**NASPAA 2015 Reflections**

CURRICULUM: CAPSTONE AND ONLINE

Maxwell school not online, although considering Executive MPA online.

Instead of Castone projects, MPA programs moving toward **portfolios**

Some folks think capstone is not useful for in-service students

U of Missouri: capstone for pre-service students ONLY

Demonstration of “MPA curriculum in practice”

Orientation workshops: How to deliver budget presentations, how to avoid plagiarism, managing stress (see syllabus from SUNY Albany)

**Big case study** to analyze—group work and intro to PA (what is PA?)

Steve Ott: Utah: use case studies to assess KSAs; co-author cases with prominent alums “a case they lived”

Many require all to do internships

SOCIAL MEDIA

I asked, with our listservs going away, what’s next for TESC MPA?

Google groups

What’s replacing our listservs (e.g., Portfolium)

We will lose alumni every time we switch systems

Window decal as an incentive for alumni survey, e.g.,

Can alumni mentor field projects in a more formal way? Judge capstones?

Force all students to join Linkedin TESC MPA group

LEADERSHIP:

Train students in “brave” spaces—how to have difficult conversations around race, etc. in the workplace

From UN guy: build leadership NOW; coalition building, managing people needed (policy analysis not so much, not super-academic analysis needed); certain UN jobs do not need analysis.

MISC:

CAVE dwellers: Colleagues Against Virtually Everything

Fight for career services person for all grad programs

Have a cultural diversity “audit”

Need to make these changes habits

Letter to my peeps: we are doing it right (the MPA program).

Plenary speaker formerly from UN talked about becoming a “low carbon society”