LATINOS IN POLICY
Professor Harry Pachon discusses Latinos in Public Policy with Brian Randol.

How did you get into the field of policy?
After earning my doctorate, I had a fellowship with the National Association for Public Administration where I spent one year as a policy analyst. Next, I quit a tenure-track position to go to Washington, DC to work as chief of staff for Congressman Edward Roybal, who represented Downtown and East Los Angeles. This was an exciting time for the Hispanic community, where Roybal helped found the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALECO). I also saw how the political process impacts all stages of implementation. Roybal was the only person west of the Mississippi on the Appropriations Committee, and the only Hispanic representative in the House from California.

What is your research focus?
I have focused primarily on an array of projects having to do with Latino policy: educational access, immigration, and social policy. We are doing a project on US foreign policy in Latin America. For many years Latin American policy has been the “poor stepchild” of US foreign policy. That region is experiencing serious challenges such as the narco-traffickers, future relations with Cuba, Puerto Rico statehood, and what the advent of leftist governments mean for economic and foreign relations with the US. We have hired a number of SPPD students to work on projects, from all different programs.

What courses do you teach at SPPD?
I teach graduate courses on immigration policy and policy formulation and implementation. I also teach an undergraduate course on Public Policy and Management.

Alum Profile: Rana Linatotawela
Program Officer for Relief International
By Smita Satiani

What does your position at RI entail?
Relief International is a Los Angeles based international development and relief organization with offices in D.C., the U.K., and 17 countries throughout Africa, Central and South-Asia. I currently manage the organization’s portfolios for Sudan and Myanmar. I do everything from writing proposals, program planning and implementation, do daily calls with our field teams, and serve as an interface between Sudan and Myanmar field teams and HQ management. I also work on finances, security management, financial management, program development, and liaising with donors.

What do you love about your job?
I get to travel; I have been to Sudan twice, for 2 months at a time, and am hoping to travel to Myanmar in the next few months. I really love working on this side of development because I am able to meet the beneficiaries of our programs and get my hands dirty. My last job was working for the World Bank which was incredible but I didn’t get the opportunity to be as involved in program management. Through my current position, I love that I get to work closely with the people I am working for and working with. It’s immensely fulfilling. The downside is that in the NGO environment you don’t always have the resources you want, which can sometimes be a little challenging.

What advice do you have for MPP students wanting to get involved in IR/ID?
Internships are a great way to get into organizations and also to learn more about what a career in development/humanitarian work would entail. While most program management positions are (Linatotawela continued on page 3)
International Project wins Biller Practicum Award

By Abby Goldstein

Second-year MPP students Jennifer Orlick, Marisa Alcaraz, and Sarah Brennan won the 2009 Biller Award for their practicum project on sustainable development in Ingenio del Rosario, an ejido located on the border of Cofre de Perote National Park in Veracruz, Mexico. Ingenio del Rosario is a subsistence community that has relied mainly on logging and agriculture. However, agriculture is no longer sustainable due to market changes and trade agreements such as NAFTA. According to Orlick, “The community is interested in becoming involved with ecotourism, although the prospects are limited due to the small size of the community, its limited access (connecting roads are dirt roads) and competition from nearby ecotourism businesses.” The group recommended that the community investigate payment for environmental services, and work with local universities to develop a collaborative with other ejidos for the purposes of economic development.

The group worked closely with a local university, Universidad Anahuac Xalapa, located in Xalapa, the capital of Veracruz. The recommendations were based on field work pursued on location, including interviews and site visits that illuminated the obstacles and opportunities confronting sustainable development in the region.

KIVA @ USC

By Tiffany Chao

KIVA.ORG is the world’s first person-to-person micro-lending website. It allows virtually anyone with as little as $25 to become an international financier. Help finance a burgeoning entrepreneur in Cambodia purchase farming equipment to start his business or a woman in Africa who needs capital to purchase a new sewing machine to expand her trade. The most remarkable aspect of KIVA is that it has a 98% repayment rate. Thus, from your computer seat and with $25, you can help these individuals create a sustainable business and help change their lives substantially. It is now possible to not only ‘teach a man to fish and feed him for a lifetime,’ but also to loan him money to buy a fishing pole so that he can sell the fish, hire employees, and repay the loan.

With $100, I provided lending capital to two entrepreneurs in Cambodia and Kenya. Less than a year later, both my loans were paid back in full. Then I loaned $100 to two women who were the sole supporters of their children in Nicaragua and Nigeria. I was inspired to do more when I received my first payment from one of my borrowers along with an update on their businesses. With Raheem Parpia, an undergraduate International Relations student, we established KIVA@USC. As a new organization, KIVA @ USC’s main objective is to raise awareness about KIVA and the world of micro financing on campus. In just a few short months, the USC Lending Team attained 75 team members and financed 31 loans with $925. Join the USC Lending Team: www.kiva.org/team/usc.

“We can all be micro-bankers now thanks to kiva.org. We can give them [developing world entrepreneurs] a chance to raise their kids with dignity, send their kids to school, and in troubled places like Afghanistan, we marginally increase the chance that peace can prevail because people will see there is a positive alternative to conflict.” – Bill Clinton
Meet Gentjan Droboniku
Rohini Thukral chats with an international student

How did you learn about SPPD/USC?
I met several alumni of SPPD while working as a researcher at Johns Hopkins University in Washington DC. After chatting with them about my career goals and personal interests, they convinced me to explore the Public Policy department at SPPD.

What attracted you to SPPD versus other schools in the US and worldwide?
From the brief interaction from the SPPD alums that I met, I knew this was a school that would provide both the academic rigor I was searching for and also networks that are especially important for foreign students. Before I knew it, I was already given ample opportunity for internships. Halfway through my first semester at SPPD, I got an internship with the State Controllers office.

Are you hoping to move back to Albania?
I do not anticipate moving back to Albania in the near future. For now my focus is on California state policies, specifically the environment, energy, transportation, and housing.

If you do decide to return home, which skills and/or experiences that you’ve had at SPPD will be the most beneficial to your career?
Whenever I learn about policies in the United States, I cannot help but wonder how such policies would be enacted in the Balkans and the European Union. I would love to take the analytical skills as well as communication skills that I have learned at SPPD and apply them to policy making back in my home country.

Visit www.usc.edu/schools/sppd for more information on what is going on at SPPD!
Our Achievements

In the Region and Around the World

Ian Kline (1995) reports that since 2005 he has served as CEO of the Cadmus Group, Inc., a 230-person technical and strategic consultancy. On February 28th of this year Ian married Lydia Mann-Bondat (now Lydia Kline), who is Senior Program Officer at World Education, Inc.

Other MPP alumni tying the knot include Francisca Ferrer (2005), who married Jaime Gonzalez on August, 31, 2008 (with a honeymoon to Jamaica), and Brissa Sotelo (2006) who will wed Mauricio Vargas in August 2009. David Chang (2008) will be married to Elizabeth King on August 15, 2009.

Todd Clark (1998), at Ohio Office of Budget and Management, chaired this year’s production of the Governor’s Executive Budget proposal, shepherding assembly of a 996 page comprehensive budget analysis. He is now looking forward to some well deserved extra vacation time!

MPP Practicum team Jen Bravo; Jungin Kim, Angelo Anthony Reyes; and Lisa Shimmel (2006) just learned that their Practicum report will be published by the University Rey Juan Carlos, in Madrid, Spain. The title of the study is “Local Democracy and Civic Participation: Evidence from a Case Study.”

Nate Kayhoe (2008) has accepted an appointment to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), where he is working in the Office of the Secretary.

Connie Yang (2009) was recently awarded a DHS Honors Fellowship and will spend two years in several rotations at the Department of Homeland Security.

Elke Kolindinski (2008) is at the Los Angeles office of the Government Accountability Office where her first rotation is the Homeland Security and Justice Team.

Beena Patel (2008) is a Public Policy Specialist at B & D consulting (www.bakerdconsulting.com), the consulting/lobbying arm of baker daniels, LLC. Nick Williams (2008) is cutting his teeth at NPO Solutions, a boutique consulting firm for nonprofits located in Studio City.


Daphne Nisperos (2001) is delighted to be back in Los Angeles, having transferred within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the LA office.

Meet the New Face of SPPD Career Services: Tom Kribben

We warmly welcome Tom Kribben as our new Director of Career Services. Tom brings an extensive background in corporate recruiting, having recruited 225 full-time employees and 155 interns while a Senior Recruiting Manager with PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Having worked on the recruiting side, Tom offers a unique perspective for students and alumni. He is reaching out to SPPD and USC alumni to increase the number of employers coming to SPPD, and hopes to use technology to improve communication between career services, students, and stakeholders. Tom also wants to work more closely with adjunct professors to educate his team on the several fields at SPPD and to garner insight into the job market. Tom also plans to create a more robust alumni mentor program. He believes that having a mentor in one’s field can be extremely beneficial to both parties. We are delighted to have Tom on board, and are already seeing the benefits in terms of improved communications and programmatic innovations.

Please share your personal and professional triumphs for our next newsletter. Do we have all of your correct contact information? We hope to stay current so that we can stay in touch! Send to Juliet Musso (musso@usc.edu).