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 Master of Public Administration

# MPA Program Newsletter

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January, 2014

## New MPA Program Director

Hello. My name is Dr. Jonathan Harrington, Professor of Political Science at Troy University and new Interim Director of the MPA program. Dr. Sam Shelton, who has served as MPA Director for almost two years, has decided to step down from his administrative duties and return to full-time teaching. On behalf of the Chair and the Department, I would like to sincerely thank Dr. Shelton for his leadership and tireless efforts to build our MPA Program into what it is today. In his new capacity, Dr. Shelton will continue to advise students, serve on faculty committees and teach a full compliment of onsite and online courses.



The Department has already initiated a search for a new permanent MPA Director. We hope to have someone in place in August 2014. In the meantime, I will do everything in my power to maintain smooth and efficient operation of student services, facilitate efficient and equitable class scheduling, reinforce the importance of faculty research and encourage synergies between scholarly research and classroom instruction, and encourage the use of new instructional technologies to enhance student learning outcomes. Please feel free to contact me anytime with your questions/concerns at [jhharrington@troy.edu](mailto:jhharrington@troy.edu) or 334-670-5968. I look forward to working with all of you!

### Important Dates:

**Jan 31:**

Deadline to file Intent to Graduate form for Term 3

**Feb 14:**

Deadline to drop classes or withdraw from the University

**Feb 24:**

Registration for Term 4 begins

**Mar 9:**

Term 3 ends

**Mar 17**

Term 4 begins

**Apr 1:**

Deadline to file Intent to Graduate form for Term 5

## Faculty Profile—Dr. David Shetterly



By Dr. David Shetterly

Dr. Shetterly started his academic career with Troy University in August 1998 as an assistant professor teaching MPA courses at military installations in Japan and Korea. The interaction with military personnel and their families, as well as being part of an effort to bring the TROY MPA curriculum to overseas locations, was especially rewarding. Although far from home there was still a strong sense of family and community. In the summer of 2000 he transferred back to the Atlantic Region of Troy University with main offices located in Norfolk, VA and teaching responsibilities in the Washington D.C. area. He now resides in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, teaches exclusively on line, and is closing in on 16 years as a professor with Troy University. He thoroughly enjoys the teaching part of his responsibilities, the relationships formed with students, and being a witness to the success TROY students have achieved in their chosen professions.

Before employment with Troy University, Dr. Shetterly worked for 25 years as a civilian employee of the Department of Defense (DoD) at locations in Germany and the United States. He led a number of privatization initiatives for the U.S. Army Materiel Command that involved contracting out of installation support services. The work with managing privatization studies was the catalyst for his interest in approaches to service contracting which was also the subject of his dissertation. Before his tenure as a civilian employee with DoD, he served approximately three years on active duty with the U.S. Army in Germany.

In terms of research interests, Dr. Shetterly enjoys inter-disciplinary collaboration. Many of his presentations, professional papers, and journal articles are based on work with colleagues from other disciplines, a business or health administration background for example, or from other universities. He has also done consulting work related to examination of job analysis data in support of Federal Occupational Health, an organizational element of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

On a personal note he enjoys physical challenges having competed in running events of various distances, as well as a triathlon. He takes special pride in having completed the Boston Marathon and the JFK Ultra Marathon (50 miles). The JFK has been held annually in Washington County, Maryland since 1963. Running Boston was a highlight and just eking out a finish (a little over 9 hours) in the JFK brought particular satisfaction.

Dr. Shetterly has been married for over 40 years. He has one daughter and one granddaughter and enjoys numerous opportunities to spend time with both of them. As a final note, he believes in the adage that anything of worth takes some effort to achieve. So if you take a class with him, expect to work hard. In turn you will be treated with fairness and respect.  
Happy 2014!

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## Grant extends TROY's reach to the Republic of Georgia

A nearly half-million dollar U.S. State Department grant will enable Troy University to build a collaborative partnership to create a new master's degree and foster research in international affairs in the Republic of Georgia.

The \$495,000 grant, sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia, will fund a partnership with the Georgia Institute of Public Affairs to augment the institution's graduate International Affairs Program with faculty and student exchange, strengthen its research capacity and collaboratively develop a master's level program in International Development.

"Troy University is uniquely positioned to ensure that this collaborative effort is successful, in part due to our long history of strong international partnerships," said Dr. Jack Hawkins Jr., Chancellor. "Troy University's pursuit of international opportunities began when we embarked on our voyage of intentional internationalization more than 20 years ago."

Political Science faculty believe the partnership will forge new pathways to learning for both Georgian and TROY students.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Should I Drop This Course?

By Dr. Leora Waldner and Dr. Pamela Gibson

- **Always check with the University Financial Aid office to find out the ramifications of dropping a course before doing so, especially if you have student loans!** <http://trojan.troy.edu/financialaid/>
- **Know the drop date deadlines. After these deadlines, you must receive a grade.** <http://trojan.troy.edu/etroy/academiccalendar.html>
- **Check with your instructor before dropping the course. You may be doing better than you think in the class.**
- **Check with your faculty adviser before dropping the course. Together you can determine the effect, if any, on your course schedule, graduation timeframe, etc.**

### If You Must Drop, Drop Early in the Term

Sometimes, you can tell in the first week of the term, the workload requires more than you can allow given your other life-demands (work, family, etc.) and it is to your advantage to drop early. The longer you are in class, the more tuition must be paid. After the drop deadline, the instructor will have to assign a grade.

Check your total points in Grade Center before the drop date. In most classes, 90-100% is an “A”; 80-89% is a “B”, 70 – 79% of the total points generally equal a “C”, etc. If you are scoring a “C” or below in the course then contact your instructor. If your instructor does not feel you can bring that grade up with significant improvement, consider dropping the course.

A “C” is not a failing grade. However, three (3) grades of “C” or below will result in academic dismissal requiring you to take a leave from school for a time before applying for readmission. Except for PA 6601 *Research Methods in Public Administration* and PA 6699 *Capstone in Public Administration*, students do not need to retake a course in which they earned a “C.”

### Conditionally Admitted Students

If you were conditionally admitted to the MPA program, you are required to maintain a 3.0 or “B” grade point average in your first three classes—otherwise, you will be dismissed from the program. Telling your professor, “I need a ‘B’” or “I need an ‘A’ to stay in the program” is inconsequential as grades must be earned through academic merit.

### Be Realistic

If you anticipate a heavy professional workload, keep it realistic and only take one class at a time—or take a term off! It is completely acceptable to sit out a term or two if you expect a huge life change (new job, new baby, a change in marital status, having to care for an ill family member, or even a student’s own illness or anticipated surgery).

You may think, “***I can still make this class work,***” but hopefulness and wishful thinking in the face of significant demands on your time will more likely result in poor performance and poor grades.

**If life throws you a curveball, drop the class if you can.** It’s more important to protect your long-term academic success (learning the course content and graduating from the program) than completing a class this term. There’s no dishonor in dropping a course. Do **NOT** try to just “plow through it.”

### Keep Your Eye On the Prize

Moving as quickly as you can through the MPA curriculum can actually hurt your ability to thrive academically, preparing yourself for career success and graduating. Many “straight-A” MPA students with a 4.0 grade point average take one class per term, a major key to their academic success. Also, students who have not had a public sector job know that they need a mentor, marketable skills, and internships—and the best way to do that is to stay in school. While a student, you have access to professionals who want to mentor you. Graduation can end those ties and easy access to informational contacts and other internships.

(Continued on pg. 4)



Dr. Leora Waldner



Dr. Pamela Gibson

## SHOULD I DROP THIS COURSE? (Continued)

So consider taking full advantage of the learning opportunities in graduate school and slowing down to focus on academic success and professional development (joining professional associations, networking, doing an extra internship, etc.).

If you are asking whether you should drop the class in question, you probably have a sense that you should—as long as you have checked out any financial aid and grade ramifications. However, a fully informed decision can best be made by consulting with your instructor, faculty adviser and student services coordinator. We are here to help guide you throughout the process, even one that includes unexpected interruptions.

### Welcome to New Students

Please welcome the following new students who were admitted between September and December 2013:

Donnay Abernathy	Derek Fortson	Laventrice Newsome
Blake Allen	Constance Freeman	Jonas Nicolas
Michael Bedell	Danielle Garner	Andrea Ogir
Karleshia Bentley	Lakeata Garrett	Nanette Owen
Patrick Bentz Fontaine	Adam Geissenberger	Vida Owooh
Phyllis Bijole	Bianca Gordon	Paul Panici
Robert Bowman	Gary Gordon	Tiffany Parker
Ileshia Bullock	Jonathan Greer	Richard Prevost
Joya Burson	Cameron Hall	Fantashia Price
Bakari Burton	Tammy Harrell	N'jheri Price
Tinika Carey	Melvin Herring	Debra Price
Collin Christopherson	Peter Hicks	Donnell Ray
Chelsea Clark	Tiffany Hunter	Michael Romp
Aqueelah Coleman	Angela Jackson	Shamirah Ross-Gowdy
Ashley Collins	Michael Jenkins	Anthony Russo
Ian Cooper	Yolanda Kerr	James Schmidt
Datchel Crockett	Courtney Lassiter	Monica Scott
Rockfield D'Amour	Aneta Lee	Barvetta Singletary
Dominic Davy	Gwendolen Lee	Ashley Singletary
Stacey Deans	Richard Lemieux	Tasha Smith
Arlene Decindio	Deanna Logan	Khra Smith
Jeffrey Dewitt	Bryan Long	David Smith
Francis Donchez	Wayne Ludwig	James Spears
Babbs Douglas	Dustin MacKey	Kelly Stone
Jamila Downs	Micah Manu	Brandon Toliver
Lance Driskell	Laila Mathis	Jeremy VanVeelen
Rondall Early	George Miller	Shalina Nizar Ali Velani
Lester Echols	Tonja Minnifield	Belindra Vereen
Cameron Eldridge	India Moore	Kunpen Wang
Robin Ennis	Dessa Morris	Ruifeng Wang
David Evans	Sarah Mrazek	Paula Winslow
Victoria Farrow	Valerie Murphy	Jason Wolfe

## Grant extends TROY's reach to Georgia (Continued)

"Our new partnership will provide numerous avenues for TROY students and faculty to interact with and learn from their Georgian colleagues including student exchanges, scholarships, joint publishing opportunities and the creation of new academic programs on both sides of the Atlantic," said Dr. Jonathan Harrington, a professor of political science and director of the University's Master of Science in International Relations Program.

Dr. Harrington, and Dr. Terry Anderson, a public administration associate professor at TROY who has extensive experience working with GIPA, including authoring a textbook used in its programs and as a visiting faculty member who's taught more than 20 courses in GIPA's School of Government's Master of Public Administration program since 2000, co-developed the three-year project.

According to Dr. Anderson, "Georgia has demonstrated its desire to become part of a global society that is progressive, and its leaders clearly know the value of higher education -- especially when delivered in concert with American partners. GIPA is located in a part of the world that is perfect for Troy—an emerging democracy, a former Soviet republic, that is on the cutting edge among its neighbors in terms of education in the fields of international affairs and public administration. I believe this opportunity will create an entry point for future study abroad courses for our students in both our MPA and MSIR students." Anderson has worked on developing a stronger partnership for more than a decade, but said funding was an issue, a point Harrington also stressed.

"We would like to acknowledge the critical role that the United States Department of State has played in making this partnership possible. Their generous grant has made it possible for TROY and GIPA to take their growing relationship to the next level," he said.

The project begins immediately, and four GIPA faculty members are expected to begin a faculty exchange during the Spring semester on the Troy Campus. TROY faculty from the Department of Political Science will teach and conduct research in Georgia as well.

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## Alumni News

Chief Jane Castor (1994), Chief of Police, City of Tampa was awarded an Alumni Certificate of Appreciation for helping set up 18 Roll Call Info Sessions in the three Tampa Police Department District offices. She was previously named Law Enforcement Executive of the Year by the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives in 2009.

William Gervin (2012), Virginia Beach Police Department, Virginia Beach, VA was promoted to Sergeant June 1, 2013. He is currently the 2nd precinct midnight shift supervisor.

Troy University alumna Lindsay Hopper Pierce has recently been named the Director of Development for Refuge House in Tallahassee, Fla. Refuge House is a non-profit organization that provides direct services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and educates the community on violence and public advocacy. Pierce received a bachelor's degree in marketing in 2004 and a Master of Public Administration in 2010 from TROY. She was previously employed by Troy University, first as an admissions counselor and later as coordinator of membership and chapter development for the University's Office of Alumni Affairs.



*Carol Walters, Chief Jane Castor and Carmen Federico (l-r)*

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## Current Students

Addelyn Jane Tilley was born on October 4, 2013 (7 lbs 8 oz. and 19 3/4 inches). Amber (MPA) and Aaron Tilley are the proud parents.



## Recent Graduates

Congratulations to the following projected Winter 2013 (Terms 2 & 3) graduates:

Kevin M. Barry  
Elizabeth L. Bradberry  
David E. Clausen  
Robin M. Cone  
Joel D. Edwards  
Matthew M. Fox  
Tanyalaniese J. Freeman  
Katrice D. Gilder  
Democha D. Gilliam  
Nafishia Glenn  
Kellie D. Hightower-Spruill  
Jasmine N. Jackson

Christopher Labissiere  
Altoise M. Lamar  
Mykita Levy  
Gail P. Lucent  
Naomi M. Nishio  
Janis L. Reid  
Kristen M. Robinson  
Justin J. Schiltz  
Jennifer T. Shook  
Taja S. Slaughter  
Bret M. Stolle  
Krisanne Talbot

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## New Pi Alpha Alpha Webpage

The Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) has launched a new Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA) website. PAA is the "Global Honor Society for Public Affairs & Administration." Check out the news, scholarship information and other news at: <http://www.pialphaalpha.org/>

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## 2013 Sponsored Program Award

Dr. Terry Anderson (MPA) and Dr. Jonathan Harrington (MPA and MSIR Director) were selected by the Chancellor to receive the Chancellor's Award of Distinction for Sponsored Program Success for their US Department of State & US Embassy in Tbilisi Georgia Partnership. This award was established by the Chancellor in 2009 and was designed to celebrate and inspire excellence in sponsored program proposal success, an essential component to institutional excellence.



*From l-r: Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Dr. Terry Anderson, Dr. Jonathan Harrington, Dr. Jim Rinehart and Dr. Steven Taylor*



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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## Faculty Updates

Dr. Manfred Meine presented "Enough Already! Resolving the Political Imperative of Decentralized Policing vis a vis Police Consolidation," with Thomas P. Dunn, at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Georgia Political Science Association, Savannah, Georgia, November 14, 2013.

Dr. Manfred Meine was a panel moderator, "Innovation and Performance," at the 8th International Conference on Public Administration (ICPA), Cape Town, South Africa, Nov 1, 2013.

Dr. Manfred Meine presented "Police Consolidation in the United States: The Never Ending Debate - Fiscal Imperatives versus Political Agendas and Public Policy Implications," (Revised) with Thomas P. Dunn, presented at the 8th International Conference on Public Administration (ICPA), Cape Town, South Africa, Nov 2, 2013.

Hal Moeller, Adjunct Instructor in the Government Contracting Certificate Program, presented a paper entitled "The GAO's High Risk List: Why state and local contract managers should pay attention too" at the World Congress of the National Contract Management Association, July 2013.

Hal Moeller was recently re-elected to the board of trustees of the Northeast Conference on Public Administration (NECoPA) at the annual conference in November. He was instrumental in preparing and advancing the organization's successful application for tax exemption as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in the midst of the scrutiny that such applications received in the past several months.

Craig, K. W. (2013). "*The American inquisition: A dystopian state of affairs.*" Charleston, SC: Createspace.

Craig, K. W. (2013). "Public policy in Central America: An empirical analysis." *Public Administration Research*, 2(2), 105-123.

Dr. Robert Abbey was selected as one of 12 members of an Advisory Board for an online research and quantitative methods project by Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, CA.

Dr. Robert Abbey is the recipient of a \$3,000 grant from American University to develop an online undergraduate course in "Research Methods and Quantitative Analysis in Political Science."

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## Share Your News!

Our next issue will be May 2014 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.*