

# & Department of Urban Studies Public Administration



## Fall 2013 Newsletter

### MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR:

Greetings and welcome to the Fall 2013 semester!

As department chair I am proud to provide you with an update on our activities. By reading this newsletter you will be up to date on the programs, events, and happenings in the Department of Urban Studies and Public Administration.



John Lombard, PhD

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Message from Department chair	1
Message from PhD Program Director	2
Message from MPA Program Director	3
Public Procurement & Contract Management	4
Public Service Festival	5
MPA's in the News	6
PAUPers' Fall Update	7
MPAA's Fall Update	8
Introduction of GAs	9
MPA Alumni	12

I do want to point out that Dr. David Chapman as the MPA Graduate Program Director and he has hit the ground running! Dr. Chapman served as a visiting professor with the department but we are very excited and pleased to have him join us permanently. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Chapman.

As you may know our department already offers an online undergraduate minor in public service and an online graduate certificate in public procurement and contract management. The big news in the department is that we will launch an online MPA program beginning with the spring 2014 semester. Please join us for a celebration reception announcing the launch of the Master of Public Administration Online Program on Thursday, November 7th from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries located at 4509 Monarch Way. Please RSVP to Keishla Perez, k1perez@odu.edu, by Thursday, October 31st.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to email me and be sure to stop by the department and say Hello!

Best of Luck,

*John Lombard, PhD*

## MESSAGE FROM PHD PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

Welcome to the start of a new school year! To begin with, please join me in welcoming our new Ph.D. students: Patricia Birungi, Berry (Dan) Fox, Luisa Lucero, Mechelle Smith, and Chris Williams.

As some of you may know, the department created the current Ph.D. program in 2003-2004, and it became effective in 2005. With several years' experience now behind us, we are beginning to identify a few things we think should be revisited. To this end, the program will undergo a program review over the next several months.

This process will involve a detailed examination of the program requirements, plan of study, course offerings, and degree processes. In the near future the department will be meeting with members of the university administration to discuss the timing and process for this review. It is my sincere hope that there will be a formal mechanism available for students to provide input into the review process. When I have a better sense of that process, I will coordinate with the leadership of PAUPers to facilitate that input. Your input is important—this is your program, and its structure will have a profound impact on your future.

Finally, let me take an opportunity for a “plug” for our Ph.D. student association, the PAUPers. This group provides a great mechanism to enhance your experience in doctoral study, and it is very much worth your time to participate in the activities of the organization. Dues are quite reasonable, and there are many opportunities for participation. Participation in the group is voluntary, but give it a try—I think you will find it will be very much worth your time!

Have a great year, and please let me know if there's anything I can do to make your year a success.

*John Morris, PhD*



John C. Morris, PhD

## MESSAGE FROM MPA PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

Hello to MPA students and alumni!

This semester, I have assumed the duties of the Graduate Program Director for the MPA program. I have already talked with many of you (particularly new students) and, of course, have had quite a number of current and former students in a class or two.

Every student must be advised at least once per academic year; Advisor Holds are placed (and removed) on a yearly basis. If you haven't already done so this year, please contact me via phone (683-7053) or by Email ([mpa@odu.edu](mailto:mpa@odu.edu)) to set up a time (Email is preferable). We can have an in-person or a phone discussion, depending on your schedule and needs.



David Chapman  
[mpa@odu.edu](mailto:mpa@odu.edu)

When registration begins in mid-November, please don't delay! We have had a number of recent instances where students sign up very late and their needed class(es) is (are) already overbooked. Don't let this happen to you. Additionally, electives may be dropped if there is low enrollment prior to the semester, so... sign up when registration starts... please!

For your reference, the MPA Student Handbook and the Internship Guidelines can both be found on the Department's website. Be aware that the university is changing its web structures; thus, there may be some movement of material, but it will all be out there.

As many of you know, the department is developing a full MPA Online program. This will lead to increased flexibility and scheduling in the program, where a student may choose brick 'n mortar or online courses. [Note: brick 'n mortar courses will NOT, repeat NOT, go away. We are aware that the traditional format is highly desired!]

Have a nice rest-of-the-semester!

David W. Chapman, PhD

Program Manager, Dr. Stephen Gordon congratulates VAGP president Bill Lindsey on a successful 2013 VAGP Fall Symposium and VAGP's winning the NIGP Large Chapter of the Year Award for the seventh time (third time in a row). VAGP won the NIGP Chapter of the Year Award twice before; that award was replaced by Large Chapter of the Year Award.



## Public Procurement & Contracting Management

---

As the fall semester comes to an end The Public Procurement and Contract Management graduate certificate program advances its second class of students. With the knowledge needed to add strategic value to a variety of positions upon graduation, Public Procurement and Contract Management certificate holders will leave this institution with a better understanding of how to assist agencies and organizations in stretching dollars, creating efficiencies and driving innovation.

The certificate program is shifting to an entirely online format. Currently offering all core courses and one elective online, soon we will be offering all available Public Procurement and Contract Management courses in the online format. We hope by transitioning to an all online structure, we will be able to help more students complete this program in an efficient and effective layout.

We are proud of last year's graduates as several of them have obtained positions within local and federal governmental agencies; and, we look forward to assisting more students pursue careers in in public procurement and contract management.



Stephen B. Gordon  
[sbgordon@odu.edu](mailto:sbgordon@odu.edu)

---

### Spring and Summer PPCM Courses:

As we have all started planning for the spring and summer semesters, GCPPCM is offering three of the four required Public Procurement and Contract Management courses and two electives will be offered in the spring:

- PPCM 726 - Introduction to Public Procurement
- PPCM 731 - Public Sector Contract Law and Formation
- PPCM 718 - Public Sector Contract Administration
- PADM 719 - Leadership
- PADM 672 - Public Financial Management

In the Summer 2014 semester, all four required Public Procurement and Contract Management courses and two electives will be offered:

- PPCM 726 - Introduction to Public Procurement
- PPCM 728 - Public Sector Contract Planning and Formation
- PPCM 718 - Public Sector Contract Administration
- PPCM 731 - Public Sector Contract Law and Formation
- PADM 719 - Leadership
- PADM 714 - Public-Private Partnerships

---

## Save the Date: Public Service Festival

---

### **Public Service Festival**

**Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**

**12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Kaufman Mall**

**Faculty, Staff and Students**

**Join us for a picnic and music  
to learn more about the  
Minor in Public Service.**

---

### **MPA Alumni—Vinayak Kamatchi**



I began my job as a purchasing officer for Henrico County about a month ago. I have had a lot to learn very quickly but I have found it to be a challenging and rewarding experience so far. While my focus has generally been on construction procurement, I have been able to apply a lot of what I learned in the MPA program to my work. I highly recommend both the MPA program and the Graduate Certificate in Public Procurement and Contract Management to any student who is looking to serve the public and make a difference in their community.

## MPA'S in the News

### MPA ALUMNUS, REPRESENT ODU, IN ISLAMABAD

Samra Safdar, MPA Alumnus, recently represented ODU at an educational fair held in Islamabad. The event was sponsored by the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy. The event provided Pakistani



high school students an opportunity to meet with alumni from various universities including Berkeley, Harvard, NYU and ODU to name a few. Samra spoke to students about her personal experience at ODU while offering a background about the university. She was able to offer insight on the support services available on campus for international students. Samra shared her thoughts on the multi-cultural campus community and how students get a chance to meet students from all over the world while attending ODU.



Thank you Samra for representing the Department of Urban Studies & Public Administration and ODU!

## PAUPers' Fall Update

Greetings from PAUPers! The Public Administration & Urban Policy PhD Student Group is off to a great start for the year. This fall's activities include a Scholarly Café for students to get to know each other and informally discuss academic interests, a Lunch & Learn with Dr. Katrina Miller-Stevens, a tail-gate party, and a tour of the Naval Weapons Station in Yorktown. We're also very happy to be able to co-sponsor several conference trips for our members this year. The organization is here to support our PhD students academically and socially, and there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. Please let us know if you have ideas! This year's officers are:

President: Kaitrin Mahar

Vice President: Marty Mayer

Secretary: Stephanie

Joannou Treasurer: Luisa Lucero

Community Chair: Betsy Foushee

Please e-mail [kmaha002@odu.edu](mailto:kmaha002@odu.edu) with any PAUPers-related concerns.



## Master of Public Administration Association Fall Update

- Engaging Students, Promoting Public Service!

---

The Master of Public Administration Association (MPAA) at Old Dominion University enables students the opportunity to network, socialize, volunteer and build lasting relationships upon completion of their professional degree.

It's not too late to join the MPAA! Membership dues are \$20.00 and members will receive a t-shirt and leather portfolio. Please contact Keishla Perez to join, [K1perez@odu.edu](mailto:K1perez@odu.edu).

The MPAA is selling t-shirts (\$5.00) and water bottles (\$2.00) to raise money for community service projects. Please let us know if you are interested in supporting the MPAA and we will arrange to have your purchases delivered to your classes. Email Meg Jones for more information, [mmjones@odu.edu](mailto:mmjones@odu.edu).

---



Verlaine Quinniey (President 2012/2013), Lauren Parker (Vice President 2012/2013), Keishla Perez (Vice President 2013/2014), Missy Barber (President-Elect 2013/2014), Jianchong Luo (Secretary 2013/2014), and Grace Foye (Treasurer 2013/2014)

---

Like MPAA on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/MPAAatODU>

## Introduction of Graduation Assistants

My name is Patricia Birungi. I am originally from Kampala Uganda. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Population Studies from Makerere University in Kampala and I recently graduated with a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School and Old Dominion University in August of 2012. I have had the privilege of working with a good number of non-profit public health organizations in the Hampton Roads area since beginning graduate school. For example Susan G. Komen, Norfolk Middletown Lions club and Physicians for Peace, with whom I served as the ODU Student Representative on their Medical Operations Committee from 2009-2010. I am currently beginning work on my PhD in Public Administration and serve as a Research Assistant with Dr. Morris and Dr. Leavitt. Prior to joining my current program, I worked as an Educational Support Specialist at the College of Education and as a Graduate Assistant at the College of Health Sciences.



Patricia Birungi

### Casey Gilchrist-

Casey was born and raised in Virginia Beach, VA. She went to George Mason University, where she graduated summa cum laude with her Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 2012. In 2011, she was an intern with the City of Norfolk's, Office to End Homelessness where she participated and managed many outreach projects with Norfolk's homeless population. This is her first semester as a Master's student at ODU, and is excited to get to know everyone in the department.



Casey Gilchrist



## Introduction of Graduation Assistants

---

Hey everyone! My name is Kaitlyn (Kaite) Bennett, and I am from Chesapeake, Virginia. I am currently a graduate research assistant for Dr. Morris, Dr. Jordan, and Dr. Mengistu. Previously, I managed a restaurant and was an intern for the Newport News Department of Economic Development. I have worked for our Department since August, and have had a fantastic time. I graduate from the program in May 2014, and afterwards I plan on continuing my studies at the doctoral level. I hope one day to work for the State Department, and to eventually be a professor of political science and/or public administration. I spend most of my free time with my daughter, reading, and blogging. I hope all of you have a fantastic semester!



Kaitlyn (Kaite) Bennett

---

Hi everyone! My name is Jianchong Luo. I am from Zhaoqing, China, a small but very beautiful city. My undergraduate major is Korean, which is an opportunity for me to have a deep understanding of Korea about its people, culture, and politics. While comparing and contrasting the differences between China and Korea, I found out I am interested in how these two culturally similar countries have such a different way to administer the country. Therefore, I, myself, a humble boy from China, overcame poverty and distance to ODU for my master degree in public administration. I am currently a graduate assistant for Dr. Lombard and Dr. Gordon since August. Also, I am volunteering in Purchasing Office of Chesapeake. These both are wonderful experiences to me. I am enjoying my life in the United States. I hope all of you have a fantastic semester!



Jianchong Luo

---

## Introduction of Graduation Assistants

---

Hello!! My name is Keishla Perez, and I am from Stafford, Virginia. I started working for the department as a graduate research assistant in January, and am currently the academic program specialist. I am also the Vice President of the MPAA as well as the acquisitions liaison for AFCEA. I completed my undergraduate degrees at Old Dominion University where I double degreed in criminal justice and psychology. I am currently in my second year of the MPA program and will be graduating in May 2014. I look forward to meeting everyone and hope everyone has a great fall semester!



Keishla Perez

---

Natalie E. McGaughey graduated from Roanoke College in 2010 with a bachelor's in Political Science. While completing her undergraduate degree, Natalie focused on community outreach through public service; holding several internships with local nonprofit organizations. After graduation, Natalie worked as the development coordinator for The Curtis Group, Inc. a fundraising consulting firm based in Virginia Beach, Virginia. As the development coordinator Natalie managed the office calendar, the in-office database and assisted the rest of The Curtis Group team with development assessments and strategic planning. Natalie is currently pursuing her master's in Public Administration; after graduation she intends to enter the nonprofit sector.



Natalie McGaughey

---

## MPA Alumni—Meshach

---

Meshach Keye recently became appointed as a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) at the newly formed Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Formed in the aftermath of the Great Recession of 2008 under President Obama, the CFPB is committed to consumer education, research of financial markets, and supervision of banks and non-banks. As a PMF at the CFPB, Meshach works in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer where he assist with financial management policy design, strategy research, and accounting. He was one of 663 Finalists out of 12, 120 applicants to be selected at the end of an eight-month interviewing process. He credits the PMF program with giving him the fast-track into the Federal government. In his words, "The PMF program has allowed me to attend Congressional hearings, be mentored by senior executives, be presented with rotational opportunities to other agencies, and attend more training than peers. In short, the program specifically breeds the future leaders of the Federal government; promotions come quickly and the sky is limitless. I gain insight by networking with other PMFs, many of who have worked for U.S. Senators or for the Irish Parliament, worked at Google or owned their own corporations, and some were Fulbright Scholars. So regardless of your academic background, if you want to go very far very fast in the Federal government, the PMF program is the absolute best route to take."



Meshach Keye

[meshach.keye@cfpb.gov](mailto:meshach.keye@cfpb.gov)

---

The goal of the program is to attract outstanding men and women from a variety of academic disciplines and career paths, who have a clear interest in, and commitment to, excellence in the leadership and management of public policies and programs within the federal service.

Please contact Meshach Keye for more information, [meshach.keye@cfpb.gov](mailto:meshach.keye@cfpb.gov).