Earlier this week, I had the pleasure of speaking at a symposium on strengthening the roles that universities play in national science policy. I began my short talk with a quote that many attribute to Albert Einstein, who was asked why humans had been able to discover the structure of the atom, but had been unable to devise the political means to keep the atom from destroying us.

Einstein’s reply: “because politics is more difficult than physics.”

While I won’t weigh in on that particular comparison, I will say that science policy without the social sciences is incomplete, and that there’s great power and potential in collaborative work between those with deep scientific expertise; those who understand the policy process; and those trained in sociology, history, political science, economics, psychology and other fields.

This issue of *State & Hill* focuses on energy and the environment, fields with policy challenges that require sustained interdisciplinary engagement. To identify lasting solutions, we need chemists, engineers, biologists, entomologists, agronomists, and more. And we need them to work collaboratively with social scientists, urban planners, entrepreneurs, and others.

The Ford School’s interdisciplinary faculty members—including current and past leaders of our Science, Technology, and Public Policy Program and our Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy—are contributing to a wide range of energy and environmental policy questions through collaborations like these. They work with faculty in the School of Natural Resources and Environment, the Graham Sustainability Institute, the Erb Institute, the Michigan Sea Grant, and other outstanding U-M initiatives. And they work with policymakers, practitioners, think tanks, corporations, and non-profits at home and abroad.

And our faculty are not alone in these meaningful interdisciplinary exchanges. In the past three years, 15 of our graduate students have been named Dow Sustainability Fellows. Through this program, they’ve joined interdisciplinary teams that have crafted new floodplain ordinances, analyzed the value of distributed solar generation, and created a low-interest revolving loan fund for rental property owners to make energy efficiency upgrades.

In time, these students will join the impressive cadre of Ford School alums who are tackling some of our world’s most pressing energy and environmental policy challenges. Those alumni are greening the energy sector, restoring degraded habitat and polluted waterways, assessing the impact of land tenure rights on sustainable farming practices, designing environmentally friendly energy access programs for hundreds of thousands of refugees, and more.

With so many inspiring stories to tell, we decided to take a survey approach in this edition of *State & Hill*. Even so, there are hundreds more tales we might have featured. If you or someone you know are among them, drop us a line; we have an expanded online roundup now in the works. In fact, drop us a line in any case! We love hearing from you.

Sincerely,

SUSAN M. COLLINS
Joan and Sanford Weill Dean of Public Policy

Approximately 150 MPP and MPA students took part in the 2015 INTEGRATED POLICY EXERCISE (IPE), a three-day simulation during which participants take on the roles of stakeholders while negotiating a timely policy issue. Led by Professor Elisabeth Gerber, this year’s exercise centered on the redistribution and allocation of unclaimed immigrant work visas as a means to bolster Detroit’s economic renewal. On the web >> fordschool.umich.edu/sound-policy-decisions

Ford School Spotlight
The evolution of energy
From regulation and renewables to efficiency and independence

Climate control
Responding to our changing climate

What’s driving transportation?
Transportation’s new direction

The cleanup crew
How policy practitioners are fighting pollution

Maintaining biodiversity
Guarding biodiversity and restoring ecosystem health

Healthy food systems
For humans, and for the environment

In addition
Edie Goldenberg on action, the academy, and the MIW program
International economic development students visit Brazil
BA alum tackles preventable deaths through social enterprise Sundara

Departments
Soundbites, Overheard @ Ford School Events
Discourse, Ford School Faculty in the News
Faculty News & Awards
Class Notes
The Last Word
What does a public policy degree prepare you to do for the environment? A good deal, it seems.

Find out what Ford School students, alumni, and faculty are doing to green the energy sector, fight pollution, and more.
Diversifying and greening the energy portfolio of one of America’s largest electric utilities, with 2.1 million customers in southeast Michigan alone. The goal: reducing CO2 emissions by more than 30 percent by 2030.

Gerard M. (Gerry) Anderson (MPP/MBA ’88), Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, DTE Energy

Edited Innovations across the Grid, which showcases breakthrough technologies that are enhancing the efficiency, reliability, affordability, and sustainability of America’s rapidly evolving power grid. Adam Cooper (MPP ’10), Senior Manager, Edison Foundation Institute for Electric Innovation

Works with policymakers who are helping to shape Michigan’s new energy standards. Mike Delaney’s goal: to balance affordability, reliability, and sustainability while avoiding an anticipated capacity shortfall as coal-fired power plants retire. Michael Delaney (MPP ’07), Manager of Policy Strategy and Advocacy, DTE Energy

Helped launch the U.S. Department of Energy’s Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E). The goal: investing in high-risk, high-reward energy breakthroughs the private sector was bypassing. Antony DiGiovanni (AB ’95, MPP ’00), Deputy Budget Director, National Science Foundation

Explores how America’s fracking revolution has affected the economic welfare of consumers and producers in a soon-to-be-released paper for the Brookings Institution. While supply surges have significantly lowered prices for business, industry, utilities, and consumers, Hausman finds negative impacts on producers who have suffered from the associated fall in natural gas prices. In addition to

Launched the UN Refugee Agency’s Global Strategy for Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE). Reliable access to energy—for cooking, light, and power—is a basic need and necessary for economic development. However, for refugees, cooking a meal or having light at night, something that many people take for granted, is a daily struggle. Steven Corliss (MPP/JD ’88), Director of the Division of Programme Support and Management, United Nations High Commission for Refugees

By the light of a solar-powered lamp, a mother helps her children with their school work in the United Nations Refugee Agency’s Azraq refugee camp in Jordan (Nov. 2014) Photo: UNHCR S. Rich
Exploring the longevity, durability, and outcome of carbon tax policies in a new book that analyzes roughly two-dozen case studies to learn what happens when governments put a price on carbon. Which policies outlast the next election cycle? Which are flexible enough to adjust to unexpected changes like recessions or plunges in demand? Which acquire broader political support over time? And which policies, when they manage to endure, produce a positive impact on CO₂ emissions and the economy? Barry Rabe, the J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Professor of Public Policy and director of the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy, Ford School

Exploring the economic impacts of fracking, Hausman discusses the environmental costs, which remain exceedingly difficult for economists to quantify. Catie Hausman, Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Ford School

Regularly advises state legislators and legislative staff on policies, technologies, and best practices in oil and natural gas including hydraulic fracturing as well as nuclear energy, alternative fuels, and energy security. Kristy Hartman (MPP ’13), Senior Energy Policy Specialist, National Conference of State Legislatures

Helps grow small businesses in the developing world that offer safe fuel alternatives for people who depend on wood and charcoal for their daily cooking and heating needs. Sylvia Herzog (AB ’85, MPP/ MBA ’88), Chief Operating Officer, The Charcoal Project

 Oversees traditional and renewable electricity generation for a not-for-profit electric cooperative with power plants in North Dakota and Minnesota. Rick Lancaster (MPP ’80), Vice President of Generation, Great River Energy

Leads The Wilderness Society’s energy and climate change advocacy. The goal: guiding energy development to the appropriate places on public lands, and incorporating climate-smart practices to protect irreplaceable wildlands, biodiversity, and recreation. Chase Huntley (MPP/SMRE ’00) Senior Director of Government Relations for Energy, The Wilderness Society

Helped develop PG&E’s strategy on renewables to ensure compliance with California’s rigorous energy standards and reduce the company’s carbon footprint. Jomo Thome (MPP/MBA ’08), Manager of Value-Based Reliability, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)

Managed energy efficiency and renewable energy development initiatives for the Michigan energy office, shaping policy and sharing best practices, new technologies, and research findings. John Sarver (MPP ’75), President, Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association

Served as lead strategist for many successful Sierra Club and Center for American Progress energy and climate campaigns. He now oversees efforts to elect federal and state candidates who support climate action. Daniel J. Weiss (AB ’79, MPP ’80), Senior Vice President for Campaigns, League of Conservation Voters

Preparing briefs for the Supreme Court review of Electric Power Supply Association v. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. FERC seeks Supreme Court approval to reduce demand for energy, rather than increase supply, by paying consumers to conserve energy when it matters most. Karen Torrent (MPP ’88), Federal Legislative Director, Environmental Law and Policy Center

Email fspp-editor@umich.edu to share energy and environmental policy stories for our expanded online roundup.
Helped to create a risk-assessment tool for World Bank staff and other development practitioners to screen proposed projects—including roads, bridges, and schools—for climate change and disaster threats. When risks are identified, Nate Engle helps staff think through strategies to adapt projects accordingly.  

Nate Engle (MPP/SNRE ’07), Climate Change Specialist, The World Bank

Drafting a new floodplain ordinance for the City of Ann Arbor. The goal: to manage risk and regulate development in flood-prone areas—those known to be at risk now, and those expected to be at risk in the distant future.  

Caitlin Jacob (MPP/MUP ’15), 2014 Dow Sustainability Fellow

Using advances in remote sensing, satellite imagery, and crowd-sourcing to get a more accurate picture of the droughts, floods, and heat waves that disrupt food systems and lead to global unrest. “Climate-related water shocks are increasing in frequency and severity,” says Annie Maxwell. “This can spark cascading crises that ripple across borders, regions, and the world.” By convening new partnerships, the Skoll Global Threats Fund is looking for ways to ensure that governments, NGOs, and UN agencies have access to the information they need to monitor, assess, and quickly respond—not just to droughts and floods, but also to the social, environmental, and geopolitical crises they trigger. Annie Maxwell (AB ’00, MPP ’02), President, Skoll Global Threats Fund

Helping 11 African “least developed” countries modernize weather and emergency warning systems. “Until very recently, the primary technology fundamental to modern weather systems has been sophisticated, capital intensive, difficult-to-maintain radars and dopplers—not a great fit for cash-strapped countries,” says Alan Miller. “Now, for tens of thousands of dollars rather than hundreds of thousands, we can create automated weather stations on cell phone towers—which are all across Africa—with no moving parts, a little solar panel, a battery pack, and a sensor that picks up lightning in the clouds. That will save lives, and produce enormous short- and long-term economic and social benefits.”  

Alan Miller (MPP/JD ’74), Independent Consultant, United Nations Development Programme

Collecting and analyzing surveys of local government officials on climate adaptation in the Great Lakes region. “Cities are on the front lines in dealing with the effects of climate change, which might mean more storms and floods, or it might mean drought,” says Professor Elisabeth Gerber. They do this in a number of ways: they change their building codes and zoning ordinances; they change their landscaping practices; they put in place emergency management plans. But they also need to upgrade their infrastructure—including roads, water treatment centers, stormwater drainage systems, and more—all of which can be very expensive and a huge challenge for elected officials. “One of the key things we do in the study is ask, ‘Which of the following actions are you taking?’ and ‘Is climate change a specific motivation for doing it?’” says Gerber. “In many places around the Great Lakes, local governments are making important adaptations. They might not be calling it climate adaptation, but it still counts.”  

Elisabeth Gerber, the Jack L. Walker, Jr., Professor of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Quantifying the social and cultural costs of natural disasters in Japan, Bangladesh, Thailand, the Philippines, and India. “Recognizing and managing the risk of non-economic loss and damage should be a central aspect of climate change policy.” Yohei Chiba (MPP ’12), Policy Researcher, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies.

Supports Kyoto’s local governments as they draft and implement green agendas and trains local educators about climate change and global warming. Hiromi Nishizawa (MPP ’95), Program Coordinator, Kyoto Center for Climate Action.

Helps 2.4 million San Francisco Bay area residents prepare for drought. “Every drought year makes the situation more severe, so we try to communicate needs to customers early and often so they have certainty about how much water they can purchase and what our supplies are looking like based on precipitation and snow pack.” Michelle Sargent Novotny (MPP ’07), Senior Water Analyst, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

Writes briefs on Congressional hearings about climate change and adaptation and consults with policymakers in coastal areas to push for flood preparedness and share best practices. Sarah Pendergast (BA ’10), Legislative Assistant, Climate and Energy Project, Union of Concerned Scientists.

Explores how to leverage legacy concerns in a soon-to-be-released paper for Ecology Law Quarterly. “People do care about how they’re remembered,” says Kaitlin Raimi. “Politicians and presidents presumably care even more than the rest of us because their actions are more public.” Kaitlin Raimi, Assistant Professor of Public Policy (begins fall 2015), Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.


Email fspp-editor@umich.edu to share energy and environmental policy stories for our expanded online roundup.
Uses complex systems methodologies and mathematical modeling to help cities and states solve their transportation problems — with much of this work centered on improving environmental outcomes. Currently working on strategies for developing a zero-emission freight corridor for port regions in Southern California, as well as examining concepts for implementing connected vehicle technologies in the Bay area. Michael Snively (MPP ’08), Senior Associate, Cambridge Systematics

Working to change the auto-centric mindset of Southern Californians by developing strategies to reduce vehicle miles traveled and crafting policies to fund infrastructure improvements conducive to increased walking and biking. Sarah Jepson also engages in coalition-building to ensure current transportation and transit efforts undertaken in Southern California are effectively coordinated with land-use decisions and serve the needs of the region’s cities. For her efforts in developing a strategic plan to encourage walking and biking to transit stations, Jepson received a National American Planning Association Award this year. Sarah Jepson (MPP ’04), Manager of Active Transportation and Special Programs, Southern California Association of Governments

Identifying barriers to reducing Kazakhstan’s greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption for the United Nations Development Programme. Megan Levanduski (MPP ’14), Fulbright-Clinton Fellow, Green Academy Scientific Research and Education Center (Kazakhstan)
Projects for the World Bank and various national governments that have focused on improving public transit and non-motorized modes of transportation and reducing sprawl. Sebastian Anapol's (MPP/MUP ’04), Urban Planning and Transport Consultant

>> Developing and implementing sustainability policies to meet the state of Oregon’s greenhouse gas reduction goals. The state is targeting a 20 percent reduction in emissions per capita from 2005 levels by 2035. Eric Hesse also leads the American Public Transportation Association’s (APTA) climate change efforts, and has helped establish new methodologies for measuring mass transit’s carbon footprint. In 2010, he was named to Mass Transit Magazine’s “Top 40 Under 40” list. Eric Hesse (MPP/MS ’06), Strategic Planning Coordinator, Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet).

>> Examining emerging industry trends and potential paths to commercialization of bio-based manufacturing materials like soy, corn, and natural fibers. Also looking at how connected vehicle technology may impact mobility, the economy, and the environment. Valerie Sathe Brugeman (MPP ’07), Senior Project Manager, Center for Automotive Research

>> Advises federal, state, and local policymakers in the U.S. and Canada on automotive workforce issues, as well as technology developments in the auto industry and their potential labor implications. She is currently exploring how new fuel economy and carbon emissions standards will impact the production and talent needs of the Big Three. Kristin Dziczek (MPP/ME ’96), Director of Labor and Industry Group, Center for Automotive Research

Email fspp-editor@umich.edu to share energy and environmental policy stories for our expanded online roundup.
BATTLING POLLUTION

Madhu Rustagi Anderson (MPP ’84), Deputy Director, Economic and Strategic Initiatives, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Helped formulate a 15-point recycling plan for the State of Michigan. “Michigan’s 1979 bottle deposit law earned the state recognition as a leader in recycling, but now we’ve fallen behind other states,” says Madhu Anderson.

Oversees Best Buy’s global government affairs, corporate responsibility, and environmental sustainability initiatives. Goals include advancing sustainable products and services, reducing the company’s carbon footprint, and complying with environmental laws and regulations. Best Buy accepts electronics recycling at each of the company’s 1,400-plus stores and collects over 400 pounds per minute during business hours. Since 2009, when Best Buy launched the program, the company has diverted more than one billion pounds of electronics from landfills, sending them to environmentally and socially responsible third-party certified recyclers. “We do it because it’s the right thing to do and because our customers are looking for responsible ways to recycle electronics,” says Laura Bishop (MPA ’99), Vice President of Public Affairs, Best Buy, Inc.

Spent a decade systematically testing every child’s product sold in the U.S.—every baby powder, every toy, every bib, every kind of candy, every lunch box—for lead, then suing manufacturers to have it removed and helping to write legislation banning lead from children’s products. The goal: protecting the people who build these products and the children who use them. Michael Green (MPP ’93), Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Environmental Health and recipient of the Compassion in Action Award from the Dalai Lama Foundation

Authored Toxic Communities: Environmental Racism, Industrial Pollution and Residential Mobility (New York University Press, 2014), which examines the environmental justice issues around discriminatory waste siting, and “The State of
Diversity in Environmental Organizations,” a 200-page report released last summer. Believes that low-income people and people of color, “who have a living experience of being in communities touched by toxins,” can bring greater sensitivity and greater expertise to the environmental movement.

Dorceta Taylor (Poverty and Policy Postdoctoral Fellow) Professor of Environmental Justice, U-M School of Natural Resources and Environment

Spent 40 years administering significant water quality and environmental improvement programs in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. Daniel Steinborn (MPP ’71), grants management specialist (retired). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Leads restoration efforts for the Colorado Lagoon, a sensitive estuarine habitat and one of the few remaining coastal lagoons in southern California. A natural lowpoint in the watershed, the lagoon was once ranked among the ten most polluted coastal water bodies in California by Heal the Bay. Tens of thousands of cubic yards of sediment, contaminated with lead, copper, and pesticides, have since been dredged. A low-flow diversion system was added to direct dry season runoff to a sewage treatment facility. A native plant bioswale now filters water. And while there’s more work ahead, the lagoon is on the road to recovery.

Eric Lopez (MPP ’06), Tidelands Capital Improvement Officer, City of Long Beach, California

Cleaning up lead, asbestos, gas leaks, and dozens of toxic chemicals through use of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act. “Across Michigan, there are 8,000 leaking underground storage tanks that are polluting our waterways,” says Matt Naud. “Because of state law, cities have no real regulatory control, but brownfield cleanup programs give cities a good tool to encourage developers not just to pave over contaminated sites, but to remediate them.” Matt Naud (MPP ’90), Environmental Coordinator, City of Ann Arbor

Manages human resources, budgeting, and program planning for the 35-person Chemical Control Division of the EPA. The division is now reviewing state-level fracking-chemical disclosure information to determine if new federal rules could help to fill gaps. Lynn Vendinello (MPP ’89), Deputy Division Manager, Chemical Control Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Cleaning up lead, asbestos, gas leaks, and dozens of toxic chemicals through use of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act. “Across Michigan, there are 8,000 leaking underground storage tanks that are polluting our waterways,” says Matt Naud. “Because of state law, cities have no real regulatory control, but brownfield cleanup programs give cities a good tool to encourage developers not just to pave over contaminated sites, but to remediate them.” Matt Naud (MPP ’90), Environmental Coordinator, City of Ann Arbor

Identifying ways to apply the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s “Next Generation Compliance” principles to the Superfund program, which is designed to compel responsible parties to clean up abandoned hazardous waste sites. The goal: to apply new tools and thinking to Superfund cleanup efforts to drive compliance, reduce pollution, and improve enforcement results. Jeffrey Page (MPP ’04), Attorney Advisor, Office of Site Remediation Enforcement, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Serves as one of eight regional coordinators at NOAA, America’s “environmental intelligence agency,” where she translates NOAA science for agency collaborators, Congressional staff, state and local government leaders, non-governmental organizations, and engaged citizens. Recently helped establish new habitat focus areas in the Choptank River (Maryland, Delaware) and Penobscot River (Maine) watersheds, where NOAA will concentrate resources to catalyze significant habitat improvements. The goal: to enhance the sustainability of aquatic and coastal communities in the North Atlantic. Nicole Bartlett (MPP ’98), North Atlantic Regional Coordinator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Leads policy, advocacy, and coordinated communications initiatives for the Washington Association of Land Trusts, a coalition of 27 regional land trusts working together to permanently protect the state’s lands and waters through voluntary, cooperative action. Hannah Clark (BA ’10), Executive Director, Washington Association of Land Trusts

Conducting a comparative study of state-level public land stewardship models, including public-private partnerships established for the stewardship of nature preserves. Matthew Bishop (MPP/SNRE ’17), 2015 Dow Sustainability Fellow

Restoring the 10,500-acre Great Cypress Swamp—the largest freshwater wetland, the largest block of contiguous forest, and one of the most important resting sites for migratory birds—on the Delmarva Peninsula. “The forest had been degraded over hundreds of years,” explains Kate Hackett. “The swamp was drained for agricultural purposes, and most of the valuable tree species were harvested. We’re now going back to thin out the pine plantations, reintroduce forest diversity, and plant tens of thousands of historically prolific trees like the Bald Cypress and Atlantic White Cedar. And we’re plugging the drainage ditches to restore the wetland characteristics of the swamp.” Hackett reports that the few Bald Cypress trees that survived the ecological degradation have just this year begun to regenerate independently, because habitat is once again conducive.

Kate Hackett (MPP ’99), Executive Director, Delaware Wild Lands, Inc. (www.dewildlands.org)
Exploring how the U.S. Forest Service has provided outdoor experiences for citizens in the past with the goal of crafting a national strategy to better connect with the American public. "It’s a habitat corridor and a human corridor," says Brendan Moriarty of the ambitious project. "As development pressures creep north up the coast, it’s important that we have this large, intact ecosystem, because other parts of the Bay have lost that."

Benjamin Johnson (MPP/MS ’12), Acting Organization Development Team Lead, Integrated Resources Enterprise Unit, U.S. Forest Service, Portland, Oregon

Is acquiring a 688-acre tract of coastal Redwood forest—about a mile of the California coastland—to return to the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, who lost access to these ancestral lands in the 19th century. A conservation easement and land management prescriptions will return the property’s Redwood forest to an old-growth ecosystem. A public trail easement will fill a missing piece in a 14-mile stretch of the California Coastal Trail from Salt Point State Park.

Brendan Moriarty (MPP/MUP ’09), Bay Area Program Manager, The Trust for Public Land

Uses complex systems methodologies to illuminate ecological processes, including recent work with Courtney Murdock (UGa) that reveals the dynamics of avian malaria contagion in the Rocky Mountains. The work allows ecologists to better understand how changes in climate will impact bird reproduction in the years ahead. “In Hawaii, there are almost no native birds left,” says Carl Simon. “In the continental U.S. birds aren’t dying of malaria, but they’re getting sick and that’s reducing their reproductive success.”

Black flies are the carriers of malaria in the Rockies and have a pretty restricted temperature tolerance. But with anticipated temperature shifts from climate change, Simon and Murdock believe black flies will have longer reproduction periods, leading to greater rates of infection and diminished reproductive success for native birds.

Carl P. Simon, Professor of Mathematics, Complex Systems, and Public Policy, Ford School.

Email fspp.editor@umich.edu to share energy and environmental policy stories for our expanded online roundup.
Advancing sustainable food systems

Lead impact evaluations of USAID-funded initiatives to strengthen land tenure and resource rights for farmers, foresters, and miners in Burma, Ethiopia, Guinea, Liberia, and Zambia. The goal: to see if stronger land rights accelerate the use of sustainable and climate smart farming, forestry, and mining practices.

Heather Huntington (MPP ’06, PhD ’11), Senior Impact Evaluation Specialist, and Aleta Haflett (MPP ’12), Impact Evaluation Specialist, The Cloudburst Group

Leads conservation, energy, appropriations, and budget work for the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, which advocates for federal policies and programs that benefit family farmers and the environment. The goal: increase the diversity and sustainability of the nation’s food systems. “Diversification is good for the environment, good for the farmer’s bottom line, and good for rural communities,” says Greg Fogel, who is now focused on securing funding for natural resource conservation, sustainable agriculture research, food safety training, and an expansion of the ‘farm to school’ grant program that helps schools integrate locally produced foods into their menus.

Gregory Fogel (MPP/SNRE ’10), Senior Policy Specialist, National Sustainable Agriculture Council

Exploring how patent systems serve the public interest. “In Europe, there’s a continuing conversation about how patents on plants and animals are limiting biodiversity, reducing food security, increasing consolidation in the agricultural sector, and hurting farmers,” says Shobita Parthasarathy. “But the United States has, for the most part, dismissed those concerns, arguing that the patent system only affects innovation and economic development.” Parthasarathy is writing a book that explains how and why the United States and Europe are producing different approaches to patents and their governance. In doing so, she aims to stimulate conversation about whether we need to remake the patent system to better serve our needs and values.

Shobita Parthasarathy, Associate Professor of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
advancing sustainable food systems

Email fspp-editor@umich.edu to share energy and environmental policy stories for our expanded online roundup.

how patent systems serve the public interest. “In Europe, there’s a continuing conversation about how patents on plants and animals are limiting biodiversity, reducing food security, increasing consolidation in the agricultural sector, and hurting farmers,” says Shobita Parthasarathy. “But the United States has, for the most part, dismissed those concerns, arguing that the patent system only affects innovation and economic development.” Parthasarathy is writing a book that explains how and why the United States and Europe are producing different approaches to patents and their governance. In doing so, she aims to stimulate conversation about whether we need to remake the patent system to better serve our needs and values.

Shobita Parthasarathy, Associate Professor of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

Oversees an agency of more than 11,000 soil, water, and wildlife experts who work hand-in-hand with private landowners—including farmers, ranchers, and foresters—to improve conservation practices while protecting the profitability and sustainability of their operations. Jason Weller (MPP ’99), Chief, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

>> Created a resource guide for farmers and beekeepers trying to cope with the negative effects of honey bee colony collapse disorder. Because honey bees pollinate almost all of the fruits, nuts, and vegetables sold in the United States, their decline represents a significant threat to food production. Betsy Riley (MPP/SNRE ’14), 2013 Dow Sustainability Fellow

>> Authored Food Security in a World of Natural Resource Scarcity, the outcome of a multi-year research project that assessed the potential impact of agricultural innovations—including no-till farming, drip irrigation, plant spacing, and more—to boost yields of staple crops like wheat, maize, and rice.

Mark Rosegrant (MPP ’74, PhD ’78), Director of Environment and Production Technology, International Food Policy Research Institute

Seven Ford School students—MOHAMED ABBADI, CASSANDRA BAXTER, MATTHEW BISHOP, MICHELLE HINDMAN, MARK KROENING, SNEHA RAQ, and CHRISTOPHER WOLFF—were named 2015 Dow Sustainability Fellows in January. A total of 40 master’s and graduate students from nine U-M schools and colleges were honored. Each receives $20,000 and becomes part of a growing collaborative community of scholars focused on interdisciplinary approaches to sustainability challenges.

Ford School Spotlight

Email fspp-editor@umich.edu to share energy and environmental policy stories for our expanded online roundup.
Edie Goldenberg on action, the academy, and the 10th anniversary of Michigan in Washington

By Jeff Mortimer

"There’s a part of me that loves making things happen," says Edie Goldenberg, "but then I miss the quieter, more contemplative life of the academy. And when I’m on campus, as much as I love teaching students and having time to think, I miss the action."

Goldenberg’s roster of achievements—leadership positions both within and outside the University, visionary academic initiatives, influential research and publications, and her key role in the federal government’s civil service reform of the 1980s—shows she does more than move between those worlds, or even bridge them. She infuses one with the other, and her teaching with both.

During Goldenberg’s late 1980s tenure as director of the Institute for Public Policy Studies (IPPS), she helped set in motion the forces that led to its evolution into the Ford School. Her departure to begin a nine-year tenure as dean of the College of Literature, Science and the Arts was bittersweet.

"I’m very glad that I became dean of LSA," she says, "but one of my biggest regrets of doing it then is that I didn’t get to continue here as the director, because I love the students here. They are committed to making the world a better place, and I like to help young people do that and do that well."

MICHIGAN IN WASHINGTON

All these themes coalesced in the Michigan in Washington (MIW) program, which Goldenberg helped to launch. Based on a plan originally conceived by former IPPS director Jack Walker in the 1970s, MIW admits 45–50 U-M undergrads per year to spend a semester in Washington, DC. Goldenberg has directed the program since its inception, and will celebrate its tenth anniversary with a gala at the National Press Club this October.

Michigan in Washington is open to all U-M students, and has been particularly popular with public policy undergrads. More than three-dozen of the Ford School’s bachelor’s students have participated in the program to date.

"... I love the students here. They are committed to making the world a better place, and I like to help young people do that and do that well."

—EDIE GOLDBENBERG
Michigan in Washington students not only take courses while in DC, but also write a research paper and complete an internship in their area of interest. “We do a preparation class for the students, but they have to find their own internships, which is a very important professionalizing experience,” Goldenberg says. “They are working, studying, taking a full set of credits, cooking their own meals, managing their life away from campus, all at once.”

Not surprisingly, “We see tremendous growth in the students,” she adds. “They come back transformed. Many of them say they’ve rethought their futures, they have new interests, which I consider a wonderful success.”

TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Two public policy alumni who experienced just such transformations are LEAH OUELLET (BA ’13) and ANDREW BEILEIN (BA ’12).

Ouellet was already a veteran volunteer in correctional institutions when she began her internship at the Justice Policy Center of the Urban Institute in January 2012. Doing research related to criminal justice “gave me a really great window into what my life would look like if I pursued the think tank route,” she says, “but I wanted to use my talents more on the grass-roots level.”

She now works in Detroit for buildOn. Although the nonprofit’s primary mission is building schools in developing countries, it also works to empower high school students in six U.S. cities, including Detroit.

Beilein had his own epiphany after interning with the National Defense University in 2011. “I had been interested in national security and took a lot of classes surrounding geopolitics,” he says, “but after I got back, I realized that government relations was where I wanted to be.”

He soon landed a job that met his criteria, manager of advocacy programs for the Business Roundtable, and he credits Edie Goldenberg and MIW for a leg up.

“The real experience was understanding how to operate in a workplace,” he says. “It’s not something that you learn in college. There are interns on Capitol Hill who open mail or answer the phone all day, but people in MIW have put themselves in a position where they really have to produce.”

AN ANALYTIC EYE

In addition to leading MIW and teaching a course on research methods, Goldenberg turns an analytic eye to the higher education enterprise itself, including co-authoring *Off-Track Profs.*, a book examining the increasing portion of teaching being done by faculty who are not on the standard tenure track. She admits she takes that personally.

“I’m looking at several developments in higher education that threaten the values I hold near and dear,” she says. “One is this growth of non-tenure-track faculty, which is pulling apart the notion of the scholar-educator. Another is the out-of-control growth of intercollegiate athletics and the pressures that lucrative TV contracts put on athletic directors, coaches, and student-athletes. The third aspect has to do with the scale of universities as they expand internationally, oftentimes into areas where there is little respect for academic freedom. There are many more.

“The reasons I have found life as an academic so appealing and gratifying are threatened today in our research universities, and I care about that,” she adds. “I’ve had a good career here at Michigan. I’m very grateful for it, but I feel it’s going to be much harder for the next wave of young faculty to have as satisfying and gratifying a career as I have had.”

With gratitude

After 14 years of volunteer leadership, LYMAN HAMILTON is retiring from the Ford School Committee. Hamilton served as committee chair from 2003 to 2007, a transformational period at the school. During his tenure, he oversaw the groundbreaking for the school’s new home and the dedication of Joan and Sanford Weill Hall. Lyman and Beverly Lannquist Hamilton (AB ’68) have been generous supporters of the Ford School. Their endowed fund for international education will continue to support global experiences for Ford School students far into the future.
International economic development class visits Rio and Brasilia with former ambassador Mel Levitsky

By Miriam Wasserman

For the students of PubPol 674, the Ford School’s international economic development course, a spring break trip to Brazil was anything but a guided tour. And yet, they couldn’t have asked for a more knowledgeable escort.

During his 35-year career in the U.S. Foreign Service, their faculty advisor MELVYN LEVITSKY was executive secretary of the State Department under Secretary of State George Shultz, spent three early years as a U.S. Foreign Service officer (two at a consulate up the Amazon and one in Brazil’s capital) and, 25 years later, served as U.S. Ambassador to Brazil.

As a faculty advisor to the International Economic Development course, however, Levitsky faced new challenges—to advise and guide students interested in Brazil’s unique economic and social development challenges, without taking over their mission. Now in its 15th year, the International Economic Development Program (IEDP) course was specially designed to be planned and administered by students.

COURSE DESIGN

Students begin by selecting an emerging market country to study and finding a Ford School faculty member willing to advise their class. They then develop the course content, and complete all of the administrative and logistical tasks necessary to undertake a productive, policy-relevant trip to the country over spring break—from raising the $50,000 generally required for roughly two dozen students to travel to an emerging market country, to coordinating transport, accommodations, and meetings with in-country stakeholders.

Having a former ambassador as faculty advisor comes in handy when there are many ways in which the trip resembles a diplomatic mission. Ambassador Levitsky encouraged the students to define clear objectives, to establish relationships with contacts and organizations, and to match their objectives to their agenda.

All of this was particularly important because after the trip, students were required to produce real deliverables: they presented the results of their research in a report at a public symposium, they wrote a case study for the William Davidson Institute in return for the institute’s funding, and this year, they were tasked with finding a Brazilian organization willing to host a policy intern for a new summer internship sponsored by the Ford School’s International Policy Center.

Coordinating the right meetings to attain these goals was no easy task. The trip involved only a week of real working days, spread over two cities: Brasilia and Rio de Janeiro. Students, separated into five policy groups, arranged meetings with a wide variety of Brazilian government officials, NGO and civil society leaders, university researchers, and think tank analysts. And it didn’t hurt that Levitsky was able to arrange for a Saturday briefing with U.S. Embassy officers, hosted at the U.S. Ambassador’s official residence in Brasilia.

“Proper preparation prevents pretty poor performance,” Levitsky says—something he used to hear from his former boss, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. For this class, that preparation involved defining timely research questions that the students could explore in-depth on the trip. They were advised in this respect by Levitsky and Professor ELISABETH GERBER, who accompanied the class on the trip.

DEFINING ISSUES

For BRENDAN HALL, who is pursuing a dual degree from the Ford School and the School of Natural Resources and Environment, that actually meant redirecting his focus. When he signed up for the course, Hall was hoping to study forestry or agricultural issues. Instead, his group chose to focus on Rio’s implementation of the Global Protocol for Cities, a program to measure greenhouse gas emissions as a baseline to set carbon reduction goals and check on their progress.

Then-Ambassador Melvyn Levitsky and Mrs. Joan Levitsky greet First Lady Hillary Clinton and President Bill Clinton
The shift in focus made sense for a number of reasons. First, it was a well-defined policy issue that could be explored within the scope of the trip. Second, Rio has been an early test-run of this global initiative and, as such, has been at the vanguard of its implementation. Finally, it’s an important policy challenge, as cities are the largest source of energy-related carbon-dioxide emissions.

“Deforestation-based emissions in Brazil have gone down by a whole lot and energy related emissions have been on an uptick,” says Hall, “so we felt it was more relevant to look at energy emissions—especially because Brazil’s emerging market economy is representative of many emerging market economies and the urbanization that is happening around the world.”

**EXERCISING DIPLOMACY**

Once students had defined their objectives and established key contacts in Brazil, they needed to exercise diplomacy in phrasing their questions, given the controversial nature of some of the policy topics they were studying.

“They are going to try to get the information in a way that is productive but pointed,” Levitsky explained before the trip. For instance, students examined the $8.5 billion Morar Carioca program—a massive economic development initiative planned as a lasting legacy of the 2016 Rio Olympics. Controversy has followed the program’s delayed implementation, so students planned meetings with representatives of the mayor’s office—for whom this is a signature program—and representatives from some of the community organizations who have complained about long program delays.

“Our hope is not to be antagonistic, but to find out: if this program hasn’t gone as exactly planned, what are the reasons for that?” **RORY PULVINO** (MPP/JD ’16) explained.

In the end, the students not only gained in-depth knowledge of highly specific policy challenges relevant to Brazil and other emerging market countries but, in the process, gained diplomatic and practical skills that will transfer to many other areas of a professional career.

“I didn’t take the class to learn about time management, people management, designing logistical trainings, and making sure that people carry through with things,” said Pulvino. But the experience has been “definitely worth it for that.”

“**Our hope is not to be antagonistic, but to find out: if this program hasn’t gone as exactly planned, what are the reasons for that?**”

— **RORY PULVINO** (MPP/JD ’16)
“For all the young people who want to go and do something, you should all go do something. And put your heart into it. And continue doing it…. [M]ost of the places that you might go to work, people don’t expect outsiders to go in and save some community…it’s impossible. But what you can do is accompany people in their struggles.”

Victoria Sanford, cultural anthropologist and professor at Lehman College of the City University of New York (CUNY), on “The comparative politics of accountability, transitional justice, and civil conflict,” Sept. 18, 2014

“Greenhouse gases are an externality; markets don’t solve externalities. We need rules that make people take those into account. That’s true whether it’s greenhouse gases or auto emissions or other sorts of toxic pollutants.”

Severin Borenstein, professor of business administration and public policy at the University of California, Berkeley and former IPPS professor, on “Is the utility of the future sustainable?” Sept. 22, 2014

“While I’m sitting here, all these people are in these horrible detention centers. All of them. And it’s still true that taking an extremely hard line on immigration and boat people in Australian politics pays. It’s always paid. And that’s still true.”


“Whenever we witness poor political leadership we have a tendency to say this to ourselves: I could do better…. So my challenge to you today is a straightforward, simple one. If you think you can do better, why don’t you? Why don’t you? Think in terms of that old Nike commercial: Just do it. Your community, your state, and your country need you now more than ever.”

Janet Napolitano, president of the University of California system, former governor of Arizona, and former secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, on “Public service and politics,” Jan. 14, 2015

“The entire white middle class in this country is an invention of affirmative action. In the 1930s and the 1940s we decided we wanted to have a bigger middle class; we decided that we would expand the social safety net…and the way we did that, largely, was by cutting African Americans out of it.”

Ta-Nehisi Coates, an award-winning writer and journalist, senior editor for The Atlantic, and author of “The Case for Reparations,” on “A deeper black: Race in America,” Jan. 21, 2015

“I’m trying to create a creative discomfort for the audience, a real discomfort. And there’s a desire not to let the audience off the hook.”

Llewellyn Smith, award-winning filmmaker, founder of Vital Pictures, and producer and director of American Denial, during a preview screening, Jan. 26, 2015
As Erin Zaikis (BA ’11) lay sick with dengue fever in a Thailand hospital in 2013, she had an epiphany. She wanted to dedicate her life to helping others. Confined to her hospital bed with little to do, she ran through images of the rural Thai children she’d met while volunteering with the Jewish aid group Justifi.

One recurring detail stuck out from the rest: “They would use the bathroom and not wash their hands afterwards,” says Zaikis. “I asked them what they would use [to wash] in the shower. They told me they just used just water, and talcum powder to absorb sweat.”

So one day Zaikis brought the children soap. “But they didn’t know what to do with it,” she says. “For many of these children, some as old as 13, it was the first time they had ever washed their hands with soap.”

“I couldn’t believe it. I was 23 at the time and had lived my whole life without ever thinking about soap. Then I discovered that not everyone is lucky enough to take soap for granted.”

Approximately 3.5 million children die of diarrhea and respiratory diseases each year, according to the Centers of Disease Control. Hand washing is the best way to prevent these deaths.

RINSE AND REPEAT

Once fully recovered from dengue and back in New York, Zaikis began to brainstorm ideas about producing soap and promoting hygiene. She founded a soap-making operation named Sundara, a Sanskrit word for beautiful, and set about crafting her own soaps in her tiny New York kitchen with the goal of raising money for schools like the one in Thailand.

While her initial soap-making attempts didn’t go well, Zaikis soon hit upon the concept of recycling hotel soaps, so often discarded after just a few uses. She just had to figure out how to collect the soaps, recycle them, and provide them to people in need.

She narrowed her focus to India, the site of her first internship while studying at Michigan. Inspired by a global poverty course, Zaikis had traveled to Mumbai in 2009 where she spent a summer working in a girls’ orphanage.

“It was intense,” she says. “I decided the next time I went back to India I had to go with a way to alleviate some of the suffering I’d seen.”

And with Sundara, she’d found that way. “Sanitation and hygiene issues in India are incredibly important, yet usually overlooked and underfunded,” Zaikis says.

She dived into the soap recycling project, but soon grew discouraged when she could locate only a few organizations that actually recycled soap. One was based in Hong Kong and the others were in the U.S. To avoid the high cost of shipping to India, Zaikis realized a local operation was the only way to go. And if one didn’t exist, she would have to create it.

BA alum tackles preventable deaths in India, Uganda through social enterprise Sundara

By Mandira Banerjee for Global Michigan and Michigan Today

A team of first-year MPPs won the inaugural Ford School Case Competition in November 2014. KAMOLIKA DAS, BREND A D UVERCE, MAUREEN HIGGINS, CATHERINE DERBES, and KUSH SINGH (pictured left to right) submitted what judges deemed the most innovative solution to help resolve parking issues in East Lansing. The winning team presented their proposal to the East Lansing City Council in February. The Ford Case Competition was developed by a collective of current students and faculty, in partnership with alumni mentors. On the web >> fordschool.umich.edu/ford-case-competition

Ford School Spotlight
The Ford School Charity Auction Committee hosted a number of events to kick off its fundraising campaign for Girls on the Run of Southeastern Michigan, a non-profit empowerment program for preteen girls. Events included a kickball game, bowling outing, and trivia and game nights. Fundraising efforts culminated with the charity Auction gala, “The Betty Ford Masquerade Extravaganza,” which was held on March 28. Altogether, students raised more than $10,000 for the local charity. On the web >> fordschool.umich.edu/charity-auction

HOPE IN A SOAP

In the spring of 2014, Zaikis won a LinkedIn for Good competition and grant, which allowed her to launch a soap-recycling operation in India. She wanted to partner with local nonprofits in Mumbai to lend her new organization some critical credibility.

“Hygiene education is a sensitive topic in any culture,” she says. “We can reduce that sensitivity when the lessons are coming from people that look like you and speak the same language, who have had similar life experiences.”

She turned to the U-M alumni network for help, and connected with Ross School graduates Sanjay Mirchandani, MBA ’89, CEO of construction and development company Mirchandani Group, and Bharat Govinda, MBA ’02, a senior insurance industry executive. Both responded immediately. They reviewed her business plans, offered suggestions, and opened the doors to hotels, nonprofits, and local women’s organizations.

HELPING HANDS

As momentum picked up, Zaikis established the nonprofit arm of Sundara, partnering with local nonprofits Reap and Gabriel Project Mumbai. She connected with 10 boutique hotels and such major five-star resorts as the Taj Mahal, Four Seasons, Leela, and Mirador. Each week, the hotels provide more than 100 pounds of discarded soap for recycling.

Once the soaps are collected, Sundara’s staff uses vegetable peelers to remove outer layers from the bar, soaks the remaining soap in a mix of bleach and water, sanitizes it with pressure, and cuts it into new bars for distribution. All of this work is done by hand by local women who are paid three times the average wage.

“For many of these women, it is the first job they’ve ever had. We are proud to be able to provide them with dignified employment – which unfortunately is a rarity for many of India’s poor,” Zaikis says.

Sundara has produced and distributed more than 6,000 bars of recycled soap to date, employs 17 teachers who conduct hygiene workshops at 30 schools in Mumbai and surrounding areas, and is in the process of expanding its soap-making and recycling programs to Uganda.

Zaikis says the Ford School’s policy curriculum was helpful in almost every aspect of starting and running Sundara. She credits the courses that opened her eyes to injustice and inequality, the training that allowed her to view controversial issues from all sides, and the written and oral communication instruction that has allowed her to present her case clearly and confidently.

Perhaps most importantly,” says Zaikis, “I was able to go to class every day with 50 talented, passionate individuals, who I have stayed in touch with as they have gone on to lead inspiring careers of their own.”

For more information about Sundara, visit www.sundarafund.org.
“Today’s parents have not seen tetanus or polio. There is a reason for that and that reason has a name—vaccines. When we learn not to respect a threat, that threat comes back to challenge us.”

Dr. Matthew Davis, Michigan’s chief medical executive, on the public health consequences of vaccine waivers, MLive, Dec. 11, 2014.

“I think [the Clean Power Plan] makes it easier for a Democrat going into 2016, because they don’t have to resurrect something like a cap-and-trade bill. This takes a lot of pressure off someone like Hillary Clinton, and may put pressure on Republican candidates.”

Barry Rabe on the advantage the Clean Power Plan may give Democrats heading into the 2016 Presidential Election, Christian Science Monitor, Jan. 23, 2015.

“It’s very good news overall for those who care about marriage equality.”

Kary Moss on the Supreme Court’s decision not to review lower court rulings that opened the way for same sex marriage in five states, Detroit Free Press, Oct. 6, 2014.

“The United States is not apt to send back [Chinese graft] suspects when it believes they will face politicized prosecution and sham trials.”

John Ciorciari on China’s attempts to gain foreign help in its hunt for corrupt officials, Associated Press, Nov. 8, 2014.

“Study after study finds that these policies are good for children, workers, and employers. We need to follow the lead of other industrialized countries and make sure all workers have these protections.”

Betsey Stevenson on Obama’s request that Congress require companies to offer seven days of paid sick leave per year, USA Today, Jan. 15, 2015.
JOHN CIORCIARI participated in an expert roundtable on transitional justice policy at Stanford Law School, discussing his recent article about using classified state files as evidence in human rights cases, as well as his forthcoming work on managing victim testimony in international criminal courts.

SUSAN M. COLLINS will chair the external review committee for the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University, examining the strengths and weaknesses of the school’s teaching and research activities and reviewing plans for the school’s strategic development.

In March, ALAN DEARDORFF began a one-year term as president of the Midwest Economics Association.

SUSAN DYNARSKI is a key contributor to the student loan reauthorization debate. She participated in the White House College Opportunity Day of Action; presented her work in Sydney, where she met with Australia’s student loan architect; and participated in a closed conference on student loan data gaps at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Dynarski will soon travel to England to compare British student loan policies to the U.S. system.

ELISABETH GERBER has been appointed to the board of directors of the Washtenaw Housing Alliance, a coalition of 35 community-based organizations that serve those experiencing homelessness and those at risk.

YAZIER HENRY is an invited speaker at New York University this summer, where he will talk about “the politics of repair and the development of social and economic systems after conflict.”

JOHN HIEFTJE, Ann Arbor’s longest-serving mayor and a long-time lecturer at the Ford School, chose not to seek reelection last November. He will continue to teach “Local government, opportunity for activism,” at the Ford School.

BRIAN JACOB received a $50,000 grant to evaluate literacy programs. He also gave expert testimony in the Atlanta Public Schools cheating trial, in which prosecutors allege a dozen teachers conspired to improve student test scores by changing answers.

In January, ANN LIN and ELISABETH GERBER taught a week-long workshop on policy evaluation at Qatar University. This fall, BARRY RABE will begin a year-long fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. While there, he will work on a book about the political feasibility and policy durability of pricing carbon.

JOE SCHWARZ was interviewed by Current State for its “Voices of Experience” series on Michiganders deemed “extraordinary for their memorable life experiences or their sacrifices.”

CHUCK SHIPAN is spending the year as a visiting fellow at the University of Sydney’s U.S. Studies Center. Through the center’s outreach program, Shipan has been a regular commentator about U.S. politics on Australian television and radio.

KEVIN STANGE and colleague Rodney Andrews (University of Texas at Dallas) received a $106,000 grant from the Russell Sage Foundation for a study of price deregulation and equality of opportunity in higher education.

In January, ANN LIN and ELISABETH GERBER taught a week-long workshop on policy evaluation at Qatar University. This fall, BARRY RABE will begin a year-long fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. While there, he will work on a book about the political feasibility and policy durability of pricing carbon.

JOE SCHWARZ was interviewed by Current State for its “Voices of Experience” series on Michiganders deemed “extraordinary for their memorable life experiences or their sacrifices.”

CHUCK SHIPAN is spending the year as a visiting fellow at the University of Sydney’s U.S. Studies Center. Through the center’s outreach program, Shipan has been a regular commentator about U.S. politics on Australian television and radio.

KEVIN STANGE and colleague Rodney Andrews (University of Texas at Dallas) received a $106,000 grant from the Russell Sage Foundation for a study of price deregulation and equality of opportunity in higher education.

In memory of Peter Harbage (MPP ’95)

Peter Harbage (MPP ’95), a national leader in health care policy and founder and president of Harbage Consulting, passed away on February 3 after complications from leukemia. Harbage’s colleagues described him as, “the unsung architect of health care reform in the United States,” and “the godfather of health care policy in the state [of California].”

“Whenever I see an Inukshuk, the Canadian symbol that means ‘You are on the right way,’ I think of Peter,” says Professor Barry Rabe. “He was a wonderful student who always had an uncanny sense of what was politically feasible in advancing policy goals.

We partnered on a journal article on the issue of nuclear waste management and it won an award from the Institute of Public Administration of Canada. The award was a small Inukshuk statue and seemed so appropriate for Peter, all the more so as we reflect on his passing and his remarkable contributions to health policy.”

Peter and his colleagues have established a fellowship to support the work of new health policy graduates in California. Details on the Peter Harbage Fellowship are available at www.harbageconsulting.com.
SUSAN WALTZ is serving a two-year term as co-chair of the Quaker United Nations committee, which oversees the work of the Quaker United Nations Office in New York. QUNO–NY is actively engaged in recent UN negotiations of the Sustainable Development Goals that will replace the expiring Millennium Development Goals, and in preparations for the 2015 review of the UN’s Peacebuilding Architecture.

JUSTIN WOLFFERS testified before the Senate Finance Committee during a January 22 hearing on jobs and economic growth. He spoke about the need to address long-term unemployment and to increase investments in education.

DEAN YANG’s research on facilitating migration and policies to increase the development impacts of migration has been featured in the World Bank Research Observer. He has forthcoming papers in the Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization (remittances for education) and Economic Development and Cultural Change (microsavings’ impact on agriculture and poverty).

PAULA LANTZ, a professor of health and public policy at George Washington University, will join the Ford School this fall as associate dean for research and policy engagement. Lantz is a social epidemiologist whose main research interests include the role of public health in health care reform, clinical preventive services (such as cancer screening and prenatal care), and social inequalities in health.

KAITLIN TONER RAIMI, a postdoctoral fellow with Vanderbilt’s Institute for Energy and Environment and Climate Change Research Network, will join the Ford School as assistant professor of public policy this fall. Raimi is a social psychologist whose research explores how social motivations can promote or prevent sustainable behaviors.

MEGAN TOMPKINS-STANGE, who has been with the Ford School as a lecturer since 2011, has been appointed an assistant professor of public policy. Her research and teaching interests focus on the impact of private sector and philanthropic actors in the public arena—particularly in the field of public education.

LUKE SHAEFER will join the Ford School this fall with a joint-appointment as associate professor of social work and public policy. His research focuses on the effectiveness of the United States social safety net in serving low-wage workers and economically disadvantaged families. His book, $2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America (with Kathryn Edin), will be released this September.

Alumna RUTH BROWNE (MPP/MPH ’83) returned to the Ford School this winter to serve as the 2015 Towsley Foundation Policymaker in Residence. Browne, current CEO of the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health, taught a course on health disparities, delivered a talk on community health empowerment, and actively engaged with the Ford School community.
**Jim Baker** (MPA ’61) spent much of his career in developing countries and retired in 2006. His wife Fran has been a real estate agent for more than 30 years and will retire soon. They have been living in Potomac, MD and will relocate to Wilmington, NC. Jim sends best wishes to his classmates and looks back on his time at IPA with great fondness lasting over a lifetime.

**Rich Hughes** (MPA ’61) was elected president of the Coast Life Support District, which provides ambulance services and, by contract, urgent care to rural citizens on the northern California coast.

**Howard T. Spence** (MPA/JD ’77) was re-elected Eaton County (MI) Commissioner in November. Howard continues to represent the Eaton County Board of Commissioners on the Public Safety and Judiciary Committee of the Michigan Association of Counties.

**Dan Weiss** (MPP ’80) is Senior VP for Campaigns at the League of Conservation Voters. He oversees LCV’s multi-million dollar efforts to elect pro-climate action candidates. Classmate **Leslie Keenan** (MPP ’80) attended the organization’s NYC dinner with keynote speaker Hillary Rodham Clinton.

**Diane Proctor Reeder** (MPP ’81) is the author of *What the Word BE: Why Black English is the King’s (James) English*, which was named one of the Top 10 Black Books of 2014 by Kam Williams, national book critic and member of the NAACP Image Award Nominating Committee.

**Paul Weech** (MPP ’81) has been named President and CEO of NeighborWorks America, a 35-year-old, Congressionally-chartered nonprofit that supports the work of about 250 of the nation’s best community development organizations.

**Bev Godwin** (MPP ’82) started a new position as senior advisor at the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Information Programs. After more than 25 years practicing law, **Alan M. Koschik** (MPP/ID ’87) of Solon, OH, was appointed a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Ohio by the U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit.

**Eric Norenberg** (MPP ’87) city manager of Oberlin, OH since 2007, shares that the city was named one of 16 Climate Action Champion communities by the White House in December.

**Aaron Schutz** (MPP ’90) has a new book out in April 2015, *People Power: The Community Organizing Tradition of Saul Alinsky* (Aaron Schutz and Mike Miller, eds., Vanderbilt, 2015).

**Dong Yeon Kim** (MPP ’94, PhD ’93) has been named President of Korea’s Ajou University. The inauguration ceremony in February was highlighted by congratulatory remarks from Emeritus Professor Lawrence Mohr (Dong Yeon’s doctoral dissertation committee chair); U-M President Mark S. Schlissel; and the Prime Minister of Korea.

**John Kenneth Weiss** (MPP/MUP ’94) transitioned after nine years as Ann Arbor-based Neutral Zone’s Executive Director to a new position as Director of Strategic Initiatives. John leads efforts to disseminate Neutral Zone’s unique youth-driven approach to other after-school and school-based programs.

**Lorelei A. Vargas** (MPP ’95) was appointed Deputy Commissioner for Early Care and Education with the Administration for Children’s Services in New York City in November 2014. She is responsible for administering one of the largest publicly-funded early care and education systems in the country.
RICHARD CHARLTON (MPP/JD ’96) and wife Mariam welcomed a baby boy, Richard IV, on June 18, 2014 in New York, NY.

STACY EBRON (MPP ’99), her husband, David Thomas, and their son Myles welcomed baby Xavier Reid Thomas on September 8, 2014.

BERNARD JAY “B.J.” ALPERN (MPP ’00, AB ’85) and Pyper (Logan) Alpern (AB ’99, JD ’02) are thrilled to announce the addition of another ’lil Wolverine cub, Lahaina Bernard Alpern. Charlotte cheers on the Wolverines with sister Hannah, brother Sam, and sister Margaret.

BRODIE KILLIAN (MPP ’03) is a director in the debt capital markets group at William Blair & Company, a Chicago-based global investment and asset management firm. Brodie focuses on financing initiatives for Michigan schools and community colleges.

PHIL MAXWELL (MPP ’03) and wife Christine welcomed their first child, Louis Titus, in October 2014. Phil continues to serve as a Major in the U.S. Army JAG Corps and is currently stationed at Fort Hood, TX. They will move this summer to Charlottesville, VA where Phil will pursue an LL.M. in military law.

KATHRYN (WIKLANSKI) MELLOUK (MPA ’03) is associate vice president for research compliance at Boston University.

ALEXA SHORE (MPP ’04) is the Director of Organizational Learning at Uncommon Schools, a charter school organization that manages 42 schools. Alexa lives in New York City with her husband Doug Ready and their daughters Leah and Samantha.

DARA ALPERT LIEBERMAN (MPP ’07), husband Mike, and son Cameron welcomed baby Alana Alpert to their family in March 2014. Dara is Senior Government Relations Manager for Trust for America’s Health and recently led the organization’s advocacy around the Ebola outbreak.

In September 2014 ZARA AHMED (MPP/MPH ’09) took up a position as the Senior Policy Advisor for Health Systems and Sustainability with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) office in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

CORTNEY ROBINSON (MPP ’01) married Abby Flottemesch on January 17, 2015 in Washington, D.C. Cortney works at the Aerospace Industries Association and is former president of the U-M Washington, DC alumni club.

CORTNEY WATSON (MPP ’09) married fellow U-M alum Jeff Kruszewski (AB ’03, JD ’06) this past August in Charlevoix, Michigan. Cortney and Jeff reside in Washington, DC.

CHRIS READE (BA ’10) is a 2015 Code for America Fellow. He will work with the city of Indianapolis to improve public safety through better data analysis, increased transparency, and greater public engagement.

ANDREW CHINSKY (BA ’11) graduated from Harvard Law School in May 2014 and in the fall of 2014 (in addition to becoming a Michigan football season ticket-holder), began work as a litigation associate at Sidley Austin LLP in Chicago.

SARA (BONNER) DAVIS (MPP ’11) married Daniel Davis on May 17, 2014 in Athens, Georgia. In September, she began a new job as a manager with the health care advisory practice at Grant Thornton.

PARVATI PATIL (MPP ’11) began working for the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), at the World Bank Group in Washington, DC in December 2014. She is leading the start-up phase of a new EdTech initiative in the financial inclusion sector.

ASHLEY HILL (BA ’12) returned to the U-M in fall 2014 to pursue dual graduate degrees in public health and business. She received a Dow Sustainability Fellowship to work with other graduate students from across the university on issues of sustainability.

PERRY ZIELAK (MPP ’12) started a position in October 2014 as a fiscal analyst with the House Fiscal Agency and the Michigan House of Representatives in Lansing, MI.

VANESSA KARGENIAN (MPP ’13) spoke in January at the 2015 State of the Net Conference in Washington DC. Vanessa is currently a Supervisory Development Associate at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

CAT KNOERR (BA ’14) started work at Accenture as a management consultant in September, 2014. In her free time she works with the Detroit Asian Youth Project.

MEGAN LEVANDUSKI (MPP ’14) recently started a Fulbright-Clinton Fellowship in Kazakhstan. She works with the Green Academy Scientific Research and Education Center, providing analysis and recommendations to promote green economic development in Kazakhstan.

After graduation, MACKENZIE MILLER (BA ’14) began work in political advertising analytics at the Campaign Media Analysis Group in Washington, DC.
S&H: You’ll spend your sabbatical year working on a book about carbon pricing. Why that topic?

BARRY RABE: There’s a long-standing consensus among economists that if you’re going to go after carbon emissions, the most appropriate way is to put a price on them. But politically, that’s probably the hardest thing to do, as the cost is so visible. Instead, in the U.S. and many other nations, we use a mix of regulation, voluntary strategies, mandates—all of which have costs that are kind of hidden. So I’m intrigued by the question of what happens when governments adopt carbon pricing strategies. Do they really deliver as promised?

S&H: What have the results from your national surveys revealed about public support for carbon pricing?

RABE: In general, it tends to be the least popular policy option among both Americans and Canadians. People usually say “no” by margins of two or three to one. Republicans vehemently oppose it, but routinely a majority of Democrats oppose it as well.

S&H: But your most recent survey found that a majority of Republicans support a carbon tax?

RABE: It seems to depend heavily on how the revenue from such a tax is used. For example, offering the option of reducing the deficit doesn’t really move the needle of public opinion. In fact, more Democrats were opposed to a carbon tax if they knew the money was going to be used for deficit reduction. But when we added the option of a tax swap, support really started to go up, particularly among Republicans. The numbers rose even higher when we proposed taking that tax money and putting it into alternative energy.

S&H: Were you surprised by the findings?

RABE: We were surprised by the substantial shift in response based on revenue uses. But this does square with those cases—in North America and around the world—where carbon pricing has been adopted and proven durable. There is a clear and popular use of revenue and not just a focus on the cost in those instances, which actually builds political support over time.

S&H: What are the prospects for this going forward?

RABE: The new federal Clean Power Plan is designed to give every state an emissions reduction target through 2030 but allow each state to decide how to get there. A surprising number of states have begun to revisit the option of carbon pricing.

S&H: Why should we believe your findings?

RABE: Our survey partner, Muhlenberg College, earned Nate Silver’s top rating among academically-based survey research units. We’re going back into the field soon to revisit this, with some added revenue use options and experimental components. And we’re trying to be as transparent as possible in this work, so others can work with our data and see what they produce. Also, we’re trying to take the lead in defining financial disclosure provisions.

S&H: Why disclose your funding sources?

RABE: The question about funding and agendas has become a huge point of contention in the energy and environment arena. In the area of shale gas and oil, there’s a new term, “frackademic,” that’s applied to individual academics or centers that are very closely linked to their funding sources and producing data that will please the sponsor. Climate change is not that different, with a number of contentious debates about whether the research is designed to produce an outcome that’s appealing to a funding source. Disclosure seems to be an obvious first step, as I have been arguing for some time.

When I’ve published in healthcare or public health journals, often there are detailed financial disclosure provisions. When I publish in energy, environmental protection, and climate journals I am almost never asked for that kind of disclosure. That concerns me.
Worldwide Ford School Spirit Day

Alumni-led festivities in cities near and far let you meet and mingle with Ford School friends. Event locations* and times are in the works, so check fordschool.umich.edu for details soon.

*Alumni interested in hosting a Spirit Day event should contact Elisabeth Johnston, alumni relations manager, at 734-615-5760 or eajohnst@umich.edu.

Homecoming

Thursday–Saturday, October 8–10

Friday, October 9. 2–4 p.m.
Ford School Open House
Refreshments and student-led tours of Joan and Sanford Weill Hall.

Saturday, October 10. Time TBA
Wolverines v. Wildcats at the Big House
Tickets to the game and tailgate can be purchased in special sections designated for Ford School alumni and friends. Check fordschool.umich.edu in the coming months for RSVP instructions.

Ford Flashback