
Spring Mixer Date Set

The annual spring mixer and potluck for the MPA program will be held on Sunday, April 23rd, from 4 – 7 p.m. at the home of Dr. Mary Hallock Morris. We will be honoring our three December graduates – Jon Reidford, Lauren Adams, and Danyelle Granger – during this event. MT will provide the brats and burgers ... and the cook. You will provide the side dishes. Students in PA 611 can “register” their side dish on the class discussion board in Blackboard. Students who are not enrolled in PA 611 can “register” their side dish by e-mailing MT at mhmorris@usi.edu. A reminder and directions to the mixer will be sent out in early April.

It's That Time Again: Early Registration Dates

- It's time for early registration for Fall 2006. Returning graduate students can register for classes starting **April 3, 2006**. New graduate students can begin registering for classes **on April 10, 2006**. Please refer to the schedule of classes for more information.
 - *Notice of Policy Change:* Effective fall 2006, enrolled students must take action to drop/withdraw themselves from any classes. The University will no longer cancel students' classes for failure to settle their account.
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Fall 2006 Schedule of Classes

- PA 618.001 – Research Methods in Public Administration (3 hours) Tuesday 6-8:45 p.m. LA 2002, Instructor TBA
- In this course, students will examine a variety of social science research methodologies relevant to the management of governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations. Over the course of the semester, students will discuss the various types of experimental, quasi-experimental, and reflexive research designs that are used to conduct program evaluations. The students will also learn how to collect data using surveys and focus groups, how to do a standard cost-benefit analysis, how to use emerging analytical techniques such as social return on investment (SROI), and how to evaluate and interpret data. By the end of the semester, each student will be able to apply these methods to a “real world” program evaluation project.
- PA 631.001 -- Fundraising & Volunteer Management (3 hours) Thursday 6-8:45 p.m. LA 1015, Mary Hallock Morris
- Students in this course will examine the concepts, strategies and techniques of financial and human resource development in the public and nonprofit sector. During this semester, each student will gain practical experience in the following: developing organizational needs assessments, preparing capacity studies, writing fundraising proposals, developing volunteer management plans, and conducting outcomes evaluation. *This course will be offered as a distance education course with five on campus meetings. Contact Dr. Hallock Morris at mhmorris@usi.edu for a preliminary syllabus.*
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Kudos!

- *Danyelle Granger*, a December 2005 graduate of the MPA Program, has accepted a position as the Foundation Program Specialist with the Old National Bank Foundation. Congratulations to Danyelle!
 - *Sarah Siddens*, a student in the MPA program, recently presented her paper “Where Does Freedom Stop and Order Start? A Theoretical Analysis of the Patriot and Freedom of Information Acts” at the 2006 annual meeting of the Indiana Political Science Association.
 - *Dr. Mary Hallock Morris*, assistant professor of political science, was elected president of the Indiana Political Science Association during the organization's annual meeting in March. USI will host the next IPSA conference and all MPA students are encouraged to present their original research papers at the conference. Dr. Morris will be sending you updates about the conference during the fall semester.
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Community Events

Homeward Bound: Indiana's 5K Walk to Provide Housing and Fight Homelessness

MPA Alumnus *Susie Carney* tells us that it's time for the annual Homeward Bound Walk. The walk will be a beautiful walk starting at Casino Aztar and taking us down the river and up through some of the older, established homes. The walk is schedule for **April 8th** with registration 8:30-10 a.m. with the walk kicking off at 10 a.m. If you can't walk but would like to donate you can go online to www.homelesswalks.org and click on Evansville on the map then "Hand-in-Hand" on the right side of the home page. Click on "join my team" at the top of the page and proceed. Choose Aurora as the designated team, fill in the blanks and continue. You can also send donations to Susie, with the checks made out to Aurora (which will be much simpler for you) and she will go online and submit an off line donation for you. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Helpful Hints

Did you know that the USI Computer Center has an Orientation CD for new students? You can pick these up from the computer center offices located in the Orr Center, OC046. The Orientation CD contains helpful information about using the computer services on campus and for distance education and specialized software instruction to help new students learn their way around. If you prefer browsing the Internet for your information seeking, you may find the contents of the Orientation CD at the following web address:

<http://compctr.usi.edu/infocd1/index.htm>. Knowledge of basic computing and Internet browsing and searching is crucial to a successful experience as a student enrolled in higher education. Other help can be found at the Rice Library and the Distance Education Office located with Instructional Technology Services.

– From MPA Student *Beth Thompson*

Miscellany

- For information about the University of Southern Indiana's Graduate Student Policies, see the Graduate Studies website at: <http://www.usi.edu/gradstud/academic.asp>
- General admission requirements for USI's graduate programs are listed on the Graduate Studies website at: <http://www.usi.edu/gradstud/admit.asp>
- The specific MPA program admission requirements can be found at: <http://www.usi.edu/gradstud/admpa.asp>

About the MPA @ USI

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) is the primary graduate degree sought by current and future administrators in government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and heavily regulated private corporations. The curriculum consists of twelve graduate courses. Courses emphasize practical applications of skills and knowledge relevant to problems confronting administrators working in government agencies and not-for-profit organizations in southwestern Indiana. Since most MPA students are working professionals attending school part-time, most courses meet one evening each week during fall and spring semesters. Some courses are also offered in the summer or can be taken online as distance education courses. See our home page at:

<http://www.usi.edu/libarts/philpolsci/MPA/>

Feel free to forward our newsletter to other people who may be interested in the MPA Program @ USI.

If you receive a forward and would like to be added to our list, click [here](#).

Disclaimer: MPA BYTES is an opt-in, low traffic e-newsletter for students, faculty, and friends of the University of Southern Indiana's MPA program. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please click [here](#).