
In This Edition ...

Welcome to the MPA Program; Fall 2009 Graduation Announcement; December 2008 Graduation Information; What We're Doing Now; Date Announced for Holiday Gathering; MPA Welcomes New Instructor for PA 618; MPA Starts New Mentorship Program; Mack Teaches Two Classes in MPA Program; New Director Named for MPA Program; Schedule for Spring and Summer 2009; Research Opportunities; Grants & Scholarships Available; Connect with Southern Indiana Applications Due October 10; New Advisory Board Members; MPA Program Review to Begin in January 2009; Important Grad Student Policies; Course Substitution Policy; Taking the GRE ...

Welcome to the MPA Program!

The MPA faculty would like to welcome all of the new graduate students to the University of Southern Indiana. If you are a new or special student this semester, please contact Dr. MT Hallock Morris for a copy of the MPA program's orientation packet. The packet, which was produced by the MPA Society, includes the degree checksheet, tips for surviving graduate school, and strategies for reading at the graduate level.

Attention Fall 2009 Graduates

Are you planning on graduating in December 2009? If so, please contact Dr. Hallock Morris at mhmorris@usi.edu. Graduation applications are **due on January 30, 2009**. These applications must be filled out by Dr. Hallock Morris and signed by Dean Glassman, so your immediate attention to this matter is most appreciated.

USI to Host Two Commencement Ceremonies

Fall 2008 Commencement Ceremonies will be held on **Saturday, December 13, 2008**, in the Physical Activities Center (PAC). Due to the increasing number of graduates, there will be two Commencement Ceremonies on that date. Students who are graduating with their master's degree in public administration will be hooded during the 1 p.m. ceremony. According to the Registrar's website, all degree candidates are to report to PAC 200 on the second level of the Physical Activities Center no later than 11:30 a.m. The line up for the processional will begin at 12 noon.

December graduates should submit their diploma form to the Registrar's Office and order their academic regalia from the bookstore by **October 1, 2008**. Reservations to "walk" should be completed by **December 5, 2008**. Check the Graduate Studies website at <http://www.usi.edu/gradstud/gradinfo.asp> for more information. Spring 2009 graduates can find information about their graduation ceremonies at the same website.

What We're Doing Now!

- Congratulations to MPA Student **Tim Hart** for winning one of the University's Jennings and Josephine Carter Graduate Scholarships! *BTW, if you're interested in applying for this scholarship, check the deadline listed later in this newsletter!*
- MPA Alumnus **Jon Reidford** is now working at Henderson Community College as an IT Project Manager/Instructional Design Specialist.
- **John Campbell**, M' 2006, is a member of the Board of Directors of Family Matters in Posey County. Family Matters is a community resource and referral program dedicated to providing materials and referrals to families, community agencies, and organizations for a wide range of family and personal needs.
- Alumnus **Stephen Schaefer** hosted the successful Chamber of Commerce Campaign School in February 2008.
- **Maurice Pearl**, M' 2008, has taken a position with the South Bend Public Transportation Corporation (TRANSPO). He is their new Assistant General Manager.

- MPA Student **Kendra Melchior** presented her paper, “U.N. Food for Oil Program and the Need for Reform Leadership” at the Indiana Political Science Association Meeting held in March 2008. **Dr. Hallock Morris** also attended the IPSA meeting, presenting a co-authored paper (with J. Robert Shrode) entitled “Environmental Knowledge, Party Identification, and Political Ideology: A Preliminary Investigation into Attitude Ambivalence.”
- MPA Alumna **Jaclyn Dumond** has joined the editorial board for the *Indiana Journal of Political Science*.
- MPA Student **Lana Abel** is serving as a member of the Graduate Studies’ Student Academic Grievance Committee for the 2008-2009 academic year.
- Did you know that MPA student **Julie Brauser** teaches leadership seminars in her capacity as a Training Consultant for the USI Center for Human Resource Management? If you’re interested, check out the [Management Brown Bag Series](#) through Extended Services.

Have news and want to be included in the *MPA Bytes*?
Drop Dr. Hallock Morris an [email](#) and she’ll include it in the next edition.

Date Announced for Holiday Gathering

The Annual MPA Holiday Gathering will be held on

Thursday, December 18, from 6 – 9 p.m.

at the home of Gary & MT Hallock Morris.

They’ll provide the burgers, brats, and sodas!

You’ll bring a dish to share.

More information will be sent out later this semester.

Hope to see you there!



MPA Program Welcomes New Instructor for PA 618



The MPA Program would like to welcome **Dr. Katherine Draughon** as an instructor for Spring 2009. Dr. Draughon is the director of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment at the University of Southern Indiana (USI), where she also holds a faculty appointment as Associate Professor of Sociology. She will be teaching PA 618, Research Methods in Public Administration.

Dr. Draughon is an expert in quantitative survey research methods and a professionally trained focus group facilitator. She has been involved in a wide variety of research efforts, many of which focus on public health issues as well as community needs assessment topics. Her passion for research methods and survey research drives her efforts to mentor her own staff and others in these areas as well as to use her skills to advance the University mission of supporting education, social and economic growth, and civic and cultural awareness in southwestern Indiana.

She received her Ph.D. in Sociology and a Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Dr. Draughon began her career in survey research as a project coordinator at the UIC Survey Research Laboratory. She continued her career in survey research as the assistant director of the University of South Carolina Survey Research Lab between 1999 and 2002. In 2003, she moved to Evansville, Indiana with her husband Graham, and founded Draughon Research, LLC, as comprehensive research consulting group, which was active until taking the position at USI in 2006.

MPA Starts New Mentorship Program

This year, the MPA program has started a new mentorship program for incoming graduate students. Each new student was matched with an advanced MPA student or an alumnus of the program. Dr. Hallock Morris would like to thank this year’s mentors for their help: **Julie Brauser, Donald Crankshaw, Janet Johnson (M’2005), Izzy TenBrook, Peter Whiting, and Jeanne McAlister.**

Mack Teaches Two Classes in MPA Program

The MPA program would like to welcome **Dr. William (W.R.) Mack** to our ranks. Students in the program have already had a chance to take a course from Dr. Mack last spring when he taught PA 601, Organizational Behavior. This fall, he is teaching PA 632, Public Administration.

Dr. Mack is an assistant professor of political science and a native of Indiana. He earned a B.A. in government from the University of Notre Dame and a Ph.D. in political science from Texas A&M University. His area of interest is American politics, specifically Congress and the legislative process, the presidency and public policy.



Prior to coming to USI, Dr. Mack taught at the University of Texas at El Paso and was a lecturer at Texas A&M. Dr. Mack was recognized for his classroom and administrative contributions to both universities by being presented the Outstanding MPA Faculty Contributions Award (2004) from the Institute for Policy and Economic Development at UTEP and a teaching excellence award from the Department of Political Science at Texas A&M. Before attending graduate school, Dr. Mack gained three years of hands-on political experience as a legislative aide in the Washington, D.C. office of U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey.

Dr. Mack teaches courses in Congress and the legislative process, the presidency, public policy, public administration, public opinion and media, campaigns and elections, and introductory American politics. His present research focuses on the influence of informal congressional caucuses on the voting behavior of caucus members in the House of Representatives. He is also working on a manuscript that probes the effects of several congressional, presidential, and public opinion variables on the successful passage of the president's key domestic and foreign policy initiatives in the House and Senate.

Morris is new Acting Director of MPA Program



On August 1, 2008, **Dr. Mary Theresa Hallock Morris** took over as the Acting Director of the Master of Public Administration Program. She replaces Dr. Brian Posler who served as Acting Director for the 2007-2008 academic year. A native of Montpelier, Ohio, Dr. Hallock Morris was raised in Birmingham, Alabama. In 1991, she earned her B.S. in Communication Arts from The Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio. After working as a newspaper editor for five years, she earned her Master of Arts in Community and Environmental Education from The McGregor School of Antioch University, Yellow Springs, Ohio. In March 2004, Dr. Hallock Morris received her Ph.D. in Political Science from Indiana University – Bloomington, after completing her dissertation on the politics of wetland loss in Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico's "dead zone."

Prior to coming to USI, Dr. Hallock Morris worked for Southern Mutual Help Association, a nonprofit organization located in rural Louisiana. This practical experience is put to good use in her MPA courses in Fundraising and Volunteer Administration, and in Leadership Skills. She also teaches public policy, environmental policy, research methods, and public administration courses at the undergraduate level. Dr. Hallock Morris is the faculty advisor for the MPA Society and edits the *MPA BYTES* e-newsletter. Along with Dr. Chad Tew of the Department of Communications, she co-advises the College Democrats. In April 2006, she was named editor of the *Indiana Journal of Political Science*. She is the past-president of the Indiana Political Science Association and is currently serving on the organization's Executive Council.

Her research interests include environmental policy, political behavior, leadership behavior in nonprofit organizations, women and politics, and pop culture and politics. Dr. Hallock Morris received an "Excellence through Engagement" Summer Research Fellowship for 2006 to support her research on the public policy impacts of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This fall, she received The Defiance College's Alumni Citation for Academic Excellence for her work in the academy.

Schedule Announced for Spring and Summer 2009

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Spring 2009: Schedule of MPA Classes
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PA 618: Research Methods in Public Administration (3 credit hours)

Instructor: Dr. Katherine Draughon (kdraughon@usi.edu)

Room: LA 1010

Wednesday Nights, 6-8:45 p.m.

Course Description: An examination of social science research methodologies relevant to the management of government agencies and non-profit organizations. **This course is a hybrid distance education course with some meetings on campus.**

PA 631: Fundraising and Volunteer Management (3 credit hours)

Instructor: Dr. MT Hallock Morris (mhmorris@usi.edu)

Room: LA 1015

Monday Nights, 6-8:45 p.m.

Course Description: 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 is a hybrid distance education course with some meetings on campus.**

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Summer 2009: Schedule of MPA Classes
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PA 606: Public Personnel Administration (3 credit hours)

Instructor: TBA

Room: OC 2009

Monday and Wednesday Nights, 6-7:50 p.m.

This course meets Summer I & II

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to examine public personnel issues. Specifically, issues related to personnel/human resource management, employee motivation, evaluation, promotion/demotion, training, benefits, wages and salaries, as well as disciplinary policies and various legal aspects relating to public sector employment.

PA 653: Ethics in Public Administration

Instructor: Dr. MT Hallock Morris (mhmorris@usi.edu)

Location: Innovation Pointe, 318 Main Street, Room C

Thursday Nights, 6-9 p.m.

This course meets Summer I & II

Course Description: Examination of the ethical problems and conflicts encountered by government officials, nonprofit administrators, and other public administrators. Students in this course will contemplate a variety of topics including values and ethics, situational ethics, and individual and organizational ethics. **This course is a hybrid distance education course with some meetings at Innovation Pointe.** [Click here for a map to Innovation Pointe.](#)

Please note that this is our preliminary schedule and is subject to change.

Research Opportunities

Now that I've written a paper for my class, what should I do with it? One strategy for building your CV is to present your independent research at a national, regional or state conference. The **Midwest Political Science Association** (MPSA) has just issued a call for papers for its 67th annual conference, to be held April 2-5, 2009, in Chicago, IL. With over 900 sessions and over 3,000 papers, it is one of the largest conferences in the discipline. All subfields within Political Science are represented, and there are also many people from outside the discipline who attend and present on related topics (e.g. Political Psychology, Political Anthropology). To submit a proposal, and for travel and hotel information, please go to www.mpsanet.org. If your paper is accepted for the conference, you may be eligible for the Graduate Student Travel Grant Program (see below).

Grants & Scholarships Available Through Graduate Studies

Graduate Studies is pleased to announce that it will be awarding five \$1,000 **Jennings and Josephine Carter Graduate Scholarships**. Applicants must be accepted to a graduate degree program for the next academic year to be eligible to apply. Non-degree students (i.e., "special students") are not eligible to apply. Students who are currently enrolled in a graduate program at USI must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 in all graduate coursework to qualify for the scholarship. In addition, you must have a documented financial need and fill out the FAFSA. Application guidelines can be found at: <http://www.usi.edu/gradstud/scholar.asp>. The deadline to apply for this competitive scholarship is **October 1, 2008**. Last year, one of our very own MPA students – **Tim Hart** – won one of the scholarships! Congratulations, Tim!

The Graduate Student **Travel Grant Program** supports graduate student travel to conferences, meetings, exhibits, or performances where the student will present the results of a student project. Assistance up to \$1000 will be provided to help defray the costs of travel, per diem, and registration. **The deadline for submission is 2 weeks-2 months prior to travel.** Guidelines for the travel grants can be found at: <http://www.usi.edu/gradstud/pdf/travelgrant.pdf>.

In addition, MPA students are encouraged to apply for the Graduate Student **Research Grant Program** which supports independent, faculty-guided research efforts in all disciplines. The application deadline for this program is the eighth Friday of the fall and spring semesters. Policies, guidelines, and application forms are available at: <http://www.usi.edu/gradstud/pdf/researchgrant.pdf>.

These two grant programs are funded by the Lilly Intellectual Capital Initiative. Both grants are competitive student awards. Future updates for these grant programs can be found at: <http://www.usi.edu/gradstud/grants.asp>.

Connect with Southern Indiana Applications Due October 10th

The **Connect with Southern Indiana** program is now accepting applications for its 2009 class. The citizenship-building program is open to Indiana residents from nine counties: Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, and Warrick. The selection committee is looking for individuals who have the desire to develop a better understanding of active citizenship engagement. The program offers an opportunity to connect with other individuals who want to learn the skills to be active citizens. Critical thinking, presentation planning, government relations, and project management are some of the topics in the program, which is free to participants. Funded by Lilly Endowment, Connect with Southern Indiana is led by University of Southern Indiana faculty and staff and community leaders. A year's residence in the region prior to January 2009 is required.

Applications for the CSI program are **due on October 10, 2008**. Applicants will be notified of the decision of the selection committee by November 7, 2008. For more information or to complete an application form, see <http://www.usi.edu/extserv/outreach/connect.asp>. Students in the MPA program who are accepted into the CSI program are eligible to register for PA 612, Connect with Southern Indiana; this course is an acceptable substitution for PA 611, Leadership Skills.

If you want to know more about the program, **several MPA alumni (and one current student) have successfully completed the Connect with Southern Indiana program**: Lana Abel, Susie Carney, Janet Johnson, and Steve Schaefer. I'm sure they'd be happy to talk to you about their experiences.

MPA Program Has New Advisory Board Members

The MPA Program has recently reinstated its advisory board and would like to thank all of the individuals who have volunteered to help make our program better. Community members on the board include **Parri Black**, President and CEO of Youth First Inc.; **George Fithian**, Personnel Director for the City of Evansville; and **John Schroder**, Indiana Department of Child Services. Our alumni representative is **Stephen Schaefer**, Vice President of Public Policy with the Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Indiana. This year's student representatives include **Donald Crankshaw**, human resource manager at Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library, and **Elizabeth (Izzy) TenBrook**, an admissions counselor at USI. Completing the board as *ex officio* members are **Dr. Brian Posler**, Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Studies and associate professor of political science, and **Dr. MT Hallock Morris**, Acting Director of the MPA Program and assistant professor of political science.

Program to Undertake Self-Study in 2009

The Master of Public Administration program is scheduled for its first five-year program review. The review process will begin in January 2009. As a part of the process, MPA students and alumni may be asked to serve on focus groups or to complete surveys about their experiences in the program. We are especially interested in soliciting your suggestions for improving our curricular offerings. If you are interested in serving on a focus group, please contact Dr. Hallock Morris at mhmorris@usi.edu.

Important Policies from the Graduate Studies Office

Students in the MPA program should be aware of a variety of policies related to graduate study at the University of Southern Indiana. A complete list of these policies can be found at: <http://www.usi.edu/gradstud/policies.asp>. I have highlighted a few of the major policies below:

- **Retention Policy:** A student admitted to graduate study must maintain a grade average of B (3.0) or better in all graduate work. A student whose grade point average drops below a 3.0 will be placed on probation and may be suspended from graduate study.
- **Probation and Dismissal Policy:** Upon dropping to a GPGPA* below 3.0, a student is placed on academic probation. The director of the student's graduate program is responsible for notifying the student of such action. A student may remain on probation for up to 12 credit hours of graduate work. If after the additional 12 hours of graduate work have been completed, the GPGPA is not 3.0 or above, the student shall be academically dismissed. If the GPGPA drops below 2.5, a student shall be academically dismissed unless it is possible to bring the GPGPA up to 2.5 in no more than six additional hours of graduate work.
- **Appeal of Academic Dismissal:** A student who is academically dismissed may appeal that dismissal to the appropriate graduate faculty committee within his or her program of study. The reason for the appeal should be stated clearly in writing.
- **Interruption of Program:** Any student admitted to a program of graduate study who has not been continuously enrolled and receiving graduate credit each semester of the academic year must apply for readmission in the Office of Graduate Studies. The student will be required to follow the regulations in effect at the time of readmission.
- **Time Limitation and Validation:** In order to count toward a master's degree, course work must be completed within seven years of a student's enrollment in the first course(s) counting for degree credit in the program. For courses that exceed this time limit, students must either validate the previous credit or retake the course(s) to meet degree requirements. The program director identifies a faculty member who sets validation requirements.

* **Graduate Program GPA:** A cumulative grade point average of all USI graduate courses taken (courses numbered 500 and higher) except specific graduate survey courses numbered "501" in the MBA program.

Reminder: Course Substitution Policy

As some of you may know, students in the MPA program have been allowed to substitute some courses in the Business School (CIS601, MNGT601, and MNGT611) for MPA courses. However, with the growth of the MBA program most of the seats in these courses must be reserved for students in the MBA program. In the future, students in the MPA program will not be allowed to enroll in courses in the Business School without the permission of both the Director of the MPA program and the Director of the MBA program. **Please do not seek to enroll in any course in the Business School without obtaining written permission from both these individuals.**

Taking the GRE

If you're a special student and plan to apply for regular admission to the MPA program, you are required to take the GRE. This test is offered through Prometric Testing Center, Hebron Office Plaza, 923 S. Kenmore, Evansville, IN 47714. Call the center at 812-479-6855 to register for the test. Available test times are Mondays through Fridays at 8:00 AM and noon, and on Saturdays at 8:00 AM only. USI's **GRE** code is R1335. Free practice tests can be downloaded from <http://www.gre.org>.

Miscellany

- For information about the University of Southern Indiana's Graduate Student Policies, see the Graduate Studies website at: <http://www.usi.edu/gradstud/policies.asp>.
 - Admission requirements for the MPA program are at: <http://www.usi.edu/libarts/polsci/MPA/requirements.asp>.
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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/gradstud/mpa.asp>.

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](#).

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