Greetings to all!
Wow, a lot has happened since our last newsletter. In my last letter I reported on a number of activities the Department was undertaking and I am very pleased to report that we have achieved many of our goals.

First, I am happy to announce that we have a new addition to our faculty. Katrina Miller Stevens will be joining us this summer. Katrina will be relocating to Norfolk/Virginia Beach from Denver, CO. She will come to Old Dominion University with a PhD in Public Affairs from the University of Colorado Denver (I might mention that Dr. Leavitt is also an alum of UCD) and a Master of Nonprofit Management degree from Regis University. While her interests in public administration are diverse, Katrina's research focuses on examining nonprofit organizations that act as a means for collective action and a vehicle to shape policy agendas on behalf of the nonprofit sector.

Second, our undergraduate minor in public service has now passed through all the layers of academic review and approval and is ready to begin this summer. Dr. Morris, Meg Jones (MPA alum) and Assistant Dean Connie Merriman (another MPA alum) worked diligently on behalf of the department to insure our proposal succeeded. We expect a large number of undergraduates will be interested in this program.

Third, we are hosting the NASPAA re-accreditation site visit team on March 17 and 18. As I indicated before, the NASPAA site visit is crucial to our re-accreditation efforts and we will be calling upon many of you for your support. We will need current students and alumni to attend an evening reception on Wednesday, March 17; details will follow.

Fourth, in conjunction with the Old Dominion University Alumni association, we initiated our first ever direct email campaign to inform all of our department alumni of our activities. We sincerely hope to improve upon our communication efforts going forward to develop a more active departmental alumni association.

As you read through the newsletter you will be amazed at the department wide efforts at improving and enhancing our already high quality programs. If you are in the office by all means please stop by and say hello. Lastly, if you have any suggestions or comments please feel free to send me an email (jlombard@odu.edu) or telephone 683-4809.

SAVE THE DATE!
Public Service Week
November 1-7, 2010

Read Page 3
For more Details!
This is an exciting time for our department and our PhD students! In the Fall of 2009 we began a process to revise and update our program curriculum. As many of you know we began our current PhD program in 2005, and after several years of operation, it became clear that while the program was going very well, there were several issues we needed to address. The new curriculum was approved in November, and will go into effect with the incoming cohort in Fall 2010.

While the number of hours required for the degree and the basic program structure remain the same as before, we have overhauled the core curriculum by dropping two courses and adding two new courses (the remaining two have been slightly re-titled). We also made the decision to begin teaching the multivariate statistics course within our department, rather than sending students outside the department for that course.

The other big change comes in the concentration areas. We will still offer a concentration in public administration and another in public policy, but each concentration will now have one required course for the concentration. There is considerably less overlap of courses between the two concentrations, making each concentration more distinct than before. Students will also have more flexibility to choose the remaining courses for their concentration. We have also added more options to the requirements for a cognate area, which will allow students additional flexibility in both the choice of a cognate area and the courses appropriate for that cognate.

Another notable revision is a change in our advising procedures. Rather than having the GPD serve as the academic advisor for all pre-dissertation students, each student will now appoint a committee of two faculty members to serve as the student’s pre-dissertation advisory committee. This committee will remain active until the student completes the comprehensive exams, at which point the committee will dissolve and the student will appoint a dissertation committee. We think this system will not only allow greater involvement between the faculty and students, but will also help improve each student’s socialization into the discipline.

There are several policy changes that accompany the changes to the curriculum. While they are too numerous to detail here, they are contained in our updated PhD Student Handbook. The new handbook will be posted to the department’s website very soon, where it will be available for download as a .pdf file. Current students will have a choice to adopt the new curriculum or remain in the current curriculum; please plan to talk to me about which choice might be best for you.

Finally, I’m very pleased to report that we have a record number of students presenting papers at professional conferences this year. To date fourteen of our students have presented, or have been accepted to present, at eight different regional, national, and international conferences this academic year, with more likely to come! We are exceptionally proud of this record, and we can expect to see several quality journal publications as a result of these efforts. Congratulations to all of you!

Mark Your Calendar!

Summer & Fall 2010 Registration begins for all students on Saturday, April 17, 2010.
Greetings to all MPA students and alumni! Enrollment in the MPA program continues to be very strong and admission to the program is increasingly competitive. The Department faculty are currently preparing for the reaccreditation site visit by representatives of our accrediting body – NASPAA. Both current students and alumni will have an opportunity to participate in the site visit during the third week of March. Dr. Alkadry has done an excellent job of preparing our self-study document for the reaccreditation of the MPA program. The MPA program at Old Dominion University has been accredited for more than twenty years and we look forward to obtaining reaccreditation. Just over two hundred MPA programs at universities across the county are accredited by NASPAA and it is very important to retain this accreditation as proof of the quality of our program at ODU.

Dr. Alkadry and I are continuing to provide advising to all MPA students. As I noted in the Fall Newsletter, Dr. Alkadry is advising those pre-service students who require internships and I am advising in-service students who do not require internships. Registration for both the Summer and Fall semesters will begin later this semester and if you haven’t received advising within the past academic year please plan on doing so soon. Advising can be done in person or over the phone so please call our office at 683-3961 to schedule your appointment.

I hope the semester is going well for all of you and we can all look forward to warmer weather someday soon!

Minor in Public Service

The USPA Department is pleased to announce that we will begin offering classes in our new undergraduate Minor in Public Service. The first class in the program, PAS 300 (Foundations of Public Service), will be offered during the Summer 2010 term. In addition, we will be offering several courses during the Fall 2010 term, including PAS 300, PAS 301 (Accountability, Governance, and Ethics), and PAS 410 (Public and Nonprofit Organization). These courses are open to undergraduate students in any college in the university.

The Minor in Public Service consists of 12 credit hours of coursework. Students take six hours of core classes consisting of PAS 300 and PAS 301, and six hours of elective courses chosen from a list of approved electives. The electives include courses taught in USPA, as well as courses taught in several other departments across campus. Descriptions of all the courses and the requirements for the minor are available from USPA, the advising offices in the university, and on the USPA website (bpa.odu.edu).

SAVE THE DATE! USPA will sponsor PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK, November 1–7, 2010. We are planning a full week of events, including nationally recognized speakers, a job fair, and several volunteer activities. Public Service Week will energize the campus community and raise awareness of the importance of public service, and the university’s role in public service, in the Hampton Roads area. More details to follow!

For more information on the Minor in Public Service please contact Meg Jones, mmjones@odu.edu.
The E. V. Williams Center for Real Estate and Economic Development (CREED), will present the 15th Annual Hampton Roads Real Estate Market Review and Forecast on Wednesday, March 10, at the Ted C. Constant Convocation Center. The program will begin at 3:00 p.m. followed by an industry reception at 4:30 p.m.

The Market Review and Forecast is an excellent venue for CREED to highlight the College of Business and Public Administration’s excellence in real estate research and education. This year’s program will feature presentations by industry experts, J. Scott Adams, Regional Managing Director, CB Richard Ellis; Craig Cope, Vice President, Liberty Property Trust; William Halprin, Senior Vice President, S.L. Nusbaum Realty Co; J. Van Rose, Jr., President, Rose & Womble Realty; and William C. Throne, Vice President, Thalhimer/Cushman & Wakefield.

The Market Review forges valuable relationships between Old Dominion University and industry executives in real estate, finance, and economic development. In 2010, CB Richard Ellis, ColonialWebb Contractors, Dominion Realty Advisors, Inc., Harvey Lindsay Commercial Real Estate, Inside Business, Liberty Property Trust, Prudential Real Estate Group, Rose & Womble Realty Group, S.L. Nusbaum, W. M. Jordan Company Inc., and Wells Fargo Real Estate Banking, will be among those industry partners sponsoring the event.

CBPA faculty and students receive complimentary admission to the Market Review. For more information, please contact CREED at 757.683.5352 or register online at www.odu.edu/creed.

**Internship Corner**

**Dr. Mohamad Alkadry, Internship Coordinator**

It is that time of the year when many students are looking for summer internships. If you are not sure when is a good time to do your internship, talk to your advisor. If you cannot find an internship, consult with the MPA Career Guide, and immediately contact me. The internship experience provides a great opportunity for students who do not have enough work experience. It also provides an opportunity for experienced public servants who are seeking a career change. The internship includes a minimum of 300 hours of approved work experience, a series of reports and a reflection. The intern and his or her supervisor evaluate the experience. Some MPA students are required to do an internship. I encourage all MPA students who are in the midst of a career change to also consider doing an internship even if they were not required to do so by the MPA Admissions Committee.

This semester, the MPA program is grateful to the Virginia Beach Department of Human Services, The Virginia Beach Treasurer’s Office, the ODU Procurement Office, and other local agencies.

This year, we anticipate a demand for about 30 internships. If you are a student who is considering an internship or who is required to do one, please contact me at malkadry@odu.edu, as soon as possible. If you are alumnus who is looking for an intern, contact me and I will direct you to many excellent and promising MPA students.
In July 2009, I was granted an internship with the City of Hampton in the Information Technology (IT) department. Since then, I have been instrumental in writing large portions of Hampton’s application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant, under the Obama Administration’s Stimulus/Recovery Act. The City of Hampton and Hampton University came together in a public-private partnership for the duration of this grant application and process. I am also the project manager for the IT Departments’ Land Management Portfolio Project, which takes paper documents of city-owned property and scans them into the electronic filing cabinet system “Laserfiche”, thus bringing transparency to the various departments involved (no more file hoarding!). This project will also save the city paper in the future.

How did I get my internship? Using the helpful advice of Dr. Alkadry I took the initiative, instead of waiting for an internship to fall in my lap (because as we all know that RARELY, if ever, happens—especially in this economy!), and I approached one of Hampton’s Assistant City Manager’s for an unpaid internship. I have known for quite some time that I want to become a City Manager in Hampton Roads someday, so the most logical choice was to ask the City Manager’s office for an internship. They did not have a project that was suitable for someone with my education at the time (to gain the three credits for the MPA internship, the duties cannot be clerical), so they suggested that I could work with IT on the BTOP grant, as well as oversee a new project to go “paperless” with documents on city-owned property and parcels (the Land Management project I described first). I jumped on board as fast as I could, and completed my 300 hours in November. It was definitely a challenge, because in addition to working the internship 24 hours per week, I also worked as a G.A. with E.V. Williams CREED, located within our USPA department. I have learned so much from this internship, and I believe that without my MPA education, I would not have been as successful. I performed my job well enough that the City of Hampton hired me part time to work on an array of other projects. I have gained invaluable experience working at the City of Hampton.

In March, I will be relocating from IT to the Hampton Police Department to begin new projects; the first of which will be with the Crime Analysis Unit. I could not be more excited and thankful for this opportunity! My advice to new MPA students, pre-service students, and anyone looking for an internship in local government: Take your own initiative! Use Dr. Alkadry (or any USPA faculty and staff) as a resource—he is our internship coordinator for a reason! Internships not only help you, they also help our department shine brighter, so that we become more recognized—which is what every college alumni wants for their respective program! Know your worth, be confident, and you will get the kind of internship you want!

**GRADUATION REMINDER!**

Please remember to apply for graduation, [http://www.odu.edu/ao/registrar/pdf/forms/gradappl.pdf](http://www.odu.edu/ao/registrar/pdf/forms/gradappl.pdf)

**Application Deadlines:**
- Fall, June 30
- Spring, November 30
- Summer, February 28
Tancy J. Vandecar-Burdin, a recent graduate of the PhD program in Public Administration and Urban Policy, will trade her long-time doctoral student hat for a teaching hat. Tancy slowly worked her way through the PhD program starting in 2001 and finished in May 2009, while working full-time at the University at the Social Science Research Center (SSRC) in the College of Arts and Letters. Tancy will continue working at the SSRC and will also try her hand at teaching this spring with the master’s level policy course, PADM 701. Actually, Tancy has taught before in her early days at the University when she taught two undergraduate criminal justice courses. She is excited for the opportunity to teach and interact with master’s students.

Tancy has worked with a wide array of public sector agencies during her time with the SSRC. She has worked with state and local social and human service agencies providing a variety of research and evaluation services including data collection and analysis. Conducting surveys of families with children receiving early intervention, substance abuse programs, and mental health services; evaluating public housing relocation and revitalization efforts; and interviewing local residents about their perceptions of the police are all part of her daily routine. Prior to her work with the SSRC, Tancy was a magistrate for the City of Norfolk for about a year. In her spare time, Tancy enjoys reading (mostly crime novels), playing at the beach with her daughter, and following New England sports with her husband.

Jaleh Shea, a 2005 graduate of ODU’s MPA program, is a Planning Administrator for the City of Chesapeake by day and an adjunct instructor by night. She manages Chesapeake’s Comprehensive Planning Division and leads a team of planners that work in all facets of urban planning. She has over 20 years professional planning experience and has been an adjunct instructor since 2007 teaching Methods of Urban Planning. As a planner and a Hampton Roads native, Jaleh melds the formal principles and practice of urban planning with the real world laboratory of Hampton Roads.

Jaleh has considerable experience in community outreach and consensus building and has successfully managed many difficult projects involving building community trust. Recognizing her career contributions, Jaleh was the 2006 recipient of the Julian Hirst Award for Outstanding Public Service.

Jaleh has many diverse interests and enjoys learning about new things. Jaleh sees teaching as an opportunity to stay up to date on current trends and enjoys interacting with students who bring many different perspectives into discussion. Jaleh is member of American Society for Public Administration, the American Planning Association, and the American Institute of Certified Planners.
Randy Hildebrandt has spent his entire professional career (38 years) in local government. After receiving his MPA from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University, Randy spent the first six years of his career working in a variety of positions with the City of Syracuse, and he served as Budget Director in his last two years with the city. Because Syracuse has a strong mayor form of government, Randy knew he would have to move on to pursue a career in upper-level city management.

The opportunity to do so came in 1978 when Randy was hired as assistant city manager with the City of Newport News. While he expected this would be just one step in his career path to a city manager position, it turned out to be a 28-year assignment. His time as assistant city manager was never boring as his responsibilities changed often enough to allow for professional growth and new challenges. Newport News evolved over these years to be a progressive and dynamic community. There were many successes but also a couple failures, in the form of two major projects that were never finished: a waste-to-energy facility in the 1980s and, more recently, a 20-year effort to build a large water supply reservoir in King William County.

The culmination of Randy’s career came in 2006 when the Newport News City Council chose him to replace the retiring city manager. His three and a half years as city manager saw a whirlwind of activity. With the help of a very talented management team and the support of City Council, Randy was able to accomplish a number of financial management enhancements and was able to bring to fruition some very significant economic development projects. Perhaps of most personal significance was Randy’s opportunity to begin an organizational change initiative which, if sustained, should result in Newport News becoming a more focused and higher performing city government in the future.

Randy is hopeful that through sharing his own experiences he will be able to prepare the students in his Local Government class for the same type of fulfilling career in public service that he has enjoyed over the past four decades.

### PAUPers Spring Events

The PAUPers PhD student association continues to build momentum with exciting events for the spring semester. On March 15, join us for our Spring Speaker Reception as we host Mr. Ross Mugler, CCR; Commissioner of the Revenue for the City of Hampton, Virginia. Mr. Mugler offers a lifetime of public service experience and currently represents the ODU community as the Rector for the Board of Visitors and as an alumnus of the Public Administration Master’s program. On April 5, the PAUPers group plans to take a tour of the Port of Virginia. The Scholarly Café, which began in the fall, continues to engage students by offering an informal setting to discuss topics of interest such as conference preparations, theory/practice, individual and collaborative research opportunities, and comprehensive exam topics.

Good luck to students who are preparing for the comprehensive exam this semester! PAUPers will be organizing comprehensive exam preparation sessions. Watch for announcements for this and upcoming public service opportunities.

PAUPers welcomes Jennifer Taylor as the Treasurer for the 2010-11 academic year. She is superseded by Tom Musumeci who served in this role for the previous two years. Thank you, Tom for providing the foundation for PAUPers leadership and fiscal standards. Elections for other leadership positions will be held at the April meeting.

The PAUPers group meets monthly in the ODU USPA library. Stay informed about upcoming events and calls for papers at the PAUPers website: [www.orgs.odu.edu/paupers](http://www.orgs.odu.edu/paupers).
Hello MPAAers! I hope you all have had a great start to your spring semester! I want to start by personally thanking each and every one of the volunteers for the Habitat for Humanity ODU House during ODU’s Homecoming Week in early November. The USPA faculty and staff are not the only ones impressed with the turnout and hard work shown by the MPAA. CBPA Dean Nancy Bagranoff noted our hard work during the December Student Advisory Council meeting. We are making the MPA program, USPA department, and the College of Business and Public Administration proud by being seen and heard around the ODU community! Keep it up!

Here are some of the upcoming Spring 2010 MPAA events (some are not finalized yet; MPAA members will receive an e-mail noting the finalized information when possible):

January: We were successful in our efforts to raise money for our adopted Orphanage in Haiti! Many thanks to all of the MPA Students, MPAA members, and USPA faculty and staff that supported this effort!

February: Tour of the Ports with the Propeller Club. If interested contact me by 2/19/10.

March/April: MPAA Guest Speaker, Randy Hildebrandt; Topic: TBD

May: Social Hour honoring the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 Graduates!

I encourage all MPA Students to join the MPAA! It promotes a sense of community among us, and it can benefit us long after we earn that MPA after our name—by way of networking! ODU MPA Alumni are also encouraged to join! Stay in touch with your program! Find out WHO is in the ODU MPA program! Annual dues are just $20.00 and that includes a USPA t-shirt.

Questions About the MPAA? Please contact: Christine Bullard—MPAA 2009-2010 President cbull012@odu.edu
USPA Alumni Basketball Social
Lady Monarchs vs. Hofstra
Sunday, January 31st

Samra Safdar (MPA) & Brandi Blessett (PAUP)

Nancy Leavitt, Dr. Bill Leavitt, Dr. John Morris & Dr. Mohamad Alkadry, below

Katie Neill and Samra Safdar, MPA Students

Dr. Alkadry & Family
Old Dominion University is an independent, state assisted university. Founded in 1930, the University has grown to educate more than 18,500 students.

The Department of Urban Studies and Public Administration is housed in the College of Business and Public Administration. The College of Business and Public Administration is one of 315 schools in the United States and Canada accredited at both the undergraduate and graduate levels by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business.

The Department of Urban Studies and Public Administration offers the Master of Public Administration and a Ph.D. in Public Administration and Urban Policy. The MPA program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, the national certifying organization for public administration programs.

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