



MPA Newsletter

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**Winter Issue
2014**

Faculty Member Receives Honor

Dr. Sandra Ardrey was inducted into the Furman University Department of Political Science Hall of Fame on October 21st in Greenville, S.C. Ardrey was the first African American hired at the University in 1983. She taught Political Science at Furman University from 1983 to 1988. She created the department's first course on Racial and Ethnic Politics that has since been transformed into a major in Race and Diversity. She also developed and taught a course on Women and Politics that became the precursor to the Women's Studies Department.

Dr. Ardrey is head of the Political Science Department and director of the African American Studies program at Western Kentucky University. She is also the only

African -American department head at the University. Ardrey has made contributions to the extant literature through publications on the political beliefs and behavior of African Americans. Her other interests include African



American Studies, media and politics, campaign management and public opinion.

A graduate of Winston-Salem State University and the Ohio State University, she is recognized as a media analyst and she is active in state and local politics and community activities.

Ardrey has also served as president and as executive secretary of the Kentucky Political Science Association (the first African American to serve in both positions), she is a member of the American Political Science Association Women's Section Committee, and she co-founded the WKU Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility. Dr. Ardrey serves as the liaison for The Washington Center, where both undergrad and graduates complete internships. She has received numerous awards and honors, including Outstanding People of the 20th Century. Her husband, Dr. William Ardrey, is a trauma specialist with Inspire Medical Group. They have two children, Chris and Lindsey.

Congrats Dr. Ardrey on this wonderful honor!

MPA Program Welcomes New Faculty Member—Daniel Boden

Daniel Boden holds a bachelor's degree in History from Brigham Young University. He earned his MPA and Ph.D. from the Center for Public Administration and Policy at Virginia Tech. His dissertation explored the public-private partnerships in the Presidential Library System. He is currently working on exploring further the public-private partnerships between governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Although his research

interests are diverse, they revolve around concerns with



collaborative management, nonprofit management, and higher education policy. Dan-

iel has professional experience in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. He enjoys hiking, photography, baseball and spending time with his wife and young children. He is new to Bowling Green and WKU and looks forward to getting to know the area and becoming involved in the community.

Welcome Dr. Boden!



Graduate Degrees for
Professional Public Service

MPA

Master of Public Administration

MPA Program Alumni Survey Results Are Available

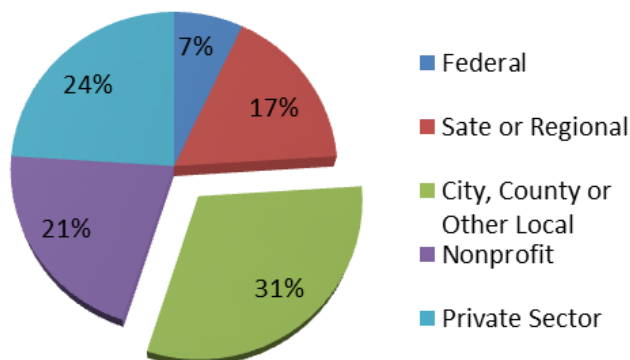
The MPA Program Alumni survey was sent out by mail to 127 MPA graduates on July 29, 2013. The survey was sent to those who had graduated within the past five years (but not including the most recent grads from Fall 2012 or Spring 2013). The surveys were returned over a period of several weeks. 32 were usable (26% response rate). Data was entered during September and double-checked for accuracy during the first part of October. This survey was designed with several purposes in mind. The primary purposes were as follows:

1. To gather input on the revised Mission Statement of the MPA program;
2. To gather input on the proposed learning outcomes for students based on the graduates' professional experience.
3. To understand what sector our graduates are employed in and if they are gainfully employed;
4. To understand if our graduates are satisfied with the MPA program as it was delivered to them, and to gather ideas for improvement to the program, courses, internship, networking and mentoring opportunities, etc. for our current and future students.

The survey results were disseminated to faculty, MPA advisory committee, students, and alumni and posted on the departmental website. One of the findings from the survey shows where our recent Alumni are employed currently. See pie chart below.

Complete results can be found online at <http://www.wku.edu/political-science/mpa-program/current-prospective-mpa.php>.

Current Employment Sector



Mission Statement of the MPA Program

Revised June 26, 2013

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.

MPA Advisory Committee Winter 2014

Members of the MPA Advisory Committee met on February 7, 2014, at the Augenstein Alumni Center on the WKU campus. The members in attendance are pictured here along with guest MPA student, Jaclyn Stewart, and faculty members. The members met to review, discuss and adopt the MPA Mission Specific Learning Outcomes, which have gone through an exhaustive review process over the past year. The process involved faculty, students, alumni, and advisory committee members.



MPA Student Orientation Fall 2013



MPA Faculty, students and Advisory Committee Members gathered on Saturday, August 24, 2013, for student orientation. Lots of great information and ideas were shared!

Faculty News

Dr. Adam Newmark, Appalachian State University, and our own **Dr. Shannon Vaughan** will have an article published in the Spring 2014 issue of *Public Integrity*, which is the ASPA journal devoted to ethics in the public service. Their article, “When Sex Doesn’t Sell: Political Scandals, Culture, and Media Coverage in the States” examines the determinants of media coverage of political scandals using content analysis of *AP Wire* stories in ten states from 1998 to 2005. Surprisingly, they found that sexual scandals do not generate more media coverage than other types of scandals. However, their study did not examine whether having the word sex in the title will cause more people to actually read their article (or this newsletter blurb). ☺

Maternity Leave: Policy and Practice—A Note of Thanks from Dr. Gordon!

Thank you to the 28 WKU colleagues, students, friends and family members who came out in a horrible rainstorm to attend the BOOK EVENT sponsored by Barnes and Noble on February 4th, 2014. I envisioned the evening concluding with a community discussion of maternity leave and FMLA and you all contributed to the discussion in such a meaningful way. Thank you each and every one for your participation and support.



Fall 2014 MPA 40th Anniversary Celebration —Date to be determined.



Dwass Alanze	Rachel Hetzler	Shawn Ross
Abdul Alfurhud	Bradley Kerschner	Hangtian Xia
Huda Alzahrani	Abigail McGregor-	
Corey Gant	Mullen	

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

If you are interested in helping to plan the MPA 40th anniversary celebration please contact Dr. Gordon.



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