



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY Master of Public Administration Program

Connections

Volume 3, Issue 1

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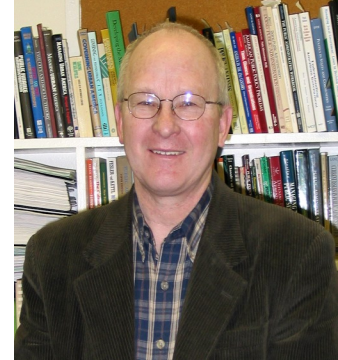
From the Director's Desk

In the first issue of the **Connections** Newsletter, I made the statement: "This past year has been an eventful year." I think each year becomes more eventful. In 2013-14 we conducted a self-study as part of our application for reaccreditation by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) formerly the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. NASPAA provides the gold standard in public service education and has membership spanning the globe. There are many programs providing MPA education, but there is only a handful accredited by NASPAA. This past spring we had a site visit team composed of two academics from other institutions and one practitioner, who happened to be a city manager from Texas. The team was here for two-and-a-half days to check us out and make a report to NASPAA. We received news in July that we have been reaccredited for another 7 years. I want to thank all friends of the MPA program and alumni who participated in this arduous process.

Other exciting news is that we are bringing the MPA program to the Dallas area. The university has decided to bring a number of programs including the MPA program to the Collin College Higher Education Center in McKinney. Our program is scheduled to start fall term 2016.

We held our first MPA alumni reception in the Dallas area in June. We had over 40 attendees. As a result of this event and other happenings, the alumni have organized. The public administration program at Texas Tech has agreed to act as the secretariat to the newly formed **Texas Tech Public Administration Alumni Association**. The association has agreed to take over the publication of the newsletter. This will be the last newsletter produced by the Public Administration program. Future newsletters will be produced by the alumni association. I am certain that the association will need volunteers to assist with its programs. Please contact the association at pols.paaa@ttu.edu.

We are making a concerted effort to connect students with the working world. One way to do this is through the required internship. Students consistently indicate that the internship is one of the best experiences in their MPA program. Many receive job offers through their internships. We are always looking for good internships for our students. Keep us informed of any internships. We have also added the requirement that students go through programs at the university career center on resume development, job search skills, interviewing skills and other programs to better prepare them for the working world. We held a career information fair during spring term. We invited a number a governmental, healthcare and nonprofit organizations to provide information on the types of careers that graduates of an MPA program could expect. It was extremely well attended by undergraduate students. It has been a busy and productive year. Other events and activities are described elsewhere in this newsletter.



David K. Hamilton,
Director, Master of Public
Administration Program





TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Public Administration Alumni Association

'Fostering a spirit of loyalty and to strengthen the ties between alumni.'

PAAA Membership

General Membership. Membership is open to any person who has attended Texas Tech University, or is actively engaged in a public service profession in the fields of government, nonprofit or healthcare administration.

Student Membership. Membership is open to any person who is attending Texas Tech University and intending to pursue a public service career in the fields of government, nonprofit or healthcare administration. Student membership can be extended for up to two (2) years after graduation.

Honorary Membership. Membership that is bestowed by the Board of Directors upon a person who attended Texas Tech University and retired from a distinguished public service career in the fields of government.

- An organization for networking with other alumni, students, friends, and supporters of the MPA Program
- An opportunity to encourage students and alumni to pursue careers in public service professions, including government, nonprofits, and healthcare
- A commitment to get involved as a supporter of the Texas Tech University Department of Political Science
- An opportunity to lead in fostering continuing education in our profession
- A contribution back to an association through scholarships, facilitation of internships, and career development

Officers

Rick Menchaca, President, rmenchaca@boscinc.com

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Secretariat

Dr. David Hamilton, Director of the MPA Program, TTU, david.hamilton@ttu.edu

Era Ibarra, Senior Business Assistant, pols.paaa@ttu.edu, 806.834.3729

We want to hear from you

- How can we serve you
- Share your ideas
- Get involved
- Provide us with your current employment information to update the alumni database



For further information contact one of the officers or Era Ibarra, Senior Business Assistant, Texas Tech University. pols.paaa@ttu.edu or 806.834.3729

The Center for Public Service (CPS) is an outreach arm of the Public Administration Program at Texas Tech University. Through the Center we provide professional management training opportunities and applied research for public, healthcare, and nonprofit organizations.

Resources

We can access the substantial resources and expertise available in the university. Faculty have expertise in a broad variety of areas including policy analysis, program evaluation, budgeting and financial analysis, human resource management, and general organization and management. The CPS strives to be a strong collaborative partner with the public and non-profit communities. It seeks to facilitate mutually beneficial liaisons, providing pro bono services where appropriate. CPS strives to enhance the effectiveness and professionalism of public-sector and nonprofit managers through our training programs as well as our various outreach and collaborative research project efforts. Through these outreach efforts and programs, the CPS pursues its mission to provide quality professional management training and research services to the public and non-profit sectors.

Training Services

As part of our training commitment to the community, we are currently providing a Certified Public Manager (CPM) training program for employees of public and nonprofit organizations. The program is a nationally recognized, non-credit certificate program that combines administrative and management theory, and application for employees to enhance their careers. We have previously provided CPM training programs to public and non-profit employees in Amarillo, Midland-Odessa, and Abilene. We have the expertise to provide training programs and facilitate meetings for training and development purposes. If you are in need of specialized training and consulting contact us.

Research Services

We are available to consult and collaborate with you on your research needs. We can provide research services in all aspects of human resources including compensation and classification studies, employee motivation studies, policies and procedures in budgeting and financial analysis, and general management including strategic planning, organizational development, program planning, program evaluation and alternative service delivery. The CPS has the capability to tap into a range of resources to provide varied research services to public and non-profit organizations. For some research projects we use students supervised by faculty. This will not only allow students practical experience, it will also reduce costs.

For survey research projects we also have access to the Earl Survey Research Lab, which has the capability and expertise to provide comprehensive research services including telephone, mailed and online surveys.

**Contact us for your training, consulting, research
and special projects needs.**

We can provide a variety of research services. Examples of past research projects include the following:

- ◇ Healthcare surveys and focus groups
- ◇ A survey and analysis of employee satisfaction for a county
- ◇ An evaluation of the public defender's office for a county
- ◇ Research on construction salaries
- ◇ Research on public transportation needs for disabled persons in Lubbock and surrounding counties
- ◇ Post-tornado surveys in Alabama and Missouri
- ◇ Research on costs and benefits of in-house versus contracted police services for a local government

Consultancy, Research and Knowledge Transfer

Consulting Services

- Financial Planning and Budgeting
- Personnel
- Organization and Management Studies
- Relations
- Strategic Planning
- Program Evaluation
- Survey Research
- Team Building
- Efficiency Studies
- Training Programs

Our Newest Faculty Member

Nathaniel Wright

Dr. Nathaniel S. Wright grew up in Queens, New York and earned a B.A. in political science and a Masters in Public Administration (MPA) from Binghamton University. Upon completion of his MPA he served as the City Planner of Binghamton, New York, where he represented the City of Binghamton's Planning Department and other City agencies such as the Zoning Board of Appeals and the City Planning Commission. This duty required him to research and interpret local and state laws, prepare legal decisions, review small and large scale site plans, coordinate with City, County and State entities, assist residents, community agencies and developers as they navigated through the zoning process. He later accepted a position with the Department of Planning and Economic Development for Broome County, New York where he continued his work as a planner.



In 2014, he received his PhD in Public Administration from the University of Kansas. Upon receiving his doctorate he joined the faculty as an assistant professor of public administration in the department of political science at Texas Tech University. Dr. Wright's research contributions have been recognized through publications in the leading academic journals in his specialty of nonprofit management and organizational performance. His research interests primarily focus on nonprofit management and the role that social advocacy nonprofits play in creating sustainable neighborhoods. His research specifically addresses how internal management practices and environmental conditions influence nonprofit performance and organizational capacity. He teaches courses on nonprofit management, philanthropic fundraising, and program evaluation, and nonprofit organizations to provide information on the types of careers that graduates of an MPA program could expect.

Faculty News

David Hamilton

David Hamilton gave an invited lecture on metropolitan governance at the International Conference on Regional and Urban Development in the 21st Century in Guangzhou, China December 13, 2014. He attended the American Society for Public Administration Conference in Chicago March 6-9, 2015. He was a respondent on the Wright Symposium Panel: "New Approaches to the Study of Contemporary Intergovernmental Relations." He also presented at a symposium examining the state of patronage in the public sector. He attended the Urban Affairs Association Conference in Miami April 9 -11, 2015 and presented a paper "Cooperative/Collaborative Governance in a Networked Age."

Dr. Hamilton attended the Public Administration Theory Network Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia May 29-31 and present the paper: "Making Government Work in an Anti-Government Era." He also presented a paper on the panel "Tying Theory to Practice: Capstone Papers from Certified Public Manager (CPM) Programs in the United States." Dr. Hamilton is co-editor on a book titled "Intergovernmental Relations in Transition: Reflections and Directions." He is co-author of chapter in the book titled: "IGR in Transition: Back to the Future?" The book should be published by Georgetown University Press in late 2015.

Katharine Hayhoe

Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, director of the Climate Science Center and an associate professor of political science at Texas Tech University shares how she was able to help Good Housekeeping magazine with their climate

Faculty News (con't)

change coverage. One of the areas of interest that the Good Housekeeping magazine focuses on is on how to improve the everyday life of individuals. With the expertise of Dr. Katharine Hayhoe she was able to contribute on how to lead a better life in being familiar with the science of climate change and coping with the environment that we live in. The information will not only increase knowledge about climate change but it will also help people with their health, finances and their loved ones. One of Dr. Hayhoe's main goals is to assist in communicating this information and increase awareness that everyone can participate in the endeavor and make the environment that we live in a much better one. The article is in the Good Housekeeping—April 2015 issue.

In February Texas Tech University hosted the TEDxTexasTechUniversity Conference. TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. Organizers of the conference posed the question “What If?”. Dr. Hayhoe participated along with several other experts and entrepreneurs to give a talk of their lives in 18 minutes or less. The theme for the inaugural event was **Open Skies, Open Minds**. These talks from TED conferences are shared with the world for free as TED Talks videos. A new TED talk is posted every weekday. For more information visit <http://www.ted.com/registration>.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtrYNGs9oRM>

Sung-Wook Kwon

During the last academic year, Dr. Sung-Wook Kwon continued to teach classes, conduct research, and get involved in service activities as he had done. He taught several core and public management track courses in the MPA program and supervised an interdisciplinary graduate student's internship class and master's degree. He also enjoyed developing and conducting research projects in the areas of local sustainability, land use and development impact fees, and regional councils. He had two articles published at *Journal of Urban Affairs* and *International Review of Public Administration* and two manuscripts accepted at *International Journal of Public Administration* and *Lex localis – Journal of Local Self-Government*. For his research on the influence of regional network on local sustainability, he received the TTU's Scholarship Catalyst Program Award. In addition, he presented research papers at the annual meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association and the Korean Association for Public Administration, and was invited to review manuscripts in several public administration journals. He was chosen for TTU's Institute for Inclusive Excellence that was provided with 15 professors to promote a greater understanding of the academic value of diversity and finished all the required programs. He is still advising MPA public management track students and a student organization at Tech, Arirang TECH-kwondo club.

Lisa Gittner

In the 2014-2015 academic year, Dr. Gittner was appointed to a joint appointment at TTU HSC Graduate Biomedical School in the Department of Public Health. She was awarded 2 grants one from National Institutes of Health (NIH) “*Linking climate, air pollution and housing conditions to develop strategies to reduce racial disparities in infant mortality*” and the other from the National Science Foundation (NSF) “*Risk and financial analytics in population health*”. She presented 2 panels at SECoPA. Among her publications were:

1) Climate Predicts Obesity Rates. *Journal of Obesity & Weight Loss Therapy*; 2) Climate Change and the Rise of Obesity. *Jacobs Journal of Environmental Sciences*; 3) Empowering Patients to Become Better Partners. *Journal of Health and Human Services*; 4) Enhancing Communication between Patients and Healthcare Providers: The SBAR. *Journal of Health and Human Services*; 5) Being Heard: healthcare perspectives of medically and socially disenfranchised communities. *Journal of Health and Human Services*; 6) Wait, Won't Want, Healthcare Story from Medically and Socially Disenfranchised

Faculty News (Con'd)

Communities. Journal of Health and Human Services; 7) Rural congestive heart failure mortality among US elderly, 1999–2013: Family Medicine and Community Health; 8) Mammography screening among the elderly: A research challenge. American Journal of Medicine; 9) Use of Six Sigma for Eliminating Missed Opportunities for Prevention Services. Journal of Nursing Care Quality;

10) Social determinants and the classification of disease: descriptive epidemiology of selected socially mediated disease constellations. PloS One; 11) Exploration of preterm birth rates using the public health exposome database and computational analysis methods. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health; 12) Obesity Prevention in Children from Birth to Age 5. Primary Prevention Insights. One of her publications (Utilizing Infant Growth to Predict Obesity Status at 5 Years. Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health) from the previous year was ranked 3rd for global impact in the field of pediatrics.

Robert Forbis

In the 2014-2015 academic year Dr. Forbis's academic teaching, research, and service accomplishments for the academic year include: The forthcoming book chapter publication of "Tribal Sovereignty: The Struggle to Balance Traditions of Environmental Stewardship with Modern-Era Energy Resource Development" in Environmental Politics and Policy in the West: 3rd Ed. (University Press of Colorado); the article, "Fracking the Commons" in (ABC-CLIO Digital Collections Database: World Geography: Enduring Questions); the book review of Environmental Policy in North America: Approaches, Capacity, and The Management of Transboundary Issues (University of Toronto Press) in the journal Review of Policy Research. His conference research presentations include: "Subgovernments as Determinates of Political Viability and Policymaking Predictability" (Western Political Science Association 2015 Annual Conference); "Dr. Forbis contributes ongoing expertise and analysis to national media outlets as well as local, state, and federal environmental and energy legislative/policy. Including, "A Study Guide to the Documentary: Split-Estate: What You Don't Know CAN Hurt You" (PBS-Red Rock Pictures); "HB 40: The Denton Fracking Bill" (West Texas Accountability Project); "The Oil Curse: A Remedial Role for the Oil Industry; Why the Oil Industry Should Act Now to Reduce the Costs of Economic and Political Dysfunction in Oil-Rich States" (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Grant/U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs).

Alumni News

Alan Bojorquez

Alan, a 1996 MPA graduate and Elena Quintanilla are on the founding Board of Directors for the *Texas Center for Municipal Ethics*, a nonprofit corporation (www.TexasEthics.com).

Bryan L. Bradford

Bryan, a 1993 MPA graduate was promoted to City Manager of Garland, Texas on May 1st.

Michael Keenum

Michael, a 2012 MPA graduate was recently promoted to City Engineer with the City of Lubbock. He now manages Streets Engineering, Stormwater Engineering, Traffic Engineering, and Water and Sewer Engineering Departments.

Alumni News (Con't)

Pace Rawlins

Pace, a 2011 MPA graduate co-authored a paper with Dr. Sung-Wook Kwon entitled, “Walking the line on police privatization: efficiency, accountability, and court, that is pending publication in IRAS.

Elisa Klein

Elisa, a 2007 MPA graduate has changed employers and has a new role. She is now with TPC as the Director of Purchased Services.

Murvat Musa

Murvat, a 2015 MPA graduate is now employed with Lubbock Reese Redevelopment Authority (aka Reese Technology Center) as the Deputy Executive Director.

Elena Quintanilla

Elena, a 1995 MPA graduate is now employed with the City of Ransom Canyon as the new City Manager.

Miranda Pruitt

Miranda, a 2013 MPA graduate is currently working as a Senior Lead Evaluator for International Undergraduate Admissions at Texas Tech University.

Maggie Jones

Maggie, a 2009 MPA graduate is excited to share that her and Chris have been blessed with a new son, Zachary Allen Jones. Born on June 24, 2015, weighing at 7 lbs, 15.6 oz, 21.25 inches long—she proudly says he’s absolutely perfect!

Ashley Whisenant

Ashley, a 2007 MPA graduate recently passed the exam to become a Certified Research Administrator. She is employed with Texas Tech University.

Andrew Wetzel

Andrew, a 2010 MPA graduate is employed with Keller Williams as a leasing and residential specialist.

Brent Cagle

Brent, a 1998 MPA graduate is employed with the City of Charlotte, NC as the Interim Aviation Director.

Lara Cagle

Lara, a 1998 MPA graduate is employed with the Town of Huntersville, NC as an Administrative Analyst.

Phyllis I. Behrens

Phyllis, a 1996 MPA graduate is an Independent Consultant and resides in Joplin, MO.

Alumni New (Con'd)

Carol Zolnerowich

Carol, a 1981 MPA graduate is currently the Deputy City Manager for the City of Mesquite, TX. After 20 years in this role she has announced that she will retire in January 2016. She doesn't have anything specific in mind, but is seriously considering a job within the non-profit sector.

Ted Barron

Ted, a 1981 MPA Graduate resigned in September as the City Manager for the City of Mesquite, TX. He was the City Manager for 20 years. He anticipates a few months of relaxation and is not sure what his next endeavor will be.

Susan Abshier

Susan, a 2006 MPA Graduate is the owner of Abshier Energy LLD, dba Oilfield Lighting Services. The company provides supplies for assets such as tank batteries and salt water disposals. They cover all areas in Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, the Rockies and North Dakota. They also provide services for some of the major oil producers as well as independents. The company started in February 2014.

Ethics in Public Service

In February the MPA Program sponsored its' first "Ethics in Public Service" luncheon and it was a great success. The luncheon took place at the McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center. Following the luncheon there was a Ethics panel discussion. The luncheon speaker and panel moderator was Alan Bojorquez. He is a 1996 MPA graduate, attorney, noted speaker and author. City managers and administrators from the region were invited and we had a great response. There was a panel on Ethics in Public Service and the moderators were: Sheryl Cates, President for Lubbock Area Foundation, Clarke Cochran, former VP for Covenant Health System, Greg Ingham, former City Manager of Plainview, James Loomis, City Manager of Lubbock, and Courtney Sharp, City Manager of Midland. Alan presented several different ethic scenarios to the panel and allowed them to share how the situation was dealt with and then the audience was allowed to ask some questions. After the panel discussion everyone was invited to a small reception where drinks and hors d'oeuvres were served. Those that attended reconnected with other city managers and comments were made that the Ethics luncheon was an enlightening event that was long past due.

Recruitment

Help us recruit good students. Our alumni are our best recruiters. If you know of any potential candidates for our program, please let us know so that we can contact them. Although we cannot provide financial support to all students, we have an increasing number of teaching assistant positions and scholarships that we can offer to applicants on a competitive basis to help pay for the costs of attending the university. We would also like to know if there are any alumni who would like to be mentors to our students. If you are interested, please contact us. Mentors can be a big asset to helping our students with questions and help them navigate the program and get started in their career.

Career Opportunities

Strategic Governmental Resources job board at www.SGRjobs.com .

The Master of Public Administration Program (MPA)

An Education in Leadership

Advance your career
Enhance your skills

Further your education
Gain additional knowledge

Texas Tech University offers a professionally accredited course of study for the Master of Public Administration degree (MPA) and a field of study for the PhD degree in the Department of Political Science.

The University's MPA degree is professionally accredited with concentrations in
Public Management
Health Care Administration
Nonprofit Management
Environmental Policy and Administration

And Dual Degree Program in
Law

Study with full-time faculty, who have researched and published in their fields and who are also involved in applied research and service in the community.

Alumni occupy management and administrative positions in federal, state and local government as well as hospitals and nonprofit organizations.

Courses are offered once a week in the evening during the semester to accommodate the working adult.

An internship complements the classroom experience and often leads to job offers. The internship can be waived for experienced professionals.

Scholarships and financial aid are available.

For more information and to apply, visit our website at www.mpa.pols.ttu.edu or contact us at:

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MPA Enrollment

Now accepting applications for Spring 2016 and Fall 2016. Great opportunity for recent graduates and professionals to strengthen their skills and increase their marketability for career advancement. All courses are in the evening to accommodate the working professional. Teaching assistantships are available.

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From Here, It's Possible!

Connections is an electronic newsletter produced by the Master of Public Administration Program. If you have questions or comments contact us at:

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