

The Community Servant

NEWSLETTER OF THE GRADUATE PROGRAM IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Fall

2008

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Rich Bonaccorsi – Program Development Director

It feels as if we just finished welcoming faculty and students to the Fall semester. And already, we are working on mid-terms, preparing Spring course schedules, and anticipating the general elections.

Reflecting on recent months, I'm inspired by the ever expanding and evolving MPA community. Allow me to name just a few examples.

We are pleased to say that Scott Peters, who formerly split his time between undergraduate and MPA responsibilities, has now joined the MPA on a full-time basis. David Hamilton, who previously served as Chair of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Roosevelt University, came to the MPA team in a full-time role as Visiting Professor.

This Fall you'll also see new adjunct faculty, such as Bruce Gockerman, Bernard Sieracki, and alumnus Cesar Blanco, who embody the practitioner-scholar profile of all our faculty.

Also, you'll run into a diverse pool of new domestic and international students who have worked in a wide range of public and nonprofit organizations. Let's welcome them to the community. (You'll find a list of many of these individuals – and their employers - in this newsletter.)

On the international front, although we considered last year's 3 Chinese government cohorts to have been a windfall, we once again repeated this year when we

welcomed three cohorts for the 2008-09 year, in addition to a growing number of university exchange students.

You may see Larry as he collaborates with organizations such as the AFP (Association of Fundraising Professionals) and IACP (Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police) to host meaningful events that attract to our downtown campus professionals of similar interests as ours'.

As for goodbyes and thanks, we will miss seeing Karl Nollenberger around. Indeed, he was a catalyst for the improved quality and growth of the program. Yet, we can share in his happiness and feel proud over his recently receiving his Ph.D. and moving to Oshkosh, Wisconsin where he serves as assistant professor for the Department of Public Affairs at University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh.

I also extend thanks to faculty and staff who have stepped in to take this program to new heights – even when it seemed like we had an uphill climb. I hope everyone enjoys this newsletter which highlights a few of the people, activities and issues we share as a community.

SHOULD ILLINOIS VOTERS CALL A NEW CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION?

by Roland Calia, Visiting Professor, IIT MPA Program

On November 4th, Illinois voters will not only vote for a new President, but also be asked whether they want to call a convention to consider re-writing the state constitution. If 60% of those voting on that question say yes, then the process will begin to convene a constitutional convention. In the only previous vote in 1988, the electorate decisively rejected a convention by a 75% to 25% vote.

The current state constitution, approved in 1970, requires the electorate to vote every 20 years if they believe that it is necessary to revise the document. If the voters decide to call for a Convention, then a subsequent election will be held to choose two delegates from each state senate district for a total of 118 convention members. The General Assembly shall provide for funding, the convention location and the method of electing the delegates.

The convention can choose to re-write portions of the state constitution or the entire document. Each revision or a completely new constitution must be approved in a statewide election by a simple majority vote.

The State constitution may be amended in two other ways:

- 1) The General Assembly may approve an amendment by a 3/5ths vote in each chamber and submit it to the voters. The amendment is approved if 60% of those voting on the amendment vote yes.
- 2) Citizens may propose amendments that change the structure and procedures of the legislature. The proposal must be approved by 60% of those voting on the amendment at the next election. To get an amendment on the ballot, citizens must obtain signatures on a petition equal to or greater than 8% of the total vote in the previous gubernatorial election.

Arguments in Favor of Calling a Constitutional Convention

Many of the proponents in favor of calling a constitutional convention advance the argument that the political system in Illinois is broken. They argue that corruption is rampant and unchecked in state and local government. Political insiders have thwarted efforts to institute structural reforms threatening their hold on power such as the recall of public officials. In their view, the best way to affect dramatic change is to convene a convention that can implement significant reforms. Prominent supporters of calling a constitutional convention include: The *Chicago Tribune*, Illinois Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn and Cook County Assessor James Houlihan.

A summary of the principal arguments in favor of voting yes on the constitutional convention ballot question are:

- A constitutional convention allows the delegates to consider important substantive issues that current elected officials have failed to address. Hundreds of constitutional amendments have been proposed since 1988, but only six have advanced to a vote of the people. These issues included education funding, ethics reform, electing judges and state and local tax issues.
- The voters should have an opportunity to evaluate how well the current Constitution is working or not working after 38 years in operation.
- A convention is the best chance the people have for proposing ideas to fundamentally change Illinois government. Delegates could discuss important issues that the political leadership has not addressed successfully, including term limits for elected officials, nonpartisan reapportionment of legislative boundaries and school funding.
- Any changes proposed by a Constitutional Convention must be approved by the voters. Popular participation in the process will mitigate concerns about radical proposals being implemented and effectively counter concerns that lobbyists and special interest groups may dominate convention proceedings.

Arguments in Opposition to Calling a Constitutional Convention

Most opponents of a constitutional convention argue that the current constitution has worked quite well for nearly four decades. The 1970 Constitution was the work of a broad consensus of political, ideological and geographical interests. It includes a number of important provisions such as the authorization for state income tax, strong home rule authority for local governments and a right to privacy. In addition, virtually every one of the reforms desired by proponents of a convention can be achieved through the political process. Therefore, the solution to a flawed political climate is to elect new, better leaders. Prominent opponents of calling a constitutional convention include: The Alliance to Protect the Illinois Constitution, a bipartisan coalition of dozens of consumer, education, civic, business and labor organizations; the Illinois Rifle Association, and *The Chicago Sun-Times*.

A summary of the principal arguments in favor of voting no on the constitutional convention ballot question are:

- A Constitutional Convention would be expensive, costing as much as \$78 million. The State would be forced to spend tens of millions of dollars in the midst of one of its worst financial crises. The Constitution can already be amended by less expensive methods.

Nonprofit Management, Public Safety and Crisis Management, and Public Management.

A number of open houses were held during our spring and summer semesters. The success of these open houses, due to the involvement of faculty, staff, current students, and alumni, helped fuel record enrollment.



Prospective students meet with Program Development Director Rich Bonaccorsi, Assistant Director Larry Ruffolo, faculty, alumni, and students to discuss the program at one of several open houses.

The MPA Program is always looking for ways to improve our programs and provide more relevant training for public administration professionals. Your feedback would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact Assistant Director Larry Ruffolo, on ideas for improvements at 312-906-5197 or ruffolo@iit.edu

The MPA Program seeks qualified MPA candidates on a regular basis and encourages you to promote our program! It would be helpful if you could pass along information about our program to the appropriate office at your workplace so that it could be shared. We would be pleased to mail program information to you or the office that you designate. Just contact Larry Ruffolo, Assistant Director, at 312-906-5197 or ruffolo@iit.edu. If you know a person interested in our program, please have them contact the MPA Program office.

MPA FACULTY NEWS

Patrick Blanchard, JD, Cook County Assistant State's Atty., was recently appointed Cook County Inspector General. Patrick joined the MPA faculty in 2006 as an adjunct professor, teaching Public Administration Law (PA 503). He is a graduate of the John Marshall Law School where he also served as an Associate Justice of the Moot Court Executive Board. Following 3 years of practice with the Chicago law firm of Clausen Miller, Patrick joined the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney where he served as the Chief of the Special Litigation Division for the office. Patrick's tenure with the State's Attorney's Office included the

representation of Cook County and related agencies and officials in all aspects of trial and appellate litigation.



Pictured: Patrick Blanchard

MPA PROGRAM WELCOMES NEW FACULTY!

Cesar Blanco - Cesar served in the US Army a total of 27 years, combined active and reserve federal service and was awarded the Bronze Star and the Joint Service Commendation Medal for service in OPN Just Cause (Panama 1989), OPN Desert Shield/Storm (Kuwait 1990), OPN Iraqi Freedom (Iraq 2003). He entered the Chicago Fire Department as a FF/Paramedic in 1975 and retired in absentia (while on active mil. duty in Baghdad, IZ) in March 2003, at the rank of Deputy Chief. He became an accredited US Federal Agent in 1985, while on active military duty, specializing in the investigation of general crimes, espionage, counter-intelligence, counter-terrorism and protective services. His last federal 5-year assignment was to the Chicago FBI Division's Joint Terrorism Task Force, from which he retired in March of 2008.

Cesar received a BA (Criminal Social Justice) from Lewis University, Romeoville, IL and a MPA from the Illinois Institute of Technology. Cesar is currently teaching PA 536 Homeland Security: Strategy & Structure.

Bruce Gockerman – Bruce, who presently teaches Public Administration Law (PA 503), is President and Senior Advisor of the interdisciplinary economic and strategic management consulting firm Standard Deviation Econometrics Ltd. He is also the founding and managing partner of Gockerman, Wilson, Saylor and Hesslin, P.C., a 7 lawyer full service firm serving a multi-county market area responsible for the overall management, administrative, financial, p&l, and supervisory functions of the organization. Practice areas emphasize corporate, labor, real estate law, business litigation, and municipal law. He holds his Bachelors degree from Eastern Michigan University, his Juris Doctorate degree from Wayne State University, his MBA from University of Chicago, and his Doctor of Management from

Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University.

David Hamilton – David, who until recently had served as Chair of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Roosevelt University, is the new Visiting Professor at IIT's MPA program. He holds Bachelors and Master of Arts degrees from Brigham Young University and a Ph.D. from University of Pittsburgh. He currently is teaching Introduction to Public Administration (PA 501) for the MPA program.

Bernard Sieracki - Bernard has been representing business and public interests to government and the general public for over 30 years. His experience includes work with the State of Illinois, the United States Congress, federal agencies, and several mid-western states. He acted as the media spokesman for major industries and has appeared on numerous radio and television programs. He holds a Bachelors degree from Roosevelt University, a Master of Arts degree from University of Illinois at Chicago, and a Ph.D. from University of Illinois at Chicago. He teaches Introduction to Public Administration for the MPA program.

STUDENT NEWS AND QUOTES

MPA student **Rich Chiapetta** "was recently named Accenture's skills-based volunteering business case pipeline lead, a role in which he is responsible for selecting nonprofit organizations needing pro-bono consulting services and matching them with volunteer employees at Accenture."

Elias Voulgaris, Commander, Chicago Police Department: "I encourage members of the Chicago Police Dept to take a look at the MPA program. Very relevant to the duties and responsibilities of a police supervisor."

Anton White, Police Officer, Chicago Police Department: "I am a power lifter. At the 181 lb weight division I am one of the top 50 lifters in the country with a bench press of 455 lbs."

Ashley Lucas, Operations Coordinator – Housing, IIT, "Currently I am a member of the Kankakee Historical Preservation Commission for the County of Kankakee. We are working towards seeking a Certified Local Government Status for the County."

ALUMNI NEWS

The Illinois Institute of Technology Graduate Program in Public Administration proudly announces that two members of the program – one recent graduate and one alumnus, who are also Chicago Police Department officers, received Public Service Recognition awards from the Chicago Chapter of the **American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)** on May 9, 2008.



Pictured from left to right: Larry Ruffolo, Roland Calia, Wayne Gulliford, and Robert Cole, President, ASPA Greater Chicago Chapter

Deputy Chief of Area Four Patrol **Wayne Gulliford** (Spring '05) was honored with the **Alumni Model Administrator of the Year** award (see picture below), for his ongoing work in specialized Homeland Security training to members of the Chicago Police Department and coordinating the efforts of four Police Districts on Chicago's Westside, focusing on reducing violent crime in that area, while emphasizing community relations. Wayne also was recognized for his work as the commander of a unit of twenty Chicago Police SWAT Team members who were deployed to New Orleans in 2005 as part of the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) contingent to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.



Pictured from left to right: Roland Calia, Larry Ruffolo, Joseph Porebski, and Robert Cole, President, ASPA, Greater Chicago Chapter

Lieutenant **Joseph Porebski** (Spring '08) was awarded the **Graduate Student of the Year** award (see picture below). In addition to his GPA of 4.0 as a student in the MPA program, during his twenty-one (21) years on the Department, Joe has seen many assignments across the city, and has received numerous police department awards and commendations. On September 7, 2007, Joe and the 17th District Tactical Unit were honored by a Chicago City Council Resolution commending their actions on a search warrant which closed down a large marijuana growing operation. Joe is currently the Lieutenant in charge of the 17th District Community Policing Office.

Congratulations to both of these outstanding IIT MPA program alumni and public servants!

Amanda Kastern (Spring '06) was promoted to Director of the Student Service Center at Ross University (Edison, NJ) this past spring from Associate Director of Financial Aid. She also was the recipient of DeVry University's Legacy of Service Award.

Nancy Leona Magnus (Spring '90) retired from IDOT (Illinois Dept. of Transportation) after serving as a highway engineer and most recently as Bureau Chief of Local Roads and Streets for the past 28 years. She currently is enjoying working as a substitute teacher in Medinah, IL.

Richard Rice (Spring '98), who is a Client Program Manager for Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure, Inc. in Chicago, had recently worked the Recovery School District of New Orleans, LA to complete its first budget since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

NEW STUDENTS

We welcome the following new students, admitted for the Summer and Fall 2008 semesters:

Gerald Amelio	Police Officer, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Chicago
Clara Awosika	Admin. Assistant, Northwestern Business College
Xiaoning Chen	Graduate, Tianjin Foreign Studies University, China
Raymond Cordell	Deputy Chief of Police, Village of Roselle, IL
Gilberto Elizondo	Detective, Chicago Police Department
Wei Feng	Graduate, Beijing Institute of Technology, China
Phyllis Green	
Joanna Griffin	Public Health Administrator, City of Chicago
Hui Guo	Graduate, Zhejiang University, China
Qiongkui Hu	Graduate, South China Normal University, Guangzhou, China
Lingling Jiang	Graduate, Nanjing University of Science and Technology, China
Violeta Jimenez	Graduate, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain
Kinielle Johnson	
Kera Kelly	Cybernavigator, Chicago Public Library Foundation
Xiang Li	Graduate, Beijing Institute of Technology
Yinan Li	Graduate, Beijing Institute of Technology
Ashley Lucas	Operations Coordinator, Housing Services, IIT

Tracey McGee	IT Program Manager, Professional Learning Programs, IIT
Dori Mensah	Adjunct Faculty, Professional Learning Programs, IIT
Steve Nero	
Yanshu Nie	Graduate, Beijing Institute of Technology
LaJeana Peters	Program Assistant, Northwestern University
Leslie Scott	Campaign Coordinator / Corporate Relations, The Salvation Army
Cheryl Sims	
Mark Vanderploeg	Sergeant, Chicago Police Department
Yueru Yan	Graduate, Beijing Institute of Technology

WE ALSO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO THE 28 ZHEJIANG, THE 22 LIAONING AND THE 33 DALIAN CITY CHINESE STUDENTS ADMITTED FOR A FULL-YEAR MPA DEGREE PROGRAM!

THE MPA PROGRAM WELCOMES BACK STAFF

MPA Alumnus **Sijia Xu** (Spring 06) has returned to help with the Chinese Cohort programs. Sijia is currently studying for his Master of Business Administration and Management degree at Dominican University. Sijia works closely with **Jennifer Meng Xia** in coordinating our Cohort programs and has already proven to be an invaluable asset to the program.

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING HIM BACK!

SEMINARS AND EVENTS

In April, the MPA program hosted an intensive Public Finance and Budgeting Manager Seminar for Shenyang, China province. The group gained valuable knowledge and feedback from MPA instructors **Karl Nollenberger** and **Roland Calia**.



Pictured from left to right: Karl Nollenberger, Roland Calia, Jennifer Xia, Greg Peters, and Rich Bonaccorsi



MPA students from Dalian, Liaoning, and Zhejiang Chinese Provinces successfully finished their MPA program in August (see photo of Liaoning graduation party). In September, a new group of over 90 students from three China governments and from Chinese Universities began full-time study in the program.

MPA PROGRAM OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The MPA Program Office in Room 659 of the IIT Downtown Campus (565 W. Adams St., Chicago) is open on Monday through Thursday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m and until 5:00 p.m. on Friday. Most forms and information you might need are available there. Textbooks are sold through the Bookstore on the Concourse level.

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FALL OPEN HOUSES

We will be holding open houses on October 22nd, November 20th, and December 10th. They are held at our downtown campus from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please contact Larry Ruffolo at 312.906.5197 or ruffolo@iit.edu. Please feel free to invite any prospective students.

FALL 2008 RECEPTION

5:00 – 6:30 PM
 10TH FLOOR EVENT ROOM

The Fall 2008 Reception for alumni, students, faculty, and interested parties will be held from 5:00 - 6:30pm on Thursday, November 6th in the 10th floor Event Room of the Downtown Campus Building (565 W. Adams St., Chicago). IIT MPA adjunct professor, recent Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County and newly-appointed Cook County Inspector General, **Patrick Blanchard**, will be our featured speaker.

We encourage you to invite any colleagues interested in public administration and any prospective students. If planning to attend, please RSVP online at <http://www.mpa.iit.edu/events/reception/rsvp.html> or to **Larry Ruffolo**, Assistant Director, at 312-906-5197 or ruffolo@iit.edu.