THE IMPACT OF BUSH SCHOOL RESEARCH

The ability of research to generate ideas that help solve challenging public policy problems is well known. Since the Bush School’s founding in 1997, the faculty have been engaged in studies that have directly benefited the state, nation, and world, while at the same time educating future leaders. The Bush School has been instrumental in supporting—and indeed establishing—research institutes that study and affect significant public policy and public administration issues. The faculty’s research mission is both an individual and collective agenda, and in many instances, actively involves students.

“Our faculty members publish the results of their scholarship in prestigious journals in the field and present their works at major conferences across the nation,” said Acting Dean Andrew Card. “Their research also is an integral part of the academic curriculum, ensuring that our students understand the value of public policy research as they begin their public service careers. Equally important, the research of our faculty and students often has a direct impact on public policy solutions.”

In addition to their diverse individual research projects, faculty at the Bush School also are actively engaged in collaborative and interdisciplinary research projects, often under the auspices of the School’s research institutes: the Institute for Science, Technology, and Public Policy (ISTPP), the Mosbacher Institute for Trade, Economics, and Public Policy, and the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs. Each institute has a clearly defined mission which provides the direction for research projects. ISTPP focuses on interdisciplinary research in selected areas of science, technology, and policy analysis and shares the results with decision makers at all levels of government. Cognizant of the new world of global markets and diffuse political and economic power, the Mosbacher Institute brings together stakeholders from both the public and private sectors to design policy solutions for the most pressing national and world economic challenges. The Scowcroft Institute supports and disseminates research on international affairs; supports faculty and student research projects, including grants to researchers from outside the Bush School to use the holdings of the Bush Presidential Library; and hosts international speakers and major scholarly conferences.

The capstone research projects are another important element of the Bush School’s research agenda. These are team-based, applied research projects led by a faculty member and conducted on behalf of a client agency or organization. Required for each Bush School student, the capstone projects encourage independent thinking, careful issue analysis, and the application of academic knowledge and skills to a real-world problem.

One example of the impact of capstone projects can be seen in research Bush School Master of Public Service and Administration (MPSA) students did for the Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments (H-GAC). Completed in May 2012, the students’ study and final report outlined the needs and policy options for affordable housing in vulnerable areas of Houston-Galveston, i.e., areas that are subject to poverty, crime, racial stress, low-quality education, natural disaster, and other societal and/or environmental problems. The effort was so outstanding that when the H-GAC requested proposals to develop a fair housing plan, the capstone report was listed as source material for organizations submitting a proposal. Given that the area under study consists of 113 cities, 13 counties, and 6 million people, the fact that the Bush School team produced such a comprehensive and useful report is a testament not only to the quality work of the students and their faculty advisor, but to the value of the capstone process to broad public policy issues.

Many Bush School research projects involve departments and research institutes from across the A&M System, such as the cooperative effort between the Institute for Science, Technology, and Public Policy (ISTPP), the Texas A&M Engineering, the Texas A&M University-Commerce, and the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The capstone projects have benefited the state, nation, and world, while at the same time educating future leaders. The Bush School has been instrumental in supporting—and indeed establishing—research institutes that study and affect significant public policy and public administration issues. The faculty’s research mission is both an individual and collective agenda, and in many instances, actively involves students.
DEAN'S MESSAGE

This coming academic year holds great promise for the Bush School. Once again, we welcome a new class of outstanding students, eager and ready to follow our distinguished faculty on their journey toward careers in public service. I'm happy to report that our enrollment is up and that our students are diverse groups, coming to us from across the United States and the world.

Among the many things that have impressed me since my arrival is the School's ever-increasing impact—whether it's research that affects public policy, graduates who take their academic knowledge and experiences to a public or private organization, or student interns working in government or nonprofit agencies. In each instance, our faculty and students demonstrate the high quality of our academic programs and the rich educational experience the School provides.

In yet another important recognition of the Bush School's academic and research excellence, the School was recently voted into full membership of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSA). This is a testament to the impact our faculty and graduates are having in the policy arena. The Bush School joins professional schools at Columbia University, Duke University, Harvard University, and Johns Hopkins University, as well as members schools from other nations.

This issue of our newsletter provides an overview of one of the School's unique and important research efforts, the capstone projects. These integrative, team-based, applied research projects, required of all students and led by a faculty member on behalf of a client agency, require students to think independently, frame and analyze issues, and apply their academic knowledge and skills. I encourage you to look over the list of capstones to see the range of issues the capstone projects address and the effect this work is having in the real world.

I'm also very impressed with the way the School has become an active participant in community affairs. For example, this past year, Bush School students committed to raise $40,000 to construct a Habitat for Humanity home in the local community and will participate in the actual construction. Our students are making a difference in our local community, as they will later in life.

We appreciate your interest in the Bush School, as we continue to educate principled leaders who will make a significant difference in our future.
BUSH SCHOOL HOSTS DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

One of the many benefits students have at the Bush School is the opportunity to hear from and interact with distinguished speakers from across the nation and the world. Thanks to support from the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs; the Dean’s Leadership Program; the Moshosker Institute for Trade, Economics and Public Policy; the prestigious Lemore and Francis Humphrys International Speakers Program; and the connection to the Bush Presidential Library, students can engage regularly with speakers who are on the Bush School campus. Many speakers meet with classes or groups of Bush School students in addition to making their public presentations, which are open to the general public.

This year’s speakers included leaders from the public and private sectors and experts in a range of public policy issues. They included political officials such as Nancy Pelosi, former Speaker of the House of Representatives; Janet Napolitano, current secretary of homeland security; Joshua Bolten, former chief of staff for President George W. Bush; as well as Stan Richards, CEO of The Richards Group, one of the leading advertising and branding agencies in the country. Political consultants and pundits Mary Matalin and James Carville also visited the campus, as did Coler Black, a leading counter-terrorism expert, and George Rupp, president and CEO of the International Rescue Committee.

“The opportunity for our students to have personal contact with established leaders is an important element of their education,” said Sam Kirkpatrick, executive associate dean of the Bush School. “They are able to ask pertinent questions about individual leadership journeys and the values that undergird their personal philosophy.”

Bush School students have begun work on a Habitat for Humanity house that will honor George, 41st President of the United States, and Barbara Bush’s lifetime of public service. The project was initiated by students—with the strong support of Dean Card—as a way to showcase the Bushes’ commitment to helping others. The Bush School house will be one of the first homes in the Faith subdivision—off Martin Luther King Drive in Bryan—which will contain twenty-four new energy efficient homes. Since its founding in 1989, Bryan-College Station’s Habitat for Humanity has built 209 homes providing housing to more than 1,000 people, with only a 2 percent foreclosure rate, making this Habitat program one of the most productive affiliates in the nation. Many Bush School students are regular volunteers at Habitat construction sites and several are interning or work in the nonprofit’s office.

Depending on the weather, construction of a Habitat home usually takes three months from groundbreaking to dedication, and the Bush School students are hoping this house can be completed within one semester. In addition to the volunteers, the future homeowners put in 500 hours of sweat equity by helping with construction and attending classes that teach home repair, personal finances, and other skills. When the house is dedicated, the family members receive keys to their new home, they are welcomed by members of the city council and other community leaders, as well as by the volunteers who have contributed time and energy to build the house.

Fundraising for the project began in April, with the hope that the necessary funds of $40,000 will be raised in time for a groundbreaking ceremony in October. “Our fundraising team is led by eight current Bush School students,” said Bush School student Travis Stalcup. The Bush School has established a fundraising committee to engage donors and liaise with all those interested in the project: students, faculty, and alumni, as well as staff and friends of the Bush School and the Presidential Library.

Second-year student Calen Caple noted that financial contributions are welcome from those not connected to the Bush School. “We invite any member of the Texas A&M community who would like to honor the former president to donate to the project by sending a check to Habitat for Humanity and citing ‘Bush School’ in the memo,” Caple said.

While President Bush is not yet aware of the project, the students hope that when he does learn about it, he will see his legacy in action—students from his school working in the community to better the lives of a local family. “Because President Bush has done so much for this school, we felt that this project was the most appropriate way to thank him,” she added. “We hope he will be able to attend the groundbreaking ceremony and later, the dedication,” Caple said. “And though all friends and alumni of the School can participate, this project is an opportunity for our classes of 2012-2014 to leave our own legacy at the School, and hopefully inspire future classes to take on major projects while students as well.”

“The project was initiated by students—with the strong support of Dean Card—as a way to showcase the Bushes’ commitment to helping others.”

“‘This project is the most appropriate way to thank him,’” Caple said. “‘And though all friends and alumni of the School can participate, this project is an opportunity for our classes of 2012-2014 to leave our own legacy at the School, and hopefully inspire future classes to take on major projects while students as well.’”

—CALEN CAPLE, SECOND-YEAR STUDENT
THE BUSH SCHOOL RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS FOR 2011-2012

BOOKS


BOOK CHAPTERS


JOURNAL ARTICLES


Journal articles continued


2011-2012 CAPSTONE PROJECTS

Again this year, Bush School Master’s Program in International Affairs (MPIA) and Master of Public Service and Administration (MPSA) students have participated in capstone projects—team-based research projects in which students study problems facing organizations or agencies. “The range of issues studied by the students as well as the variety of clients indicates that our students are addressing real-world situations and providing important solutions,” said Acting Dean Andrew Card. “Our students gain important experience, and it’s clear that the clients recognize the skill and dedication they bring to the projects,” he added.

MPIA

The Arctic Challenge
CLIENT: PALOMA ENERGY, HOUSTON, TEXAS
PROFESSOR: GABRIELA MARIN THORNTON
ADVISOR: AMBASSADOR ROMAN POPADIUK

Assessing American Strategic Trade Regimes
CLIENT: CENTRA TECHNOLOGY
PROFESSOR: JEFFREY ENGM

China Goes Global: Environmental Challenges and Policies
CLIENT: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, BEIJING OFFICE
PROFESSOR: REN MU

Core Liabilities and Accelerants of Terrorism: A Case Study of Germany, Denmark, and France
CLIENT: NATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM CENTER
PROFESSOR: RICHARD MAC NAMEE

Evaluation of Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (IRTPA) Mandated CIA Joint Duty Program
CLIENT: CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
PROFESSOR: RON SEIVERT

Leading Practices in Government Resourcing Decisions in Tight Economies
CLIENT: ACCENTURE
PROFESSOR: KISHORE GAWANDE

What to Cut and How to Cut? Historical Lessons from Past Reductions in the Intelligence Community
CLIENT: THE RAND CORPORATION’S INTELLIGENCE POLICY CENTER
PROFESSOR: JASEN CASTILLO

MPSA

Analyzing Affordable Housing in the Houston-Galveston Area
CLIENT: HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
PROFESSOR: ARNOLD VEDLITZ

Benefit Analysis of Increasing Children’s Access to Preventative Dental Care in Texas
CLIENT: UNITED WAYS OF TEXAS
PROFESSOR: LORI TAYLOR

Defining and Measuring Homeland Security Preparedness
CLIENT: CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE
PROFESSOR: SHARON CAUDLE

Evaluating the Brazos Valley “Bank On” Program
CLIENT: CITY OF BRYAN
PROFESSOR: EDWINA DORCH

Revision, Development, and Implementation of Agency Evaluation Plan
CLIENT: AVONDALE HOUSE
PROFESSOR: ANGELA BIES

Texas Engineering Extension Service Development Initiatives: Best Practices and Policy Implications
CLIENT: TEXAS ENGINEERING EXTENSION SERVICE
PROFESSOR: ANN BOWMAN


Capstone Team, “China Goes Global: Environmental Challenges and Policies”
Layne Named Bush School’s First Distinguished Professor

Dr. Christopher Layne, the Robert M. Gates Chair in Intelligence and National Security, has been named a Distinguished Professor by Texas A&M University. Layne is one of four others who join a select group of sixty-four current faculty members who hold the prestigious designation. He was selected for being in the top 2 percent of active researchers in his field, as determined by his peers in academic institutions throughout the world.

Layne’s primary fields of interest are international relations theory, great power politics, US foreign policy, and grand strategy. Professor Layne has written two books: The Peace of Illusions: American Grand Strategy from 1940 to the Present (Cornell University Press, 2006), and (with Bradley A. Thayer) American Empire: A Debate (Routledge, 2006). His current book project, After the Fall: International Politics, US Grand Strategy, and the End of the Pax Americana, is under contract with Yale University Press. He has published widely in leading peer-reviewed journals, including International Security, Security Studies, and International Studies Quarterly. He has also published in leading policy publications, including the National Interest, Foreign Policy, the Atlantic, the Financial Times, and the New York Times. He was recently selected by the J. William Fulbright Fellowship Board, the US Department of State’s Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs (ECA), and the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) for an assignment to the University of Melbourne, Australia. The Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP) promotes linkages between US academics and professionals and their counterparts at host institutions overseas.

The University’s distinguished professors represent the highest level of faculty achievement, having a lasting impact on their fields of study, and enhance the scholarly reputation of the University and their colleges and departments. Each has been recognized as being a pre-eminent world authority in his or her field and has made a major impact that is widely recognized to have redirected scholarship in that field.

Bush School Students Study in Canada, China

International study is an important part of the Bush School’s commitment to providing students with a full range of educational experiences. The School sponsors intersession international field seminars, as well as semester study abroad opportunities.

This past academic year, two groups of Bush School students, along with faculty advisors, studied in Canada and China. These trips integrate the students’ classroom learning with site visits in the host country, meetings with government and other leaders, and a richer understanding of the country’s culture.

Led by Dr. Chuck Hermann, Ambassador Larry Napper, and Dr. Lorraine Eden, seventeen students traveled to Canada in March. Prior to the trip, each student researched a topic that was presented in pre-trip briefings to colleagues and from which students could create questions to be asked of the various officials they met during the trip. Topics included the Keystone Pipeline, the Beyond the Border initiative, the joint Canadian-American forces in Afghanistan, and the issue of sovereignty of the Northwest Passage.

“The men and women with whom we spoke were impressed with our breadth of knowledge on the topics and our desire to understand US-Canada relations,” said second-year Bush student Courtney Burge. “It was a great opportunity to see how a close friend and ally views its relations with the United States,” she added. The ten students who went to Canada in late May had an equally positive experience. Led by Dr. Ren Mu, the students spent time in Beijing and Shanghai. In Beijing, the students heard from faculty at the China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) on topics ranging from Chinese foreign policy and US-China relations during the time of Chairman Mao to current economic and trade relations, economic reform in China, the country’s opening-up policy, and the new era of US-China relations.

In Shanghai, the students visited the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS), a comprehensive research organization for studies of international politics, economy, security strategy, and China’s external relations. They heard from several SIIS faculty members on Chinese foreign policy, international policy and global governance, and another perspective on US-China relations.

The students also had time to tour both cities, visiting the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, and the Forbidden City in Beijing, as well as the American Embassy. In Shanghai, they spent time at the Urban Planning Exhibition Center, the Yu Garden, an energy saving center, and the Jinshan district, Shanghai’s largest district, considered to be its economic center.

“The China trip was a great opportunity to obtain a firsthand look at different Chinese agencies and organizations and to learn about the US-China relationship from the perspective of Chinese students and professors.” noted second-year student Drew Graham.

Scowcroft Institute Hosts Army Fellows

Each year the Scowcroft Institute for International Affairs (SIIA) hosts Army Fellows for a year’s academic study as part of the United States Army War College’s Senior Service College Fellowship Program. The Scowcroft Institute hosts the Fellows with the goal of promoting cooperative academic exchanges between selected United States Army officers and civilian educational and teaching facilities.

The Bush School Army Fellows for 2012-2013 are Lt. Col. Timothy D. Luedecking, Lt. Col. Kevin McMahon, and Lt. Col. Andrew Preston. While in residence at the Scowcroft Institute, Army Fellows complete a major research project on a topic of strategic relevance to the Army and the Institute, and engage with other Bush School students.

On August 29, the three Fellows gave a joint presentation entitled “United States Army Fellows at Texas A&M: Enhancing the Academic Experience through Partnership and Engagement.” The presentation described how the Fellows program fits into the overall educational experience at the Bush School as well as how it affects the individual experiences of Fellows in the Army. Cumulatively the three Fellows have some sixty-five years of military experience. Lieutenant Colonel Preston noted that each Fellow brings his own individual background to his studies and to his career. Lieutenant Colonel Luedecking said that one of their purposes while at the Bush School is to “educate the students on what the Army is, what it does, and why we do what we do. It’s also an opportunity to tell the Army story to the surrounding community.” Lieutenant Colonel McMahon added that another purpose for their time at the Bush School is educating Bush School students on how to work with military personnel they will meet and interact with during their public service careers.

Ambassador Larry Napper, director of the SIIA, noted that having the Army Fellows on campus for a full academic year is important to the Fellows and to the Bush School students with whom they study. “Each learns from the other,” said Napper, “and it broadens their horizons. Our students gain a more complete understanding of the challenges of a military career, and the Fellows see the energy and commitment of our students to public service. It’s definitely a win-win situation,” he concluded.

Canada Study Abroad Group, Spring 2012

China Study Abroad Group, May 2012
NEW FACULTY MEMBERS JOIN THE BUSH SCHOOL

The Bush School has added five new faculty members this fall, once again expanding the School’s academic and research expertise. Acting Dean Andrew Card noted that the School continues to actively recruit faculty for both the Master’s Program in International Affairs (MPIA) and the Master of Public Service and Administration (MPSA).

“We are very fortunate to be able to attract such noted scholars as the fire who are joining the School this fall,” Card said. “I anticipate that our faculty will continue to grow, as enrollment increases and we expand our research activities into new areas of international affairs and public policy.”

Khalidoun AbouAssi

Khalidoun AbouAssi earned his PhD in public administration at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University, where he also was a research associate at the Campbell Public Affairs Institute. He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in public administration from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. He is an assistant professor affiliated with the MPSA program and will also offer seminars relevant to MPSA students.

AbouAssi’s research interests include nonprofit theory and management, inter-organizational relations, development theory and management, governance, and civil society’s impact on public policies. He has published extensively on NGOs and international development issues, including donor support for NGOs: some of the publications are based on his professional experiences in Lebanon. He also has considerable experience in training civil servants and NGO executives on citizen participation, fund development, volunteerism, and collaboration.

Laura Dague

Laura Dague joins the Bush School as an assistant professor in the MPSA program. Dr. Dague received a PhD in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her doctoral fields of study were public economics and labor economics. While at Wisconsin, she was associated with the Population Health Institute and the Institute for Research on Poverty.

Dr. Dague’s research interests are in health economics and applied microeconomics. Her recent publications focus on changes in the Medicaid program and their relation to federal health care reform. Her current projects continue this work by considering how Medicaid enrollment responds to premiums and copayments, the relationship between Medicaid and the private insurance market, and the effects of expanding Medicaid to nontraditional populations such as low-income adults without dependent children. She is also investigating how the structure of the health insurance market in Chile affects insurance demand and usage of health care services.

Reyko Huang

Reyko Huang was most recently a Zukerman Fellow at Stanford University’s Center for International Security and Cooperation, and received her PhD degree in political science from Columbia University. She joined the MPIA faculty as an assistant professor. Huang earned a bachelor’s degree in government and economics from Cornell University and a master in public affairs with a focus on international development from Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

Huang teaches and conducts research on violent conflicts, state building, and democratization, and has published several articles and an edited volume on these topics. She is currently working on a book manuscript on rebel governance in civil war and its effects on post-conflict political development.

Andrew S. Natsios

Andrew S. Natsios, recently a Distinguished Professor in the practice of diplomacy at Georgetown University and former administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), joins the Bush School faculty as an executive professor and Scowcroft Institute Fellow for the academic year 2012-2013. As USAID administrator from 2001-2006, Natsios managed reconstruction programs in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Sudan. He also served as US special envoy to Sudan in 2006-2007. Retired from the US Army Reserve after twenty-three years, Natsios is a veteran of the Gulf War. From 1993 to 1998, he was vice president of World Vision US, the largest faith-based non-governmental organization in the world, with programs in 103 countries.

Earlier in his career, Natsios served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and as the chief financial and administrative officer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He also served as the CEO of Boston’s Big Dig, the largest construction project in American history, after a cost overrun scandal.

He is the author of three books: U.S. Foreign Policy and the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (1997); The Great North Korean Famine (2001); and his latest book, Sudan, South Sudan and Darfur: What Everyone Needs to Know, published in 2012 by Oxford University Press.

Mohammad Ayatollahi Tabaar

Mohammad Ayatollahi Tabaar comes to the Bush School from the Department of Government at Georgetown University, where he earned his PhD in comparative politics and international relations. He joins the MPIA faculty as an assistant professor. His bachelor’s degree is from the University of Tehran, and he holds master’s degrees from the New School of Social Research and the University of Chicago. A former journalist for the BBC World Service, Tabaar has taught at several institutions in addition to Georgetown University, including George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs, the University of Maryland, and George Mason University. He is also a Scholar at the Middle East Institute in Washington DC.


“WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO ATTRACT SUCH NOTED SCHOLARS AS THE FIVE WHO ARE JOINING THE SCHOOL THIS FALL. I ANTICIPATE THAT OUR FACULTY WILL CONTINUE TO GROW, AS OUR ENROLLMENT INCREASES AND WE EXPAND OUR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES INTO NEW AREAS OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC POLICY.”

–ACTING DEAN ANDREW CARD
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

2nd in nation among public universities in “Great Schools, Great Prices” category, U.S. News & World Report

2nd in nation among all universities of survey of 500 of the country’s largest corporations for graduates their recruiters prefer to hire, Wall Street Journal

3rd in nation for research funding among universities without a medical school

Member of the Association of American Universities

1st in nation in “pay-back ratio” – what graduates earn compared to the cost of their education, Smart Money Magazine

6th largest university in the US with over 50,000 students – including 10,000 graduate students

Endowment ranked 4th among US public universities and 10th overall

2nd in the nation for social mobility, research, and service, Washington Monthly

http://bush.tamu.edu

THE BUSH SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE

$15 million – Current research grants

$54.3 million – Total endowments

$23.5 million – Endowed scholarships and fellowships

Ranked 21st in public affairs programs among public universities, U.S. News and World Report

15 endowed chairs

4 endowed professorships

3 faculty fellowships

MARKS OF DISTINCTION