Two Senators, One School

One is a Republican the other a Democrat.
What do Ohio's U.S. senators have in common? It's the Glenn School.
Letter from the Director

O n behalf of the John Glenn School of Public Affairs I am excited to share with you the exciting events happening in the life of the Glenn School, our faculty, and alumni.

In this issue, you will read about Ohio’s senators, both of whom are connected to the Glenn School. Senator Sherrod Brown is a 1981 alumnus of the in-career MA program and Senator Rob Portman serves on the Board of Advisors. Both have participated with faculty and students and shaped their expertise and experiences. The choices of Senator’s Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown to be involved with the Glenn School is testimony to their dedication to helping prepare the next generation of Ohio’s and the nation’s public leaders and also their understanding that The Ohio State University has much to contribute to the Congress’s consideration of the policy problems confronting the country and the alternatives for solving them. Their willingness to interact with the faculty and students brings real world issues in real time to the Glenn School and assists the faculty in insuring that our programs are relevant to the world of public policy. A school of public affairs like the Glenn School should be in dialog with key policymakers, and the partnership with Ohio’s two senators provides the opportunity to contribute to the national dialog over prospective national policies.

Three other Glenn School alumni are featured in this issue for their recent accomplishments. MPA degree-holder Tracy Plouck has been asked to serve as the director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health. Dr. Rob Sheehan, a graduate of the in-career MA program, has written a book about nonprofit organization management. Dr. Daniel Ortega-Pacheco, a 2010 graduate of the Ph.D. program, served as the lead negotiator for the Ecuadorian Minister of Foreign Affairs at the 2010 U.N. Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico. In this issue, Ortega-Pacheco discusses the climate change conference from his own point of view.

Research
Dr. Stephanie Moulton has done groundbreaking research into the banking and defaults on mortgage loans.

A school with many senators
Of course the Glenn School has a resident U.S. senator but it also has ties to the two sitting U.S. senators from Ohio. A Q&A with Senators Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown.

Negotiator
Glenn School alumni, Daniel Ortega-Pacheco, talks about his experience as the lead negotiator for the Ecuadorian Minister of Foreign Affairs at the 2010 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Alumni news
Tracy Plouck named director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Rob Sheehn has a book published.

Alumni and friends

In this issue of

Letter from the director
Glenn School Director
Dr. Charles Wise talks about events in and around the school.

USG Senator
Freshman Taylor Stepp becomes the first person to represent the Glenn School as a senator in the Undergraduate Student Government.

Event and lectures
Between visiting foreign dignitaries, the Muroff Civil Liberties Forum and hosting student events, the Glenn School has been in the center of today’s policy issues as well as a host to the next generation of leaders.

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John Glenn School of Public Affairs

School Director
Charles Wise, Ph.D.

Administration
John Mills

Admissions and Student Services
Kathleen Hallihan, Ph.D.

Alumni Relations
Liz Shirey

Director
Kathryn Sullivan, Ph.D.

Battelle Center for Mathematics & Science Education Policy

Director
Debra Jasper, Ph.D.

Kiplinger Program in Public Affairs Journalism

Director
Kenneth Kolson, Ph.D.

Washington Academic Internship Program

Events Manager
Laura Sipe

Field Director
Ellie Valentine

Associate Field Director
Edward Rakhimkulov

Ukraine Parliamentary Development Project

Outreach and Engagement
Cindy Holodnak

Management Development

Philanthropy
Jodi Bopp

Public Address
Hank Wilson

Director of Communications

General Information
614.292.4545
John Glenn School of Public Affairs has another senator in the building: Taylor Stepp will represent the Glenn School as a senator in the Undergraduate Student Government.

With the start of the undergraduate program at the Glenn School, students taking the major could become one of the 47 senators that work with administration, staff and other students on projects that directly benefit the college or living area they represent.

Ohio State features a Board of Trustee model of university governance. “On that board, faculty, administrators, graduate and undergraduate students are all represented. This is an oddity in the university governance world, to give undergraduates that much of a voice in the decisions of the university,” said Stepp.

“Aside from our seats and liaisons on the board, Undergraduate Student Government at Ohio State consists of a student-elected senate, judicial panel, and president and vice president.”

The senate passes resolutions which give the university administration the students’ views on important issues. “A few notable issues that have come up recently are the Christian Legal Society Supreme Court ruling on exclusionary religious student organizations at public universities, the sexual violence policy at Ohio State, the quarters-to-semester changes and the looming budget cuts for the university,” said Stepp. “These resolutions hold weight in the university. Along with resolutions, the senate can pass bills that delegate the student activity fee to various events, philanthropic investments and Ohio State staple events. Senators can also cut through the dense Ohio State bureaucracy in order to work on projects that are pertinent to Ohio State students.”

Stepp, a freshman, joined the Glenn School as part of the Learning Community program. “Coming to Ohio State from a small town in Appalachia, I realized that I would need an aide to build community at Ohio State. I met with Chris Adam, and a few of the LC members last year for a tour and knew that the LC was the right choice. I am so glad I decided to be a part of the LC and recommend it to anyone coming to Ohio State. What I liked most about the learning community was the ‘home’ that I instantly developed through the early move-in and other programs offered in the LC. Five days before class started, I knew roughly 40 people. To a freshman at a university of around 50,000 students, that is huge,” he said.

Because of his Learning Community experience, Stepp changed his major to the Bachelor of Arts in Public Affairs undergraduate program. Stepp said the Glenn School is “unparalleled in what it can offer to anyone aspiring to be a public servant.” “Not only a public servant in the political sense, but in organizational management, and the nonprofit sector. These specializations give students not only the information to make and implement policy decisions, but fundamentally teach you how to be a leader. Personally, I like how the major deviated from the more theoretical majors such as political science. I was initially a political science major, but changed my major immediately once I saw that public affairs is the degree that puts policy in motion, whereas political science studies those changes.”

“I want to be a voice for the students in the Glenn School in an academic and policy sense,” Stepp said explaining why he wanted to represent the Glenn School in the University Student Government. “I want to work with my colleagues in Senate and in their respective committees and councils to allow the Glenn School every opportunity possible. I believe in this school and want to make it not only succeed, but be extraordinary.”

State of the Union watch party

More than 150 Ohio State students gathered to watch President Obama’s State of the Union address on wings and chips. The event was sponsored by the Glenn School and other nonpartisan groups on campus. Before the speech began, history professor David Stebenne spoke to students about the history of the State of the State of the Union address. More photos at flickr.com/photos/glennschool

Events at the Glenn School

Serbian leader visits school

Serbian Minister of Internal Affairs Ivica Dačić, talked to students and faculty in the Policy Forum of Page Hall at the Glenn School during his trip to Ohio. Speaking through an interpreter, Dačić discussed the rocky history of Serbia and the Balkan region, Serbia’s goal of membership in the European Union and answered students’ questions.

Watch a video of Dačić’s talk at glenn.osu.edu/news/dacic

Visitation day for admitted graduate students

Newly admitted and prospective graduate students toured the Glenn School, spoke to faculty, current students and alumni and learned more about the school’s graduate programs and life at Ohio State University during visitation day.

More photos at flickr.com/photos/glennschool
Glenn faculty consider future of public administration in special edition of Public Administration Review

Articles by Glenn School faculty Dr. Charles Wise, Dr. Trevor Brown and Dr. Stephanie Moulton were published in the December special edition of Public Administration Review about the future of public administration in 2020. The articles consider the opportunities and challenges facing the field in the next ten years.

Wise, the founding director of the Glenn School, predicts that the line between the “publicness” and “privateness” of organizations will continue to blur, resulting in an increasingly complex system of organizations and “a greater variety of hybrid organizations located in the middle of the publicness-privateness continuum.”

Brown, the Glenn School’s associate director for Academic Affairs and Research, explains that public managers have unprecedented access to information that can help them to develop public sector strategy. Scholars and analysts, argues Brown, must provide managers with sound theories from many disciplines that explain “how to use information to guide decision making and planning.”

Moulton, an assistant professor at the Glenn School, challenges public administration scholars to ask, “What institutional, economic, and political configurations are most likely to lead to desired public outcomes, rather than envisioning the public as a constant to be organized behavior?”

Spring 2011 Policy Lab Offerings

• Nonprofit Management and Governance
  Professor Stephanie Moulton
  Wednesday from 5:30-8:18 p.m.

• Energy Policy and the Environment
  Professor Ken Rose
  Tuesdays from 5:30-8:18 p.m.

• Alternative Dispute Resolution
  Professor Maria Mone
  Mondays from 5:30-8:18 p.m.

For a complete list of current policy labs, please visit glenn.osu.edu/current/labs.

Tuition and Fees

The university requires payment for tuition and fees by the first day of class for each quarter. For information regarding tuition and fees, please visit online.osu.edu/finance/registration.

Class Space and Contact Information

Space in policy labs is limited to allow for a more intimate learning environment. Space in specific courses is not guaranteed. Please contact the Student Affairs Office for more information regarding policy lab offerings and registration dates. You can reach Student Affairs at 614-292-8696 or by e-mail at GlennApply@osu.edu.

Help with Recruitment

If you would like to become involved with recruitment activities, please e-mail GlennRecruit@osu.edu for more information! We often need alumni who are willing to talk with prospective students about their experience.

Alumni Registration Instructions

If your last quarter of enrollment at Ohio State was less than two years ago:
1. Call the OSU Graduate School Office of Registration Services at 614-292-6031 to request that they reactivate your account to register for classes next quarter.
2. Log in to your Student Center (Buckeyelinlik.osu.edu) to register for classes. Check your Student Center (online account) prior to the start of classes to determine if tuition/fees were applied to your account and to confirm you’re registered in the course.

If your last quarter of enrollment at Ohio State was more than two years ago:
1. Complete a Graduate School ‘Reactivate Enrollment Eligibility Form’: http://www.gradsch.ohio-state.edu/Depo/PDF/Reactivation.pdf. After completing the form, submit it to the John Glenn School for approval by the graduate studies chair.
2. Once reactivation is approved, log in to your Student Center (www.Buckeyelinlik.osu.edu) to register for classes. Check your Student Center (online account) prior to the start of classes to determine if tuition/fees were applied to your account and to confirm you’re registered in the course.

Overall, her findings from both studies show that delinquency and default rates for state MRB programs are much lower than the rates for subprime or even other conventional loans to similar borrowers.

However, Moulton finds that there are significant differences by lender. For some lenders, fewer than 9 percent of their MRB borrowers were ever 60 days late in making a payment. However, for other lenders, up to 37 percent of their borrowers were similarly late in making payments.

“I was trying to find out why there was such a wide variation in default rates, even though they were all offering the same loan product,” Moulton said.

“A lot of policies concentrate on the loan itself, and that’s definitely important. But for higher-risk, lower-income borrowers, mortgage institutions also matter quite a bit. These borrowers need to work with lenders that will properly evaluate their application and give them support after they receive the mortgage.”

Moulton emphasized that this effect is not due to the loan product, as all borrowers receive the same type of mortgage (including interest rate) through the program. And personal characteristics of the borrowers, such as credit score, debt and income, are controlled for in the analysis. In other words, the effect truly seems to be related to the localness of the bank, and not other hidden factors.

In the Ohio analysis, presented recently at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management conference in Boston, Moulton is studying the loan performance of more than 20,000 home buyers who purchased homes between 2005 and 2008. Rather than focusing on the location of the lender’s loan activity (as in the Indiana study), this study examines the location of bank branches relative to where the home buyers purchased their homes. Again, Moulton finds that higher-risk home buyers with loans from banks with branches close to their new homes (less than 10 miles) were significantly less likely to default on their mortgages.

But what is it about local banks that make them better choices for many low-income borrowers? Moulton said she believes it has to do with the type of information banks collect on potential borrowers, and the support they offer to their borrowers.

Many mortgage brokers base their decisions on whether to offer a mortgage on one or more key numbers, such as a credit score. But local lenders may place more weight on other factors, such as how long you’ve been working for your current employer, and whether you make regular deposits in a savings account.

“The same banks give the banks that they have to work with them,” she said.

The results of these studies suggest that policies aimed at making homeownership affordable may need to expand their focus, Moulton said.

This research was supported in part by grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
Two Senators, One School: Q&A with Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman

Both of Ohio’s senators now boast ties with the John Glenn School of Public Affairs. Senator Sherrod Brown, elected in 2006, is an alumnus of the public affairs program, and newly elected Senator Rob Portman serves on the Glenn School Board of Advisors. Public Address caught up with both senators to learn about their goals for this session of Congress, working across the aisle to promote state concerns and the role that public affairs and public-sector employees can play in developing national policy. — By Gail Clendenin | Public Address Magazine

Q: What is one piece of legislation you would like to pass in this session of Congress?
A: Ohio has a vibrant auto supply chain, but we’re missing out on opportunities to build components for clean-energy technology. Seventy percent of which are coming from countries like China and Germany. I’m working on a number of pieces of legislation that would help Ohio manufacturers retrofit their operations to scale up for the clean-energy economy. This would create jobs, strengthen our economy and rebuild our middle class.

Q: How can those working in the public sector at the state or local level contribute to the development of smart policies to address issues currently facing our nation?
A: It’s not a question of big or small government, but a question of responsive, leaner, smarter government. For those working in the public sector, you have a direct role in removing barriers and needless burdens that can help create incentives for new jobs and economic development.

Q: How do you plan to work with Senator Portman to promote state concerns in the Senate?
A: Senator Portman and I sat together at the State of the Union to discuss ways we could work together. We’re both dedicated to serving our constituents and promoting economic development in Ohio. We’re both working to promote the creation of clean-energy jobs in Southern Ohio, and to bring a new manufacturer to build lithium-ion batteries for electric cars to central Ohio.

Q: Early in your career, who strongly influenced your path to the Senate?
A: My mom, a school teacher, taught me about the meaning of public service – and how to be generous with your advice, counsel and support.

Q: What is one thing that people graduating from public administration programs should know as they begin or continue their careers?
A: I think the Glenn School is becoming one of the top public affairs schools in the country in preparing young leaders with practical skills to take on the significant public policy challenges of our time. As a graduate, you have the tools I wish I had when I was young, and I guess the one thing I would suggest is to maintain (a public) servant’s attitude. It is an honor to serve your fellow citizens – and working in government at some level is a fine way to serve. Take pride in what you do.

Q: What is the name of the John Glenn School of Public Affairs playing in the future of government?
A: The name speaks for itself. Our nation needs our best and brightest young people to overcome the challenges we face and seize the opportunities before us. Government is always about people, and the Glenn School is critical to training our next generation of public servants and leaders.

Q: What is one piece of legislation you would like to pass in this session of Congress?
A: Something that helps improve the economy and create jobs. I have a specific bill I have introduced that reflects a lot of the input I have received over the past two years as I have traveled to Ohio. It includes visits to over 100 factories, farms and other businesses and hosted round-table discussions with small business owners, workers, and economic development groups. The bill, called the Job Creation Act of 2011, would give Ohio the economic boost it needs. Economists estimate the payroll tax section of the Job Creation Act alone would create more than 1.4 million jobs. The legislation would provide nearly $24 billion in tax relief to foster hiring and investment while reducing the deficit by $61 billion and ending burdensome mandates that stifle job creation.

Q: How can those working in the public sector at the state or local level contribute to the development of smart policies to address issues currently facing our nation?
A: There needs to be a direct pipeline from state and local officials to Washington. I frequently visit with state and local leaders to get input at the ground level on federal policies and to collaborate on projects that will bring jobs and opportunity to Ohio. When I first got elected to the House, I worked closely with state and local officials on legislation I coauthored to curb unfunded federal mandates. The state and local input is needed on national issues and officials shouldn’t hesitate to weigh in directly or through one of the trade associations representing state and local government.

Q: What role do you see the John Glenn School of Public Affairs playing in the future of government?
A: Our state and country face big problems, including major fiscal challenges, and the bright young leaders coming out of the Glenn School will play an important role in helping to guide and shape public policy at all levels of government.
Lessons from U.N. climate change conference

By Daniel V. Ortega-Pacheco

Dr. Ortega-Pacheco, center, was the lead negotiator for the Ecuadorian Minister of Foreign Affairs at the 2010 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico. He received his Ph.D. from the John Glenn School of Public Affairs in 2010.

The opinions expressed in this article are those of Dr. Ortega-Pacheco’s and are based on his experience as lead negotiator for the Ecuadorian Minister of Foreign Affairs at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico, from Nov. 29 to Dec. 10, 2010.

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Alumni and Friends: Dr. Rob Sheehan

Alumnus’ 30 years of work results in book

On the dedication page of Dr. Rob Sheehan’s new book, “Mission Impact: Breakthrough Strategies for Nonprofits,” one can find the inscription, “To my Dad, the dreamer, and my Mom, the pragmatist. Together you’ve encouraged me to bring dreams into reality.”

Sheehan’s father — a minister, who marched on Washington, D.C. with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. — and his mother — a nurse — also instilled in him a commitment to make a difference in the world. Growing up, he assumed that he would make that difference through teaching. He never dreamed that the culmination of 30 years of working in public service and learning about organizational performance, leadership and nonprofit management would align to result in “Mission Impact” (published in 2010 by Wiley & Sons and the Association of Fundraising Professionals as part of the AFP Development Fund Series).

Sheehan received his Ph.D. from the John Glenn School Glenn School of Public Affairs and currently works as the academic director of MBA programs at the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, College Park.

When he initially attended the Glenn School’s in-career MA program in the late 1980s, his only goal was to learn how to make nonprofit organizations perform better. He certainly never intended to get his Ph.D. “I didn’t want to be the type of academic who spends all of his time researching and publishing,” said Sheehan. “Chuck Adams opened my mind to new possibilities when he told me that by getting my Ph.D. studying how to make nonprofits better, I could be the bridge between academics and practitioners. To this day, I still think of myself as a kind of interpreter.”

For Sheehan, “Mission Impact” is his contemporary bridge between academics and nonprofit practitioners that Adams referred to those many years ago. “The percentage of academic articles that have relevant information for practitioners is relatively small,” explains Sheehan. “This book is a combination of the strategic planning model I developed and my interpretation of what others have written academically on the topic.”

Sheehan developed a new model of strategic planning for nonprofits in 2005 after realizing how challenging most nonprofits found the process of strategic planning. He found that fewer than 25 percent of organizations have metrics corresponding to whether they are accomplishing their mission. “Organization performance for nonprofits is widely misunderstood,” said Sheehan. “Surveys and questions regarding how you measure effectiveness through evidence, results and data feel fuzzy — like a new set of glasses — to most nonprofits.”

Sheehan devoted all of his intellectual focus on creating a practical guide to strategic and operational planning for nonprofits that wanted to create mission and performance metrics and didn’t know where to begin.

Sheehan’s first class at the Glenn School was evaluation with Dr. Mary Marvel, and he credits her with igniting his passion for leadership and his intellectual curiosity with organizational performance. It was Dr. Astrid Merget who taught him about the nonprofit industry by taking him to conferences with her and introducing him to people in her professional network. “I clicked with Astrid from the very beginning; she was a great mentor and advisor, not to mention one of the most intelligent people I’ve ever met,” said Sheehan.

Sheehan put his Glenn School skills to good use as the CEO of LeaderShape, a nonprofit that puts on six-day leadership programs for college students all over the country.

In chapter five of “Mission Impact” — “Strategic Stretch Goals” — he encourages organizations to set specific, measurable, almost impossible stretch, relevant and time-bound (SMART) goals. It was his experience at LeaderShape that helped to inform his “almost impossible stretch” version of aggressive, yet achievable goals.

Every year, Rob and his team set “almost impossible stretch” goals to increase the number of students in the program. They used the process described in “Mission Impact,” of envisioning the very best result they could imagine possible even if they had no idea how it was going to happen. Technically, they failed to reach their goals; however, between 1992-2001 participation in the program increased from 223 to 2,220 — a failure with extremely successful results.

Sheehan hopes “Mission Impact” will serve as an easy to follow road map for nonprofit organizations to create breakthrough strategies that will make significant improvements in the quality of life for others.

Malik Abdalla, In-Career MA ’10, returned to his home country of Somalia and was appointed as communication director for the office of the Somali President in Mogadishu. Abdalla hopes to work with his colleagues to make Somalia a peaceful country.

Steve Bollin, MPA ’96, is regional vice president of Support Services for the Mercy Health Care East Community. In that role, he is responsible for Safety & Security, Facilities & Maintenance, Nutrition Services, Clinical Engineering, Materials Management, Environmental Services, and Imaging Services for the East Community, which comprises multiple health-care facilities located in East Central Missouri, including hospitals in St. Louis and Washington, Mo. He and his wife, Christine, also celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary last March.

Theresa Cunniff, Dual-JD ’10, started her job in December as an attorney in the Enforcement section at ReliabilityFirst Corporation — a private entity that was delegated authority to enforce certain federal energy regulations.

Leah Finney, MA/JD ’10, has been named director of legal education for Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. Among her duties, Finney will provide legal information and educational services to OFBF members and staff, monitor developing legal issues and provide support to OFBF’s public policy team on legislative and regulatory affairs.

Alumni and Friends

Jeffry Harris, MPA '00, is now working as the Economic Development Manager and Assistant to the City Manager at the City of Worthington.

Steve Heiser, MPA '74, works as an agent for R.S. Garek Associates, where he is a commercial real estate Investment Property Specialist, focusing on office and retail properties.

Amanda Kennedy, MA/MSW ’10, is working as a research associate at the Criminal Justice Research Center at The Ohio State University. In this position, Kennedy manages the newsletter and website and organizes the Crime and Justice Summer Research Institute and Racial Democracy and Criminal Justice Network meetings held each summer.

Michael Kinninger, MPA ’10, is working as a community development analyst at the Ohio Department of Development Office of Housing and Community Partnerships. Most of his work concerns Ohio’s Small Cities Programs for the Community Development Block Grant and the federal regulations associated with the program.

Leah Finney

Malik Abdalla

Alumni and Friends: Dr. Rob Sheehan

George Buxton, MPA ’96, was appointed as communications director for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. Buxton, who graduated from the Glenn School’s in-career MPA program in 1996, is responsible for supervising labor relations and legal support to OFBF’s public policy team.

Jim Landers, Ph.D. ’96, was elected for a three-year term to the board of directors of the National Tax Association — the leading association of tax professionals dedicated to advancing understanding of the theory and practice of public finance, and responsible for publishing National Tax Journal, which is the premier scholarly journal of taxation and public finance.

Jim also gave the following presentations at the following conferences: “Consensus Revenue Forecasting in Indiana; Process Highlights, Strengths, and Weaknesses that Persist” - National Conference of State Legislatures Fiscal Leaders Seminar, Phoenix, AZ “Casino Mergers, Acquisitions, and the Harrah’s Effect” - Case Studies of Casino Consolidation on State Gaming Revenue — NTA Conference on Taxation, Chicago, IL

Steve Kowal, MPA ’09, spent a week during December, 2010, in Islamabad Pakistan as part of his job at USAID. While in Islamabad, Kowal conducted training workshops on policies and procedures for training and visa compliance. He also ran into some Ohio State Buckeye fans and paraphernalia at the training site — US Educational Foundation in Pakistan.

Sean Buxton, MPA ’96, was appointed as communications director for the Pennsylvania Office of Budget and Finance. Buxton, who graduated from the Glenn School’s in-career MPA program in 1996, is responsible for supervising labor relations and legal support to OFBF’s public policy team.

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Christine O’Malley, In-Career MA ’10, received a promo- tion from communication director to executive director of external relations and advancement for the College of Public Health at The Ohio State University. In addition to supervising the traditional advancement functions of alumni, communication, and fundraising, she also manages strategic planning, executive communications, and major events.

Lisa Patt-McDaniel, MPA ’96, joined Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (OCCH) in 2011 as director of community development. In this capacity, she is responsible for growing a set of relations and products related to community development, including working with cities and in rural areas around housing issues such as vacant housing, leveraging local community development resources, and converging community development officials around common issues. She also is responsible for helping to raise equity around common issues. She also is responsible for helping to raise equity around common issues. She also is responsible for helping to raise equity around common issues.

John Nigel, MPA ’98, has accepted a detail position with U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Laguna Beach, CA, where he will work on strategic capital investment planning for the span of four months. John, a former Presidential Management Fellow, will return to his permanent position as Program Analyst for the Real Property Management team with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, in Washington, D.C., upon completion of the detail.

Katherine Ratcliffe, MPA ’95, accepted a job as Marketing Director for Battelle for Kids. A national, not-for-profit organization, Battelle for Kids specializes in creating strategies that advance the development of human capital, the use of strategic measures, the implementation of effective practices and communication with all stakeholders in schools. Kim and her colleagues are committed to aligning their expertise to address today’s complex educational-improvement challenges.

Yu Song, MPA ’10, will begin her new job at the China Construction Bank in Beijing in July. As one of four state-owned banks in China, the China Construction Bank recruits 60 to 80 new employees every year out of 40,000 applicants from across China to work at their headquarters. Yu will spend her first year assigned to a city outside of Beijing and then will be assigned her job position based on her first-year performance. Since the China Construction Bank has several projects with the Bank of America, Yu hopes for the opportunity to come back to the U.S. in the future.

Dr. Kala Seetharam Sridhar, Ph.D. ’98, won the first prize medal for her paper “Innovative sources of development finance: The role of land in financing India’s large cities and comparisons with China” — which she presented at the Global Development Network’s 12th Annual Global Development Conference at The Universidad de los Andes in Bogota, Colombia. Ernesto Zedillo — former President of Mexico and currently Professor at Yale University — presented the medal certificate to Kala.

Hillary Spears, MA/MSW ’10, recently accepted a position as ADD technical assistance program specialist at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities — a network of interdisciplinary centers, primarily at universities, contracted with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, in Washington, D.C., upon completion of the detail.

Spear works on a contract from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), within the Department of Health and Human Services, to create a series of summits to identify the state of self-advocacy throughout the country.

David Thaele, MPA ’99, currently is senior vice president of Human Resources and Organizational Development for the Haskell Company in Jacksonville, Fla.

Nissa Vendre, MPA ’10, has accepted a position with Cover-MyMeds — a Columbus-based company that uses technology to help physicians and pharmacists improve patient care.

Rebecca Vaquez-Skilling, MPA ’96, was hired by Ot- terbein College to be their new vice president for business affairs. In a press release, Otterbein President Kathy A. Kreidl said Vaquez-Skilling, “brings a superior level of budgeting from her previous positions and has a strong knowledge of higher education financial needs, demands and challenges today’s economic environment. She will offer sound analysis and planning principles to ensure our continued suc- cess as one of the best comprehensive liberal arts institutions in the country.”

Chris Vlahos, In-Career MA ’97, recently was appointed to the position of associate vice president for alumni relations at Case Western Reserve University. Vlahos will be responsible for the oversight of the Alumni Relations staff and Alumni House. He will work directly with schools, affinity groups and other campus stakeholders to build programs that engage the university’s more than 100,000 alumni across the globe.

We want to hear from you

Keep your classmates and the Glenn School informed of your promotions, job changes, papers/articles/books written, lectures/seminars given, marriages, chil- dren, and any other personal or professional achievements you wish to share with us. Please send your updates and pictures to:

John Glenn School of Public Affairs
Attn: Liz Shirley
150B Page Hall
1810 College Road South
Columbus, OH 43210
shirley.23@osu.edu

Lei Yu, MPA ’07, currently is working with China Construction Bank in Beijing. Lei, fresh out of college, will spend her first year assigned to a city outside of Beijing, Italy and then will be assigned her job position based on her first year’s performance. Since the China Construction Bank has several projects with the Bank of America, Lei hopes for the opportunity to come back to the U.S. in the future.

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Students, staff and Cleisthenes listen to Ivica Dačić, the Serbian minister of the Interior, when he visited the Glenn School. More on this and other events on page 5.