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# Texas State University

## MPA Program Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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## Welcome from the Director



Dr. Patricia Shields, Director of the Texas State MPA Program

Friends of the Texas State MPA Program:

Welcome to our 2010 newsletter. We hope it is filled with useful news and information about the program.

On July 22, 2010 we received word that the MPA Program has been re-accredited for another seven years. The reaccreditation process officially began in the fall of 2008 when we started our self-study year. During this year we collected volumes of data on the program and sent questionnaires to students, alumni, and employers. The Self-Study Report collected and summarized this data. The report is available at <http://ecommons.txstate.edu/padmpub/4/>. This report provides extensive information about the Texas State MPA Program. Check it out.

At the end of the summer (2009) we submitted the report to the accrediting body of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. In November we passed the first hurdle and were approved to move forward with a site visit. In early February we welcomed team chair Dr. Ethel Williams (MPA Program Chair University of Nebraska), and team members, Dr. Saundra Reinke (MPA Program Director, Augusta State) and William Solomon, MPA, Esq. (Manager, Miami Dade County Parks and Recreation) to campus for an intensive program review.

During the team's visit they met with students, alumni, Deans, Vice Presidents, faculty, CenTex officers, librarians and advisory council members. The site visit team issued a positive report and commended the program for outstanding Applied Research Projects, faculty accessibility, supportive administrators, passionate and engaged stakeholders (students, alumni, advisory council members, CenTex ASPA members) and Dodie's outstanding support services. The team voiced concerns about faculty diversity, succession planning, a learning outcome system focused exclusively on the final project, support staff overload, and an unmanageable number of career support areas, which create course scheduling problems. The team suggested an expanded system of student advising and mid-career counseling. In the spirit of review, the faculty are now about half way through a course by course program review, and have raised admission standards. Also, Dodie's responsibilities have been re-ordered and more of her time has been freed up to serve the MPA Program.

Special thanks go out to the advisory council and others who provided invaluable support during the process. Chair, Debby Tucker; Vice Chair, Phillip Ruiz; Secretary, Kolette Palacios; and Program Trend Committee Chair, Adrienne Arnold worked closely with me to coordinate events. Jo Wicker, facilitated an advisory council/faculty retreat that informed large sections of the report and stimulated changes in the program. Every faculty member collected data and wrote sections of the report. Delaina Toothman and Dodie Weidner worked on data collection for the self-study document. Political Science Chair, Vicki Brittain; Dean of Liberal Arts, Anne Marie Ellis; Dean of the Graduate College, Michael Willoughby; Provost, Perry Moore; and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Debbie Thorne were also engaged and supportive.

The remainder of the newsletter contains other important program changes, faculty accomplishments, advisory council members, a new research/outreach center, and the wide ranging reach of Texas State Applied Research Projects.

# Dr. Weinberger's Retirement

*As many of you already know, Dr. George Weinberger retired at the end of the spring 2010 semester. The following are excerpts from a speech given by Vicki Brittain, Chair of the Political Science Department, at his retirement party on May 22, 2010.*



Dr. George Weinberger

**"For 37 years, he has devoted his energies to working closely with undergraduate and graduate students to help them learn, grow, and develop into knowledgeable, ethical, and productive citizens."**



Dr. Brittain and Dr. Weinberger at the [CenTex ASPA Public Service Recognition Week Banquet](#)

Dr. George Weinberger has been a faculty member in the Department of Political Science for 37 years. He came to Texas State University in 1973 with a DPA degree, which was later converted into a Ph.D. in Public Administration, to teach in our developing MPA program. He quickly mastered the classroom, began work as a scholar, and became involved in service initiatives including provided consulting services to the University Personnel Office, the U.S. Civil Service Commission, the City of San Marcos, and other city governments and public administrators. He also served as the MPA program director and alumni coordinator. He received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in 1978 and he was promoted to full professor in 1985.

When I began to organize this presentation, I thought I would read a list of all of his accomplishments and all of the wonderful contributions he has made to our students, our Department, our College, the University, his profession, and our community. But, I quickly realized that the list was so long that it would sound like I was reading his vita aloud and it would be too impersonal. You see, I am personally going to miss George - we are all going to miss George. We are going to miss seeing him every day, his smile, and his friendly demeanor.

We are going to miss having the opportunity to drop by his office and chat. For me that means missing the opportunity to brainstorm with George about how we could best approach a particular problem or resolve a particularly thorny issue – knowing that his approach would always be to help us discover a path that we could follow that would be supportive of all of our students and supportive of all of our faculty members and supportive of each of the separate program in our department. He always wants what was good for the “whole” of us – and we are better for that!

I decided that a better approach for this address would be to focus on George and share with you today one of the elements of his character that has consistently added enormous value to our campus community. That element is his generosity. The generosity of his spirit that I believe is fundamental to all of his good works.

We see his generosity of spirit in his teaching and with his caring attitude toward students. Throughout the thirty years that I have worked with George, I have witnessed on many occasions his kind interactions with students. These interactions, both in and out of the classroom, allow him to teach not only the substance of his expertise but they also provide students with a role-model to emulate. He carries with him into those interactions his ethical approach to all things, the values of honesty, integrity, fairness, and the importance of maintaining, throughout one's lifetime, intellectual curiosity and the ability to critically think, examine data, and make judicious decisions. For 37 years, he has devoted his energies to working closely with undergraduate and graduate students to help them learn, grow, and develop into knowledgeable, ethical, and productive citizens.

We see his generosity of spirit in his scholarship and his willingness and ability to share his expertise in his teaching and in the professional community. As many of you know, George wrote a two-volume reference work that presents in amazing detail the Soviet Union's computer history. In the preface of his books, his work is described as not only detailing cybernetic history but also providing a guide to professional literature in the field of Soviet cybernetic studies encompassing the first three computer generations. These books were published in the mid-1980 and were very relevant to many of the global issues that existed at that time.

We see his generosity of spirit in his service and his willingness to assist in any capacity to help achieve the goals of the Department, College, University, the Professional Community, and the Community at Large. There are many, many examples of George's service over these 37 years. Out of all of those examples, the one that has had and will continue to have an enormous, positive benefits to our Department and College, is the service that he performed for years and years as the technical service provider (aka computer expert) in our department.

For this service, among the countless other acts of service George has provided, we are endlessly grateful. George's generosity of spirit demonstrated by service will not end with his retirement. George has set up an endowment that will provide scholarships for our future students. This also is a remarkable legacy he leaves us as he retires.

How then, do we honor George? There is no beautiful plaque, or gold watch, or other physical gift that we could give George that would be good enough to express our gratitude for 37 years of devotion to his profession and to this University. Instead, we honor George by these words and the words in all of our hearts.

# Center for Research, Public Policy, and Training

We are pleased to announce the approval of the Center for Research, Public Policy, and Training. The Center for Research, Public Policy, and Training (CRPPT) is designed to encourage and support research into public policy issues and to enhance opportunities for the education and training of public servants. We hope the Center will also provide opportunities for MPA student research and employment. Currently, under the leadership of Director Dr. Don Inbody, the Center has contracted with the Texas Attorney General's Office to evaluate the "Help Establishing Responsive Orders to Ensure Support (HEROES) for Military Children" program. Dr. Dianne Rahm also completed a Needs Assessment, which highlighted the needs of local governments in the I-35 corridor. If your agency or organization is in need of policy research or related assistance, please contact Director Inbody at [inbody@txstate.edu](mailto:inbody@txstate.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!



Dr. Don Inbody, Director

## Worldwide Recognition of Texas State ARPs

Texas State MPA Applied Research Projects are gaining notoriety- not just in the United States, but around the world. According to [Lewis Stewart's](#) 2009 research on the download activity of ARPs, Texas State ranks second only to the Yale Law School in the number of downloads per paper. Additionally, there have been over 25,000 downloads from 140 countries, including India, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Malaysia. Other sources of significant download activity come from Google Scholar, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The most recent numbers indicate that Texas State ARPs have exceeded the 200,000 download mark. According to Jean-Gabriel Bankier, President and CEO of Berkeley Electronic Press, the success of our openly available ARPs has inspired other MPA programs to do the same.

With this in mind, Texas State ARPs have been showing up in some impressive places. The following is a list of ARP authors and where their work has been cited. We can't wait to see where Texas State ARPs will turn up next!

- [Victoriano Casas](#)' 2006 ARP on information security was cited by the University of Technology- Sydney in "Managing Risk University- Wide."
- [Candace Ferguson](#)'s 2005 ARP was cited in a 2007 dissertation entitled "A Casual Analysis of Developmental Assets, Behaviors, and Delinquency Among Hispanic Youth in Texas."
- [Kevin Baum](#)'s 1997 ARP was republished as a chapter in the *Handbook of Conflict Management*.
- [Bruce Hermes](#)'s 2002 ARP was incorporated as part of the 2002 NASPAA Employer Assessment of the Texas State MPA Program.
- [Saidat Ilo](#)'s 2005 ARP was used in a syllabus for "Quantitative Research in Public Administration" at North Carolina State University.
- [Adreana Denise Ledesma](#)'s 2007 ARP was cited in the "Resource Update February 2008" by the Council for Children and Families.
- [David McCauley](#)'s 2007 ARP was cited by the Texas Public Policy Foundation in its "Math and Science Reform Agenda" in October 2007.
- [Brion Oaks](#)' 2005 ARP on the "snack tax" was cited by both the Washington Legal Foundation and the World Health Organization.
- [James Quintero](#)'s 2007 ARP was cited in "A New Shortcut Method for Estimating Economic Base Multipliers" in *Regional Science & Practice*.
- [Daniel Reed](#)'s 2009 ARP on renewable energy innovation was used as a framework for a paper presented at a conference.
- [Tyler Revel](#)'s 2006 ARP was cited in "Police Stress: Effects of Criticism Management Training on Health" in *Applied Psychology in Criminal Justice*.
- [Moses Ruiz](#)'s 2009 ARP was cited in "Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Kosovo: An Exit Strategy" by the Naval War College.
- [Nathan Sexton](#)'s 2003 ARP was cited in a paper by German Army officer Lietenant Colonel Chirstof Schaefer of the German Army.
- [Dee Ellis, D.V.M.](#)'s 2001 ARP on carcass disposal was cited in *Organic Recycling*, by the Korean Journal of the Organic Resources Institute.
- Both [Charles Zech](#)'s and [John McDonald](#)'s ARP's on Texas home rule charters appeared in Terrell Blodgett's book *Texas Home Rule Charters*.
- [Dustin McLemore](#)'s ARP on records management is used in records management training.

# Faculty Additions

We are pleased to announce some new additions to our faculty: Assistant Professor Emily Balanoff-Jones, and Lecturers Robert Milne and John Moore.

## **Emily Balanoff-Jones, M.A., A.B.D.**

Emily Balanoff studies nonprofit organizations and has presented her research at several national conferences, including the National Communication Association where she was awarded Top Paper in Political Communication in 2005. She has taught courses on American government, public administration, personnel, and public policy at Texas State University. Prior to joining the faculty at Texas State, she directed the New Politics Forum, a nonpartisan campaign training program for young adults at the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Participation at The University of Texas at Austin. She also served as a staff member in the Texas House of Representatives. Ms. Balanoff holds a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, M.A. from Texas State University and is a doctoral candidate at The University of Texas at Austin. In the fall, she will teach POSI 3318: Public Personnel Administration and POSI 4331: Minority Politics.

## **Robert Milne, Ph.D.**

Dr. Milne received his B.A. from the University of Texas, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. He taught as an Assistant Professor at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa and at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He has served as the Research Director for the Governor's Commission on Welfare Reform and Employment and Training Programs, the Texas Director of Computer Learning Works, and as the Director of Performance Reporting and Analysis for the Texas Workforce Commission. He is currently the owner of One-Stop Management, LLC. In the fall, he will teach POSI 5345: Conceptual Foundations of Government Information Systems.

## **John Moore, J.D.**

John Moore received his B.A. from the University of Missouri and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Texas. He has worked at the Texas Workforce Commission in various capacities, including General Counsel, Director of Regulatory Enforcement, and currently as the Director of Regulation Integrity. He has given various presentations to the Annual Texas Workforce Commission Workforce Conference. In 2010, he gave a presentation to the Texas CPM/ASPA Conference on fraud prevention. In the fall, he will teach POSI 5336B: Ensuring Public Sector Performance and Deterring/Detecting Fraud.

# Faculty Updates



**Dr. Dianne Rahm**

## **Dr. Dianne Rahm**

Dr. Rahm published a book this year titled *Climate Change Policy in the United States: The Science, the Politics and the Prospects for Change*. Along with Dr. Rangarajan, she co-authored an article titled "Greening Human Resources: A Survey of City-level Initiatives," which has been accepted for publication in *Review of Public Personnel Administration*. Dr. Rahm was funded by the Korber-Stiftung Foundation to attend the *Journalists and Experts Alumni Program, Societies in Transition: Energy, Climate and Oceans -- Impacts on the Global Economy*, which took place from January 27 to February 3, 2010 in Berlin and Hamburg, Germany and Copenhagen, Denmark. With Dr. Rangarajan, she presented two conference papers including "Greening Human Resource Practices: An Assessment of Local Level Initiatives," presented at the Hawaii International Conference on the Social Sciences, Honolulu, Hawaii, June 2-5, 2010 and "Examining the Relationship between Environmental Management and Human Resource Practices: A Study of City-level Initiatives," presented at the Western Social Science Conference, Reno, Nevada, April 14-17, 2010. Dr. Rahm is a Co-principal investigator on a grant under review by the National Science Foundation to support an Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program in Texas State University's Aquatic Resources Ph.D. program. The doctoral program in Aquatic Resources is an interdisciplinary program designed to provide a venue for the study of aquatic sciences, aquatic policy, and the relationship between science and policy. Dr. Rahm is one of the program's doctoral faculty. The grant's focus is a comparative approach to understanding land use and water resource conflicts for the Rio Grande.

# Faculty Updates, Continued



**Dr. Balanoff's 1st place TCMA Golf Tournament Team**

## **Dr. Howard Balanoff**

Dr. Balanoff's new book, *Strategic Public Management: Best Practices from Government and Nonprofit Organizations*, was released in 2010. The book is published by Management Concepts Inc., and is co-edited by Warren Master. Dr. Balanoff also published an article in the Jan/Feb 2010 issue of *PA Times*, entitled, "The ASPA CPM Connection: Delivering Quality Professional Development Programs and Educational Services to the Public Sector." In addition, he chaired a panel and delivered a presentation on "The Benefits of Certified Public Manager (CPM) Programs in Texas" at the annual conference of the Texas City Management Association (TCMA), which was held June 24-27, 2010 in Galveston, Texas. He is most proud of his first place finish in the TCMA Conference golf tournament with a group of City Managers.

## **Dr. Patricia Shields**

Dr. Shields serves as the Editor of the international journal *Armed Forces & Society* <http://afs.sagepub.com/>. She won the 2010 Evert Swinney Excellence in Teaching Award from the Texas State Faculty Senate and she is the principal investigator (evaluation component) for a grant "Help Establishing Responsive Orders to Ensure Support (HEROES) for Military Children" through the Texas Attorney General's Office (with Dr. Inbody). Dr. Shields also chaired the Section for Women in Public Administration, of the American Society for Public Administration in 2009 and 2010. She has several forthcoming book chapters, including: "Jane Addams Theory of Democracy and Social Ethics: Incorporating a Feminist Perspective" in *Women in Public Administration: Theory and Practice*, "Public Service Professionals: The Legacy of Florence Nightingale, Mary Livermore and Jane Addams" in *The State of Public Administration: Issues, Challenges and Opportunity*, which she completed with Dr. Nandhini Rangarajan, and "An American Perspective on 21st Century Expeditionary Mindset and Core Values: A Review of the Literature" in *Core Values and the Expeditionary Mindset*. She has also given several presentations, including "The Expeditionary Mindset" to the Swedish National Defense College, in Stockholm, Sweden, as well as "Writing Excellent Research Papers" at the Student Summit at the American Society for Public Administration national conference in San Jose, California. Finally, she has a forthcoming book review, of *Deweyan Inquiry: From Education Theory to Practice*, in the journal *Education and Culture*.

## **Dr. Kay Hofer**

Dr. Hofer recently completed a book review of Cornelius M. Kerwin and Scott R. Furlong's book, *Rulemaking: How Government Agencies Write Law and Make Policy*. This summer, she also reviewed a manuscript entitled "Economic Impact of Public Health Spending" for *The American Review of Public Administration*.



## **Dr. Nandhini Rangarajan**

Dr. Rangarajan presented papers at two conferences with Dr. Dianne Rahm in 2010. Together, they presented "Greening Human Resource Practices: An Assessment of Local and State Level Initiatives" at the Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences, in Honolulu, Hawaii, and "Examining the Relationship between Environmental Management and Human Resource Practices: A Study of City-Level Initiatives" at the Western Social Science Association Conference in Reno, Nevada. She also has two forthcoming works, "Public Service Professionals: The Legacy of Florence Nightingale, Mary Livermore and Jane Addams," is a forthcoming book chapter in *The State of Public Administration*, which she completed with Dr. Shields, and "Greening Human Resources: A Survey of City Level Initiatives," a forthcoming article in *Review of Public Personnel Administration*.

**Dr. Nandhini Rangarajan**

# Meet The MPA Advisory Council

The MPA Advisory Council was founded in 1988, and is composed of practitioners, students, and faculty members. The Advisory Council meets three times a year, and has made many recommendations that have improved various aspects of the MPA program. Profiles of some members of the Advisory Council follow. Regular members not profiled: Adrienne Arnold, Betty Eloff, Elena Esparza, Kollette Palacios, David Rejino, Paul Sanchez, Josh Shepherd, and Eddie Solis. Student Members not profiled: Carlos Calle, Stacy Foster, Loi Taylor, and Andrea Troncoso.



Deborah Tucker

## **Deborah Tucker- Chair**

Debby Tucker is Executive Director for the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence. Debby has been dedicated to ending violence against women since becoming a volunteer with the first rape crisis center in Texas in 1973. She became the Assistant Director of the Austin Rape Crisis Center, and then served as a founder and Executive Director of the Austin Center for Battered Women from 1977 until 1982. In 1982, she became the first Executive Director of the Texas Council on Family Violence. Under her leadership, the Texas Council grew to be one of the largest state coalitions with over 50 staff providing training and technical assistance, public education, and advocacy. The Texas Council started the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-SAFE), with 24/7 service for all U.S. states and territories. In August 1996, Debby and Sarah M. Buel, JD, opened Tucker, Buel and Associates, offering customized consultation and training. In May 1998, Sarah and Debby co-founded the National Center to provide training, consultation and advocacy nationwide. Debby has extensive experience on the national level, serving as Co-chair of the U.S. Department of Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence from 2000-2003. She was the founding chair of the National Network to End Domestic Violence during its development and passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994. She is a member of the Board of Advisors for the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence and for WomensLaw.org.

## **Phillip Ruiz- Vice Chair**

Philip A. Ruiz is Vice President of Community Development Management Company, Inc., a firm with over 30 years of expertise in public administration and planning. He serves as a strategic member of the CDMC team and senior project manager. A skilled professional with extensive experience as a consultant, Mr. Ruiz works closely with numerous Texas communities and counties on a variety of federal, state, regional, and local projects. Mr. Ruiz also serves on the following Boards and Committees: Chairman, Planning and Zoning Commission (City of Lockhart); Chairman, Impact Fee Advisory Committee (City of Lockhart); Chairman, Central Texas Sustainable Indicators Project (CTSIP) (Williamson, Travis, Hays, Bastrop, and Caldwell County), and Vice Chair, Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) – Bastrop, Caldwell & Fayette Counties Regional Council. The Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program of Texas State University-San Marcos has recognized Mr. Ruiz as a Distinguished MPA Alumni. He currently serves on the Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program Advisory Council as Vice Chair of Student Orientation.



Ismael Amaya

## **Ismael Amaya- Member**

Ismael has worked in the Dean of Students at Texas State University for eight years, and is currently the Assistant Dean of Students. His duties have included the coordination of the University Mentoring Program and Student Justice and chairing the Behavior Assessment Team. Ismael recently completed the Master of Public Administration program. His Applied Research Project, "How First-Generation and Underrepresented Students Can Overcome Obstacles to Attaining a College Education: Handbook for a New Family Tradition" can be found at <http://ecommons.txstate.edu/arp/318/>. Ismael is or has been a member of the CenTex chapter of the American Society for Public Administration, Texas Association for College and University Student Personnel Administrators, and the Association for Student Conduct Administration. He was inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha, the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration.

## **Dustin McLemore- Regular Member**

Dustin McLemore, MPA, is a Project Manager at Austin Energy where he oversees the utility's records and information management operations. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration and Political Science from Stephen F. Austin State University as well as an MPA with a concentration in Public Financial Management from Texas State. Dustin and his wife Christine reside in Round Rock and have one child. Additionally, Dustin is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

## **James Quintero- Regular Member**

James Quintero is a fiscal policy analyst at the Texas Public Policy Foundation where he contributes to research on state and local government spending, taxation, and financial transparency. Prior to joining the Foundation, James completed his Master's of Public Administration degree with an emphasis in Public Finance at Texas State University-San Marcos. While in attendance at TSU, he completed work on his

## Advisory Council, Continued

### Amy Duhon– Student Member

Amy Duhon is currently an MPA student at Texas State University. She has served on the Advisory Council for at least two years and plans to pursue a career in distance education at a community college or an online campus. Amy assists with processing open records requests at a state agency in Austin, Texas.



**Chris Jones**

### Chris Jones– Student Member

Chris Jones has been a Career Advisor for two years and is currently working on a Master of Public Administration degree at Texas State University in San Marcos. He is heavily involved in employer outreach and is the Career Services Liaison to the Office of Alumni Relations and the College of Liberal Arts. On November 4, 2008, he was elected to a second three year term in Place 4 on the San Marcos City Council. He first won election to the post in December 2005. As the second Texas State University student in history and the first in 33 years to win election to the San Marcos City Council, helped to establish the Student Liaison Program between the students at Texas State and the San Marcos City Council. Additionally, he serves as vice chair of the Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Steering Committee for the National League of Cities and State Director for Young Elected Officials. Jones has represented the City Council on the Convention and Visitor Bureau Board of Directors and the Minority Tourism Board of Directors. He also is a member of the Downtown Association, National Black Caucus of Elected Officials, Texas Municipal League, and the Texas Association of Black City Council Members. In 2009, Councilman Jones was awarded the “Elected Public Official of the Year” by the Centex Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration.

### Jo Wicker– Membership Committee Chair

Jo Wicker has almost 20 years in human resource consulting experience, providing services to Texas public school districts, the public and private sectors, and non-profit organizations. She consults with management from a variety of organizations to create effective processes and procedures for increased productivity and recruitment strategies for effective hiring. In addition, she provides clients with an array of employment regulations compliance strategies. A native Texan and long-time Austin resident, she is a University of Texas at Austin graduate and received her Master’s degree in Public Administration from Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas. She has edited hard copy and online newsletters for human resource topics. Ms. Wicker received the James W. McGrew Award for her research in teacher recruitment and retention in Texas public schools. Wicker serves on the Advisory Board for the Masters in Public Administration at Texas State University and is on the faculty of the Certified Public Manager Program under the auspices of the William P. Hobby Center for Public Service. She is a member of the World at Work (formerly the American Compensation Association) and the Society for Human Resource Managers and holds the highest level of certification from both.

### Jeff Lund– Regular Member

Jeff Lund graduated with a Masters degree in Public Administration (MPA) from Texas State University-San Marcos in 1990 and he is also a Certified Compensation Professional (CCP). In his current position he manages and supervises Texas State’s compensation function. In addition, he conducts training on performance appraisal processes and resolves employee relations issues at the University. He has provided training, compensation, and employment services to public sector entities including the City of Austin and the State Auditor’s Office. He also has provided training and consulting services for various state agencies and the Internal Revenue Service.



**The Advisory Council hard at work**

### Aida Douglas– Regular Member

Aida Douglas’ 17 year professional career has been primarily in the government and non-profit sector. She began her career working for member agencies of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. In 1996, Aida relocated to Austin, Texas where she had the opportunity to work in Texas government at the Texas House of Representatives. She later went on to work for the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce where she worked closely with the minority business community. Since 1999, Aida has worked for the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority. She currently serves as the Business Development Manager/DBE Officer, managing million dollar revenue projects including the agency’s transit advertising program, business partnerships, as well as the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program for the agency. Most recently, the area of Title VI and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) has been part of her focus to ensure agency FTA compliance. She is the current President of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) Chapter in Austin, Texas and has served as a President’s Representative on the COMTO National Board. She holds a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration from California State University Dominguez Hills and a Masters of Public Administration (MPA) from Texas State University. Aida lives in Austin with her two sons, Austin and Christian.

### Lucy Cantu– Regular Member

Lucy Cantu has worked for the State of Texas for over 22 years in various state agencies. Ms. Cantu served on the board of the Central Chapter of American Society for Public Administration, henceforth CenTex ASPA, since 2004. She served as President of Centex ASPA in 2006 and 2009. Ms. Cantu received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas at Austin in 1987. She received her Masters in Public Administration at Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas in May 2004. Ms. Cantu also obtained a Legal Assistant Certificate from the Legal Assistant Program at the University of Texas at Austin in 1995. Ms. Cantu enjoys her free time reading, hiking, and cooking for family and friends. She currently volunteers with the Austin Junior Forum as a new member.

# Alumni Updates

Here's a peek at what Texas State MPA Alumni have been up to since graduation:

## **Leslie Boyd (formerly Atwood), 1999**

I married Michael Boyd in 2001, and have a beautiful son named Pablo. I have been working as a grant coordinator for the City of Austin's Health and Human Services Department since 2004. I love my job, and I still love working in public service after 20 years!

## **Kimberly Gunn Jolly, 2004**

I moved to Reno, NV in 2005 for a fellowship through the ICMA, got married to a marine named Michael Jolly here in 2007, and had a baby girl in 2009 named Lukaia. Now I work as Management Analyst 3/Legislative Liaison for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. But, we are seeking to move back to Texas within 2 years!

## **Jason Alexander, 2009**

Since graduating in May 2009 (and largely because of the MPA degree), I have been hired as an Executive Assistant (EA) in the City of Austin City Manager's Office. More specifically, I have been assigned as the Executive Assistant to the Assistant City Manager who oversees all City of Austin public safety departments (i.e. Police, Fire, EMS, Homeland Security/Emergency Management, and Municipal/Community Court).

## **James Gradney, 2008**

Since graduating I have earned two promotions, to Compliance Monitoring Team 1 Work Leader and Compliance Monitoring Section Manager, TCEQ Enforcement Division.

## **Cassandra Casillas, 2008**

Cassandra Casillas is currently serving in the United States Peace Corps in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia as a Community Economic Development Volunteer. She works with the Mongolian Cooperative Training and Information Center, an independent, non-governmental organization created to support the economic development of Mongolia by promoting and strengthening the country's cooperative movement.

## **Saidat Ilo, 2005**

I will begin school this fall at Howard University in Washington, D.C. in pursuit of a Ph.D. in Political Science. I want to thank all of my former professors in the department. I would like to send a special thank you to Dr. Shields, Dr. DeSoto and Dr. Tajalli.

## **Rebecca Britain Kennedy, 2003 & 2007**

Rebecca married Kye Kennedy, '99 (BS in Criminal Justice), on May 15, 2010 in Driftwood, Texas.

## **Bethany Bell, 2006**

I will be the new Admissions & Records Supervisor at the Austin Community College District Round Rock Campus. My education and skills acquired from the MPA program allowed me to grow professionally in the world of higher education.

## **Michael A. Greenberg, Ph.D, (MPA) 1997**

Michael A. Greenberg earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Texas at Dallas in May 2010. Dr. Greenberg is currently the Director, Project Management Organization at RealPage, Inc. He lives in Dallas, Texas with his wife Katie and daughter Isabelle.

## **Michelle Cruz Arnold, Ph.D, (MPA) 2003**

Michelle Cruz Arnold, Ph.D. (MPA '03) recently accepted the position of Director, State Government Relations for the Southwest Region (Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma & New Mexico) with the College Board.

## **Sue Lee Flores, 2000**

Sue is a Program and Policy Analyst for the Texas Workforce Commission in the Workforce Policy and Program division. She adopted her daughter from China in 2004.

## **Magdalena Blanco, 2009**

Magdalena is the author of the book *Economic Development Corporations in Texas: Preliminary assessment of statutory compliance of 4A and 4B EDCs in Texas with the Development Corporation Act of 1979*. She is also a Senior Program Analyst with the Texas Department of Rural Affairs Disaster Recovery Division. She manages a \$3 billion dollar grant through federal reporting, grant budgeting, and business and information systems management.

## **Rossana A. Barrios, 2001**

Rossana Barrios is the Planning Manager for Travis County ITS-Business Development and Strategic Planning. She is a member of the 2008 Leadership Austin Class and was appointed to the Board of Directors for GENaustin on July 1, 2010.

## **Kelvin Spencer, 2001**

I have a new passion- teaching patriotic generational leaders in the school of Political Science. Thanks to all of my great professors.

## **Ismael Amaya, 2010**

I was promoted from Student Development Specialist II to Assistant Dean of Students at Texas State University.



# Alumni Updates, Continued

## Dustin McLemore, 2008

Our daughter, Grace McLemore, was born on August 6, 2010.

## Texas State MPA Program Important Dates

Event	Date
CenTex ASPA Meeting	August 18, 2010
Fall Classes Begin	August 25, 2010
Last Day to Drop Classes	September 10, 2010
Advisory Board Meeting	September 11, 2010
CenTex ASPA Meeting	September 15, 2010
CenTex ASPA Mixer	September 24, 2010
Graduation Application Deadline- Fall	September 24, 2010
Spring Registration Begins	October 18
Withdrawal Deadline	November 22, 2010
CenTex ASPA Meeting	January 14, 2011
Spring Classes Begin	January 18, 2011
Texas CPM/ASPA Conference	February (Tentative)
Spring Graduation Deadline	February 11, 2011
2011 ASPA Annual Conference	March 11-15, 2011- Baltimore, Maryland
Last Day to Drop- Spring	March 24, 2011
Fall Registration Begins	April 11, 2011
Public Service Recognition Week	May 2-8 2011