policy; and
- the Center for the Study of Art, Digital Culture and Entrepreneurship, directed by Mark Anthony Neal, professor of AAAS.

There will also be three working groups: the Bioethics, Literature and the Law group led by Karla Holloway, professor of English, law and women’s studies; the Social Mobility group led by Pablo Beramendi, associate professor of political science, and Professor Anirudh Krishna from the Sanford School; and the Educational Policy group led by Associate Professors of the Practice Kristen Stephens and David Malone from the Program in Education.

“This is the kind of center I wish I could have walked into as a young scholar, which includes humanists and social scientists,” said Darity.

After extensive planning led by Haynie during the fall, the official kickoff is scheduled for the spring.
Recent Books

Power in a Complex Global System
Edited by Louis W. Pauly and Bruce W. Jentleson Routledge

Are the challenges of the 21st century such as global financial crises, international security threats and climate change beyond the abilities of current governments to face? Is a reconstruction of governing authority necessary? How will power be wielded in a world with supranational corporations and nongovernment actors?

The articles collected in this book that address these questions were inspired by the work of Cornell International Studies Professor Peter J. Katzenstein. The mismatch between nation-states and the demands of globalization in a time of increasing and rapid transition are explored by 20 scholars in the field of political science, public policy, government and law.

Narrative Politics: Stories and Collective Action
By Frederick W. Mayer
Oxford University Press

“Storytelling is the lifeblood of politics,” writes Mayer, yet the field of political science has devoted little attention to the role of narrative.

Mayer argues that narrative is the essential tool for collective action. Narrative can create the social networks necessary to move from unorganized individual effort to organized collective action. Narratives also create meaning, which helps compel cooperation.

Drawing on insights from across several disciplines including history, literature, behavioral economics and neuroscience, political science and sociology, the book explains why narrative is so central to our political life and to what it means to be human.

Organizational Progeny: Why Governments Are Losing Control over the Proliferating Structures of Global Governance
By Tana Johnson
Oxford University Press

This book, the first in a new series titled Transformations in Governance, examines why international governmental organizations (IGOs) such as the United Nations are frequently difficult for even the most powerful nations to control.

Johnson explores how IGOs, which are the central structures of global governance, are usually designed with mechanisms for control by states, but frequently grow beyond those mechanisms. She found that over time, the bureaucrats in these IGOs alter the design to buffer themselves from this control. They also play key roles in the design of “progeny” IGOs with weaker controls. Through case studies, such as of the World Food Program, Johnson shows how and why international bureaucrats matter in world politics.


This is a sample of publications by Sanford faculty. For more complete information visit faculty web pages at www.sanford.duke.edu.
Sanford ABROAD

Sanford School faculty travel worldwide, giving presentations and lectures, conducting workshops and research. This map illustrates recent selected activities around the world.

**CHICAGO, ILL.**
Philip Cook
Feb. 16, 2014
Panelist: *The economics of illegal gun markets*
American Association for the Advancement of Science

**SOUTH BEND, Ind.**
Helen Ladd
June 9, 2014
Keynote address: *“Self Governing Schools, Parental Choice and the Public Interest”*
Conference on Crossroads of America: The Intersection of Research and Policy in the Indiana School Choice Ecosystem
University of Notre Dame

**NEW YORK, N.Y.**
Charles Clotfelter
May 22, 2014
Presentation: *“Colleges and Their Customers: The Market for Baccalaureate Education in the Age of Merit and Disparity”*
The Federal Reserve Bank of New York

**PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI**
Fernando Fernholz
Aug. 4-15, 2014
Talk on article "What Role do Public Universities Play in Educational Inequality? Evidence from North Carolina," coauthored with Charles Clotfelter and Jacob Vigdor
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

**SEGOVIA, SPAIN**
Helen Ladd
Sept. 22, 2014
Talk on article "What Role do Public Universities Play in Educational Inequality? Evidence from North Carolina," coauthored with Charles Clotfelter and Jacob Vigdor
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**
Anthony So
May 13, 2014
Expert discussant on "Fostering Antibiotic Innovation and Preservation"
World Health Organization’s Technical Consultation on Innovative Models for New Antibiotics’ Development and Preservation

**DALLAS, TEXAS**
Hal Brands
Sept. 11, 2014
Talk: "What Good is Grand Strategy?"
Southern Methodist University

**SAVANNAH, Ga.**
Hal Brands
Sept. 18, 2014
Talk: "What Good is Grand Strategy?"
Savannah World Affairs Council

**CHAPEL HILL, N.C.**
Helen Ladd
June 16, 2014
Workshop leader on charter schools for the NC Council of Churches Critical Issues Seminar, North Carolina Public Education Pre-K through College
United Church of Chapel Hill

**DURHAM, N.C.**
David Schanzer
May 15-16, 2014
Panelist: *“Secrecy and Government Accountability in the Wake of the Edward Snowden Affair”*
Society for the Philosophy of Information, Duke University

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**
Candice Ogders
Aug. 9, 2014
Lecturer: *“Can 21st Century Technologies Be Used to Capture and Change Adolescents’ Risk Behavior?”*
American Psychological Association

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**
Roy Kelly
Aug. 13, 2014
Presentation: *“State of the Field and Study Design Needs”*
Expert Meeting on Assessing and Encouraging Interaction between Genetic and Social Behavioral Models
National Science Foundation

**UDAIPUR, INDIA**
Anirudh Krishna
May-July 2014
Co-leader of the graduate program, "Summer School for Future International Development Leaders," in conjunction with Janat Shah.
Sanford School of Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management

**CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA**
Hal Brands
June 18, 2014
Lecture: "What Good is Grand Strategy?"
Australian Defence College
Wilson Lecture on Counterterrorism

Two leading counterterrorism experts from the Bush and Obama administrations came to Sanford September 10 to discuss evolving terrorist threats, including recent events in Iraq and Syria. The event preceded President Obama’s speech on plans for dealing with the jihadist group ISIL later the same evening.

Fran Townsend, former assistant to President G.W. Bush for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, and Ambassador Daniel Benjamin, former coordinator for counterterrorism at the U.S. State Department, gave the Robert R. Wilson Lecture in Fleishman Commons. David Schanzer, associate professor of the practice of public policy and director of the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security, moderated the discussion.

Given the recent execution of two American journalists and consequent calls for action, Benjamin spoke of the need for calm. “Intelligence reports indicate this is not an imminent threat against the United States,” he said.

Townsend emphasized the importance of nonmilitary means to handle the threat, including economic tools and countering terrorist propaganda. “We need a comprehensive approach to dealing with the terrorist narratives,” she said.

Both speakers spent the day visiting public policy classes and meeting with students. Townsend met with a group of female students to discuss the underrepresentation of women in the field of national security. Benjamin met with the Counterterrorism and Public Policy Fellows.