

School of Public Service

Fall 2015 Newsletter



Old Dominion University

Message from the Chair, Dr. John Morris

Welcome to the start of a new academic year! There have been important changes in the School of Public Service, and we look forward to a very productive (and busy!) year.

First, there have been some changes in administrative roles in SPS. After six successful years at the helm, Dr. John Lombard has stepped down from his position as Chair of SPS. Dr. Lombard will return to his teaching and research, and take a much-deserved sabbatical in the spring semester. I have been asked to take his place as Chair, and Dr. Katrina Miller-Stevens will assume my previous role as Graduate Program Director for the Ph.D. program. The other administrative roles in SPS will remain as before.

This year also marks our self-study period for reaccreditation of our MPA program by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA). The self-study is an intensive effort to collect and present data about our program operations and outcomes, and will be led by our MPA Director, Dr. David Chapman. Those of you who are current MPA students, or MPA alumni, will hear much more about this process as it unfolds. The self-study process includes a careful review of our curriculum, our student outcomes, our faculty productivity, and institutional support of our MPA program. We believe we have a very strong program, and I am confident our reaccreditation process will go smoothly.

We will also be revising our Ph.D. curriculum this year. We concluded an internal self-study last spring, and have had our revision plan approved by the Provost. This effort will be led by Dr. Katrina Miller-Stevens, and will involve a “ground-up” examination of the current Ph.D. program. We will also be seeking input from both alumni and current Ph.D. students as the revision process continues.

We also have some exciting opportunities under development in terms of programming. Many of these are not yet ready for public announcement, but they will result in additional benefits and opportunities for our students and our School. We hope these opportunities will help enhance your experience as a student in SPS, and help to raise the visibility and reputation of the School, the College, and the university in the community, state, and nation.

I’m excited to have this opportunity to lead the School of Public Service into a new era, and I look forward to a productive and exciting year. Although it will be a busy year, I am always happy to meet and talk with you.

Message from the MPA Graduate Program Director, Dr. David Chapman

Hello to MPA students and alumni!

Registration will begin soon for both Spring and Summer (very convenient), so please register when it opens up. As I try to mention to everyone: **IF YOU SEE AN ELECTIVE** that you really want to take, please take it when offered; given the number of electives, it may not roll back around as soon as others do.

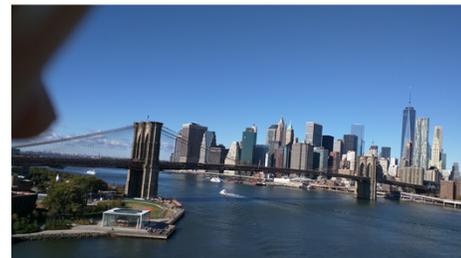


If you have a registration hold, you need to contact me; about once/year, a hold is put on your registration so you will check-in. However, we can talk and take care of this via Email, in-person, phone, or some other method (WebEx, Skype, and Adobe Connect); we just want to make sure you are on the right path and making progress. [Additionally, PLEASE include your UIN when you send a query!]



During the week of Fall Break, Dr. Morris, Dr. Miller-Stevens, and Ms. Jones and I were at the annual Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) conference in Brooklyn, NY. We all attended a number of

interesting sessions and I attended a few on “big data” usage, online issues, and accreditation. We are in the beginning of our 7-year cycle for re-accreditation, so many of you may be asked questions over the next two years, as we go through this important process. We’d appreciate it for any help you may provide for surveys or focus groups.

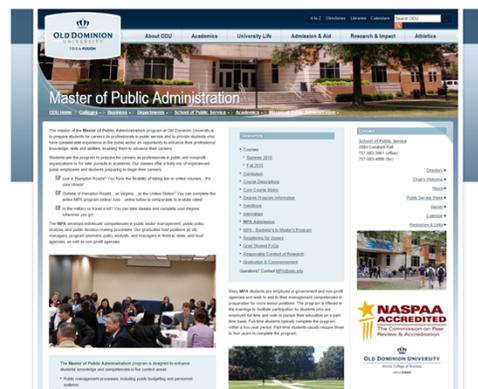


Reminder: most of our information can be found at <http://www.odu.edu/program/mpa> We also have links to other university sites (like the RCR and Graduation & Commencement).

Finally, be on the lookout for an announcement regarding the Winter Monarchs Basketball event, sponsored by the School of Public Service, PAUPers, and the MPAA>

Have a nice rest-of-the-semester...

David W. Chapman, PhD - MPA GPD
mpa@odu.edu



Message from the PhD Graduate Program Director, Dr. Katrina Miller-Stevens

Greetings PhD students –

We are half-way through the Fall 2015 semester, and there are quite a few updates to share with you.

- As most of you know, the GPD duties are being split this year between our Chair, Dr. John Morris, and me. We are both happy to answer any questions you may have about the program. Please feel free to contact either of us any time via email, or arrange a time to stop by the office.
- The PhD program curriculum review committee will be meeting on a regular basis starting this month. The purpose of this committee is to review the courses, structure, and future of the PhD program. We will continue to update you with the progress of this committee.
- The course schedule for Spring 2016/Summer 2016 has been released on Leo Online. Don't forget to meet with your faculty advisor prior to registering for class.
- For those of you interested in a possible career in academe, I am in the process of coordinating two informational workshops titled "Preparing For An Academic Career During Your PhD Program" and "Going On The Market: How To Do It And What To Expect." The workshops will most likely be held in Spring 2016 – more information to come.
- For those of you presenting papers at upcoming conferences, I am considering putting together a session – or series of sessions – to practice your paper presentations. If this is something that interests you, please let me know.

I am looking forward to a fun and knowledge-filled year! If you have any questions about the PhD program or issues noted above, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Katrina

PFF Certificate

The **Preparing Future Faculty Certificate** helps you to better prepare for an academic career and compete in the academic job market.

Earn your **PFF Certificate**, noted on your ODU transcript, by completing the following:

1. A semester-long, mentored teaching-related experience
2. Attending at least 5 academic career-related events. A minimum of 3 must be PFF-sponsored events. (A list of non-PFF events that count towards the PFF certificate is available on the PFF website).

For further information, email Dr. Wie Yusuf at jyusuf@odu.edu, complete an interest survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PFFinterest>, or visit the PFF website—
<https://www.odu.edu/success/programs/pff>.

Check Out the Public Procurement and Contract Management Courses

Riding the wake of the largest number of registrations ever in public procurement and contract management (PPCM) courses, the School of Public Service will list three PPCM courses for MPA and other students to take as electives in the Spring 2015 semester. Those three courses are PPCM 726 Introduction to Public Procurement, PPCM 728 Public Sector Contract Planning and Formation, and PPCM 718 Public Sector Contract Administration.

Although traditionally not featured in public administration curriculums, procurement and contract management has long been an important management tool for best-in-class public managers, and it has become an especially important management tool since the mid-1980s. If you are planning a career in government or you already are in government and want to advance in your career, competency in public procurement and contract management will be a tremendous asset for you. A broken function, especially at the federal level (on both the civilian and defense sides), procurement and contract management can, if properly managed, significantly contribute to the achievement of public entities' missions and strategic goals.

An additional reason for you to consider taking PPCM courses is that there are many openings for positions in public procurement and contract management at all three levels of government. Federal agencies, in particular, regularly participate as exhibitors at public sector trade shows for the sole purpose of

Careers in Public Procurement & Contract Management

- Procurement and contract management analysts, managers, & directors
- Contract administrators
- Acquisition specialists, managers, and directors
- Project managers
- Sales representatives
- Business development managers
- Positions in public sector contracting

recruiting qualified candidates for public procurement and contract management positions.

ODU's Graduate Certificate in Public Procurement and Contract Management (GCPPCM) program, through which the PPCM courses are offered, is the only program of its type in the U.S. that is accredited by the prestigious International Federation of Procurement & Supply Management (IFPSM). The instructors who teach the PPCM courses are academically-qualified public procurement and contract management professionals who are thought and practice leaders in the field.

The other two of the PPCM courses – PPCM 731 Public Sector Procurement Law and Ethics and PPCM 727 Public Procurement and Contract – can also be offered in the Spring 2015 semester if there is sufficient interest in their being offered.

If you are interested in more information about the GCPPCM program or any of the five PPCM courses offered in that program, please contact Dr. Stephen Gordon via email at sbgordon@odu.edu or on his cell phone at (615) 268-9468.



Public Service Week: September 14-18

EVENTS

- Monday: Women in Public Service Panel
- Tuesday: Public Service Festival
- Wednesday: Red Cross Blood Drive
- Friday: Engaged Students to Adapting to Sea Level Rise
- Friday: Power-up your Non-Profit

Save the Date! Basketball Social

The School of Public Service Basketball Social will be Saturday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ted Constant Convocation Center.

Please contact Meg Jones, mmjones@odu.edu, for more information or to reserve tickets.



COMPETITION

Social
Entrepreneurship
Symposium & Non-
Profit Pitch

SPEAKER

Dr. Camilla Stivers

November 21-22: PAUPers 2nd Annual Fundraiser Race in Norfolk, VA
PAUPers is running in the Harbor Lights 5k to raise awareness and money for a wonderful cause: ForKids. Additional information can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/7d4gkf4c>.