

The Community Servant

NEWSLETTER OF THE GRADUATE PROGRAM
IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Spring

2007

FROM THE DIRECTORS' DESKS

Karl Nollenberger – Academic Director

Rich Bonaccorsi – Program Director

It has been a very good year for the Graduate Program in Public Administration here at IIT! There are lots of new students and faculty and courses!

Enrollment figures for the Domestic Program for the 2006-07 year were up 37% over the 2005-06 year. The China degree and non-degree programs add an additional 100+ participants. As noted in these Newsletters, there have been many new students in the program all looking to augment their skills and knowledge, and move up in the profession and their careers. It is exciting to see the enthusiasm and experience that they bring into the classroom!

As a result of the expansion of the Domestic Program and the Chinese programs, new faculty have been added to meet the needs of the Program. The combination of new faculty with the seasoned and stable faculty who have served this Program for so many years has been a real advantage to the Program. In a survey of alumni for the five-year assessment process, one of the highest rated responses on the positives of the Program was the quality of the practitioner-oriented faculty.

With the new students and faculty, we have been able to continue to reach out with new courses too! This summer, there will be three new courses offered in **Information Technology for Public Administration; Community, Social Capital and Asset-Based Community Development; and Dispute Resolution in Public**

Administration, along with the core course of Managerial Communications.

The Program has been enjoying a Visiting Faculty member this year, with the anticipation that it will be continued into the next academic year. **Roland Calia** has offered great teaching to the Program and has been a highly valued professor/advisor for the students.

The Graduate Program has been reaching out to the public sector and the nonprofit sector in our city through seminars also. The **Finance for the Non-Financial Manager Seminar** was offered again this past fall to a good group of participants. Cyber crime and government management short programs were offered this past fall to international public servants.

Looking ahead, a how-to **Public Sector Job Search Seminar** (click for more information) will be offered on **Saturday, April 21st from 10 am – 12:30 pm**, to students and alumni, with presenters from executive search, nonprofit and governmental backgrounds. There are already registrants for the seminar at the time of this writing two months in advance! (Contact Asst. Dir. Larry Ruffolo at 312-906-5197 or ruffolo@iit.edu to register, if interested)

We continue to welcome you to upcoming MPA open houses. Although these open houses are designed for new student recruitment, the occasions lend themselves to networking among faculty, staff, and alumni. Please check out our website www.mpa.iit.edu for future open houses.

We hope that you will be able to attend the **Spring Semi-Annual Reception** here at the Downtown Campus on

Thursday, April 19th from 5:00 - 6:30 pm. **Stacy Sigman**, a valued alumnus of the Program who now serves as the Village Manager of Northfield, IL will speak to attendees on the value of the MPA degree, based on her experience. (please see details on last page)

Again, we should all feel proud as the program continues to evolve in size and quality, as reflected via enrollment, new students, faculty, and course offerings. We thank everyone for all they do to promote the program through their explicit 'word of mouth' advertising of the program, and through their every day actions and leadership which reflect so positively on our MPA community.

RECENT IIT MPA GRADUATES

IIT's Graduate Program in Public Administration is proud to recognize the following students who have successfully completed the requirements for the MPA degree and graduated during the Fall 2006 academic term.

FALL 2006 GRADUATES

James Bernahl	Assistant Village Engineer Village of Deerfield
Priscilla Wright	Caseworker IL Dept. of Human Services
Xu Sijia	MPA China Program Assistant IIT

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES
TO OUR MPA GRADUATES!

SUCCESSFUL FALL RECEPTION



Roger Marz, former IIT student and professor at Oakland University, speaks at the Fall 2006 MPA Program Reception.

The Fall 2006 MPA Program Reception was held on November 9th at the Downtown Campus and proved to be a success. The reception provided an opportunity for around 150 students, faculty and alumni of the MPA

Program to socialize and hear a presentation by an IIT alumnus, **Roger Marz**, who studied public administration here under Herbert Simon. Roger taught Political Science and Public Administration for many years at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, and gave an energizing presentation on authority in organizations and Herbert Simon's concept of "satisficing".



Karl Nollenberger, Academic Director of the MPA Program, and current MPA students Ameya Pawar, Percy Palmer III and Adriana Morales at the Fall 2006 MPA Program Reception.

ALUMNI FEEDBACK AND RECRUITING MPA STUDENTS

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. A survey to alumni will be mailed in the next few months to solicit this feedback. As an alternative, please feel free to contact Karl Nollenberger, Academic Director, on ideas for improvements at 312-906-5196 or nollenberger@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.

ALUMNI NEWS

Saul Arambula (Fall 05) was recently promoted to Detective with the Chicago Police Department and is half way through his Doctoral Degree in Organizational Leadership (EdD) at the Illinois School of Professional Psychology in Chicago.

John Fay (Spring 03) became Vice President of Oliver-Hoffman Corporation in Naperville last Fall, which develops medium and large-scale high-end residential communities throughout the Chicagoland area. John's responsibilities include all aspects of land development, including land acquisition, due diligence, entitlement, construction management and government relations.

Kevin Gaffney (Fall 96) who had been working in the US Attorney's Office will be starting a new position in the US Veteran's Administration in late March. Since 2003 he has been an adjunct professor of criminology at Judson College in Elgin, IL. Kevin is also a Trustee for the St. Charles Park Foundation and is currently writing a book on WWII veterans, which he hopes to complete by November 2007.

Abbey Jennings (Spring 06) is currently in Jinshan Shihua-Shanghai, China working for Pacican-BSK Academy, teaching English as a Foreign Language to kindergarten and grades 3-5 children. She will soon be working in a primary school in Jinshan. She is planning to return to the US at some point, but is thoroughly enjoying her work and life in China right now.

Peter O'Leary (Spring 04), currently working as Fire Chief of Durham, New Hampshire, is to speak at the National Campus Fire Safety Conference on April 23, in Columbus, Ohio. He will discuss strategies to better develop relationships between university communities and local fire departments, in order to more effectively respond if or when disasters or crises should strike. He will also speak about how to work to get the media "on your side".

Dennis Prieto (Spring 05) recently retired from the Chicago Police Department after serving for 38 years, most recently in the position of Assistant Deputy Superintendent. Dennis has started a new venture as an associate professor at Northwestern Business College, in the Institute of Legal Studies Department, teaching Criminal Justice courses full-time.

HAZMAT technician and training instructor. He is currently a member of Chicago Fire Department Hazardous Incident Team and is trained to respond to incidents involving chemical, biological, radiation or explosives emergencies. In addition to his duties with the HAZMAT team, Tom is a Lieutenant with the Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team (IMERT), a statewide volunteer organization of physicians, nurses and paramedics, which responds to mass-casualty disasters throughout Illinois.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE & INVESTMENT SPEAKERS VISITED PA 568 CLASS

Guests from Indiana visited with students in the **MPA course PA 568 International Business and Public Policy**, to talk about economic development, international trade & investment, and international education. The guests were: Caterina Cregor-Blitzer and Chris McGrew, Coordinators of International Education, Indiana Department of Education and Stephen Akard, Director of International Development for the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.



NEW STUDENTS

We welcome new students for the Spring of 2007! The following students have been recently admitted to the MPA Program:

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|--------------------------|---|
| Stephanie Carlile | |
| Richard Chiapetta | Treasurer, Village of Willow Springs and Director of Equity Accounting, Accenture |
| George Coleman | Project Director, City of Chicago |
| Samirah Muhammad | Substitute Teacher, DuPage County Dept. of Education |
| Karyn Murphy | Lieutenant, Chicago Police Dept. |
| Amy Okonski | Administrative Assistant, Starpointe Mortgage |
| David Payne, Jr. | Finance Manager, AMA Alliance |

STUDENT NEWS

Richard Chiapetta, admitted to the program this current Spring 2007 semester, was appointed as the Treasurer for the Village of Willow Springs this past Fall. Rich is a member of ILCMA and represented Willow Springs at the organization's winter conference this past February.

Traci Nixon was one of only four graduate students in the state of Illinois to be awarded a scholarship from ILCMA to attend their winter conference in East Peoria this past February. The conference focused on strategic planning for local municipalities, along with upholding ethical standards in government.

Tom Znavor has worked for the past 17 years with the Chicago Fire Department as a firefighter, paramedic,

Denise Rekoumis Law Clerk, Legal Dept. of Cook County Treasurer

Maya Suraj Associate Director, Graduate Admissions, IIT

Lauren Thomas
Ellen Woods Director of Certifying Board Services, American Osteopathic Association

THE MPA PROGRAM WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Karly Miller has joined the MPA staff this March as Program Coordinator. Karly has a B.A. in Psychology from Temple University in Philadelphia, and most recently worked as an underwriting support analyst for Aetna Insurance in King of Prussia, PA. Karly will be working full-time in the MPA program with program development and marketing initiatives, recruitment, and providing support services to faculty and students. She is also planning to begin a business graduate degree here at the Stuart Graduate School of Business.

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING HER!

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Karl Nollenberger, Academic Director of the MPA Program, along with UIC's Dennis Judd, has authored a chapter in the new book *The American Midwest: An Interpretive Encyclopedia*, published by Indiana University Press in November. Organized by topic, the encyclopedia seeks to embrace this large and diverse area, to give it voice, and help define its complex, yet distinctive character. Nollenberger and Judd's chapter is entitled, "*Urban Politics and Government in the Midwest.*"

Michael Marcus and his business partner were awarded the 2006/2007 National Institute on Senior Centers Research Award. This association is the industry's accrediting body. This national award was presented at the NISC's annual meeting held in Chicago on March 7 to 10. The award was given for the research that was done in Montgomery County, PA.

MPA PROFESSOR SCOTT PETERS RECEIVES DEAN'S EXCELLENCE AWARD



Scott Peters was one of five faculty and staff to be recognized by Dean McMorris at the 2006 Dean's Excellence Awards, and one of two faculty who received an award for excellence in

teaching. The awards recognize outstanding achievements by faculty and staff of the College of Science and Letters.

Dr. Peters has been instrumental in making the Master of Public Administration program for U.S. students and Chinese officials such a huge success for many years.

NEW COURSES FOR SUMMER 2007

There will be two new courses offered this summer in the MPA Program.

PA 516 Information Technology in Public Administration: The course has the learning objective of becoming aware of the general management challenges that the use of information technology presents for governments and to be able to develop appropriate policies that address these challenges. Upon completion, students should be able to apply best practices to the management of computer hardware, software, networking, and other technologies in government and appreciate how the use of "electronic government" technology can transform government and be able to help governments develop and manage effective programs of e-government use.

PA 570 Community, Social Capital and Asset-Based Community Development:

The 21st century confronts the public sector with new challenges and opportunities. Many of these challenges and opportunities will take place on the community level; and many of those challenges and opportunities will be centered on the notion of social capital and the community. Social Capital means the building of and use of community assets, those resources available to the community through its residents or citizens, associations, institutions, and its economic life. Using an Asset Based Community Development Approach the objective of this course is to help the student understand and use the concepts of asset based approaches to social capital and community as it relates to public administration.

NEW MPA WEBSITE

Please check out our newly enhanced MPA Program website at www.mpa.iit.edu. Recently, we have added information on our new specializations and certificate programs, course schedules, updated admission requirements and many other pages. In addition, we also post all important announcements on the main page of our website. Feel free to check on a regular basis for important deadlines and announcements. We would appreciate your feedback about our website and suggestions of possible improvements.

OTHER WEBSITES OF INTEREST TO MPA STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

We encourage students and alumni to consider a membership to the **American Society of Public Administration (ASPA)** at:

<http://www.aspanet.org>

Subscribe to ASPA's free online newsletter **The Bridge** at:

http://aspa.informz.net/aspa/archives/archive_102908.html

The **Illinois City/County Management Association (ILCMA)** has a wealth of information about municipal and county management, as well as job postings for all sorts of municipal positions throughout Illinois at:

<http://ilcma.org/>

Nonprofit organization information and nonprofit job postings can be found at:

<http://www.npo.net/>
<http://www.idealists.org/>

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<http://www.governing.com/>

MPA PROGRAM OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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SPRING 2007 RECEPTION THURSDAY, APRIL 19TH 5:00 – 6:30 PM 10TH FLOOR EVENT ROOM

The Spring 2007 Reception for alumni, students, faculty, and interested parties will be held from 5:00 - 6:30pm on Thursday, April 19th in the 10th floor Event Room of the Downtown Campus Building (565 W. Adams St., Chicago).

We encourage you to invite any colleagues interested in public administration and any prospective students. If planning to attend, please RSVP by April 15 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.