

# PUBLIC EYE MPA NEWSLETTER

Winter 2008

## Karen Fraser on Evergreen Graduates

*At this year's New Student Orientation for the MES and MPA programs we were fortunate to have Karen Fraser address the assembled students. Karen Fraser is a state senator, former state representative, former county commissioner, former mayor, former city council member, former state agency employee and also a Greener Parent and an adjunct faculty in the MPA program. The following are excerpts from her presentation. They convey information and observations that hold value for the new cohort and also for those students preparing to graduate this year.*

The next two plus years of your life here will be foundational years. You will be preparing for your future, and really, all of our futures. We're all interconnected, and we'll all be affected by the influential roles you'll be playing wherever you land—wherever your life takes you, or wherever you take your life. My guess is that you have chosen graduate school here because you seek to have a satisfying life...; you want to improve your abilities to think and do; and you want to improve your abilities to influence our world for the better. There are so many ways to do this. And, the opportunities are truly unlimited! To do this begins with "self capacity" – your own capabilities. Again, that's why you are here, to advance them. And you will.

### Widely Known Characteristics of Evergreen Graduates

(Evergreen Graduates) are known as THINKERS, first and foremost. To think! It seems so simple, but not everyone does it. A habit of thinking is so important: thought underlies action. Thinkers don't just accept whatever is handed to them. They don't just blithely buy into others' assumptions. They are great at researching, gathering and evaluating information, sorting the wheat from the chaff, and developing their own opinions or recommendations. (They) think creatively. They are likely to ask new questions about old problems and ask old questions about new problems. They are good at discovering new ways. They think in interconnected ways, "connecting the dots" between different types of information. They're good at analyzing how one thing relates to another. This is an outcome of a basic educational philosophy of Evergreen. They think strategically. This means thinking not only about "facts", but thinking and planning ahead in terms of how one thing affects another sequentially. It also means seeking to influence or take advantage of this.

(Evergreen Graduates) are known for having cooperative leadership styles. They're generally able to work well with others both directly and indirectly, interpersonally, with groups, and through networking. They're known as good communicators. As you enhance your communication skills, your self confidence

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*Senator Karen Fraser, D, 22nd Dist. 2007*

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

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builds. Good communication skills are essential to functioning effectively. In our ever-changing, increasingly interdependent world, virtually everyone has to explain things to others these days. You want to be understood and credible in your communication style. Evergreen grads are known as analytic evaluators. Evaluations are an important analytical process in organizational life. Here, you'll get lots of experience in developing a thoughtful, professional approach. Evergreen grads are also recognized as having substance in their areas of expertise. The substance you'll develop here will strengthen and broaden your foundation for continued life long learning and development.

#### **MPA, MES & Tribal Administration Program Interaction**

I'm pleased that students and faculty from all three graduate programs are here today. I encourage your ongoing togetherness. This reflects Evergreen's interdisciplinary approach—trying to build bridges, or reduce walls, between historically segregated knowledge and professional discipline “silos,” which are so embedded in our culture. For example, education for careers in science and public administration have historically been very separate. Students, and probably faculty, in each appear to have assumed that taking classes in the other field would be irrelevant to their future professional challenges. In contemporary “real life,” this assumption is simply invalid. In fact, such assumptions are seriously counterproductive. Science and public policy processes now intersect regularly.

Another example where culturally embedded “silos” need to come down pertains to knowledge of tribal governance by nontribal officials and advocates. Traditionally, students of federal, state, and local governments rarely receive much background in tribal law and governance. This knowledge gap can lead to dysfunctional strategies; poor relationships; unnecessarily costly decisions; expensive, preventable litigation; and deterioration of the quality of environmental and natural resources.

Evergreen is the first graduate school in the state, and probably one of the few in the country, to address this need so directly by creating a professional preparation program in Tribal Administration. In fact, the interface between tribal and nontribal governance is so significant and complex, that at least an introduction to it is highly desirable. I encourage each of you to become as well informed as you can about tribal governments. They have extensive roles, responsibilities, and legal rights in Washington state and throughout the country.

#### **A Final Observation: Differences in Values**

A fundamental reality of public life is that what's important to one person or group is often not important to another person or group. Different groups, regions, economic sectors, and personalities frequently have different values—leading to vigorous clashes and intense competition. You should also observe that different public officials and even different agencies within the same unit of government often have different values.

Differences in values are often the real drivers or motivations behind what might otherwise appear to be either a lively or somewhat boring debate over something else. I recommend you always analyze carefully and in depth the debates over science, data, roles and processes of government, organization of government, appointments, etc.

I applaud your ambition and your desire to invest in making a difference. I wish each of you the very best!”

## **Student Profile: Josh Proehl**



Spend five minutes with Josh Proehl and you will immediately pick up on three important things; he is a new student in the MPA Program, an AmeriCorps Team Coordinator at Community Youth Services, and an AmeriCorps Alumni.

Josh spent two years in AmeriCorps making a personal investment to community service and gaining

a wealth of knowledge in the process. He spent his first year working directly with schools setting up mentoring programs for youth. Then Josh decided to become a VISTA Leader with the goal of showing others the incredible nature of their service and dedication. For Josh, the highlight of that year was winning the National AmeriCorps Video Contest and attending the National Conference on Volunteering and Service to present his video.

Without a doubt, Josh has incredible commitment to community service and speaks passionately about serving “The Other America”. AmeriCorps limits participants to three years so he needed to figure out where people like him go after AmeriCorps! Josh quickly realized that to do the work he is so passionate about, he would need a Masters in Public Administration. When searching out the perfect MPA program Josh looked for one with a vital community, courses with a mission connected to service, and classrooms alive with discussion. Josh found these things at Evergreen.

Being a student at Evergreen while working for AmeriCorps means that Josh gets to bring what he is learning from his classmates with him into the world. Currently he is still involved with the VISTA Leader Performance Challenge, a nationally selected group of VISTA Leaders who are redefining the role of VISTA Leaders in the AmeriCorps VISTA program.

Josh states that, “I will continue to incorporate learning from Evergreen into the work that I do. After I finish my MPA, I hope to continue working with AmeriCorps at the national level.”

### **WINTER & SPRING**

#### **MPA ELECTIVE OFFERINGS**

**2 CREDIT ELECTIVES**

##### **Budget and Financial Management**

Dick Cushing

Weekend of January 25–27

##### **Oral Communication for Non Profit Leaders**

Michael Shadow (206-624-2080)

Weekend of February 8–10



# What's New

## Miracles

In early fall, faculty member and director of the Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute ([www.evergreen.edu/nwindian](http://www.evergreen.edu/nwindian)), Alan Parker suffered two heart attacks and, after the last, life supports were withdrawn. In true Alan style, he shocked and amazed the world by awakening. Alan is well on his way to becoming his old self. Welcome back, Alan.



Alan Parker

## Staff (newly arrived)

We are pleased to welcome Randee Gibbons as our new assistant director. Randee comes to us with experience working in student services at UC Berkeley, in public and non-profit administration in the San Francisco Bay area, and most recently in human resources management at several Washington State Agencies (CTED and WSDOT) and Timberland Library. Randee completed her graduate work in the Bay Area, earning a Master in Public Policy from Berkeley and a Master of Transformative Arts/Arts & Consciousness at John F. Kennedy University. Now in her fifth month, Randee is getting her sea-legs and we are greatly benefiting from her skills and abilities. Randee can be contacted at: [gibbons@evergreen.edu](mailto:gibbons@evergreen.edu) or at 360.867.6554.

We are also pleased to welcome Charlie Bloomfield as our graduate program assistant. Charlie (Pyramid Lake Paiute/Saanich/Chippewa) is a second year student in the MPA-Tribal Governance concentration and has many years of working in student services at colleges and universities, much of that time working with Indian education programs. Charlie's job description is still in formation but he supports the assistant directors and the director with various clerical and administrative activities.

Following on our success last year of offering MPA students writing assistance, this year MPA and MES have teamed up to hire a writing assistant for both student groups. Regan Heineke is being kept very busy, assisting student with class papers, research projects and theses. Another "new" assistant director to the MPA-Tribal program is Jeannie Chandler, who has worked at the college for 30 years. She was lured out of retirement with the promise of working with Evergreen students and faculty in the Tribal Governance Track. Her former work here included serving as the special assistant to the academic vice president and director of student housing. Jeannie earned a master's and BA in sociology. She can be contacted at: [chandlej@evergreen.edu](mailto:chandlej@evergreen.edu) or at 360.867.6202.

We also welcome Renee Swan-Waite as an assistant director to the MPA-Tribal program in charge of student recruitment. Renee has a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Seattle University and has

worked in Indian Education for a number of years in both Washington and California. Renee also teaches for TESC in the reservation-based program at Tulalip. She can be contacted at: [swanwair@evergreen.edu](mailto:swanwair@evergreen.edu).

## Staff (leaving)

We are sad to bid adieu to Mike McCanna, who has served as the assistant director for MPA Tribal for the last 2+ years. We will miss Mike's steady presence and his solid administrative abilities. Mike is an elected member of the Board of Directors for the Chugach Alaska Corporation and will continue his good work in that position. In addition, Mike will turn his attention to the novel that has been waiting for him to write it into being. Best wishes, Mike!

## Projects

The MPA program has teamed up with local non-profits and faith organizations in the Hunger Free Thurston County Coalition (HFTCC). The first year students and faculty are working with the Coalition to assist them in their strategic planning efforts to move toward eradicating hunger in Thurston County. Randee Gibbons is our representative to the Coalition and, along with first year Core faculty, has been meeting regularly with the Coalition since early summer. Look for a series of "Listening Projects" across the county in the spring, facilitated by Evergreen MPA students.



Jeannie Chandler, Charlie Bloomfield, and Randee Gibbons

Faculty member Larry Geri (currently teaching in the Evergreen undergraduate curriculum) is working with the Thurston County HOME Consortium on a study of local homelessness issues.

Faculty member Nita Rinehart has recently stepped into the position of president of the Board of Directors of Garden Raised Bounty (GRuB), a local nonprofit organization dedicated to nourishing strong communities by empowering people to grow good food ([www.goodgrub.org](http://www.goodgrub.org)).



Faculty member Amy Gould has a forthcoming article in *Administrative Theory and Praxis*, entitled "Katrina & Colonialism: The Sins of Our Forefathers Perpetuated."

MPA and The Evergreen State College Alumni Relations launched a pilot MPA mentor program this past summer. We currently have 6 mentors and 9 learners participating. The intention is that mentor/learner relationships will help foster our public administration community, improve students' professional network, and offer a practical guiding resource for students. Contact: Amy Gould [goulda@evergreen.edu](mailto:goulda@evergreen.edu) or RJ Burt (Office of Alumni Relations) [burtjr@evergreen.edu](mailto:burtjr@evergreen.edu).

# MPA Advisory Board

**Stephen Buxbaum** – Consultant/Adjunct Faculty, The Evergreen State College, MPA

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## Honorary Chairs:

**Christine Gregoire**, Governor, State of Washington

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## In Her Words: MPA Student Amy Buckler

I chose to pursue a Masters in Public Administration with a focus on local government out of a desire to work for the benefit of my community on a full time basis. Two things got me hooked on Evergreen’s MPA program: the mission statement, “you must be the change you wish to see in the world,” and the incredible attitude of respect among students and staff on this campus. I am now beginning my second year, and I can honestly say the hard work is paying off—big time!

Recently, I took an intern management assistant position with the City of Olympia. My first three assignments at the City were to do a public presentation, write a white paper and conduct research. Also, this summer I received the Washington City/County Management Association (WCCMA) graduate scholarship, which led me to the WCCMA summer conference. I found it validating that many of the seminar topics were right in line with our MPA studies. One of the nicest aspects of the WCCMA award is that I have been paired up with a mentor, the city manager of University Place. So many doors have opened to me since becoming an Evergreen MPA student. I think it’s great the MPA faculty have been working toward making the program more inclusive of local government. I’ve learned from experience, Evergreen’s MPA program does a wonderful job of preparing students for careers in local government. I’m thankful to be here.

# EVERGREEN

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