

## THE PANEXUS - 2014

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

## CHALLENGING TIMES FOR PUBLIC SERVICE ... AND OPPORTUNITY

Reflecting on 2013 and looking toward the future, it's hard not to think about the federal government shutdown in October 2013 and its potential negative consequences. The Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) issued a statement to express concern about the shutdown's impact on public confidence in government and on the future of public service.

A recent survey by the Pew Research Center found that 85 percent of Americans are angry or frustrated with the federal government. Only 19 percent say they trust the federal government to do what is right always or most of the time, which is down from 73 percent in 1958.

Regarding the shutdown's effect on public service, a *Washington Post* article in late October reported young workers are leaving federal government at a critical time. "The federal government is amid a retirement wave, with nearly twice as many executive branch employees leaving in the past fiscal year than did in 2009," it said.

Overall, these findings are discouraging for those of us working in and/or teaching public administration, but we can find some hope and opportunity if we dig a little deeper. Opinion polls indicate citizens make a distinction between political institutions/actors and public agencies/administrators. The Pew Research Center survey found that only 23 percent of Americans have a favorable opinion of Congress, but 62 percent have a favorable opinion of federal government employees.

Also, a majority of respondents have positive opinions regarding 12 of 13 federal agencies on the survey. In fact, more than 70 percent have a positive perception of agencies including the Defense Department, Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Further, numerous studies have found that American citizens distinguish among the different levels of government. In recent surveys, respondents almost always rate the state and local governments more favorably than the federal government.

As for public service, hope lies in the fact that a few young people in the *Washington Post* article decided to leave their federal government jobs but are continuing service careers in the nonprofit or other sector.

These trends and findings resonate with what we have experienced in the Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati region. For instance, MPA students have conducted citizen surveys about local government services over the years and, generally speaking, have found that a majority of respondents – usually 70 percent or more – are satisfied with them.

In terms of public service in this region, there are examples of MPA alumni and students who have moved from public service in government agencies to public service in nonprofit organizations. In fact, stories in this newsletter focus on two alumni – Ryan Adcock and David Moore – who recently transitioned from working in (different) local governments to creating and leading (different) nonprofit organizations (see p. 7).

For MPA alumni, students and prospective students still interested in government jobs, their prospects seem even stronger. A December 2013 article in *Governing* magazine reported that many Baby Boomers who had put their retirement on hold five years ago due to the recession are starting to decide that their time has come. In 2014, 19 percent of the 2012 public administration workforce will be at least 61 years old (the average retirement

age), and by 2018, 28 percent will reach that point.

During these challenging times, the NKU MPA program continues to promote public service in collaboration with various associations, particularly the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA). Also, we are moving forward with the new Public Leadership area of concentration for mid-career professionals interested in developing knowledge and skills for higher-level management and leadership positions.

MPA students continue to work on Capstone projects that focus on public opinion and public services. Here's a sampling of projects this year:

- A survey of citizens in Boone County, Kentucky to assess satisfaction with services and gather input on policy matters.
- A report on financing options for major infrastructure improvements to inform the City of Covington on the Brent Spence Bridge project.
- A study for Children Inc. on the Strengthening Families approach to child abuse and neglect prevention, including case studies from two states that have begun implementing it.

Of course, many MPA students and alumni – you! – work for government and nonprofit agencies that positively impact people and communities every day. Your continued good work may be the most effective way to improve public perception about government and to promote public service and leadership. Thanks for all that you do!

Julie Cencula Olberding  
MPA Director

## IN THIS ISSUE

- ⇒ From the MPA Director
- ⇒ Faculty Updates
- ⇒ Costa Rica Study Abroad
- ⇒ Alumni Association
- ⇒ PASS Update
- ⇒ New Graduate Assistant
- ⇒ Alumni News
  - Dustin Lester & Wade Williams
  - Tori Ames
  - David Moore & Ryan Adcock
- ⇒ New Jobs & Promotions
- ⇒ Awards

# FACULTY UPDATES

## Dr. Shamima Ahmed



- Presented a paper on "MPA Capstone Course: Multifaceted Use and Potentialities" at the NASPAA Annual Conference.
- Chaired the NASPAA site visit team for the University of North Carolina in Wilmington.
- Invited by the US Embassy in Baku, Azerbaijan to offer a live one-hour virtual presentation and discussion on the role of NGOs in international politics and the challenges. This lecture is part of a series by the Virtual Student Foreign Service program, broadcasted to 50 American studies and international relations students at US embassies in Azerbaijan and Armenia.

## Dr. Marcos Misis



- Presented a paper at the Southern Criminal Justice Association conference entitled "An Explanation of Terrorist Violence Using Robert Agnew's General Strain Theory of Terrorism: The Case of the Freedom for the Basque Homeland (ETA) in Spain."
- Currently developing a qualitative study on police stress and the effectiveness of the Container Security Program (CSI) to prevent the illegal smuggling of explosives, weapons of mass destruction, and terrorists via maritime cargo.
- Collaborating with two MPA students on a research project that examines the development of the homeland security apparatus and the practical implementation of homeland security and counterterrorism policies from 2001 to present.

## Dr. Alison Antes



- Published two articles in peer-reviewed academic journals – one about the effects of in-group and out-group competition on ethical decision-making and the other about systematic design, delivery and evaluation of instruction in research ethics.
- Invited by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to deliver two presentations – one about whether ethics instruction is effective for changing behavior and another about the disciplinary foundations of ethics in psychology.
- Served on a research grant review panel for federal grants submitted to the Office of Research Integrity.



## Dr. Hongmei Wang

- Published a paper in the *Journal of Information Systems Technology & Planning*.
- Published and presented a peer-reviewed proceeding paper for the International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction 2013.
- Offered GIS technology help to several NKU departments.

## Dr. Julie Cencula Olberding



- Published a chapter in the new book, *Government, Politics, and Policy in the Bluegrass State* on the evolution of interlocal government relations in northern Kentucky.
- Had two articles accepted in peer-reviewed academic journals – one on the social impacts of a special event on the host city and the other on the adoption and implementation of the Community Entertainment District (CED) as an urban redevelopment tool (co-authored with Dr. Whitney McIntyre Miller).
- Served on the NASPAA accreditation site visit team to the University of Texas in Austin and on the Seasongood Good Government Foundation board.

## Dr. Thomas Lambert



- Presented a paper on productivity measurements at the Annual Conference of the Association for Heterodox Economics in July 2013.
- Presented a paper on casino tax revenues and a paper on state level road building efficiency at the Annual Conference on Competitiveness and Development in Lima, Peru.
- Coauthored a paper with Dr. Kwon, "The Top 1 Percent and Exploitation Measures," which was accepted for publication by the *Review of Radical Economists* in August.
- Worked with Graduate Assistant James Catchen to collect data for an upcoming paper about how urban sprawl impacts FEMA disaster relief spending.

## Dr. Gary Mattson



- Participated in a panel at the Midwest Planning Conference held at Ball State University.
- Pursuing publication of an article on budgetary retrenchment strategies of Ohio's non-metro cities in *National Civic Review*.
- Invited by US Department of Energy's Office of Legacy Management to review the 2014 Fernald Preserve Comprehensive Land Management and Institutional Control Plan Update.
- Reappointed to the Banklick/Licking River Watershed Council, which acquires sensitive environmental conservation land and reviews multimillion dollar public projects that may have an adverse impact on the watershed.

## STUDY ABROAD IN COSTA RICA

In Spring 2014, a joint course is being offered for NKU MPA students and Organizational Leadership undergraduate students that will include a nine-day study-abroad experience to the United Nations University of Peace in Costa Rica.

This course focuses on cutting-edge concepts in leadership, peace and sustainability. It will provide students with the perspectives required to lead with a new spirit of cooperation and sensitivity to global interconnectedness. "Students will learn about the importance of leadership in a world that is increasingly uncertain and that faces more challenging issues," says Dr. Whitney McIntyre Miller, who is teaching this course.



Students will learn about organizations in Costa Rica that are leading examples of working to improve peace and sustainability, and they will connect their learning back to organizations in the Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati region that are dealing with similar issues. "At the end of the course, students should feel empowered to make positive changes in their organizations to address some of the growing challenges we face, including peace and sustainability," says Dr. McIntyre Miller.

Students can take the class for 3 credits or 1 credit, and it can serve as an elective in the MPA program. Students will journey to Costa Rica from March 7 to 15, which is over NKU's Spring Break.



### Faculty Feature: Dr. Whitney McIntyre Miller

Since coming to NKU three years ago, Dr. McIntyre Miller has set her sights high on teaching, research and service, and she recently received a national award recognizing her accomplishments thus far. In 2013, the Community Development Society (CDS) selected her for the Donald W. Littrell Outstanding New Professional Award. This group's mission is to further community work through research, teaching and practice in various fields including economic development, social services, health care and education.

Some of Dr. McIntyre Miller's research has focused on postconflict community building in Sierra Leone, including two articles accepted this year by peer-reviewed academic journals, *Conflict Resolution Quarterly* and *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society*. In addition, she and Dr. Julie Cencula Olberding co-authored an article on the use of the Community Entertainment District (CED) as a development tool in the City of Cincinnati, which will be published in the *Journal of Community Practice* in 2014.

In the MPA program, Dr. McIntyre Miller has taught Organizational Behavior and Leadership (PAD 602) for the past few years. In Spring 2014, she will teach a special topics class on "Leadership for Peace and Sustainability," which will include a nine-day study-abroad experience in Costa Rica .

In terms of service, she currently serves as the faculty coordinator of NKU's Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project. She also serves as a representative to the university's International Education Council and Faculty Benefits Committee.

And speaking of setting sights high, Dr. McIntyre Miller also serves the Semester at Sea (SAS) program, both on the Strategic Targeted Alumni Recruitment Board and as the NKU campus representative. Sponsored at the University of Virginia, SAS is a ship-based program that has provided global study-abroad opportunities for the past 50 years.

# RE-ENERGIZING THE NKU MPA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

In April 2013, a small group of MPA alumni came together for the purpose of adding new energy to the alumni association. The steering committee, first led by Anita Hurst Southwick, established the group's mission, which is "to support the MPA program and its alumni through networking, leadership and community engagement." It is not, in any way, a fundraising organization. With the mission in mind, the group created three subcommittees:

1. Networking
2. Leadership
3. Community Engagement

The Networking subcommittee, led by Elishia Chamberlain, is tasked with creating and hosting networking opportunities for MPA alumni. The purpose of the Leadership subcommittee is to create mentoring opportunities for current MPA students in order to help prepare them for their future careers in public service. Finally, the Community Engagement subcommittee, led by Lynne Ausman Riehle, is intended to create a forum of recruiting, engaging and sustaining an alumni base.

Our efforts to date have seen success. We have held two networking events so far. Additionally, we are gathering updated contact information in order to re-connect alumni with the program.

Looking ahead, we are putting together a workshop for the Spring semester on the role of social media in public administration. It will not only cover the "do's and don'ts," but it will also examine how social media can be utilized as a tool for economic development and promotion of an organization or cause.

There will also be plenty of future networking opportunities, so stay tuned. Whether you are a current alumni or graduating student, we are always looking for new members willing to take on leadership roles within the group. If you are looking to get involved, please contact me at [flick.james@gmail.com](mailto:flick.james@gmail.com).

**James Flick, Chair**  
**NKU MPA Alumni Association**



## MEET THIS YEAR'S

### MPA GRADUATE ASSISTANT

**James Catchen** is the new graduate assistant for the MPA program. He graduated with his bachelor's degree in International Studies in 2010 from the University of Kentucky. His focus is Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and he is hoping to get involved with nonprofits and/or policy research following graduation. James is currently volunteering with the Nurse Advocacy Center for the Underserved (NACU) to help develop disaster planning.

Check out his MPA blog at:  
<http://nkumpa2.blogspot.com/>



## PASS UPDATES

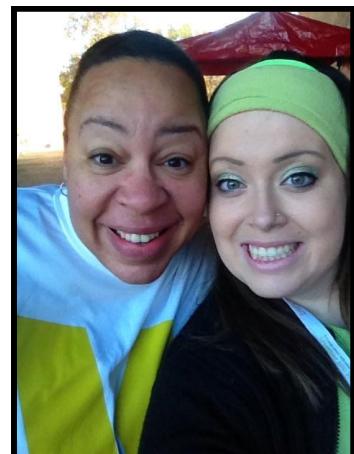
Public Administration Student Society (PASS) is an organization created to enhance the MPA student experience as well as represent the graduate program. PASS is open to any MPA student in good standing.

PASS welcomed two former MPA students Ryan Adcock and Dave Moore to the Public Administration Career Forum in April 2013. Adcock, the former Director of Legislative Affairs for Mayor Mark Mallory and Moore, the former Fire Chief of Glendale, shared their insight, expertise, and stories with MPA students and interested undergraduate students.

In September 2013, PASS members, family, and friends joined NKU for NKU Fall Friday Night at the Reds at Great American Ballpark. The event saw the Reds battle rival Pittsburgh Pirates and the night culminated with a fireworks show.

In November 2013, PASS took part in the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) 5K Walk/Run/Roll/Ride at Sawyer Point. The event was held to honor our veterans and raise awareness for the issues they face.

*Pictured are PASS members Erika Jay (left) and Whitney Hacker (right) at the DAV 5K.*



## NEW JOBS AND PROMOTIONS

**Heather Abbott**, Coordinator of Academic Support Services & Professional Development, Gateway Community & Technical College  
**Ryan Adcock**, Executive Director, Cradle Cincinnati  
**Frank Bednar**, Environmental Health & Safety Coordinator, Rotek Inc.  
**Craig Bohman**, City Clerk, Villa Hills (KY)  
**Renee Brossart**, Senior Grants and Contracts Administrator, NKU  
**Abbie Cain**, Development Coordinator, NKU  
**Jessica Tucker Chaney**, City Clerk, Elsmere (KY)  
**Tim Delaney**, Administrative Director, Volunteers of America, Northern Kentucky  
**Isaac Ferguson**, Facilities and Quality Control Manager, Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
**Elizabeth Fricke**, Business Development Officer, City of Covington (KY)  
**Brooke Gill**, Impact Director of Family Partnerships, Children Inc.  
**Whitney Hacker**, Grant Specialist, Trust and Foundation Administration, Disabled American Veterans  
**Jason Hecker**, Director of Workforce Development, Family and Child Empowerment Services, San Francisco (CA)  
**Bret Henninger**, Natural Resources Manager, Hamilton County Parks (OH)  
**Stephen Kelly**, Fire Chief, Miami Township (OH)  
**Alexander Kraemer**, Personal Aide, U.S. Senator Rob Portman (OH)  
**Rachel Leininger**, Management Assistant, City of Wyoming (OH)  
**Emily Lewis**, Operations Coordinator, Mathile Family Foundation, Dayton (OH)  
**Stephanie Marston**, Senior Project Manager, Every Child Succeeds (Greater Cincinnati)  
**David Moore**, Founder and Executive Director, Africa Fire Mission  
**Greg Preece**, Human Resources Officer, City of Blue Ash (OH)  
**Monica Remmy**, Manager of Volunteers, Families First of Northern Kentucky  
**John P. Scott**, Senior Specialist in Community Relations, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center  
**Keisha Steward**, Center Operations Director, Concentra, Louisville (KY)  
**Kristen Sunday**, Coordinator of Strategic Initiatives, Vision 2015 (Northern Kentucky)  
**T.J. White**, Executive Director, Center for Local Government (Greater Cincinnati)  
**Wade Williams**, Northern Kentucky Tri-Ed, Next Generation Leadership for Business and Finance, Legacy  
**Billie Jo Wood**, Hall Director, Christopher Newport University, Newport News (VA)

### MPA PROGRAM AWARDS

(pictured left to right)

**Distinguished MPA Graduate**  
John P. Scott

**Outstanding MPA Student**  
Heather Abbott

**Distinguished Alumna**  
Evelyn Sears



### AWARDS

- **Tori Ames** (Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center), Forty Under 40 Award, Cincinnati Business Courier
- **Brandon Edwards** (FBI), Distinguished Alumnus Award, NKU's Department of Political Science, Criminal Justice and Organizational Leadership
  - **Dustin Lester and Wade Williams** (Northern Kentucky Tri-County Economic Development Corporation), Excellence Award for the NKY Boost program, International Economic Development Council (IEDC)
  - **T.J. White** (Center for Local Government), Southwest Ohio Regional Refuse Program, Program Excellence Award, American Society for Public Administration's Greater Cincinnati Chapter (ASPA-GCC)
  - **Victoria Vogelgesang**, Outstanding Student Award, ASPA-GCC

## ALUMNI NEWS

### MPA Alumni Lead NKY Economic Development Program To International Award

NKU MPA alumni Wade Williams and Dustin Lester have led a northern Kentucky business retention and expansion program to an international economic development award.

The NKY Boost Program, created and managed within the Northern Kentucky Tri-County Economic Development Corporation (Northern Kentucky Tri-ED), has been selected by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) for a Bronze Excellence in Economic Development Award. Northern Kentucky Tri-ED was honored in October at the IEDC Annual Conference in Philadelphia.

"The Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize Northern Kentucky Tri-ED as being one of the leading organizations in the industry for innovation, creativity and successful strategies," IEDC chair Paul Krutko said. "This organization uses creative solutions and inventive ideas, and offers other regions a wonderful example to learn and benefit from."

NKY Boost is the enhanced Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) program of Northern Kentucky Tri-ED, representing Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties. The program coordinates a systematic and extensive business visitation program with local communities utilizing customized software solutions. Intelligence gained from these coordinated visits helps identify expansion opportunities, troubleshoot problems, provide resources, expand market reach and engender new capital investment and job growth. Through a partnership with Duke Energy, NKY Boost was able to receive the startup funding to launch.



**Dustin Lester** graduated from the NKU MPA program in 2011. For his Capstone project, Dustin worked with the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce to develop a market study for the Business Growth, Healthcare Solutions and International Trade Department.

The project — titled “International Trade Expansion in Northern Kentucky” — was a big success, resulting in specific recommendations for the department to enhance chamber members’ ability to engage in international trade and grow jobs. This experience led directly to Dustin’s current involvement with the BR&E program of NKY Tri-ED.



**Wade Williams** graduated from the NKU MPA program in 2001. Wade utilized the knowledge and skills that he gained as the Director of Business Management at Duke Energy.

In this role, he managed business operations in Ohio and Kentucky, and also led large and complex real estate acquisition projects, which involved strategic planning, site readiness and land acquisitions. Wade was recently awarded the Next Generation Leadership Award for Business and Finance by Legacy, a Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce program that fosters young leaders in the region. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Vision 2015, a 10-year strategic plan for growth in the region, and is a member of the United Way of Greater Cincinnati’s Youth Achieve in School and Life Action Council.

## ALUMNI NEWS



### MPA alum part of “Forty Under 40”

In September 2013, MPA alumna **Tori Ames** was honored by the Cincinnati Business Courier as one of its “Forty Under 40”.

Each year, the Cincinnati Business Courier selects forty young people in our region who are striving to be the next generation of leaders and innovators. They are recognized annually at a special event, and also in print throughout the year in the pages of the Courier.

Tori, graduated from the NKU MPA program in 2011. She was selected as the Distinguished MPA Graduate that year. Currently, she is working as the Community Relations Manager at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

### MPA alumni create and lead new nonprofits

Our graduates are known for making great contributions to communities all across the globe. In fact, two graduates of the MPA program have begun their own nonprofit organizations.

#### Africa Fire Mission, David Moore

Africa Fire Mission was created to enable firefighters across Africa to receive quality fire training and firefighting equipment. The organization is committed to building and increasing the sustainable capacity of fire departments across Africa.

Africa Fire Mission is led by **David Moore**, a veteran volunteer and career firefighter. Active from 1993-2013, David left his last position as the Glendale Fire Chief to dedicate his time toward this nonprofit.

For more info, please visit: <http://africafiremission.org/>



#### Cradle Cincinnati, Ryan Adcock

Cradle Cincinnati is a new partnership that brings together leadership from all of the birth hospitals in Hamilton County, along with additional civic and health leaders to reduce the area's high infant mortality rate. The vision is that every baby born in Hamilton County will live to see his or her first birthday.

**Ryan Adcock** graduated from the NKU MPA program in 2006 and went on to serve as Director of Legislative Affairs for Mayor Mark Mallory before leaving to start Cradle Cincinnati in 2013.

For more info, please visit: <http://cradlecincinnati.org/>



**Melanie Bates**

Development Liaison, Life Center Organ Donor Network

**Leo Calderón**

Director of Latino Student Affairs,

Northern Kentucky University

**David Elmer**

Township Administrator, Pierce Township, Ohio

**Anthony Ficarra**

Consultant, Strategic Vision Consults

**Joan Gilmore**

Funding Support Manager, Hamilton County

Development Disabilities Services

**Deborah Johnson**

Ph.D. Student, University of Cincinnati

**David Moore**

Founder and Executive Director, Africa Fire Mission

**Roland Smith**

Executive Director,

Parents for Public Schools of Greater Cincinnati

**T.J. White**

Executive Director, Center for Local Governments

**Melissa Williams**

Director of Administration, Campbell County Fiscal Court

## Our Mission

The MPA program at NKU provides professional managerial, communication, and human relations skills and knowledge in preparation for or advancement in a variety of public sector and related careers. The program advances public sector values of effectiveness, efficiency, honesty, accountability, fairness, diversity and public service in the curriculum, extra-curricular events and speakers, and partnerships with area practitioners through the MPA Advisory Board, the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), and other professional associations and individuals.

The goal of the program is to develop competent public service practitioners to serve governments, nonprofit organizations and citizens in the Northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati metropolitan region and beyond.

## NEW brief video on NKU MPA program — please share!

MPA faculty, alumni and current students discuss the MPA program — what it is, who students are, what faculty and classes are like, and more — in a new 5-minute video. Please check it out and share it with colleagues, friends and family members who may be interested in pursuing an MPA. Over the years, we have learned that current students and alumni are key to people learning about and applying for our program.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfRV4HoHGJc>

## NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

### MPA Program Office

Founders Hall 424A

Nunn Drive

Highland Heights, KY 41099

**Phone:** 859-572-5326

**E-mail:** mpa@nku.edu

### On the web:

[http://psc-cj.nku.edu/programs/public/  
masters/](http://psc-cj.nku.edu/programs/public/masters/)

