



Inside this issue:

Faculty Profile	2
Honors Convocation	3
Dr. Charles Watson Award	3
Shelton Retirement	4
Pi Alpha Alpha Inductions	4
E-Celebration of Graduates	4
Excessive Use of Force	5
Can Online Learning Surpass In-Class Learning?	5
Recent Graduates	6
New Students	6
Faculty Updates	7
Student News	7
Alumni News	7
New Director/Faculty	8

Find us online  
(CTRL+Click):



Master of Public Administration

331 MSCX  
Troy University  
Troy, AL 36082  
334-670-5926  
www.troy.edu

Click on Current Students/  
Academics/College of Arts &  
Sciences/Political Science/  
Master of Public Administration

# MPA Program Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2

May, 2015

## Remembering Dr. James F. Rinehart

James F. Rinehart, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Professor with the Master of Science in International Relations degree program, colleague & friend, passed away suddenly Sunday, May 10, 2015. Dr. Rinehart spent 20 years with Troy University, and was previously the Associate Dean (2008–11) and Chair of the Department of Political Science (2001–08). He held a BA in Economics from the University of Florida and a Ph.D. in International Relations from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. His research focused on the functional role of religious and secular millenarianism in the onset and process of political violence, particularly revolution and terrorism. He was the author of two books: *Revolution and the Millennium: China, Mexico, and Iran* and, *Apocalyptic Faith and Political Violence: Prophets of Terror* as well as several articles and academic conference papers on the subjects of religion and international politics, revolution, terrorism, American foreign policy, and international law. Previously, Dr. Rinehart was professor and academic director of the Graduate Program in International Relations at the United States Army's John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USAJFKSWCS), Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.



Dr. James Rinehart

“Dr. Rinehart was an exceptionally talented leader and mentor,” said Dr. Leora Waldner, the Assistant Dean for the College of Arts & Sciences. “I remember when the MPA program went up for NASPAA accreditation, he was one of our staunchest advocates and ensured we had the resources to make that effort successful. He also encouraged technology transfer so that other programs could benefit from MPA initiatives like the MPA eQuad,” she noted. He will be greatly missed.

### Important Dates:

**May 25:**  
Term 5 classes begin

**Jul 20:**  
Registration for Term 1 begins

**Jun 26:**  
Deadline to file Intent to Graduate form for Term 1

**Jul 26:**  
Term 5 ends

**Jul 6:**  
Deadline to drop classes or withdraw from the University for T5

**Aug 10:**  
Term 1 begins

**Aug 28:** Deadline to file Intent to Graduate form for Term 2



Dr. Charles Mitchell

## Faculty Profile—Dr. Charles Mitchell

Many of you have taken classes with me and know that I am an associate professor of political science teaching foundations of public administration, public human resource management, ethics in public administration, organizational behavior, leadership in public administration and the capstone course. I have been teaching at Troy University for the past eight years primarily out of Atlanta, Georgia and at eTROY.

Prior to coming to Troy University I worked thirty years in government with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). There, I served in a variety of positions to include Senior Specialist, Enforcement Supervisor of various investigative units (Class-Action, Systemic, Federal Affirmative Action), District Training Officer in Atlanta, and Staff Consultant/Training Officer for EEOC's Staff Development and Training Division in Washington, D.C. My chief responsibility was the enforcement of laws that were within the purview of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, as amended, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Equal Pay Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

My experiences with the EEOC gave me significant opportunities to learn about personnel policies and practices. Reviewing the policies and procedures of literally thousands of employers has been the source of this learning process. Thus, as you can surmise, personnel policies and practices constitute a principal source of my professional interests. I am especially drawn to developing EEO laws.

Some of my more eye-opening experiences with the EEOC have involved working on various details to Washington D.C to serve as staff consultant. On one occasion I was there when Reagan appointee Clarence Thomas arrived with his team, eager to carry out the new administration's agenda. To put it mildly, relationships between Carter Administration holdovers and Reagan appointees were not the best. Observing that changeover gave me new insights into how policy shifts impact personnel operatives at some of the highest level in government. With that kind of on-the-job experience, I quickly began to better understand the cyclical and political nature of working in government.

My professional and community service work includes working with the North Georgia Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (past chapter president and current member of the executive council) which hosted last year's Southeast Conference on Public Administration (SECoPA) conference, volunteer as mediator for the state of Georgia's Annexation Dispute Resolution program, and with Reggie Johnson's Community Services (former NBA player involved in serving underprivileged children in southwest Atlanta).

I have a doctorate in public administration from the University of Georgia, master's and specialist degrees in educational administration and supervision from Georgia State University and a B.S. degree in secondary education from the University of South Alabama. I am a member of Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society (Public Affairs and Administration), Phi Delta Kappa Honor Society (Education) and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society (Interdisciplinary Studies).

I have found it enlightening working with TROY faculty where all have significant real-life work experiences in a variety of government agencies and other organizations. I urge all students to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge held by faculty members in Troy University's MPA program.

## 2015 Honors Convocation

The Honors Convocation was held at the Claudia Crosby Theater on the Troy University campus Monday evening, April 20, 2015. MPA Senior Lecturer Dr. Dayna McDaniel received the Faculty Senate Excellence Award. This award recognizes excellence in faculty achievement in all of the three standards of our profession: research, teaching, and service. Only non-tenure track faculty, including lecturers or adjuncts are eligible for the award. The head of the Faculty Senate, Dr. Rosser-Mims presented the award Monday night and Dr. Sam Shelton received it on behalf of Dr. McDaniel who could not be there. Congratulations Dayna – well deserved!



*Dr. Dayna McDaniel*

Two MPA students were inducted into Phi Kappa Phi (PKP). “Founded in 1897 at the University of Maine, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. It is a global network comprised of the best and brightest from all academic disciplines - a community of scholars and professionals building an enduring legacy for future generations” (From: <http://www.phikappaphi.org/about#.VUJlP7GMY>). Congratulations to Rob Terry and Arlene DeCindio Roy.

LaTrenda Belton was recognized as the Troy Campus Outstanding Graduate Political Science Student of the Year-MPA. LaTrenda was also selected for Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, a select group of outstanding Troy campus leaders in every area of the university who are selected by a committee of faculty and staff to honor their achievements and service to the university and community.

Inductees into Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA), the national public policy and public administration honor society were recognized. Finally, the Charles A. Watson Research Award was presented to Arlene DeCindio Roy for her paper titled: “Policy Analysis: Fixing the Veterans Health Administration.” Congratulations to all our award winners!

### Charles A. Watson Award Winner—Arlene DeCindio Roy

The Charles A. Watson Annual Research Award is named in honor and memory of Dr. Watson, Associate Professor of Public Administration, who served Troy University and our students from 1984 to 2008.

Dr. Watson taught research methods, quantitative analysis and program evaluation for our graduate programs. He had a strong passion for applied community-based research. He had an outstanding knack for data gathering, analysis, and statistical testing and he truly generated enthusiasm for community-based research in his students. His filing cabinets were full of outstanding student papers – giving strong evidence that our students, true to the mission of public service, dedicate their academic skills to their communities.

With the unexpected passing of Dr. Watson in November 2008, the Atlantic Region Alumni Association established an annual award in 2009 originally designed to recognize the outstanding graduate student of the Atlantic Region with the best paper of the year addressing community-based research in keeping with the work of Dr. Watson. Student papers are nominated by the MPA faculty, with selection made by an appointed committee. The winner receives a certificate, and their name engraved on a plaque on view in the Department of Political Science offices in Troy, Alabama.

This year was no different in the demonstrated scholarship of our student body and in keeping with the spirit with which Dr. Watson saw research informing our practice in public service. The Troy University Dr. Charles A. Watson Annual Research Award for 2015 goes to Arlene DeCindio Roy, for a research manuscript entitled, “Policy Analysis: Fixing the Veterans Health Administration.” Ms. Roy was nominated by Dr. Leora Waldner. Congratulations Arlene!



*Dr. Charles Watson*

## Last Remarks by Dr. Sam Shelton upon the Occasion of His Retirement

Thank you for the opportunity of the past 13 years to be a member of the Political Science Department at Troy University, teaching MPA graduate courses and undergraduate political science courses, both at the Troy Campus and eTROY. I was lucky to have many dedicated students who will make serious contributions to their communities and to government service. The MPA program has undergone many changes over these years, highlighted by NASPAA accreditation and continuing quality of instructors with whom I have had the privilege of working. If there is anything that I can offer in the form of advice to past, present, and future students, it is that I am a clear example that you will change jobs and potentially careers as new opportunities present themselves. It is never too late to pursue that “nagging ambition,” whatever it might be and never too late to seek that terminal degree and enter the world of academics. Best wishes to all, and many thanks.



Dr. Sam Shelton

---

## Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA) Inductions, Spring 2015

PAA is the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. The purpose of PAA is to encourage and recognize outstanding scholarship and accomplishment in public affairs and administration and to foster integrity, professionalism and creative performance in government and public service activities. Students in TROY's MPA program may be inducted provided they have maintained a GPA of at least 3.7; have completed at least 75% (27 hours) of their coursework, and have the recommendation of the faculty. Congratulations to the following students who were nominated and accepted for induction into PAA in Spring 2015:

Blake Allen	Rob Rosner
Jesse Allen Epperson	Robert Terry
Patrick D. Bentz Fontaine	Melissa Sue Vair
Holly Huett Leverette	Robert Williamson
Jasmin Moore	

---

## Inaugural MPA e-Celebration of Graduates

On May 15, 2015, the MPA program held its first-ever TROY MPA e-Celebration of Graduates, where friends, family, and faculty had the opportunity to congratulate our Spring, T3, and T4 2015 graduating students and our new honor society inductees in an innovative live event.

“Before this event, when our eTROY students graduated, we didn’t have a way to celebrate the occasion,” noted Dr. Tammy Esteves, MPA marketing committee chair. “It almost felt anti-climatic, and we knew we wanted something better.” The e-Celebration task force, consisting of MPA faculty and educational technology specialists, worked on the event prototype for over a year.

The e-Celebration, which was held live via WebEx, featured welcome remarks from MPA Program Director Dr. Pamela Dunning, a speech by Associate Commissioner Greg Dozier (Chief of Staff at the Georgia Department of Corrections), a commemorative video, interactive recognition of the graduates and honor society inductees, and more.

“We have long sought a way to celebrate with our MPA graduating students, regardless of location, in order to mark this significant milestone in their academic and professional career,” remarked Dr. Dayna McDaniel, Chair of the MPA Advising Committee, “and this event will enable us to do exactly that. We were very pleased with the results.”

Congratulations to the T3, T4, and Spring 2015 graduates, and our Pi Alpha Alpha and Phi Kappa Phi inductees!

## Atlanta Site Students Tackle Excessive Use of Force

Walter Scott. Freddie Gray. Michael Brown. What factors cause excessive use of force, and what policy options can a community consider to address the problem? The Term 3 2015 PA 6601, Research Methods and Term 4 PA 6622, Public Policy students at the Atlanta site decided to find out—and to post their work online for other scholars and policymakers to use.

“We didn’t know the first thing about excessive force when we started out,” said Jacqueline Williams, one of the Atlanta MPA students. Yet within a matter of weeks, students geared up their research and met with national experts in the field, such as Dr. Philip Stinson of Bowling Green University, who studies over 300 variables that may contribute to excessive use of force, including factors such as shift time, prior military status of the officer, and suspect resistance. “We had no idea there were so many aspects to it,” exclaimed Ms. Williams.

The students began compiling their work from their classes, including annotated bibliographies on excessive force, topic briefings, and best practices research, and chose to put them online in order to share their knowledge and research with other scholars and law enforcement officers.

“We thought to ourselves, as long as we are doing this work anyway, why not make a difference by creating a treasure trove of information readily available to all?” said Shaquna Gouch, an MPA student in the public health concentration. Ms. Gouch, a self-taught web designer who originally took up web design as a hobby, developed the website platform using weebly.com.

Students participating were Laverne Zephir, Tia Orr, Lisa McCants, Shaquna Gouch, Jaqueline Williams, Jessica Stewart, Ashley Lofton, Anthony Bryant, Eli Huven, and Nicole Williams. The website is available at [www.troympastudentsresearch.weebly.com](http://www.troympastudentsresearch.weebly.com), and further policy options will be added to the site when the student work is completed at the end of Term 4, 2015.

---

## Can Online Learning Surpass In-Class Learning?

Is it possible to design an exceptional online class—one that is so engaging, students learn more and interact more than they would in a face-to-face setting?

In a talk entitled “Cracking the Code: Understanding the DNA of Online Education,” Dr. Tammy Esteves and Dr. Leora Waldner argued that it is possible to design such a class, and that the inherent learning potential of an online class may actually surpass that of a face-to-face class. The two were invited to speak as part of Portland State University’s Carnegie Conservation, featuring a reception open to all faculty and the public.

The pair also provided six intensive training sessions during a three-day visit for general studies faculty, their distinguished faculty fellows, capstone instructors, and the Office of Academic Innovation team, covering topics such as advanced online teaching techniques, how to design a fully immersed online program, and, techniques for virtual office hours (in which they were joined by Dr. Dayna McDaniel as a virtual presenter).

“We were so honored to have the opportunity to visit Portland State for this initiative,” said Dr. Esteves. “It was a great opportunity to exchange ideas, hear about Portland State’s initiatives, and share our combined two-decades worth of experience teaching online,” she noted. The pair are now looking forward to sharing some of those initiatives and incorporating the trainings into TROY’s new Center for e-Teaching Excellence.

## Recent Graduates

Congratulations to the following Terms 3 and 4 and Spring Semester 2015 graduates:

Brian Allem	Ashley S. Jamieson
Amy R. Baisden*	Anthony J. Keel
LaTrenda C. Belton	Robert Kemether*
Patrick D. Bentz Fontaine*	Michelle Lassey*
Elaine M. Blacharski	Kellie L. Littlefield
Victoria Bowman*	Trent S. Lucas
Justin E. Brownlee	Lemuel F. Marbury*
Hana F. Bruce	Charles A. Morris
Michael L. Cole	Dessa Morris
Jeffrey G. Dowdy	Ashlee R. Printup
Legregory J. Dykes	April Rawls
Rondall L. Early	Charlotte L. Robinson
Brandon A. Elder	Robert J. Rosner
Jesse A. Epperson	Arlene Decindio Roy*
Lillie S. Finley	Robert G. Terry*
Lakeata Garrett	Amber N. Tilley
Adam Geissenberger	Chasity V. Woodard

\* indicates 4.0 GPA

---

## New Students

Please welcome the following new students who were admitted between January and March 2015:

Kieonna Angion	Dewana Fields	Stephan Overton
Beverly Arnold	Stephen Gallagher	Shacole Pearman
Jerome Ayoade	Blake Grier	Marybeth Plaskus
Wyatanah Brewer	Rakeim Hadley	Tiffany Pouncey-Baker
Hattie Brown	Miya Hairston	Monica Riddle
Anthony Bryant	Tiara Hardaway	Angel Rodriguez
Mariah Callins	Clarence Harris	Kermilia Shepherd
Amy Campbell	Kimberly Howard	Tara Spencer
Lauren Capie	Anthony Ippolito	Craig Tapley
April Childs	Robin Jackson	Leigh Todd
Timothy Clark	Lastarr Johnson	Enrique Villegas-Gonzalez
Taqua Clay	Mildred Johnson	Amber Walker
Dorothea Culver	John Kilgore	Courtney Williams
Carlos Da Silva Costa	Ed Lee	Curtis Williams
Daniel Dash	Maria Lindauer	Kelden Williams
Isabel Dubrinsky	Brandi McGee	Ricky Wilson
William Dukes	Marcel McKie	Adrienne Wood
Samuel Dunlap	Ronda Mitchell	Ioannis Zikos
Deborah Edwards	Mardo Nunez	
Rahimat Emozozo	Ashley Olds	

## Faculty Updates

Dr. Kern Craig presented “The Determinants of Student Outcomes” at the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) 76th Annual Conference, March 6-10, 2015 in Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Charles Mitchell presented “Curtailing Presidential Recess Appointment Powers: Implication of National Labor Relations Board v Canning,” at the 2015 Alabama Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Alabama, March 7, 2015. He also served as chair/discussant of the Public Organization and Management panel at the 17th Annual Georgia Public Administration Academic Conference and Annual Meeting in Augusta, Georgia, March 20, 2015.

Dr. Pamela Gibson was an invited instructor for a presentation on “The Role of Corporate Culture” for the University of Virginia, School of Continuing & Professional Studies, Newport News, VA., November 20, 2014.

Dr. Gibson made a presentation entitled, “Right vs. Right’ Ethical Dilemmas” for the National Contract Management Association Student Chapter at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, VA., January 27, 2015.

Dr. Gibson presented a manuscript entitled, “The Reflection of Moral Reasoning in Ethics Education Content” at the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Annual Conference in Costa Mesa, CA., February, 21, 2015.

Dr. Pam Dunning received the 2015 Dr. Wolfgang Pindur Award for Distinguished Service in Academia and Practice by the Hampton Roads Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration at their annual awards luncheon held in Norfolk, VA, May 7, 2015. This award recognizes outstanding service in the area of public administration education and honors Dr. Wolfgang Pindur, an academic whose lifelong efforts sought to bridge the worlds of the academic and the practitioner.

---

## Student News

Austin Floyd participated in NASPAA's Inaugural Student Simulation Competition where teams from around the country were asked to provide a locally led "bottom up" approach to health care reform. Austin participated in the Southeast Region event at Athens, Ga. hosted by The University of Georgia School of Public and International Affairs with team members Hira Rizvi from Georgia Tech and Yan Ying from University of Georgia. Their team place third (out of ten) in the region.



Pictured (l-r) Austin Floyd, Hira Rizvi, Yan Ying

---

## Alumni News

Dawn Ellis Murray, a 2014 TROY MPA graduate, has been accepted into Auburn University's PhD in Public Administration and Public Policy program starting Fall 2015.

Three TROY MPA alumni were selected as finalists for the Presidential Management Fellows program for 2015. Congratulations to Ladonna Bowen, Chanda Caldwell and Candacy Kassa!



The mission of Troy University's Master of Public Administration Program is to strengthen the quality of public service by facilitating learning, promoting scholarship, improving practice and engaging in public service. The program strives to develop graduates who bring to the public work force the intellectual acuity, ethical commitment, and professional competence to effectively serve the public interest.

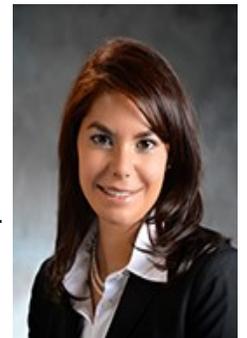
## New MPA Director and Faculty

This past year, the MPA Program, in concert with the Department of Political Science, initiated a search for a new MPA Director to replace Dr. Sam Shelton who stepped down last year. After an extensive search process, Dr. Vickie Edwards was selected and will be joining our faculty as the new director starting August 1, 2015. Dr. Edwards is an Assistant Professor in the MPA Program at University of Arkansas, Little Rock and the Coordinator of the Center for Non-profit Organizations. Her areas of expertise are public and nonprofit management, civic engagement, and community development. She serves as the managing editor of the Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs.



*Dr. Vickie Edwards*

Dr. Maryam Stevenson was selected to fill a Troy campus MPA vacancy. Dr. Stevenson is currently an Assistant Professor of Political Science and Pre-Law Advisor at the University of Indianapolis. Her areas of expertise are immigration policy and public law. Additionally, as an attorney, Dr. Stevenson consults with clients on skilled worker immigration matters.



*Dr. Maryam Stevenson*

Dr. Michael J. Brennan has also been hired to replace Dr. David Shetterly. He is currently a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow and adjunct faculty member at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada. He has prior experience as a town and city manager and as a program manager for a non-profit organization. His areas of expertise are civic engagement and educational policy.



*Dr. Michael Brennan*

We look forward to welcoming our new faculty at our August 2015 faculty meeting.

## Share Your News!

Our next issue will be September 2015 and we need your help to fill it. Please e-mail Dr. Pam Dunning (pdunning@troy.edu) if you have recent news that you would like to have included in the newsletter.

*A special thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter. Your help is greatly appreciated.*