

THE LOWCOUNTRY PUBLIC LEADER

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON'S MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

SPRING 2009 ISSUE

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to report that I have survived my first semester as the MPA director – and am really enjoying it! It has been a pleasure getting to know our students and learning about all the interesting and important things that our alumni are doing. I am looking forward to hosting some events in the coming year in which current students will have the opportunity to meet and mingle with some of our alumni. We have had another busy semester and I am happy to report that the MPA program is thriving in spite of our current economy.

This spring we had a group of eight new students join the program – more than any other graduate program on campus. And our applications are already up for fall admissions. The Certificate in Urban and Regional Development has also taken off in its first year admitting nine students last fall.

Questions arising from the new certificate led the MPA program to develop a new policy regarding counting credit hours towards both an MPA and a certificate. What has been determined is that Program alumni interested in obtaining a certificate in Arts Management or Urban and Regional Planning may use up to 12 hours taken in the MPA program in the past six years towards their certificate program with the approval of the program directors of the MPA program and the certificate program. Students must go through the admissions process and be accepted for the certificate program in order to be eligible to earn a certificate. Current students interested in earning both an MPA and a certificate are eligible to do so but must go through the application process for both programs. Along with the required coursework for the MPA and the certificate program, students must complete an internship that is relevant to the field in which they are obtaining their certificate.

Program faculty are currently in the process of revisiting our mission and core curriculum to determine the direction in which the College's MPA program is headed and how we can continue to prepare students for careers in public service. We are relying on the input we have received from our students, alumni and employers as we develop the program goals and courses. If you have any thoughts you would like to add, please don't hesitate to contact me (stewartk@cofc.edu)!

With this semester has come some great accomplishments including the successful start of the Community Assistance Program under the leadership of **Janet Key** and the awarding of the Graduate School Research Poster Session Humanities and Social Sciences' Award to one of our students, **Geoff Pallay**. In this edition of the LPL you can read more about both of these undertakings. We are also very fortunate that **Margaret Bonifay** although retired, has not left us entirely. Ms. Margaret is still spreading joy and keeping us on track working part-time as the Program Coordinator. Along with all of the good this semester we are also experiencing a great loss. In March The College of Charleston lost a beloved teacher and friend, **Dr. Bill Moore**. Many of you may remember Dr. Moore as a faculty member and former director in the MPA Program. He was a kind and generous man who cared deeply for his students and has left quite a legacy with all the lives he has touched. He will be dearly missed by all of us.

This coming year we are looking forward to a new group of bright and talented students committed to public service. Although the economic concerns of the past year have been challenging and troubling, they have reinforced the significant role that public organizations play in our society. Remember that my door is always open and I appreciate the help and support I have received from many of you this past year. Please stay in touch with the MPA program!

—Dr. Kendra Stewart, MPA Director

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

DR. BILL MOORE	2
HELP THE MPA	3
STUDENT NEWS	3
MPA POSTERS	4
GSA UPDATE	4
MPASA NEWS	5
ARTM UPDATE	6
CAP UPDATE	6
GRADUATES	7
MPA UPDATES	7
CALENDAR	8

GOODBYE TO A GOOD FRIEND: THE LEGACY OF DR. BILL MOORE

Last month the College of Charleston and the Charleston community lost a beloved teacher, mentor, scholar, and colleague. William V. Moore, Distinguished Professor of Political Science, died on the afternoon of March 25, 2009.



In his 37-year career at the College, Dr. Moore was, first and foremost, a truly devoted teacher and mentor. He held many different titles and undertook many responsibilities over the span of his career but he always identified himself as a *teacher*. His courses were invariably the first to reach capacity; one of the most per-

sistent tasks for the chair of the department was explaining to students that there simply were no more seats available in Dr. Moore's class. He always had an extremely large number of advisees and took on special responsibilities for student athletes, always

mindful of the special challenges posed by pursuing both athletic and academic achievement.

A caring father and family man, Bill balanced the life of a teacher with an impressive scholarly output, a passionate commitment to College of Charleston athletics, and a willingness to share his exper-

tise with both print and television journalists in Charleston and across the country. He was as much the voice of the Political Science Department as he was the voice of Cougar basketball.

Bill earned his B.A. and Masters degree from Southern Illinois University and his PhD from Tulane. He was a well-known expert on South Carolina politics, Southern politics, and political extremism. He was the author of Political Extremism in the United States and co-author of South Carolina Politics and Government as well as numerous scholarly articles, encyclopedia entries and publications on Southern and extremist politics, civil rights, electoral politics, campaign spending, and intergovernmental relations. He served as chair of the Department of Political Science, director of the Master of Public Administration program, Speaker of the Faculty, director of Maymester and Summer Programs, director of the Taft Institute for high school civics teachers, NCAA faculty rep-

resentative, and Vice President and President of the Southern Conference. In 1997, Bill was designated as the SC Governor's Professor of the Year. He has also been awarded the Distinguished Teaching Award at the College (1981) as well as the Distinguished Service Award (2000), the Distinguished Advising Award (2001), and the first ever Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Award (2001). Bill also served on the Board of Advisors at the Charleston School of Law.

He will be greatly missed by students, student-athletes, alumni, faculty, staff, and area journalists. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the William V. Moore Scholarship Fund, College of Charleston Foundation, 66 George Street, Charleston, SC 29424.

—Contributed by Dr. Phil Jos,
Political Science Chair

MPASA SPRING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENT

The MPASA hosted a spring semester professional development panel discussion (its second ever!) on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 6:00 pm in the Towell Library. The discussion focused on the challenges, opportunities, and accountability issues that re-

sult from the interaction between government agencies, politicians, and nonprofits, and featured four distinguished panelists: Dana Beach, Executive Director of the Coastal Conservation League; Tammie Hoy, Executive Director of the Lowcoun-

try Housing Trust, and MPA Alumnus; Ellen Dressler Moryl, Director of the Office of Cultural Affairs at the City of Charleston; and Mayor Bill Wert of the Town of Kiawah Island, South Carolina. Approximately forty students attended this lively and infor-

mative event. If you have a suggestion for a future MPASA professional development event, please contact Dr. Kendra Stewart, or any officer of the MPASA.

—Contributed by Elisa Mundis,
MPASA Service Chair

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR YOUR MPA PROGRAM!

Now more than ever the MPA program is operating under very constrained fiscal resources. Over the past year, the College of Charleston has had to cut their budget over 14% with more cuts expected to come. This means less support for professional development and other opportunities for graduate students and faculty. I would like to encourage you to consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the MPA Fund at the College of Charleston Foundation, in honor of your MPA. If each of our 346 alumni was willing to give just a small amount we would raise thousands of dollars for our diminishing account. The MPA program has no budget to support graduate student research, travel or other endeavors, so the MPA Fund has been critical in providing these opportunities to students. Unfortunately the small amount of money that has been raised in the past is just about gone, so we are counting on your generosity to help us continue these important efforts.

If you are interested in donating, you may do so either online, by phone, or through the mail. Checks should be made out to the College of Charleston Foundation, with MPA Fund (R-251) noted in the memo line. Please mail your contribution to the MPA Program at 66 George Street, Charleston, SC 29424. Online contributions can be made by going to www.ja.cofc.edu/howtogive.htm. Underneath the "Designation" field select "Other" and specify the MPA fund (R-251) in the "Comments" box. In addition, a credit card donation can be made over the phone by contacting the Foundation Office at 843-953-3130. Again, please be sure to let them know that your contribution is for the MPA fund. Thank you for your continued support!

MPA ALUMS BEGIN CONSULTING FIRM

Jimmy Ardis and I have recently formed Civitas consulting firm here in Charleston. We are currently involved with a wide range of projects serving a number of government and non-profit entities throughout South Carolina. Organizations we have worked with include: the Riley Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Studies, the Lowcountry Housing Trust, South Carolina Association of Community Development Corporations, l'On Group, the South Carolina Urban Land Institute, Community Development and Investment Corporation, the Aiken Housing Authority and Charleston Moves.

Recently, we have assisted three organizations at various levels with research assistance, needs assessment, and GIS services in preparing grant applications under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. We are happy to say all three were awarded funding totaling just over 9.4 million dollars. Civitas is also currently assisting the executive director of Charleston Moves in designing a public outreach campaign that will educate Lowcountry citizens and decision-makers on transportation issues.

—Contributed by Erich Chatham, MPA Alum



PAs, ENVIRONMENTALISTS, AND THE BATTLE FOR KICKBALL SUPREMACY

On March 22nd, the MPASA and MESSA (Masters of Environmental Studies Student Association) took to the hallowed grounds of the field that doesn't have a name outside the aquarium.

The game: Kickball

The prize: A year of bragging rights and pride

Unfortunately, after the dust settled and the hair-pulling

subsided, the MES Student Association emerged victorious. It was a well-fought game throughout, but the MPASA's coach just did not have enough discretionary power to procure the runs necessary for victory. The MPASA is looking forward to a rematch next year and will begin the following training regiment to ensure victory and redemption:

5 AM- Workout with Citadel Cadets

7 AM- Study of Woodrow Wilson's ideas on the Kick/Ball Dichotomy

8 AM- Review of Paul Light's "Shadow Infielding"

10 PM-1 AM- Kickball drills and "protein" injections

Sleep is not an option until victory is ours. Stay tuned

for next year's date, as alumni may be needed to help the cause!

—Contributed by Matthew Irwin, MPA Graduate Assistant



MPA STUDENT WINS GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER SESSION

On January 29th, the Graduate School hosted a Graduate Student Research Poster Ses-



CAP GA's: Ann Ward, Amanda Helton, and Elisa Mundis

sion to showcase the research being conducted by graduate students here at the college. A record number of entries (30) were submitted and judged by faculty members in two broad categories: 1) Sci-

ence and Math and 2) Humanities and Social Science.

This year, representing the MPA Program were students Geoff Pally with his research analysis of the CARES Clinic in Mount Pleasant, and the Community Assistance Program graduate assistants (Amanda Helton, Elisa Mundis, Ann Ward, and also Geoff Pally) who submitted a poster detailing their current work in assisting Charleston community non-

profits.

According to Dean Amy McCandless, "There were so many superior entries that it was impossible to distinguish first, second, and third places

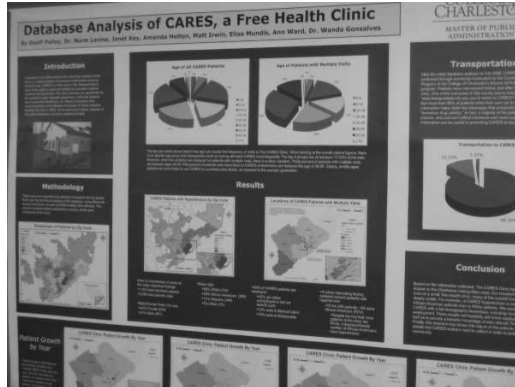
decided to award three firsts [in each broad category]."

The MPA Program is happy to announce to the "MPA Family" that Geoff Pally was chosen as a winner in the

"Humanities and Social Science" category. This is the first time that an MPA student has been chosen as a winner.

Congratulations Geoff and the GA's of the Community Assistance Program!

—Contributed by Matthew Irwin, MPA Graduate Assistant



Geoff Pally's Winning Poster

in each division. Thus, we

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION: YEAR TWO

The second full year of the Graduate Student Association is about to come to a close. While the organization is still growing, we can reflect on the many successes of this past year. We had a successful Back to School Bash at the Grice Marine Lab (despite moving the date because of the tropical storm). The GSA was involved in many service projects including volunteering for the Lowcountry Foodbank to assist with their move into their new facility. In the spring, the GSA partnered with the student association at

the Law School and together had a very successful oyster roast at O'Malley's. The

uniting graduate students and giving them a chance to leave their mark on this school.

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

oyster roast garnered close to \$3,000 and was attended by about 300 students. With four new student associations formed under the auspices of the Graduate Student Association, we are seeing a cohesive force spreading across campus

GSA meetings are typically held on the first Friday of every month on the fourth floor of the Stern Center. Meetings are open to all graduate students, not just senators and the executive board. In order to run in elections for the executive

board, one must serve as a senator or on a committee for at least one semester. So, for all you new students, GET INVOLVED! Serve on a committee and then have the opportunity to run for a highly respected executive position. The GSA is still growing and needs lots of new voices and opinions to keep things fun and involved. Go to a meeting, get involved, and see what everyone is talking about.

—Contributed by Ann Ward, GSA Senator

A MPASA PRESIDENT'S SWAN SONG

Even before Woodrow Wilson first wrote of the “politics/administration dichotomy,” public servants have been caught in a balancing act between a fidelity to the law and/or political principals and a necessity for discretion and flexibility to serve the public. These conflicting pressures have only exacerbated with today’s globalized world and ‘networked’ government structure. Accord-

ing to a seminal article from Jos and Tompkins...

Wait, this isn’t an “Accountability and Ethics” paper? I’m not in that class anymore? It’s 2009? I’m about to graduate? Holy crap!

I guess time flies when you’re having fun...or, paradoxically, time flies when you don’t sleep, and you’re writing a cornucopia of papers on

administrative discretion, organizational behavior, and fundraising strategy. For all of us graduating in May, to say that the past two years (or the past four or five, depending on your circumstances) were busy would be putting it mildly. We’ve been mind-bogglingly productive in our tenure as MPA students, and we’ll be mind-bogglingly produc-

ive in the future as public servants. However, for every major life change one embarks on, it is vital for one to slow down and reflect on where he or she has been, what he or she has done, and where he or she is going in the future. Thus, as MPASA president, I would be remiss if I did not comment on the accomplishments the MPASA has made this year. I have been *blessed* to work with the most intelligent, creative, and dedicated MPASA board I could have asked for. Over the past year, we have managed to produce a fantastic array of social events, professional development panels and opportunities, and volunteer and community engagement endeavors. Our main goal this past year has been to foster a venerable “MPA community,” and to make the MPA and the College of Charleston more than just a place where we simply go to classes a few nights a week and get a piece of paper after two years. The board’s hard work and talent has accomplished just that, and I truly believe our work has left the program improved from when we started it. Yes, we all had specific roles as community service chair, vice president, or whatever else, but our team has exhibited marvelous cooperation and teamwork across strict hierarchies or job descriptions, and each member of the team

should be applauded for their contribution. So if you see Paul, Geoff, Elisa, Cathy, Natalie, or Ann on the street, be sure to shake their hand, or give them a hug, whatever you feel comfortable with. The same goes for the leader of the MPA program, and advisor/benefactor for the MPASA, Dr. Stewart. From giving us sage advice to being Sarah Palin at our Halloween party, we could not have accomplished all that we set out to do if it was not for her. She deserves a hug also.

As I dwelled on in the beginning of this diatribe, we will all become alumni in May; however, I’m excited to continue being a part of the MPA community, and I am excited to see everything the new board will accomplish next year.

We will always look back upon the MPA program, and our high-stress, high octane years we spent here with a sense of satisfaction, accomplishment, and fondness. We may move on, but we’ll, for sure, never *leave* the MPA community.

So, to all the MPA students, faculty, and staff, now and in the future, good luck, and we’ll see you around...

—Contributed by Ryan Strickler, MPASA President



2009 MPASA Habitat Build

2009-2010 MPASA Board

Matthew Irwin, *President*

Amanda Helton, *V. President / GSA Senator*

Caitlin Patton, *Community Service Chair*

Anna Kate Christophillis, *Professional Development Chair*

Ali Titus, *Social Networking Chair*

Leanne Veach, *GSA Senator*

TBA, *Treasurer*

ARTS MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The MPA Arts Management concentration and Arts Management graduate certificate program continues to prepare our future arts managers for careers in the art's field. As this semester draws to a close, the Arts management program would like to recognize its upcoming May 2009 graduates, Natalie Martin and Crystal Ford. We want to congratulate them and wish them all the best as they step forward as MPA Arts Management graduates. In addition, it is important we acknowledge our first graduate in the Arts Management certificate program, Aimee Her-ring.

The program would like to bring to light some of the

educational opportunities provided to its students. At the beginning of this semester, students in Dr. Karen Chandler's class – "Cultural Administration and Applied Research at Avery" -- learned about the management and operation of the Avery Re-



(Picture: l-r Jennifer Alspaugh, Maureen Mullaney, Aimee Her-ring, Justin Rummage, Norma Davis, Dr. Chandler, Dr. Leonard Davis, Leila Potts Campbell, Cynthia McCottry Smith, Connie Morrison.)

search Center. On February 2, 2009, eight MPA/ arts management and nonprofit concentration students had the rare opportunity to meet with alumni, former teachers, and family members of many of Charleston and Avery's great educational leaders and principals.

In other news, on February 10, 2009, three of our MPA Arts Management graduate students—Matthew Irwin, Caitlin Patton and Crystal Ford—attended the South Carolina Advocacy Day in Columbia, SC. These students took this prime opportunity to advocate for the arts. Their efforts, along with nine of our undergraduate Arts Management students

and the multitude of arts leaders and advocates that attended, were deemed effective and successful. Due to the rally of those in Columbia, SC and the rally of arts enthusiasts from around the country, arts funds were saved.

It is such a comfort to know that our MPA Arts management concentration and Arts Management graduate certificate students are being provided the skills necessary to continue the arts legacy for decades to come. For more information please contact Program Director Scott Shanklin-Peterson at Shanklin@cofc.edu.

—Contributed by Crystal Ford, Arts Management GA

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Greetings from the CAP office! We have had a great start to this philanthropic and educational program. The other GA's and I have been so thankful for the opportunity to work with this initiative!

We have completed two big projects so far this year. Kiawah Community Association contracted CAP to conduct their election certification. We were able to assist them in a land development vote and new board members' vote. We enjoyed being able to visit the Kiawah area and being able to present our election conclusions to the association.

CARES is a free health care clinic that is completely run by MUSC students. CAP spent time observing at the clinic and at CARES board meetings. We conducted patient satisfaction surveys and board member surveys to collect data on the clinic. From these surveys, we determined that we could assist the clinic in board evaluations and training. We are excited to attend their first formal board orientation this April.

Since we published our CAP Brochure (available upon request), we have been getting a great response from the Charleston community. We have just started working

with LowCountry Local First, Metanoia, and SC LEEP. We see a lot of potential with these new clients, and we are excited to begin projects with them this spring and early fall.

Stay tuned for more CAP news next year!

—Contributed by Amanda Helton, CAP Graduate Assistant

Contacting the Community Assistance Program (CAP):

Janet Key

**14 Coming Street
Charleston, SC 29424**

Phone: 843.953.6692

Fax: 843.953.6694

MAY AND SUMMER GRADUATES

Jared Babin will stay in the federal security field. He hopes to get a job with the Federal Air Marshals or the FBI after graduation.

Sarah Brandis is planning to stay in Charleston and go to law school after she graduates.

Katie Dutrow will be working as an Outreach Advocate for People Against Rape and will be staying in Charleston.

Laura Elder is considering getting her Ph.D., but if that is not feasible, she wants to work in state or local government.

Crystal Ford is currently seeking positions in arts administration throughout the country. She hopes to eventually become an Executive Director of an arts organization.

Leland Haugh is hoping to attend law school in the Fall of 2010.

Brooks Hearn plans to stay in the Lowcountry. She is currently looking for jobs in development or communications with local non-profits, particularly in the areas of child and family services or education.

Leila Lawson hopes to secure a development position with a cultural or health-based organization in Charleston or Charlotte. Wherever her path takes her, the one thing she looks forward to most is a kitchen she doesn't have to shimmy across!

Natalie Martin has been accepted to join Teach for America's 2009 corps and will be teaching in an inner city elementary school in Jacksonville, FL.

Elisa Mundis will be working at HALOS in Charleston as the Family Services Coordinator.

Geoff Pallay will remain in the Charleston area and work with fellow MPA alums Eric Chatham and Jimmy Ardis in their organization, Civitas. He is eagerly anticipating March 18, 2010, when his wife will be placed into residency, and he will then learn the location of the next 4 years of his life.

Sara Perry will continue to work in the Charleston area at Charleston Trident Association of Realtors.

Quin Stinchfield will continue to work at the Town of Mt. Pleasant in the Finance Department. She will also be actively participating in or-

ganizations that get young adults involved with local government.

Paul Stovovy hopes to work daily to create a better world based on fairness, transparency, environmental sustainability, and consciousness. He is extremely excited about the current economic situation, for it gives us all a chance to refocus on the values of community, environmental stewardship, connectedness, and compassion.

Ryan Strickler is hoping to remain financially solvent after graduation as he spends most of the summer on Folly Beach. In the fall, he'll snap out of this immature dream, find a job, save some coins, and work on getting into a good PhD program for Fall 2010. Ultimately, Ryan hopes to be a professor.

Tasha Tucker will continue her work at Coastal Community Foundation as a Program Associate. She will spend her

newly found free time enjoying the weather and volunteering with local non-profits.

Liza Turcotte will continue her employment at the Roper St. Francis Foundation.

Ann Ward will be working for Spoleto Festival USA as part of their apprenticeship program in the area of development and special events. After the apprenticeship, she will be looking for jobs in Charleston and Atlanta.

Cathy Wilson is hoping to become a Town Manager of a small town somewhere in the mountains where she will be able to snowboard on her days off in the winter and swim in the river on her days off in the summer.

May Commencement will be held Friday, May 8, 2009 at the Sottile Theater on George Street at 5:30 pm.

MPA UPDATES

Lori Cook ('08) started a new job as the Assistant Director of Annual Fund Giving at the Citadel Foundation.

Regan Fantry is getting married to Charles Bradley (C of C '08) on May 30, 2009. Congratulations to you both!

The Lowcountry Public Leader

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MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Please direct all inquiries to:

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E-mail: mpa@cofc.edu

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.COFC.EDU/~PUBA

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MPA on Facebook!

For news, updates, pictures, or general merriment, join the C of C MPA Program Facebook page.

This will be a great tool for alums to keep in contact with their peers and current students in the program.

SUMMER/FALL 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 8—Graduate School Commencement
- May 11—May Evening Classes Begin
- May 12—Maymester Classes Begin
- June 2—Summer I Classes Begin
- June 4—Registration for Graduate Certificate Students Begins
- June 29—Summer Evening Classes Begin
- July 7—Summer II Classes Begin
- July 13—Registration for Non-degree Seeking Students Begins
- August 24—New Student Convocation
- August 24—MPA Orientation**
- August 25—Fall Semester Classes Begin
- October 11—Fall Break
- November 25—Thanksgiving Break
- December 16—Last Day of Fall Semester Classes
- December 19—December Commencement

Summer Course Offerings

May Evening 2008

Land Use Law (PUBA 635/EVSS 635)
M/W 5:30-8:30 Mills

Leadership and Decision Making (PUBA 640)
T/Th 5:30-8:30 Stewart

Summer Evening 2008

Practice of Public Administration (PUBA 720)
M/W 5:30- 8:30 Felts

Understanding Poverty (PUBA 502)
Th 5:30-8:15 Key

ALSO...

Keep checking your inboxes for updates from the MPASA about summer and fall activities!

For questions, suggestions or details about the MPASA, please contact President Matthew Irwin at clemtigersalum@gmail.com