Heller Highlights

The Heller School for Social Policy and Management

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS of Heller Faculty and Researchers

New Publications

November 2011

Behavioral Health


Disabilities


Physical health


Behavioral health


Disabilities


ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES


Behavioral health


Disabilities


Behavioral health


Disabilities


ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES

GLOBAL ECONOMICS


HEALTH


INTERNATIONAL HEALTH


MANAGEMENT


PUBLIC FINANCE


SOCIAL POLICY

NEW GRANTS

November 2011

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Susan Curnan (PI)
“Summer Youth Employment Initiative”
Funder: Walmart Foundation
The Center for Youth and Communities is the evaluation and learning partner with the Walmart Foundation for a $5 million, five-city Summer Youth Employment Initiative. In summer 2011, CYC provided documentation and technical assistance activities in New York, Los Angeles Detroit, Chicago, and Washington, DC, and will produce a report to the Trustees of the Walmart Foundation as well as a technical assistance guide and an RFP for the Walmart Foundation to use for future summer youth employment programs.

ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES

Janet Boguslaw (PI), Thomas Shapiro, Tatjana Meschede
“Navigating Economic Shocks: The Role of Savings and Assets in Family Mobility and Well-Being”
Funder: Pew Charitable Trusts
This project, a collaboration of the Pew Charitable Trusts’ Economic Mobility Project and the Charles Mott Stewart Foundation, will further advance our understanding of how savings, assets, and decision-making intersect to stabilize family well-being and stem downward mobility during times of family economic shock.

HEALTH

Jennifer Perloff (PI), Moaven Razavi, Cindy Thomas, John Chapman, Christopher Tompkins
“Medicare Health Plan Value Methodology”
Funder: Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
This project will develop an overall value score using beneficiary out-of-pocket costs, actuarial value, risk, quality and efficiency for Medicare Advantage Plans. The Brandeis team is partnering with Deloitte LLC for actuarial services.

PHILANTHROPY

Susan Curnan and Andrew Hahn (Co-PIs)
“Secretariat to the Corporate Coalition to End Hunger”
Funder: Walmart Foundation
The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy and the Center for Youth and Communities were chosen to be the secretariat to strategize with and coordinate the Corporate Coalition investments to end hunger. Their work is funded by the corporations in the Coalition to help bring strategic analysis, evaluation and organization to over $2 billion in philanthropic assistance directed at ending hunger in the U.S.
PRESENTATIONS

November 2011

AGING


ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH


Hodgkin, D. “Customization in Antidepressant Prescribing: Relationship to Treatment Duration and Cost.” Presented at International Health Economics Association 8th World Congress, Toronto, ON, July 2011.


Merrick, E., McCann, B., and Azzone, V. “Findings from a 5-Year Study on Pathways to Substance Abuse Treatment: Implications for EAPs.” Presented at Employee Assistance Professionals Association, Massachusetts/Rhode Island Chapter Symposium 2011, Waltham, MA, May 2011.
PRESENTATIONS (CONT.)

November 2011

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (CONT.)


- Presented at AcademyHealth, Seattle, WA, June 2011.
- Presented at Research Society on Alcoholism, Atlanta, GA, June 2011.


CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES


DISABILITIES


Parish, S.L. “Financial Well-being of Children and Adults with Disabilities in the United States.” Invited address for the International Conference on Disability Economics, sponsored by the University of Tokyo and the Burton Blatt Institute, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, June 2011.

Parish, S.L. “Problems with the US Disability Service System: Can Japan Learn from our Mistakes?” Invited presentation for the International Conference on Disability Economics, sponsored by the University of Tokyo and the Burton Blatt Institute, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, June 2011.


GLOBAL ECONOMICS


**HEALTH ECONOMICS**


**INTERNATIONAL HEALTH**


**LABOR ECONOMICS**


**MANAGEMENT**


Margie Lachman was interviewed by CBS Sunday Morning for its June 19, 2011 segment, “Men in the Middle: Facts and Fictions of the Male Midlife Crisis.” [Video](http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7370584n&tag=contentMain;contentBody)

**ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES**

Tatjana Meschede was quoted in a July 26, 2011 *Washington Post* story, entitled “Wealth gap widens between whites, minorities, report says.”

On July 26, 2011, Thomas Shapiro was a guest on MSNBC’s *Rachel Maddow Show*, discussing the effect of current public policy on America’s racial wealth gap.

Professor Shapiro discussed the long-term impact of the recession on the racial wealth gap on NPR’s “Morning Edition” on July 26.

Professor Shapiro and co-author Melvin Oliver discussed the widening of the racial wealth gap on *Minnesota Public Radio* on July 28.

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

The Institute for Behavioral Health co-sponsored (with Consumer Quality Initiatives) a stakeholder summit meeting on June 24, 2011, entitled “Health Reform and Behavioral Health Services in Massachusetts: Prospects for Enhancing Integration of Care.” The meeting included about 40 behavioral health providers, consumers, researchers and government officials. The meeting resulted in identification of key issues that must be taken into account as health reform implementation proceeds, to ensure that behavioral health consumers have accessible, integrated, high quality services.

**CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

On July 19, 2011, Susan P. Curnan traveled to the White House to consult with the Domestic Policy Council on the White House’s new urban strategy for six cities called *Strong Cities Strong Communities* (SC2). The Center for Youth and Communities has been invited to serve as the lead partner for the youth employment aspect of this national initiative.

**ENVIRONMENT**

A several-year effort to establish a population of a rare native butterfly and its wildflower host plants on the Brandeis campus gained ground this year, with Senior Lecturer Eric Olson leading the effort. Students in the MA program in Sustainable International Development will learn valuable lessons in conservation biology from this miniature food web restoration effort. *BrandeisNOW* covered the story in its August 15, 2011 article “Butterfly can’t leaf it alone, so biologist lends a hand.”

**INTERNATIONAL HEALTH**

Joan Kaufman was quoted in *The Economist’s* May 5, 2011 article, “The most surprising demographic crisis: A new census raises questions about the future of China’s one-child policy.”

In June 2011, A.K. Nandakumar participated in a major dissemination event in Egypt involving 150 individuals, including the Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Minister of Health and other key ministers, leading academics, heads of various institutions, political parties, media and civil society. Professor Nandakumar made a presentation at this event, reporting on the findings of the most recent National Health Accounts (NHA) report.

In July 2011, Professor Nandakumar participated in a meeting of the *Commission on Information and Accountability for Women’s and Children’s Health* in Geneva, Switzerland. He was the moderator for the Financial Tracking at the Country Level module of the meeting. This meeting discussed the work plan to translate the recommendations of the Commission into action and identify ways in which stakeholders can collaborate on these activities.

In August 2011, Professor Nandakumar went to Amman, Jordan to participate in meetings with the *High Health Council* directly under the Prime Minister’s Office and with representatives of the World Bank. These meetings were aimed at institutionalizing the use of NHA data for policy purposes.
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (CONT.)

LABOR ECONOMICS

Dean Lisa Lynch appeared on PBS NewsHour on June 3 (“Utterly Disappointing’ May Jobs Report: Why Aren’t Businesses Hiring?”) and August 5 (“Latest Jobs News Promising, But Markets Ask: What Will Revive Economy?”), providing background on the disappointing employment numbers for the US economy. These reports are published at the beginning of each month.

PUBLIC FINANCE

Robert Tannenwald and colleagues’ article, “Tax Flight is a Myth,” was cited by Robert Frank in his August 8, 2011 Wall Street Journal article, “High Taxes Don’t Drive Out the Rich, Study Says.”

Robert Tannenwald was interviewed by State Tax Notes co-editor Billy Hamilton for an article published in the August 21, 2011 edition, “Are State and Local Taxes Becoming Obsolete?”

SOCIAL POLICY


MANAGEMENT

Thomas McLaughlin was quoted several times in The Boston Globe’s ongoing series on the Merrimack Special Education Collaborative during July and August 2011.

Jasmine Waddell published an article, “SnoozeFeast – Read This if Insurance Bores You,” in the July 1, 2011 edition of the NonProfit Times (25[10], p. 18).
Over the summer Raj Sampath spent six weeks in Northern Ghana (Tamale region) visiting various public health and sustainable development projects in the rural villages, met with heads of NGOs in the region and fostered a relationship with the Center for Continuing Education and Interdisciplinary Research at the University for Development Studies. He was invited to be a Research Fellow at the Center where he will research development ethics and social-economic development projects.

Can Erbil was named a member of the International Advisory Committee, Bahcesehir University, Istanbul, Turkey, on August 1, 2011.

On July 1, 2011, Claudia Jacobs ’70 was elected to the board of Associated Grantmakers of Boston and asked to co-chair the program committee with Ellen Remmer, president of The Philanthropic Initiative.

Nina Kammerer received a grant to be a Visiting Investigator at the Institut Català de Recerca en Patrimoni Cultural (Catalan Institute for Cultural Heritage Research) in Girona, Catalonia, Spain from June to December 2011. This grant supports her anthropological research on Catalonia’s giant puppetry tradition, conducted with the collaboration of colleagues at the Institute. It is funded by the Government of Catalonia (Generalitat de Catalunya), under its Pacte Nacional de Recerca i Innovació (PNRI) (National Pact for Research and Innovation) and through l’Agència de Gestió d’Ajuts Universitaris i de Recerca (AGAUR) (Agency for University and Research Administration and Assistance).

Lawrence Neil Bailis has been elected Chair of the Board of the Massachusetts Service Alliance, the group that distributes AmeriCorps and Commonwealth Corps funds in Massachusetts.

Cathy Burack and Alan Melchior have been selected as the co-editors of the new International Journal of Research on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement, sponsored by the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement. The new peer-reviewed journal will cover “current information on theory, issues, and findings” in the rapidly-expanding research field of service learning/community engagement. The Journal will be published once a year for the first three years, beginning in the spring of 2012.

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Walter Leutz, PhD ’81, has been named a member of an Expert Panel to review drafts of an AHRQ White Paper on complex populations and the Primary Care Medical Home.

Laura Lorenz, PhD ’08, was named Co-Chair of the Disabilities Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) for 2011-2013.

In August 2011, Lisa Lynch was elected President of the Labor and Employment Relations Association. She will serve as President-Elect in 2012 and President in 2013.

Susan Parish has recently been appointed to a number of boards and committees, including the Editorial Board of the journal Research on Social Work Practice, the Board of Directors of the Arc of Massachusetts (formerly the Association for Retarded Citizens), the Board of Advocates for Jewish Family & Children’s Services of Greater Boston, the Research Advisory Board of Best Buddies International, and the Research and Innovations Advisory Committee of the Arc of the United States.

Over the summer Raj Sampath spent six weeks in Northern Ghana (Tamale region) visiting various public health and sustainable development projects in the rural villages, met with heads of NGOs in the region and fostered a relationship with the Center for Continuing Education and Interdisciplinary Research at the University for Development Studies. He was invited to be a Research Fellow at the Center where he will research development ethics and social-economic development projects.

Jasmine Waddell was elected to the Board of Trustees (the “Corporation”) of Brown University, her undergraduate alma mater.
Rachel Sayko Adams, PhD candidate, received two years of funding through a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award for an Individual Predoctoral Fellowship from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) at NIH to support her dissertation research, entitled “Examining Alcohol Use after Combat-Acquired Traumatic Brain Injury.”

In June, PhD student Cynthia Tschampl was awarded the Charles DeGraw National Tuberculosis Advocacy Award from the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association. This award recognizes an organization or individual who has made an outstanding effort or achievement in advocating for increased support and recognition of tuberculosis control and prevention efforts.

PRESENTATIONS


Tschampl, C. “Strategic Communication of Health Findings and Moving toward Infectious Disease Screening in the Primary Care Sector.” Presented at Special Brown Bag Seminar, sponsored by the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention, Atlanta, GA, August 2011.


PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Cady Landa was interviewed on Boston Neighborhood Network, a local cable television show, about her report, “Cultural Proficiency in Education: A Review of the Literature Focused on Teachers, School Leaders, and Schools,” on July 15, 2011.
The Alliance of State Prescription Monitoring Programs/Brandeis Prescription Monitoring Program Training and Technical Assistance Center (PMP TTAC) hosted a national meeting of state prescription monitoring program administrators and federal and state stakeholders, in June 2011 in Washington, DC. Director Gil Kerlikowske of the Office of National Drug Control Policy welcomed participants with an opening keynote speech.

The Alliance/Brandeis PMP TTAC also hosted a meeting of PMP administrators focused on interstate data sharing using architecture developed for the Prescription Monitoring Information Exchange (PMIX) Hub, in August 2011 in Washington, DC.

Can Erbil designed and led a week-long course in Turkey in May 2011, entitled “Conducting Business in Emerging Markets: Turkey.” The course was open to first-year International Business School students as well as Brandeis BA/MA students, and gave participants an intensive introduction to Turkey’s business and economy.

Dr. Erbil also supervised and co-taught an economics course at Harvard University over the summer, entitled “Introduction to Capital Markets and Investments.”

Heller’s Executive Leadership Program once again held its week-long Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management in June. Physician and surgeon leaders attended programs on U.S. health policy, health care economics, individual and group decision making, managing clinics and the care process, effective leadership styles, leading change in complex systems, conflict negotiation, and financial literacy for physician leaders. Instructors for the program included Heller faculty members Stuart Altman, Brenda Anderson, Executive Leadership Program director Jon Chilingerian, Jody Hoffer Gittell, Robert Mechanic, Jeffrey Pottas, and Christopher Tompkins, MMHS ’82, PhD ’91.

The Health Industry Forum’s May 2011 forum, Episode Payment: Private Innovation and Opportunities for Medicare, was designed to contribute to the efforts of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation. The meeting assessed private sector episode-payment initiatives that have been implemented and identified key lessons about the design and implementation of episode payment that can inform future program development. The group then synthesized key elements that the Innovation Center can consider in its efforts to explore episode-payment programs that are feasible, sustainable and scalable.

In July 2011, the Health Industry Forum held a forum entitled The Evolution of State Health Insurance Exchanges. This forum examined the Accountable Care Act of 2010 requirement that states establish health insurance exchanges as a central mechanism for extending coverage to the uninsured and expanding insurance choices for individuals and small businesses. The meeting examined the potential impact of exchanges on health insurance plans and discussed the approaches California, Maryland, and Vermont took in designing their exchange models. Finally, the forum discussed potential avenues for compromise between Democrats and Republicans and examined potential changes to the law that could improve stakeholders’ ability to implement health insurance exchanges more effectively.

From June 20 to July 14, 2011, the Heller School offered a summer institute for 9 mid-career Indian civil servants from TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) University of New Delhi. The TERI group studied health policy with Professor A.K. Nandakumar; AIDS policy and implementation with Joan Kaufman, Distinguished Scientist and Senior Lecturer; and conflict-management and mediation issues with Assistant Professor Theodore Johnson, who also served as the summer institute’s director.

In August, Susan Holcombe and Ravi Lakshmikanthan, MA ’99, visited the University for Development Studies (UDS) in northern Ghana to establish the basis for UDS participation in the online inter-university course (HS352f, Learning Across Borders: Aligning Policy and Practice with Development Goals and Values) and for other cooperation.

The Massachusetts Health Policy Forum held a forum on June 20, 2011, entitled “Stepping Towards a Single Payer: An Inside Look at Vermont.” The event featured a keynote presentation from Anya Rader Wallack, Ph.D. ’07, special assistant to the Vermont governor and an architect of Vermont’s groundbreaking health care reform plan. Closing remarks were provided by the Forum’s executive director, Michael Doonan, PhD ’02.

Team Consulting Project (TCP) presentations by students in the Heller MBA Program took place on August 25 and August 26, 2011. The Team Consulting Project is the culminating educational experience for students nearing completion of the MBA program. Working under the supervision of a Heller faculty adviser, teams of two to five students provide management consulting services to a mission-driven organization or business unit.

This year’s students conducted TCPs at the following organizations: American Mojo, Beth Israel Hospital, buildOn, FloDesign Wind Turbine, Groundwork USA, Oxfam America, Preserve, Smokey House Center, and SUPPORTbrokers.

Led by Professor Jody Hoffer Gittell, the Relational Coordination Research Collaborative (RCRC) was launched over the summer. RCRC, located within the Schneider Institutes for Health Policy, connects with practitioners and academics in an innovative, collaborative setting to develop and test new models of organizational change that lead to improved outcomes for organizations and their stakeholders. http://relationalcoordination.org/