

California State University, Bakersfield

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2007



Public Policy & Administration School of Business & Public Administration



Letter from the Chair:

On behalf of the dedicated faculty of the Department of Public Policy & Administration, it is a pleasure to present this Spring 2007 Newsletter. As we prepare and eagerly look forward to NASPAA reaccreditation review, the Department has had an exceptionally busy year of organization development. However, nothing is more exciting, or gratifying, than the opportunity to here highlight the accomplishments of our outstanding graduating Class of 2007.

As a leader in academic-professional public service education, in AY 2006-2007 we have engaged in a positive year-long process of self-evaluation, and, renewal. This has included: 1) refinement and raising the horizon of our program mission and vision; 2) assessment and achievement of faculty teaching and student learning objectives; 3) reaffirmation and rigorous pursuit of strategic program goals; 4) meaningful engagement of stakeholders; and, 5) enhancing the quality of student learning experiences, e.g. improving advising and guidance, and, creating greater opportunities for students to engage in relevant community-based projects.

More important, this newsletter highlights the successes of our graduating students. We are proud that many AY 2006-2007 graduates are now or soon will go on to play important leadership and public service roles in the Public, Nonprofit and Health Care Management sectors. They will join our over 900 PPA alumni which include those in top executive positions as city managers, assistant city managers, county chief and deputy administrative officers, police and fire chiefs, city, county and state department heads, hospital executives, nonprofit agency directors, legislative staff, and many more in key mid-level public management positions. Others are pursuing advanced academic degrees.

This year, 50 PPA graduate and undergraduate students have applied for graduation. Please join us in congratulating this year's large and impressive cohort of students and public servants.

Congratulations Class of 2007!

Thomas R. Martinez, PhD,
Department Chair



Congratulation!

2006-2007 Outstanding Graduates

Each year an outstanding graduate from each of our three degree programs is selected for recognition. They are selected primarily based on exceptional academic performance. They are truly, "The Best of the Best." The following individuals will be honored at BPA's Honors Banquet on May 18:

Outstanding MPA Graduate:

Dan Gianoutsos -

CSUB Interim Student Union Director & Presidential Intern. Masters Paper: "A Program Evaluation of the Bakersfield Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration," Dec. '06.



Outstanding MSA-HCM Graduate, Elizabeth Jackson -

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Sagebrush Medical Plaza, Kern Medical Center. Masters Paper: "Childhood Obesity Prevention and Treatment Program for Minority Children," June '07.

Outstanding BA Degree Graduate, Robin Starzman -

Authorization Supervisor, Kern County Department of Mental Health, June '07.



CLASS OF '06-'07 AMONG LARGEST EVER!

Due to strong graduate enrollment growth in recent years, AY '06-'07 will see perhaps the largest graduating class in PPA history. Across all three degree programs, a total "50" students had applied for graduation in June or completed degree requirement in December '06.

In all, 26 MPA, 9 MSA-HCM, and 15 BA degree students are expected to graduate this year.

**Congratulation Class of 2006-2007!
You make us proud!**

MPA Graduate Moves on to Ph.D. Program

MPA graduate (Dec. '06) and Outstanding Student (06-07), Dan Gianoutsos has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in Higher Education Leadership at University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) for the Fall of 2007. Dan will be fully-funded by UNLV throughout his doctoral studies. "I am extremely excited to be accepted into this esteemed doctorate program," says Gianoutsos. "The MPA program has provided me with an excellent foundation for entering a doctorate program. I would like to thank my outstanding MPA professors; and a special thanks to Dr. Commuri for advising me through the application process."



"Alumni on the Move:" Update on David Lyman



David Lyman (MPA 2002) has completed his doctoral coursework and passed his qualifying exams at Claremont Graduate University, achieving the status of ABD, "All But Dissertation." He began pursuing his Ph.D. in Political

Science, with concentrations in Public Policy and American Politics, in August 2004. David's dissertation will be a panel study of how California cities use incentives to attract investment and jobs. He recently conducted a survey of California's 478 cities and will compare the results to those from his 2002 masters project research. "Did my MPA experience at CSUB help me with my Ph.D. studies? Absolutely," said David. "I was well prepared to manage the avalanche of reading, writing, and critical thinking that was demanded to succeed."

David is a recipient of the California State University Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program and two fellowships at CGU: the John C. Lincoln Research Fellows Award and the Dr. Ernest M. and Mary J. Maldonado Endowed Fellowship.

Students do Program Evaluations

The Spring PPA 502 Program Evaluation class agreed to help with accreditation preparations by conducting a summative evaluation, "How has the degree, BA, MPA or MSA/HCM, assisted you in achieving your career goals?" Dr. Martinez is serving as the sponsor and working with the evaluation team of Thomas Brown and Colleen McGauley. "We're excited about this *real life* project and hope the results will prove beneficial to CSUB, PPA and its accreditation process," said McCauley. Over 800 surveys were sent out the first week of May so watch the mail if you are an alumnus. Other class projects for this spring include the assessment of the need for a smoking ordinance in Kern County parks, the effectiveness of the CSUB Career Development Center, and several other campus projects. This pro bono service is available during the winter quarter (Dr. Daniels) and spring quarter (Dr. Moore) of each year.

Dr. BJ Moore
bjmoore@csub.edu



Student Focus Group: Listening to Students

On Wednesday February 21, 2007 both undergraduate and graduate students participated in a focus group to discuss various elements of the Public Policy and Administration degree program at CSUB. Dr. Craig Kelsey, Dean of the Extended University was the facilitator. The students reflected on eight topics which included: (1) curriculum quality, (2) advising quality, (3) faculty availability, (4) faculty quality, (5) instruction quality, (6) use of class time, (7) quality of community experiences, and (8) general impressions of the program.

The students shared their perspectives and made meaningful recommendations. The students felt there was a proper mixture of theory and practice in the curriculum. They encouraged a move to more seminar-discussion based teaching. Students felt advisement was responsive but needed more options for evening only students. The students were pleased with faculty availability and that faculty were attentive to student needs. The diversity of the faculty was considered a highlight of the degree program. Students felt faculty were well prepared and passionate about their teaching. Availability and use of guest speakers was appreciated as well as the currency of required texts. Students felt class time could be enhanced with more student based conversations in class, continued use of guest speakers and more variety in teaching methods. Community connections from the classrooms to the field are a positive aspect of the program. Students were appreciative of the program and felt as PPA makes greater efforts to share information with the community that the image of the program will continue to improve.

Faculty and Staff Updates

Dr. Jinping Sun *Internship Coordinator*

If you have any questions about internship, please contact Jinping.
jsun2@csub.edu.



Congratulations **Dr. Chandra Commuri!**



Chandra has been granted a Sabbatical for F '07 to focus on a major research project studying nonprofit organizations.
ccommuri@csub.edu

Thank You **Dr. John Hultsman!**

Dr. Hultsman CSUB's Associate Vice President for the Antelope Valley campus has, *above and beyond his full-time administrative duties*, volunteered to teach PPA 501: Analytical Methods in F '07 while Dr. Sun is on Family Leave.
jhultsman@csub.edu



Thank you **Dr. Craig Kelsey!**

Dr. Kelsey Dean of CSUB's Extended University Division has, *above and beyond his full-time administrative duties*, volunteered to teach PPA 519: Nonprofit Management in F '07 while Dr. Commuri is on sabbatical.
ckelsey@csub.edu

Welcome Sonia Morentin!

Sonia joined us in March as our new Administrative Services Assistant, since then she has been focused on quality service to our students.
smorentin@csub.edu



PPA Community Advisory Board Meet Gives Input

The PPA Advisory Board met with the department faculty and selected students on April 20, 2007. The department faculty gave the Board an update on recent activities and on the upcoming NASPAA accreditation. The Board members gave their input vis-à-vis the direction of the programs and made recommendations for improvement. Once again, Board members reiterated the importance they attach to good writing when they hire graduates. Clear, effective, and courteous writing in both formal and informal forms (like Email) seems to be an important characteristic they look for in their employees.

As a result of the Board's feedback this year and last year, the department is placing more emphasis on writing instruction and feedback to its students. For example, the department is modifying its graduate Policy Process course such that it meets the graduate writing requirement standard imposed by the CSU system.

An area in which there is likely to be more collaboration between the Advisory Board and the department is in placing our graduates in internships. Dr. Sun, the department's Internship Coordinator, emphasized that we now have more students than ever that need internships and that we need help from our community stakeholders in finding placements for these students. We plan to create a streamlined process for matching agencies that need interns with students that need positions.

Dr. Moore talked about the programmatic changes we are making to the MSA-Health Care Management program. Students will now have classes on a wider variety of topics (like Quality Management for example) and these courses reflect the changing demands in the health care administration profession.

Bon Voyage to Dean Lowenstein

Please join us in wishing Dr. Henry Lowenstein the very best as he moves on to take the Business Dean position at Coastal Carolina University.

Dr. Lowenstein arrived at CSUB in the summer of 2000. Since his arrival, he has been a true advocate for PPA and for enhancing the experience of all BPA students in the relentless pursuit of excellence. He has been a model of Leadership, Results and Humility,"... Oh, well, two of out of three isn't bad.

"Best Wishes!"



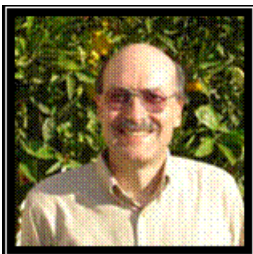
The Public Service Institute, PPA's Professional Development, Training and Program Evaluation Arm

The Department of Public Policy and Administration provides professional development, training and program evaluation services on a contract basis.

The Public Service Institute (PSI) makes available university-based resources and expertise to public, nonprofit and health care agencies in the southern San Joaquin Valley so that these organizations might carry out more effectively the duties and responsibilities rendered them by the citizens of the region. Specifically, PPA's Public Service Institute:

- (1) provides state-of-the-art technical, supervisory, managerial, and leadership training and assistance to public and nonprofit agencies in the service area;
- (2) provides policy analysis and program evaluation assistance and training to public and nonprofit agencies to improve their service delivery and policy effectiveness and;
- (3) builds international linkages that will be of benefit to CSUB students and practitioners in our service region.

Community nonprofit and government organizations interested in the services of the PSI should contact Dr. Daniels at (661) 654-2318.
rdaniels@csub.edu



Pi Alpha Alpha: Students Qualify for Honors

This year, 19 students qualified for induction in to Pi Alpha Alpha, the national public administration honor society. According to Cliff Smith, CSUB Pi Alpha Alpha President, "NASPAA and Pi Alpha Alpha set high academic standards which including a minimum GPA of 3.7 for graduate students, and a minimum 3.5 GPA for undergrads." This year's induction ceremony will take place June 1, 2007.

Students eligible for induction include:

MPA Graduate Students:

Thomas Brown, Mayra Garza, Dan Gianoutsos, Beverly Hughes, Virginia Krebs, Lorelei Oviatt, Gary Ray, John Rodrigues, David Rosales, Dorene Ruiz, Adriana Winters

MSA-HCM Graduate Students:

Elizabeth Jackson, Judy Snyder

Undergraduate PPA Students:

Guy Hairfield, Geoffrey Hill, Rebecca Katsantonis, James Lyonnais, Daniel Rindge, Robin Starzman, Tanya Snyder

Fall 2007 Class Schedule

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|----------------------------|--|
| Inst 275.1 Dr. Martinez | Admin. Process in Govt. W 6:00-10:10PM |
| Inst 275.2 Dr. Daniels | Admin. Process in Govt. T, TH 10:30AM-12:35PM |
| PPA 325 Dr. Ropp | Administrative Law TH 6:00-10:10PM |
| PPA 340 Staff | Public Policy Networks TH 6:00-10:10PM |
| PPA 400 Dr. Moore | Public Mgmt & Leadership T 6:00-10:10PM |
| PPA 415 Dr. Daniels | Research Methods in PA M 6:00-10:10pm |
| PPA 500 Fred Plane | Environments of Public Admin. T 6:00-10:10PM |
| PPA 501 Dr. Hultsman | Analytical Methods in Admin. M 6:00-10:10PM |
| PPA 504 Dr. Moore | Contemporary Issues in Health Care Mgmt. TH 6:00-10:10PM |
| PPA 519 Dr. Kelsey | Management in Nonprofit Org. W 6:00-10:10PM |
| PPA 525 Dr. Ropp | Administrative Law TH 6:00-10:10PM |
| PPA 610 Javier Lozano | Public Human Resources Admin. & Labor Rel. M 6:00-10:10PM |
| PPA 611 Dr. Hultsman | Finance & Budgeting T 6:00-10:10PM |
| PPA 698 Dr. Daniels | Culminating Activity |

Summer 2007 Class Schedule

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|-------------------------|---|
| PPA 477 Dr. Martinez | Leadership & Problem Solving T, TH 6:00-10:10 PM |
| PPA 577 Dr. Moore | Managed Health Care M, W 6:00-10:10 PM |