

# THE PUBLIC SERVANT

NEWS FROM ASU'S MPA PROGRAM

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## Special points of interest:

- What's up with the GRE?
- Community Advisory Board Update.
- Congratulations and Alumni News.
- Accreditation Update

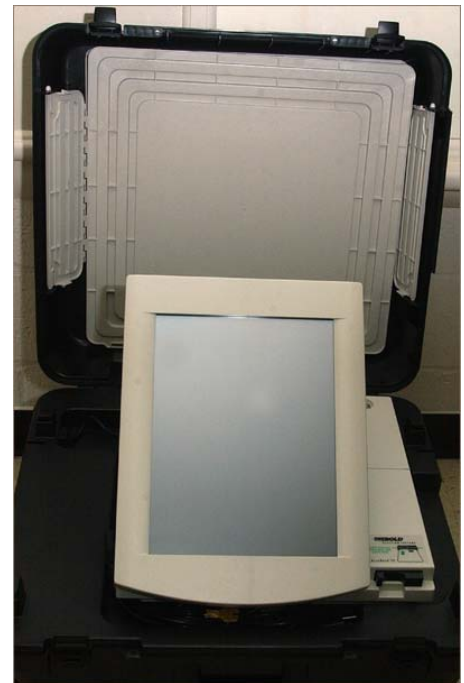
## REINFORCING DEMOCRACY

This year, the students in our research cohort are working on a special project for Columbia County on the new voting technology. The project began this fall, with students collecting data on how long it took citizens to vote with the new touch screen voting equipment, polling voters on how they liked the new technology, and asking poll workers about how prepared they were for any problems.

In the spring, the students will compare the time data with similar data collected by the county during the August primary. The results will be used to assist Columbia County in determining how many of the new touch screen machines will be needed to handle the 2004 Presidential election.

On November 8, 2000, the nation woke to the realization that hanging chads and butterfly ballots had created turmoil in the presidential election. What most people do not know is that Florida was not the only state to experience problems. In fact, Georgia's undercount of 3.5% was actually higher than Florida's!

Secretary of State Cathy Cox took the lead and put Georgia at the forefront of national efforts to reform elections by leading efforts to acquire direct record electronic (DRE) voting equipment for the entire state. In the November 2002 elections, Georgia citizens were able to use this



equipment for the very first time. The citizens interviewed by our students were very complimentary of the new technology—finding it easier to use and quicker than the old punch cards.

## ACCREDITATION UPDATE

Our efforts to gain accreditation continue at full speed! Accreditation officially recognizes the quality of an MPA program. This recognition is awarded by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA), the governing body for MPA programs such as ours.

After completing our self-study and submitting it in the summer, we received comments and questions back from NASPAA. Our responses were mailed in just this week.

The next step is a site visit, which should take place in the spring.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .

Our May graduates, Robin Bengtson, Robyn Freeh, and Peggy Seigler.

Linda Grijalva, MPA student, for presenting a paper, "The Modern Militia Movement: Before and After September 11," at the American Political Science Association's annual conference in Boston, Massachusetts. Linda has been collaborating with Dr. Reinke in researching the modern militia movement for almost two years.

Robyn Freeh, for presenting her thesis, "The Revolving door: Identifying Barriers to Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids Retention," at the Southeastern Conference of Public Administration in October. Robyn and Linda Grijalva also presented the results of last year's cohort group research project on the Laney-Walker Community. Their paper, entitled "Racism and Revitalization: The Case of the Laney-Walker Community," provoked a thoughtful discussion on revitalization efforts.



**Linda Grijalva, SECOPA 2002**

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

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## COURSE OFFERINGS FOR 2003

### Spring 2003

PADM 6100, Organization Theory  
 PADM 6600, Quantitative Methods  
 PADM 6800, State Government Administration and Policy Analysis  
 PADM 7050, Capstone

### Summer 2003 (projected)

PADM 6200, Public HRM

PADM 6350, Emergency Management

### Fall 2003 (projected)

PADM 6000, History, Scope and Practice of Public Administration  
 PADM 6500, Research Methods  
 PADM 6150, Seminar in American Government: Political Institutions  
 PADM 6750, Program Evaluation

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## FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Wood, MPA Program Director, has announced her retirement effective August, 2003.

Dr. Reinke's research, "Does the Form Really Matter? Leadership, Trust and Acceptance of the Performance Appraisal Process," has been accepted for publication in the spring issue of *Review of Public Personnel Administration*. Also, her research into service learning, entitled, "Making a Difference: Does Service-Learning Promote Civic Engagement in MPA Students?" has been accepted for publication in the spring issue of *Journal of Public Affairs Education*.

Dr. Paul Harris was one of 14 faculty members from the U.S. selected for a study tour to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters and the European Union in Brussels, Belgium in the summer of 2002. The invitation was a result of his research on international immigration issues. The Atlantic Council of the United States and the NATO Information and Press Office sponsored the study tour.

Dr. Robert Johnston, Department of Sociology, will rejoin the teaching faculty this coming fall. He will be teaching PADM 6750, Program Evaluation.

# WHAT'S UP WITH THE GRE?

If you have thought about joining our MPA program, you may have heard that the entrance exam, the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) has changed. Actually, two out of the three sections have not changed. The verbal and quantitative sections have remained the same, and are still scored on a scale of 200 to 800.

What has changed is the analytical section. This portion is now a writing assessment. Basically, what an individual does is write an essay, which is then graded on a scale of 1 to 6. Since this is brand new, our faculty have decided not to use this score for the this year, and the next two years. At the end of that period, we should have some national benchmarks to use, and a history of how our students have performed. This information will allow us to make a meaningful choice about what cut-off score to use for this portion of the test.

If you are interested in enrolling in our program, you must have completed a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution, achieve an acceptable score on the graduate record examination, and submit an application, a resume, and two letters of reference. To schedule yourself to take the GRE, call Prometric Testing Services at 854-8378.

You can find more detailed information about the GRE and our MPA program and download application forms at our web site  
[www.aug.edu/mpa](http://www.aug.edu/mpa)



*"I love working for the city. My MPA degree helped me make all this possible. Everyday, I draw on my experiences and the knowledge I acquired while at Augusta State"*

- Peggy Seigler (02)

## IT'S COMING . . .

GIS, that is! The Geographical Information System (GIS) is a computer program that allows decision-makers and planners to lay databases over maps. This allows them to "see" how data relates to geography. There are many uses for GIS in community planning and decision making. For example, information on businesses and organizations storing or making hazardous materials can be overlaid on a map in GIS, giving emergency managers a quick way to see where disasters might occur, and what sort of evacuation and response problems might result. Arc Explorer, a read-only version of GIS has been installed on all computers in Allgood Hall. Columbia County has offered to provide needed databases for analysis to be used in MPA classes.

## ALUMNI NEWS CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .

Peggy Seigler (02), on her appointment as Assistant to the Administrator, Augusta-Richmond County. Peggy assumed her new responsibilities in August of this year, after her graduation from our program.



John Burnham (01), on the birth of his son, Jack on October 27, 2002.

Catherine Tuthill (01) accepted the position as claims representative with the U.S. Social Security Administration.

Congratulations to Amaris Cardona (formerly Garcia) on her new job for an Employment Law consulting firm in Atlanta and on receiving her professional certification in HR as a "SPHR" - Senior Professional in Human Resources.

Todd Glover (98) was promoted to Director of the Management Services Division of Columbia County. This division is responsible for oversight of the Human Resources, Procurement/Purchasing, Internal Audit, Risk Management, and Special Projects departments.

### Student News

Congratulations go to Claudia Espejo, and her husband, Patrick, who are expecting their second child. Claudia will graduate in May 2002.

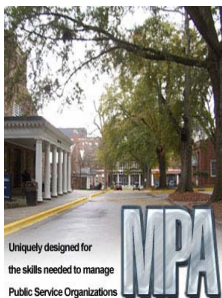
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## Our Faculty

*Dr. Gwen Y. Wood, Director  
Dr. Ralph Walker  
Dr. Bob Johnston  
Dr. Nabil Ibrahim  
Dr. Ray Whiting  
Dr. Paul Harris  
Dr. Saundra Reinke*

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD NEWS

Our Community Advisory Board met in December to provide the MPA program with guidance from professionals in the public and nonprofit sector in our community. At this meeting, a subcommittee presented the results of its review of the MPA curriculum. The committee recommended adoption of courses in Geographical Information Systems (GIS), communication skills for managers, and nonprofit administration and finance. The faculty are currently working on gaining approval for, and developing these courses. In addition, the board heard reports on the various applied research projects students are doing in our community, and the current status of acquiring GIS for student use.

## WE'VE MOVED . . . .

The MPA program has a new home in Allgood Hall, the newest building on campus. The program is now blessed with state-of-the-art classrooms that are as attractive as they are functional. If you haven't been on ASU's campus lately, we suggest you come by. The offices are located on the third floor. ASU is a school on the move, growing and adapting to meet the needs of the CSRA.



Drs. Harris, Reinke, and Wood were joined by two students, Linda Grijalva and Robyn Freeh, at this year's Southeastern Conference on Public Administration (SECOPA), held in Columbia, South Carolina. Both students presented research papers (see "Congratulations, p. 2). In addition, Dr. Harris presented a paper on immigration and national security, while Dr. Reinke presented a paper on service-learning and a second paper on servant leadership.

(From left to right, in back) Linda Grijalva, Dr. Harris and Dr. Reinke  
(From left to right, in front) Dr. Wood and Robyn Freeh