

PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Summer 2004 Volume 1 Issue

Mississippi State University

Congratulations to Recent graduates

Fall 2003

Earnest Brothers
Larry McKnight
Deatra Robinson

Spring 2004

Antwyn Brown
Beverly Couter
Eric Graham*
Denton Herring
Christina Lee*
Andrew McGuire
Tracee Powell
Jennifer Vincequere
Brenda Ulmer
Ra'Sheeda Walker

Summer 2004

Emma Ainsworth
Kelly Barar
Craig Berry
Terry Griffin
Sutton Holcomb
Derrick Jordan
Christy Peterson
Amanda Taylor

*outstanding student award winners

Please send ideas, comments, articles, and alumni information for future newsletters to either Dr. Clynych (ejc1@msstate.edu) or Dr. Goodman (dg114@ps.msstate.edu).

From the MPPA Chair

By Dr. Edward J. Clynych

Greetings from Bulldog! Country. The Master of Public Policy and Administration program continues as strong components to our department and Mississippi State University. Several positive events occurred during the 2003-2004. At the recommendation of the department faculty, Mississippi State University petitioned to change the name of our department to Department of Political Science and Public Administration. The IHL Board approved our request at its May 2004 meeting. We feel the new name reflects the breath of our department.

Due to the Bowen Hall renovation, the department temporarily

moved across the street to Etheredge Hall. Contractors are renovating the inside of the building and we look forward to returning at the end of summer or the end of the fall semester.

The National Schools of Public Affairs and Administration evaluated the MPPA program for reaccreditation, a process that occurs each seven years. We received a one year accreditation for 2004-2005. Once we provide additional information we expect to be reaccredited for six more years.

The 2003-2004 school year saw near record enrollments in both our regular and intensive semester programs. We continue to enroll a diversity of students with more women than men and about equal numbers of Caucasians and African Americans. We also marked the last academic year with the estab-

lishment of our MPPA Advisory Board. The Board met last summer and will meet again in June 2004.

One of our core faculty members, Doug Goodman, received the department's "Outstanding Professor" award for the academic year.

What are you doing? Send us news about your professional and personal accomplishments. We set up alumni email list and want to include you if you are not receiving periodic information. Send your email address along with any information that we could put in a future newsletter to ejc1@ps.msstate.edu. Mailing address: Dr. Edward J. Clynych, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Box PC, Mississippi State University, MS. 39762.

Our—Almost—Last Will and Testament

By: Kelly Barar and Christina Lee

As graduates of the MPPA program preparing for life after May, we have decided to will the new and current MPPA students all of the valuable tips and information that we have learned throughout our experience here at MSU. Though this advice may not work 100% of the time, we are sure that future graduates may find a tidbit of the information useful and insightful.

Prepare for class. In order to be productive in any of the core courses offered through this program, students must come to class prepared. Reading the assignments before class will allow for a more enriched classroom discussion...and it will impress the professor. Also, it will allow you, the student, the opportunity to ask any questions regarding the lecturer that you do not understand.

Become familiar with the faculty. When registering for a core course, keep in mind that the faculty selection is limited. Therefore, here is what you can expect from your professors:

Dr. Clynych wants you to list thoroughly all stakeholders involved in a case study. He likes for you to pull from the assigned readings when you are analyzing your case. You must also buy a large three -inch binder for his courses. He loves hand -outs, preferably the ones that discuss the difference between politics and administration. We have three of those...or maybe even more. Well organized notes will be helpful, so date all of your notes and hand-outs so that they can be easily referenced.

Dr. Goodman is another professor that expects you to read your assigned case studies. Buy the books for his classes. You will definitely use them. Come to class prepared, and when you write about the case study, give your opinion. Do not attempt to plagiarize. He has plagiarism software, and he does use it.

No matter what, when you take **Dr. Tryman's** class quantity is your best friend, the more the merrier. Hint: you must do extensive research on your papers. The first thing he looks at when he is grading your paper is the bibliography section (*continued on page 2*),

Where are They Now

Barbara Patrick (MPPA 2003) is currently a Ph.D. student at Mississippi State University. Barbara is the fourth of six children born to the parents of Roosevelt and Annie Truss. As a young child growing up in the small town of Kosciusko, MS her parents were determined to make sure that she and her siblings not only attended church but that we were actively involved. At the age of six she became a member of the Traveler's Rest Missionary Baptist Church. At the age of seven she became one of the junior soloist for the choir and at the age of eleven Barbara attended school at Ethel High School. As a student there, she was given many opportunities to learn and grow. Some of the titles that she held include serving as the president of the Student Council, Beta Club, Science Club, Technology Student Association, Fellowship of Christian Students, and Senior Class. She also served as the editor of the school's yearbook her junior year and was elected Miss EHS by the student body when she was a senior.

Barbara graduated from high school third in her class and received a full academic scholarship to attend Rust College in Holly Springs, MS. During her tenure at Rust, she served as president of the Pre-Law Club, Rust Royal Scholars, and Student Government Association. Barbara also served as mentor in the Big Sister/Little Sister Mentor Program and an after school tutor for local high school students.

Barbara graduated from Rust second in her class and enrolled in Mississippi State University's Master's of Public Policy and Administration program. As a student in the program, she worked

as graduate assistant within the Department of Political Science and also as a Research Supervisor in Survey Research Unit of the Social Science Research Center. Upon completing the program Barbara received one of the department's Outstanding Graduate Awards and was also inducted into the Honor Society. Barbara is currently a doctoral student in Public Policy and Administration. Her long term goals include working as college professor and a possibly becoming involved in state politics.

Harold Atkins (MPPA 1997) and his wife Susan recently welcomed a new addition to their family, Caitlyn Presley Atkins, 8 lbs. 10 oz. Her brother Braxton is really enjoying playing in the floor with her now that she can roll around. He needs to quit letting her pull his hair. Harold and his family currently reside in Maryland.

Jennifer Blevins (MPPA 1997) and her husband recently returned from Russia where they adopted two boys, Nathon Jackson who is 17 months old and Noah Douglas who is 11 months old.

We would like to hear from you. If you have any information about yourself that you would like to pass along to fellow MPPA alumni please contact Dr. Clynch or Dr. Goodman with the information. More alumni information can be accessed at the department's website: <http://www.msstate.edu/dept/politicalscience/>. Follow the "Alumni News Section" link.

(From page 1)

and then he looks at the number of pages that you have turned in.

Remember your first day in English composition? Good. Do not forget it. Aside from quality of content, **Dr. Emison** looks for grammatical and syntax errors. Read and re-read your papers before turning them in for a grade. Please do not be late.

Dr. Emison does not take kindly to those handing in a late paper. "This is the real world people", according to Dr. Emison, and he conducts his classroom accordingly!

Come to class prepared for Dr. Wisemen. His tests are extensive and he expects detailed answers. If you need any help, he is always available. Usually, you can find him at the Stennis Center depot station located on campus.

Dr. Wall is always open for assistance. She is even here on the weekends for help, so take advantage of the opportunity. Her cases are interesting, and Dr. Wall will use them for testing purposes.

Finally, as you enter **Dr. Schaffer's** class, be afraid ...be very afraid...just kidding. He loves telling jokes...so please bring with you a funny bone. He too is always open for assistance. P.S., download his notes from his website and take the tests

from past lecturers.

Schedule wisely. Be very confident in the fact that Dr. Clynch and Dr. Wall will have frequent (often weekly) assignments. The other professors usually assign big semester-end projects or papers. Keep this in mind when you are making out your schedule. It wouldn't be the best idea to schedule Dr. Wall and Dr. Clynch in the same semester. Sometimes, you cannot avoid these situations. In that case, buy a planner (one that shows a full month at a time) and write down the assignments scheduled on the syllabus. Before you start signing up for presentations, check the planner and space out your due dates. You'll save yourself a lot of stress and will turn in better quality of work too!

Electives. Ask around about electives before you sign up for them. You don't want to ruin a semester by taking an elective from hell. Even though they are sparse, PPA special topics are good electives. Industrial Psychology is also a great choice. It introduces some very relevant material that you will cover in your core PPA courses as well. Business courses are shaky. Some are hard to get an A out of, while others are geared strictly towards the business students. The course Electronic

Presentation will teach you all you need to know about power point. This will help you with the frequent presentations required for our program and look great on your resume. Don't be too terribly daring in choosing electives. It just might come in handy one day.

Select one topic and stick with it for the semester. The most useful advice that we can offer to you is this - select a general topic/policy area at the beginning of the semester and focus all of your assignments for that class around your topic, whenever possible. Not only does this trick allow you to cut down on research time, but you will also become more knowledgeable and confident with the information you are researching, which will show in your work.

We hope this information is not too overwhelming. Honestly, we both enjoyed our program. It will be challenging at times, but do not give up. Seek out advice if you have trouble. Develop a personal relationship with your professors. And always do your best!

We would like to report that our program recently underwent the rigorous accreditation process. Job well done faculty and staff.

Current Core Faculty

Edward J. Clynych arrived at MSU in 1981. Before settling down at MSU he was a faculty member at the University of New Orleans and Kansas State University. His teaching interests include budgeting and financial management and state government administration. Research interests include state budgeting, particularly Mississippi budgeting, and public administration education. Recent publications include articles appearing in the *Journal of Public Administration Education*, *Case Studies in Public Budgeting and Financial Management*, *Politics in Mississippi*, *Public Administration and Management*, and *International Journal of Public Administration*. Dr. Clynych was recently selected to service as a member of the Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation, the national group that accredits master level public affairs and administration programs. Finally, Dr. Clynych is the program chair of the Starkville Rotary Club and incoming Rotary Club vice president in July 2004. He clips coupons as a hobby.

Gerald Andrews Emison is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Mississippi State University. Prior to this Jerry served in a number of senior executive positions with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. His last assignment with EPA was as Senior Advisor in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer. Previously, Jerry led the EPA professionals who developed the Clean Air Act of 1990, the most significant environmental legislation in the past twenty years, and he managed EPA's Pacific Northwest regional office during the spotted owl controversy. His research interests concern the effectiveness of public environmental organizations, professionalism in city planning and engineering, and environmental consequences of growth management. He received his Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He also holds a M.A. degree in Political Science and a M.R.P. in City and Regional Planning from UNC-CH. He received his M.S.Eng. degree in Engineering Management from the Catholic University of America and a B.Eng. degree in Civil Engineering from Vanderbilt University. He is a diplomate of the American Academy of Environmental Engi-

neers, a registered professional engineer, and a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. His hobbies are endurance conditioning, yoga, reading the Great Books and conducting live charity auctions. He has been married to Donna Kay Harrison for almost 30 years and they have a daughter, Abigail, who is an economics consultant in Boston.

Doug Goodman joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor in August 2001. He received a Ph.D. and a master's degree in political science from the University of Utah. He also received a BA in political science from Brigham Young University and an AAS in Justice Administration from Eastern Arizona College. Dr. Goodman worked for seven years as a police officer in Safford, AZ before he realized that there had to be a better way to make a living. Dr. Goodman teacher in all of the department's programs. He teaches public personnel management, organization theory, and the Seminar in Public Administration. He received the department's Outstanding Professor Award for the 2003-2004 academic year. Dr. Goodman co-edited, *Contested Landscape: The Politics of Wilderness in Utah and the West*. Dr. Goodman has a forthcoming article in *Public Budgeting & Finance* with Dr. Clynych. He and David Breaux, Department Head, are assessing the opinions of legislators concerning health policy priorities in MS. Dr. Goodman is also researching the opinions of law enforcement personnel officers concerning the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. His research interests also include state government, state budgetary decision making, public human resource management, and environmental policy and politics. Prior to moving to MS, Dr. Goodman and his family lived in Salt Lake City, Utah. He is originally from Safford, AZ. Dr. Goodman is married (Shelly) and has five children. He recently bought a motorcycle and enjoys riding it way to much.

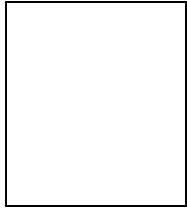
Mfanya Tryman is a Professor of Political Science in the Department of Political Science at Mississippi State University. He joined the department in 1990. When the Ph.D program in Public Administration began in 1991, he was the program coordinator. Dr. Tryman teaches courses in the undergraduate, Masters, and Ph.D program, specializing in the areas of public policy, civil rights, American government. He also wrote a fellowship grant that was funded by the U.S. Department of Education that provided funding for a number of doctoral stu-

dents as they matriculated in the Ph.D. program. He has been the recipient of close to one million dollars in fellowships, scholarships, and grants in public administration and political science primarily from several federal departments and agencies, including a summer faculty fellowship at N.A.S.A.

Originally a native of New Jersey, Dr. Tryman received his undergraduate degree from California State Polytechnic University-Pomona and his M.S., M.S.P.A. and Ph.D in Government from Florida State University. His most recent major publication is *The Malcolm X Encyclopedia*, published by Greenwood Press with Robert Jenkins in the Department of History at Mississippi State University. They recently received another book contract with Greenwood for a second book, which should be published in 2005.

Marty Wiseman Professor Marty Wiseman, a native Mississippian, received his Ph.D. from Mississippi State University, and has been at MSU since 1986. Professor Wiseman teaches specialized graduate courses in Rural Government Administration and Intergovernmental Relations, the undergraduate Mississippi Government and Politics class, and introductory American Government. He has published on issues of interest to local governments. Wiseman is Director of the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, and employs many of our students. Dr. Wiseman brings his experiences with Mississippi government to the classroom, Wiseman has won the Outstanding Political Science Professor award. Author of numerous studies of interest to public officials in our state, he has also published in *Public Administration Quarterly*, *Public Productivity and Management Review*, and *Midsouth Political Science Journal*. Wiseman works closely with state and local elected leaders, helping them improve the quality of government operations. He is working to help the state's small cities and towns to become more self-reliant by improving their water systems and wastewater treatment operations and infrastructure.

Marla Catledge is the MPPA program's executive secretary since 2003. She not only handles all the graduate student records, but also handles the department's travel and payroll. Marla has a great sense of humor and can always bring a smile to your face. She recently rejoined the student body, and is working to complete a degree to be a registered dietician. If that were not enough, Marla has four children.



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New Additions to the MPPA Program

Spring 2004

Angelique G. Andrews, MSU
Steven J. Comerford, Colorado—Denver
Joshua Wallis

Summer 2004

Matthew B. Dry, MSU
Nicole A. Guntherberg, Millsaps
Donald E. Howard, MSU
Kywaii Lawrence, USM
William V. Martin, UWF, (MBA) MSU
Gregory A. Phillips, MSU
Niles D. Puckett, MSU

If you know of any MPPA alumni who did not receive this newsletter, please contact us to add them to our mailing list.

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