

THE PUBLIC SERVANT

NEWS FROM ASU'S MPA PROGRAM

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Introducing . . .</i>	2
<i>Class Schedule</i>	2
<i>Congratulations</i>	2-3
<i>Curriculum Update</i>	3
<i>Faculty News</i>	3
<i>Field Trip</i>	4
<i>Coming in the Spring</i>	4

Special points of interest:

- How our program serves the community (page 1)
- New Faculty (page 2)
- Congratulations (pages 2 and 3)
- What will we be up to next? (page 3 and 4)

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Participation is essential for democracy to survive and thrive. Democracy requires a culture that fosters strong convictions and a readiness to compromise, along with a strong sense of civic responsibility. Unfortunately, cynicism about politics and interest group identification have combined to make significant inroads into the strength of democratic culture. One proposed solution is for schools to adopt a form of experiential learning known as "service-learning." ASU's MPA Program has a strong commitment to service-learning.

The problem of apathy and cynicism, particularly in young people, is serious. Among college students, the levels of "disengagement" have steadily increased since the 1970s. The percentage of 18 to 29 year-olds who voted in presidential elections dropped from about half in the early 1970s to less than one third in the 2000 election. In 2000, only 28 percent of college freshmen indicated they frequently discussed politics, down from over 60 percent in 1966. Left unchecked, the politics of resentment and disengagement threatens to destroy the cultural norms of engagement and compromise that sustain our democracy.

Service-learning is often proposed as one way to rebuild that sense of civic engagement. By bringing students out of the classroom and into the community, to address real problems, students can learn about the gravity of community problems and take action to address those problems.

ASU's MPA program has been actively engaging in service-learning projects for four years. Students have worked for ANIC coding the condition of structures in the Laney-Walker community, helped the Cumbee Center for Abused Persons develop a better data collection system, assisted the Augusta/Richmond County Fire Department in designing a new approach to performance appraisal, and helped Columbia County identify how many more of the new touch-screen voting machines would be needed



to support the 2004 Presidential election. The Columbia County study earned positive recognition from the Secretary of State's office and was the lead article for the August, 2003 edition of the *PA Times*, the newspaper of the American Society for Public Administration. Currently, students are working for the CSRA Regional Development Center on updating economic development data for outlying counties and the Golden Harvest Food Bank doing a wage and salary survey.

Obviously, these agencies gain valuable information and research they need to improve their performance. But students gain as well. The students participating in these projects learn valuable lessons about real problems, facing real agencies, in our community. These are the lessons that our students will remember throughout their professional careers.

INTRODUCING . . .

Dr. Steven Weiss is joining our program in the Spring 2004 term. Coming from Georgia Southern University, Dr. Weiss is a professor of philosophy; he will be teaching the Ethics course.

Dr. Bob Johnston returned to the MPA classroom after a long break (from the MPA program, anyway!), teaching the Program Evaluation course. Welcome back, Bob!

Mr. Andy Crosson, the Executive Director of the CSRA Regional Development Center, joined the faculty this fall. He teaches the Public Budgeting course, and brings his years of professional experience to the classroom.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Anthony Chandler on his selection to be part of the Executive Leadership Institute. Sponsored by the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, the Executive Leadership Institute is dedicated to mentoring black students and preparing them for the challenges of leadership in government organizations. Anthony has joined an elite group of future leaders of public organizations.

Helen Bratton, Marion Cantrell, Annette Carter, Anthony Chandler, Patrick Clayton, Tammy Jackson, Shun Smith and Kevin Wren on the publication of their article on the new DRE voting technology. "Punch vs. Touch: A Comparison of Voting Technology," appeared as the lead article in the August edition of the *PA Times*, the monthly newspaper of the American Society for Public Administration.

Laura Collins for being selected as the winner of the first Gwen Y. Wood Memorial Book Scholarship. Named in honor of the MPA Program's first director, the scholarship seeks to financially assist our very best students.

Patrick Clayton for presenting the "Punch vs. Touch" paper at the Georgia Political Science Association in November.

Marion Cantrell and all the members of the Columbia County Procurement Department for earning accreditation from the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing.



Marion Cantrell and Tammy Jackson (above with Drs. Reinke and Miller) after presenting the "Punch vs. Touch" paper at the Southeastern Conference on Public Administration in October in beautiful Savannah, Georgia.

(continued on page 3)

"Call 854-8378 to schedule your GRE test date!"

COURSE OFFERINGS FOR 2004

Spring 2004

PADM 6100, Organization Theory (Walker and Miller)
 PADM 6400, Ethics (Weiss)
 PADM 6600, Quantitative Methods (Reinke)
 PADM 6700, Urban Government (Harris)
 PADM 7050, Capstone (Reinke)

Summer 2004

PADM 6200, HRM (Miller)

PADM 6300, Budgeting (Crosson)
 PADM 6650, Policy Analysis (Harris)
 PADM 6020, Intro to GIS (Howard)

Fall 2004

PADM 6000, History, Scope & Practice (Miller)
 PADM 6010, Prof. Communications (Wood)
 PADM 6500, Research Methods (Reinke)
 PADM 6850, Intergovernmental Relations (Harris)
 PADM 6550, Human Services Administration (TBA)

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .

Our December graduate, Sandra (Sandy) Tyler! Sandy works for Augusta-Richmond County in the Public Works Department. Congratulations, Sandy!



Claudia Espejo (2003) returned this fall to teach part-time in the Department of Political Science. Claudia did a wonderful job teaching the Introduction to American Government course.

Laura Collins and Christal Duggan on their selection as the first graduate assistants for our MPA program. Laura worked with Drs. Reinke and Miller as a research assistant while Christal worked with Dr. Walker in the Research Center. They will be joined in the spring

by Katherine Little.

Katherine Sweeney (1999) was the subject of a special report in the *Augusta Chronicle* (October 20, 2003) highlighting her personal approach to serving ASU students. As Registrar and Director of Admissions, Katherine holds a highly visible and important position on campus. Her dedication to students, and to the institution, are important reasons why ASU continues to grow.

Carole Smith (2000) has been named Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations for the University of Georgia.

CURRICULUM NEWS

Changes are coming to our MPA curriculum! As part of our continuing effort to prepare students for a professional future, our Community Advisory Board recommended a number of changes to our curriculum. These changes are in the process of being approved, and are expected to go into effect in the Fall 2004 term. These include:

- Adding a required one-hour course in professional communications. When it comes to new employees, strong written and oral communication skills remain at the top of employer wish lists, locally and nation-wide.
- Giving students the option of taking either the Ethics course or the Constitutional/Administrative Law course.
- Adding a new, specialized track in Human Services Administration. Social programs are increasingly offered by some combination of public and nonprofit agencies. This new track will

include specialized instruction to prepare students for this challenging field. New courses to be added include: Human Services Administration, Financial Management for Nonprofits, and Strategic Planning for Nonprofits.

- Adding a new course in Intergovernmental Relations. This new course recognizes how problems and programs are increasingly done by federal, state and local agencies working together.

These changes will not alter the overall total of 36 credit hours needed to graduate from the program. Rather, these changes will enhance our graduate's preparation for the challenges of the public and nonprofit sector workplaces.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Dr. Harris was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor and granted tenure. He, and his research partner, Bill Baker, presented papers at the Southeastern Conference on Public Administration and the Georgia Political Science Association on the increasing competition between the states of Alabama, Georgia, and now Florida, over water.
- Drs. Miller and Reinke (in photo at right) presented papers at the Southeastern Conference on Public Administration and the Georgia Political Science Association on the connections between ethical leadership and employee attitudes towards personnel practices and procedures. This paper is currently under review by *Public Integrity*, a peer-reviewed journal.
- Dr. Reinke was ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church in June; she serves at Church of Our Savior, in Martinez. In addition, her research on servant leadership will appear in the spring in *Global Virtue Ethics Review*, an on-line, peer-reviewed journal.
- Drs. Miller and Reinke conducted training for senior officers of the Augusta-Richmond County Fire Department on a proposed new performance evaluation system. The system was developed by last summer's Human Resource Management class.



Dr. Reinke (far left) and Dr. Miller (next to her) presenting at SECoPA 2003.

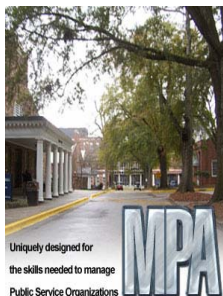
Augusta State University

Department of Political Science
Augusta State University
2500 Walton Way
Augusta, GA 30904-2200

Phone: (706) 737-1710
Fax: (706) 667-4083
e-mail: sreinke@aug.edu

We're on the Web!
www.aug.edu/mpa

*Preparing public and non-profit managers
for tomorrow's challenges!*



Our Mission

The Master of Public Administration degree prepares current and prospective professional public managers whose skills enable them to adapt to changes and new demands in public, non-profit or voluntary organizations. The degree program 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. Saundra Reinke
Dr. Ray Whiting
Mr. Andy Crosson*

*Dr. Nabil Ibrahim
Dr. Ralph Walker
Dr. Gwen Wood*

*Dr. Bob Johnston
Dr. Steven Weiss
Ms. Mary Howard*



This summer's Emergency Management class (in photo above) enjoyed a special treat—a field trip to Plant Vogtle, June 7th. While there, plant employees Ted Dannemiller, Lawrence Mayo, Michael Carstensen, and Curtis Peters gave the students an education on how a nuclear power plant operates, and what the plant does to prepare for emergencies. The tour helped students link principles taught in the class to real world operations. Thanks to Plant Vogtle for hosting our students!

COMING THIS SPRING . . .

- ASU will serve as the host for the 6th Annual Academic Conference of the Georgia chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), on March 5th. This conference features the talents of MPA students (and occasionally doctoral students) from around the state, presenting their research in a challenging, supportive environment. This year's conference will feature a special panel on a topic that is intensely important to Americans today—emergency management.
- Five students are expected to join the ranks of MPA alumni in the spring. Those five students are beginning the final leg of their journey towards graduation by beginning work on their capstone project in the spring. The culminating point of the MPA program, the capstone project challenges students to apply what they have learned by conducting a program evaluation or a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis of a public or nonprofit program.