

THE PUBLIC SERVANT

NEWS FROM ASU'S MPA PROGRAM

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Special points of interest:

- Farewell comments from Dr. Wood (page 2)
- Is the new voting technology an improvement? ("Punch vs. Touch," page 4)
- New Faculty (page 2)
- Congratulations and Alumni News (page 3)
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PROGRAM CHANGES

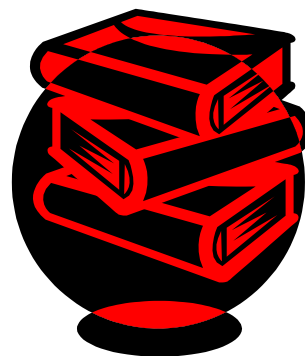
A comprehensive review of the MPA curriculum, admissions and exit requirements has prompted major changes in our program. These include the elimination of the oral comprehensive examination at the conclusion of the program, new admissions standards to take into account revisions to the GRE, and curriculum changes to better prepare students for the profession.

The evaluation of the program began with the Community Advisory Board. The Board took up the challenge of examining what students are taught to ensure the curriculum properly prepares students for managing today's public and nonprofit organizations. As a result of their recommendations, beginning with Fall 2004, we are

1. Creating a special curriculum track of 3 courses to prepare students for leadership in nonprofit organizations
2. Adding a course in Geographic Information Systems as an elective
3. Giving students the option of taking either the Ethics or Constitutional and Administrative Law course
4. Adding a 1-hour required course in professional communications

The program will remain 36 credit hours and can be completed in two or two and one half years.

In addition to the Advisory Board's review, program faculty also compared our program's curriculum, admission and exit requirements with other, similar programs in Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina. As a result of this comparative study, the faculty decided to eliminate the requirement to take the oral comprehensive examination at the end of the program. Students will still have to complete a capstone



project .

Data from the comparative study, and from the Educational Testing Service (ETS), was also used to

restructure admissions requirements. Beginning in the Fall of 2002, ETS, the producer of the GRE, restructured the analytical portion of the test, and changed its scoring scale from 200-800 to 1-6. Beginning immediately, students wishing to enter the MPA program will be given a composite admissions score based on their undergraduate GPA and GRE scores. The formula is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\text{Undergraduate GPA X 100} \\
 &\quad + \\
 &\quad \text{GRE Verbal Score} \\
 &\quad + \\
 &\quad \text{GRE Quantitative Score} \\
 &\quad + \\
 &\text{GRE Analytical Score X 100}
 \end{aligned}$$

If the total is greater than 1500, the student is admitted as a "regular" student. If the total is between 1400 and 1500, the student *may* be admitted as a probationary student by the MPA Admissions Committee. Probationary admission is not automatic, and conditions may be placed on such students' admission at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.

These changes are designed to enhance the program's ability to produce graduates ready for today's management challenges

INTRODUCING . . .

Dr. Randall (Randy) Miller will be joining our full-time faculty beginning with the Fall 2003 semester. Dr. Miller earned his doctorate in public administration from the University of Illinois, Springfield in 2002; his dissertation research focused on decision making in the emergency management field. His research interests are in leadership and ethics.

Prior to his graduation, Dr. Miller had a distinguished career as a practitioner. He served 18 years with the City of Peoria's Fire Department, retiring in 1997 as the Fire Training Chief. In addition, Dr. Miller is a retired captain from the U.S. Army Reserve with combat experience in Vietnam, a former public school teacher, state trooper, and basketball coach.

Dr. Miller will be teaching the introductory

course for our program, PADM 6000, Public Budgeting, Emergency Management, and Human Resource Management.



Dr. Sudha Ratan joined us this year as the new Chair of the Political Science Department. Dr. Ratan comes to us from Georgia Southern, where she served as the

interim Department Chair for two years. Dr. Ratan's research interests are in international politics.

Mary Howard, the Director of GIS Systems for the CSRA Regional Development Center, is a new part-time faculty member. Ms. Howard will be sharing her expertise in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as the instructor for the new course in GIS beginning this summer.

AND SAYING FAREWELL TO DR. GWEN WOOD

Editor's note: Dr. Gwen Wood, the director of our MPA program, is retiring this summer after a distinguished 30-year career as a public servant and educator. Dr. Wood offers us the following "farewell comments."

As I bid farewell to MPA alumni and friends of the program, I just want to share a reflective thought or two. The secret to success in building a good graduate program is to start with really good "material" in the form of the adult learners who enroll in the program. That is exactly what has happened in the life of the MPA experience at Augusta State University. Each of you reading this newsletter as an alumnus or matriculate made the program what it is today. You brought many strengths and talents with you: seriousness of purpose; willingness to work hard, capability to work as a team; and the ability to draw insights from a complex case study or research findings. This is what molded us together as a community of learners. I listened with interest (and in some cases, fascination) as you presented your papers in class. Gaining the benefit of your experiences as practitioners in public service throughout our community served to widen my horizons and those of your fellow classmates. I would especially like to thank the alumni of our program. The establishment of a book scholarship in my name is an honor. I am particularly touched by the thoughtfulness of this form of recognition, because it will bring something of great value to the program itself. **Thank you!**

COURSE OFFERINGS FOR 2003-2004

Fall 2003

PADM 6000, History, Scope and Practice of Public Administration (Miller)
 PADM 6250, Planning Resources and Administration (Wood)
 PADM 6300, Public Budgeting (Miller)
 PADM 6500, Research Methods (Reinke)
 PADM 6750, Program Evaluation (Johnston)

Spring 2004

PADM 6400, Ethics (TBA)
 PADM 6600, Quantitative Methods (Reinke)
 PADM 6700, Urban Government and Administration (Harris)
 PADM 7000, Capstone (Reinke)
Summer 2004
 PADM 6200, HRM (Miller)
 PADM 6300, Public Budgeting (Miller)
 PADM 6750, Policy Analysis (Harris)

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .

Our May graduates, Helen Bratton, Claudia Espejo, Lane Everett, Jennifer Hayes-Bayne, Linda Grijalva, and Trent O'Neill

Claudia Espejo, and her husband Patrick, on the birth of their second child, Monserrat.

Andre David presented his paper entitled "Ethics: Gateway to Wealth?" critiquing Georgia's ethics laws, at the 2003 Georgia ASPA Chapter's Academic Conference.

Andre David and Robyn Freeh (2001) presented the results of last year's research project in the Laney-Walker community at the 2003 Georgia Political Science Association conference.



May 2003 graduates, from left to right: Jennifer Hayes-Bayne, Helen Bratton, Trent O'Neill, Linda Grijalva and Lane Everett.

ALUMNI NEWS

Robyn Freeh (2001) presented the results of her research on barriers to entry for the PeachCare for Kids program at the 2003 Georgia Political Science Association conference in January.

Ron Wiggins (1999) is in the final stages of completing and defending his doctoral dissertation. Hang in there, Ron, it's almost over!!!!

Tim Greer (1999) was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

John Burnham (2001) earned his certification as a Professional Engineer. Congratulations, John!

Catherine Tuthill (2001) married Patrick Weldon this spring. Congratulations, Catherine and Patrick!



Mr. Todd Glover, representing the MPA Alumni, presents Dr. Wood with a book scholarship fund named in her honor. The scholarship will be presented to a deserving MPA student in the fall.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Whiting was the recipient of this year's Louis K. Bell Award for excellence in research for the publication of his book, *The Right to Die: Twenty-three Centuries of Debate*.

Dr. Harris has been invited to take part in an international research project with the Moses Mendelssohn Center for European Jewish Studies at the University of Potsdam, Germany and the Department of Sociology at the University of Tel Aviv, Israel. The project, titled "Socio-cultural self assertion of Russian-Jewish immigrants in Israel, Germany, and the United States," is funded by a generous grant of \$200,000 from the Volkswagen Foundation. Dr. Harris has been awarded \$30,000 to conduct the U.S. portion of the study.

Dr. Reinke published the results of her research in the *Review of Public Personnel Administration*. The article explores the connections between trust, leadership and employee attitudes towards performance appraisal. Dr. Reinke has also been named as the new Director of the MPA Program.

Dr. Walker and Dr. Bill Reese (Department of Sociology) received a grant of approximately \$150,000 from the Bureau of Justice to conduct research in Georgia on the use of firearms in crime.

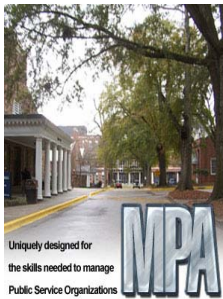
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The Master of Public Administration degree prepares current and prospective professional public managers whose skills enable them to adapt to changes and new demands in public, non-profit or voluntary organizations. The degree program seeks to foster 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*

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

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

“PUNCH vs. TOUCH”

This year's student research team ended six months of study on the new DRE touch screen voting technology with a presentation to the Columbia County Board of Commissioners April 15th. The students discovered that the DRE technology is actually slower than the old punch card system, and recommended the county purchase a minimum of 104 new machines to be prepared for the 2004 Presidential election. Their projection was remarkably close to the county's estimate. County Administrator Steve Szablewski, a member of our Community Advisory Board, had budgeted for an additional 100 machines at a cost of \$260,000.

The research team, Helen Bratton, Marion Cantrell, Annette Carter, Anthony Chandler, Patrick Clayton, Tammy Jackson and Kevin Wren, also surveyed poll workers and voters during the 2002 election. They found that both groups were very pleased with the new technology. Confidence in the new system's speed and accuracy was very high, and both voters and poll workers were confident the new technology was properly recording votes. This latter point was particularly important given the controversy surrounding the 2002 election.

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

The National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) sent a team to evaluate our program in February of this year. Although we do not have the final written report detailing the results of their evaluation, we did receive informal feedback at the end of the visit.

The site visit team was very complimentary of our faculty, students, curriculum, facilities and our community service projects. The team was particularly impressed with the active role our Community Advisory Board plays in shaping our curriculum and the program. The team did, however, note that ASU should devote more resources to the program to continue the high quality education it provides students, its tradition of community service, and to assure its future growth.

Dr. Samuel Sullivan, ASU's Vice President for Academic Affairs, has expressed his continued support for the MPA program and a desire to provide the resources needed to ensure the program gains this special recognition.