

# The P.A. Nexus

## SPRING 2007

It is with great delight that we present you with our annual newsletter. I want to extend my warmest thanks and appreciation to my colleagues, our students, and alumni who have made significant contribution to producing this issue of the newsletter.

I want to also take this opportunity to report a few initiatives that the MPA faculty undertook this year. Some of these initiatives re-emphasize our commitment to remain connected to and serve our outside constituents; others are geared to strengthening our curriculum, program administration and our commitment to serve our student body.

We now have a MPA External Advisory Board consisting of well-known area practitioners from the public and non-profit sector. This is a very involved and motivated group. The board's mission is to assist in our goal to become a premier program in this region. Another important initiative that we undertook this year was to get students' feedback on different aspects of the MPA program. We are currently processing the

surveys and hope to report those in our next issue of the newsletter. Last year we also created a MPA blackboard course shell. We are posting different announcements, curriculum policies, course schedules, job and internship information and news in that course shell. Due to all the positive feedback, I believe students are finding the site very useful and informative.

This year we also undertook several initiatives to strengthen our curriculum and program administration. For

example, we now have a set of agreed upon course objectives for all our core courses. We are currently working to develop the core objectives for our elective courses. We have added two special topic courses in our curriculum: Administrative Dispute Resolution and Citizens & Governance: Collaboration, Conflict and Competition. We have also developed and streamlined policies for selecting students for different awards (e.g. Who's Who, MPA outstanding student) ( ... )

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(A message from the director, continued from pg1) ....

I am happy to note that our students and faculty