

Public Eye NEWSLETTER

Spring 2007

25th Graduation

In December 1979, the proposal to establish a Master's of Public Administration degree at TESC was approved. The first cohort was admitted in the Fall of 1980 and graduated in 1982. Now, almost 700 graduates later, we prepare to graduate our 25th TESC MPA cohort.

Those first students came from a wide range of public service backgrounds. A similar breadth of experience and interest has infused and fortified each successive cohort and is reflected in the students who graduate this year.

The daily work of TESC MPA graduates, at all levels of government and throughout the non-profit sector, directly benefits the citizens of Washington, the Pacific Northwest Region, and tribal nations as well as other U.S. states and nations throughout the world.

After twenty years the MPA program made some significant adjustments to both the content and the delivery of the curriculum. These changes have been well received by the students and have resulted in an increase in enrollment. The part-time option has opened our doors to a number of people who could not otherwise participate either for time or financial reasons. These changes also allowed for the creation of separate tracks that students can pursue to earn their MPA degree; Public Policy, Public and Non-profit Administration, and Tribal Governance.

In 2002, the first cohort for the MPA Tribal Governance track was admitted. The Tribal MPA is the only MPA in the country, and world, with an emphasis on tribal governance. The Tribal track has significantly increased the number of students participating in the MPA program. Two cohorts have graduated; the current Tribal cohort has 30 students.

We are very happy (and proud) to be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the first MPA graduating class and proud to be celebrating the recent successes of our program.

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You must be the change you wish to see in the world - Mohandas K. Gandhi

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Reflections on 25 Years

Congratulations from President Purce

Over the past 15 years, I have had the pleasure of watching the growth and refinement of the MPA program. More importantly, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with dozens of the extraordinary students and graduates of this program and to see many of them go on to become exceptional leaders on the local, regional, and national levels.

So as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the MPA program at The Evergreen State College, I want to offer my congratulations to this year's graduates, and to the nearly 800 alumni who have come before them. Evergreen has long been committed to making a positive difference in the world and our MPA graduates – through their leadership in government and non-profit organizations – have often been at the forefront. Congratulations and thank you all for your personal and professional contributions to our college and our society.

Thomas L. Purce
President, TESC

Congratulations to MPA on 25 years!

I loved teaching in the Evergreen MPA program for seven years. As Evergreen approaches its 40th birthday, I find myself reflecting upon Evergreen's mission, its founding principles, and the values inculcated in me during my own master and doctoral studies in public administration. During the past two years Evergreen engaged in a strategic planning process in preparation for our accreditation self-study next year, wherein we re-affirmed Evergreen's mission as a public interdisciplinary liberal arts college, in effect its distinctive competence, which I will briefly address.

In my own public administration studies, I attained a deep respect for the public interest, the importance of the commons, and a public service career as the noblest of callings, more important today than ever before in a world where knowledge is increasingly being commoditized and colleges are marketed like commercial products. Evergreen's public-ness is truly valued. Forty years ago our founding faculty had the prescience to create a college devoid of departments, devoted to cultivating integrative knowledge and modes of thinking within collaborative, interdisciplinary learning communities. Martha Nussbaum spoke at Evergreen last year and reminded us that Walt Whitman saw the literary artist as an "irreplaceably valuable educator of democratic citizens" and that "literary art develops capacities for perception and judgment that are at the very heart of democracy." She argued that "literary understanding is a form of imaginative and emotional receptivity that can seem profoundly threatening to the sort of person who would demonize a group" and leads to empathetic understanding of people who are different, outcast, or oppressed. Evergreen's MPA program, embedded within a public interdisciplinary liberal arts college, can truly cultivate the narrative imagination in its students. As a college, we are devoted to teaching and learning as our primary task. Here's to the next 25 years!

Don Bantz
Academic Vice President and Provost, TESC

TESC changed my life. I was a member of both the original undergraduate and MPA classes. Everything I did after was shaped by those experiences. My original undergraduate degree led me to teacher certification within a year. I was teaching at Olympia High when I did the MPA and regularly took what I was learning back into my classroom. Eight months after I completed the degree, I accepted a Schedule C political appointment to work in the Workers Compensation Section of the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. and left Olympia where I had lived for twenty-five years. Although I did not sell my home then, I never returned to Olympia. When I returned west after nearly two and half years in D.C., I came to East King County and worked in municipal government for about the same period before taking a position with a financial planning / investment management company in Seattle where I worked until retirement. Although my role with the company was operations and client services and statistics and quant had been my least favorite MPA subjects they came in very handy during my ten years in the investment industry. Enrolling at Evergreen was one of the best things I ever did for myself!

Anne Avery, 1982 TESC MPA Alumna

Congratulations on your 25th anniversary. I remember with great fondness teaching in the first year of the MPA program.

Best wishes, Daniel J. Evans

A note from Emily H. Ray, a 1982 Evergreen MPA alum, now happily retired (in 1997) after a career in public service, primarily at the Washington Department of Ecology.

I entered the Evergreen MPA program because I needed a career boost. As a single parent I couldn't commute to Tacoma for graduate school. I found the program to be exciting, exhausting, exhilarating, rewarding, and confidence building!

My MPA degree helped build my credibility in an agency dominated by people with science and engineering backgrounds. My undergraduate degree made me a generalist with wide-ranging interests. I had already demonstrated the ability to move from the public affairs office into water planning, then into shoreline planning where I was federal coordinator for the state's coastal management program. I believe the MPA degree persuaded my bosses to move me into supervisory and managerial roles in shoreline management and later into other areas.

I encourage you to take a risk, embrace new challenges. It's hard to make changes in agencies until you have a core of people who have come to some of the same understandings and hold the same values. As more people move through the MPA program, there will be more opportunity to put good public administration principles into place.

Emily, 1982 TESC MPA Alumna

Class of 1982



Graduates: Sonja Alexander, Anne Avery, Eric Bailey, Linda Bradford, Marie Cameron, G. Bradley Chandler, Ken Conte, Grant Cramond, Susanne Dade, Nancy Dombrowski, Ejoann Freimund, Donovan Gray, Sue Heflin, Jerry Lenzi, Sarah Loken, John McKenna, Linda Merriman, Linda Murphy, Lorna Patterson, Emily Ray, Leslie Romer, Douglas Shadel, Gerard Sidorowicz, Carolyn Smith, Patricia Warfe (*not necessarily pictured*)

Faculty: Guy Adams, William R. Arney, F. Gerald Brown, Daniel J. Evans, Mary Huston-Miyamoto, Gerald Lassen, Russell Lidman, Arthur Mulka, David Paulsen

The Graduate Student speakers this year are two MPA Graduates, August Cora Cabrera and Lou Gail Sager



Lou is currently a program specialist for the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, wife, mother of three and grandmother of one. She is living proof that hard work and dedication produce great results.

August is a full-time mom and Army wife. She has worked as a consultant to the World Bank Indigenous

Peoples and Community Driven Development Departments, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, and for the U.S. EPA as Tribal Liaison to the Apache and Pueblo Tribes of New Mexico.

While Lou was earning her BA at TESC she took an MPA elective class and was hooked. She took extra credits to be ready to enter the MPA program in Fall 2005. Lou says, "I am in a great position working with a system that is facing big changes. I plan to use this degree to make the most of those changes, including the learning that it entails. I want to help the system grow and succeed, which in turn will help to change students' lives."

August has big plans too, "Ultimately I would like to be in the position to design and implement Indigenous Peoples' policy on a national or international level. Having an MPA will act as a gateway to both a policy position and (eventually) a PhD program."

Lou says, "The larger your commitment is to learning, the wider the effects are on your learning and the learning of others. The program provides a space for you to push yourself harder and higher than you ever expected and accomplish more than you ever expected. The program will be what you make of it. Use your time well!"

Graduating Class of 2007

Katherine Gail Boyd
Tracy Marilyn Bray
Alexis Augusta Breiteneicher
Joelle Marie Brouner
August Cora Cabrera
Susanne Choe Carr
Andrea Lizanne Coker-Anderson
Lin Crowley
T.L. Nicole Emanuel
Leslie Karen Emerick
Michael James Fallis
Chantel Monique Gagnon-Bailey
Diane Lynne Gasaway
Carolyn Ann Gerwen
Kimberly S. Goetz
Stephan Marc Gordon
Tim Patrick Gugerty
Dwayne Erik Hansen
Rebecca Anne Henrie
Jayne Anne Rossman Kaszynski
Emily Louise Killeen
Seth Risdon Kirby
Vincent Gordon Kueter
Dwight Leffingwell
Alison Barbara Leiman
James Leiman
James Joseph Masters
Martin Moorad McMurry
Delores Ann Monaghan
Gregory Newborn
Evan Peter Olsen
David Overby
Luisa Antonieta Parada
Cary Retlin
Lou Gail Sager
Seth Edwin Sather
Shawn Phillip Seldomridge
Dae Shogren
Wilma Jean Sofranko
Jennifer Marie Swidler
Laura Louise Taylor
Joseph Collins Ward
Morgan Todd Wear
Scott Stewart Wheeler
Heidi Elizabeth Zibell

What's Happening in the MPA Classroom?



workshops and examined stories about people living in poverty. Practicing collaboration skills and working across differences they decided to support an upcoming meeting for the community of Camp Quixote, the tent city in West Olympia, to encompass their various advocacy interests.

First they delivered clothing, food staples and breakfast supplies to the camp and, while sharing breakfast, they listened to the desires of the camp's community members and collaboratively coordinated a public forum that would bring together the local faith community, members of Portland's Dignity Village and Seattle's Tent cities, local advocates, students and civic leaders to explore future options for Camp Quixote.

As expert facilitators, working behind the scenes and assuring Camp Quixote's wishes were honored, students raised money for food, created flyers and handouts, provided promotion, created educational materials including video taped interviews of Camp Quixote's members and fact sheets on a broad array of issues regarding poverty in general and homelessness and affordable housing in particular.

The center of the event, titled "Meet Camp Quixote", was a panel of eleven speakers, including members of Camp Quixote and the Poor People's Union that started the camp. The panel utilized both facts and personal narratives to inform and raise consciousness. This engaging forum drew over 300 community participants and the response was amazingly positive. Students reflected that this opportunity was one of the most rewarding they had experienced.

Cheri Lucas Jennings will be joining the MPA faculty in the Fall

Cheri taught core MPA in public policy in 1995, and for several years with TESC graduate environmental studies program. Her training, and her Ph.D. are in areas of public law and policy; her master's in public health and comparative politics. Before Evergreen, she worked in the graduate public administration program at the University of Montana.

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