



Upper Iowa University

Master of Public Administration Newsletter

Find us on Facebook

Issue Highlights

Unique internship opportunity available to all interested MPA students

Student Survey results can be found at www.uiu.edu/mpa

Read about the latest revisions to PA590 and the Justice and Homeland Security emphasis area

We are proud to announce the creation of the UIU MPA Facebook page. Being a quality MPA program is more than just offering a quality academic curriculum. It should provide the opportunity for students to grow in their discipline by engaging in meaningful activities outside the classroom.

Traditional programs often try to

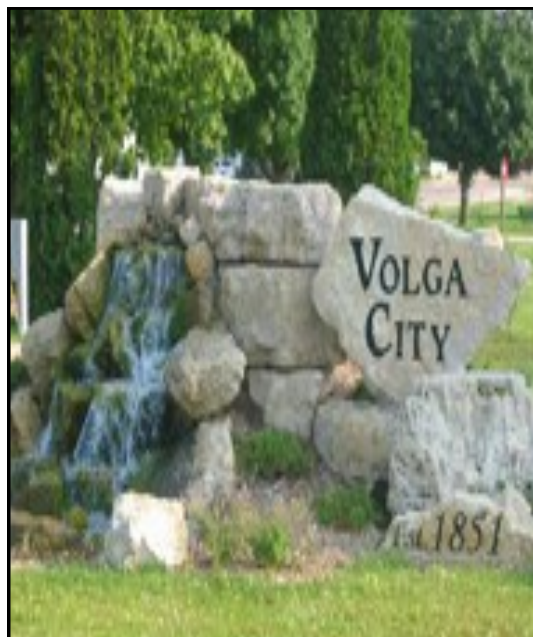


meet this need through a formal student organization. MPA student organizations are

an important tool for creating friendships based on mutual respect and trust, fostering a sense of camaraderie and community,

(continued on page 2)

Internship Opportunity!



Are you interested in an internship opportunity? Or do you want a project that will not only look good on your resume but also allow you to gain practical experience in local government administration? I am looking for a motivated individual to take charge and lead a project that will ultimately develop a comprehensive plan for a local community. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to put your academic training to work (continued on page 4)

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We continue to work toward our goal of accreditation by 2013. The student and alumni surveys and the use of social media to foster more collaboration between all stakeholders are important steps in that direction.

In the upcoming year we are planning on creating an alumni advisory panel. If you are interested in serving please let me know.

Finally, our **2010 Assessment Report is now online**. In it read an analysis of the student course surveys and PPAT results. Please share your comments with me at poppeg@uiu.edu.

Need a topic or data for a research project? Visit Performance.gov today!



MPA Program on Facebook (continued from page 1)

promoting civic engagement, and keeping alumni connected to each other and the program.

The UIU MPA program does not have a formal student organization—yet. Through the use of social media we hope it will be easier for you to maintain the important relationships you develop during your tenure with us.

This is your Facebook page! Take it and make it the UIU MPA student's Facebook page! We hope you will join with your UIU MPA peers to develop a network that can be used to enhance the learning environment for all students, provide a career network, and make resources

available that would otherwise go untapped. There is so much activity and opportunity related to public administration going on in each of our communities that our classmates do not know about. Use this tool to share it with them!

Now I want to take this time to thank Ms. Blair Murphy, a current MPA student, for creating our Facebook page. Blair will be administering the site. Please send to her (or me) your comments and suggestions. Blair can be reached at:

murphyb898@peacocks.uiu.edu

I encourage you to visit our Facebook page and help make it a resource for all UIU MPA students. Tell us what you are doing, share job opportunities, and stay

Revision of PA590

We made significant changes this summer to the PA590 course. Instead of a pure research focus culminating in a research paper, we have shifted to a program evaluation model. We are asking you to incorporate one course objective from each course you successfully completed into the evaluation of a public program. One purpose for this change is to make the final course a true capstone experience that allows you to integrate the entire curriculum into

the project. You can read more about the new approach to PA590 in the MPA Student Handbook. As with any new project I am sure there will be some growing pains as we work to implement the plan. Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with me. I would be remiss if I did not give credit where credit is due for this project. I want to personally thank Dr. Alex Kadrie and Dr. Sharon Chanley for developing this new course. They did an outstanding job! Thanks!

MPA Graduate Delivers Commencement Address

The following excerpts are from the 2011 commencement address given by MPA graduate Jeffrey Tourdot.

“Thank you Dr. Walker for entrusting me with this opportunity, it truly is an honor and privilege to be speaking here today. Having spent nine years of my life studying at Upper Iowa University I am again reminded today of the strength that is drawn from the diversity in students, academic programs, and learning environments that continue to be enhanced by the leadership of this fine institution.



MPA Student Jeff Tourdot,

..... To our class of 2011, let it ring clear.. today is a day that sets the hopes and dreams of tomorrow in motion....

In succession to the accomplishments we celebrate today make no mistake my friends,..... our nation is at a crossroads. While our hearts and minds are searching,.. the world too is searching. Humanity is surrounded by questions both as individuals and collectively as nations.

Be assured our work, our willpower has never been needed more. At times it seems there is a divide taking the place of the ability to work together towards the solutions of the problems that we face going forward.

Each of us is challenged to think about the choices we will make as we leave these doors and begin to set foot toward the trail we have chosen... Will we choose to push forward.. or cowered in the corner,.. will we continue breaking down the barriers that stand in front of us.. or falter for fear of failing,.. will we generate the profound ideas that are predicated on pursuing our aspirations or retreat to a place in our minds that succumbs to complacency.Will we choose to
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2010 MPA Graduates

Please join me in congratulating this year's graduates:

Michelle Casey-Schmidt
Shelly Smither
Nena Muslim
Dustin Briscoe
LaQuitia Ore
Jeffrey Tourdot
Joseph Bailey
Heidi Stoetzel
Paige Johnson
Cindy Hardy
Evelyn Okorie

If I missed anybody please let me know!

Our Commitment to You:

The value of your degree is a reflection of the integrity of the academic curriculum. The UIU MPA faculty is engaged in a continuous dialogue about what a UIU MPA graduate should look like when he/she leaves our program.

We are doing many things to improve the quality of the UIU MPA program. Sometimes we do not execute with the precision we expect. We learn from our mistakes and try to move forward. I want you to know all of us in the MPA program are committed to making your graduate experience as rewarding as possible.

Interesting Fact

President Obama issued an executive order on August 18, 2011, requiring the national government to improve its diversity efforts.

“Within 90 days, the Office of Personnel Management and Office of Management and Budget will issue a governmentwide strategic plan for improving workplace diversity, focusing on recruitment, hiring, promotion, retention, professional development, and training policies and practices. That four-year plan will highlight strategies agencies can use to remove barriers to equal employment opportunities.”

For more information visit the FederalTimes at <http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20110818/>

Find the complete 2010 Student Survey Report at www.uiu.edu/mpa



Internship Opportunity (continued from page 1)

regardless your emphasis area.

The city of Volga, Iowa is a very small town with a population of 208. In 1999 it was devastated by a flood. Since then the city has been trying to rebuild itself and make sure such an event does not happen again. Building levees is an important part of the prevention plan. The City of Volga was awarded a grant in 2009 to install riprap along a portion of its levee. Once this riprap was installed the city applied for a second grant that would allow it to complete the riprap project. At the time of application, the city was aware of a new requirement to complete a Smart Plan (which is basically a Comprehensive Community Plan that incorporates some new Smart Plan topics to be considered). This needed to be done within three years of receiving

the original grant. At this time, the city is hesitant to expend the \$16,000 in grant funds without having this plan complete.

The city of Volga needs a person (or persons) to help them prepare a community plan with the Smart Planning Components. At this point **I do not think living near Volga, Iowa is a requirement.** Any required face-to-face meetings could be coordinated through my office. To be considered for this opportunity please call me at (414) 475-3382 or send me an email at poppeg@uiu.edu. In your email briefly describe your relevant experience and explain why you are interested in this position. The deadline for applying is September 9. This opportunity could be worth up to three academic credits.

Student Survey Results

Here is a brief summary of the responses to our survey questions.

51% of the respondents were between the ages of 35 -54.

Most respondents were from Iowa (43%) and Wisconsin (20%).

65% have nine or more years of work experience.

They are predominantly white (73%) and female (56%).

12 of the 41 respondents are alumni of Upper Iowa. (continued on page 5)

2010 Commencement Address (continued from page 3)

inflict prejudice in the decisions we make or define our actions by a legacy of love imprinted on the lives of others....

Each of us has the ability to be a light to this world. We cannot afford to back down, shy away, or dismiss the opportunities we have been given. Instead, together we must roll up our sleeves and clinch our grips to the path of greatness each of us is capable of.

We need to model love not envy, influence integrity over greed, display diplomacy in the face of antagonism, and choose peace to overcome hate....

We need to stand strong for the young... as they are our future, the vulnerable for they need a voice, and perhaps most importantly our aging population that has laid blood, sweat and tears on the line in an effort to build the foundation we have all been afforded,

Yet in order to achieve any of these qualities on any level there must be a willingness to LEAD, a willingness to extend a HAND, a mindset that focuses on something greater than OURSELVES.

You see we all have it in us to achieve. It is the motivation that burns within each of our hearts that sets our student body apart. Those of us who find our purpose and take our calling to heart have an opportunity to change our communities, our states, in some cases our nation and for those select few.... OUR WORLD....

The pride we share on this day needs to be the motivation that carries our dreams and our beloved University forward.... Cherish today, do not forget yesterday, and whatever you do, do not let go of the dreams for tomorrow."



Graduation checklist:

- 1. Have an approved research proposal before registering for PA590—see www.uiu.edu/mpa for more details*
- 2. Complete your PPAT during PA590—visit <http://www.keysurvey.com/survey/287111/ca0d/>*
- 3. Complete your graduation application visit: <http://www.uiu.edu/academics/registrar/index.html#graduation>*
- 4. Provide us with updated contact information so we can keep you informed as to what is going on in the UIU MPA program.*

Student Survey Results (continued from page 4)

Approximately 50% want to work in government with equal numbers choosing local, state, and national government.

Leadership, decision making, and strategic planning skills are viewed as the most valued by employers.

Respondents value an education that combines theory and practice.

The top three adjectives used to describe our program were “challenging”, “interesting” and “valuable”.

Upper Iowa University MPA Program
620 S 76th St., Suite 100
Milwaukee, WI 53214

Phone: 414-475-3382 or 800-547-0296
Fax: 414-475-4139
E-mail: poppeg@uiu.edu



UIU MPA Mission

The UIU MPA program provides an opportunity for a diverse population of adult learners to develop the administrative, analytical, leadership, and managerial skills needed to promote the public good and strengthen core democratic values through service in government and non-profit organizations.

UIU MPA Program Objectives

- 1. To lead and manage in public governance*
- 2. To participate in and contribute to the public policy process*
- 3. To analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems and make decisions*
- 4. To articulate and apply a public service perspective*
- 5. To communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry.*

Revision of the Justice and Homeland Security emphasis area.

Let me give you some insight into a new project we are working on.

The current Justice and Homeland Security emphasis area was created in 2009 by merging the previous Justice Administration and Homeland Security emphasis areas. Justice Administration focused on domestic criminal and police activity. Homeland Security was a combination of emergency management and national security courses.

Over the past year Dr. Stacy Peerbolte, Dr. Marian Mosser, and alumni Lee Bennett reviewed the existing curriculum and the curriculums of our peer institutions. With their help and input a new direction for this emphasis area emerged. I want to thank them for their hard work and dedication to our program.

The new proposal will add more emergency management and homeland security courses while deemphasizing justice administration. All students currently pursuing justice administration coursework would be allowed to keep their current degree plan. The new emphasis would affect only incoming students or those who elected to switch emphasis areas. If you have thoughts, comments, or concerns please let me know. I would be happy to discuss them with you. Contact me at poppeg@uiu.edu.



Volunteer Opportunity

As we work to leverage our social media and website the idea of blogging keeps coming back to me. Many of you have regular contact with me (not to mention this really spiffy newsletter). I think there would be value if we sought a wider range of views.

To that end I would like to invite each of you to consider the idea of creating a blog for our website. It would be fantastic if we could find students and employers to share their thoughts and experiences on a regular basis. This would be a terrific way to help your fellow students. Even if you prefer to blog on a part time basis please let me know!