Our Ph.D. students and recent graduates deliver impactful research and thoughtful policy consideration in public affairs, public policy, and environmental science. While they bring diverse academic backgrounds and interests, they are each dedicated to leading for the greater good whether it be in continuing research or educating the next generation.

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Medicaid Expansion Leads to Increase in Early-Stage Cancer Diagnoses

The Affordable Care Act led to an increase in the number of cancer diagnoses – particularly those at early stages – in states where Medicaid was expanded, according to research co-authored by SPEA’s Kosali Simon.

The research, published in the American Journal of Public Health, suggests that public health insurance may increase cancer detection, which can lead to fewer cancer deaths and better outcomes for patients.

“Early detection is a key step to reducing cancer mortality, and our findings suggest that Medicaid expansion under the ACA led to more and earlier cancer detection,” said the study’s corresponding author, Aparna Soni, a doctoral candidate in business economics and public policy in the IU Kelley School of Business.

Previous research by Soni and Simon, the Class of 1948 Herman B Wells Endowed Professor at SPEA, found that the Affordable Care Act increased insurance coverage among people already diagnosed with cancer.

Other co-authors of “Effect of Medicaid Expansions of 2014 on Overall and Early-Stage Cancer Diagnoses” were Lindsay Sabik, associate professor in health policy and management at the University of Pittsburgh; and John Cawley, professor of policy analysis and management and of economics at Cornell University.

In their study, researchers looked at cancer registry data from 2010 through 2014 to estimate post-ACA changes in county-level cancer diagnosis rates, both overall and by stages, in states that expanded Medicaid in 2014 versus those that did not. Medicaid expansion led to an increase of 15.4 early-stage diagnoses per 100,000 people, or 6.4 percent, from pre-ACA levels.

There was no detectable impact on late-stage diagnoses. The overall cancer diagnosis rate increased by 3.4 percent in Medicaid expansion states, compared with non-expansion states.

“These data indicate increases in health coverage lead to increased early detection, which raises the overall diagnosis rate,” Simon said. “Medical research already shows that early cancer diagnosis is important for increasing the probability of successful treatment, reducing mortality and controlling costs. However, Medicaid expansion appears to have no effect on the diagnosis of late-stage cancers.”
Using information about patients’ age, tumor location and whether the cancer could be screened for, the researchers found that the increase in early-stage diagnoses was largely seen among those age 35 to 54 and with cancers that are easiest to detect.

“The fact that the increase in early-stage diagnoses was concentrated in cancers amenable to screening is consistent with the increase resulting from the expansion of health insurance and access to care,” the researchers wrote in the paper.

The increase in overall diagnoses was largely driven by increases among those age 45 to 54 and among those with prostate cancer.

SPEA researcher says survey results show Christians becoming less concerned about the environment

There has been no “greening of Christianity” among people in the pews, despite efforts by some religious leaders to emphasize environmental stewardship, according to new research by SPEA’s David Konisky.

Konisky analyzed 20 years of survey results from Gallup public opinion polls in one of the first major studies of how attitudes about the environment by self-identified U.S. Christians have shifted over time.

He found that environmentalism is not increasing, and there are signs it is actually in decline. For example, Konisky’s analysis of the survey responses from 1990 through 2015 indicates that Christians, compared to atheists, agnostics, and individuals who do not affiliate with a religion, are less likely to prioritize environmental protection over economic growth, and they are more likely than others to believe global warming is exaggerated.

For example, the likelihood that a Christian survey respondent expressed a great deal of concern about climate change dropped by about a third between 1990 and 2015.

The pattern generally holds across Catholic, Protestant and other Christian denominations and does not vary depending on levels of religiosity.

“This relationship between religion and the environment is significant because of the increasing importance of climate change,” Konisky said. “There may come a time when religious leaders and faith-based organizations generate more interest in protecting the environment and more willingness to demand action, but we haven’t seen it yet.”

The current lack of enthusiasm comes despite high-profile calls for action such as the encyclical letter on the environment released by Pope Francis in 2015 and despite initiatives led by Evangelical Protestant groups, such as the formation of the Evangelical Environmental Network.

While those efforts are relatively recent, Konisky said there is a historical divide in how Christians view their relationship to the planet: “Some believe in the importance of stewardship and practice an ethic of ‘creation care,’ while others believe in human dominion over the Earth, a belief that undermines any obligation to protect the environment.”

Konisky said more research is needed to determine whether that belief in human dominion or some other aspect of how people experience religion is influencing a reduced concern for the environment.

His study, “The greening of Christianity? A study of environmental attitudes over time,” was published in the peer-reviewed journal Environmental Politics.

SPEA alums: Meta-analysis finds significant evidence of race- and income-based urban forest inequity.

In two recently published studies by SPEA graduates, Bloomington Urban Forestry Group researcher Dr. Shannon Lea Watkins (Cal-San Francisco) and Dr. Ed Gerrish (U. of South Dakota) found significant evidence of both race- and income-based urban forest inequity. Race-
based inequity was particularly high on public land, where city governments and nonprofits have the most influence. Methodological differences explained some of the variation across original studies.

Urban forestry professionals and city governments should consider the equity consequences of urban forestry activities. As cities increasingly invest in urban environmental resources, they have a choice: do they continue a status quo approach that perpetuates a system of environmental injustice, or do they engage underserved communities in environmental protection and in so doing, promote environmental and health justice? Given the sensitivity of results to study methodology, authors of future studies should be thoughtful in methodological choices and conduct robustness checks.

This is the most comprehensive study of urban forest inequity to date. Watkins and Gerrish analyzed the results of 67 original studies that had estimated the statistical relationship between urban forest cover and neighborhood sociodemographic characteristics. They used meta-analysis to summarize findings across original studies, adjusting for variation in methodology, study location, and research lens across studies. The studies are published in the Journal of Environmental Management and Landscape and Urban Planning.

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**Fuel Economy Standards and the U.S. Economy**

A team of SPEA researchers first examined fuel economy standards in 2015. They have now updated their findings in this peer-reviewed report and offer them here:

In 2016, the transportation sector became the leading emitter of greenhouse gasses (GHG) among all sectors of the U.S. economy, surpassing the electricity sector for the first time. Within the transportation sector, the majority of GHG emissions (about 60 percent) come from the light-duty vehicle (LDV) fleet, which consists of cars and light trucks, the vehicles in the U.S. economy that consume most of the oil. Recognizing the importance of the LDV fleet and its contribution to climate change and oil dependence, the federal government in 2012 updated the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards and paired them with greenhouse gas emission standards, setting a goal of 54.5 miles per gallon for LDVs by model year 2025.

At the same time, the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate of the California Air Resources Board (CARB), which has now been adopted by nine other states, set an increased sales requirement for electric vehicles in those states. These combined federal and state regulations present an ambitious challenge for the U.S. automobile sector and have important implications for the U.S. economy.

In 2015, our SPEA faculty team, including Nikos Ziroglannis, Sanya Carley, Denvil Duncan, Saba Siddiki, and John D. Graham, was commissioned by the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers to examine the macroeconomic effects of the combined standards.
Our results can be summarized in two key findings:

1) The automotive sector is a large enough part of the U.S. economy that the combined standards will cause short-term decline in key economic indicators, but after 2025, the economy will start to show gains that will increase over time.

2) There are significant uncertainties with respect to the impact that the standards will have on sales of new vehicles, mostly due to the value consumers place on fuel savings resulting from the standards.

Key causal mechanisms that link the combined standards to U.S. economic performance

Our work addressed three key causal pathways through which the standards could affect the U.S. economy, namely: (1) the price premium for fuel efficient and electric vehicles; (2) the boost to the automotive supply chain from investments in fuel-saving technologies; and (3) the mixed effects on the cost savings resulting from reductions in gasoline consumption that stimulate consumer spending versus the curtailment of U.S. oil production. The study quantifies each of these causal mechanisms separately and then models their combined effects from 2017 to 2035 and thereafter.

How do consumers weigh a vehicle-price increase against fuel savings over the life of the vehicle?

In order to comply with the standards, manufacturers will have to invest in new technologies that are expensive and will likely increase the sale price of LDVs. An important effect that is still undetermined is the size of that price increase. When the standards were finalized in 2012 the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimated that the price premium for the average LDV in model year 2025 would be $1,461. However, a 2015 report by the National Research Council found that, for the typical midsize car, the price increase could be either 11 percent or 55 percent higher than what NHTSA predicted in 2012. This is a substantial increase that, if applied to other types of vehicles and passed on to consumers, could burden new-vehicle buyers.

The majority of the benefits from the combined standards are derived from savings to motorists from reduced gasoline expenditures. The size of the cost savings depends in part on how fuel prices evolve in the future. Over the past few years changes in the international oil markets have brought a significant decline in gas prices (see Figure 1), thus decreasing the projected fuel savings that car owners will experience compared to the 2012 projections.

This issue of gasoline savings is further complicated because consumers do not value fuel savings over the entire life of the vehicle, which averages about 16 years. While new car buyers currently hold on to their car for an average of seven years, evidence shows that some consumers only consider one to three years of fuel savings when deciding which car to buy. If that undervaluation is the norm, then the price increase due to the standards could significantly hurt new cars sales and compromise the goals of the standards.

Our analysis

Our research examined a series of alternative scenarios that help convey the extent of uncertainty about the macroeconomic outcomes. Our results are classified in two main categories: (1) the effects of the standards on key macroeconomic indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), employment and disposable income; and (2) the trajectories of new car and light truck sales.

The macroeconomic results suggest that the standards will have a negative impact in the U.S. economy in the early years (i.e., 2017 to 2023-2025). However, as more fuel-efficient vehicles enter the fleet (see Figure 2) and the gasoline savings start accumulating at an increasing rate, the economy will experience a beneficial boost through increases in disposable income that will further boost employment and GDP. All of the scenarios we examined indicate that the cumulative economic impacts from the standards over the period 2017-2035 will be positive.

We also performed a simulation of changes in the volume of new-

Figure 1: Comparison of fuel price projections between Annual Energy Outlook (AEO) 2012 and AEO 2016 (in constant 2010 $/gallon).
vehicle sales using a total-cost-of-ownership method that accounts for changes in the costs of vehicle operation and vehicle price. Our results indicate a range of expected outcomes, with sales in model year 2025 for new vehicles varying from -10% to +4% compared to the baseline. This range highlights the significant uncertainty that exists around new sales volumes, but most of our updated modeling shows negative impacts on new vehicle sales. A slower volume of new vehicle sales is important economically since it can have adverse effect in employment and GDP growth. In addition, it reduces the effectiveness of the standards by compromising the goal of decreasing oil consumption and emissions of GHGs.

What is next for the combined standards?

Our work highlights several key points about the future effects of the combined standards. These points summarize our recommendations:

• In the long term (past 2025), the federal standards will likely yield benefits to the U.S. economy and thus our report provides evidence supporting retention of the federal standards. However, there are potential refinements to the standards or to related policies that, if implemented, could attenuate the near-term economic damages while increasing program effectiveness.

• There is a need for more research in the way consumers value fuel economy in the markets for used and new vehicles. Currently, most of the economics literature addresses this question by using variation in fuel prices as a mechanism to identify consumers’ valuation of fuel economy. However, in the context of CAFE what is more important is the extent to which consumers value fuel efficient technologies mandated by regulation. Consumers’ valuation of fuel efficient vehicles is, of course, affected by fuel prices, however, the current literature cannot isolate how consumers value specific fuel efficient technologies. Research directed at addressing this question would be well positioned to inform policy making by helping to understand how likely consumers are to respond to the new technologies stimulated by regulation.

Authors: Nikos Zirogiannis, Sanya Carley, Denvil Duncan, John D. Graham, and Saba Saddiki (now at Syracuse U.)

Nikolaos Zirogiannis, Coady Wing, and Alex J. Hollingsworth:

Where did all the health benefits go? Evaluating EPA’s repeal of the Clean Power Plan

Think about driving a car down a highway. Music playing. Wind in your hair. It’s a classic symbol of American freedom. But regulation is never far away. Check out that speed limit sign. You know how it works: the police can fine you for driving faster than 70 mph. The faster you drive, the bigger the fine. Maybe you think it’s over regulation. But the point of the speed limit is pretty clear. You could cause an accident if you drive too fast and the higher the speed, the worse the accident. In other words, speed kills. Speed limits are supposed to make the highways safer for everyone. Most people are sympathetic to the basic idea of a speed limit. But why is there a specific speed limit at 70 mph? That seems arbitrary. Why not 60 mph? Or 80 mph? It’s not like the connection between speed and safety only begins when you cross the official threshold. People still die in law abiding 50 mph car accidents. Regardless of the official speed limit: It is safer to drive at a slower speed. Of course, this doesn’t mean we should set a national speed limit of 15 mph. People enjoy driving fast for good reasons. The ideal speed is the solution to a cost benefit calculation that weighs both the benefits and costs of driving a bit faster. We’ll let you make your own choices, but don’t be deluded when you do. It is still dangerous to drive, even if you are complying with the posted speed limit.

The speed limit is a good example to keep in mind as the EPA moves to repeal the Clean Power Plan (CPP). The EPA’s new analysis on CPP does not consider the health benefits of
improving air quality below an official threshold. With this new report, the EPA is doing the equivalent of advising a young teen that there is no chance of dying in a car accident as long as they drive below the official speed limit. That’s not good advice.

What is the Clean Power Plan?
The CPP is the signature climate change rule of the Obama administration. It was meant to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 32 percent by 2030 by shifting electricity generation away from coal and towards natural gas and renewables. The shift away from coal would also reduce the amount of particulate matter (PM) 2.5 in the air we breathe. Breathing PM2.5 gives you respiratory distress, cardiovascular diseases. It can kill you. In 2015 the EPA predicted that due to reductions in PM2.5 caused by the CPP, between 1,200 and 2,900 premature deaths would be avoided by 2030.

What has changed?
In the proposed repeal, the EPA made three important changes in the way it calculated the costs and benefits of the CPP. First, it revised its estimates of compliance costs upwards. Second, it now considers only the value of domestic (rather than global) climate change benefits from CO₂ reductions. Finally, it decided it would not count any health benefits from reducing PM2.5 concentrations below a threshold.

The third change was the decisive one. The CPP passes a benefit cost test even if you agree with the EPA about the higher compliance costs and with only counting domestic climate change benefits. The CPP fails the benefit cost test only when you decide that health benefits of PM2.5 reduction disappear below a certain threshold.

What EPA’s argument?
The EPA's argument hinges on how to value health improvements caused by reductions in air pollution. The new report does not dispute that the CPP would cause reductions in coal-fired electricity generation and associated decreases in harmful air pollution. It is well known that burning coal releases pollutants like particulate matter. It is also well known that particulate matter is harmful to human health. The EPA's argument revolves around this question, “Are there levels at which airborne particulate matter is completely safe?” In their proposed repeal, the EPA claims that any airborne concentration of particulate matter below 12 micrograms per cubic meter is completely safe.

At the moment, American air is pretty clean by global standards. Data from the EPA show that only 23 million Americans live in counties with a PM2.5 concentration higher than 12 micrograms per cubic meter of air (https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/kncnty.html). This 12 μg/m³ figure is the threshold that the EPA established in 2012 to determine if an area was in compliance with the Clean Air Act. If we burn less coal, PM2.5 levels in many parts of the country will fall. Some places that are above the 12 microgram standard will fall below and some places that are already below could fall even further. The EPA's new cost benefit analysis says that there is no value in reducing particulate matter below the standard. But that is hard to swallow. The 12 μg/m³ threshold is just as arbitrary as a 70 mph speed limit. Driving slower than 70 mph on a highway will often make you safer. Breathing air with less than 12 μg/m³ of PM2.5 is healthier, too.

A lot of the discussion surrounding the CPP and the EPA's methodology is complicated and technical. Weighing the benefits and costs of the CPP is the right way to think about whether to pass or repeal, but only if all of the benefits and costs are correctly accounted for. Based on our expertise in energy and environmental policy, it’s clear the EPA has it wrong on common sense grounds. Human safety cannot be guaranteed by discrete thresholds. People still die in car accidents even though they drive below the speed limit and air pollution can still be harmful even if it’s below a threshold.

About the authors: Nikolaos Zirogiannis, Coady Wing, and Alex J. Hollingsworth are on the SPEA faculty. They have done extensive, peer-reviewed research on the consequences of changes in U.S. energy, health and environmental policy.
**SPEA dean appointed to independent EPA board of science advisors**

SPEA Dean John D. Graham has been appointed to a position on the Environmental Protection Agency’s Science Advisory Board.

The board was established by Congress to provide independent scientific and engineering advice to the EPA administrator on the technical basis for EPA regulations.

Graham has been the dean at SPEA’s campuses in Bloomington and Indianapolis since 2008. Before coming to IU he was the founder of the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis and served as head of the Office of Management and Budget’s Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs under President George W. Bush. In that capacity, he led the regulatory review, statistical, and information policy functions of the federal government. Graham is an author or co-author of over 200 scientific articles and ten books including several that focus on environmental science and public policy.

Graham said he was honored by the appointment. “I join SAB with no predispositions as to what our priorities will be,” he told a reporter for The Washington Post. “I will look for guidance from the agency and veteran members of SAB.”

Connecting the Dots Between Domestic Violence and Gun Violence

It was as simple as pitching a story.

Olivia Little has long enjoyed reading feminist and progressive magazines and blogs. Inspired by President Trump’s proposed budget, which included significant reductions in funding for programs associated with the Violence Against Women Act, she decided to see if Ms. Magazine was interested in what she had to say. That led to publication of her first blog post, “The Abuser-in-Chief’s Budget.”

Her most recent piece, “Connecting the Dots between Domestic Violence and Gun Violence,” which appeared on the Ms. Magazine blog in October 2017, has been seen by hundreds of people. Not bad for a junior studying law and public policy at SPEA.

Using connections she made through SPEA and her volunteer work, she arranged to have a meaningful conversation with SPEA professor Paul Helmke and Sarah Hunt, the outreach communications coordinator at Middle Way House, a domestic violence shelter in Bloomington. They talked about the link between domestic violence and mass shootings.

Composed in the aftermath of the Las Vegas shooting, Little’s post is a Q&A dealing with gun legislation and lobbying, the intersection of domestic violence and gun deaths, and toxic masculinity.
Little posed the question, “Why is federal legislation not being enacted to prevent abusers from owning/obtaining firearms if we know for a fact that there’s such a strong correlation between mass shooting perpetrators and domestic abusers?”

Here’s the response from Helmke – the former president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence: “We’ve gotten to a stage in this country with the mass shootings, which are the only times people pay attention, people always say: now is not the time. But these shootings are occurring on a daily basis. A large number of those are domestic violence situations.”

Unfortunately, the relevance has not faded in the months since, in the shadow of such tragedies as occurred in Sutherland Springs, Texas, and Rancho Tehama in California.

As a crisis line volunteer at the Middle Way House, Little has come face-to-face with the realities of domestic violence. She is trained to assist in crisis management by being a survivor’s advocate, ready to provide comfort, assurance, and support through those crucial first hours. She signs up for a shift every week answering the crisis line and assisting those who have already made the decision to leave and are sheltering at the Middle Way House.

For Little, being involved in something she’s so passionate about is second nature. Bloomington radio listeners can hear that passion in her weekly segments on feminist issues on WIUX – a student run radio station. “One should always be involved in the community where they’re living, regardless of what else they do,” she said. “There’s always time.”

Feminism is still very much relevant, Little said, as each day a new allegation of a powerful man sexually assaulting a woman comes to light, each story perhaps offering a little more courage for the those who have yet to speak out.

“A feminist is someone who believes in and advocates for equality regardless of sex, race, gender identity or socioeconomic status in an effort to pursue progress,” Little said. “Under this administration, there is more of a need for it now than ever.”

The future of feminism, Little said, is an inclusiveness that ensures everybody is given a chance to fight for freedom from oppression and discrimination.

The future for the Logansport, Indiana, native, who is also a licensed substitute teacher, may include graduate school. Little completed her high school career at The Indiana Academy, an experimental boarding school on the campus of Ball State University, before attending SPEA to work toward her Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs, with a minor in education policy.

For those who are wondering whether their ideas are good enough to be published by their favorite outlets, Little offered some advice. “If you can write, if you can story-tell, you can publish. Search for a platform. Be proactive. Email and make connections,” she said. “It’s about having a worthwhile story to tell.”

Helmke said students like Little motivate him and keep him grounded. “After spending nearly all of my 69 years of life in and around politics and government (including 12 years as mayor of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and five years as head of the Brady Center and Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence), it is easy for me to get frustrated and cynical about the current state of progress and discourse on so many public issues,” he said. “But when I get the chance to teach and work with students like Olivia Little, from my class on “Legal History and Public Policy” which focuses on protest and dissent, or the students in my Civic Leaders Center, I am encouraged by the passionate activism and intensity from so many who want to do their part to make this a better world. I’ve now been at SPEA for five years, and these students – who care so much about public policy, civic engagement and learning the skills to ‘lead for the greater good’ – are why I’m optimistic, and excited, about the future.”

SPEA student’s Bee Corp. launches QGPS security service for beekeepers

During the year, commercial beekeepers migrate their hives around the nation to provide pollination services to farmers. But the number of beehive thefts has risen in recent years, including more than 1,700


hives stolen in California alone during the 2016 almond pollination season. Commercial beekeepers now have a new, high-tech option to retrieve their beehives if they are stolen.

The Bee Corp., an agriculture technology startup founded by Indiana University alumni, has developed the QGPS Hive Theft Tracking System. CEO Ellie Symes, a SPEA student, said the principal technology in the system is a discreet GPS sensor placed inside the hive.

“QGPS provides beekeepers with an instant alert when it detects unauthorized hive movement. It can automatically notify local authorities to dispatch a patrol to the location of the hive,” Symes said. “After a theft has occurred, QGPS generates a report that can be used to prosecute the thieves and return the hive to its rightful owner.”

The Bee Corp. offers three service packages for the QGPS Hive Theft Tracking System, depending on the risk of theft at the site. The company also offers QGPS monitoring to track clients’ work vehicles and equipment.

Symes said The Bee Corp. offers a lifetime hardware guarantee on the sensors.

“Clients never need to pay to repair or replace a faulty sensor. When battery levels get low, we instantly ship a replacement sensor – we like to say that battery life is infinite,” Symes said. “We focus on the sensors so our clients can focus on their hives.”

Iraq Study Group papers of Lee Hamilton available digitally through IU Libraries

The Iraq Study Group Papers of former U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton are now available in digital format from Indiana University Libraries, providing researchers and the public with a behind-the-scenes look at a bipartisan panel that influenced U.S. policy in Iraq.

Hamilton, now a SPEA professor of practice, served as co-chair of the study group, which assessed the conduct of the Iraq War and recommended changes in U.S. policy. The collection, donated by Hamilton, consists of the electronic and paper files created by Hamilton and by his senior advisor and special assistant to the study group. The files document the formation of the group, its work, the creation of its final report and follow-up activities.

“The Iraq Study Group marked a serious effort by Congress to examine the conduct of the Iraq War and to play its proper role by providing oversight of American foreign policy,” Hamilton said. “I am grateful to Indiana University Libraries for digitizing these records and making them accessible, and I hope that students of government and history will learn from them for years to come.”

The papers include notebooks, working papers, office files, meeting minutes, memos and records of news media coverage of the study group’s work. Archivists have prepared an extensive guide allowing users to find and view a digital image of individual documents from the collection.

“This is an invaluable addition to IU Libraries’ collection of political papers on a topic that dominated the foreign policy debate at the time,” said Lee Feinstein, founding dean of the School of Global and International Studies where Hamilton is a distinguished scholar. “This influential bipartisan commission, whose original membership included two future defense secretaries, gave voice to growing concern about the scope and intensity of the U.S. military commitment in Iraq and the importance of broader diplomatic engagement in the region.”

Carolyn Walters, the Ruth Lilly Dean of University Libraries, said she appreciates Hamilton’s continued commitment to preservation of committee documentation. She said the Iraq Study Group papers represent the third fully digitized collection in the Modern Political Papers Collection held at the Bloomington campus.

“This digitization and description work – while time-intensive – is important because it makes original, primary-source documents directly available through online access,” Walters said.

The Iraq Study Group was launched in March 2006, growing out of concerns that the United States
was on the wrong path three years after it began military involvement in Iraq. Hamilton and former Secretary of State James A. Baker III chaired the 10-member, bipartisan task force, made up of former senators, cabinet members and presidential advisers. The group's final report, issued in December 2006, was 160 pages long and included 79 recommendations. The report had a significant impact on American foreign policy in Iraq.

Four working groups of 44 foreign policy analysts – including staff of the U.S. Institute of Peace, among others – examined American policy in Iraq. The work included nine plenary sessions, a four-day trip to Baghdad, and interviews with over 170 experts, military officers and political players in Iraq and the region.

Hamilton represented Indiana’s 9th District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1965 to 1999. He gained a reputation for foreign policy expertise, statesmanship and a nonpartisan approach to solving problems. He served as co-chair of the joint House and Senate committee investigating the Iran-Contra Affair in 1987-88 and as vice chair of the 9/11 Commission in 2002-04. He is founder and senior advisor at the Center on Representative Government at IU Bloomington.

The Iraq Study Group papers are part of the IU Libraries’ Modern Political Papers Collection. The collection also includes Hamilton’s congressional papers and 9/11 Commission papers as well as congressional papers of former Sens. Richard Lugar and Birch Bayh, press and political files of former Gov. and Sen. Evan Bayh, and other sets of documents.

**From Ho Chi Minh City to Bloomington: Top officials get executive training at SPEA**

From touring the state capitol in Indianapolis to walking a campus ablaze with autumn colors, high-ranking officials from Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam got a brief but intense taste of all that IU has to offer during their recent visit.

SPEA brings delegations from Vietnam to the U.S. for two-week executive training programs. This time, the delegates are leaders of Ho Chi Minh City, the wealthiest city in Vietnam, with a population of about 10 million. While in the U.S., the officials get classroom instruction in public administration reform and field trips to government offices in Bloomington, Indianapolis, and Chicago.

The visitors learn how the U.S. public sector functions and meet with local and regional government leaders. The program is part of IU’s **Vietnam Initiative**, a global hub for research and training in development policy that is based at SPEA.

“It’s rewarding to welcome these distinguished guests and then play a part in helping them improve the
quality of their city’s government,” said Anh Tran, an associate professor at SPEA and director of the Vietnam Initiative. “They learn from us and our students and faculty learn from them. It’s a partnership funded by IU and the Vietnamese government that’s paying dividends for everyone involved and for two communities.”

The two-week programs began with a mix of morning lectures at SPEA and afternoon visits to Bloomington’s city hall, the state human resources office in Indianapolis and other public-sector institutions including health care facilities and schools. The program ended with a day in Chicago and meetings with city and state government leaders. Then the participants boarded a flight back to Vietnam and the opportunity to put into practice the skills they learned.

New focus on globalization, management, and finance strengthens SPEA’s undergraduate public affairs curriculum

SPEA is enhancing its undergraduate curriculum to better prepare students for careers leading for the greater good in a fast-changing world.

SPEA is revising undergraduate degree curricula after two years of review by faculty and staff with input from students, alumni, and professionals in the field. The changes were overwhelmingly approved by SPEA’s faculty.

“These improvements in our curriculum are another example of the spirit of innovation and leadership at SPEA that began with our founding nearly 50 years ago,” said Executive Associate Dean Michael McGuire. “When they graduate, our more than 2,000 students will be ready to take on and solve the challenges facing our world.”

The majority of the changes impact the Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs (BSPA) curriculum but will have ramifications for almost all SPEA undergraduates. While current students won’t be asked to take additional credits, they will have the opportunity to choose from a broader array of course offerings including these new options:

• **U.S. Policy and Administration** – this course introduces the complex process of policy making and highlights the forces that have shaped recent policy battles profoundly impacting the daily lives of Americans.

• **Policymaking Around the World** – this introduction to the fields of comparative and international policy explores how and why other nations make policy choices and how governments can work with other actors to solve global problems.

• **Management of Public Problems and Solutions** – at a time marked by complex issues and a shortage of resources and public trust, this course explores the move to more innovative approaches to management across the sectors.

• **Public Budgeting and Finance** – this introduction to government budgeting includes the various revenue sources available and the accounting documents used to record financial activities in the public and non-profit sectors.

The content, titles, and numbers for some courses are also changing when the new curriculum begins this fall. “We understand any change like this can be a source of worry for students and their families,” said Andrea Need, SPEA Director of Undergraduate Academic Affairs. “We’re meeting with as many as we can face to face, briefing faculty so they have the option of discussing the changes in class, and communicating the details through emails, social media, and printed materials.” Students with questions are urged to make appointments with their advisors.
The Paul H. O’Neill Graduate Center at SPEA has now been open for a year and it is our comfortable, incredibly busy home. Photographer Mary Jo Spiegel offers a glimpse at all that goes on in a single day.
Beth Gazley received Indiana University’s W. George Pinnell Award for Outstanding Service. The award was established in 1988 to honor faculty considered shining examples of dedication and excellence in service to others. Gazley was selected from more than 4,000 faculty members on all eight campuses based on nominations.

Jim Perry received the 2018 Routledge Prize for Outstanding Contributions to Public Management Research. The award is bestowed by the International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM) to a scholar for career-long achievement in public management and public administration. Perry joins an illustrious and influential list of Routledge recipients and has been invited to the IRSPM conference in Edinburgh, Scotland in April to receive the prize in person.

Kosali Simon co-authored an article in Economics Letters. In “Demand for Health Insurance Marketplace Plans Was Highly Elastic in 2014-2015,” the authors analyze changes within Health Insurance Marketplaces, which began operating for the 2014 Affordable Care Act plan year.

Although enrollment initially grew in these markets, enrollment has fallen recently amid insurer exits and rising premiums.

Brad Fulton published an article in the Journal of Muslim Philanthropy and Civil Society. Fulton’s article, “Fostering Muslim Civic Engagement through Faith-Based Community Organizing,” addresses a topic rarely researched – Muslim American civic engagement. His analysis of data from a national study indicates that faith-based community organizing is becoming a viable pathway for promoting civic engagement among Muslim Americans.

Public Policy Institute Director Tom Guevara was appointed to the Innovation Policy Forum at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The Forum brings together representatives of government, industry, national laboratories, research institutes and universities – foreign and domestic – to exchange views on current challenges and opportunities for U.S. innovation policy, and its potential impact on the composition of the U.S. economy.

Chris Craft published an article, “Enhancing protection of vulnerable waters,” in Nature Geoscience. The 2015 Clean Water Rule was intended to extend federal protections to freshwater streams and wetlands, especially impermanent streams and wetlands outside floodplains, but has yet to be implemented. In the article, Craft and 24 co-authors from many institutions discuss three approaches to protecting these ecologically important aquatic systems.
Doctoral student Stefan Carpenter and David Konisky co-authored an article in Oryx – the International Journal of Conservation: “The killing of Cecil the Lion as an impetus for policy change.” Cecil was shot and killed in Zimbabwe in 2015, sparking international media attention and causing outrage among conservationists. Carpenter and Konisky measured public interest in Cecil’s death to determine if it was the type of focusing event that leads to policy change. They found that interest in lion conservation throughout the world spiked in the weeks following the incident but it had only a limited impact on policy changes to restrict trophy hunting in the United States and abroad.

Anthony Liu co-authored an article published in the Journal of Environmental Economics and Management: “The Effect of Subway Expansions on Vehicle Congestion: Evidence from Beijing.” The authors used a regression-discontinuity framework to determine if public transportation reduces vehicle congestion. They examined the effect of six subway openings on short-run congestion in Beijing between 2009 and 2015 and determined that vehicle congestion drops sharply immediately after new subway openings.

Justin Ross authored an article in Public Administration Review: “Unfunded Mandates and Fiscal Structure: Empirical Evidence from a Synthetic Control Model.” Ross examines a Florida constitutional amendment that limited unfunded state mandates on municipal and county governments. Using the synthetic control model, a technique for drawing causal inferences from case studies, Ross estimates the effect of the amendment.

Shahzeen Attari co-authored an article in Sustainability: “Farmer perceptions of water related to conflict in Zambia.” Attari and her co-authors studied the relationship between climate change, water scarcity, and conflict. By surveying farmers in Zambia, the authors learned how farmers define and perceive conflict and how they perceive rainfall and water availability.

Sameeksha Desai published an article in Geography Compass: “Economic effects of terrorism: Local and city considerations, priorities for research and policy.” Desai notes that the economic effects of terrorist attacks are difficult to assess because terrorism is highly local. She says policymakers are increasingly interested in economic resilience to terrorism but have little scholarship to guide decisions in local and urban economies.

Allison Schnable received the 2017 RGK-ARNOVA President’s Award for her proposed research “Balancing the Professional with the Expressive: Organizational Learning and Grassroots International NGOs.” The $10,000 prize supports basic research and theory building in the field of philanthropic, nonprofit and voluntary action studies.

Amanda Salamova received a $490,400 award from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (National Institutes of Health). With several other researchers, Salamova will investigate exposures, endocrine effects, and mechanisms of developmental disruption associated with legacy contaminants and emerging flame retardant chemicals in children of two Yupik communities on St. Lawrence Island in arctic Alaska. The Arctic is subject to atmospheric deposition of persistent organic pollutants and contains some of the most highly contaminated animals and people in the world.

Doctoral student Gabriel Piña and Claudia Avellaneda published an article in Public Management Review: “Municipal isomorphism: testing the effects of vertical and horizontal collaboration.” Piña and Avellaneda used neo-institutional theory to explore whether local governments in Chile emulate their peers when bound through collaborative agreements and/or scrutinized by central government with top-down pressure.

Dawne DiOrio co-authored an article in Sexually Transmitted Diseases: “Social Vulnerability in Congenital Syphilis Case Mothers: Qualitative Assessment of Cases in Indiana.” With co-authors, DiOrio examined socioeconomic and behavioral factors among women giving birth to an infant with syphilis. The article
recommends that high-risk pregnant women receive additional social and material support to prevent a congenital syphilis case.

Sanya Carley, Denvil Duncan, John D. Graham, Saba Siddiki, and Nikolaos Zirogiannis received a best paper award, entitled the George I. Treyz Award for Excellence in Economic Analysis, for the report: “Macroeconomic Study of Federal and State Automotive Regulations with Recommendations for Analysts, Regulators, and Legislators.” The annual award, bestowed by Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI), is in recognition of exceptional economic analysis conducted with the REMI model.

Monika Herzig received a grant-in-aid from the IU Office of the Vice President for Research to support a student organization she sponsors. The $3,000 grant supported the Bloomington Music Summit organized by the student Music Industry Networking Club.

Coady Wing co-authored an article published in Educational Researcher: “Did States Use Implementation Discretion to Reduce the Stringency of NCLB? Evidence from a Database of State Regulations.” Wing and co-authors analyzed how states actually implemented the No Child Left Behind law and the extent to which state implementation decisions managed to undo its centralizing objectives.

Amanda Rutherford co-authored an article published in Research in Higher Education: “Mitigating Unintended Impacts? The Effects of Premiums for Underserved Populations in Performance-Funding Policies for Higher Education.” Performance funding is an increasingly prevalent policy that state officials use to allocate a portion of state funds to public colleges and universities.

Sara Johnson received the Exemplary Service Award from the American College of Healthcare Executives. Johnson received the award for her many volunteer activities that demonstrate leadership and her contributions to furthering professional excellence.

David Audretsch received an honorary doctorate degree, his sixth, from the University of Siegen. Audretsch was presented the honor by Dr. Andreas Pinkwart, State Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy of North Rhine-Westphalia. A local newspaper story on the ceremony noted that Audretsch is a “superstar” in the academic world and one of the leading scientists in the field of enterprise research, focusing on innovation and entrepreneurship. In remarks after accepting the award, Audretsch said he was married in Berlin and his sons were born there: “Germany gave me wings.”

Beth Gazley and Jill Nicholson-Crotty published an article in Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly. In “What Drives Good Governance? A Structural Equation Model of Nonprofit Board Performance,” Gazley and Nicholson-Crotty analyze a weighted, national, representative study of 1,585 member-serving organizations to find support for an emerging “systems” view of nonprofit boards of directors. This perspective challenges the normative view that board performance depends on achieving an optimal size or structure.

Adam Ward is one of five assistant professors to receive the 2018 Indiana University Bloomington Outstanding Junior Faculty Award. The award is designed to identify promising tenure-track faculty who have not yet been awarded tenure and to provide resources to further develop their scientific, scholarly or artistic activities. It is presented by the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs. Ward is a hydrologist who studies the transport of water, energy, nutrients and pollutants through landscapes. His goal is to predict water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem functions in response to changes due to natural change or human modification. He received a National Science Foundation CAREER Award to study linkages between surface- and groundwaters, and scale predictive power from meters to entire river basins. His work has been published in leading journals in water resources and related disciplines.

Ward came to IU in 2014 from the University of Iowa. He is an adjunct faculty member in the department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and the School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering. He has bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Michigan Technological University and a Ph.D. in civil engineering from Penn State University. He received the Trustees Teaching Award in 2016 and SPEA’s Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award in 2017.
SPEA’s Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion hosts a multi-faceted MLK Day commemoration.

Rock star John Mellencamp uses props to introduce a documentary about the coal industry, screened at a SPEA event.

SPEA professor Jim Barnes, one of the early leaders of the EPA, interviews former EPA director Gina McCarthy.

SPEA Ph.D. students are all smiles after their annual conference.

SPEA’s Paul Helmke and Evan Bayh were rivals in the 1998 U.S. Senate race in Indiana – reunited at a SPEA Town Hall.

We’re celebrating the 45th anniversary of the founding of the school – here are some of the staff that make it go.
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