

# Texas State University MPA Program Newsletter

## Welcome from the Director

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Dear Students, Faculty, Alumni, and Friends of the MPA Program:

I hope you enjoy our annual newsletter. It will keep you up to date on program activities.

This fall Texas State expects to enroll 35,000 students. This is an eight percent increase from the 2010-2011 academic year. We expect a slight enrollment increase to 173 for the MPA program.

Over the past year the MPA Faculty has been busy with ongoing program assessment and revision. We made changes to the career support areas, entrance requirements, and introduced PhD level classes.

We completed a course-by-course program review and searched for and found a replacement for Dr. Weinberger after his retirement last year. We made the program more flexible by allowing three open electives in the General Public Administration career support area. The Allied Health Administration career support area was eliminated due to lack of demand (1-3 students a year), the burden of prerequisites, and unreliable course offerings.

In response to many alumni comments and the faculty's desire to upgrade the program, entrance requirements were raised from a GPA of 2.75 to 3.0. We also made it more difficult for incoming students to waive the statistics class. Now students must have an "A" in an undergraduate statistics class within the last three years. The GRE test is currently being revised, so we have made no decisions on how GRE scores will be evaluated.

Although we have not been approved to offer a doctoral degree, we are moving toward this goal by offering two new PhD level courses (POSI 7320 Research Practicum and POSI 7330 Environmental Policy, Politics and Law). POSI 7330 is also part of the Urban and Environmental Planning Career Support Area.

We have maintained our close relationship with the Central Texas Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration. This year alumnus Eddie Molina was honored as Public Administrator of the Year. James Harkins and James Swift won awards for their research. The current President of CenTex ASPA, John Moore, is an adjunct faculty member.

We also continue to offer study abroad opportunities. Dr. Tajalli took students to Barcelona during the summers of 2010 and 2011. Dr. Balanoff and Dr. Garofalo took students to Italy for the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA). Applied research projects continue to be downloaded at record numbers. We expect to have 300,000 downloads by the end of August. Keep in touch!

Note to Students- The Graduate College has transitioned to a new student data system. There have been a few transition hiccups. If you have problems please contact our office. Dodie can fix just about anything.

## New Faculty Member

**We are pleased to announce a faculty member: Assistant Professor Billy Fields.**



### **Billy Fields, Ph.D.**

Dr. Fields was the Director of the Center of Urban and Public Affairs at the University of New Orleans and Director of Research at Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in Washington, D.C. His major area of research is in the sustainability and resiliency of transportation, urban planning, as well as hazard mitigation perspectives.

Dr. Fields' work in resilient transportation focuses on quantifying the impacts of active transportation investments in relation to public health and transportation policy. In addition, Dr. Fields has worked extensively on hazard mitigation and recovery planning in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

Recent publications from Dr. Fields have appeared in the *Journal of Public Health Policy*, *the Journal of Urban Design*, and *Cityscape*. Dr. Fields holds a B.A. from Trinity University and an M.P.A. and Ph.D. from the University of New Orleans. In the fall, he will teach POSI 5321: Introduction to Public Administration/Public Policy and POSI 5341: Seminar in the Policy Process.

## Faculty Updates



### **Emily Balanoff-Jones, Ph.D.**

In the spring Dr. Balanoff-Jones successfully defended her dissertation "A Special Set-Apart Place No Longer? The Rhetoric of Modern Nonprofit Organizations." She presented excerpts from this work at the CenTex ASPA/William P. Hobby Center for Public Service conference at the LBJ School for Public Affairs and at the national conference of the American Society for Public Administration in Baltimore, Maryland.

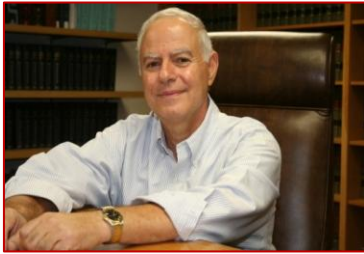
Emily was elected to the Board of Directors of the ASPA Section for Women in Public Administration and served as a reviewer for the *Journal of Finance and Management*. Currently, she is working with Dr. Shields on a book chapter to appear in *American Pragmatism and Organization Studies - Researching Management Practice* this fall.



### **Christopher Brown, J.D.**

Dr. Brown has recently become the faculty advisor/sponsor for WaterAid, an on-campus student organization that does public outreach and education on environmental issues related to water and also performs water-related volunteer work in the community.

Dr. Brown also recently published journal articles, including "A Litigious Proposal: Judicial Reasoning on Climate Change, the Current Absence of Real Federal Regulation, and the Resulting Duty of Citizens to Combat Climate Change in the Court" in *Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation*, and "A Hole in the Bucket: Aspermont's Impact on Groundwater Districts and What It Says about Texas Groundwater Policy," in which he collaborated with Blake Farrar, for the *Texas Environmental Law Journal*.



### **Howard Balanoff, Ph.D.**

Dr. Balanoff recently gave a presentation at the Texas City Management Association (TCMA) Conference in Frisco Texas, entitled “Building Strategic Partnerships for Local Government Training Programs.” As Director of the Texas Certified Public Manager (CPM Program) he also sponsored a golf team made up of CPM faculty, students and alumni. The CPM Team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 2011 TCMA Golf Tournament.



### **Dianne Rahm, Ph.D.**

Dr. Rahm presented two conference papers and published several journal articles this year. She recently published “Regulating Hydraulic Fracturing in Shale Gas Plays: The Case of Texas,” in *Energy Policy*. She co-authored “Perceptions of Emergency Management in U.S. Cities: A Survey of Chief Administrative Officers”, in the *Journal of Emergency Management* with Christopher Reddick. She also has a number of forthcoming coming publications, including “U.S. City Managers’ Perceptions of Disaster Risks: Consequences for Urban Emergency Management,” with Christopher Reddick in the *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*; and “Greening Human Resources: A Survey of City-level Initiatives.” with Dr. Rangaraian in *Public Personnel Administration*.



### **Nandhini Rangarajan, Ph.D.**

Dr. Rangarajan presented two papers with Dr. Rahm in 2010: “Greening Human Resource Practices: An Assessment of Local and State Level Initiatives” at the Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences; and “Examining the Relationship Between Environmental Management and Human Resource Practices: A Study of City-Level Initiatives” at the Western Social Science Association Conference in Reno, Nevada. She also has three forthcoming works: “Open Access Digital Repository: Sharing Student Research with the World” coauthored with Dr. Shields and Lewis Stewart in the *Journal of Public Affairs Education*; and “Greening Human Resources: A Study of City-Level Initiatives” with Dr. Rahm in the *Review of Public Personnel Administration*.



### **Hassan Tajalli, Ph.D.**

In 2006 Dr. Hassan Tajalli was hired as the chief project evaluator for a \$1,000,000 Federal grant that was awarded to Austin Learning Academy to evaluate services to low-income families and their adolescents in preventing teenage pregnancy. During the grant period, Dr. Tajalli prepared 3 comprehensive reports for the Federal government. The evaluation reports examined the impact of the program on Academic performance, self-esteem, parental communications, and several other indices, measuring the changes in the attitudes and behavior of students. The last report was submitted to the federal government in the fall of 2010.



### **Tamela Saldana, Ph.D.**

Dr. Saldana has taken the post as the Director of minority and small business programs at the Texas Dept. of Transportation. The programs include the federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program, the State of Texas Historically Underutilized Business Program and the Small Business Enterprise Program.

### **John Moore, J.D.**

John Moore just completed a two week Virtual Institute with the U.S. Department of Labor in which the participants looked for ways to reduce improper payments of unemployment insurance benefits. The institute included unemployment insurance agencies from 11 high impact states, including Texas.







### **Patricia Shields, Ph.D.**

Dr. Shields recently won the 2010 Everette Swinney Excellence in Teaching Award from the Texas State Faculty Senate and the 2011 Rita May Kelly Award for Outstanding Research on Women's Issues from the American Society for Public Administration. Dr. Shields continues to serve as the editor of the international journal *Armed Forces & Society*. She recently published three book chapters, including "Jane Adams Theory of Democracy and Social Ethics: Incorporating a Feminist Perspective" in *Women in Public Administration*; "Public Service Professionals: The Legacy of Florence Nightingale, Mary Livermore, and Jane Addams" in *The State of Public Administration* with Dr. Rangarajan; and "An American Perspective on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Expeditionary Mindset and Core Values: A Review of the Literature" in *Core Values and the Expeditionary Mindset*. She recently published an article in *Administration & Society* with Dr. Salem from the communications department. She also recently presented "Exploring Civil-Military Relations" to the Swedish National Defense College in Stockholm, Sweden.

Dr. Shields also has a number of forthcoming works, including "Open Access Digital Repository: Sharing Student Research with the World," with Dr. Rangarajan and Lewis Stewart in the *Journal of Public Affairs Education*; "Public Administration Methods: Synthesis and Innovation," with James Heichelbech in *Public Administration Review: Foundation Series*; and "Reconciling the Varieties of Pragmatism in Public Administration," in *Administration & Society* with recent MPA graduate Travis Whetsell.

## **Texas State MPA Program Now Offering Ph.D. Courses**

Political Science 7320 (Research Practicum) is taught by Dr. Howard Balanoff and uses structured group research to identify and analyze practical problems related to public administration systems. This fall the emphasis will be on the criminal justice system in the U.S. and Texas. A research team of 8 to 12 graduate students selected and led by the professor will work together to prepare a series of reports including findings and recommendations for improving existing criminal justice systems and programs. In addition, the research teams will also survey ongoing programs and make recommendations for improving non-profit and criminal justice organizations. The class will include Ph.D. students from Criminal Justice and MPA students. For additional information contact Dr. Howard Balanoff at [hb02@txstate.edu](mailto:hb02@txstate.edu) or 512/245-3453

Political Science 7330 (Environmental Policy, Politics, and Law) is taught by Dr. Dianne Rahm, and is open to Master and Ph.D. students. Previous enrollment included a mix of Ph.D., MA, and MPA students. The class is included in the MPA General Career Support Area and for the Urban and Environmental Planning Career Support Area. The class provides students with the opportunity to read and discuss a number of books that address a variety of issues associated with environmental policy, politics and law including:

- the cultural roots of the U.S. environmental movement
- how environmental policy is made and enforced
- the key laws and regulations that comprise U.S. environmental policy and govern air, water, land, solid and hazardous waste
- the supporters and opponents of environmental policy (and their key arguments)
- energy use and its connection to environmental issues
- the international framework for global environmental issues and treaties
- sustainability

The class also focuses on current events and allows students to raise issues they are particularly interested in exploring. Students present their current events issues in class; they are discussed, and then integrated into the scholarly literature. The class is open to anyone with an interest in energy, environment, or sustainability and who would like to learn more about these issues in an interdisciplinary setting

## Public Service Recognition Week Award Ceremony and Banquet

Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) is a time set aside to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees. In honor of PSRW the CenTex Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration held an awards ceremony and Banquet, on May 5, 2011. At this ceremony a number of current and former Texas State students were recognized.

MPA graduate Eddie Molina received the Public Administrator of the Year award. Mr. Molina won the award for his work at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. He currently serves as the Director of Financial Administration at the TECQ.

Two Texas State MPA graduates received the *James W. McGrew Research Award*. James Harkins won in the Capstone Research category, for his Applied Research Project titled "An Ideal Sustainable Energy Model for Local Utilities: An Assessment of the City of San Marcos, Texas." James Swift won in the Practitioner Research category, for his Applied Research Project titled "Exploring Capitol Metro's Sexual Harassment Training Using Dr. Bengt-Ake Lundvall's Taxonomy of Knowledge Principles." Both of these research projects were supervised by Dr. Patricia Shields.



From left to right: James Harkins, Patricia Shields, and James Swift.

"An Ideal Sustainable Energy Model for Local Utilities: An Assessment of the City of San Marcos, Texas" (2010)  
<http://ecommons.txstate.edu/arp/330>

"Exploring Capital Metro's Sexual Harassment Training Using Dr. Bengt-Ake Lundvall's Taxonomy of Knowledge Principles" (2010)  
<http://ecommons.txstate.edu/arp/326>

The ceremony also recognized students for their academic achievements. The Balanoff MPA Scholarship is a \$1000 scholarship that offered each semester to MPA students on the basis of financial need and academic achievement. Scholarship recipients are selected by a Committee of Political Science Department faculty. Current Scholarship Committee members are Dr. Tom Longoria, Dr. Nandhini Rangarajan, and Ms. Sherri Mora. Dr. Frank Rich was the founder of the Texas State MPA Program and his wife established a scholarship for deserving students. Three current Texas State MPA students received scholarships during the ceremony. Meghan Patronella and Brendan Scott were awarded the Balanoff MPA Scholarship and Angela DeLeon was awarded the Dr. Frank Rich Scholarship.

New *Pi Alpha Alpha* (Public Administration Honor Society) members were also recognized at this event. The inductees included:

Angela P. DeLeon  
 Jasmine Griffin-Ives  
 Tanya G. Hernandez-Hart  
 Lori L. Hodge  
 Jason C. Irle  
 Leah G. Neal  
 John W. Sone

## Student Scholarships

Applications are now being reviewed for three MPA scholarships under the William P. Hobby Family Scholarships, which provide \$1000 for three students in the fall semester and \$1000 for three students in the spring semester. The Balanoff scholarship is also being offered, which provides a \$500 stipend for the fall and spring semesters. The deadline is August 12<sup>th</sup> and winners will be announced August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

These scholarships will also be available next year for MPA students. Make sure to plan ahead and send a letter explaining financial need, academic achievement, 6 hours of completed coursework, and enrollment in at least 3 hours for the fall or spring semesters to Dr. Tom Longoria, Dr. Nandhini Rangarajan, and Professor. Sherri Mora.

## Serving on the Board of a Texas Non-Profit Corporation

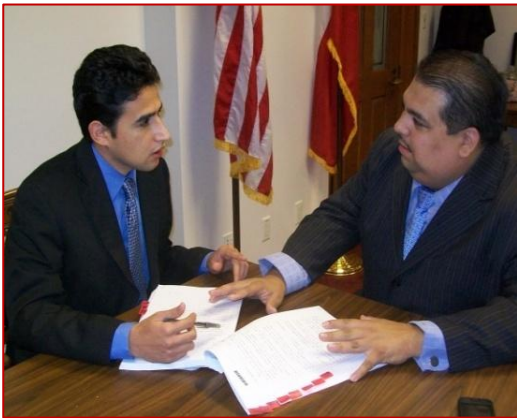


Kathleen Ford Bay was invited by the CenTex chapter of the American Society of Public Administration to speak about the challenges associated with serving on the board of a Texas Non-Profit Corporation. This presentation took place at the capitol on June 15, 2011.

Recent scandals involving both charities and non-profits made this presentation by Ms. Bay valuable to any public administrator considering sitting on a board. For a copy of the handout provided by Ms. Bay visit: <http://www.rsfirm.com/documents/Liabilities-Duties.pdf>

Kathleen currently works as an attorney at Richards Rodriguez & Skeith, in Austin Texas. Ms. Bay's practice focuses on Estate and Disability Planning; Probate Law; Elder Law; Trusts & Estates; Federal, Estate, and Gift Taxation; Guardianships; and Fiduciary Defense and Disputes.

## Texas State Students Gain Experience Through Internships



MPA students enrolled in Political Science 5370 (Internship in Government) are gaining valuable on the job experience. MPA students have interned on the federal, state, regional, and local level. Students participating in the Texas State internship program are required to write a research paper based on their experiences as an intern.

Eddie Escobar recently completed an internship in the Texas House of Representatives with Representative Guillien, where he learned about the processes of Texas legislature. MPA student Kimberly Painter recently completed an internship with the City of Austin's Public Information Office. Kimberly helped the City of Austin conduct valuable research. Kimberly was tasked to study online tools, which would allow citizens to give their input via the internet about important budget issues.

Matthew Todorow had the opportunity to participate in an exciting two-week academic seminar. This seminar titled *Negotiating the Path to Israeli-Palestinian Peace* is offered by the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars. At this seminar Matthew participated in a simulation of an international peace conference. Participants were divided into delegations representing: Israel, the Palestinians, the United States, the Arab states, the European Union, Russia, and the United Nations. Students took on the roles of real individuals involved in resolving the conflict.

Student internship opportunities are posted on the Texas State Jobs for Cats website. Students interested are also encouraged to contact their academic advisor to discuss internship opportunities. An internship in government can give students the much needed job experience necessary to succeed in a competitive job market.





## MPA Student Larry Gonzales Elected to Texas House



MPA student Larry Gonzales was recently elected to the Texas House of Representatives. Rep. Gonzales represents southern and eastern Williamson County, including the cities of Round Rock, Hutto, Taylor, Thrall, Austin, and parts of Georgetown. Rep. Gonzales previously served as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations for the Texas State University System (TSUS) as a liaison to the Texas Legislature and other state agencies for the TSUS Board of Regents, the System and its eight component institutions. Rep. Gonzales is a 1993 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in Government and has completed 30 hours towards his Master's in Public Administration (MPA) at Texas State University – San Marcos and hopes to finish his coursework soon.

## International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration



Left to right, Dr. Howard Balanoff, MPA students Pamela Hinojosa, Christy Carter, Lauren Walden and Dr. Charles Garofalo.

In June 2011 Dr. Howard Balanoff and Dr. Charles Garofalo attended the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) Conference. The Conference was held in Rome, Italy. Both Dr. Balanoff and Dr. Garofalo delivered papers and presented at this Conference. Dr. Balanoff's paper and presentation was entitled, "The National Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program: A Model for Public and Nonprofit Leaders and Managers around the World" and Dr. Garofalo's presentation was entitled "Governance, Public Values, Outsourcing and National Security."

Also attending the Conference were 3 Texas State University MPA students. Christy Carter, Pamela Hinojosa and Lauren Walden had their registration fees paid for by Texas State University's William P. Hobby Center for Public Service and participated in IASIA Conference sessions, receptions and formal dinners.

## MPA Students Study Abroad in Spain with Dr. Tajalli

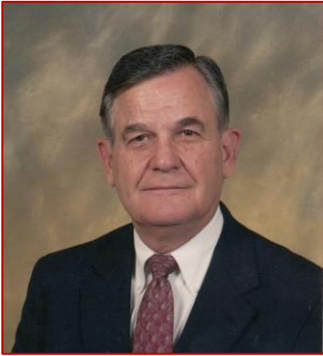


Last summer Dr. Tajalli took MPA students to Barcelona, Spain for a study abroad session. MPA graduate students travelling with Professor Tajalli learned how American government compares to Spanish and other European governments and conducted independent research on issues such as immigration, education and law enforcement. Students were also able to enjoy Barcelona's intriguing past, music, dance, and cuisine. Students toured many cathedrals and museums, including the Picasso museum, and marveled at the work of Antoni Gaudi at the Park Guell and the yet unfinished masterpiece the Basilica of the Sagrada Familia.

## MPA Alumni Publish Books

Two graduates of the MPA program have recently had their respective works published. Magdalena Blanco completed "Economic Development Corporations in Texas: Preliminary assessment of statutory compliance of 4A and 4B EDCs in Texas with the Development Corporation Act of 1979." Jacob Rodriguez recently completed "The Winning Edge, Winning Texas High School Football, What Really Matters and How Much." Join the Department of Political Science in congratulating these Bobcats!

## The Barney and Linda Knight Endowed Scholarship Created



The Department of Political Science is proud to announce that Barney Knight, a Graduate of the Texas State University's Master's Program in Public Administration has established a new endowed Scholarship in the Political Science Department. The Barney and Linda Knight Scholarship which was announced in June 2011 was endowed with a gift of \$50,000. The Scholarship will be offered starting in the fall 2012 Semester.

Barney Knight is currently the Principal in the Austin Law Firm of Barney Knight & Partners. Barney has sixteen years of experience with the cities of Temple and Austin, and twenty-four years of private practice experience. He and his law firm are engaged in the practice of municipal law and public finance.

## Larry Gilley - TCMA Lifetime Achievement Award

Texas State University MPA alumnus Larry Gilley received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas City Management Association (TCMA) at its Annual Conference which was held in Frisco Texas from June 2 - 5, 2011. Larry, a Past President of TCMA is currently the City Manager of Abilene Texas. Larry received his MPA from Southwest Texas State University while he was City Manager of San Marcos, Texas. The TCMA Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes the city management professional who has made significant and sustained contributions to the field of local government management for a period of more than 10 years. Congratulations to Larry on his outstanding achievement!



## John Sharp - Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award

MPA Alumnus John Sharp recently received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Liberal Arts. The award recognizes alumni for achievements in their professions and communities. Sharp is a former Texas legislator and senator, chair of the Railroad Commission and State Comptroller, who co-founded Texans to Cure Cancer. Mr. Sharp received his MPA degree from Texas State University in 1976.



## Texas Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program

On Monday June 6<sup>th</sup> the Texas Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program which is offered by Texas State University William P. Hobby Center for Public Service in cooperation with 11 universities around the state of Texas graduated 71 persons. The CPM Program which was first offered in 1997. MPA Alumnus Chuck Pinto, City Manager of Seabrook Texas gave the June 2011 CPM graduation address. The CPM Graduation was followed by a reception at the Capitol Grill, which was attended by all graduates and their guests. Graduates from Texas State University, The University of Texas at Arlington, Sam Houston State University, Stephen F. Austin State University, the University of Houston and the University of Pan American were recognized and awarded their CPM Graduation Diplomas for completing the 14-21 month professional development and education program. Dr. Howard Balanoff is the Director of the William P. Hobby Center for Public Service and Texas CPM Program.



CPM Graduates with Marilyn and Howard Balanoff: Left to Right – Marilyn Balanoff, Dennis Kleppe, Bernard Ndong Angandje, Cynthia Zavala, Anya Taylor, Adam Dieng, Howard Balanoff. Not shown is Jeanette Tijerina.



## The GRE General Test Receives a Major Overhaul

The Educational Testing Service (ETS) has made some big changes to the GRE General Test. Beginning August 2011 students will begin taking the GRE revised General Test. The GRE was revised in order to provide admissions boards with a more accurate measurement of candidates underlying abilities. Beginning in August 2011 the scoring scale will range from 130-170 in one point increments. The previous scoring scale ranged from 200-800 in ten point increments. The use of ten point increments suggested there was a big difference in a candidate who scored 500 and one who score a 510 even though there was not. The ETS maintains the switch to one point increments allows admission boards to identify the underlying ability of the graduate candidates. An enhanced scoring report will be provided to admission boards which will provide an estimate of what the candidate would have received had they taken the revised GRE. The new scoring reports will contain percentiles to help admissions boards interpret just what the scores mean. [http://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/know](http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/know)

## Congratulations Texas State MPA Graduates

Name	Graduated
Jenny Bennett	2010
Amy Bresnen	2010
Brian Busch	2010
Heather Crosby	2011
Joe DeLaCerde	2010
Rolando Delgado	2011
Jenifer Dillard	2010
Amy Duhon	2010
Charles Evers	2011
Mark Featherston	2011
Christian Flores	2010
Cameron Freberg	2011
Jared Gallini	2010
Jasmine Griffin-Ives	2011
James Harkins	2010
Peggy Helton	2011
Jason Irle	2011
Timothy Lee Johnson	2010
Blanca Juarez	2011
Jenny Marquez	2010
Andrew Mounkes	2011
Crystal Munoz	2010
Rudolph Perales	2011
Ashley Rendon	2010
Sabrina Salazar	2010
LaShaundra Seale	2010
Felecia Shaw	2010
Andrew Thompson	2011
Daniella Varela	2011
Travis Whetsell	2011
Kezeli Wold	2010