

# PUBLIC EYE MPA NEWSLETTER

Winter 2007

## Assessing the MPA Degree

As performance measurement in public service becomes more important, MPA programs have increased their efforts to assess the value of the MPA degree and use assessment/performance data to improve program offerings. Evergreen's MPA program is no different. We've been collecting student-assessment data yearly since the fall of 2002. During the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 academic years, we also talked with alumni and employers to help us get the information needed to make program changes. This information will also assist us as we perform our self-study for college accreditation and for the HEC Board (performed every fifth year).

Now it's time to start thinking about our 2007 self-study. In addition, the Evergreen's MPA program is considering whether or not to seek National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) accreditation. NASPAA is the national membership association and accrediting body for graduate programs in public administration, public policy and public affairs. Two other MPA programs in the state have recently sought and gained accreditation with NASPAA. Evergreen's MPA program has been a member of NASPAA since the program's inception but has consciously chosen to not seek accreditation because the standards would have changed our unique approach to education. As the standards have now changed, it's time for us to reconsider seeking this important accreditation.

Don't be surprised to hear from us as we begin to survey, interview and hold focus groups with students, alumni, employers and community members. We appreciate your help, and will report our findings as soon as they are available.

### *The MPA Job Market*

The International City Manager Association (ICMA) and NASPAA wanted to learn more about the future job market for individuals with a Masters of Public Administration, Public Affairs, or Public Policy degree who wish to work in local city government. 404 city managers (who were also ICMA members) responded to this survey in the summer of 2006. The results showed:

- 77% have hired someone with an MPA or MPP (Master of Public Policy) degree; 84% have supervised someone with an MPA/MPP.
- Respondents rate performance of employees with MPA/MPPs better or much better than employees with similar degrees.
- 93% rated MPA/MPP holders either valuable or extremely valuable to their organization.
- 74% said an MPA/MPP degree increases the likelihood of getting hired, compared to someone with a master degree in another area.

Find more at: [www.naspaa.org/principals/public\\_enterprise/2007/01](http://www.naspaa.org/principals/public_enterprise/2007/01).

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## Look What's New!

Although the memos and policy papers written by administrators don't fit the romantic image of writing set by novelists, they affect more lives more profoundly than any novel. From the program director of a local non-profit to a policy analyst in the White House, public administrators' writing matters.

The MPA program includes great breadth and depth of writing, and now MPA students have another resource to draw upon as they pursue their studies: the MPA Writing Assistant. The Writing Assistant meets with students individually to help them identify their strengths, styles, and revision strategies. By focusing on hands-on methods for improving structure and rhetoric as part of the individual writing process, we help students develop their writing ability for success in the program and beyond.

For more information, please email:  
MPAWA@evergreen.edu



## Announcing Our New MPA Alumni Mentorship Program

As an alumnus, you offer a wealth of experiential knowledge about a variety of topics in public administration, tribal governance, non-profits, and public policy. Our current students want to connect with you! This is your chance to give back and share your unique practice with a student now enrolled in the MPA program. As a mentor, you will be matched up with a student based upon common areas of interest. The program will be designed by participants and supported through TESC alumni relations.

*Ready to engage in mentorship?*

Please contact R.J. Burt, Office of Alumni Relations  
burtr@evergreen.edu  
360.867.6568

## Welcome New Tribal MPA Faculty!

**Bruce Davies** was born in Rapid City, South Dakota, and his family comes from Wanblee, a town on the Pine Ridge Reservation. He received his B.A. from Wesleyan University and a J.D. from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law.



He has spent most of his adult life as a practicing attorney, serving as a staff attorney at the Native American Rights Fund and working as a private attorney in Ketchikan, Alaska. When he moved to Washington state, he served as tribal prosecutor for the Quinault Indian Nation and as deputy prosecutor and public defender for Pacific County. Prior to accepting the position at Evergreen, he worked for several years as a policy analyst at the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

He has extensive experience as a trial attorney. In recent years he concentrated on environmental and natural resources law. His areas of focus have included fishery issues, including the exercise of Indian treaty fishing rights, and the Endangered Species Act.

Currently, Bruce is teaching Doing Public Administration and Intergovernmental Relations.

## MPA Student Union – Adventure Awaits...

Jacob Berkey

The MPA Student Union needs people to help ensure the group's sustainability. That could be you!

"What can the Student Union offer me?" is the most typical question about the club. The MPA SU offers you an opportunity. Now is the time to ask what you can offer to help enhance Evergreen's MPA program.

A group is a collection of people joined in common work. What do you have time for? What are your strengths and interests? What are your priorities as part of this graduate program? All the SU asks from you is **one hour per week**. This small time commitment will change the quality of education for all MPA students now and in the future.

This change is possible because the MPA Student Union has already started initiatives. Last year the group met and discussed methods to improve our graduate school experience: developing resources available to students, a book drive to have specialized media available in the library, social and fundraising events where current students, alumni, and others could network together, and development of scholarship sources for MPA students.

Finally, our student union needs a website. This would include the development of a searchable site where potential employers and internship sponsors could find qualified candidates for job openings. Students and alums could also post resumes, writing samples, and short biography pieces which state their main interests within public administration.

Be a part of the new MPA SU! For more information, contact Jacob at: jacobberkey@hotmail.com

# Letter from the Director

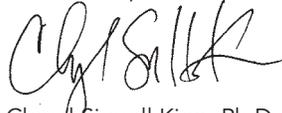
Welcome to the first edition of our redesigned newsletter.

In 2002, we made changes in the design and implementation of the MPA program at Evergreen, including admitting the first cohort to our unique MPA in Tribal Governance. This year, we've admitted the third cohort to the Tribal Governance MPA, are beginning to work with students enrolled in the joint MPA/MES degree and are well into the changes made throughout the program. We've got our sea-legs around our program offerings and are now working on shoring up the margins in our work, including updating the look of the bi-annual newsletter, working with college administration to "brand" our program, working more closely with our advisory committees and offering special events targeted to improve connections with our alumni and strengthen our relationships in the community. We are proud of our work over the years and even more proud of the ways in which we are improving.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the first graduating class of Evergreen MPAs. Including those expected to graduate this year, alumni are more than 800 strong. Alumni are everywhere – in state, local, federal and tribal government, nonprofits, the private sector and working as active and engaged citizens. We plan to mark this accomplishment in some way. For example, we are looking for folks to profile for a story in the college alumni magazine and in local press releases and to participate in our graduation ceremonies. If you'd like to be part of that initiative, let us know.

We look forward to your feedback – let us know how we're doing and how we can stay connected with you. If we don't have current information for you, send it so we can subscribe you to relevant email lists and ensure you get the information you need to stay connected. Send any updates to burtr@evergreen.edu.

Best wishes,



Cheryl Simrell King, Ph.D.  
Director, Master of Public Administration Program  
& Member of the Faculty



## Events Watch

### Tribal Tax Symposium

**Saturday, March 17, 2007**

(9:00am - 4:30pm – check the MPA website for more information)

Representatives from tribes and state government and attorneys will participate in this all-day symposium addressing tax law and court decisions relating to tribal/state taxation disputes, tribal needs for administering tax programs, and issues that states and tribes have been able to resolve through compacts.

### Willi Unsoeld Seminar/MPA Student/Alumni Breakfast with the Author

**Frances Moore Lappé, author of *Democracy's Edge***

**Tuesday, April 17 (evening) and Wednesday, April 18 (morning)**  
(location TBA, check the Evergreen website for more information)

The MPA program is proud to co-sponsor this year's Willi Unsoeld Seminar. The guest speaker this year is author and activist Frances Moore Lappé ([www.smallplanetinstitute.org](http://www.smallplanetinstitute.org)). Her latest book is *Democracy's Edge: Choosing to Save our Country by Bringing Democracy to Life*. The alumni breakfast will include a traditional Evergreen book seminar with the author.



### Short Course Series with Extended Education (2006-2007)

Our first short course series, Contemporary Challenges in Public Administration, is a resounding success. It's not too late to sign up for **Human Resources in Tribal Government** (taught by Pam Peters on Friday, March 2, and Saturday & Sunday, March 3 & 4).

Spring courses are:

**The Art and Science of Project Management in the Public Sector** (taught by a team led by Faith Trimble on Saturdays, April 28 & May 12) and, **Human Resources and Indian Preference: The Challenges and Opportunities** (taught by Sharon Curley on May 4-6).

For more information on the courses and how to register, visit:  
[www.evergreen.edu/extendededucation/mpashortcourse.htm](http://www.evergreen.edu/extendededucation/mpashortcourse.htm)

Stay tuned for information on the 2007-2008 Short Course Series with Extended Education!

## Student Voices

### *Audi Alterum Partum* – “hear from the other side”

How has your experience in the MPA program changed your focus/role at work?



“My plan is to stay with the same employer and use my education as I am promoted to positions in the organization that deal with public policy. My focus is: To learn along the way by keeping an open mind and recognize others’ points of view so that I can apply personal perspectives and academics in making decisions that affect public policy.”

**Dan Sharp** *2nd year MPA Class of 2007*

“When I started the program, I was a disillusioned student librarian. At that time, I felt as if my voice could never be a part of the change in the world. All I could see was problems and negativity. I enrolled in the program to become employable and within two months had a new job. I have discovered my voice and am contributing to the change in the world. If I hadn’t enrolled in the MPA program these things probably wouldn’t have happened.”

**Jacob Berkey** *2nd year MPA Graduation to be determined*

“As a student from a low-income background, the MPA program has helped me imagine myself in positions of increasing responsibility, which I had previously assumed were for ‘other types of people.’ Because of this, I see my current work as the MPA Writing Assistant as part of a bigger picture and take my responsibility to help my peers succeed more seriously.”

**Jayne Kaszynski** *3rd year MPA Class of 2007*

What is the single most important thing you have learned thus far in the program?

“Democracy, and my role in it, is much more complicated than I realized. The ‘absolutes’ I came into the program with have been replaced with ‘what ifs’ and ‘what thens.’ I think Public Administration, when it is done with integrity and intent, is about the matter in the middle.”

**August Cabrera** *2nd year MPA Class of 2007*

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