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**Master of Public Administration**

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 Click on Graduate School/  
 MPA

# MPA Program Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

September, 2012

## Welcome from the Director!

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Troy University MPA program. While the MPA faculty have worked hard to provide you with many ways to receive information about the program and the public administration profession – for example, the eQuad advising, speaker series, and videos – we believe that there are other things about our University, our program, our faculty, our alumni, and our current students that are important for us to communicate with each other. This newsletter is an effort to begin that dialogue on a broader range of subjects. As a NASPAA-accredited program, our mission is to provide you the tools to make a positive contribution in the public and non-profit sectors to address the wide range of issues experienced in our nation and world today.



*Dr. Sam Shelton*

A strength of our Troy University MPA program is that we are not limited to a particular geographic location because our students and alumni are widely distributed not only in the United States but around the world. This provides us a unique opportunity to network much more extensively than most other MPA programs. I hope that you will utilize this newsletter as a way to continue to strive for quality service, teaching, and research by our alumni, our students, and our faculty. Thank you for being a part of the Troy University and TROY MPA program families.

Dr. Sam Shelton

## Program Updates

### Important Dates:

Sep. 17:  
 Term 2 Registration Starts

Sep. 21:  
 Deadline for drop/withdrawal for  
 Term 1

Oct. 22:  
 Last day to file an intent to graduate in  
 T3

**Graduate Degree Plans:** Your degree plan needs to be submitted to your faculty advisor for processing before you complete 18 hours. If you have not completed yours, please contact your student services counselor to begin the process.

**Internship Reminder:** Do you need to complete an internship? Check out the MPA eQuad on Blackboard for information.



## MPA eQuad

### New eQuad Advising Site

Check it out! The MPA eQuad Blackboard organization is a one-of-a-kind faculty advising Blackboard shell that houses a myriad of MPA program information designed for you, our MPA advisee. The MPA eQuad is available exclusively to MPA students 24 hours/7 days a week, anytime, anywhere in the world with access to your internet and TROY Blackboard. If you've been looking for a one-stop-shop to cease the unnecessary surfing of large websites and clicking on mislabeled favorite links to find MPA program information, contacts, and forms, the TROY MPA eQuad is a "must see."

The MPA eQuad Advising Organization has the information you need conveniently located no more than a couple clicks away on your own Blackboard course page. Any registered MPA student can access this unique Blackboard organization on the eTROY "My courses" page under "My organizations." Here you can find program information, course lists/schedule/sequence guidance, course registration links, upcoming MPA "live" webinar events and your Faculty Advisor's and Student Services Counselor's contact information. Another plus is that it offers many useful web links connecting you to MPA professional opportunities, job search information, internships, and fellowships.

How could this MPA eQuad benefit you? Let me provide you with an example. You are about to register for another term in the MPA program. Usually you may have to do several searches and review and scroll through your lists of saved favorite links to satisfy your information needs for a complete registration. All the links and information for important calendar dates, eTROY graduate term schedule, course catalogs, lists of courses by concentration, internship information, recommended course sequencing, web express access, and much more are at the MPA eQuad Blackboard organization's "Program Guide/Forms" button. If you need MPA and eTROY forms or you forget your faculty advisor's name or student service counselor's phone number, there's no need to go outside the eQuad for this information; you need only to click "Connect to Advisors".

This time-saving advising eQuad is an effective way to feel more virtually connected to many of the opportunities that TROY and the MPA program has to offer you. So take a look at the MPA eQuad and take a step into our future Trojan reality of virtual advising. Our MPA faculty advisors are always ready to guide and mentor you through the program. If you would like to see a short video of the MPA eQuad visit our webpage at [www.troy.edu](http://www.troy.edu); click on Graduate School, MPA, First Term Students.

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### MPA Speaker Series

The MPA 2012 eSpeaker Series got off to a strong start on April 24 with Dr. Meine's presentation on the topic of ethics. That was followed on June 12 with a presentation by Drs. Abbey, Anderson, and Shetterly on preparing for the capstone course (PA 6699). The next presentation in the series is scheduled for August 28 with a presentation by Drs. Loutzenhiser and Waldner on the application process of doctoral programs. The 2012 series wraps up on November 7 with a presentation by Dr. Esteves on the topic of social media. We want to remind all that these are webinar presentations using the Wimba Classroom within Blackboard. If you have a computer you can attend. The presentations are also archived for later viewing. Please join us for the presentations as it is a great way to meet faculty and your fellow students.

You may learn more about the MPA 2012 eSpeaker Series by going to the MPA eQuad and clicking on the eSpeaker Series tab. We are planning a 2013 eSpeaker Series and welcome student input on topics. Please use the forum available at the MPA eQuad to let us know of topics that you would like to learn more about or contact Dr. David Shetterly at [dshetterly@troy.edu](mailto:dshetterly@troy.edu).



By Dr. Dana McDaniel

## Student Updates

Jameka Patrick was accepted into the *NC Certified Public Manager® (CPM) Program*, an intensive 14-month curriculum that provides an in-depth, comprehensive, competency-based, development program for middle managers from state agencies/universities and local government organizations.

My name is Tommy Watkins, Correctional Officer I, with the Alabama Department of Corrections. I am proud to announce that Troy University helps makes things possible! After receiving a Bachelor degree in Criminal Justice, 2010, I decided to continue my education at Troy University to pursue a Masters in Public Administration. I am happy to share with current Trojans that I am a recipient of the Alabama Correctional Employee Support Fund Scholarship. I was awarded \$1,500 at an award ceremony on July 18, 2012. On August 9, 2012, I was promoted to the rank of Correctional Sergeant in one of Alabama's Correctional

Facilities. With this choice to continue my education, I am able to use the knowledge that I have obtained at TROY to excel in my career. however, I realize the importance of giving back to the community. Therefore, I volunteer with Autauga County Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) I am proud to share that TROY has equipped me with the knowledge so that I may obtain an opportunity to advance in my career and enjoy life with my wife of thirteen years and two daughters.



Officer Watkins received his scholarship award from ACESF Vice President Bettinna Carter.

## Faculty Updates

Dr. Waldner and Dr. Widener published "E-Service-Learning: The Evolution of Service-Learning to Engage a Growing Online Student Population" in the *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*, (2012),16(2), 123-150.

Dr. Gibson and Dr. Dunning published "Transforming Online Education Through Quality Course Design" in the *Journal of Public Administration Education*, (2012), 18 (1): 209-228.

Dr. Waldner presented "From Subpar to Rock Star: 18 Easy Ways to Pump Up Your Online Course Evaluations" during the eTROY eColloquium, April 2012.

Dr. Dunning and Dr. Gibson presented "Instructional Design to Encourage, Engage, and Educate the Distance Learning Student," at the eTROY e-Colloquium, April 2012.

Dr. Dunning presented "It Takes a Village: Creating Community Through Starfish," at the eTROY e-Colloquium in April 2012 and at the Blackboard Symposium at Troy University in April 2012.

Dr. Waldner, Dr. Anderson, Dr. Esteves and Dr. McDaniel presented "The eQuad: A Next-Generation eAdvising Tool to Build Community and Retain Students" at the eTROY e-Colloquium, April 2012.

Dr. Dunning and Dr. Gibson presented "Cybercitizens: Public Participation in the Local Budget Process using Web 2.0 Technology: A Case Study of the City of Hampton, Virginia" at the National American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Conference, Las Vegas, NV, March, 2012.

Dr. Dunning presented "Evaluating Timney's Model of Citizen Involvement in Budgetary Decision-Making" at the Virginia Social Science Association, Norfolk, VA, March, 2012.

Dr. Gibson presented "Compliance or Principle-Based Governance: Kohlberg's Theory and the US Office of Government Ethics Conferences" at the Virginia Social Science Association, Norfolk, VA, March, 2012.

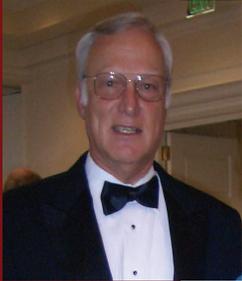
Dr. Waldner was an invited panelist at the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Georgia Chapter Conference, Kennesaw, GA—"Are MPA Programs Appropriately Preparing Students to Address the Needs of the 21st Century? March 2012.

Dr. Charles Mitchell was an invited guest this past July 2012 at the Fourth Paris International Conference on Education, Economy and Society. Dr. Mitchell presented a paper entitled "Cultural and Social Diversity in the United States: A Compelling National Interest," which will become part of a book being published by the Springer Publishing Group entitled "Cultural and Social Diversity and the Transition from Education to work."

(Continues on pg. 6)

## Faculty Profile

Dr. Meine is currently TROY's only full professor of Public Administration and has been a member of the graduate faculty since 1991, he has served TROY in a number of roles including academic director for a teaching region, Chair of Public Administration, and eight years as the Regional Director of TROY's former Florida Region. He resigned from that position in 2007 to return to full-time teaching, and after more than 30 years of university-level teaching the highlight of his efforts was receiving TROY's Wallace D. Malone Distinguished Faculty Award in 2011.



Dr. Fred Meine

Prior to his academic career, as a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Dr. Meine served as a Special Agent for a Defense Department Criminal Investigative Organization managing investigative units throughout the world. His previous professional positions also include: supervising personal security for two Secretaries of Defense, personnel management at federal departmental level, training consultant and trainer for New York City, New York State and New Jersey Social Service agencies and several investigative operations and training policy positions.

Dr. Meine has been active in various organizations focusing on educational opportunities for military members and their families, and he continues to be active in the American Society for Public Administration particularly in ASPA's Ethics Section. He has published and presented extensively on ethics, law enforcement training and online education. The highlights of these efforts include international venues throughout Europe, and as an invited member of official ASPA delegations presenting in Chengdu and Xiamen, China, and in Moscow, Russia.

Dr. Meine is the proud patriarch of an all military family since he and his wife Rita have three children, all current or retired military officers. Dr. Meine and his wife are also proud of their seven grandchildren ranging in age from 8 to 26.

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## Notes from your Adviser

How to find your advisers – and everything else you need to know for the MPA Program.



By Dr. Tammy  
Esteves

Each MPA student is assigned two advisers – a student services counselor, who will work with you on all of your administrative issues, like filing paperwork; and an academic adviser, who will work with you on all of your academic issues, like deciding which courses to take. The eQuad has all the information you need to access both of your advisers, and has been designed as a “one-stop shop” for you to get information on the MPA program, courses, internships, forms, registration, speaker series, etc. After you gain access to Blackboard (by starting your first class), look under your course listings for a section called “My Organizations,” and that is where you will find a link to the eQuad. If you don't find it there, send me an email ([tlestesves@troy.edu](mailto:tlestesves@troy.edu)) and I'll make sure you get added in!

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## Alumni Update: Arkesha Moses

Arkesha Moses completed the MPA program in 2011 with a concentration in Public Management. She applied to the Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program for the class of 2012. The PMF program is a leadership development program in the federal government for those who have recently completed an advanced degree. More than 9,000 graduate students applied to the program and less than 700 were selected as finalists. After completing an online and in-person assessment Arkesha was selected as a finalist in the program and attended the PMF job fair in Washington D.C. where she interviewed with several agencies including Department of Labor, Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Arkesha decided that the Department of Labor (DOL) offered her the best position for what she wanted to do in the federal government. She is now a Program Specialist in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management's Performance Management Center.



By Dr. Kristie  
Roberts

## Career Corner

To succeed in today's stagnant job market, an applicant must take non-traditional routes to the boardroom. First, be flexible and willing to accept an entry-level position even if it is not your dream job. Secondly, be willing to relocate; where jobs/opportunities are available. Thirdly, identify a mentor in your field who will show you the ropes. Fourthly, consider service learning projects that create opportunities to engage in meaningful community service with local organizations while

building skills and competencies that will open future employment opportunities. Finally, join professional organizations such as ASPA, COMPA, SHRM, NFBPA and others that provide networking opportunities and access to professionals in the field. Be sure to visit the MPA eQuad be for professional opportunities, internships and additional career tips.



Graduate Degrees for  
Professional Public Service  
**MPA**  
Master of Public Administration

## *The Most Common Mistake Students Make When Paraphrasing*

By Dr. Pamela A. Gibson

You need to know that paraphrasing (that is, a close restatement of what someone else has said, but in your own words) is not a violation of the University Honor Code. What is a violation is not citing your source. THAT is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious infraction that may result in failing a course, suspension from school and losing the trust of students, faculty, co-workers and friends. Therefore, citing your sources is critical.



Dr. Pamela A. Gibson

A student is subject to disciplinary action as noted in the *Oracle*, the Student Handbook:

Where the work affects or might affect a student's grade, credit, or status in the university, a student represents to be his or her own any work that is not the product of his or her own study and efforts (known as plagiarism) (p. 53).  
[www.troy.edu](http://www.troy.edu) and click on Student Services/Oracle/2012-2013

Therefore, whether you are using someone else's exact words or a wording that simply reflects their ideas (and not your own), you must cite that 'someone' in order not to violate the honor code.

Now, you ask: "What's new under the sun? Hasn't every idea already occurred to someone else?" I certainly hope not. If that were true, then we can stop conducting research, reading new books or buying recent versions of our software programs. We wouldn't have innovations and discoveries without new knowledge. You come to class with a wealth of knowledge regarding your personal and professional experiences that can certainly be shared (in 'I' statements) that don't need citation.

Then, you ask: "Do I have to cite everything I've learned over the years, even if I don't remember who said it first?" The one exception to the rule is "Common Knowledge." If the idea you are using is common knowledge, you don't need to cite a source for it. For instance, stating that President Lincoln was shot is common knowledge and doesn't require a citation. If you have a source, it doesn't penalize you to use it. In fact, having supportive evidence from another provides credibility to your work and perpetuates the practice of 'giving credit where credit is due.' For, you don't want others to steal your ideas, do you? You also want to give *blame* if something is found to be incorrect! It's always best to cite too much than too little. When in doubt, cite.

The following are some on-line interactive quizzes to help you recognize and avoid plagiarism.

[https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/plagiarism\\_test.html](https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/plagiarism_test.html)

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/plagiarism/test.html>

<http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php>

<http://web.mit.edu/academicintegrity/plagiarism/what-is-common-knowledge.html>

## New Faculty! Dr. LaKerri Mack

I am an Assistant Professor at Troy University in Troy, Alabama teaching Political Science and Master of Public Administration courses. I look forward to bringing new perspectives and teaching techniques to the Trojan family.

While at Auburn I was a Graduate Assistant with the Auburn University Multicultural Center where I served as a liaison for several campus organizations. I was an Instructor of Record teaching State and Local Government at Auburn where I took advantage of various opportunities to advance my education, experience, research, teaching, and outreach in the community. I also served as a Graduate Assistant of Space Allocation for the College of Liberal Arts.

I have won numerous awards to include: The Most Outstanding Student for the Masters of Public Administration Program in 2007; The 2009 Public Administration Scholarship from the National Forum of Black Public Administrators (East Alabama Chapter); The Women's Studies Program Graduate Student Award in 2009; and the College of Liberal Arts' Graduate Teaching Assistant Award for 2009-2010.

I have a PhD, Public Policy & Public Administration, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, an MPA, Master of Public Administration, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama and a BA, African-American Studies (Women's Studies), Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. My dissertation focused on the state of disenfranchisement tactics within the voting process with a specific examination of the voter photo identification requirement for the State of Georgia. My other research interests include Election Administration and Public Policy, Black Political and Feminist Thought, and Women's Political Leadership.



*Dr. LaKerri Mack*

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## Faculty Updates (Continued)

Dr. Shetterly presented a paper on August 18 at the Fifth International Public Procurement Conference held in Seattle, Washington. His paper is titled "The Impact of Contract Design on Contractor Performance – A Second Look" and is a follow up to an earlier published article on contracting methods. Collaborators on the paper are Dr. C.J. Duan, Dr. Anand Krishnamoorthy, Dr. Maria Kronenburg, and Dr. Kirsten Loutzenhiser. Information on the type of topics discussed at the conference can be found at the following link: <http://www.nigp.org/eweb/docs/forum/2012/IPPC5TentativeSchedule.pdf>

Dr. Meine and Dr. Dunn published "Policing the Police, Using Ethics Education and Training to Combat 'Official Deviance'" in the Journal of US-China Public Administration.

Dr. Meine and Dr. Dunn published "On Advancing Professional Ethics to the Next Level: Interdisciplinary vs. Intra-Disciplinary Approaches," in the Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences (2012, 6(6): 25-40.

Dr. Meine and Dr. Dunn presented "eLearning Communities: An Academic and Administrative Win-Win?" at the Southern Sociological Society Conference, New Orleans, LA, March 21-24, 2012.

Dr. Meine and Dr. Dunn presented "Policing the Police, Ethics Education and Training as a Tool to Combat 'Noble Cause Corruption' and Reduce the Use of Excessive Force" at the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA, March 21-24, 2012.

Dr. Meine and Dr. Dunn presented "The Search for Ethical Competency: Do Ethics Codes Matter?" at the 2012 annual American Society of Public Administration (ASPA) National Conference, Las Vegas, NV, March 2012.

Dr. Meine and Dr. Dunn presented "The Search for Ethical Competency: Do Ethics Codes Matter-Revisited?" and "The State of Ethics Training for Police: Phase II" at the 2012 Southern Political Science Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, January 14-17, 2012.

Dr. Meine and Dr. Dunn presented "Emerging Ethical and Academic Issues in the Teaching of Public Administration Courses" at the Southern Political Science Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, January 14-17, 2012.



The mission of the Troy University MPA program is to develop professional competency and leadership in individuals associated with public and non-profit sectors by providing quality graduate professional education through a standardized curriculum and a network of campuses utilizing traditional, nontraditional and emerging electronic formats.

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## TROY Corner

Troy University's Institute for Leadership Development is expanding its reach with the addition of an associate director and classroom offerings beyond the Troy Campus and across the globe. U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Chris Shannon (ret.) has been named the Institute's associate director, said Dr. John Kline, the Institute's director. A year ago, the Institute began offering classes on the Montgomery Campus, and more courses are being added this year so students can complete the minor. Dr. Kline hopes within the next year the program will also be available on the Dothan Campus and online through eTROY.



Troy's football season opener on Sept. 1 at UAB will be televised live by Fox College Sports. Kick-off between the Trojans and Blazers is set for 11 a.m. in Legion Field.

Tennessee will be broadcast on the SEC Network with the specific network to be announced closer to the Nov. 3 game date.

To date, eight of TROY's 12 games are set to be televised this upcoming season. All six home games will be broadcast live with ESPN holding the rights for four of the contests. Games against Louisiana-Lafayette, Mississippi State and Navy will be broadcast on ESPN3, while a Thursday night contest against Western Kentucky will be broadcast on ESPNU.

Home games against FIU and Arkansas State will be televised with the specific network to be announced in the future. TROY's road game at




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## Share Your News!

Our next issue will be January 2013 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.*