Broader trends forced Sophie Davis med-school evolution

Governor Andrew Cuomo's announcement last week that the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education would expand into the CUNY School of Medicine was a move years in the making, and the result of economic and educational forces both close to home and abroad that have changed how medicine must be taught.

Cuomo's press release said the new four-year medical school, which will be affiliated with St. Barnabas Health System in the Bronx, will train physicians for underserved communities across the state.

That has always been a primary justification for the Sophie Davis school's existence, and a campaign is already underway to raise more than $20 million in interest-free loans for the 70 students who will make up the inaugural class.
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For more than four decades, the Sophie Davis school has provided an attractive (and less costly) option for students wishing to practice medicine. Over the past five years, more than 40 percent of the graduating students have been black or Latino, about four times the national average, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.
flaws
* Source: Poll asks about de Blasio, Uber and donors

physicians, and according to a study in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, nonwhite physicians cared for 53.5 percent of minority patients and 70.4 percent of non-English speaking patients.

The Sophie Davis school has always prided itself on producing minority candidates devoted to the importance of primary care in underserved neighborhoods even as medical schools around the country graduated an increasing number of students interested in specialized medicine.

The five-year program combined a college-level education with the first two years of medical school. Students would then transfer to a medical school where they could complete their clinical rotations.

Because the New York metro area is home to so many hospitals and medical schools, this arrangement worked well, for a time.

But over the past decade Sophie Davis administrators have faced increasing threats to that educational model, which left the school and CUNY with a stark choice, according to Cuomo's office: It could develop a four-year program or close its doors.

One of the most pressing challenges comes from foreign medical schools, which often pay hospitals for their clinical rotation spots. Because there are only so many available openings for student rotations, the foreign medical schools are purchasing slots that might otherwise have gone to Sophie Davis students, said Jo Wiedehorn, president and C.E.O. of the Associated Medical Schools of New York.

The problem is not unique to New York. The Association of American Medical Colleges published a survey showing the number of schools reporting problems because of competition from offshore medical schools doubled between 2009 and 2013. At the same time, New York medical schools are increasing their class sizes, meaning the hospitals that are affiliated with those schools have fewer spots open for Sophie Davis students.

"There is a national trend to increase the medical school class sizes to meet the shortage of physicians, and many medical schools near us have increased, or are in the process of increasing, class size," Deidra Hill, a spokeswoman for the City College of New York, said in an email.

The consolidation that has swept across New York over the past few years has also left less room for Sophie Davis students as independent hospitals have lately become part of larger health systems, meaning they owe allegiance to those systems' medical students.

Finally, medical schools are changing their curriculums, which meant Sophie Davis students weren't always as well prepared as CUNY administrators would have liked, or, in some cases, had to wait a semester before they could begin.

"It's really difficult to send our students who are all trained in one fashion to six different places that have trained students in six different ways, and to be sure that all our students are competent," Dr. Erica Friedman, Deputy Dean of Sophie Davis, told the Sophie Davis Biograph, a school paper.

The other concern, she said, was the values did not always match.
"While we believe we do an outstanding job of inculcating the importance of primary care as a career choice into our students during the five years they are here, we then send students off to some medical schools that don't promote primary care as a career choice, and often devalue it," she said. "So, whatever strides we make in convincing students that primary care is important get extinguished when students train in environments that don't value primary care."

Chancellor James Milliken, in the governor's press release, called the new school a "logical and necessary expansion."
Money magazine gives College of Staten Island high marks for tuition value

nws csigraduation
The College of Staten Island graduated 2,631 in May during its 66th commencement for the public institution of higher education. CSI was recently named one of Money magazine's best colleges for its tuition value. (Staten Island Advance/ Jan Somma-Hammel)

Diane C. Lore | lore@siadvance.com By Diane C. Lore | lore@siadvance.com
Follow on Twitter
on July 21, 2015 at 6:01 AM, updated July 21, 2015 at 6:09 AM

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The College of Staten Island (CSI) has scored an "A" for tuition value in "Money" magazine's list of the Best Colleges for 2015-2016.

The report, out this month, identified 736 schools, out of approximately 1,500 nationwide, that provide the best value for students' tuition dollars.

The magazine evaluated which of the country's four-year colleges and universities delivered a great education at an affordable price, examining educational quality, affordability, and alumni earnings, as well as a "special value measure," which "considered how well students at each school did versus what would be expected given their economic and academic backgrounds, and the institution's mix of majors."

Other factors included merit aid, parent and student borrowing, and the length of time to graduate.

"What's impressive is when a college can help students do far better than you'd expect based on their academic and economic backgrounds and the mix of majors at their schools (something we measure with what we call a value-added grade). These 50 schools do just that," the report explained.

With a "Value Added Grade" of A-minus, CSI ranked third for public institutions in New York state; eighth among public institutions in the Middle-Atlantic region, and 123rd overall on the Best Colleges list.

"It is especially rewarding when the day-to-day dedication and commitment of our faculty and staff, and the hard work of our students, can be recognized and celebrated in such prestigious national rankings," said CSI President Dr. William J. Fritz.

The Advance reported in March that CSI was one of the best values for parents and students concerned about soaring tuition costs and debt.
CSI, the borough's only public college, funded by city and state tax-levy dollars, enrolls just over 7,000 full-time undergraduate students, ages 17 to 21, the majority of whom are recent graduates of borough public and parochial high schools.

An astonishing two-thirds of those students attend classes at CSI's Willowbrook campus tuition free, most of them through the state's Tuition Assistance Plan (TAP), that was created to assist middle-class families with tuition costs at colleges and universities in New York state.

- According to CSI, nearly six in 10 full-time undergraduate students attend tuition-free.
- Nearly five in 10 Staten Islanders attend tuition-free.
- Seven out of 10 students graduate debt free.

Even for students whose families pay full-tuition, with books and fees the cost comes in under $7,500 a year, a relative bargain when compared with tuition at private colleges, and even colleges within the State University of New York (SUNY) system.

Additionally, students accepted into CSI's elite Macaulay Honors program -- about 160 students are enrolled -- also attend tuition-free, receive laptop computers, and a $7,500 grant for expenses, which most students use to study abroad.

The data is in line with City University of New York figures in general, although CSI arguably is the most suburban among CUNY's 24 colleges in the five boroughs.

The college recently added a new School of Business, a School of Education, and a School of Health Sciences, that, together with the soon-to-be-built Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing Center, and new campus residence halls, will increase CSI's profile among higher education institutions, Fritz predicted.

"CSI is no longer a 'best-kept secret','" he said, "and I am proud that our College continues to be further recognized in the national rankings as we take on an increasingly important role on the regional, national, and international stage."
Kingsborough Launches STEM Summer Boot Camp in New $200k Facility

BY ALIKA ELIEFFSON ON JULY 20, 2015

Kingsborough Community College (KCC) unveiled on Thursday its brand new $200,000 STEM lab, where a select group of incoming freshman will participate in an immersive summer boot camp meant to stimulate interest in math- and science-related careers.

"Educational research shows that hands-on, contextual learning appears to be most effective when introducing students to new areas of study," KCC Provost Stuart Suss said in a press release. "This is the overall goal of the summer STEM experience. We intend to awaken an interest and help it grow into an appetite for learning, ultimately providing a great starting point for those choosing careers in STEM."

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. According to a release from the college, the program will accept two groups of 15 students for a two-week program focusing on 10 areas of study: alternative energy, biomedical engineering, computer graphics and animation, environmental technology, forensics, manufacturing technology, materials science, medical imaging, nursing, and robotics.

"President Obama's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology released a 2012 report suggesting that the first two years of undergraduate study are the most critical for recruiting and retaining STEM majors to fill the STEM employment gap," Biological Sciences Department Chair Loretta Brancaccio-Taras said in the press release. "The Kingsborough STEM Lab directly addresses this issue and provides students with engaging experiences with highly-trained faculty who are also scientists."

The new 1,215-square-foot STEM lab, which will also be available for use by students working on science and tech projects, was built over several months this past spring and paid for with a combination of public and private funds. The lab contains 16 workstations and can be used by up to 24 students at a time.

"There is no greater investment in the future, than one in education," KCC President Farley Herzog said in the release. "Our brand new STEM Lab gives our incoming STEM-focused freshmen a fantastic opportunity to learn more about particular areas of interest to them."
Community Colleges Can Be Critical Middleman Between Americans and Jobs

BY ALEXIS STEPHENS | JULY 21, 2015

Last week, Next City contributor Anna Clark wrote about why we need to keep the "community" in community colleges. These schools signal a public commitment to affordable secondary education — critical in a country where even the new GED test acknowledges that a college education is more critical than ever to secure employment.

Since 2010, the Aspen Institute's Skills for America's Future initiative has aimed to bring businesses and job-seekers together via community colleges, helping to broker or expand partnerships between more than 40 employers and 200 community colleges. John Colborn became director of the Skills initiative as well as the Institute's economic opportunities program in 2014. I asked Colborn about President Obama's free community college plan, the private sector's involvement with schools and more.

Since you have taken the helm, have you made any specific tweaks to the program?
Really and truly, we have embraced the original objective. First, you have to build a data set. Now, it's looking across that data set to try and understand what we can learn about these practices, how we can be more systematic about engaging with these practices, and what it takes for the public sector to be supporting this work in a more systematic way.

How are you measuring the work of the program's early years?
I would say our unit of analysis is still the anecdote. I don't think we're quite at the point to say we've moved from x to y. What I can say is that in the discourse around community colleges — and this is work that many, many people have been part of — we are seeing more [people] embracing three notions: that if community colleges are going to be successful, they need to put student success at the center of their work; that we need to define student success in terms of both term completion and also
How do you attract private sector involvement?
If you’ve been around community colleges there is sort of a tried and true approach for many years, which was really about engaging employers in what they call curriculum advisory committees. This is an important piece of the equation. [It is] designing course offerings that pair people with the knowledge, skills and abilities that employers really need. But I think the consensus broadly is that this might be necessary, but not sufficient.

One thing that we think employers derive a lot of satisfaction from is engaging with programs that give them direct face time with students. That can be through guest-teaching courses, offering career fairs, offering job shadowing opportunities for students, judging capstone projects, through internships and other work experience programs ...

Are there any specific partnerships where you think this is done particularly well?
We’re very interested in New York City and New York State in the partnership between P-Tech [Pathways in Technology Early College High School] and CUNY [City University of New York] and the community colleges with sponsorship originally with IBM and now a whole set of companies. They’ve engaged with CUNY to design a high school-to-college career readiness experience that engages young people in their high school career. It provides work experience and exposure to workplace as a part of the program. It has been so successful that Governor Cuomo has made state resources available to expand the program to other cities.

Another one is the [retail company] Gap has embraced a series of community colleges across the country through the Gap Community College Initiative that really looks at developing close partnerships between the managers of its stores with local community colleges with an objective of being able to both recruit folks into its stores in sales positions, but also to recruit folks who they think will be good managers and assistant managers of its stores. Since they’ve begun engaging in this program, they’ve been able to build a much better track record of being able to build sales clerk staff into manager positions and beyond, being able to target their outreach and do initial education and work experience for folks while they are in school.
NYC Parents Are Satisfied With Their Kids’ Public Schools... as Usual?

By Amy Sinitser //www.dnainfo.com/new-york/about/amy-sinitser/articles/amy-sinitser | July 20, 2015 6:45pm

New York City parents are overwhelmingly “satisfied” with their children’s public and charter schools, according to survey results of more than 1,800 schools released Monday by the Department of Education (http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/tools/survey/default.htm).

“The results suggest high overall satisfaction with the city’s schools, as 95 percent of parents report satisfaction with their child’s education,” boasted the press release, highlighting the positive responses of the more than 950,000 parents, teachers and students filled out on the ninth annual NYC School Survey during what was Chancellor Carmen Fariña’s (http://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/people/carmen-farina) first full year at the helm.

A closer look at the data, however, revealed that the satisfaction rate has remained exactly the same for each of the past three school years, including when then-Chancellor Dennis Walcott ran the schools under the Bloomberg administration.

Education experts said this shouldn’t be surprising, even if there’s growing dissatisfaction with larger issues like high stakes testing (http://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20150413/park-slope/principals-pressuring-families-not-opt-out-of-state-tests) and the increasingly difficult Common Core (http://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/tags/common-core) standards.

“..."This follows national data that parents tend to like their individual schools and teachers, but think less of the state of education generally," David Bloomfield (http://www.davidbloomfield.com/) education professor at Brooklyn College and the CUNY Graduate Center said.

People are generally satisfied with the micro-level of their school and their children’s teacher but may take issue with the bigger picture of where the education system is heading, he said.

“That’s just the way it goes,” said Bloomfield, noting that people also generally report satisfaction with their local politicians too while complaining about the bigger picture state of politics.

No school saw less than 70 percent of parents satisfied with their children’s education.

Still, many schools did not get a lot of parent participation: less than half of parents filled out the survey at roughly 47 percent of schools.

Are you satisfied with your child’s education?

https://neighborhoodsquawk.com/2015/07/20/school-survey-

"VOICE YOUR OPINION ON THIS"
Arrivals From Puerto Rico Strain U.S. Communities

Exodus to U.S. mainland accelerates as territory’s financial crisis worsens; many move to Florida unprepared for cost of living

By ARIAN CAMPO-FLORES
July 20, 2015 4:10 p.m. ET

ORLANDO, Fla.—Puerto Rico’s deepening financial crisis has accelerated an exodus of residents to the U.S. mainland, straining communities on the receiving end.

The change is especially apparent in Florida, which attracts the most Puerto Rican arrivals but has a weaker safety net than some other states that are top destinations for islanders, who are U.S. citizens.

Experts say even more Puerto Rico residents could decide to move in coming
months as they digest Gov. Alejandro García Padilla’s recent announcement that the U.S. territory can’t pay its $72 billion in debt, as well as a sales-tax jump to 11.5% from 7% that took effect this month to generate more revenue. Summer, when children are out of school, is also a common period for families to migrate.

The island’s situation is so dire that many residents are leaving with few resources and little planning, said Alicia Ramírez, coordinator of the Hispanic Office for Local Assistance, or HOLA, a city-run outreach center in Orlando. Her office is fielding visits from more newcomers looking for help with finding jobs, housing and public assistance, she said.

As the influx curbs the supply of affordable apartments, some arrivals are living in their cars or cheap motels. “I’ve never seen so much desperation,” Ms. Ramírez said. “We’re worried that many of these people don’t know what they’re getting into when they come here.”

**RELATED**


Between 2011 and 2013, Puerto Rico experienced a net loss to the mainland of about 50,000 people a year. Central Florida now is home to more than 380,000 Puerto Ricans, said Edwin Meléndez, director of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College in New York.

Roughly 1,000 families a month are arriving in the area, according to Betsy Franceschini, Florida director for the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration, an arm of the island government.

At her office in Kissimmee, a city south of Orlando with a high concentration of Puerto Ricans, the volume of contacts from people who already have relocated, or still live on the island and are contemplating a move, has doubled over the past year, she said. Her office recently expanded an alliance with HOLA to meet growing demand for assistance.
States including New York and Illinois also attract many new arrivals. In the Bronx in New York City, hospitals and social-service organizations are contending with increased demand from recently arrived Puerto Ricans, said Ruben Diaz Jr., the Bronx borough president.

"People are looking to get services they cannot get on the island because the island can no longer afford them," said Mr. Diaz, who is calling for the federal government to allow the territory to restructure its debt. "That's an added burden on our local economies."

One recent morning, Alberto Suárez stopped by HOLA's office in Orlando to seek help finding work. The 57-year-old construction worker said he had pursued jobs from maintenance to hospitality since arriving from Puerto Rico in May, so far without luck.

Still, he said, his prospects are brighter here than on the island. "There's no work there," he said. "It's depressing." He said his girlfriend's son—a 28-year-old who studied engineering but drives an ice-cream truck—plans to move from the island with his family by the end of the year.

Kathielly Soto, a 35-year-old financial counselor, was fortunate to arrive in January with a job already lined up. But her husband, a graphic artist, hasn't found work yet, and higher-than-expected rent payments are squeezing their finances. "The quality of life is better" in Orlando, she said. But "coming here isn't all rosy."

Not every newcomer struggles. Since arriving last year, Israel Mercado, a 58-year-old former aircraft maintenance supervisor in Puerto Rico, founded Aviónica Orlando, a bilingual training center for aviation technicians that has
graduated nearly 100 students. He plans to launch another company focused on aircraft and helicopter repairs. Such advances would have been impossible in Puerto Rico, he said: “I left frustrated.”

Unemployment in Puerto Rico was 12.4% in May, more than twice the national rate.

Labor-force participation rates among migrants from the island increase significantly once they move to the states, according to research published last year by the Center for Puerto Rican Studies. “Obviously there is hardship,” Mr. Meléndez said. “On the other hand, they are demonstrating a lot of initiative and resolution.”

But Ms. Ramírez at HOLA said some have unrealistic expectations about what government can provide. As U.S. citizens, Puerto Ricans qualify for federal benefits such as food stamps, but welfare programs in Florida are limited. She said she sometimes has to explain that cash assistance isn’t available for rent or utility payments and that the waiting list for public housing in Orange County, home to Orlando, is more than 14,000 people long.

To help newcomers adjust, a trio of local Puerto Rican professionals began offering workshops last year in libraries and churches on topics ranging from do’s and don’ts in the workplace to the cost of living in Orlando. Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment, for instance, is about $1,000 in Orlando and $600 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, according to federal data.
“It hurts me to see folks making a move without real planning,” said Sami Haiman-Marrero, part of the group. “They don’t realize it’s highly likely they’ll be in the same condition here as they were at home because they don’t have a safety net.”

Nancy Sharifi, a program manager for Orange County and another member of the group, said she arrived in the area from Puerto Rico 35 years ago and lived in a one-bedroom apartment with her mother and two siblings. “I really admire people that are brave enough to make a bold move,” she said, but noted that the job and housing markets are tougher now. “It’s not doomsday, but it’s not paradise either.”
Just What Are the Liberal Arts Anyway?

It is summer. Across the country, high school seniors are preparing to leave their hometowns to begin their college careers. Some will go to two-year colleges. Some will go to technical colleges. And many will go on to pursue a classic liberal arts education, frequently at four-year residential colleges. These are often considered the most prestigious colleges and thus, by implication, the most valuable education. And yet, many students - and their parents - will resist the very mission of liberal education. "Parents who will mortgage their houses and their futures in order to send their kids to a liberal arts college" a colleague of mine at Yale once said to me, "will often refuse to allow them to actually get a liberal arts education." Given this truth, which we as faculty and academic advisors see all the time, it perhaps makes sense to try to describe what liberal education is.

Let us begin with what liberal education is not. It is not a technical training in a particular subject matter which leads to a particular job and career trajectory. It is not a nursing degree. Or an accounting degree. Or a degree in computer systems administration. That is, it is not pre-professional. This does not mean that it is not prepare one for a career. It just doesn't prepare one for a single career. Indeed, what it does is prepare one for a multitude of careers. A liberal arts education should also not be confused with a degree in one of the humanities. A liberal arts degree encompasses all academic disciplines, including the sciences. It is a degree in thinking - in critical thinking. We say this all the time. But what, really, does this mean? And why is it valuable?

It means that liberal education, done right and undertaken with enthusiasm, curiosity, and passion, makes you smarter. That's right. Smarter. That is, it hones your natural skills of discernment and intellect to productive thought and the creative application of knowledge. It exposes you to different types of thought (often through distribution and general education requirements) so that you can at once understand the power and the restrictions of different types of thought (that is, different disciplines). It teaches you how to use your thinking, and the skills acquired (reading, writing, numeracy, analysis, synthesis, the persuasive expression of conclusions, and the creative application of knowledge) in novel and creative ways. That is, it teaches you how to be nimble and creative. It teaches you to distinguish between fact and opinions, and to use facts to pursue informed agendas. These skills are honed first in the context of an area of major study, but the point is that they are basic transferrable skills, to be used in any - or many - context(s). This is why, when employers hire students from liberal arts colleges, they care less about the student's major than about the student's ability to talk about their major.

The liberal arts are under attack. And yet it would be silly to do away with the system of higher education that has served us so well for so many centuries. It has been the driver of knowledge production and intellectual inquiry since the Middle Ages. Indeed, it was the Middle Ages that invented both the institution of university education and our notion of critical thinking. Peter Abelard (d. 1142), perhaps the most profound intellectual of the 12th century and a central figure in the development of formal learning that became university education, explained simply that, "By doubting we examine, and by examining we come to the truth". The famous philosopher and theologian from the preceding generation, Anselm of Canterbury (d. 1109), exemplified the pervasive system of inquiry that Abelard was moving away from when he wrote, "I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe; but I believe in order that I may understand." For Anselm, knowledge and understanding were rooted in preexisting assumptions of truth (in this context, religious faith). For Abelard, this was missing the point. How do you advance understanding if your pre-existing assumptions shakele any potential discovery and any new conclusions? Abelard sought, through sustained, systematic, rigorous, and rational inquiry, to push knowledge forward. To discover new understandings of truth. To undertake what in the modern context we would call "knowledge production." And it is perhaps no coincidence that the development of this new method of intellectual inquiry coincided historically with the take-off of knowledge creation and economic productivity in the West. Make no mistake. There is no doubt that the latter rested in large, large part on the former.

For Abelard and his cohort, it was understood that one had to master the basic grammar of thought before tackling the more difficult and
more important work in technology and philosophy. That is, one had to learn to think critically, rationally, logically, and creatively before one could undertake more ambitious intellectual work. To that end, the standard university curriculum was rooted in the seven liberal arts (grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy). The seven liberal arts - the precursor of our own conception of "the liberal arts education" - were the building blocks of the competent mind.

The same premise underlies our own system of liberal education. The standard liberal arts curriculum is designed to ensure that students, upon completing their course of study, will have mastered the basic grammars of critical thought in order to then tackle, with creativity, reason, and inspiration, the more specialized tasks of professional life. This is why, looking back, careers often have so little relationship to majors. Carly Fiorina, former CEO of Hewlett Packard and currently a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, majored in Philosophy and Medieval History at Stanford. James Baker, former Secretary of State, studied Classics at Princeton. John Dickerson, the political journalist succeeding Bob Schieffer as host of Face the Nation majored in English at UVA. John Powell majored in Geology at CUNY. It is also why so many career successes appear to have had such varied career paths. It is precisely because they are not pigeon-holed into a single vocation and thus a single career path that they have the enviable ability to make and take new professional opportunities. This is what I mean by the creative application of knowledge.

What then, in this context, is the function of the required major if not to learn a specific amount of disciplinarily-defined content? It is not - not! - to train in a field that is based on information learned in that major. It is to practice thinking, researching, interpreting, writing, learning, and synthesizing, with increasingly complex arenas of knowledge. The major is, in a sense, the "thought laboratory." Working within a defined discipline, with increasingly large and complex data (whether in chemical data, or historical data, or philological data), the liberal arts student is challenged to manage, assess, and apply increasingly complex ideas and information. Managing and interpreting increasingly complex concepts works the brain, like any muscle, to become stronger and more nimble - that is, smarter. And this is why, if a student in a liberal arts school wants to get the absolute most out of their experience, they are probably better off writing a senior thesis in a discipline rather than double majoring in two closely related disciplines. This is what will push their brains farther - make them smarter - and this is the best investment they can make.

So, as parents send their kids off to college this fall, and those same kids try to figure out what they want to study, and as those of us who teach in liberal arts institutions begin talking to those students about the purpose and meaning of the educations they are about to embark upon, we should all keep in mind what our ultimate aims are. It is not vocation training. It is brain-training. We are building the brain trust of the future.

Follow Cecilia Gaposchkin on Twitter: www.twitter.com/Gaposchkin

MORE: Liberal Arts Middle Ages Teaching Critical Thinking College University History of Education Abroad Careers
What Americans Actually Do When the Government Is Watching

Recent headlines have featured multiple stories about intrusive U.S. surveillance, from a lawsuit about the NSA’s bulk phone metadata collection to new documents on the use of Executive Order 12333 to collect Americans’ online communications. Such stories tend to set off a familiar debate over privacy and security. While it is easy to opine about how people should react to government surveillance, good policy decisions must take into account how Americans do react to surveillance.

A range of studies looking at post-9/11 surveillance of Americans present one consistent conclusion: knowledge of surveillance changes behavior. In fact, there’s evidence that Americans have altered their communications, publications, Internet searches, and who they talk to because of surveillance. Certain groups have made substantial changes to how they work and live, including journalists, lawyers, writers, and American Muslims.

After a scandal like the 2013 Snowden revelations, you might expect a rush by Americans to find out what else their government is up to. And yet, an analysis of Google Trends data shows a significant five percent drop in U.S.-based searches for government-sensitive terms (e.g. “dirty bomb” or “CIA”) after the news broke. A control list of popular search terms did not show the same change, nor did personally-sensitive terms (e.g. “abortion” or “herpes”).

A more recent Pew Research Center survey shows that 30 percent of American adults have taken at least one step to hide their information from the government. That includes measures like changing privacy settings, avoiding social media or use of certain words online, or communicating offline instead. People who say they have heard a lot about NSA surveillance are more likely to try to avoid it. And a failure to take such steps does not necessarily suggest a lack of concern. Fifty four percent of those surveyed believe such efforts would be futile, opining that it would be “somewhat” or “very” difficult to find tools or strategies to protect their privacy.

Some groups have taken more drastic steps to avoid surveillance. A 2014 Human Rights Watch and ACLU study, With Liberty to Monitor All, shows that many journalists and lawyers have radically changed how they work in response to the 2013 revelations. Journalists worry about protecting their sources. They avoid email, and they use encryption programs and complex surveillance-dodging systems. This extra time means fewer stories, and the cloak-and-dagger routine scares away people who might be willing to talk.

Attorneys have a legal and ethical obligation to protect the privacy of client communications. Since the Snowden disclosures, some avoid email, encrypt communications, or rely on face-to-face interactions, which can get expensive when dealing with international clients.
In 2013, PEN America surveyed 528 American writers about surveillance and how it has affected their behavior. Eighty-five percent worry about government surveillance. This leads to self-censorship: 28 percent curtailed social media activities, 24 percent avoided certain topics by phone or email, and 16 percent chose not to write or speak on a certain topic. Plus, 16 percent avoided Internet searches or website visits on controversial or suspicious topics and 13 percent have taken extra steps to cover up Internet activity.

American Muslims are under even greater surveillance than the general public and feel it keenly. CUNY-CLEAR issued a report on Muslim reactions to the 2011 revelation that the NYPD had been using informants and other methods to watch mosques, Muslim student groups, and other centers of Muslim community. Interviewees reported avoiding activities such as prayer or social activities at mosques, political discussions (and spaces where they happen), activism, and participation in Muslim student organizations. They were suspicious of anyone new in a Muslim space or vocal about politics. Many were even reluctant to call the police when they were victims of a crime. Law-abiding Americans thus gave up entire portions of their lives to avoid the attention of the police and FBI.

In short, the evidence is mounting: Americans are staying away from the political process, censoring what they say, write, and research, limiting who they talk to, and avoiding cultural or religious communities because of surveillance.

The chilling effect of broad surveillance programs limits the exercise of the constitutional rights to freedom of speech, assembly, and religion, as well as equal protection under the law. It also causes professional harms—lawyers and journalists cannot do their jobs as well, and customers may avoid search engines and email servers run by U.S.-based companies.

Moreover, if you believe policies should be informed by rigorous democratic debate, the surveillance status quo is doing measurable damage. The groups with the most at stake are withdrawing their voices from public discussion. When speaking out means sacrificing privacy, we lose points of view, and the quality of our democracy suffers. That should give all of us something to truly fear.

Brinne O'Neal is a Research and Program Associate in the Liberty and National Security Program at the Brennan Center for Justice.

MORE: NSA Surveillance Civil Liberties Edward Snowden Press Freedom
Hatching Legal Eagles: Incubator Helps Grads Open Private Practice for Needy Clients

By Eli Wolfe

When Kai Haswell graduated from UC Berkeley in May, he found himself in a predicament shared by many new lawyers. After three years of backbreaking studying and tens of thousands of dollars spent on tuition fees, he couldn’t find a job.

Haswell knew what he was passionate about—employment discrimination—but the Bay Area is saturated with legal professionals who specialize in it. Job opportunities were scarce at smaller firms, and he wasn’t thrilled at the idea of working in a corporate office. There was another option, but Haswell wasn’t seriously considering it: setting up a solo practice.

“It just seemed too big,” Haswell says. “I’m not independently wealthy, so the idea of trying to make enough money to survive the first few months while I get my practice together—when I don’t even really know a lot about the law—that was really intimidating.”

Setting up a solo practice isn’t impossible. In fact, about 60 percent of practicing California lawyers run
their own business. But for new law school graduates—especially those interested in the un-lucrative field of public interest law—the prospect of building their own practice is daunting.

For enterprising attorneys, help is arriving: creation of a new incubator that will train recent law school graduates on how to set up their own practices dedicated to serving clients of modest means.

In January, the Alameda County Bar Association (https://www.acbanet.org/) and the Volunteer Legal Services Corporation received a $45,000 grant from the state bar's California Commission on Access to Justice (http://www.calbar.ca.gov/AboutUs/CenteronAccesstoJustice.aspx) to create the Bay Area Regional Incubator Project. At the moment, law graduates from Berkeley Law (https://www.law.berkeley.edu/) at UC Berkeley, UC Hastings, University of San Francisco, Santa Clara University and Golden State University are able to apply for a position in the incubator. The first cohort, which starts in 2016, will be composed of 15 students—three from each school—and another cohort of 15 will start in 2017.

Here's how the incubator works: Over the course of two years, participants in the incubator learn how to practice law in the real world. This may seem like something that would (and should) be covered in law school, but according to Tiela Chalmers, CEO of the county bar association, that's usually not the case.

"We learn a lot of excellent things in law school, but not as much practical advice about how to actually handle a case, and how to open up your own practice and run a business," says Chalmers, a UC Berkeley graduate. "People learn them in the schools of hard knocks, but that's a rough place to do it, especially with the risk of malpractice hanging over your head."

The incubator will pair participants with seasoned attorneys who can give them practical training on running their own firm. This ranges from advice on building a case or running a trial to figuring out how to manage the daily operations of a law firm.

But learning how to set up a solo practice is only half the work. Participants will also be matched with legal service agencies and firms, where for six months they must spend 20 hours a week doing pro bono work for low-income clients. After they leave the incubator, they are expected to devote at least 50 percent of their caseload to modest-means clients. According to Melanie Rowen (https://www.law.berkeley.edu/career-development-office/contact-us/), associate director for public interest at Berkeley Law, this is part of the incubator's greater effort to close society's "justice gap."

"There are thousands and thousands of clients who really need legal representation, but because they're in that low- to moderate-income band, they can't afford anyone," Rowen says. Conversely, "we have people graduating from law school who would love to serve those clients, but don't have the structure to
Critics fault law schools for failing to provide adequate opportunities for aspiring lawyers interested in social justice causes.

Katherine Katcher, who graduated from Berkeley Law in 2013, laments that as a student she didn’t encounter a program like the Bay Area Regional Incubator project. She says that many law schools seem to funnel students into only a handful of career paths.

“If you’re brilliant, you’re supposed to go do a clerkship, and [then] you’re sent to work at a firm, and you work at a firm for 15 years, and then you’re allowed to think more creatively about the world,” Katcher says. “They’re losing a lot of potential and brilliance by not actively engaging students with social entrepreneurship.”

So why are law schools only now partnering with legal incubators? Some people think it has to do with the Great Recession, which laid waste to the legal field. Thousands of recent law school graduates were looking for work, and a massive number of low- to moderate-income clients were looking for representation. According to Rowen, a New York attorney named Fred Rooney was the first to recognize how to solve both problems at once. After the development of a legal incubator at the City University of New York in 2007, incubators began popping up across the country. At a recent conference in San Diego, Rowen found herself mingling with representatives from 100 different legal incubator programs.

But a crisis might not have been the sole motivation. Rowen speculates that incubators may be an inevitable step as law schools evolve toward more practice-oriented, clinical education.

As legal education changes, so will the priorities of educators and young lawyers. Incubators have the potential to create a sea change in the legal community, Katcher contends, by getting law schools to reconsider the purpose of a legal education.

“Are we going to law school to learn theoretical concepts from 200 years ago?” Katcher asks. “Or are we going to law school to train lawyers how to be engaged in their community and make a difference?”

Posted on July 20, 2015 - 12:32pm
Cuomo names new state Liquor Authority CEO

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has named a new top executive at the State Liquor Authority.

Kenn O'Brien, who has served as deputy commissioner of licensing at the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, has been appointed chief executive officer of the authority.

O'Brien was one of seven appointees Cuomo named to state posts Monday. Here's the release from his office with more:

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced seven appointments to his administration, adding to a team committed to implementing his bold agenda.

"Each of these individuals brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to their new roles in state government, and I am proud to have them as part of our administration," Governor Cuomo said. "Our state has made tremendous progress over the past four and a half years, and together we will continue to move New York forward."

Paul Francis has been appointed Deputy Secretary for Health and Human Services. Previously, Mr. Francis served under Governor Cuomo as the Director of Agency Redesign. He has also previously served in New York State government as the Director of the Budget and the Director of State Operations. His business career includes serving as the Chief Financial Officer of Ann Taylor Stores Corporation and Priceline.com, as well as the Chief Operating Officer of the Financial Product Division of Bloomberg LP. Mr. Francis has served on the board of trustees of numerous organizations, including as the Chairman of the New York State Health Foundation prior to joining the Cuomo administration. Mr. Francis holds a J.D. from New York University and a B.A. from Yale University.

Kenn O'Brien has been appointed Chief Executive Officer for the State Liquor Authority. Ms. O'Brien has over 33 years of experience at the New York State Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, most recently serving as the Deputy Commissioner of Licensing, where she helped reduce license application review times by 50 percent. Additionally, Ms. O'Brien has participated in panels to improve the State Liquor Authority's license application process, as well as helping to draft legislation and State Liquor Authority Board advisories—which resulted in the number of liquor manufacturers in the state more than doubling.

Greg Francis has been appointed Chief Investment Officer of The New York State Insurance Fund. Mr. Francis comes from an extensive background in financial management, most recently serving as the Head of Fixed Income Portfolio Management for Santa Clara County in California. Previously, he served at GE Capital as the Head of Fixed Income and Derivatives Portfolio Management, at Fortress Bank as the Senior Fixed Income and Derivatives Portfolio Manager, and at Capital One Asset Management as the Co-Head of Fixed Income Portfolio Management, among others. In these roles, he oversaw portfolios totaling billions of dollars while designing and supervising investment strategies. Mr. Francis holds a B.S. from the Columbia University School of Engineering.

Susan G. Rosenthal has been appointed General Counsel of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation. Ms. Rosenthal previously served as General Counsel for the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and prior was Partner at Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, LLP among other private law practices. She has decades of experience as a litigator of commercial and corporate law disputes and as a mediator and arbitrator for the United States District Courts of the Southern and Eastern Districts. She holds a J.D. from New York University School of Law and a B.A. from SUNY Binghamton, Harpur College.

Manuel Rosa has been appointed the Director of Community Relations for Faith-Based Groups at New York State Homes and Community Renewal. Mr. Rosa previously served as Assistant Director for the Promise Community Residence Program, where he was responsible for gathering and creating supportive housing for individuals diagnosed with persistent mental illness and substance abuse addictions. Prior, he was Assistant Vice President of the NYC Health & Hospitals Corporation, where he managed the office’s intergovernmental and external relations, as well as the Director for the New York State Department of Health’s Office of Minority Health. Mr. Rosa is also currently an Adjunct Professor of Urban Studies at SUNY’s Utica College and holds a B.S. from Colby College.

Natasha Carballos has been appointed Special Counsel to the Commissioner for Ethics, Risk and Compliance for the Department of Labor. Ms. Carballos was most recently a senior associate at Baker & Hostetler LLP, having previously served as a Judicial Law Clerk for the United States Bankruptcy Court of the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. She is a member of the American Bar Association, Association of the Bar of the City of New York, and the Hispanic National Bar Association. Ms. Carballos holds a J.D. from Fordham University and a B.S. from Cornell University.

Carey Merrill has been appointed Special Counsel to the Chief Information Officer for Ethics, Risk and Compliance in the Office of Information Technology Services. Most recently, Ms. Merrill served as Counsel to Professional Risk, Cyber and Surety underwriters at ACE North America. Prior, she served as 9/11 and a Trial Attorney at the Military Personnel Litigation Division and Employment Litigation Division, and in various other roles within the United States Air Force. Ms. Merrill holds a J.D. from George Washington University and a B.A. from Ithaca College.
Why America is Falling Behind the Rest of the World

12 signs of the decline of the U.S.A.

America is declining, in large and important measures, yet policymakers aren’t paying attention. So argues a new academic paper, pulling together previously published data.

Consider this:

- America’s child poverty levels are worse than in any developed country anywhere, including Greece, devastated by a euro crisis, and eastern European nations such as Poland, Lithuania and Estonia.

- Median adult wealth in the US ($83,000) is 27th globally, putting it behind Cyprus, Taiwan, and Ireland.

- Even when “life satisfaction” is measured, America ranks 12, behind Israel, Sweden and Australia.

Overall, America’s per capita wealth, health and education measures are mediocre for a highly industrialized nation. Well-being metrics, perceptions of corruption, quality and cost of basic services, are sliding, too. Healthcare and education spending are funding bloated administrations even while human outcomes sink, the authors say.

“We looked at very broad measures, and at individual measures, too,” said co-author Hershay H. Friedman, a business professor at Brooklyn College—City University of New York. “The most dangerous sign they saw: rising income and wealth inequality, which slow growth and can spark instability, the authors say.

“Capitalism has been amazingly successful,” write Friedman and co-author Sarah Hertz of Empire State College. But it has grown so unfeathered, predatory, so exclusionary, it’s become, in effect, crony capitalism. Now places like Qatar and Romania, “countries you wouldn’t expect to be, are doing better than us,” said Friedman.

“You can become a second-rate power very quickly,” added Hertz.

To be sure, the debate over whether America is on the decline has raged for years. The US National Intelligence Council said in its global trends report a decade ago American power was on a downward trajectory. Others making the case say the US is overstretched militarily, ill-prepared technologically, at-risk financially, or lacking dynamism in the face of influential, new competitors.

Arguing decline has been exaggerated, others point to a rising US stock market, manufacturing strength, a growing population, and a domestic energy boom.
The authors collect many previously published rankings, and the picture that emerges, however, is sobering:

1. Median household income

**Rank of U.S.: 27th out of 27 high-income countries**

Americans may feel like global leaders, but Spain, Cyprus and Qatar all have higher median household incomes than America's (about $54,000). So does much of Europe and the industrialized world. Per capita median income in the US ($18,700) is also relatively low—and unchanged since 2000. A middle-class Canadian's income is now higher.

2. Education and skills

**Rank of U.S.: 16th out of 23 countries**

The US ranked near the bottom in a skills survey by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which examined European and other developed nations. In its Skills Outlook 2013, the US placed 16th in adult literacy, 21st in adult numeracy out of 23, and 14th in problem-solving. Spots in prestigious US universities are highly sought-after. Yet higher education, once an effective way out of poverty in the US, isn't anymore—least not for lower-income and minority students. The authors quote studies showing, for example, that today 80% of white college students attend Barron's Top 500 schools, while 75% of black and Latino students go to two-year junior colleges or open-admissions (not Top 200) schools. Poor students are also far less likely to complete a degree.

3. Internet speed and access

**Rank of U.S.: 16th out of 34 countries**

Broadband access has become essential for industry to grow and flourish. Yet in the US, penetration is low and speed relatively slow versus wealthy nations—though the cost of internet is among the highest ($8.04 per megabit per second in Japan, for example, versus $0.43 in the US). The problem may be too much concentration and too little competition in the industry, the authors suggest.

4. Health

**Rank of U.S.: 33rd out of 145 countries**

When it comes to its citizens' health, in countries that are home to at least one million people, the US ranks below many other wealthy countries. More American women also are dying during pregnancy and childbirth, the authors note, quoting a Lancet study. For every 100,000 births in the United States, 18.5 women die. Saudi Arabia and Canada have half that maternal death rate.

5. People living below the poverty line

**Rank of U.S.: 36th out of 169 countries, behind Morocco and Albania**

Officially, 14.5% of Americans are impoverished—45.3 million people—according to the latest US Census data. That's a larger fraction of the population in poverty than Morocco and Albania (though how nations define poverty varies considerably). The elderly have Social Security, with its automatic cost-of-living adjustments, to thank, the authors say, for doing better. Few seniors (one in 10) are poor today versus 50 years ago (when it was one in three). Poverty is also down among African Americans. Now America's poor are more often in their prime working years, or in households headed by single mothers.

6. Children in poverty

**Rank of U.S.: 34th out of 35 countries surveyed**

When UNICEF relative poverty—relative to the average in each society—the US ranked
at the bottom, above only Romania, even as Americans are, on average, six times richer than Romanians. Children in all of Europe, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan are better.

7. Income inequality

Rank of U.S.: Fourth highest inequality in the world.

The authors argue that the most severe inequality can be found in Chile, Mexico, Turkey—and the US. Citing the Gini coefficient, a common inequality metric, and data from Wall Street Journal/Mercer Human Resource Consulting, they say this inequality slows economic growth, impedes youths' opportunities, and ultimately threatens the nation's future (an OECD video explains). Worsening income inequality is also evident in the ratio of average CEO earnings to average workers' pay. That ratio went from 24:1 in 1965 to 262:1 in 2005.

8. Prison population

Rank of U.S.: First out of 224 countries

More than 2.2 million Americans are in jail. Only China comes close, the authors write, with about 1.66 million.

9. Life satisfaction

Rank of U.S.: 17th out of 36 countries

The authors note Americans' happiness score is only middling, according to the OECD Better Life Index. (The index measures how people evaluate their life as a whole rather than their current feelings.) People in New Zealand, Finland, and Israel rate higher in life satisfaction. A UN report had a similar finding.

10. Corruption

Rank of U.S.: 17th out of 175 countries.

Barbados and Luxembourg are ahead of the US when it comes to citizens' perceptions of corruption. Americans view their country as "somewhat corrupt," the authors note, according to Transparency International, a Berlin-based nonprofit. In a separate survey of American citizens, many said politicians don't serve the majority's interest, but are biased toward corporate lobbyists and the super-rich. "Special interest groups are gradually transforming the United States into an oligarchy," the authors argue, "concerned only about the needs of the wealthy."

11. Stability

Rank of U.S.: 20th out of 178 countries.

The Fragile States Index considers factors such as inequality, corruption, and factionalism. The US lags behind Portugal, Slovenia and Iceland.

12. Social progress index

Rank of U.S.: 16th out of 133 countries

A broad measure of social well-being, the index comprises 52 economic indicators such as access to clean water and air, access to basic education, access to basic knowledge, and safety. Countries surpassing the US include Ireland, the UK, Iceland, and Canada.

"If America's going to be great again, we've got to start fixing things," Friedman said.

Jill Hamburg Coplan is a writer and editor and regular contributor to Fortune.
The revelation of the pianist Marc-André Hamelin’s perfectly conceived recital on Sunday evening at the Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College didn’t come in one of the Liszt or Chopin pieces. It was the contemporary work sandwiched between them: Yehudi Wyner’s “Toward the Center,” a solo written in 1988 to commemorate the retirement of a longtime teacher at the Yale School of Music.

It begins with a brazen, almost stentorian flourish that’s left to resonate before the pianist proceeds, as if with caution, and then suddenly dives again into thickets of activity. Contrasts emerge, but subtle ones. The mood grows reflective; fragments of melody keep coming to subdued endings, after which the music seems unsure how, or even if, it should proceed.

There’s a section dogged by a sober three-note motif, and then pristine scales, like descending staircases made of ice. Near the end, the music starts shyly to swing, softly moving toward the keyboard’s heights before resolving in a light tolling, growing ever fainter.

The piece is a little masterpiece, quiet and glowing, and Mr. Hamelin, with his preternatural clarity and control, qualities that in him don’t preclude sensitivity and even poetry, was an ideal interpreter on Sunday, when he appeared as one of the highlights of the 16-day International Keyboard Institute & Festival. When the performance ended, and Mr. Wyner was called to the stage, he bowed not to the audience but to Mr. Hamelin, giving gratitude where it was due.
“Toward the Center” wasn’t just thrown into the recital, a nod to contemporary music. Its changeable emotions seemed to emerge organically from the five Liszt works on the first half of the program, and its lyrical impulses led sensibly into Chopin’s Sonata No. 2 at the end.

Those Liszt pieces were divided into two sets: first, three delicate studies and then two of his deliriously virtuosic arrangements of operatic themes. Mr. Hamelin more than meets the technical requirements of this second group, but the colors he brought to the quieter pieces were even more impressive.

The first from the set of three “Apparitions” (S. 155) began with haziness in the left hand, cut with crystalline precision in the right. Mr. Hamelin drizzled unexpected curls of ornamentation into the regularity of “Waldesrauschcn” (S. 145, No. 1). These pieces pointed not just to Mr. Wyner’s work, but also to Debussy’s glittering “Reflets dans l’eau,” played as an encore.

Mr. Hamelin’s restraint, even when he’s ferocious, gave Chopin’s “Funeral March” sonata a particularly somber cast. In the third movement, which gives the work its nickname, the lullabylike interlude was more earthly than spiritual, an evocation of what we leave behind.

The International Keyboard Institute & Festival runs through Aug. 2 at the Kaye Playhouse, Manhattan; 212-772-4448, ikif.org.
Why are so many mentally ill people imprisoned in Pennsylvania?

Daniel Simmons-Ritchie | simmons-ritchie@pennlive.com By Daniel Simmons-Ritchie | simmons-ritchie@pennlive.com

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on July 21, 2015 at 6:30 AM, updated July 21, 2015 at 6:39 AM

"There has been a significant increase in the number of mentally ill inmates being incarcerated." – Ed Sweeney

EDITOR'S NOTE: In 2006, with some controversy, the state shuttered central Pennsylvania’s only mental hospital. The closure of the Harrisburg State Hospital came with a promise from state officials to the 12 counties it served: mentally ill people wouldn’t end up on city streets. Instead, savings from the closure would be reinvested in caseworkers and other programs to help the region’s mentally ill live in the community. This is the start of a multi-part package that will publish over the next couple of months looking at people with mental illnesses and the overworked and underfunded system that’s now in place to serve them.

There’s a grim joke among correctional officers across Pennsylvania: Prisons are no longer lock-ups for America’s worst offenders; they’re asylums for the mentally ill.

Based on an analysis of data from county and state prisons, PennLive estimates that nearly a third of Pennsylvania’s 87,756 inmates had a mental illness on an average day last year. Of those inmates, PennLive estimates, about a third of them had a “serious mental illness” – defined as the most chronic and debilitating of mental disorders, like schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Both those rates are significantly higher than the rate among Pennsylvanians outside of prison. It begs the question: Why are so many of the state’s mentally ill being locked up?

Deinstitutionalization across the nation

Pennsylvania isn’t the only state to have significantly high numbers of mentally ill people behind bars. Multiple studies have found disproportionately high rates in correctional facilities across the country.

Keith Humphreys, a professor of psychiatry at Stanford University, said that it’s a trend that goes back to the 1960s.

Through much of the early 20th century, Humphreys said, a large number of America’s seriously were held in state psychiatric hospitals.

In the 1960s, however, due to growing concerns about abuses within these facilities and
people for the entirety of their lives, the country began a massive push to close state hospitals and move patients into the community. The hope was that they could live happier and more productive lives with the help of caseworkers and newly developed psychotropic drugs.

Between 1955 and today, America's total state hospital population fell from 558,000 to 43,000 – a decrease of more than 90 percent.

Pennsylvania embraced that campaign, known as deinstitutionalization, as much as any other state. Since 1955, the Commonwealth has closed more than 10 state hospitals and cut its average daily patient population from 41,000 to 1,500 – a decrease of 96 percent.

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...the plan to treat former patients in the community might have been well-intentioned, Humphreys said,
there was a key problem: Many states didn't invest enough money in case management and other community programs to meet the needs of former patients and those who would've been treated.

"So what happened is that people were kind of left to themselves," Humphreys said. "And then some of them started ending up being homeless or winding up in the criminal justice system."

Humphreys said deinstitutionalization had certainly vastly improved the quality of life for some people, particularly those with intellectual disabilities, but its failures were felt across the country to this day.

"And that's why if you go to any American prison — and I've been in many of them — you find a very large number of people with mental illnesses or addictions or both," he said.

**A more nuanced explanation**

But while underinvestment might have been one the biggest reasons for the failure of deinstitutionalization in the United States, Humphreys added, there are several other factors at play, too.

Over the past 50 years, other wealthy nations closed many of their psychiatric hospitals but, as far as Humphreys is aware, they haven't experienced the same degree of homelessness and incarceration among their mentally ill populations as the United States.

One of the reasons, Humphreys said, is that the criminal justice system in the United States is typically more punitive than other wealthy countries. Humphrey said that mandatory minimum sentences and severe restrictions on parole and probation have led the United States to have the highest per capita prison population in the world, increasing the possibility that seriously mentally ill people are imprisoned.

In addition, Humphreys said, the United States' unusually open access to firearms means that seriously mentally ill people are more likely to commit violent crimes that will lead to a prison sentence. By comparison, Europe has far more stringent gun regulations and significantly lower rates of violent crime.

But, Humphreys said, eclipsing both of those reasons for the failure of de-institutionalization in the United States was due to the nature of the nation's health care system.

The United States, unlike nearly all of its wealthy peers, has an insurance-based health care system that doesn't offer universal coverage to its citizens. While President Barack Obama's 2009 health care overhaul had greatly improved coverage rates in recent years, the system's underlying flaws remained.

Inherently, Humphreys said, an insurance-based system like ours will leave a disproportionate high numbers of mentally ill people without coverage.
"Because they have less wherewithal to figure out how to negotiate the system," Humphreys said. "They're less likely to have a job. They're less likely to do whatever the expectations are of a society that says 'you must do X, Y and Z' in order to earn health insurance."

By comparison, Humphreys said, mentally ill people are "in the club" from birth in Britain's government-run health care system and face virtually no upfront costs for treatment or medication because the system is largely funded through taxes.

That means that people who need mental health services are more likely to get them and are less likely to have a psychiatric crisis that leads them to living on the streets or getting in trouble with the law.

Humphreys added that beyond getting insurance and paying for it, the fundamental structure of the U.S. health care system was also less efficient at distributing psychiatric care than countries with universal health care systems.

In countries such as Britain and Canada, Humphreys said, general practitioners typically act as gatekeepers: If a person is suffering from mental health issues in a non-emergency situation, they will see a doctor who will then refer that person to a psychiatrist if they judge that it's necessary.

In the United States, on the other hand, a person can typically go straight to a psychiatrist if he or she can afford it.

Humphreys said the problem with that system is that people with the wealth to freely see a psychiatrist but who don't necessarily have pressing mental health problems can soak up a huge amount of the time of psychiatrists and psychologists.

Humphrey's pointed to an study in 2008 by Ronald Kessler, a health policy professor at Harvard Medical School, that explored that point.

"He showed that in Canada, roughly speaking, the more ill you were the more care you got," he said. "But in the United States that wasn't true. There's a big market of people who don't really have anything seriously wrong who consume a lot of outpatient mental health services."

The situation today

But not everyone believes that there is are disproportionate numbers of mentally ill people in Pennsylvania's correctional system.

Lynn Keltz, executive director of Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association, a group that represents people

Downtown Harrisburg buildings can be seen from the grounds of the old State Hospital in Harrisburg, Pa., April 21, 2015. The hospital closed in 2006.

Mark Pynes | mpynes@pennlive.com
with mental illnesses, is deeply skeptical.

Keltz, an ardent supporter of the closure of state hospitals, said that even if PennLive’s figures on mental illness in the correctional system in 2014 are correct, she believes there’s no historical research to prove that they’ve grown over time.

"I don't think anybody ever did a study 50 years ago, 25 years ago, to determine how many people in prison-type environments had mental-health needs," she said. "So I think it's a little difficult to say now that your numbers are increasing."

Without that evidence, Keltz maintains, it's impossible to say that the closure of state hospitals has led to an increase of seriously mentally ill inmates into the correctional system in Pennsylvania.

Dennis Marion, deputy secretary for the state Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Service, is also skeptical that the closure of Pennsylvania’s state hospitals have led to higher rates of incarceration among the state's mentally ill.

Marion pointed to a study published by Allegheny County this year that looked at the impact of the closure of Mayview State Hospital, near Pittsburgh, in 2008.

"If you look at that, very few of the seriously mentally ill folks who came out of that hospital found their way in the justice system," he said.

**Academics and corrections officials disagree**

But academics, corrections officials, and mental health care professionals interviewed by PennLive dispute those arguments.

Humphreys, the professor of psychiatry from Stanford University, said it was difficult to not see a connection between the closure of state hospitals across the United States and the high proportions of mentally ill people in its correctional system today.

While he said he agreed with Keltz’s argument that there was relatively little historic research on the changing rate of prevalence of mental illness in the correctional system, intuitively, he said, the proportion of the American population that was formerly treated in state hospitals had to go somewhere.

"Almost all of those places have closed or downsized, so we have to explain where all their residents went," he said. "Unless we assume they all got better, they had to go somewhere else and it was usually prison."

There is some evidence in Pennsylvania to support Humphreys' assertion. While historical data is limited, Department of Corrections data in the state prison system shows a gradual increase in the prevalence of mental illness and serious mental illness since record keeping began in 1999.
Mental illness rates in Pa.'s state prisons

- Mentally ill
- Seriously mentally ill

1999: 14% 14% 15% 16% 17% 19% 18% 18% 18% 18% 20% 21% 21% 22% 22% 25%


While department officials said that those increases are partly due to better diagnosis of mental health issues, they also said there has been an influx of mentally ill people over the years.

"So it's a combination of things," said John Wetzel, secretary of the Department of Corrections. "We're getting more mentally ill offenders and we're getting better at diagnosing and recognizing things that, 10 years ago, we may have thought was behavioral."

For their part, more than a dozen county prison officials and prison mental health workers interviewed by PennLive also believed that the proportion of mentally ill inmates had increased over the past few decades in Pennsylvania, driven largely by the closure of state hospitals.

Ed Sweeney, director of corrections for Lehigh County, said he saw a direct impact from the closure of Allentown State Hospital in 2010 on his prison.
"Without question," he said. "There has been a significant increase in the number of mentally ill inmates being incarcerated."

That said, Sweeney agreed with Marion's argument to an extent. He believed that it wasn't necessarily former patients from the Allentown State Hospital who were ending up in his prison. Rather, he believed that many of his seriously mentally ill inmates were people who were never admitted to the facility but would have been if it was still around or would have gotten a significantly longer period of treatment than in the region's other inpatient facilities.

Sweeney, like many of those interviewed by PennLive, said he didn't believe that Pennsylvania needed to go back to the 1950s when roughly 40,000 Pennsylvanians were held in state hospitals. He believed the majority of seriously mentally ill people could lead normal lives in the community with the right help and medication.

But he said, Pennsylvania has the worst of both worlds: It doesn't have enough state hospital beds for those mentally ill people who genuinely need long-term treatment and it doesn't have a community mental health care system that could meet the needs of those who don't need inpatient care.

"And they just can't take it," Sweeney said. "There's not adequate services to take care of these people."

_graphics by Nick Malawskey_

Daniel Simmons-Ritchie joined PennLive in 2014. Simmons-Ritchie is the recipient of a fellowship through the John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Langeloth Foundation. Simmons-Ritchie previously wrote an award-winning series that explored similar issues in South Dakota's jails at his previous employer, the Rapid City Journal. Since arriving here, he served as one of two primary writers on an in-depth look at heroin in the midstate called Addiction Crisis in Pa.