



# The PUBLIC SERVANT

## *MPA curriculum undergoes major revision*

Beginning with the Spring 2009 semester, the MPA program curriculum undergoes major changes to better comply with new NASPAA guidelines emphasizing evaluation and curriculum improvement.

A curriculum sub-committee consisting of MPA faculty and three Community Advisory Board members reviewed the MPA courses and submitted suggestions for changes that will not affect students who entered the program before the Summer 2008 term.

Students who entered the program in summer or fall 2008 and have completed PADM 6500 Research Methods, will not be affected by the changes. Students not previously enrolled in PADM 6500 will graduate under the new curriculum.

The courses in communications, ethics, intergovernmental relations and state government and administration have been eliminated from the program, although ethics will be included as discussion topics throughout the program.

The capstone will remain, but proposals for the capstone will be developed in PADM 6500, the research methods class which will be the immediate predecessor of the capstone course. Instead of working on a group project, students will develop proposals for the capstone course.

Some courses were renamed and/or renumbered. PADM 6250 became Urban Planning; and PADM 6400 is now Managing Nonprofit Organizations, an introductory course in managing nonprofits.

Positive responses from students who participated in "special topics" on comparative resulted in the new PADM 6800 Comparative Public Administration.

Research Methods PADM 6500 is now a lab course with an additional 14-16 hours of instruction in SPSS (changing it from a 3-hour to a 4-hour course).

### *Committee studies MPA application requirements*

The sub-committee also took an in-depth look at the admissions requirements for the program,

and dropped the American Government prerequisite because they felt it served no useful purpose.

The committee is still reviewing the application process and may announce further changes this spring.

### *Career Center assumes responsibility for internships*

Changes to the internship procedures began with the Fall 2008 semester. Career Services now interviews and matches students with appropriate internships in line with MPA requirements. Dr. Ralph Walker will continue to make site visits to the internship locations and supervise academic requirements for completing PADM 6900.

### **Gwen Y. Wood \$200 Book Scholarship Winners — Sharon Reed, Fall '08**

**Darryl Nettles, Spring '09**

### *GPSA Conference*

#### *Presentations*

Chris Wells and Gretchen Keneson presented papers in November at the Georgia Political Science Association Conference in Savannah, GA. Gretchen's paper was entitled "Estimating the Financial Values of a Nurse-Managed Health Clinic."

Chris' paper was "Central Savannah River Area Equal Opportunity Authority, Inc. Supportive Housing Program: An Exploratory Evaluation."

Dr. Augustine Hammond was chair of the panel, and Dr. Randall Miller was discussant.

### *With sad hearts, MPA Office reports tragic accident*

*Our heartfelt condolences go out to to Javier Juarez-Perez, MPA '08, whose brother was killed in a devastating automobile accident December 21, 2008, along with two friends. His wife suffered minor injuries in the accident. Even before this tragedy, Javier's parents were suffering health issues, so he has decided to postpone his educational goals and concentrate on providing emotional and physical support to his family in Xalepa, Mexico. We will miss his friendliness and pleasant manner, but know that he is doing the right thing. Currently, friends may contact him via the ASU e-mail until another address is available. (See final page for update received from Javier.)*

## MPA COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD 2008



*Todd Glover, MPA '98, assumes leadership of MPA Advisory Committee*

**B. Todd Glover, MPA '98, CGAP was unanimously elected chair of the MPA advisory Committee at the fall 2008 meeting.**

**Additionally, Glover was named Assistant County Administrator for Aiken County, SC. Previously, he served as director of the Management Services Division, Columbia County Board of Commissioners.**

**He firmly believes in the ASU Master of Public Administration program. "The degree has opened doors that allowed me to advance my career," he says. "The small class sizes allow for interaction and discussion, plus the professors know you by name and care about your success. I continue to utilize MPA classmates as resources in their fields of expertise."**

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**Chris Wells nominated for Presidential Management Fellow (PMF)**

Christopher E. Wells was nominated by Dr. Reinke for the Presidential Management Fellows program that was established by Executive Order in 1977 to attract outstanding men and women into federal service.

In her nomination, Dr. Reinke said, "Chris has been an outstanding student in the program, an excellent graduate assistant, and completed his internship with Congressman John Barrow's constituent services office in Augusta. He will be inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha just before he graduates in May."

Appointments to the PMF program often become the first step into successful professional careers in the federal government. However, he will undergo a lengthy selection process prior to being chosen. Program fellows receive extensive mentoring, unique opportunities to meet high ranking officials and learn how things work in the government.

## ASU's Budget Director extremely proud of new son Zain Thomas



12/22/2008

*Hello All~*

*Tom and I are back home and I have finally gotten a moment to make contact with you all.*

*Our baby boy, Zain Thomas Lavín, was born on Friday December 12, 2008, at 4:03 pm. He began his arrival shortly after I returned home from work on Thursday evening. We arrived at the hospital on that very wet Thursday evening at 10 pm, just certain that we would probably be sent home. But by midnight they had admitted me and our journey began.*

*And what a journey that was, as he took his sweet time arriving. He weighed in at a whopping 8 pounds and 8 ounces and measured 20.75 inches long! I have attached some pictures for you all. He was born with a full head of long jet black hair. We are all doing well and adjusting to each other and trying to find a sleep schedule that works.*

*Aisha Lavín, MPA '06*



**Kathryn Martin** named Asst. Dean MCG Southeast Georgia Campus



Dr. Kathryn R. Martin, MPA '99, is assistant dean of the Southeast Georgia Clinical Campus of the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine based at Savannah's St. Joseph/Candler Health System. The program will give second- and third-year medical students the opportunity to work alongside experienced physicians.

Previously she was administrator of the Chatham county Health Department. She served as district program manager for the Georgia Department of Public Health's East Health District 9-1 in Savannah. She directed health services administration and program development for the master of public health program at Mercer Medical School, and was deputy director and clerkship coordinator for Georgia State-wide Area Health Education Centers.

Dr. Martin earned a doctorate of philosophy in health administration from Kennedy-Western University in Cheyenne, WY, in 2006, and MPA at Augusta State in 1999, where her undergraduate studies were sociology.

"Dr. Martin knows everyone in health care up and down Georgia's coast," says Dr. Linda Boyd, associate dean for regional campus coordination in MCG School of Medicine. "She is an experienced educator who has managed graduate programs, an experienced administrator who has managed large, multi-site health care programs, and she helped plan the international G8 Summit in 2004. Perhaps most importantly, she is a dynamic person who has the ability to connect with people and has such enthusiasm for her work."

## CONGRATULATIONS!

**Edgar LaMotte**, MPA '06, is now officially an American citizen.

**Tijwana N. Williams**, MPA '07, is senior staffing specialist at Sizemore, Inc. She was also accepted into Leadership Augusta, Class of 2009.

**Amanda Prior**, MPA '07, is campaign manager for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Augusta area. For networking, she can be contacted at [aman-daprior@comcast.net](mailto:aman-daprior@comcast.net), or 706-284-6118.

**Katarzyna Steinka-Fry**, MPA '08, moved to Tennessee with her husband who resigned from the Navy. After a visit to Poland, she began a new job at Vanderbilt University. John and Kasia live in Ashland City, located between Clarksville and Nashville, TN. She says she misses her friends in Augusta, so drop her a line at 1267 Everwood Drive, Ashland City, TN 37015.

**Catherine Tuthill Weldon**, MPA '01, has been promoted to a two-year assignment as Area Systems Coordinator for the Social Security Administration in Brooklyn Center District, Minnesota. She is in charge of management duties, as well as computer work that includes troubleshooting, training and other IT/systems functions.

There are four Twin Cities Social Security offices in her area, and she is the ASC for the two smaller ones. Contact her at [Catherine.Weldon@ssa.gov](mailto:Catherine.Weldon@ssa.gov).

**Scott Argo**, MPA '08, received the "Outstanding New Professional Award" at the Georgia Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (GACRAO) conference in Savannah, GA. He was also named to the Executive Committee for the 2008 Conference.

**Katarzyna Steinka-Fry and Javier Juarez-Perez**, MPA '08, presented papers at the Southeast Conference on Public Administra-

tion (SECOPA) in Orlanda, FL. Javier's paper was "Social Cost-Benefit Analysis (SCBA) for Centro Educativo Central Savannah River Area (CECSRA) Nonprofit Organization."

Katarzyna's paper was "Exploratory Study of Columbia and Augusta-Richmond County, Georgia, and Aiken County, South Carolina."

**Eric Scherer**, MPA '08, was at Ft. Huachuca, AZ, when he sent these delightful photos of his son, Brooks, and proud parents.



## ***Former Advisory Board member adopts Guatemalan children***

Scott Dean, former Mayor of Harlem, GA, stepped down from the MPA Community Advisory Board this past year, in order to devote more time to his rapidly expanding family. First there were two — now there are **SEVEN** children in the Dean household! Five are siblings adopted from Guatemala as a group to keep the family



*The Dean Team — from left, Marlin (15) with arms around brother Bryon(5), Anthony (12), Sindy (12) embracing Mimi (6), Silda (14) and Meyer(8).*

from being divided. It took three years, dozens of plane drips and more than \$10,000 in adoption fees, but, Scott and Renee Dean were committed, and on Sept. 19, the Harlem couple flew back with five new family members who had been living in an orphanage in Zacapa, Guatemala: siblings Marlin, 15; Silda, 14; Sindy, 11; Mimi, 6; and Byron, 4. On a mission trip to Guatemala four years ago, Scott met two very special little girls, “The spark that they had was amazing. It just really drew my attention,” he says. When he went back a year later and saw them again, he felt led by God to bring them home with him. But surprise, surprise — there were three more siblings, so the Scott

family of four became a family of nine. However, it was not an overnight process. It took three maddening, roller-coaster years of airline flights, adoption papers and red-tape.

“I just really felt led to do this. I just really felt a calling,” says Scott.

Scott estimates that he spent a total of six months in Guatemala, including the final 31 days. He had to lay the groundwork at the orphanage, then camp out in Guatemalan officials offices for days on end. At one point he asked an official how long a particular piece of paperwork would take, and was told “two weeks.” He told the woman that he would be in her office every single day of that, and might even accompany her to lunch.

**Voila!** The paperwork was completed much sooner than expected! But none too soon for the former mayor who is now District 4 Columbia County commissioner. Within the span of only a few hours, the ordeal could lift his spirits to the heights, then rules would change and he would crash back to reality. Bureaucrats on both ends of the process were amazed by Scott’s determination. “We took it as a calling,” says Scott. “That’s what people of faith do — no matter what it takes , or how long it takes.”

The Dean family received much support from the community and the congregation of Harlem Baptist. Donations came from friends, neighbors and total strangers who were moved by the story. Church members cleaned the Dean’s home as a surprise during one trip to Guatemala; and Christian singer Steven Curtis Chapman provided a generous grant.



*Dressed for the Fiesta — That’s Scott and Renee at the back, and from left , Marlin (15),Sindy (12),Meyer (8), Bryon (5), Mimi (6), Anthony (12) and Silda (14).*

Family and friends also renovated and expanded the house to accommodate the seven active youngsters.

“I never questioned whether we could afford it, or whether there would be enough love to go around, or enough room in the house. Those things I knew God would provide,” says Renee. “God has his own timing, and it’s not for us to understand. It’s just for us to pray our way through, and take it as it comes.”

“Everybody’s home. We’re all together, says Scott. “We’ll have bumps, we’ll have fights, and we’ll have arguments, but we’re all under one roof and we can deal with each other now. We’re not split.”

Just a few weeks after arriving in Harlem the newest Deans were settled into church, school (with the help of the English as a Second Language program in Grovetown Middle) and a new family. A social service agency that checked on the family was perplexed at the report of no adoption-related problems. The truth is, over the past few years, the Deans -- all nine of them -- had a good chance to get to know each other.

Scott and Renee had no idea how difficult and demanding their journey would

*Personal Letter from Javier Juarez-Perez, MPA '08:*

To all professors, students, staff and friends in Augusta and North Augusta:

Thank you so much for your support and prayers upon the death of my brother,

*Salvador Juárez Pérez (September 23, 1983 – December 21, 2008)*



**Salvador Juárez-Pérez** was a biologist, and was just about to present and defend his thesis to obtain his Bachelor's degree at the University of Veracruz here in Mexico. (where I also studied). A month before his accident, he got a teaching position in the middle school level. This is government work, and once you get it no one can fire you. Additionally, he was just starting a second bachelor's degree in law at the University of Veracruz.

In the above photos, he is shown working in the laboratory where he conducted most of his research. He was a fine young man, a hard worker, with strong team-building skills and a high sense of humanity; he was super altruistic. He spent much of his time helping others, no matter what. As a true scientist he spent almost four years working on his project with the only intention of generating useful knowledge for the betterment of society. He was extremely passionate about it. In addition to his studies and research, he took care of our mother (who recently had open-heart surgery), which was a very time-consuming job, but one from which he never complained.

On Monday, Feb. 9, the staff and teachers of the School of Biology at the University of Veracruz joined with the researchers and staff of the Laboratory of Natural Products (one of several laboratories of the Basic Science Institute at the University of Veracruz) to honor Salvador's studies with the posthumous presentation of his degree. On behalf of my brother, I presented his thesis which was added to the library system in recognition of his Bachelor of Science degree. Our large family and many friends attended the event to pay Salvador the honor which he so rightly deserved.

*Sincerely,*

*Javier Juarez-Perez*

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