

# The Community Servant

## NEWSLETTER OF THE GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Spring

2006

### FROM THE DIRECTORS' DESKS

#### MOVING UP OR MOVING ON ADVICE ON HOW TO GET THAT NEXT JOB

Karl Nollenberger, Academic Director

If you have aspirations and goals in the field of public administration or non-profit management, now is the time to start thinking about your next move. What will it take to get promoted or get a new job with a different organization? What are employers looking for in their next professional? How do you set yourself apart from other qualified candidates? The answers to these questions are critical to your career development. The last Newsletter discussed the responses to these questions with the commitment that this Newsletter would present thoughts on how to enhance your chances of getting that new position through a thorough understanding of the process!

In the application process, there are some do's and don'ts to remember as you compete for the selected position. For instance:

On the cover letter –

**Do:** write a customized letter specific to that entity, capture and relate key accomplishments and personal interests, cite common interests or regional familiarity, and proofread it!

**Don't:** use a generic letter, make it too long, or use a form letter where you forgot to change the name of the last city you applied for!

(Continued on page 6)

#### MPA COMMUNITY UPDATE AND CONTROLLED GROWTH

Richard Bonaccorsi, Program Director

In the "New Students" section of this Newsletter, you will notice a number of new MPA participants. They come from a various public service and nonprofit backgrounds. Many live in Chicagoland. A few have traveled long distances to attend the program. Most are pursuing the MPA degree while others are working toward the new certificates in public administration, specific MPA specializations, and dual degrees. We welcome all into our community.

You will also notice that the number of new students has increased in recent years. For instance, the total program enrollment increased more than 30% over the same time last year. We refer to this increase as controlled growth. This growth allows us to achieve multiple objectives including MPA program excellence and increased stature while ensuring financial viability. For example, the increase has allowed us to invest in the expansion of both course offerings and faculty.

We are also pleased with the increased enrollment because it is very rewarding to participate in the strengthening and deepening bonds that are being formed among alumni, students, and faculty as we raise awareness of our program.

We encouraged alumni, faculty, and current students to get involved in getting the word out about the program. (Continued on page 6)

## 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 2005 academic term.

<b>Saul Arambula</b>	Patrol Office, Chicago Police
<b>Melissa Schroeder</b>	Public Financial Analyst, Hutchinson, Shockey, Erley & Co.
<b>Lindsay Kae Williams</b>	Associate, AWRC Inc.
<b>Sarah Zumpano</b>	Chemist, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

### CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO OUR MPA GRADUATES!

## SPRING RECEPTION 2006 TO BE HELD ON APRIL 26

The Spring 2006 Reception for alumni, students, faculty, and interested parties will be held on **Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 6:30 p.m.** in the 10th floor Event Room of the Downtown Campus Building (565 W. Adams St., Chicago). Two of the faculty members in the MPA Program – Patrick Bayard and Roland Calia – will speak about the importance of professionalism in the public and non-profit sectors. Plan to attend and renew relationships with others involved in the IIT MPA Program!

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

## SUCCESSFUL FALL 2005 RECEPTION

The Fall 2005 Reception for alumni, students, faculty, and interested parties was held on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> on the 10th floor of the Downtown Campus Building (565 W. Adams St., Chicago). About 150 alumni, faculty, and students attended the semi-annual event.

A presentation on the **"Perspectives on the Gulf Coast Disaster Relief"** was given by two eyewitnesses to the disaster: MPA Alumnus and Chicago Police Department Commander, **Wayne Gulliford (Spring 05)**, who was a first responder on the scene in New Orleans and Angela Rozas, a Chicago Tribune reporter sent to the scene to cover the efforts of first responders and volunteers and the plight of the afflicted residents of that region.



MPA alumni and professors are presented with Certificates of Recognition. From left to right: Lawrence Ruffolo; Jennifer Lin (S 04); Karl Nollenberger; William Disselhorst; Robert Delaney (S 03); Richard Bonaccorsi; not pictured are Peter O'Leary (S 04) and Michael Marcus.

Additionally, special Certificates of Recognition were presented that evening to alumni **Robert Delaney (Spring 03)**, **Jennifer Lin (Spring 04)** and **Peter O'Leary (Spring 04)**, as well as to MPA professors **Michael Marcus** and **William Disselhorst** for their contributions to the planning and development of the MPA program's two new degree specializations and Certificates in Public Safety & Crisis Management and Nonprofit Management.

## 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 was mailed in the last few months to solicit this feedback. If you did not receive it, please contact us for a copy. As an alternative, please feel free to contact **Karl Nollenberger, Academic Director**, on ideas for improvements at 312-906-5196 or [nollenberger@iit.edu](mailto:nollenberger@iit.edu)

In our efforts to build and develop a meaningful and satisfying MPA Alumni Association, we would like input from our distinguished alumni. We ask that you please take a few minutes to go online at the MPA Program website and complete and submit our new **MPA Alumni Association Survey** at: [www.mpa.iit.edu/alumni/association.html](http://www.mpa.iit.edu/alumni/association.html) and give us your thoughts and suggestions as to how we can create an alumni relations program which can be an asset to both you, our valued alumni, and the program itself.

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](mailto:ruffolo@iit.edu). If you know a person

interested in our program, please have them contact the MPA Program office.

## ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT

**Jennifer Lin (Spring 04)**, Assistant's States Attorney in the Cool County States Attorney Office, is co-teaching a course on Information Systems/Cyber crime in the Spring 2006 Semester. The course provides an in depth review of topics in cyber-crime issues in the public safety field. It includes issues involved with policy and legal issues and tools used for network security.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Todd Fennimore (Spring 93)**, Director of Instructional Design at eSchool Online, started a new and unique PhD program in Human-Centered computing at the Georgia Institute of technology in the fall of 2006. He is focusing his doctoral studies on the design, implementation, and evaluation of ubiquitous computing environments that support users in understanding and shaping the behavior of complex systems. His work in the MPA Program on the policy implications of using technology to transform workplaces planted the seeds for his PhD effort.

**Lt. Steve Georgas (Summer 02)**, Commander of the Chicago Police Marine Unit, was quoted in the Chicago Tribune in October on the rehabilitation and re-opening of the Chicago Marine Safety Station, located just east of the Lake Shore Drive bridge. The \$6 million transformation of the Station, shared by the Chicago Police Dept., the U.S. Coast Guard and the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, included the installation of state-of-the-art communication and emergency response technology.

**Glenn Krell (Spring 03)** was promoted at the IIT Graduate College to Director of Research Compliance and Proposal Development. He now is Executive Officer for IIT's committees protecting research subjects and overseeing biosafety issues.

**John Chrysostom Mukasa-Ssebaana (Fall 93)**, who works as a Public Service Administrator at the State of Illinois Dept. of Children and Family Services, had been admitted to candidacy for a Ph.D. in Public Administration at the University of Illinois-Chicago in February 2005.

**Peter O'Leary (Spring 04)** began his new position as the Fire Chief of Durham, NH in January 2006. He competed in a pool of 49 applicants for the position. His education was cited as one of the characteristics qualifying him for the position. He previously served as a Fire Battalion Chief, in Wheaton, IL. and is a 25 year veteran of the fire service.

**Colleen Stevenson (Spring 96)**, who works as a US Postal Inspector in Gary, IN, graduated from John Marshall Law

School in May 2004 and was admitted to the Illinois Bar in May 2005.

**Michael Sean Tuomey (Spring 98)** was ordered to active duty in 2003 to attend the US Army War College, where he graduated with a Masters degree in Strategic Studies and during which time he was promoted to the rank of Colonel in the Army Reserve. As a reservist, Sean is a faculty instructor at the War College teaching national security strategy and military history. In his civilian position, Sean works as a Senior Analyst in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff - Force Development in the Pentagon, advising senior Army leaders on matters pertaining to force development and force integration.

## IN MEMORIAM

**James Mulqueeny Jr. (Fall 94)** passed away in January 2006. Jim was a 25-year employee and project manager with the CTA and had a strong passion and enthusiasm for transit. Praised for his people skills on the job, Jim was often called upon to interact with employees in other departments at the CTA. Jim was also very active in the Village of Downers Grove community where he lived with his wife of 22 years, Janice, and his son, Kevin.

## STUDENT NEWS

**Patrick Burelle** was recently appointed the City Administrator of the city of Aledo, IL.

**Amanda Kastern** has taken a new position as Director of Student Services at Chicago-Kent College of Law. She most recently was Assistant Director in the Financial Aid Office at Kent. Her new responsibilities include providing academic and personal counseling to students and planning and implement programs designed to improve the quality of student life and to maximize student success during law school.

**Elias Voulgaris** was recently promoted to the rank of Commander in the Chicago Police Department in February 2006. He stated that he believed his pursuing a MPA degree was helpful in his being considered for this promotion.

## STUDENT AND ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

The American Society of Public Administration (ASPA) – Chicago Chapter annually recognizes the top student and alumni in the universities in the Chicago area. IIT is proud to recognize **Barry McLaughlin** as our Student of the Year and **Peter O'Leary** as our Alumni of the Year. A short biography of each recipient is shown below:

## IIT MPA Student of the Year

**Barry McLaughlin** is special-agent-in-charge of the Midwest region for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Office of Inspector General, based in HUD’s Chicago office, where he has served since 2003. In his current position, Barry is responsible for the Midwest region’s general management and investigative activities, covering the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, supervising a staff of 44 employees, and tasked with the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse in agency programs.

Prior to his work at HUD-OIG here and in LA, California, Barry served as a special agent with the U.S. Dept. of Commerce – Office of Export Enforcement in Irvine, California, where he was involved in the investigations of violations of the U.S. export control laws related to national security and weapons of mass destruction. In total, Mr. McLaughlin has served over 18 years in the law enforcement field, including positions as a police officer in El Cajon, California, a California Highway Patrol officer and as a U.S. Border Patrol agent.

## IIT MPA Alumni of the Year

**Peter O’Leary** is the fire chief for the Town of Durham, New Hampshire. Durham is a seacoast town 60 miles north of Boston, MA. Durham is home to the University of New Hampshire and enrolls 14, 000 students annually. In his current position, Peter is responsible of 26 career members and a call force of 13. He directs a full service organization that is responsible for firefighting, emergency medical services and fire prevention/inspection services.

Prior to beginning his work in Durham, Peter served 14 years with the City of Wheaton Fire Department, working his last six years as a battalion chief. His fire service career spans over 25 years, a career which began while still attending high school in Wheaton, IL. It was during his tenure in Wheaton, Peter embarked on fulfilling a lifetime dream of attending graduate school; he did so here at IIT and earned his MPA degree in 2004. Since then, Peter has actively worked with IIT to help expand the MPA curriculum to include an emphasis on public safety and this past fall he joined the MPA faculty as a guest lecturer in the MPA program’s first Homeland Security Course.

## MORE SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The MPA program would like to give special recognition and thanks to students: **Jeff Wiseman**, **Amanda Kastern**, **Shannon Paige** and **James Bernahl** and alumni **Ron Melka (Spring 05)** and **Wayne Gulliford (Spring 05)** for their participation in the MPA Open Houses held in November and December 2005. Their input and shared perspectives and experiences of the MPA program to prospective students in attendance were valuable contributions in this important

recruiting event. We greatly appreciate your time and assistance.

## NEW STUDENTS

Our welcome to the following new students admitted to the MPA Program for the Spring 2005 term:

<b>Edward Alonzo</b>	Police Officer, Chicago Police Department (MPA alum returning for Certificate)
<b>John Daley</b>	Producer, Daley Insurance Brokerage Inc.
<b>Sainath Gaddam</b>	M.D., National Aids Control Organization, Hyderabad, India
<b>Daniel Gifford</b>	Operations Assistant, IIT
<b>Han Yanqing</b>	Bank of China - Shanghai Branch
<b>Traci Nixon</b>	Case Manager, Seguin Services, Inc.
<b>Ameya Pawar</b>	Sergeant, Chicago Police Department
<b>Steven Sesso</b>	Asst Director, Annual Fund, Development Dept., IIT
<b>Jacqueline Sokolowski</b>	Patrolman, Chicago Police Department
<b>John Swanson</b>	Police Officer, Chicago Police Department
<b>Esmelida Torres</b>	Police Officer, Chicago Police Department
<b>Nathaniel Upshaw</b>	Police Officer, Chicago Police Department
<b>Anton White</b>	Police Officer, Chicago Police Department

## FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

**Andy Longinow**, Adjunct Faculty in the MPA Program, was the subject of an article in the Chicago Tribune January 25<sup>th</sup> edition for the new MPA initiative on Crisis Management/Homeland Security Concerns. The presentations by the students in the final class were reviewed in the article, with positive comments by the reporter.

**Michael Marcus** recently completed an innovative study for Montgomery County, PA entitled “Boomers - Aging’s Next Generation. The project looked into the status, needs, and opportunities that exist for the leading edge baby-boomer generation and current residents who are 60 or older. The year-long planning and visioning process engaged businesses, faith groups, civic groups, human service agencies, government, and citizens in Montgomery County.

Prof. Marcus is also close to completing a national recognition project linking the concepts of Smart Growth and Aging, specifically focused on a questionnaire to 85,600 municipalities in the U.S.

**Richard J. Bonaccorsi**, Program Development Director, joined a panel of international executives in public, private

and non-profit sectors at DePauw University to lecture at a symposium on international careers held in November. On a personal note, Rich, a graduate and student-athlete of DePauw University, was inducted in November to DePauw's Athletic Hall of Fame, an award to students, coaches, and administrators for excellence in athletics and for exemplifying in their lives the positive values imparted by intercollegiate competition.

## COURSES FOR SUMMER & FALL 2006

**There will be three courses offered this Summer in the MPA Program:**

- PA 503 Public Administrative Law
- PA 505 Law and the Nonprofit Sector
- PA 539 Local Government Management & Public Safety

**Courses for the Fall 2006 semester will include:**

**Core Courses:**

- PA 501 Introduction to Public Administration
- PA 510 Managerial Communication
- PA 532 Public Finance
- PA 542 Strategic Planning

**Nonprofit Electives:**

- PA 565 The Nonprofit Sector
- PA Nonprofits and the Public Sector

**Public Safety/Crisis Mgmt. Electives:**

- PA 537 Homeland Security/Crisis Mgmt.

**Other P.A. Electives:**

- PA 579 Ethics & Professional Responsibility in the Public Sector

For more detailed descriptions of these courses, please go to the MPA Program website at:  
[www.mpa.iit.edu/course\\_desc.html](http://www.mpa.iit.edu/course_desc.html)

## MPA WEBSITE UPDATE

Please check out our newly enhanced MPA Program website at [www.mpa.iit.edu](http://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.

Also, **MPA alumni can update their contact information online** by going to the MPA Program website at: [www.mpa.iit.edu/alumni/contact\\_update.html](http://www.mpa.iit.edu/alumni/contact_update.html). We really want to keep in touch with all our alumni to keep them

aware of various activities and developments occurring within the program.

Much of all our communication is happening through email; so please take the time to update our records, which will allow us to keep in contact with you. Additionally, if you happen to know of other alumni, please remind them to contact us with their current information.

## CAPSTONE PROJECTS

A number of students have undertaken their Capstone Project in the Masters Program in this academic year. The two that were completed in the Fall of 2005 were:

**Hassan Olayiwola** – *“Keeping Lagos Clean: Strategies for Managing and Sustaining Solid waste Disposal in Lagos, Nigeria”*

**Patrick Burrelle** – *“Village of Lyons Infrastructure Funding”*

The ten that are being prepared for completion in the Spring of 2006 are:

**James Bernahl** – *“Unionization of Restructuring”*

**Spiro Georgas** – *“The Targeted Response Unit: the Search for a New Facility”*

**Joseph Hart** – *“Health for Humanity’s Efforts to Comply with Restrictive Guidelines”*

**Abbey Jennings** – *“The Black Star Project and the No Child Left Behind Act”*

**Amanda Kastern** – *“Reducing Student Loan Debt at Chicago-Kent College of Law”*

**Steven Mason** – *“No Child Left Behind Act and the Adverse Affect It Has on Low-Income Schools with Emphasis on Thornton Township High School”*

**Rich McFarlane** – *“Merit Promotions and the Chicago Police Department”*

**Barry McLaughlin** – *“Developing and Maintaining High Performance at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General”*

**Gerald O’Sullivan** – *“Is Tax Increment Financing a Viable Option for the Redevelopment of 115<sup>th</sup> and Western?”*

**Tannis Williamson** – *“Diversity in Healthcare: Challenges and Cultural Diversity Training at University of Chicago, Northwestern and University of Illinois Medical Center”*

## FROM THE DIRECTORS' DESKS

(Continued from page 1 - Nollenberger)

On the resume –

**Do:** tell your whole story succinctly, give enough details on the past experiences, point out the breadth of your duties, identify accomplishments, indicate the degree of involvement with other departments and council and resulting successes, show progression of responsibility, provide your education and continuing training, show your community activities, emphasize special strengths and interests, highlight innovative programs or solutions, provide plenty of references, and proofread!

**Don't:** make it too short, leave gaps or skip over early experience, gloss over certain duties, omit key facts, or make the reader work for information!

When you get selected for an interview, make sure you prepare in advance for this opportunity. Being prepared and knowledgeable about the position and community enhances your candidacy markedly! It also provides you a foundation for timely and thoughtful evaluation of the opportunity and forms a basis for better personal decision-making. Preparations will help you find your comfort zone from a mental, physical and emotional perspective. You only get one shot so be at the top of your game!

In the interview, chemistry matters! Shake hands and look the interviewer(s) in the eye. You need to get excited and communicate your enthusiasm. You should avoid annoying utterance and habits like the use of the sound ummmm. You need to remember that body language communicates a message too so keep your leg from shaking up and down and sit up straight! During the interview, maintain the energy and eye contact and smile. You should avoid long responses to their questions but ensure that you give complete answers. This is your opportunity to show the interviewer(s) your people skills. It is in the interview that these skills will be assessed in the most stringent manner.

If you get the "offer", be ready for the negotiations. You need to know the market and be reasonable in your requests. Keep your eye on the prize while ensuring that your needs are met. In the final result, only you can assess the right fit for you (and your family if applicable) in the long run.

### The Position

In the final result, public sector financial management is about serving the community and the public. You can learn the art and the science of public financial management but you have to feel the spirit of public administration! Let everyone know your feelings about the spirit and it will serve you for years to come. Good luck in your career pursuits!

## FROM THE DIRECTORS' DESKS

(Continued from page 1 - Bonaccorsi)

To our pleasant surprise, impressive numbers of you responded by participating in MPA Open Houses, testimonial advertisements, direct mailings, alumni surveys, word-of-mouth advertising, and guest teaching. Thank you.

As a result of these PR efforts and our expanded curriculum, we are attracting an even wider diversity of students. Their varied backgrounds lend different perspectives and experiences to their course projects and discussions. Despite different backgrounds, they share the common goal of striving to add value to themselves, their organizations in the public and nonprofit sectors, and to society overall.

In closing, we welcome new students. We thank our current students and alumni for their ever-increasing contributions to our community. We continue to ask for your continued support and ideas to improve the quality of the program, to attract qualified students and to talk about ways to build the community of MPA alumni. Thank you again for all you continue to do for 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 Friday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Most forms and information you might need are available there. Textbooks are sold through the Barnes & Noble Bookstore on the Concourse level.

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