



MPA Newsletter

Winter 2016

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Celebrating Successes

Lauren Cunningham will be relocating to Greensboro, North Carolina and starting a new position as Assistant Director for Service Learning at University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

Lauren served as the Community Engagement Coordinator

for the WKU Alive Center and previously served as director for the Kaleidoscope Youth Arts Program. Lauren graduated from the MPA program in 2012 and has served on the MPA Advisory Committee since 2013.

We wish her well and the WKU community will miss her.

See more about Lauren on page 5.

Pictured below are MPA students, advisory committee members and faculty members that were in attendance at the Fall 2015 orientation in August.



BRADD and Center for Local Governments Offer Training

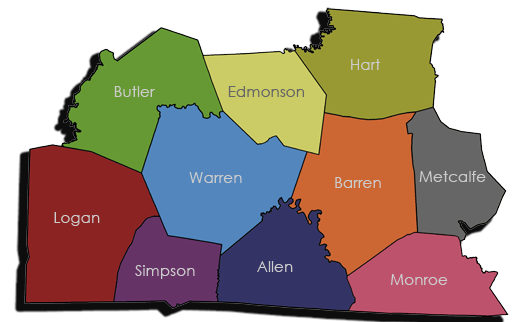
Terryn Varney was hired in the spring of 2015 by the BRADD as a Public Administration Specialist. Terryn is a 2012 graduate of the MPA program, and she worked for several years at Hope Harbor.

Terryn recently coordinated a training for local government officials on the topic of Understand-

ing Open Meetings, Open Records, and Records Management: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You. The all day workshop held on December 1st was attended by 70+ local government officials from the 10 counties that the BRADD serves. The Center for Local Government provided sup-

port for this training opportunity.

Speakers for the event were from the Attorney General's office and the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives.



Members of the WKU MPA Program Advisory Committee Meeting in attendance at June 26, 2015 meeting: Lauren Cunningham, Victoria Gordon, Dan Boden, Shannon Vaughan, Kevin DeFebbo, Zack Ward, and Rodney Kirtley.



Faculty Notes—

Women and Quilting as a Political Act—Presentation by Dr. Saundra Ardrey



Dr. Saundra Ardrey was the invited speaker at the WKU Museum on November 10th, 2015. Dr. Ardrey spoke to a packed room about the importance to African-American women of quilts and quilt making and the connection between quilting and participating in politics. Prior to her talk, guests were invited to tour the Life of Nelson Mandela Quilts on display in the museum. The 58 quilts in this traveling exhibit, made by United States and South African quilt artists, were originally shown in July 2014 at the International Quilt Conference in Johannesburg. These diverse and powerful pieces reflect the ways in which this remarkable man touched individual lives, changed a nation, and literally served as the conscience of the human spirit for individuals around the world.

Faculty Notes

Upcoming Study Abroad Trips—

South Africa-Dr. Saundra Ardrey; Morocco-Dr. Sol Kiasatpour; Czech Republic-Dr. Roger Murphy; South Korea-Dr. Tim Rich

Dr. Ed Yager is working on a book-length manuscript entitled *The Mind of Abraham Lincoln*. The research will examine how Lincoln's self-education in *The Bible*, Blackstone's *Commentaries*, Shakespeare, and Euclid's *Elements* helped to shape Lincoln's world-view as a key to his moral authority. **Dr. Roger Murphy's** paper on Moravian Identity in Czech Politics appeared in *East European Politics and Societies*. **Drs. Scott Lasley, Joel Turner, and Jeff Kash** had a paper entitled "The Big Five and Southern Legislative Distinctiveness" accepted for publication in a future issue of *Social Science Quarterly*. **Dr. Jeff Budziak's** paper "The Strategic Designation of Visiting Judges in the U.S. Courts of Appeals" appeared in print in the summer volume of *Justice System Journal*.

MPA Student News

Kathy Garrett has been hired as Grant Writer for Green River Regional Educational Cooperative in Bowling Green, KY.

Nate Dalrymple was promoted July 1, 2015 from Personnel Assistant to Human Resources Specialist at the Warren County Board of Education in Bowling Green, KY.

Metro Louisville Chapter of ASPA meeting was held on November 13th in Bowling Green. MPA alumni members —Chad Phillips, Scott Wolfe and Tim Gilliam are pictured with Dr. Gordon. Terryn Varney was also in attendance.



RECENT INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS

Kamla Jones served as an intern for the City of Bowling Green, Neighborhood and Community Services division.

Elizabeth Griffith served as an intern for the Owensboro Chamber of Commerce and for the Wendell H. Ford Government Education Center.

Alumni News



Pictured above is Lauren Cunningham along with Commissioner Rick Williams, Mayor Bruce Wilkerson, and Commissioner Melinda Hill

Photo Courtesy of Emily Angel, Bowling Green Neighborhood & Community Services

The City of Bowling Green Neighborhood Services Division was honored to feature Lauren Cunningham as the keynote speaker at the 16th Annual Neighborhood Builders Banquet held at the Sloan Convention Center on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015. The banquet and awards program are held each year to celebrate neighborhood successes and to recognize the contributions of individuals and neighborhood organizations to enhancing quality of life in our community.

Additionally, after her inspiring talk about the benefits of service in community, Lauren was one of four Bowling Green residents who were recognized as 2015 Neighborhood Builders Award recipients. A quote from the nomination read: “As a mentor to the WKU Hill House students and a resident of the E. 11th Avenue/Reservoir Hill area neighborhood where the community partnership was made possible by property owner Bob Basham, Lauren truly provides a “blueprint” to others on serving and being neighborly.”

WKU MPA Program Mission Statement

The MPA program prepares graduate students from diverse backgrounds to be productive leaders and managers in public service by sharing knowledge, encouraging excellence in research and practice, and fostering an environment of professionalism within the communities we serve.

The MPA Program would like to hear from you. Please email Dr. Gordon and tell her your news— both personal and professional.

Photos courtesy of Gary Gordon.



Mark Your Calendars!

Spring 2016—NASPAA reaccreditation site visit.

Saturday, April 16, 2016 Comp Exam in Bowling Green!

Saturday, July 23, 2016 Comp Exam in Bowling Green!

Oct 19-21st NASPAA conference in Columbus, Ohio

Summer and Fall 2015 Graduates

Richard Green

Summer 2015

Celia Hodge

Fall 2015

John Padron

Fall 2015



**MASTER OF
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