



Poverty in Appalachia

Thursday October 1, 2009

Speaker Biographies

Alan Berube is senior fellow and research director with the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program, where he coordinates the development and implementation of the program's research agenda, and authors numerous publications on demographic and economic change in metropolitan America and its implications for policy. Alan's areas of expertise include metropolitan demographics, urban and suburban poverty, and social and educational policies affecting low-income families and communities.

His Brookings publications include: "MetroNation: How U.S. Metro Areas Fuel American Prosperity," "Getting Current: Recent Demographic Trends in Metropolitan America," "Metro Raise: Boosting the Earned Income Tax Credit to Help Metropolitan Workers and Families," "Two Steps Back: City and Suburban Poverty Trends 1999-2005," and "Finding Exurbia: America's Fast-Growing Communities at the Metropolitan Fringe." In 2004, he served as an Atlantic Fellow in Public Policy at Her Majesty's Treasury in the UK, advising the department on mixed-income housing policy. He speaks frequently to organizations and media, and has testified before Congressional committees.

Before joining Brookings in 2001, Alan was a policy advisor at the U.S. Treasury Department, where he spearheaded the Department's work on predatory mortgage lending and expanding access to basic financial services for low-income populations. He also worked at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and Andersen Consulting. He holds a master's degree from the Georgetown Public Policy Institute, and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Stanford University. He lives on Capitol Hill with his wife Cristina and daughter Erica.

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**Dr. Stephan J. Goetz** is the Director of The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development and Professor of Agricultural and Regional Economics at The Pennsylvania State University. He holds Ph.D. (1990) and M.Sc. (1986) degrees in Agricultural Economics from Michigan State University, and an undergraduate degree (1984) in Agriculture/Agricultural Economics from the University of Guelph in Canada. Before coming to Penn State in 1999, he served on the faculty at the University of Kentucky for nine years with research and teaching responsibilities in economic development.

As Director of The Northeast Center, Dr. Goetz provides leadership for rural and community development research and extension activities across 13 states. Part of this responsibility includes linking state activities to regional and national initiatives. An underlying theme of his research program is the role of markets and human capital in stimulating economic growth and development, and in reducing poverty. Recent research addresses issues such as inequality and economic growth, population migration, industrial location, and the impacts of rural economic development policies. Current studies include the determinants and effects on economic growth of social capital at the county-level, as well as interactions among the environment (including land use), wages and job growth.

Dr. Goetz has published or presented over 150 professional papers, including 15 book chapters, and he is the senior co-editor of four books. He is the principal investigator on external grants valued at over \$4.0 million. Among many other service roles, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania (a legislative agency of the PA General Assembly) and past chair of the Rural and Urban Community Vitality priority areas (appointed by the Northeast Associations of Research and Extension Directors) and the Social Sciences Sub-Committee of the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP).

**Justin Maxson** first came to MACED in 1995 as director of community development for the Letcher County Action Team, a grassroots sustainable development organization in eastern Kentucky. Justin's work focused on leadership development, program development and community-based problem solving. From 1998 to early 2002, Justin was executive director of the Progressive Technology Project, a national grant making and technical assistance organization working to strengthen grassroots social change efforts through the strategic use of technology. Justin returned to MACED in February of 2002 as vice-president and was named president in November 2002. Justin brings 10 years of nonprofit experience focused on capacity building, program development, organizational development and social change. He has a master's in anthropology from Boston University.

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Dr. Bruce A. Weber- Professor and Extension Economist. Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1973. Director of the Rural Studies Program, and Co-director of the RUPRI Rural Poverty Research Center. Current research projects focus on the causes of poverty and hunger in rural areas, particularly on the interaction of community characteristics, public policy and household economic outcomes for low-income people. Current Extension programs deal with rural policy and the economic and social conditions in rural communities. Fellow, American Agricultural Economics Association, Distinguished Scholar, Western Agricultural Economics Association. Senior Research Affiliate, National Poverty Center. Served on Governor's Tax Review Technical Advisory Committee. Past President of the Western Agricultural Economics Association. Has published in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* and *Land Economics*.

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**Dr. Bruce A. Weinberg** received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1996 before joining the faculty at the Ohio State University, where he is now Associate Professor of Economics and (by courtesy) of Public Administration. His research, which has been published in journals including *The American Economic Review*, *The Journal of Political Economy*, *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, *The Economic Journal*, and *The Journal of Labor Economics*, spans three areas:

1. The economics of creativity and innovation.
2. The determinants of youth outcomes and behavior.
3. Technological change, industrial shifts, and the wage structure.

He has held visiting positions at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, where he was a National Fellow (2000-2001); and the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where he was a Visiting Scholar (2004-2005). He is a Research Associate at the Institute for Labor (IZA), Bonn and a Faculty Research Fellow at the NBER, Cambridge, Massachusetts. He is an associate editor of *Regional Science and Urban Economics* and currently serves as Director of Undergraduate Studies in Economic at the Ohio State University. His research has been supported by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the Templeton Foundation. It has received public coverage in/on the *Economic Report of the President*, 1999, *ABC Radio News*, *Business Week*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *CNN*, *The Columbus Dispatch*, *The Economist*, *The Financial Times*; *MSN/Slate*, *NBC*, *The New York Times*, and *U.S. News and World Report*.

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Dr. James P. Ziliak is Professor of Economics and holder of the Carol Martin Gatton Endowed Chair in Microeconomics in the Department of Economics at the University of Kentucky. He is also Director of the UK Center for Poverty Research, and is a research affiliate with the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin and with the Joint Center for Poverty Research at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Indiana University and was previously Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Oregon. He has also held visiting faculty positions at the University of Michigan (1997-1998) and the University of Wisconsin (2000-2001). His primary research interests encompass the fields of labor economics, public economics, and applied econometrics. Professor Ziliak's current research focuses on the effects of the U.S. income tax and transfer system on household labor supply, consumption, and saving. Current projects include studying the impact of macroeconomic performance on poverty, the effect of tax reform on life cycle labor supply and consumption, the effect of the Food Stamp Program on consumption smoothing, and the effect of welfare reform on household saving. His research has been published in several of the leading journals in the Economics profession including the *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Economic Journal*, *Journal of Monetary Economics*, and *Journal of Human Resources*.