As we kick off an academic year in pandemic conditions, I've spent time reflecting on GRI's core values:

- Ideas are powerful
- Don't underestimate an underground
- We look beyond the ivory tower
- Diversity drives innovation
- Our whole is greater than the sum of our parts

These values drove GRI's work toward a new strategic plan this summer (I promise to share the final draft soon), and I believe they are particularly salient at this time. We may not be able to gather for in-person events at GRI this fall, but our research and teaching enterprise is alive and well (former Secretaries of State and Defense even joined us via Zoom this summer). We will continue investing in promising new ideas from students and faculty alike to ensure we don't lose momentum post-pandemic. To name just two examples, we are awarding innovation funding to students who will create an undergraduate lab studying disinformation and we are thrilled to welcome our first post-doctoral fellow for academic diversity who is supporting ongoing efforts to use mobile data to predict and mitigate COVID-19 outbreaks.

In this newsletter, you'll find our traditional mix of community and research stories, including a prize-winning student white paper, research about COVID's impact on protest movements, and a new white paper on the origins of spatial inequality in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Hope you are well and that we see each other soon, whether in the Burg or on Zoom.

Best,
Mike