MESSAGE FROM THE PA CHAIR: WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

This past year has provided occasions to think about what it means to dedicate one’s career in pursuit of the public interest and what the legacy of such service might be. Carol Lewis, a scholar of PA ethics, encourages us to think about the public interest as not merely a thing but, instead, as a process including contemplation of what our actions might mean for future generations. This gives rise to legacy as key attribute of the public interest.

NC State’s PA program lost two former faculty members and accomplished public servants this past year. Elizabethann “Liz” O’Sullivan, who died in spring 2014, and William J. Block, who passed away just last month, both spent their lives and careers pursuing the public interest and leave behind meaningful legacies.

Bill’s record of personal and professional accomplishment is too lengthy to cover here. But I do want to mention that he founded NC State’s MPA program back in 1968. From its first two graduates in 1969 to the 22 who will cross the stage during the May 2015 commencement, almost 1500 of you have earned a MPA from our program. You have gone on to serve the public through careers in local, state, and federal government, nonprofit organizations, and private enterprises. The state and nation have benefitted immeasurably from your service. You, then, represent the legacy of Bill’s public service vision and his success in serving the public interest.

Liz was my immediate predecessor as NC State’s PA chair. She has proven to be a tough act to follow. Engaged in the community, committed to excellence in public service scholarship and education, and dedicated to helping students and alumni, I get seemingly constant reminders of Liz’s public service career. And, like Bill, her legacy is inextricably tied to those people, organizations, and public interest causes she served.

So how will our efforts to serve and promote the public interest impact the lives of those in our communities, state, nation, and world both now and the years to come? What will be my public service legacy? What will be yours?

Until next time,
Jerrell D. Coggburn
Professor and Chair

Dr. Elizabethann O’Sullivan, a PA faculty member for over 30 years, passed away in her retirement home in Malaysia. Among her many amazing qualities, perhaps foremost was her abiding concern for students. She went to great lengths to help students, especially to find employment. She was the PA Program’s institutional memory, staying in touch with students after graduation and linking them to job opportunities. Anyone who knew Liz and her husband, Doug, must remember fondly the countless parties they hosted for faculty and students. She was a great lady and will be sorely missed. Dr. O’Sullivan passed away on April 16, 2014 in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

Dr. William J. Block recently passed away at the age of 97 in Raleigh, NC. In 1957, Dr. Block came to North Carolina State University; he was a professor of Political Science and Public Administration and chairman of the Political Science Department. He started the Masters’ of Public Administration Program and served as chairman of the NC State Faculty Senate. He was a public administration expert educating and advising countless state employees, elected officials, judges and a former NC governor. As an excellent professor and advisor, he was honored with the school’s first outstanding teacher award. Although he retired in 1984, he continued to advise students for many more years. He was also a recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Save the Date: October 23, 2015
Public Administration Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Location: Newly Renovated Talley Student Union
Vance Holloman was recently presented with the Distinguished Alumnus Award from NC State’s Department of Public Administration. Holloman was hired as the new finance director for the Town of Apex. Holloman began working at the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer’s office in 1985 as the director of the state and local government finance division. Holloman is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill and received his Master of Public Administration degree in 1989.

Where Are They Now?

ALUMNI NEWS

Cara Bridges (MPA 2013) recently accepted the position of Financial Analyst for the NC General Assembly in the Fiscal Research Division. The non-partisan Fiscal Research Division provides budget and tax-related analysis and information to all members of the North Carolina General Assembly. When the General Assembly is in session, the Division’s major activities follow the budget process. When the General Assembly is out of session, staff monitors implementation by state agencies, tracks spending, and follows major federal policy issues that could affect the State.

Dan Briskey (MPA 2014) accepted a position as the Business Services Coordinator at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

James Clanton (MPA 2008) is now a Senior Management Analyst for the City of Westminster, Parks, Rec, and Libraries.

Tyrone Davis (MPA 2009), received his law degree from Elon University, and has successfully passed the bar.

Clare Fitzgerald, PhD Student, is one of this year’s ASPA Fellowship Award winner. As a fellowship recipient, Clare, was invited to present her research at the annual ASPA conference, all expenses paid.

Casey J. Fleming and Emily B. McCartha, PhD Students, co-authored “Conflict and Collaboration in Wildfire Management: The Role of Mission Alignment.” The article was published in the Public Administration Review.

Christopher Cody, PA doctoral student, received a dissertation completion grant from the NC State graduate school.

Dr. Jim Brunet’s research about the disbandment of small police departments was featured in a recent Aljazeera America story, at america.aljazeera.com. His article, “Goodbye Mayberry: The Curious Demise of Rural Police Departments in North Carolina,” is forthcoming in Administration & Society.

Dr. Jennifer Kuzman was most recently quoted in an article by the National Journal on genetically altered food. Her extensive research on the topic helped her to secure a grant with the USDA Food Policy Research Center. Her co-authored article, “Comparing Public Attitudes Toward Genetically-Modified and Nanotechnology-Based Foods and Labeling” was published last spring.
The PA Alumni Society of NC State works diligently to uphold the strong mission and values of NC State’s Public Administration program by providing networking and educational opportunities, for both students and alumni. Your participation sustains our efforts to serve as a resource for the PA program, its students, and fellow alumni.

The PA Alumni Society Board focused much effort over the last 12 months to officially endow our annual MPA Alumni Society scholarship. A huge “Thank-You” to those who have participated to increase the base level of our fund. Through reaching out to you through our events, emails, an e-solicitation, and a marketing piece, you helped us raise our scholarship fund to $45,000. And we want to keep growing this fund!

We have a grand ambition to help even more students with this MPA Alumni Society Scholarship. As more students depend on scholarships and financial assistance to pursue their education and career goals, we want to make sure there are funds to help our future Public Administrators. Currently, this fund provides for an “in-service” student scholarship, though as we continue to grow the fund, we will also provide funding for a “pre-service” student. You can continue to help us by using our dedicated on-line site for one-time gifts, reoccurring gifts, and pledges; see http://go.ncsu.edu/mpascholarship.

We hope you will join us for our annual events. The Spring Networking Event is on Monday, April 27th, at 18 Seaboard. The students need to meet you, learn about your profession, hear how you use your PA degree, and build their professional networks. The students benefit from conversations with you, so make a special effort to enjoy and participate in this annual event. The Fall Luncheon will be held on October 23, 2015. This year, our annual luncheon will be held at the newly renovated Talley Student Union. More information about our Speaker and topic will be available soon.

We expect to see you at our upcoming events. Thank you for keeping the NC State Public Administration program strong.

Stephen Keith (MPA 2009)

**MPA Alumni Society In-Service Scholarship**

Each year, the PA Alumni Society selects one incoming in-service (working) student to receive a scholarship for the academic year. The scholarship is designed to recognize the contributions in-service students make to the MPA program and to recognize the various challenges faced by students seeking to balance work obligations with their studies.

Jessica Rogers Fasola currently serves as the Resource Development & Communication Manager with the Wade Edwards Foundation & Learning Lab. “The NC State MPA program is helping me to hone skills that I use everyday in my work in the nonprofit sector. Being chosen as this year’s MPA Alumni Society Scholar has been an honor and a blessing. It is supporting me in my goal to complete this program and it inspires me to continue working to help others and give to those in need.”

Please consider contributing to the MPA Alumni Society Scholarship endowment. Providing support for future MPA students is building a lasting value and shaping the next generation of public servants in the nonprofit and public sector.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PA ALUMNI SOCIETY PRESIDENT**

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Stephen Keith (MPA 2009)
Dr. Bruce McDonald attended Mercer University for his undergraduate education, where he studied journalism, and received his PhD from Florida State University in Public Administration and Policy. He also earned a Masters in Economic History from the London School of Economics and a Masters in Conflict Resolution from American Military University. Prior to his academic career, he was a legislative aide for Senator Bob Graham and Congressman Allen Boyd. Although he is a Florida native, Dr. McDonald grew up in the Soviet Union (and later Russia) as the son of missionaries.

Dr. Amanda Stewart has over ten years of experience working in nonprofit organizations ranging from small, local efforts to large, international organizations. She will be completing her PhD this spring from the Department of Public Administration and Policy at American University's School of Public Affairs. Her research interests include nonprofit management and foundation behaviors, and her dissertation research is exploring the performance implications of executive director turnover in nonprofit organizations. Dr. Stewart has a Masters in Social Work from Boston College and a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Birmingham Southern College.

Dr. Jason Coupet's PhD is in Strategic Management from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and his BA is in Economics from the University of Michigan. His research and teaching interests include public and nonprofit strategic management, quantitative methods, efficiency theory, and organizational performance measurement. He is an active member of the Academy of Management and the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. A native Chicagoan, he is crazed about both the NBA and University of Michigan athletics, and enjoys weightlifting and food.