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# THE GWIPP REPORT



THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON DC

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# Introducing GWIPP

Although it may seem strange to start this with an “introductory” message (GWIPP, after all, has been in existence for six years), this is, nonetheless our first newsletter, so an introductory message seems appropriate. Let me begin, therefore, by introducing the George Washington Institute of Public Policy (GWIPP) and its component parts, the Center for Washington Area Studies (CWAS) and the State and Local Fiscal Policy Research Program.

GWIPP’s formal mission is to serve as a focal point for public policy research at GW, facilitating and coordinating externally funded public policy research projects throughout the University. Our goals are to contribute, through research, to the understanding of a wide range of public policy issues and to inform public debate on these issues.

Our definition of public policy research is quite broad. We engage in both basic and applied public policy research (but not technical assistance), and our geographic scope of interest is similarly broad – national, state, and local policy issues, and even international. Since CWAS is a unit within GWIPP, we naturally have a special interest in research on Washington, DC and its region.

For GW faculty, this means we stand ready to assist them in finding funding sources for public policy research, preparing research proposals and budgets, and managing the administrative aspects of projects that are funded through GWIPP.

For external funding partners, this means that we are able to call upon the full range of University faculty and their skills to bring to bear upon a research project as well as the talents of GW’s graduate students who serve as research assistants.

Organizationally, GWIPP, as a unit that serves the entire University, reports directly to the Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs (Don Lehman) through the Chief Research Officer (Elliot Hirshman). And, although we are not formally a part of the School of Public Policy and Public Administration, we cooperate and coordinate quite closely with them as we do with the departments of Political Science, Economics, Sociology and other relevant units.

GWIPP’s core staff consists of a Director, an Associate Director, a Senior Research Associate, an Administrative Manager, and an Executive Aide. Our research “staff” consists of faculty throughout the University who are interested in pursuing interesting public policy research (either of their own design or that has been requested by clients), a set of GWIPP Research Professors, and highly competent GW graduate students who are engaged in public policy research as part of their graduate education.

This first newsletter introduces you to the GWIPP staff and its programs and activities. In future issues we will present more detailed information on some of the projects in which we are involved. I warmly invite you to get in touch with us with any questions or research ideas, and we particularly invite you to visit our website at [www.gwu.edu/~gwipp](http://www.gwu.edu/~gwipp).



Hal Wolman, Director

# What Can GWIPP Do For YOU?

**EXTERNAL FUNDING PARTNERS:** GWIPP can call upon the skills of the full range of University faculty, as well as the talents of GW's graduate students serving as research assistants, to carry out research projects. Many GWIPP researchers have extensive experience in the academic, government, and nonprofit areas, and are well-suited to bring the strengths of each area to each project. GWIPP researchers have published extensively in their fields of expertise. Students — who themselves may have notable experience in policy research — are eager to learn from their academic mentors and often bring a fresh perspective to research projects.

**GW FACULTY:** GWIPP provides a variety of useful resources for GW faculty interested in pursuing public policy research. We offer:

- “ The Policy Research Scholar program (for more detail see Page 8), which offers targeted assistance for faculty members pursuing policy research;
- “ Help with putting together research teams by identifying and recruiting other faculty with similar interests or skills useful to the project;
- “ Help with transforming an area of research interest into a viable research concept.
- “ Assistance in identifying potential external funding sources that may be interested in that research concept, many of whom already have a funding relationship with GWIPP;
- “ Help with constructing funding proposals, developing budgets, navigating the human subjects (IRB) process, and submitting the proposals;
- “ Help administering and managing grants once awarded.

**GW GRADUATE STUDENTS:** GWIPP hires many graduate students from across campus each year as research assistants on public policy research projects. Many employers look for graduates who have experience with funded or client-centered research. Students benefit from working closely with policy researchers on a wide range of current policy issues, learning firsthand how to design and implement research projects, and then conveying findings to a target audience. Some projects provide an opportunity to present research at conferences, submit articles for publication in academic journals, and can also provide useful background research for the student's own research interests, including dissertation work. Consult the GWIPP website ([www.gwu.edu/~gwipp](http://www.gwu.edu/~gwipp)) for more information about the type of projects in which GWIPP is engaged. Contact Garry Young ([YoungG@gwu.edu](mailto:YoungG@gwu.edu)) if you are interested in research assistant opportunities with GWIPP.

# Highlighting GWIPP Projects

## GWIPP & Lincoln: A Winning Combination

Prior to its demise in the mid-1990s, the US Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) published a widely used and acclaimed two volume annual report titled **Significant Features of Fiscal Federalism**. The report was largely a compilation and organization of data on federal, state, and local revenues and expenditures, the institutional structure through which these fiscal flows occurred, and important changes in them. **Significant Features** has been sorely missed by both researchers and practitioners. No other publication has taken its place but this will change in 2007.

With the support of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, GWIPP recently completed a one-year pilot project to explore the feasibility of a new annual publication, patterned after ACIR's **Significant Features** that would, at least partially, fill the void since it ceased publication. Lincoln has approved funding for the first year of the publication, and we have every indication that they will support annual updates.

The final product will be a hard-copy compendium of state-level data on a wide range of aspects of the property tax. Plans are being discussed to make data available online in a format that would allow users to search, sort, and download data. The contract provides funding to support three GWIPP research projects annually utilizing this data.

Data will be compiled to facilitate cross-state comparison while highlighting important nuances in individual states. Tables will address special districts, rates, rate and assessment limitations, the use of incentives, relief and special valuation, centrally assessed properties, the role of the state in local decision-making and implementation, and the processes of appeals, limitation overrides, requests for relief, and state oversight.

The Principal Investigators for this project are Michael Bell and David Brunori, both Research Professors at GWIPP. Other investigators include Patricia Atkins, Nancy Augustine, Joseph Cordes, Richard Green, and Hal Wolman.

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy is a nonprofit and tax-exempt educational institution founded in 1974 to improve the quality of public debate and decisions in the areas of land policy and land-related taxation (<http://www.lincolninst.edu>).

*With the support of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, GWIPP recently completed a one-year pilot project to explore the feasibility of a new annual publication, patterned after ACIR's*

*Our research provides a general caution about how urban or economic development public policies should be identified for emulation. Differences between perceptions about which cities successfully regenerated and the actual change in the economic well-being of their residents are worrisome...*

## Evaluating The Success Of Urban Success Stories: Is Reputation A Guide To Best Practice?

Funded with a grant from the Fannie Mae Foundation, Hal Wolman, the Director of GWIPP, Kimberly Furdell, a GWIPP graduate research assistant, and Ned Hill of Cleveland State University examined the extent to which distressed cities that have gained a reputation for effective revitalization have, in fact, actually performed well.

The project first identified a set of cities that were distressed in 1990 according to objective indicators (e.g., unemployment rate, poverty rate, per capita income). This list of cities was then sent to a set of “experts” – members of editorial advisory boards of the major urban journals and members of the executive board of major economic development professional associations. These experts were asked to select from among the list of 1990 distressed cities, those cities that had done the best job of revitalizing themselves by 2000. The cities that were seen as having successfully revitalized were, in order, Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Oakland, Atlanta, San Antonio, Baltimore, and Providence.

We next asked whether these cities had, in fact, been successful, at least in terms of indicators of the well-being of their residents. We did this by conducting a form of natural experiment. The 1990-2000 change in indicators of residential well-being for 1990 distressed cities that were perceived by our “experts” to have successfully revitalized was compared to the change in those indicators for 1990 distressed cities that were not perceived to have successfully revitalized.

While six of the eight most successful cities were above the mean for unsuccessful cities and the overall mean, two, Baltimore and Providence, were considerably below both. In addition, the overall rank order correlation coefficient between perceived success at revitalization and the index of improvement in resident economic well-being was only 0.15.

Our research provides a general caution about how urban or economic development public policies should be identified for emulation. Differences between perceptions about which cities successfully regenerated and the actual change in the economic well-being of their residents are worrisome. Policymakers incessantly search for “best practices” and perceptions are frequently used to identify places where one can learn about “what works” in economic development and other urban public policies. However, there is little formal evaluation of policy innovations or experiments. Therefore, identifying “best practices” is, by necessity, an exercise in informal polling. The reputations of practices in those places with positive reputations can snowball as observers become self-referential. This is how public policy fads get rolling. This leaves us with the question: Is urban policy innovation really an exercise in identifying best practices, or is it just falling for the best pitch, the best story? What becomes known as best practice may, in reality, be the manifestation of the best advertising and most effective programmatic or municipal spin doctoring. The danger is that falling for perception rather than reality can lead cities or states to adopt public policies that might not work, or look for ways policies have been implemented where the implementation may have failed.

## Some Ongoing Research Projects @ GWIPP

The following is a sampling of ongoing research projects at GWIPP. For a complete set of GWIPP research projects please see the GWIPP website <http://www.gwu.edu/~gwipp/research.htm>

**PROJECT:** Biking Politics and Policy in Three Washington-Area Counties

**INVESTIGATORS:** Garry Young and Royce Hanson

**FUNDER:** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Active Living Research

There is increasing evidence that the built environment of communities can inhibit or enhance activity levels among all age groups. A key aspect of the built environment is provision of facilities and opportunities for bicycling, which has long been recognized as an activity with important health benefits. Yet the quality of bicycling facilities varies dramatically from community to community as some communities have recently developed high quality bicycling assets while other communities demonstrate very little progress in this regard. The cause of this variance remains unstudied.

This project consists of comparative case studies of policy changes in three counties of Metropolitan Washington — Arlington (VA), Fairfax (VA), and Montgomery (MD) — that have resulted in significantly different levels of bicycling facilities in each county despite a common metropolitan environment and many shared characteristics among the three counties. The study will explain how significant differences in the county policies evolved, why different policy tools were chosen, and the consequences of those choices.

**PROJECT:** Corporate Citizenship and Urban Problem Solving: The Changing Civic Role of Business Leaders in American Cities

**INVESTIGATORS:** Royce Hanson, David Connolly and Katherine Pearson

**FUNDER:** The Brookings Institution

Historically, business leaders have played a major role in the building, rebuilding, and public policy of major American cities. However, recent urban literature has frequently asserted that there has been increasing disengagement of corporate leaders from civic efforts. In this study we identified and documented common patterns in the changes that have occurred in corporate citizenship and executive participation in civic affairs; analyzed factors that explain these changes in the structure, management, and organizational culture of firms; conducted two intensive case studies (Baltimore and Cleveland) that describe the responses of business leaders and their peak civic organizations to changes in membership, public leadership and agendas, and economic and social circumstances; and draw lessons that can be applied by business and political leaders seeking to establish and maintain public-private coalitions that are effective in resolving critical urban problems.

**PROJECT:** Foreign Capital Cities and Their Relationship to the National Government: What Washington, DC Can Learn

**INVESTIGATORS:** Hal Wolman and Garry Young

**FUNDER:** Trellis Fund

The District of Columbia, as the capital of the United States, is in a unique set of circumstances with respect to other American cities, but it is not unique in the world. All countries have capital cities and they face many of the same problems as does Washington, DC. The object of this study is to determine what can be learned from these other cities and their relationship to their national governments that is relevant to the circumstances of Washington, DC and that will better inform the debate about the issues related to Washington's role as a capital city.

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# Ongoing Research Projects

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**PROJECT:** The Ingredients for Successful and Vibrant Cities

**INVESTIGATORS:** Hal Wolman, Royce Hanson, Pamela Blumenthal, and Ned Hill (Cleveland State University)

**FUNDER:** CEOs for Cities

What are the ingredients that go into making a city successful? What public policy processes, investment strategies, and political actions are required to support the ingredients for city success? Affiliates of CEOs for Cities, a network of elected and appointed officials and business leaders in American cities, are being asked these questions to provide insight on the policies that help cities achieve success and help prioritize the allocation of political energy, capital, and financial resources to promote city renewal.

**PROJECT:** Weak Market Cities: Research for the Brookings Institution's "America's Core Cities" Project

**INVESTIGATORS:** Hal Wolman, Kimberly Furdell, Nancy Augustine, and Ned Hill (Cleveland State University)

**FUNDER:** The Brookings Institution

The object of this study is to better understand cities experiencing economic distress - cities Brookings calls "weak market cities". We will define "weak market cities"; develop methodologies for identifying and ranking cities along a number of indicators of performance; create a statistically-based typology for weak market cities; and explain differences among core cities in terms of their condition in 2000 and performance between 1990 and 2000.

**PROJECT:** What Difference Does Representation Make?

**INVESTIGATORS:** Garry Young and Hal Wolman

**FUNDER:** Trellis Fund

Viable representation in Congress is a key goal for many citizens of the District of Columbia. Yet, the debate over representation lacks some specifics. What will be the substantive effect of representation? How will the District's influence over Congress change and how will this change in influence alter public policies directly relevant to the District? These are questions the proposed project seeks to answer. In the project we will consider several different possible forms of District representation. We will then evaluate those forms in regard to their likely impact on policy benefits through legislation (passed or stopped) and fiscal allocation. We will also consider the impact of representation in other areas such as the congressional ombuds role, oversight of executive branch regulation, and the symbolic importance of representation.

**PROJECT:** Estimating Economic Impacts of Homeland Security Measures

**INVESTIGATORS:** Joe Cordes, Anthony Yezer (Economics), and Garry Young

**FUNDER:** Homeland Security Institute

Information on the economic impact of policies and programs undertaken to enhance homeland security is important in the future design and evaluation of measures undertaken to enhance homeland security. This project will: (a) provide a complete list of the types of countermeasures that have been or might be proposed to reduce either the risk or the consequences of terrorist attacks; (b) produce an in-depth survey of both the economic literature and federal government "best practices" and official guidelines for estimating the economic impacts these measures; and (c) apply one or more of the methods identified in 'b' to estimate the economic impact of an actual measure (or set of measures) that have been or might be implemented to reduce either the risks of, or the consequences of terrorist attacks.



# Staff Introduction

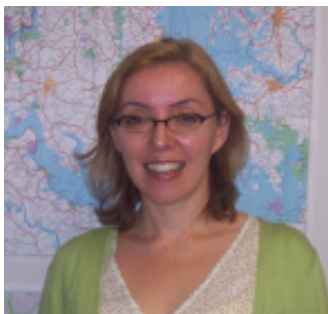
The George Washington Institute of Public Policy is comprised of five professional staff and a team of seven research professors as well as numerous graduate research assistants. For more details on GWIPP personnel go to [www.gwu.edu/~gwipp](http://www.gwu.edu/~gwipp).



**HAL WOLMAN** is Director of GWIPP as well as a Professor in the Department of Political Science, School of Public Policy and Public Administration, and the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University. As Director of GWIPP he oversees all operations of the Institute, assembles research teams to pursue funding and research activities, and produces his own research. His research interests include urban and metropolitan policy and politics, local and regional economic development, state and local fiscal policy, and comparative urban policy and politics. His current projects include research on the effect of state government policies on urban performance; understanding the causes of "weak market" cities; examining the relationship of foreign capital cities to their national governments for lessons for Washington, D.C.; and evaluating the use of "best practice" in UK local government. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Michigan and a Master's in Urban Planning from M.I.T.



**GARRY YOUNG** is Associate Director of GWIPP, Interim Director of the Center for Washington Area Studies, and an Associate Research Professor in Political Science at George Washington University. As Associate Director of GWIPP he oversees the Policy Research Scholars program, assists GWIPP research affiliates in identifying funding options, coordinates GWIPP's workshops and seminars, and conducts his own research. Most of his research centers on representative institutions such as legislatures, but extends to a variety of policy areas including education and active living. His current projects include an analysis of how its lack of representation in Congress affects the District of Columbia's ability to influence congressional policy outcomes (*Trellis Fund*) and a study of how and why three Washington-area counties provide assets for bicycling (*Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*). He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Rice University in 1994.



**NANCY Y. AUGUSTINE** is a Senior Research Associate with GWIPP and an Instructor in the School of Public Policy and Public Administration. Her research focuses on urban policy and intergovernmental issues. Dr. Augustine contributes to many of the ongoing research projects funded through GWIPP, including studies of weak market cities, the impact of state policies on urban performance, and state property tax programs. She received a Master of Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia in 1990, a Master of Arts in Economics

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## GWIPP Staff

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from Georgetown University in 2000, and a Ph.D. in Public Policy (Urban Policy concentration) from The George Washington University in 2006.

**KIMBERLY RYCROFT** is the Manager of Fiscal Affairs and Research Services for GWIPP. She assists researchers in preparing proposals for external funding, particularly on matters relating to project budgets and also manages proposal submissions through GW's internal routing process. Once funded, she handles all aspects of project administration such as facilitating the award set-up process, interacting with GW's research offices, facilitating human subject's review, personnel appointments and all other budget related matters. In addition to her sponsored research responsibilities, she handles all budget matters and personnel administration for GWIPP's non-sponsored projects and activities.



**OLIVE COX** is an Executive Aide with GWIPP. Her main responsibilities include payment requests, processing travel reimbursements and the production and maintenance of the web pages for the Institute. She also provides administrative support and manages the websites for the Center for Washington Area Studies and Center for State and Local Fiscal Policy. She is a graduate of George Washington University's School of Business and Public Management. She is currently pursuing

## Policy Research Scholar Program

The Policy Research Scholar program is a critical part of GWIPP's effort to encourage and facilitate public policy research at George Washington University. In an annual competition GW faculty submit proposals for policy-based research they hope to develop. Those selected are given the title of Policy Research Scholar and serve in that capacity for a one year period. Each Scholar is required to develop their project during the year and submit a proposal for external funding. GWIPP provides each Scholar with a variety of resources. These include \$8,000 for summer stipend or course releases. Additionally the GWIPP staff help the Scholars identify potential funding sources, develop proposals, construct budgets, navigate the human subjects review process, submit proposals, and administer the grants once funded.

The nine Policy Research Scholars who commence their term in Fall 2006 constitute the fifth cohort of Policy Research Scholars. Scholars have come from many departments within the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and from all the campus Schools, Medicine excepted. They have worked on a wide range of policy-related projects, producing an exceptional body of research. By the Summer of 2006 Policy Research Scholars had received over \$1.3 million in external funding with nearly \$1.4 million in proposals outstanding.

For more information about GWIPP's Policy Research Scholar program consult the GWIPP website ([www.gwu.edu/~gwipp](http://www.gwu.edu/~gwipp)) or contact Garry Young at [YoungG@gwu.edu](mailto:YoungG@gwu.edu) or 202-994-6494.

# Meet the Research Faculty



**PATRICIA ATKINS** is an Associate Research Professor with GWIPP. Dr. Atkins's study of and involvement with regional governance systems spans her career, beginning in 1969 with a regional think tank in the Detroit metropolitan area. Her more than three decades experience parallels the growth of regional governance organizations in the United States. She has cultivated a role as a boundary-crosser, moving between academia where she taught at the University of Baltimore in fields of government, media, politics, and urban affairs; and the practitioner arena, including work at the National Association of Regional Councils and the Prince George's County Budget Office. She has conducted extensive research on regional councils, regional governance networks, urban growth patterns, and various policies for governmental cooperation, an co-edited *The Regionalist*.



**MICHAEL BELL** is a Research Professor with GWIPP. Dr. Bell's background is in public finance, with a specific focus on state and local finances and intergovernmental relations. He has recently been involved in projects to strengthen the capacity of local self-government in newly emerging democracies through in-country workshops, internships, study tours, expert missions and research projects. Recent projects in South Africa have focused on strengthening local democratic governance by encouraging greater citizen participation and strengthening local property tax administration.



**DAVID BRUNORI** is a Research Professor with GWIPP specializing in tax and government issues. He is Contributing Editor of *State Tax Notes* magazine and the author of "*The Politics of State Taxation*," a weekly column focusing on state tax and budget politics. He also writes a regular column on state and local taxes for *Governing* magazine. His book, *State Tax Policy: a Political Perspective* won the 2001 Choice Award for the best public finance book. His latest work, *Local Tax Policy: A Federalist Perspective* has recently been published by the Urban Institute Press.



**JO ANNE SCHNEIDER** is an Associate Research Professor with GWIPP. Dr. Schneider is an urban anthropologist specializing in the dynamic among communities, individuals, and institutions (government, nonprofits, faith communities) in opportunity structures for marginalized populations, intergroup relations and social welfare policy creation and implementation. Much of her recent work examines the connection between social capital and social welfare at the local level. She recently published *Social Capital and Welfare Reform: Government, Non-profits, Churches and Community* in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin with Columbia University Press.



**CLARENCE STONE** is a Research Professor with GWIPP. Dr. Stone is the author or co-author of three award-winning books, the most recent of which is *Building Civic Capacity: The Politics of Reforming Urban Schools*. His current research interests include the politics surrounding human-capital policies. Through a recently awarded a Fulbright Alumni grant, Stone is also working with a small team of North Americans and Europeans on developing a curriculum for comparative local politics.



**MICHAEL WISEMAN** is a Research Professor of GWIPP. An economist Dr. Wiseman specializes in social welfare economic policy. His latest book — *The Welfare We Want: The British Challenge for American Reform* (co-edited with Robert Walker) was published by Policy Press in May 2003.

## GWIPP's External Advisory Committee

A newly formed External Advisory Committee will advise GWIPP on how to connect the research capabilities of GWIPP with policy issues for which careful policy research and evaluation could effectively inform the policy process. The External Advisory Committee will also advise GWIPP on dissemination of the results of its research.

The members of the Executive Advisory Committee represent a wide range of policy interests and perspectives. They reflect not only GWIPP's broad policy concerns and its particular focus on urban policy and state and local fiscal policy, but also policy issues relevant to the Washington, DC area and the Center for Washington Area Studies.

Members of the External Advisory Committee are:

**Don Borut**, Executive Director, National League of Cities

**Alan Ehrenhalt**, Executive Editor, Governing Magazine

**Julia Friedman**, Deputy Chief Finance Officer, Washington, D.C.

**Jeff Henig**, Professor of Political Science and Education, Columbia University Teachers College

**William Hudnut**, Joseph C. Canizaro Chair for Public Policy, Urban Land Institute

**John Kingdon**, Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan

**Faith Mitchell**, Senior Program Officer, National Academies of Science

**James Robinson**, Director, Center for Excellence in Public Leadership, GWU

**David Robertson**, Executive Director, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

**Bob Schwab**, Associate Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Maryland

**Margery Turner**, Director, Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center, The Urban Institute

**Chris Van Hollen**, Member, U.S. House of Representatives

## GWIPP's Steering Committee

The GWIPP Steering Committee provides advice to the Institute on its programs and policies. Members, who are all University faculty, serve for three-year renewable terms. Current Steering Committee members are:

**Joseph J. Cordes**, School of Public Policy and Public Administration

**Richard Green**, Graduate School of Business

**Jack Harrald**, School of Engineering and Applied Science

**Philip Joyce**, School of Public Policy and Public Administration

**Charis Kubrin**, Department of Sociology

**Yas A. Nakib**, Education Policy, Graduate School of Education and Human Development

**Kathy Newcomer**, School of Public Policy and Public Administration

**Donald Parsons**, Department of Economics

**Peter Raven-Hanson**, GWU School of Law

**Sara Rosenbaum**, Department of Health Policy, School of Public Health and Health Services

**Robert Stoker**, Political Science Department

**Nicholas Vonortas**, Center for International Science & Technology Policy, Elliott School of International Affairs

# SPOTLIGHT: Hal Wolman

- by Sloane Kuney



Prior to becoming Director of GWIPP in 2000, urban policy expert Hal Wolman's varied career took him from academia to public service to think tank research, and back and forth between the U.S. and Britain, beginning with his research on housing and community development policy while

a graduate student at the University of Michigan. His dissertation, assessing the responsiveness of federal-level policy elites in this particular policy arena to public opinion, led him to an academic appointment at the University of Pennsylvania. After leaving Penn, Dr. Wolman came to Washington to work for the National Urban Coalition, heading up the "counter-budget" project, which examined how the federal government could restructure spending to attend to domestic needs while remaining militarily responsible, concerns raised by the Coalition towards the end of the Vietnam War.

Dr. Wolman began his career in public service as a legislative aide to Adlai Stevenson, Jr., the Senator from Wolman's home state of Illinois. Recalling his first interview with the Senator and his staff, Wolman mentions being grilled by a senior aide to the Senator on his first published piece, "Growing up with Baseball in Chicago," which ran in the Chicago Daily News Magazine in 1966. The aide, trying to pin him down on the traditional distance and cultural division between upstate and downstate Illinois, suggested he could only have the job if he could name the St. Louis Browns' second baseman from the year they left for Baltimore. (He did and got the job.) Wolman continued working on the Hill for quite some time, as the Staff Director for the House Subcommittee on the City, and eventually moving to the executive branch, serving as Director of Research for the White House conference on Balanced Growth and Economic Development.

Following his extensive public service, Wolman returned to more research-oriented work, as a Senior Research Associate at the Urban Institute,

doing research in both the U.S. and Britain on housing policy. After returning from two projects in Britain in the early 1980s, Wolman returned again to academia, teaching at Wayne State University in Detroit and at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County before coming to GWU in 2000 to teach in the Department of Political Science and serve as Director of GWIPP.

Although Dr. Wolman oversees all of the projects going on at GWIPP, and is directly involved in many of them, the GWIPP project he's most excited about now is the research being done for the Fannie Mae Foundation, which looks at determinants of urban performance. Project researchers used a model to predict urban performance, controlling for a variety of factors, and then examined cities and clusters of cities that performed markedly worse or markedly better than the model would expect, attempting to tease out the public policies at the state and local level that might be causing the performance anomaly.

Additionally, Dr. Wolman cites current research funded by the Brookings Institution on weak market cities, and GWIPP's new working group on public finance and state and local fiscal policy as particularly interesting work. As Director of the Institute, Wolman suggests that while his job is to generate new knowledge through funded research, one of his goals is to bridge the gap between applied and disciplinary research, suggesting that this is part of what distinguishes GWIPP from Brookings, the Urban Institute, Mathematica Policy Research, and other think tanks. When asked about his words of wisdom for the graduate students he supervises at GWIPP, in the School of Public Policy and Public Administration, and the Department of Political Science, Wolman says he would remind them that he sees research as an important social enterprise, an insight he seems to have gained from his distinguished and varied career in academic research, applied policy research, and public service.

--Sloane Kuney received her B.A. from the University of Virginia and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at The George Washington University

# Worth Mentioning

## Wolman Named Senior Fellow

The Brookings Institution recently appointed GWIPP Director, **Hal Wolman**, as a non-resident Senior Research Fellow. Congratulations to Hal.

## GWIPP Bids Farewell to Two Research Professors

The staff at GWIPP wish a fond farewell to two of our Research Professors, **Bob Ebel** and **Royce Hanson**. While the University and GWIPP are losing two terrific scholars, the Washington-area is gaining two fine public-servants.

Bob is leaving to become the Deputy Chief Financial Officer for Revenue Analysis. Royce (who was also the Director of the Center for Washington Area Studies) recently began his tenure as Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board.

## Stone gets Rockefeller Grant

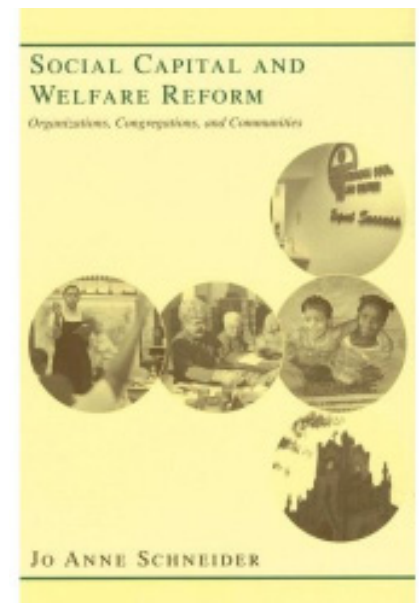
GWIPP Research Professor **Clarence Stone** recently received a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to fund a conference to be held in Bellagio, Italy in November 2006. The conference will kick off a major research project on comparative local governments. More specifically, conference participants will help design a cross-national study of efforts to transform poor urban neighborhoods.

## Schneider Publishes Book

Congratulations to GWIPP Research Professor **Jo Anne Schneider** for her recently published book **Social Capital and Welfare Reform**.

## GWIPP Listserv

GWIPP sponsors policy related seminars and workshops, including the Public Policy Research Methods Workshops, throughout the academic year. These workshops are intended to introduce faculty and graduate students to research methods relevant for public policy research. GWIPP also co-sponsors events with other academic units throughout the university. If you would like to be notified of upcoming GWIPP events, please sign up for the GWIPP listserv by sending an email to Garry Young at [YoungG@gwu.edu](mailto:YoungG@gwu.edu).



# Research Affiliates

Research affiliates are those faculty who have or have had a relationship with GWIPP, either as a Policy Research Scholar or as someone who has brought external funding through GWIPP.

**Steven J. Balla**

Associate Professor of Political Science, School of Public Policy and Public Administration, and International Affairs

**Dylan Conger**

Assistant Professor, School of Public Policy and Public Administration

**Joseph J. Cordes**

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