

# California State University, Bakersfield

## Spring 2008



**Department of Public Policy  
and Administration**

California State University Bakersfield



# NEWSLETTER

On behalf of the faculty of the Department of Public Policy & Administration, it is a pleasure to present this 2008 Spring Newsletter.

First and foremost, in these pages we congratulate the outstanding graduating class of 2007-2008. We invite you to join in celebrating their professional-academic achievements and the important contributions they are and will continue to make to the advancement of excellence in the public service.

*"In them, we have much to be proud!"*

Second, as you know, the Department devoted much energy this past year to self assessment and undergoing national site visit team review for NASPAA Re-Accreditation. We here update you on that important process which was at once intensive and challenging, but, driven by serious reflection and opportunities for renewal. The Site Visit Team commended our focus on Mission; Curriculum Development; Outcomes Assessment; Student Learning; Alumni Success; and, Community Engagement.

Specifically, we are seeking to better serve the needs of those in the nonprofit sector; create more course scheduling options to better meet the needs of working students; and, engaging our students and community partners in program development.

More important, we engaged with them in constructive dialog on how to better leverage and build on our good position to better serve out students. We hope that that tone is evidenced in these pages.

Lastly, please note that students have stepped-up as contributors to this newsletter, and that students and community stakeholders are increasingly taking ownership of the program. We welcome their engagement.



*"Have a Great Summer!"*

**Thomas R. Martinez, PhD,  
Department Chair**

**Congratulation!**

### **2007-2008 PPA 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 were honored at BPA's Honors Banquet on May 16:

#### **Outstanding Undergraduate:**

##### **Geoffrey Hill -**

BA in Public Policy & Administration, GPA 3.96. Since 2000, he has been Construction Project Inspector, General Services, County of Kern.



#### **Outstanding MPA Graduate:**

##### **Colleen McGauley -**

(Masters of Public Administration) GPA 4.0. She has, since its inception in 1994, been Executive Director of CASA of Kern (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children).

#### **Outstanding MSA-HCM Graduate:**

##### **Andy Castaneda -**

(Masters of Science in Administration-Health Care Management) GPA 3.91. He is Lead Case Manager for Psychiatric Alternatives Resources.



*"Congratulations to Dr. Jinping Sun!"*  
International Women's' Day of Honoree



Dr. Jinping Sun was among those honored at this year's International Day of the Woman celebration March 10<sup>th</sup>. She was recognized for her outstanding contribution to our community in the area on Government & Law.

**Student Voice:  
By Undergrad Student Rep, David Lee**



Students of the PPA program are presented with a unique opportunity in Kern County. The program has successfully created the opportunity for students to engage with community leaders, specifically in the fields of non-profit, health care, and local government. The importance of networking and stakeholder engagement are paramount to the success of the PPA department. The movement towards community activity is beneficial to the student, the department, and the organization.

What is gained through networking and community engagement? Such individuals are vehicles that allow students to move beyond academics and theory into the realm of practical application and real life experience. Additionally, students may learn new ideas, innovative practices, and management techniques from public service leaders in the community.

The PPA program has demonstrated its ability to interact with the community through various means. Adjunct professors, the Kern County APSA chapter, the Public Service Education: The Employer's Perspective forum, and the PPA Advisory Board are examples of the network established by the department.

To the undergraduates – do not hesitate in contacting local administrators throughout the study of Public Administration. Learn to take advantage of their expertise and education as a means to enhancing your professional and academic careers. I encourage you to engage the network that has already been created for you. It is my hope that each of us can continue to enhance the quality of the student experience for current and future students of the PPA program.

***“Congratulations to the Class of 2007-2008!”***

This year we again saw a bumper crop of outstanding graduates from our MPA, MSA-HCM and BA degree programs. The Class of 2007-2008 consists of the following students:

**PPA Grads-BA Summer/Fall 2007:**

Guy Hairfield, Geoffrey Hill, Edgar Rojas, La Neisha Wright, Charles Thomson, Mark Adam, Ambar Carlisle, Randy Mabson, Gary Ray, Dorene Ruiz, Swaran Dwarka, Gillian Richards, Chaluk Richards, April Smith, Munira Zahabi, Heather Guy, Krystal Lee,

**PPA Grads-BA Spring 2008:**

Sonia Gonzalez, Marissa Oliver, Sabrina, Jones-Roberts, Suzanne Mendoza, Tina Sullivan, Kirk Sunderman, Lourdes Vargas-Nilon, Ashley Yoder, Kasia Bickel, Thomas Brown, Patti Carroll, Andy Castenada, Yvonne chambers, Alexander Clark, Michelle Curioso, Emma Eytcheson, Ryan Feeley, Kayla Garcia, Christina Guevara, Freddy Hernandez, Carrie Hilvers, Luis Juarez, Rebecca Katsantonis, Virginia Krebs, Didra Larma, Randy Mabson, Janelle Mack, Edward Moseley, Amisha Patel, John Rodrigues, Charleane Salvador, Caron Sills-McNearney, Clifford Smith

**Public Service Education:  
The Employers' Perspective  
By Geoffrey Hill, Graduate Student Rep**



All of these KSAs are available to you as a Public Administration student. Attention to these aspects of the classes you take will prepare you immeasurably to compete for and succeed in positions in the governmental and non-profit sectors. Use the opportunity well.

**Dr. Daniels provides opening comment to forum attendees**

On Monday May 5, the CSUB Department of Public Policy and Administration, the CSUB Public Service Institute, and the Kern County Chapter of ASPA presented a forum “Public Service Education: The Employer's Perspective”. The forum speakers were Sheryl Chalupa - CEO, Goodwill Industries of South Central California, Ron Errea - County Administrator, County of Kern, Paul Hensler – CEO, Kern Medical Center, John Stinson - Assistant City Manager, City of Bakersfield, Ruben Varela - District Manager, Social Security Administration.

Approximately 60 undergraduate and graduate students attended the forum. Each presenter spoke for 15-20 minutes and discussed the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA) they looked for in administrators in their respective non-profit or governmental sectors. They were all informative and very willing to discuss these KSAs. In order to distill the forums content, I used a basic technique of content analysis to identify the essential elements. Anyone who has taken a class from Dr. Martinez will recognize the concept.

Essentially, the knowledge, skills and abilities most highly regarded by the panel in order of importance are:

- communication
- ethics and accountability
- statistical analysis
- critical thinking and problem solving
- public speaking
- strategic management and decision making
- commitment to lifelong learning and personal development
- technological acumen
- team work and interpersonal skills
- diversity and cultural sensitivity.

**Panelists (L-R): Sheryl Chalupa; Paul Hensler; John Stinson; Ron Errea; and, Ruben Valera**



**Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society  
Held Induction Ceremony on  
May 30, 2008 By Didra Larma,  
Pi Alpha Alpha President**

It is an honor to be recognized and nominated into PI Alpha Alpha and an even greater honor to be the President. As President, I encourage students to always strive to reach their full academic potential. Pi Alpha Alpha members have the opportunity to utilize the relationships made at CSUB to strengthen interactions throughout the community in support of Public Affairs and Administration.



I would like to congratulate all Pi Alpha Alpha members. You have truly demonstrated academic achievement in your endeavors at CSUB.

Having met the high GPA standards for Honors Society recognition, 2007-2008 Pi Alpha Alpha Inductees are:

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Blanca Luz Anderson       | Patti Carroll          |
| Andrew Salvador Castaneda | Yvonne M. Cope         |
| Luis Enrique Juarez       | Didra Megan Larma      |
| David Lee                 | Cecilia Martinez       |
| Colleen A. McGauley       | Caron Elaine McNearney |
| Wendy Kathleen Montanio   | Susan Nwanoro          |
| Amisha K. Pannu           | Tina Louise Sullivan   |

The Induction Ceremony was held on Friday, May 30, 5:30-6:30pm, at the Dezember Leadership Development Center.



**Students, "Give us a piece of your mind!"  
Take our on-line survey**

The Department is considering various ways to better respond to undergrad and grad student interest in alternative course scheduling modes. Please let us know how we might better serve you by taking our on-line survey (It takes less than 5 minutes). Please click on to:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?  
sm=iN\\_2bG0vXUZSaXdfUq0DkEsw\\_3d\\_3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=iN_2bG0vXUZSaXdfUq0DkEsw_3d_3d)

**Bringing the Community into the Classroom?  
Students & Top Leaders Dialog**

PPA regularly creates opportunities to enhance the student-community learning experience by bringing top public managers and leaders into the classroom. In 2007-2008 executive practitioners serving as part-time faculty included:

- Fred Plane, CFO, Kern Medical Center
- Steve Sanders, Division Administrator,  
Child Development & Family Services, KCSOS
- Javier Lozano, HR Director, City of Bakersfield

Guest speakers dialoging with students and bringing the wealth of their experience to our classrooms included:

- Steve Schilling, CEO, Clinica Sierra Vista
- Judge Robert Tafoya, Kern Co. Superior Court
- Doug Greener, Deputy Fire Chief, BFD
- John Nilon, Dir., Kern Public Health Department
- Ron Brummett, Dir., Kern Council of Governments
- Daphne Harley, Dir., Kern Waste Management Div.
- Joel Heinrichs, CEO, Lightspeed.Net
- Colleen McGauley, CEO, CASA
- Ross Elliott, Dir., Kern Emergency Medical Services
- Johanna Alexander, CSUB Library
- Elena Acosta, Prog. Dir., Kern Co. Human Services
- Beverly Hughes, Prog. Dir., Kern Co. Human Services
- Magda Menendez, Exec. Director, MAOF
- Georgianna Armstrong, Dir., Kern Emergency Mgmt
- Ignacio Morales, Code Enfrcmnt, City of Bakersfield
- David Lyman, Econ. & Com. Dev., City of Bakersfield
- John Guinn, City Manager, Shafter
- Laura Wolff, University Advancement, CSUB
- Lorelei Oviatt, Div. Chief, Kern Co. Planning Dept.

**Meet the BPA Leadership Team**



Dr. John Emery (left) joined CSUB in March '08 as new Dean of the School of Public Policy & Administration. He comes to us with a long record of achievement, having served as Dean at UT, Pan American and at Louisiana Tech University. Prior to that, he was Chair and Professor at CSU Fullerton. He takes the reigns from Dr. Mark Evans who this year served BPA well as Interim Dean, and now returns to his on-going leadership role as BPA Associate Dean. "Welcome Dr. Emery -- Go Team!"

## Faculty, Advising & Information:



Dr. Steven Daniels, Professor, Undergraduate Advisor  
(661) 654-2318 [RDaniels@CSUB.edu](mailto:RDaniels@CSUB.edu)  
<http://www.csub.edu/~rdaniels/>

Dr. Thomas Martinez, Professor, PPA Chair & MPA Advisor  
(661) 654-3406 [TMartinez@CSUB.edu](mailto:TMartinez@CSUB.edu)  
<http://www.csub.edu/~tmartinez/>



Dr. Chandra Commuri, Associate Professor, Minor Advisor  
(and Nonprofit Management) (661) 654-6140  
[CCommuri@CSUB.edu](mailto:CCommuri@CSUB.edu)  
<http://www.csub.edu/~ccommuri/>

Dr. BJ Moore, Assistant Professor, MSA -Health Care Management Advisor- (661) 654-3026 [BJMoore@CSUB.edu](mailto:BJMoore@CSUB.edu)  
<http://www.csub.edu/~bjmoore/>



Dr. Jinping Sun, Assistant Professor,  
Internship Coordinator  
(661) 654-6217 [JSun2@CSUB.edu](mailto:JSun2@CSUB.edu)  
<http://www.csub.edu/~jsun2/>

### For more information:



Ms. Sonia Morentin, PPA Administrative Assistant,  
(661) 654-3406  
[Smorentin@CSUB.edu](mailto:Smorentin@CSUB.edu)

Ms. Kathy Carpenter, BPA Student Services Center, (661) 654-3404  
[KCarpenter@csub.edu](mailto:KCarpenter@csub.edu)



## Fall 2008 Class Schedule

Inst 275.2	Admin. Process in Govt.
Dr. Daniels	T, TH 10:30AM-12:35PM
Inst 275.3	Admin. Process in Govt.
Dr. Martinez	M, W 3:30-5:30PM
Inst 275.1	Admin. Process in Govt.
Dr. Martinez	W 6:00-10:10PM
PPA 300	Public Mgmt./Leadership
Dr. Moore	T 6:00-10:10PM
PPA 340	Public Policy Networks
Dr. Commuri	TH 6:00-10:10PM
PPA 415	Research Methods in PA
Dr. Daniels	M 6:00-10:10pm
PPA 500	Environments of Public Admin.
Fred Plane	T 6:00-10:10PM
PPA 501	Analytical Methods in Admin.
Dr. Sun	M 6:00-10:10PM
PPA 504	Contemporary Issues in Health Care Mgmt.
Dr. Moore	TH 6:00-10:10PM
PPA 519	Management in Nonprofit Org.
Dr. Commuri	W 6:00-10:10PM
PPA 610	Public Human Resources Admin. & Labor Rel.
Javier Lozano	M 6:00-10:10PM
PPA 611	Finance & Budgeting
Dr. Sun	T 6:00-10:10PM
PPA 698	Culminating Activity
Dr. Martinez	S 9:00-12:00
Dr. Cummuri	—TBA

NOTE: Adding a New 2 Unit Roadrunner Passions Course  
CSUB 103/303  
Managing Student Organizations  
Dr. Moore, (2 Units) Fridays 11:20-1:20

*"The only NASPAA Accredited MPA program  
within 100 miles of Bakersfield."*



*"When it comes to your education, quality matters."*

National Association of  
Schools of Public Affairs and Administration  
<http://www.naspaa.org/>

## Summer 2008 Class Schedule

PPA 540/477 Leadership & Problem Solving  
Dr. Martinez M, W 6:00-10:00 PM

Cross listed as PPA 540 for Graduate Students and as PPA 477 for Undergraduates students.