



## *MPA Today!*

*Fall 2007 Edition*



Welcome to the inaugural edition of the MPA program newsletter. It is an exciting time for OU degree! This newsletter celebrates our accomplishments and initiates a dialogue about opportunities and challenges facing the program. We invite you to contribute to this forum as a deliberative tool to chart the course for a shared, successful future! I welcome any comments, questions, and concerns you have about the program!

*Aimee Franklin, Director*

### MPA Factoids

10 sites offer the MPA degree:

Norman, OK;  
Tulsa, OK;  
Fort Sill, OK;  
OU Health Sciences Center, OK;  
Washington DC,  
Las Vegas, NV;  
Mountain Home, ID;  
Yongsan, Seoul Korea;  
Kadena, Okinawa Japan.

[The last 7 are offered in compressed format through Advanced Programs]

In the 2007 academic year, we have scheduled 83 courses at these sites: 65 to be conducted in the compressed format, 12 in the 16-week semester format and 6 as on-line offerings.

There are more than 100 students for the Norman, HSC and Tulsa locations and around 330 at Advanced Programs sites. Based on the Spring 2007 survey, the student body is evenly split between men and women. Students are also racially diverse: 11.8% of the students are African Americans, 9.4% Native Americans, 7.4% Asian Americans, and 6.7% Hispanics

**Bookmark this webpage for course information:**  
[www.ou.edu/cas/psc/pa/course\\_information.html](http://www.ou.edu/cas/psc/pa/course_information.html)

### Faculty Resources

Seeing a lot of unfamiliar faculty names this fall? That's not too surprising! With the addition of four new faculty in Fall 2007, there are now 13 core faculty in the Public Administration and Public Policy fields in the Department of Political Science. Added to this, seven other faculty in the Department; five faculty from affiliated departments at OU, and 21 guest faculty from other prestigious universities contribute to the MPA teaching roster.

### New Core Faculty Biographies

Ginger Elliott-Teague, Ginger. B.A., Rice University; M.P.A., SPEA, Indiana University, Bloomington; Ph.D., Indiana University, Bloomington, 2007. Her current research focuses on NGOs in Tanzania and nonprofits in Oklahoma.

Alisa Hicklin, B.S., Lamar University; Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 2006. Her current research focuses on public management and higher education policy.

Hank Jenkins-Smith, B.S. Linfield College (Economics and Politics) 1979; MA and PhD University of Rochester (Political Science) 1985. He is Editor of *Policy Studies Journal*. His research in progress concerning the tensions between political liberties and national security.

Meeyong Lamothe, B.A. Hanyang University; M.P.A. Hanyang University; Ph.D., Florida State University, 2000. Her current research is on competition and nonprofit roles in social service contracting, alternative service delivery systems in local governments, nonprofit accountability, and privatization.

Scott Lamothe, B.A., Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo; M.S., Ph.D., Florida State University. His current research focuses on privatization of local public services.

*Through a flexible structure the MPA program: 1) addresses the needs of a diverse constituency of generalists and specialists seeking knowledge of, and skills in, the theoretical and practical dimensions of public administration and policy, and 2) fosters the development of effective leaders in the public and nonprofit sectors and the advocacy community.*

Carol Silva, B.A. University of New Mexico (Political Science) 1989; MA and PhD University of Rochester (Political Science) 1998. Her current research interests: Environmental politics; Science and technology policy; Contingent valuation methodology; Policy analysis; Risk analysis and assessment; Gender and risk perception; Public opinion and Survey research methodology.

Did you know? The OU MPA now offers 8 different areas of concentration. Find out more from Debbie or your site coordinator!

### **Introducing the 2007 MPA Stars** **{STakeholder Representatives}**

A 14 member advisory board, featuring representatives from all sectors of organizations and all levels of government, was created in January 2007. Their first task was identifying strengths and weaknesses of the degree and to suggest areas of support for new initiatives. One initiative being explored is an 18-hour Certificate program for pre-MPA or post-MPA students. Related to this, plans are under way to offer continuing education workshops that will be open to anyone and feature hot topics facing practitioners.

- ❖ Federal Executive Board – LeAnn Jenkins
- ❖ Oklahoma Department of Commerce - Deidre Myers
- ❖ Former City of Tulsa Mayor's Office - Michael Willis
- ❖ City of Norman Finance Department - Anthony Francisco
- ❖ Crossroads Youth and Family Services - Lisa Winters
- ❖ Oklahoma Urban League - Valerie Thompson
- ❖ Advanced Programs Guest Professor - Kelly Damphousse
- ❖ American Indian Institute - John Shotton
- ❖ Osage Tribe - Leonard Maker
- ❖ Former City of Durant Manager, Oklahoma Municipal League - Paul Buntz
- ❖ Oklahoma Department of Corrections - Mike Connelly
- ❖ University of Central Oklahoma - Brett Sharp
- ❖ Advanced Programs - David Kimmel
- ❖ American Society for Public Administration (Oklahoma Chapter) - Ed Long

### **Student Spotlight**

In the past year, eight students have enrolled in internships. Of these, five students have participated in the Oklahoma Carl Albert Public Internship Program. Brian Harrison is one of these students working in the State Office of Personnel Management. At the start of the school year, we received announcements of five internship opportunities. If you would like to find out more, contact Debbie Deering at 325-6299 or [ddeering@ou.edu](mailto:ddeering@ou.edu).

### **Students on the Move**

Congratulations to Jeremy Leader from the Tulsa campus and Marvin Rydberg from the Kadena site on securing highly competitive Presidential Management Internships! Jeremy will be serving in California and plans on beginning his PhD studies at USC while there.

### **Public Events**

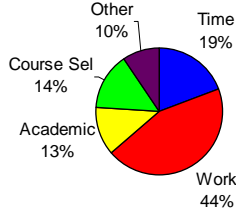
The annual Bellmon Lecture in Public Policy honors former Oklahoma governor and U.S. Senator Henry Bellmon. Since its inception, lectures by academicians have included Donald Kash (1999), Kenneth J. Meier (2000), Richard J. Stillman (2002), Edward C. Page (2004), and Ann Schneider (2005). In view of public administration's commitment to serve both academic and practitioner oriented needs, Jos Raadschelders, Bellmon Chair since 2001, introduced biennial practitioner lectures. They have featured Oklahoma State Senator Cal Hobson (2001), former FBI special agent David Cid (2003), Philip Rutledge (2006), and World Bank senior analyst Tony Verheyen (2007). Lecturers are encouraged to publish their lectures. So far, two articles and one book have been published (Hobson, Stillman, Page).

### **Survey Results**

In Spring 2007, we surveyed current MPA students. The MPA student body is overwhelmingly working full time while completing course work. Many factors limit the number of credit hours taken each semester. Despite these limitations, over 70% of respondents said that the amount of time necessary to complete the program was "about right".

For more information go to: [www.ou.edu/cas/psc/pa](http://www.ou.edu/cas/psc/pa) [Main Campus] [tulsa.ou.edu](http://tulsa.ou.edu) {Tulsa Campus} or [www.goou.ou.edu](http://www.goou.ou.edu) (Advanced Programs) Or contact: Debbie Deering (405) 325-6299 or [ddeering@ou.edu](mailto:ddeering@ou.edu)

**Factors that limited hours of enrollment**



When rating faculty, MPA students are overwhelmingly positive; especially about class preparation, knowledge of subject matter, and ability to communicate (over 80% rate OU professors as “good” or “outstanding” in each category). More than two-thirds agreed or strongly agreed that the MPA program had a good balance of theory and practice, and course content met their needs. More results in the next newsletter.

**Research Roundup**

The Institute for Public Affairs (Director Tom James) has ongoing research grants studying seat belt and child restraint use, juvenile justice programs, federal transportation policy and counseling and prevention technologies. Graduate students working for the Institute are able to co-author research papers and make presentations.

The MacNiven award winner for the best MPA Research Paper is Craig Parker from Okinawa, Japan. His paper was an innovative quantitative examination of Information Security in five federal agencies. Craig created and calculated ratios to evaluate compliance with FISMA reporting and concluded that the group of agencies has an overall negative security posture for the overarching information security management systems.

This paper and other award nominees will soon be posted on the MPA website. We will also begin posting samples of prospectus documents to assist students at the end of their degree program.

**MPA Factoid**

In 2008, we will celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> year of offering the degree program at OU!

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**Research Paper Reminders**

Identification of interest for Spring 2008 enrollments in PSC 5950 were due on 9/1/07.

Find the form at:

<http://www.ou.edu/cas/psc/pa/InterestForm.htm>

Admission to Candidacy and Declaration of Comprehensive Exam Semester forms were due on 9/1/07. Forms and details are at:

<http://www.ou.edu/cas/psc/pa/ssagb06.pdf>

For Fall 2007, the final version of the prospectus or research paper must be approved by 12/7/07.

**Spring 2008 Course Offerings**

<b>Main Campus</b>	
PSC 5143-001 Program Evaluation	M 3:30-6:20
PSC 5373-900 Education Policy	M 7-9:50
PSC 5173-001 Bureaucracy & Politics	T 3:30-6:20
PSC 5313-900 Urban Management	T 7-9:50
PSC 5133-900 Strategic Planning & Perf. Mgt.	W 7-9:50
PSC 5053-001 Foundations in Public Policy	H 3-5:50
PSC 5183-970 Public Budgeting & Finance	H 7-9:50 @ HSC
PSC 5033-970 Foundations in Nonprofit Mgt.	Weekends @ HSC

All courses for the academic year are provided at:

[http://www.ou.edu/cas/psc/pa/course\\_information.html](http://www.ou.edu/cas/psc/pa/course_information.html)

**MPA Academic Advisors Corner**

Read the SSAG often! There is information in the SSAG that you need at different stages in your MPA progress. The most over-looked section is the one with the deadlines for the degree completion. Because the prospectus is our comprehensive exam, there are specific deadlines to turn in the Admission to Candidacy form and other paperwork.