

# DEPARTMENT OF URBAN STUDIES & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Spring 2013

## Message from the Department Chair:

Greetings and welcome to the Spring 2013 semester!

I urge you all to read through this entire newsletter thoroughly, so that you will be well informed and knowledgeable about what is going on within the Department of Urban Studies and Public Administration.



I would like to announce that Dr. Bill Leavitt will be stepping down as the Graduate Program Director of the MPA program at the end of this semester after 17 years of service. I would like to thank him for all of his dedication and service to the MPA Program and Department over the years.

The new Graduate Program Director will be announced before the end of the semester. Please look out for advisor update emails.

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

Best of Luck,

John Lombard, PhD

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Outstanding PAUP Student

Getachew Melkie

### Outstanding MPA Student

Patrick Edmunds

Jonathan Seiter

### The Wolfgang Pindur Endowed Scholarship in Applied Research

Matt Gable, PAUP

Missy Barber, MPA

Nicole Benson, MPA



# MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ASSOCIATION

We are having so much fun this semester! We started off this semester with a Bowling Mixer and had a blast! Students interested in Procurement and Contract Management attended the Procurement Reception in Washington, DC. We are just getting started!



**Congratulations to the 2013/2014 MPAA Officers!!!**

**President: Nick Deal**

**President Elect: Missy Barber**

**Vice President: Keishla Perez**

**Community Coordinator: Kaitlyn Bennett**

**Treasurer: Grace Foye**

**Secretary: Jianchong Luo**

Master of Public Administration Association  
would like to invite you to

## Spring 2013 BBQ

Saturday, April 20th

6:00PM – 8:00PM

2251 Sandalwood Road

Virginia Beach, Virginia

\*Please bring a dish to share\*

RSVP

[mmjones@odu.edu](mailto:mmjones@odu.edu)

By Wednesday, April 17th



**It is not too late to join the MPAA!**  
Contact Meg Jones for a registration  
form today!

[mmjones@odu.edu](mailto:mmjones@odu.edu)

Like us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/MPAAatODU](http://www.facebook.com/MPAAatODU)

# Message from the MPA Program Director

## Greetings to all MPA students and alumni!

The big news is that I am stepping down as the Graduate Program Director of the MPA program at the end of this semester after 17 years of service in that capacity. You will receive an email from the Department before the end of the semester with details concerning my replacement as GPD.



As I mentioned in the Fall Newsletter, I want to see every student at least once per academic year, and it is your responsibility to call the office at (757) 683-3961 to schedule an in-person or phone appointment with your assigned advisor. Your Advisor Hold will only be removed after advising has taken place, so call before registration begins if you haven't received advising since last Spring!

Please note that the MPA Student Handbook and the Internship Guidelines can both be found on the Department's website. Please read these important documents before advising!

Please complete the MPA Student Survey that will be available in late April. An invitation to complete this survey will be sent to your ODU email. This survey provides the Department with important information about your preferences for class locations, class times, elective course offerings and instructional approaches. Your input is very useful to us in structuring the MPA program so that it provides you with the best possible learning experience. Please participate when the Survey is available so that your opinions can be heard.

I hope the semester is going well for all of you and that your courses are meeting your expectations!

Best Wishes,

Dr. Leavitt

## Pi Alpha Alpha 2013 Inductees

Theodore Bartlett  
Shenna Johnson  
Vin Kamatchi  
Meshach Keye  
Kaitrin Mahar  
Christina McCloud  
Amber Rose  
Laura Russell  
Amber Watson

## Congratulations Vin Kamatchi!

Vin's abstract titled "**Pushing the Passion of Youth into Procurement**" was selected for presentation at the National Contract Management Association (NCMA) World Congress to be held in Nashville, TN this coming July.

## MPA Course Matrix

COURSE	Fall 2013	Spring 2014
PADM 651	Norfolk	Peninsula/Norfolk
PADM 652	Peninsula	VBHEC
PADM 671	VBHEC	Norfolk
PADM 701	Norfolk	VBHEC
PADM 733	VBHEC	Peninsula
PADM 753	Peninsula	Norfolk
PADM 746	Norfolk	VBHEC

## Message from the PAUP Program Director:

### The Four Most Common Mistakes of Comps Preparation

Well, we're getting to the end of the semester, and everybody is buried under an avalanche of papers and exams. The good news, folks, is that summer is almost here!

I want to use this semester's column to talk a bit about comps. The comprehensive exams are a time of significant stress and worry; it's a big step in the training of a Ph.D. student. However, with good preparation, the exams can be much less stressful, and much more rewarding. Let's take a look at the most common mistakes students make in their preparation process.

One of the most common mistakes students make is to start serious preparation much too late in the process. If you wait until a couple of months before the exam time to begin your preparation, not only will you be heavily stressed, you are unlikely to perform well on the exams. Ph.D. exams are truly comprehensive, and there are a tremendous number of ideas, theories, and associated literature to assimilate for the exam. There is no "best" time to start, but a preparation period of several months is not unreasonable.

The second mistake many students make is to assume that the only material on which they will be tested is the material covered in their courses. The syllabus for any Ph.D.-level course is merely a starting point—it is impossible to cover all the literature for a topic in a single 15-week course. As a result, your professors must make decisions about what to cover in a course, but their choices always represent only a small portion of the available literature on a topic. They often choose readings and topics they think best represents the range of possible literature, but the choices are always tradeoffs, and two professors teaching the same course may well choose completely different readings. The moral here is that you must "read beyond the syllabus."

The third mistake students often make is to not take advantage of their faculty when preparing for comps. It is likely that you will not have taken classes with every faculty member in the department, but all of the faculty are involved in writing and evaluating the exams. There is no substitute for one-on-one time with each member of the faculty as you prepare. Don't worry if you've never met a faculty member; take the opportunity to meet someone new, and to learn a little about their ideas and research—that information may come in handy when you're looking to form a dissertation committee!

The fourth mistake is one that takes place during exams: whatever you do, make sure you answer the question you are asked! We see lots of cases where students seem to ignore the question, and talk about something very different. What you say may be very interesting (and correct), but the grading committee will be unimpressed if you ignore the question you are asked. This sounds like a very basic issue (and it is), but it happens much too often!

Finally, while study habits vary significantly from person to person, there is much to be said for preparing for comprehensives with others. Working cooperatively with others allows you to share resources, ideas, notes, etc. You may find you can learn as much from your peers as you can from the faculty!

I hope the rest of the semester goes smoothly, and I wish all of you a great summer!

Dr. John C. Morris



# ODU-AFCEA



## (ARMED FORCES, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS ASSOCIATION)

### **So who are we?**

ODU-AFCEA was created in February 2012 and we are a combination of undergraduate STEM majors, and MPA Students who have an interest in Procurement and Contract Management. Our organization enables students to pursue successful careers in STEM and related administrative support and management roles in government, the military and private industry

Since our start we have grown our membership to over 40 students, hosted several events, volunteered at the 2012 Joint Warfighting Conference in Virginia Beach, hosted an employer panel, hosted a Professional Day trip to Northern Virginia where we toured the DAU and the Pentagon.

### **What do we do?**

- ◆ Provide an opportunity to network with professionals from all industries.
- ◆ Host professional development workshops
- ◆ Receive first hand knowledge of local Procurement events.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**END OF THE YEAR EVENT, APRIL 26TH**

**MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

### **INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?**

Contact Dr. Stephen Gordon, [sbgordon@odu.edu](mailto:sbgordon@odu.edu), for more information.

## Upcoming Fall 2013 Course Information

### **Performance Measurement & Management**

**Drs. Bill Leavitt & Wie Yusuf**

In recent years many managers in both the public and non-profit sectors have expressed a need for employees with expertise in performance measurement and management. This course is designed to give students the knowledge and tools needed to develop the expertise that managers are demanding. This course focuses on how performance is becoming increasingly important in public and non-profit settings. This course explores performance-based management approaches. It will cover not only how to identify appropriate measures, but also how to implement a performance measurement system and manage for performance. Emphasis will be on establishing performance measurement systems; identifying, collecting and analyzing performance information; presenting results of performance analysis; and utilizing performance information. Management tools covered will include benchmarking, performance dash boards, balanced scoreboards organizational report cards.

### **Leadership**

**Dr. Connie Merriman**

For the Fall 2013 semester, the MPA program is offering a condensed format of PADM 719 – Leadership. The goal of this course is to develop confident, culturally-competent ethical leaders with the ability to motivate and empower other, foster organizational excellence, and find innovative answers to public and non-profit sector problems and challenges. The class will be delivered in a hybrid format comprised of primarily asynchronous on-line modules with three synchronous class meetings conducted via teleconferencing software.

The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, November 16 – course kick-off with a synchronous class meeting from 9-11 a.m.

Weeks of November 18, November 25, December 2, December 9 – on-line modules

Saturday, December 14 – mid-course synchronous class meeting from 9-11 a.m.

Weeks of December 16, December 30, January 6 – complete on-line modules

Saturday, January 11 – final synchronous class meeting from 9-11 a.m.

## **Transportation Policy & Planning**

**Dr. Wie Yusuf**

This is a seminar course that discusses key topics relevant to surface transportation policy and planning, and highways and roads in particular. The course provides a non-technical overview of important issues critical to transportation policy and planning at the current crossroads that emerge due to (1) aging of the infrastructure, (2) deliberations on the next federal transportation legislation, (3) devolution of transportation decision making to lower levels of government, (4) challenges in generating revenues and paying for transportation, and (5) changing citizen demands for transportation. The course will address the following topics: actors and their roles; public involvement in transportation planning; transportation and highway finance (fuel taxes, tolls and user charges, debt financing); innovative finance and the future of highway finance; public-private partnerships; and planning and environmental issues.

## **Urban & Regional Issues**

**Dr. Meagan Jordan**

The purpose of this course is to study the development of urban areas and analyze urban policy issues. More specifically, this course will address the history and theories of urban development and the unique structural, economic, and political constraints on urban policy making. This course will apply practical methods of urban policy analysis to policy issues addressed in case studies and to policy issues relevant to the Hampton Roads area. *Some* of the policy issues covered include: education, poverty, infrastructure, safety, economic development, land use, and housing.

## **Administrative Theory I**

**Dr. Katrina Miller-Stevens**

For the Fall 2013 semester, the MPA program is offering a condensed format of PADM 651 Administrative Theory 1. PADM 651 is an introduction to the profession of public administration; the evolution and development of the field, the role of organizations in contemporary American government, and the roles of politics and administration. The class will take place on the Norfolk campus, and will be offered one weekend (Friday evening and Saturday) per month from September through December. Specific dates the classes will be held are:

Friday, Sept. 6 5:45pm-9pm & Saturday, Sept. 7 9am-5pm

Friday, Oct. 18 5:45pm-9pm & Saturday, Oct. 19 9am-5pm

Friday, Nov. 8 5:45pm-9pm & Saturday, Nov. 9 9am-5pm

Friday, Dec. 6 5:45pm-9pm & Saturday, Dec. 7 9am-5pm

# FACULTY RESEARCH UPDATE

**Drs. Wie Yusuf and Meagan Jordan have been working on research geared towards increasing transparency and accountability in financial reporting.**

**Their research addressed the supply side and demand side of popular reporting. For the supply side, they surveyed local governments (cities and counties) and state government about their usage of popular reporting and its content. They also did a content analysis of the popular reports from the local respondents. For the demand side, they received feedback regarding popular reporting content from Norfolk residents in a focus group and from USPA students in a student laboratory. This research was partially sponsored by the Gil Crain Memorial Research Grant from Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) which is an honor usually bestowed upon accounting faculty.**

**What is interesting and rewarding is that this research is reaching academic and practitioner audiences, which demonstrates the timeliness of the subject matter. So far, the research has been published in Public Budgeting & Finance, the premier public finance journal, and Journal of Government Financial Management (JGFM). As a result of the JGFM publication, Dr. Jordan is presenting a webinar training on effective popular reporting for the Association of Governmental Accountants along with Lenora Reid, the Financial Services Comptroller for the City of Suffolk on March 27th.**

## **PAUPERS .....**

Would like to introduce the new officers for the upcoming fall academic school year.

**President-Kaitrin Mahar**

**Vice President/Treasurer-Marty Mayer**

**Secretary- Stephanie Joannou**

**Community Chair- Betsy Foushee**

Marty Mayer will be fulfilling a dual role as Vice President and Treasurer until a replacement can be found for the Treasurer position.

Tiffany Henley and Wesley Ross will be retiring after serving two wonderful years as President and Treasurer.

PAUPers is looking forward to serving the needs of the Ph.D. students in Urban Studies and Public Administration and promoting professional skills.

## E.V. Williams Center for Real Estate and Economic Development

The E.V. Williams Center for Real Estate and Economic Development (CREED), directed by US-PA Chair Dr. John Lombard, presented the **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Hampton Roads Real Estate Market Review and Forecast** on Wednesday, March 13, at the University's Ted C. Constant Convocation Center. More than 600 regional industry leaders gathered at the TED for a review of real estate sales and leasing transactions and investment activity in the Hampton Roads market. Speakers also delivered insights on projected growth in 2013 and the impact of sequestration, the Port of Hampton Roads, and other economic implications on current and future demand for space and vacancy rates in the region.

On May 16, CREED, working in partnership with the Urban Land Institute Hampton Roads District Council, the Hampton Roads Partnership and the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, will reconvene at the TED to host **Reality Check Hampton Roads: Advancing the Vision** to hear the results and developments that have taken place since the landmark Reality Check Hampton Roads was held at ODU on May 17, 2012. The ongoing initiative examines growth scenarios and land use planning that will best accommodate projected population growth for this region through 2035. Robert Grow, the founding chairman of Envision Utah, a public private partnership created nearly 20 years ago to engage that community in land use issues will be the featured speaker at *Advancing the Vision*. Wish to attend? Please email [kbrinkle@odu.edu](mailto:kbrinkle@odu.edu) to confirm your interest in participating.

Other upcoming CREED events include the May 9 lunch program **Increased Flooding Risk and Sea Level Rise in Hampton Roads: Why and What Can We Do?** featuring Dr. Larry Atkinson, the Slover Professor of Oceanography at ODU. Dr. Atkinson will focus on the impact of rising water levels and flooding on development in Hampton Roads and the steps Hampton Roads' cities and the State can take to counter impediments to future growth. The program will be hosted at the Norfolk Plaza Hotel on May 9 at 11:30 a.m. and is presented by CREED and the Hampton Roads Association for Commercial Real Estate (HRACRE). For registration, please visit [www.hracre.org](http://www.hracre.org).

Look for an upcoming speaker announcement in May for the **CREED Annual Meeting** to be held at Old Dominion University in June 2013.

### **Wanted: Summer 2013 Internship Opportunities**

ODU CBPA graduate and undergraduate students are seeking internship opportunities in economic development and real estate brokerage and development in the public and private sectors. Please contact CREED at [kbrinkle@odu.edu](mailto:kbrinkle@odu.edu) regarding paid or voluntary student opportunities available in your company or organization.

**For timely industry and University news, follow CREED on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/oducreed>.**

## The Department of Urban Studies & Public Administration



Dr. Berhanu Mengistu, Dr. John Morris, Dr. Wie Yusuf, Meg Jones, Dr. Katrina Stevens, Dr. Stephen Gordon, Dr. Meagan Jordan



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