Freddie & Fannie: Where They've Been, What To Do With Them

Charles “Ed” Haldeman (above left), former CEO of Freddie Mac and a 35-year veteran of the financial services industry, will deliver this year’s annual Robert Glauber Lecture. Oct. 18, 6pm, IOP Forum

The Vexed Relationship Between Business & Government

Featuring (above, starting second from left) Lawrence Summers (Charles W. Eliot University Professor and M-RCBG Director), Roger Porter (IBM Professor of Business & Government), Nina Easton (fellow at Harvard’s Institute of Politics, Washington Bureau Chief for Fortune Magazine and commentator for the Fox News Channel) and Ben Heineman (distinguished senior fellow at Harvard Law School Program on Corporate Governance). This is a commemorative event as M-RCBG marks its 30th anniversary. Oct. 30, 6pm, IOP Forum

Students Report on Summer Internship Experiences

This past summer, M-RCBG provided financial support to 17 HKS students, enabling them to undertake internships in a variety of settings around the globe. Students worked at the US Department of the Treasury, United Nations Capital Development Fund, International Finance Corporation, Asian Development Bank, and numerous small non-governmental organizations, testing new approaches to improve trade, create economic opportunity, and strengthen regulation. Robert Boudreau (MPA '13) prepared policy briefs for senior officials at the U.S. Treasury, Office of International Banking and Securities Regulation. Working on a smaller scale, Jonathan Elist (MPA '13) developed alternative forms of credit reporting for Rent Reporters in Pasadena. Two students worked with Instiglio, an organization founded by HKS students to bring social impact bonds to developing countries. Piyush Jain (MPP '13) explored the potential for social impact bonds to deliver social services in India, and Eunice Lim (MPP '13) tested their potential to address at-risk youth in Colombia. Prad Kerdpaiprom (MPAID '13) provided technical support to Impact Investment Shujog Limited in Singapore, and Pragya Lothani (MPP '13) helped develop government strategies to promote business development in Sri Lanka. Several students plan to use their summer experience as the basis for Policy Analysis Exercises this year.

M-RCBG has over 50 seminars and events scheduled for the fall semester. Below is a small selection. Please see our website (www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/mrcbg) for a complete listing.


Christopher Knittel, MIT. Embracing our Differences: Heterogeneous Externalities and their Implications for Welfare. Littauer-382, October 10, 4:10-5:30pm.


Thomas Covert, Harvard University. Learning and Experimentation in the North Dakota Bakken Shale. Littauer-382, October 10, 4:10-5:30pm.

David Greene, University of Tennessee. Oil Dependence: What Does it Really Cost Us? Bell Hall, October 22, 12:15-1:45pm.

Howard Kunreuther, University of Pennsylvania. Integrated Risk and Uncertainty Assessment of Climate Change Response Policies. Littauer-382, October 24, 4:10-5:30pm.


Several of M-RCBG’s seminars are now videos accessible for viewing via Vimeo. To access, visit: vimeo.com/mrcbg
Harvard Gazette covers Stavins cap-and-trade research
Robert Stavins talked about lawmakers’ solutions to acid rain Sept. 13 during a Regulatory Policy Program seminar. He said that national politics have “tainted” cap-and-trade, making it unlikely the country will adopt such a scheme to fight climate change anytime soon, even though similar plans are being adopted by other nations around the world. Other ironies include that the government did the right thing — reduce sulfur dioxide emissions — for the wrong reason: to clean up the environment. Estimates of the program’s benefits put the price of health improvements from improved air quality far higher than benefits to lakes and forests. To read the whole story, visit http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2012/09/spoiled-opportunity/ or view the video at https://vimeo.com/49626338.

Harvard Project on Climate Agreements releases Durban Climate Negotiations Viewpoint
The Harvard Project on Climate Agreements recently released a new Viewpoint, The Durban Platform Negotiations: Goals and Options, authored by Daniel Bodansky of Arizona State University. Bodansky analyses the elements of the Durban Platform, which launched a new round of negotiations to develop “a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force” for the post-2020 period, and the possible role that a new instrument might play.

Speed-networking with M-RCBG senior fellows on Oct. 16
M-RCBG hosts a “speed networking” event each semester where current and former M-RCBG senior fellows discuss jobs and careers with HKS students. Co-sponsored with the Business & Government PIC and Office of Career Advancement, this semester’s session will take place on Tuesday, October 16, from 6-7:30pm, in Bell Hall. To participate, please contact Jennifer Nash at jennifer_nash@harvard.edu.

SSP announces sustainability fellowship competition
The Sustainability Science Program invites applications for resident fellowships in sustainability science beginning in September 2013. The fellowship competition is open to advanced doctoral and post-doctoral students and to mid-career professionals engaged in research or practice to facilitate the design, implementation, and evaluation of effective interventions that promote sustainable development. Some of the most serious constraints to sustainable development lie in the interconnectedness among sectors: energy’s growing need for water; the impacts of water use on human health; the competition for land among food, energy, and conservation initiatives; and the cumulative impact of all sectoral initiatives on climate and other key environmental services. A central challenge is to develop an integrated understanding of how sectoral initiatives for sustainability can compete with and complement one another in particular regional contexts. The 2013-14 fellowship competition therefore focuses on regional initiatives pursuing an integrated perspective on sustainable development in India, China, and Brazil. It also includes a cross-cutting research initiative to integrate work focused on Innovation for Sustainable Development. For more information visit www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/mrcbg/programs/sustsci/fellowships. Applications are due Jan. 15, 2013 and decisions will be announced by March 2013.

M-RCBG awards fellowships to new MPP students
Two new MPP students, Claire Markgraf and Will Sentance, have been selected from nearly 190 applicants to receive M-RCBG fellowships. Claire comes to HKS with experience at the World Bank Chief Economist’s office and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Will has worked as a strategy consultant for the UK government and founded an organization to help underrepresented communities engage in politics and policymaking. They are pictured here with M-RCBG Co-Director John Haigh (l), MPA/ID ’13 and 2011-2012 fellowship recipient Tugay Yilmaz (middle), and Prof. Richard Zeckhauser (r).

SSP leadership awarded Sustainability Science Award from the Ecological Society of America
SSP Directors William Clark and Nancy Dickson contributed to a recent paper, Evolution of models to support community and policy action with science: Balancing pastoral livelihoods and wildlife conservation in savannas of East Africa, that was recently awarded the 2012 Sustainability Science Award by the Ecological Society of America (ESA). This award is given to the authors of a scholarly work that makes the greatest contribution to the emerging science of ecosystem and regional sustainability through the integration of ecological and social sciences. According to the ESA, the paper is unique because of its focus on how the process of ecological research can better align itself with goals such as conservation and poverty alleviation. In addition, the paper was the result of collaboration among a broad range of international partners, and integrates insights from fields that include rural sociology, veterinary science, and economics. The paper was published in PNAS in 2009.

Harvard Environmental Economics Program Faculty highlight new opportunity to shape international climate policy
In a new article in Science magazine, Climate Negotiators Create an Opportunity for Scholars, authors Joseph Aldy, Faculty Fellow of the Harvard Environmental Economics Program (HEEP) and Robert N. Stavins, HEEP Director, challenge researchers, think tanks, and advocacy groups to devise new policy approaches to combat climate change, in light of the opportunity presented by the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action. A key part of any such new approach would be to involve all major emitting countries—both developed and developing.

Zeckhauser publishes chapter in book on regulatory breakdown
In a new book titled Regulatory Breakdown: The Crisis of Confidence in U.S. Regulation, Richard Zeckhauser, Frank P. Ramsey Professor of Political Economy, wrote a chapter with W. Kip Viscusi titled “Addressing Catastrophic Risks: Disparate Anatomies Require Tailored Therapies.” The book was published in August by the University of Pennsylvania Press.