



# MPA Newsletter

## Inside this issue:

- New MPA Director Appointed 2
- New MPA Mission Statement Adopted 2
- MPA Advisory Committee Meets 3
- MPA Student Travels to Tanzania 3
- MPA End of Year Event 4
- Dr. Ransdell Speaks to Ethics Class 4
- NASPAA Has New Name 4
- GA Appointments & Recent Internships 4
- Faculty News 5
- ASPA Gets New Logo 6
- Save the Dates 6
- MPA Graduates Spring 2013 6

## Dr. James Chappell Retires

Dr. James Chappell, who served MPA students at WKU for over a decade retired on June 30, 2013. He and his lovely wife Ginna returned to Mobile, Alabama to be closer to family. When asked about his time at WKU as MPA director,

Dr. Chappell said, "I would like to think that I made a few good decisions for the MPA Program." One of those decisions involved great effort to achieve NASPAA accreditation for the MPA program in 2009. When asked about advice regarding

administration of the MPA program, he said, "Keep things simple and always place students first. Everything else will sort itself out. It is especially important to make sure new faculty have the resources they need to be successful."



Dr. James Chappell with Owensboro MPA graduates in 2012

## Outstanding MPA Students Recognized at Annual Awards Banquet

On April 26, 2013, several outstanding MPA students were recognized at the annual Political Science Department Awards Banquet. Recognized for outstanding papers were Stephen Trotter

and SheRohn Draper. Recognized as outstanding graduates were Shannon Ross and Alan Jones. SheRohn Draper was also recognized with the Spirit Makes the Master award.



## Dr. Victoria Gordon Appointed as new MPA Director

Dr. Gordon was appointed as MPA Director effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. However, her on-the-job-training began in January. Dr. Ed Yager and Dr. Shannon Vaughan have taken on many responsibilities in an effort to help her with her new duties. She has kept office associate, Linda Rippy, very busy this summer making phone calls, running reports and gathering data. Dr. Gordon expressed how much harder it would have been to accomplish so much this summer without the assistance of dedicated faculty and staff. Dr. Gordon has also relocated her office to

Grise Hall #305 in an effort to have more room to meet with prospective and current students. Dr. Gordon has logged many miles on the road this summer meeting with organizations for possible internship placements, and recruiting and marketing the MPA program in Owensboro and Elizabethtown/Fort Knox. At the request of the military program's office, Dr. Gordon has organized a GRE prep workshop to be held at Fort Knox on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013. When asked about assuming this new role as MPA director,

Dr. Gordon replied: "I was just not ready for Dr. Chappell to retire yet and we will miss him, but I look forward to continuing his legacy of professionalism, and in following his example, I will always put the needs of students first!" However, Dr. Gordon was also quick to note that "any MPA program does best when it incorporates multiple viewpoints into its governance."



### New MPA Mission Statement Adopted June 26, 2013

Incorporating input from faculty, students, alumni and employers, the following new MPA mission statement was formally adopted by the advisory committee on 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 Met on June 26, 2013

We were pleased to welcome the members of the MPA Advisory Committee to the new Augenstein Alumni Center for a breakfast meeting at which they reviewed and adopted the MPA Program's new mission statement. Dr. Shannon Vaughan led the meeting and described the importance of the advisory committee to the MPA program and the contributions that its mem-

bers make to the continuous improvement of the MPA program. Members agreed to meet three times a year—summer, fall and spring, and all completed a survey of their particular areas of interest and how they think their individual talents might be most appropriately used. Several of the members plan to participate in the MPA New Student Orientation to be held on August 24th.

Committee members were asked to share their comments and perspectives as employers regarding how prepared our MPA graduates are to enter the workforce. A lively and engaging conversation ensued and many suggestions and ideas for improvement were noted that could be incorporated immediately into the MPA program.

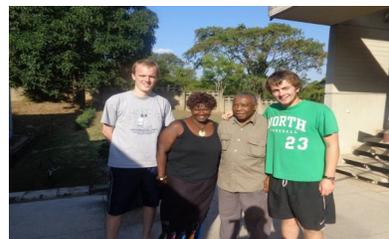


Front Row from left: Dr. Shannon Vaughan, Michele Tolbert, Kevin DeFebbo; Lauren Cunningham; Dr. Victoria Gordon. Back Row from left: Mark Mudd, Rodney Kirtley, Zack Ward, Dr. Tamela Smith; Kevin Garvin.

## MPA Student Travels to Tanzania

MPA Graduate Student Timothy Gilliam traveled to Tanzania this summer with Dr. Saundra Ardrey, where he studied and helped teach a class on the politics of healthcare in Tanzania. While on the trip, the group met with Tanzanian government officials, visited private and public healthcare

facilities, and traveled to the U.S. Embassy. Timothy is currently in the process of writing a paper on women and healthcare in Tanzania that will be presented at the National Council of Black Studies Conference in March of 2014.



MPA student Timothy Gilliam, Political Science Department Head Dr. Saundra Ardrey, and Political Science student Zachary Miller meet with a local political party official at the University of Dar es Salaam.

## End of the Year Event

MPA students organized an end of year barbeque at a local park on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. More than twenty students, faculty members and friends of the MPA program were in attendance. The MPA students are already planning a “Beginning of the Year event” and activities for Homecoming, which is scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup>.



MPA Student Abdul Alfurhud and Abdullah Alshomrani enjoy some international dishes.

## Dr. Gary Ransdell speaks to MPA Ethics class

On May 1, 2013, WKU President, Dr. Gary Ransdell spoke to the MPA Ethics class taught by Bowling Green City Manager, Kevin DeFebbo. Dr. Ransdell focused his remarks to the class on the relationship between ethics and leadership. He also took time to answer questions from the MPA students about his experiences over the years. Dr. Ransdell received a Master of Public Service degree – the precursor to the MPA degree – from WKU in 1974.

## NASPAA Has New Name

In recognition of its growing international focus, NASPAA has recently changed its name to the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration. The acronym was retained, and NASPAA continues to be “the global standard in public service education”. Our MPA program has been accredited since 2009.

## Graduate Assistants Appointed for Academic Year 2013/2014

Nick Conder                      Amy Gambrel                      Becky Gibas

Tim Gilliam                      Jackie Stewart

## Recent Internship Placements

Jackie Stewart, Barren River Health Department and the BRADD, Summer 2013.

Becky Gibas, the GRADD. Summer 2013.

Amy Gambrel, the BRADD, Spring 2013.

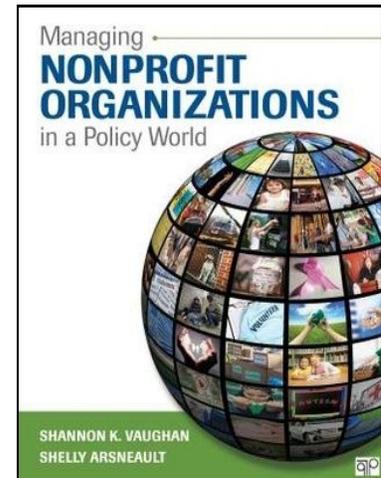
Jeff Borland, (a recent MPA graduate), Hope House, Spring 2013.



## Faculty News

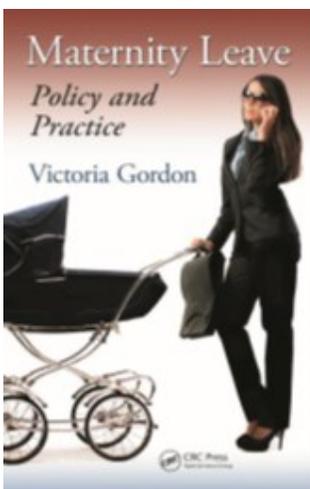
### Vaughan and Arsneault Co-Author Textbook on Nonprofits

New MPA faculty member, Dr. Shannon Vaughan teamed with Dr. Shelly Arsneault, Professor and MPA Director at California State University, Fullerton to write *Managing Nonprofit Organizations in a Policy World*, published by CQ Press in January 2013. (Some of you may remember Dr. Arsneault from her time as MPA Director at WKU.) Vaughan and Arsneault believe that it is impossible to fully understand nonprofit organizations without understanding public policy, and that we cannot fully understand policy change without considering the role of nonprofits. Thus was born the idea for this textbook that explores the four facets of the nonprofit-policy relationship – that nonprofits make policy, are affected by policy, influence policy, and are subject to policy. WKU MPA students will have the opportunity to explore this relationship further in PS 511 Seminar in State & Local Government offered in Spring 2014. Dr. Vaughan will use the book as the foundation text for this elective course that will focus on the basics of not-for-profit organizations and how the public, private, and nonprofit sectors are interconnected in the provision of public goods and services.



---

### Victoria Gordon is Author of Book on Maternity Leave



Dr. Gordon's book entitled Maternity Leave: Policy and Practice examines contemporary maternity leave. It covers the historical and current public policies and their legislative intent, the parameters of maternity leave as a public health issue, and types of leave offered as employee benefits. The book offers an illuminating perspective on how the policies of maternity leave play out in the practice of common lives. Dr. Gordon interviewed professional women employed by public and private sector universities and the pharmaceutical industry. Dr. Gordon will utilize her book in PS 541 Public Personnel Administration this fall.



## ASPA Gets New Logo!



The local ASPA chapter reports that the American Society for Public Administration has new logo. Metro Louisville chapter of ASPA meeting was held in January 2013 on the WKU campus. In attendance were Dr. Victoria Gordon, Ashley Simpson, Austin Klaine, Michele Tolbert, Scott Wolfe, Chad Phillips and Matt Summers.

### Mark Your Calendars and Save the Dates!

**August 1, 2013** (Thursday) at 4:00 p.m. Metro Louisville ASPA chapter will meet at Warren County Public Library

**August 24, 2013** (Saturday) at 10: a.m. New and Returning Student Orientation at WKU Garrett Conference Center in the offices of the Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility. Graduate Assistants will meet at 8:30 a.m. that morning. Faculty will join the students for lunch at 11:30am.

**September 25th -28th** SECOPA conference in Charlotte, NC.

**October 10th -12th** NASPAA conference in Washington, D. C.

**October 26th** WKU HOMECOMING, MPA student and alumni event

**December 6, 2013** (Friday) at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Gordon's Maternity Leave Book Discussion at Barnes and Noble, Bowling Green

**Spring 2014** MPA program will celebrate 40th anniversary (specific date to be determined)

### List of MPA Graduates for Spring 2013

Saleh Albadah	Alex Burton	Roxanna Ghorbanian
Mohammad Almutairi	Lee Calvert	Alan Jones
Abdullah Alshomrani	Adam Elias	Jennifer Lewis-Seaton
Saleh Banji	Naomi Enriquez	Kenneth Thomas
Jeff Borland		

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 her.



### MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

1906 College Heights Blvd  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Phone: 270-745-6192

Fax: 270-745-2945

E-mail:

victoria.gordon@wku.edu