

THE PUBLIC SERVANT

NEWS FROM ASU'S MPA PROGRAM

ASU MPA Program Inducts Charter Members of Pi Alpha Alpha

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Special points of interest:

- ASU MPA Program Inducts Charter members into National Honor Society.
- Cohort Group Projects assist in Community Research.

On Friday evening May the 6th the MPA Program held its first Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA) induction ceremony. Pi Alpha Alpha is the national honor society for the field of public affairs and public administration. The purpose of PAA is to encourage and recognize outstanding scholarship and accomplishment in these fields. Dr. Bloodworth served as the keynote speaker and MPA students and alumni took the PAA oath to enter the society.

Since this was the first Induction ceremony for this society at ASU, alumni were also given an invitation to join the chapter. Charter members included Robin Bengston (2002) Annette Carter, Patrick Clayton (2004), Laura Collins, Christy Donovan, Kim Gray (2000), Linda Grijalva (2003), Daniel Gwinn (2001) Jennifer Hilliard, Rachel Hondred (2002), Dwight Johnson, Katie Little, Virginia Loveless, Donnie Porter, Amy Poston (2004), Phil Stavale, Katherine

Sweeney (1999), Catherine Weldon (2001), and Mickey Williford.

Dr. Miller will serve as the Society's faculty advisor along with the newly elected officers: Katie Little- President, Kim Gray- Vice President, and Phil Stavale- Secretary. The induction was held jointly with the National Political Science Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha, in which 13 current undergraduate students were inducted.



Dr. Reinke administrators the oath to new Initiates.

CONGRATULATIONS TO....

This Spring several MPA students presented papers and participated in a poster session at the annual Phi Kappa Phi research symposium held on campus. MPA students presented their papers in a panel discussion entitled "David v. Goliath, Georgia-Style: The Case of the Taliaferro County Landfill". Paper presenters included **Mickey Williford**, **Ginny Loveless** and **April Zahner**, and **Tom Chumbley**. Two projects developed during last summers G.I.S. class were presented in a poster session done by **Yin Lim** for a project co-authored by **Mickey Williford**, and **Dwight Johnson**. **Phil Stavale** also participated in the poster session for his work done along with **Tom Larsen** and **Ryan Ross**.



Mickey Williford who traveled to Carrolton, GA for the Georgia ASPAA Academic Conference to present "But What About the People? Health Impacts of Landfills on their Communities", a paper co-authored by **Donnie Porter**.

Dwight Johnson was chosen as a class of 2005 Presidential Management Finalist. The PMF Program is aimed at attracting outstanding graduate students to the Federal service who demonstrate an exceptional ability for leadership in the analysis and management of public policy and programs. Dwight was one of 639 Finalists out of 3,321 total applicants. He traveled to Washington, D.C. in late March and attended the PMF career fair where he received 23 offers to work for the federal government.

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SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Every year, Americans are getting fatter, and fewer have access to healthcare. This year, two student research teams took on the challenge of studying these problems in Georgia's children. In the process, both teams provided community agencies with valuable information, and the students learned a lot about important public policy issues.

Fighting Obesity in the Kids Café Program

Over 60% of American adults are overweight and of these, 26% are obese. In young Americans, the prevalence of obesity is increasing with the most recent estimates suggesting that 11% of children and adolescents are overweight. In the South, obesity is even more common. One study found 54% of Mississippi children were overweight or at risk or obesity. Several factors contributed to this: eating too much saturated fats and salt, drinking too many soft drinks; not getting enough calcium, fruits and vegetables; and not exercising. All of these factors are more likely to be present in low-income children. Ironically, these are the same children facing the threat of hunger and lack of health care.

One group of student researchers examined the relationship between food insecurity and obesity in children participating in the Kids Café program in

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COURSE SCHEDULE 2005 ACADEMIC YEAR

Summer 2005

PADM 6020, Intro. To G.I.S. (Ms. Howard)
PADM 6200, Human Resources(Dr. Miller)
PADM 6300, Public Budgeting (Mr. Crosson)
PADM 6301, Financial Management for Non-profits **NEW**
PADM 6350, Emergency Management (Dr. Reinke)

Fall 2005

PADM 6000, History, Scope and Practice

(Drs. Reinke & Miller)

PADM 6010, Communications Skills (Dr. Wood)

PADM 6500, Research Methods (Dr. Zemrani)

PADM 6550, Human Service Administration (Ms. Landy)

PADM 6700, Urban Government and Administration (Dr. Harris)

PADM 6750, Program Evaluation (Dr. Johnston)

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Our May Graduates, **Linda Aubrey, Laura Collins, Christal Duggan, Katie Little, Dwight Johnson, Donnie Porter and Mickey Williford**



Laura Collins, who is now working for the local Social Security Administration office.

Andy Crosson, and his wife Terrie on the birth of their new son Connor. Connor weighed in at 7 lbs. and 13 1/2 ozs. and was 19 1/2 inches long. Andy serves as an MPA faculty member and is the Chair of the MPA Community Advisory Board. Connor is pictured at left.



Stephanie Quattlebaum, is now the Community Projects Manager for the CSRA Area Agency in Aging, a division of the CSRA Regional Development Center. Stephanie does strategic planning, public relations and community outreach for programs that promote maximum independence and quality of life for seniors.

Donald Mills who will continue to serve as a graduate assistant for the summer term and next fall.

Community Research Cont'd.

Augusta, Georgia. Participants were weighed and measured to determine BMI, then interviewed to examine eating and exercise habits. Their responses were compared with similar children who participated in Boys' and Girls' Clubs. Of the 75 participants, 25% were found to be obese and 16% were at risk, with girls significantly more likely to be obese. These numbers are higher than the national figures. Almost 60% of participants took advantage of the free breakfast offered them at their school, and 87% ate lunch at school. While virtually all children (77.3%) participated in mandatory physical education classes, and most (81.3%) claimed to exercise outside of school, 84% watched more than one hour of television a day and 20% played video games more than one hour a day.

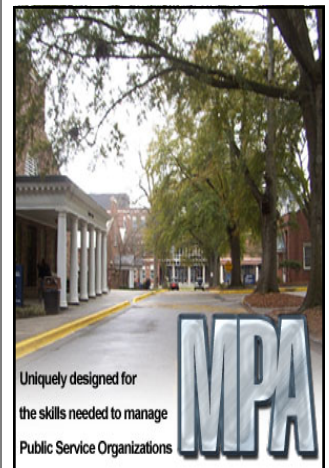
This study provided Golden Harvest Food Bank, the operator of the Kids Café with the first demographic picture of participants in their program. In addition, it provided valuable information on the eating habits of these children—information that can be used to adjust menus to help counter national and local trends towards obesity in children.

Falling Between the Cracks: Children and Access to Healthcare in Augusta

PeachCare for Kids began providing health care coverage to children in the state of Georgia in 1999. Coverage is available to children whose families meet the income guidelines of less than or equal to 235% of the federal poverty limit. Legislation passed in the 2002-2003 legislative session altered the program by increasing premium rates and by extending the lock out period to three months for those individuals who did not pay their monthly premiums or were late with their payment. The second student research team wanted to find out what impact this change had on children's access to health care in the CSRA.

Between August and October, 2004, 600 children were placed in "lock out" status for failure to pay premiums. To find out why, the parents of these children were surveyed. Contrary to the researchers' opinions, only 8% of respondents indicated that the premium increase resulted in their being unable to keep PeachCare coverage. Instead 48.9% of respondents confessed they had either forgotten to mail the payment or they mailed the payment late. Respondents were overwhelmingly positive about the program, the application process, and 71% planned to re-enroll their children once their lock out period is over. Sadly, when children were placed in lock out status, their parents did not maintain the same quality of healthcare for them. Just over 35% of children received no healthcare at all while they were in lock out status.

From a program management standpoint, just over 30% of respondents indicated they had received no notice they were entering lock out status. The first time they knew they had lost insurance coverage came when attempting to get treatment for their child. The findings and recommendations from this study were provided to PeachCare management in the CSRA to improve service to local citizens and their children.



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ALUMNI NEWS

Ron Wiggins (1999) who is the MPA's first alumni to obtain a Ph.D. Ron received his EDD from Georgia Southern University.

Carmen Landy (2001) is now the Director of Helping Hands Shelter in Aiken for children aged 0- 17.

MAY 2005 GRADUATES!!!



Our Mission

The Master of Public Administration degree prepares current and prospective professional public managers whose skills enable them to adopt to changes and new demands in public, nonprofit or voluntary organizations. The degree seeks to foster the intellectual growth of students through faculty emphasis on teaching excellence and applied management practices. The program will address the needs of public and nonprofit sector organizations in the community and in the region through the application of intellectual resources and applied research.

Our Faculty

Dr. Paul Harris

Dr. Nabil Ibrahim

Dr. Bob Johnston

Dr. Sandra Reinke

Dr. Ralph Walker

Dr. Steven Weiss

Dr. Ray Whiting

Dr. Gwen Wood

Ms. Mary Howard

Mr. Andy Crosson

Dr. Randall Miller

Ms. Carmen Landy

Dr. Zemrani