

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN STUDIES
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

SPRING 2009

MESSAGE FROM DEPARTMENT CHAIR
DR. BERHANU MENGISTU



Greetings USPA students, alumni and our advisory council members. I would like this note to serve as my sincere expression of gratitude for your support and the privilege of serving you as a department chair in the last three years. Since I joined the USPA department in the Fall of 1985, I have had the opportunity to serve as the MPA program director, Ph.D. program director and department

chair. During my tenure, I have had the good fortune and pleasure to work with many talented research assistants who made my workload lighter and my life less stressful. Should the limited space allowed to me permit, I would have loved to mention all of them here and offer special thanks. However, one name that I must dedicate a few words here is Dr. Elizabeth Vogel. We are deeply saddened by her untimely death. She was an outstanding student, excellent researcher, a dear colleague, a wonderful human being and a force for good. **You are dearly missed, Elizabeth.**

As the organization development and change man-

agement literature informs us, the only constant is change. This has been true in the life of our department in the last three years. You may recall that both Professors Roger Richman and Leonard Ruchelman retired after many years of service to the department. However, we are happy to report that Professor Ruchelman is still teaching for us, and we thank him for helping out, especially in this transition time.

Dr. Pamela Gibson will leave us to pursue other opportunities. We were honored to have had the pleasure of working with her and learning from her.

(continued on page 3)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *New USPA Website, Facebook and Myspace!*
- *Summer/Fall 2009 Registration begins April 13th*
- *Congratulations to new Department Chair, Dr. John Lombard!*

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NEW DEPARTMENT CHAIR, DR. JOHN LOMBARD



The USPA Department is pleased to announce that

Dr. John Lombard will be taking over the position of Department Chair for Dr. Berhanu Mengistu. Announced last week, Dr. Lombard will serve a three-year term, beginning at the start of the new fiscal year, July 1, 2009.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Schnequa N. Diggs
The Wolfgang Pindur
Endowed Scholarship
in Applied Research
Recipient

Katie Neill
The Wolfgang Pindur
Endowed Scholarship
in Applied Research
Recipient

NEW WEBSITE, CAREER TOOLS AND NETWORKING

The USPA Official Website has recently undergone a makeover! The Department has greatly improved its technological tools. Thanks to hard work from various members of the staff, the new website not only details the requirements for each

degree offered by the Department, but also provides students and alumni with helpful links to professional associations, local government and other useful career websites. This official website can be found at: <http://bpa.odu.edu/uspa/index.shtml>.

Additionally, the Department is pleased to have launched a website specifically designed to assist students in finding careers and internships. In conjunction with the (continued on page 5)

MESSAGE FROM PAUP DIRECTOR
DR. JOHN C. MORRIS



Greetings! This semester finds the department in the middle of our Self-Study project for NAS-PAA reaccreditation for our MPA program. Although NAS-PAA does not accredit Ph.D. programs, this is an “all hands” effort to ensure success.

Since we were already committed to our MPA self-study, the faculty decided in the fall that it would be a good time to address some issues in our Ph.D. pro-

gram as well. The most important of these is to undertake an examination of our curriculum. The “new” degree program has been in operation for several years now, and we are beginning to find out what works well, and what we might want to rethink. To this end, the faculty has directed me to develop a proposal for a revised curriculum for discussion.

With the help of my very capable graduate assistants, I’ve already begun to examine what other schools are doing with their curricula—a sort of “best practices” review. We’ve collected information about not only the ten top-ranked Ph.D. programs, but also from several peer institutions. A very important next step will be to convene meetings of current and former Ph.D. students to get input about what works in our current curriculum and what needs improvement. These meetings will be free-form discussion, and will include not only curriculum issues, but also any policy issues anyone would like to raise for consideration. The only constraint will be that we cannot start from a “blank sheet of paper;” to do so would require a lengthy review by both the university

and the state (something we wish to avoid!). Dates for these meetings will be announced very soon. I anticipate that the faculty will begin deliberating a proposal within the next several months.

In other Ph.D. news, we have several students presenting papers at national conferences in the Spring, including Brandi Blessett, Vivian Greentree, Rhonda Myers and Tom Musumeci. In addition, Andy Williams and LaShawn Moore had their first academic publications appear in journals this semester, the *American Journal of Evaluation* and the *Journal of Public Management and Social Policy*, respectively. Congratulations to one and all!

The ranks of new ODU Ph.D.’s swelled by two in the Fall, with the graduation of Elizabeth Gagnon and Madeleine McNamara. Elizabeth is teaching at Christopher Newport University, and Madeleine is the Waterways Management Coordinator for the Coast Guard’s Eighth District in New Orleans. We have several others slated to graduate this semester; watch this space in the next installment for news! Finally, don’t forget summer and fall registration coming up in April—register early and often!

CONGRATULATIONS

Dave Nunnally

Outstanding Masters of Public Administration
Student

Tancy Vandecar-Burdin

Outstanding Ph.D. in Public Administration and
Urban Policy Student

MESSAGE FROM MPA PROGRAM DIRECTOR DR. WILLIAM LEAVITT



Hello to MPA students and alumni! I had an opportunity to visit with many of you at the wonderful MPA student/alumni reception sponsored by the Alumni Association. The event was held at the Convocation Center in conjunction with the men's basketball game

against Northeastern on Saturday January 24th. We hope to make this an annual event for USPA alumni and students. It was fun despite the loss to Northeastern!

As many of you know, this is our self-study year for NASPAA reaccreditation. Dr. Alkadry is doing a great job spearheading the gathering of necessary data and report writing. The Department mission statement has been updated and potential changes to the MPA program are being discussed. None of the changes that are being considered would have any effect on the requirements of students currently enrolled in the program. The point of "tweaking" the curriculum is to make sure the MPA program continues to be current and relevant to the practice of public administration.

The MPA program at ODU is a very flexible program with seven required courses and six elective courses. As such, the program offers students many opportunities to develop a level of expertise in specialty or focus areas of their own choosing and design. With flexibility in choosing electives comes the responsibility to choose courses wisely. And this brings us to the topic of advising. I expect to meet with all current students at least once a year to make sure your plan of study is on track and to help you choose elective courses that make sense given your career goals. You must take responsibility to set up advising appointments – advising via mental telepathy does not work well!

For current students, the first day to register for Summer and Fall 2009 classes is April 13th. If you haven't been advised this academic year you should call the office (683-3961) to schedule an advising appointment before you register for classes. Advising can be done in-person or over the phone, but in either case please call the office to set up a date and time when we are both available. Our Graduate Assistants will be happy to schedule these appointments for you.

SPRING 2009

Pi Alpha Alpha Inductees

Megan Iacobellis

Amber Keyser

Brad Lazernick

Ryan Livingston

Madeleine McNamara

Dave Nunnally

Thomas Poulin

Stephanie Straus

Tancy Vandecar-
Burdin

DR. BERHANU MENGISTU (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Thank you, Pam, for your many contributions to the department and to our students. We wish you well in your future endeavors, and you will be missed.

With the pending departure of Dr. Gibson, the department has been busy with the interviewing and hiring process of a new faculty member. We are hoping that a new colleague will join our team this coming fall, a time to which I look forward, as I will

be a full time faculty member without administrative responsibilities for the first time in 22 years.

I thank you, Dr. Lombard, for your willingness to assume the responsibilities of the chair. I wish you much success in your new position, and I want you to know that you can count on my support.

I thank you all for your continued support and hard work. Special thanks to our committed and professional

research and graduate assistants for the invaluable service they provide to the department and individual faculty members. I look forward to another successful semester, and hope that each of you will continue to grow and prosper in your learning, in your career and in your personal endeavors.

E.V. WILLIAMS CENTER FOR REAL ESTATE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CREED welcomed over 700 industry registrants to the Ted Constant Convocation Center on Wednesday, March 11, for the **2009 Hampton Roads Real Estate Market Review and Forecast**. Real estate and development experts presented the year in review and projected industry sector forecasts with emphasis on the economic slowdown and its impact on investments and the commercial real estate market. CREED would like to extend special thanks to this year's presenters: Van Rose, Jr., *Rose & Womble Realty Company*; Bill Throne, *GVA Advantis Real Estate Services Company*; Jordan Slone, *Harbor Group International, LLC*; H. Blount Hunter, *H. Blount Hunter Retail and Real Estate Research*; Dan Johnson, *CB Richard Ellis*; and Katherine Campbell, *Thalhimer/Cushman & Wakefield*. In addition, CREED would like to extend its thanks to the 2009 Market Review Committee and Research/Editorial Committee for their commitment to this annual program. In addition,

CREED would like to extend appreciation to Dr. Jon Crunkleton and student volunteers for their assistance. Copies of the 2009 Market Review publication are available online at www.odu.edu/creed.

Mark your calendar! CREED is pleased to announce that **Frank Nothaft**, Chief Economist at Freddie Mac, will be the featured speaker at the Center's annual Business Meeting and Luncheon to be held at the Ted Constant Convocation Center on Tuesday, June 2nd at Noon. For a company profile on Freddie Mac and to learn more about Frank Nothaft, please visit www.freddiemac.com.

For some more good news, Professor Michael Seiler, the Robert M. Stanton Chair of Real Estate and Economic Development, is on board. Professor Seiler has already been instrumental in

establishing the Industry Professional Advisory Council (IPAC) to increase support and resources for the real estate program at ODU and to support efforts to build CREED into a nationally-prominent center of excellence in real estate research and education. Dr. Seiler is an accomplished scholar and will be working diligently to enhance real estate course offerings with increasing student enrollments here at the University.

The Center will be participating in international interdisciplinary forums in March and April. Dr. Lombard will be addressing the 5th International Conference of the Research Network on Private Urban Governance in Santiago, Chile, while Dr. David Chapman, will be speaking at the American Real Estate Society's (ARES) annual meeting in Monterey, California, April 1 – 4.



PAUPER'S NEWS FROM BRANDI BLESSETT

Hello All! I hope the semester has been very productive for everyone. There are several events that I would like to bring to your attention for the rest of the school year. First, on Friday, February 27, 2009, several members of PAUPers volunteered in the Literacy Scrabble fundraiser to promote literacy in the Hampton Roads areas. There were over 35 adult and youth teams that participated in this highly-competitive and exciting tournament. I hope that the PAUPers will have a long standing relationship with the Literacy Partnership group and I encourage more people to participate next year! Second, Dr. Morris will soon be engaging students to participate in the revision of the Ph.D. curriculum. This meeting is essential because it gives the PAUPers an opportunity to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Ph.D. program, classes and/or schedules. We are all invested in this program and your input is the only way to ensure that the program is adequately meeting your needs. Please be on the look out for an email regarding your participation. Finally, we will be submitting our first budget in the coming weeks for the 2009-2010 school year. We have several activities planned for the fall semester that will require input from you throughout the summer months. Emails and announcements will be forthcoming. As our first year of PAUPers comes to a close, I would like to thank all of the people who have been active participants in its development. I would also like to extend an invitation to any member that would like to take on a leadership role for the new school year to please send your names or nominations to me at bblesset@odu.edu. Enjoy the rest of the semester!



INTERNSHIP NEWS

The internship is a critical component of the MPA experience. For pre-service students admitted for Spring 2009 and thereafter, a field placement will be required to complete the Master of Public Administration program requirements at Old Dominion University. While in their internships, MPA students may be involved in such activities as human resource management, budgeting and financial management, strategic planning and policy analy-

sis and evaluation.

ODU MPA students bring to an organization substantial preparation in key public management skills. The internship provides an opportunity for students to develop these skills and learn from practical experience. While the placement provides a learning experience for the student, the intern can also make valuable contributions to the host organization.

With this new requirement, new internship guidelines have been established. These guidelines can be found on the Department's new Career Guide website, located at <http://www.odu.edu/ao/cmc/bu/mpa/index.shtml>.

Our students take pride in their internships. Our students have been awarded prestigious internships with agencies such as the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

CONGRATULATIONS

James Lackey

Ashley Lipton

Katie Neill

On your

Summer 2009

GAO Internships

NEW WEBSITE, CAREER TOOLS AND NETWORKING

Career Management Center, the new Career Website provides helpful links to federal, state, and local career/ internship opportunities, presents useful resume and interview tools, as well as the new internship requirement. Please visit this website at [http://www.odu.edu/ao/](http://www.odu.edu/ao/cmc/bu/mpa/index.shtml)

[cmc/bu/mpa/index.shtml](http://www.odu.edu/ao/cmc/bu/mpa/index.shtml).

For more information, contact Dr. Alkadry, mal-kadry@odu.edu.

Finally, the Department would like to remind students and alumni of the Facebook and Myspace pages that have been set up to provide unique networking opportunities.

Both pages are updated frequently with department news, scholarship and internship opportunities. Be our friend at <http://www.groups.to/odumpa> (Facebook) and <http://www.myspace.com/odupublicadministration> (Myspace).

STEFANIE BOGER, MPA ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A. NEW YORK CITY

"Even though I chose to pursue a Masters of Public Administration after a 4 year career in private sector finance, the MPA Program Director and other Professors at ODU allowed me to continue to analyze issues in both the public and private sectors. They helped me plan for my current career by highlighting my strengths and discussing all my options. Open-minded Professors, coupled with an MPA and Private Sector experience, has allowed me to land a career in Commercial Banking exclusively serving both the commercial and nonprofit theatre industry. "



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MPA Facebook:

www.groups.to/odumpa

MPA Myspace:

www.myspace.com/



Old Dominion University is an independent, state assisted university. Founded in 1930, the University has grown to educate more than 18,500 students.

The Department of Urban Studies and Public Administration is housed in the College of Business and Public Administration. The College of Business and Public Administration is one of 315 schools in the United States and Canada accredited at both the undergraduate and graduate levels by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business.

The Department of Urban Studies and Public Administration offers the Master of Public Administration and a Ph.D. in Public Administration and Urban Policy. The MPA program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, the national certifying organization for public administration programs.

[HTTP://BPA.ODU.EDU/USPA/INDEX.SHTML](http://BPA.ODU.EDU/USPA/INDEX.SHTML)

QUICK REFERENCE CAMPUS PHONE NUMBERS

Main Campus Numbers

ODU Library	(757) 683-4141
ODU Webb Center	(757) 683-5914
Office of Financial Aid	(757) 683-3683
Office of Graduate Admissions	(757) 683-3674
Office of Graduate Studies	(757) 683-4885
Office of Registrar	(757) 683-4425
University Bookstore	(757) 683-0048

Off Campus Numbers

Peninsula Higher Education Center	(757) 766-5200
Tri-Cities Center	(757) 686-6220
Virginia Beach Higher Education Center	(757) 368-4100