Welcome to the inaugural issue of the MPA Newsletter. This tradition goes back a long way at least two decades. The Newsletter will continue the tradition with the past (Alumni news), present (current student) and the future (development of academic excellence in public service) of the MPA program and work as the bridge between these segments of the MPA community. The MPA program has stepped on its 28th year and continues to grow with the support of the outstanding faculty and staff and the Alumni. I welcome all of you to contribute to the newsletter and support your MPA program. If you wish to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter please email mpa@uab.edu. I wish you all the best in your endeavors.

Akhlaque Haque

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Dr. Jeremy Hall joins MPA

Dr. Jeremy L. Hall joins the MPA program as Assistant Professor specializing in State and Local Government Policy. Dr. He will be the academic advisor for the Public management and policy track. Dr. Hall obtained his PhD. from the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Kentucky. His primary field of interest is public policy analysis as it relates to economic development and intergovernmental relations. His forthcoming publication will appear in the premier journal of public administration — Public Administration Review. The article titled “Understanding State Economic Development Policy in the New Economy: A Theoretical Foundation and Empirical Examination of State Innovation in the U.S.” Dr. Hall’s achievements include the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPPA) Pi Alpha Alpha Outstanding Doctoral Student Manuscript Award in 2004. He was also the recipient of the Collins Award for the Outstanding Paper by a Ph.D. Student, Southeastern Conference of Public Administration (SECOPA) in 2003. Dr. Hall holds an undergraduate degree in MUSIC/Government from the Center college and an MPA from the University of Kentucky. Please welcome Dr. Jeremy Hall into the UAB MPA Community.

Not only is this relationship crucial to the continued success of the graduates, but it assures that the program and university are constantly evolving. Although the UAB MPA Alumni Society has made important contributions, now is the time to expand our role of support to current and prospective students. One way to do that is to provide educational scholarships in the amount of $1,000 each. One of these awards will be designated for students who plan to pursue a career in the public sector, the other going to those following a non-profit curriculum. Long range plans include the establishment of an educational endowment. Your help is needed. Just $10.00 from each of the more than 350 MPA graduates will secure the proposed scholarships for next year. Another way to provide support for the UAB MPA is to join the UAB National Alumni Society. From the annual dues of $50.00, $15.00 comes to the MPA Alumni when you designate that you are an MPA Alum. I will count on your continuous support. Thank you.

Sandy Blackwood
MPA Alumni Luncheon 2005 recognizes MPA Hall of Fame

The annual MPA Alumni luncheon 2005 was held at the historical Vulcan Park. It is one of the Alumni events that recognizes the outstanding MPA graduates, alumni and students. This year was special because the first MPA Alumni was inducted to the MPA Hall of Fame — a new tradition started by the Alumni this year.

The 2005 MPA Hall of fame was awarded to Joe Packa, Executive Vice President of Red Cross Southeast, responsible for oversight of Red Cross services in a five-state region encompassing Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee and Florida.

This year MPA Alumni scholarship went to Rodney Stallworth. Rodney graduated this summer and has joined the PhD program at UMBC. He was one of the five HUD fellows in the MPA program.

Haque invited to Congress

Dr. Akhlaque Haque, Director of the MPA program was invited to Congress to Brief on the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Today GIS has become the most widely used Information Technology tool for local governments. Dr. Haque was one of the three experts from academia to speak about the applications of these technologies in state and local governments. More than 100 federal agencies and legislative aides gathered in Capitol Hill to hear about “Building Geographic Management Systems: Tackling Critical Policy Needs for the Nation’s Future”.

Dr. Haque addressed how local governments are using GIS and discussed the need for training in GIS for future public administrators. The Congressional report will be published soon.

MPA Best Paper Award

In the Fall of 2004, the UAB chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha was awarded a mini-grant from the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) to support UAB chapter activities. In the Spring of 2005, the MPA faculty nominated four papers as finalists for the first annual “Best MPA Student Paper Award,” sponsored by Pi Alpha. The students presented their papers to a panel of MPA faculty judges. Charlotte Crowe, was chosen to be the winner. Her paper was titled “Roles, Motivations, and Morals of Public Administrators.” Dr. James Slack nominated Charlotte and served as her advisor.

The grant also sponsored the attendance of six Pi Alpha Alpha inductees at the annual MPA Alumni association luncheon. The grant allowed for us to purchase a plaque with 12 name spaces for the “Best Paper Award,” helping the MPA program at UAB to begin a new tradition that encourages and acknowledges outstanding student scholarship.
HUD fellows graduate with honor

The MPA program at UAB was awarded $150,000 in 2003 to fund MPA graduate students. Five students from the program were recruited to serve in 15 different local government agencies under the guidelines of the Community Development Work Study (CDWS). The students finished the program in less than two years and are in the process of pursuing new careers in public service. In addition to the MPA degree all HUD fellows earned Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management. Rodney Stallworth has joined the PhD program with the University of Maryland at Baltimore County, Angela Gathers has joined the Jefferson County Department Human Resources, Stephanie Gaines is starting a new position with the Chicago Housing Authority. Michal Stallworth who will earn a dual degree in MPA/MPH will start a new career with a community college in Tallahassee and Kristie Brooke who finished the program with a perfect 4.0 GPA and earned the Best Graduate Student Award will start a new life (as she gets married) and a career in Pensacola, FL.

Current MPA Student Updates

Courses for Spring 2006

The following courses are scheduled for the Spring 2006:
Dr. Hall: Public Policy, State and Local Government Administration.
Dr. Howell-Moroney: Statistical Analysis, Public Economics.
Dr. Haque: Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Dr. Handley: Special Topics: Leadership in Administration, Public Budgeting
Dr. Slack: Human Resource Management

Thesis Sum 05
An Analysis of Sprawl Levels As A Predictor of Average Household Expenditures in Sprawl Related Categories of Spending.

GRP Titles Summer 2005
A Policy Analysis: Is use of Safe Haven policy justified in the State of Alabama?
Do suburban areas offer increased access and quality of healthcare services compared to inner cities?
The impact of state lotteries on public education.
Needs or Resources: A Study of Nonprofit Location.
Enterprise Communities and Enterprise Zone Programs: Their impacts on distressed communities

Department moves to new building in 2007-08

The Department of Government where the MPA program is housed moves to a new building, tentatively fall 2007! This news was long overdue and the need for such a building cannot be overemphasized. People in the Ullman Building has been part of the “old tradition” and may now have the privilege to join the rest of the UAB campus. This will help the students and the faculty to have state of the art facilities and access to Hi-tech computer labs and classrooms. The building will be located across the UAB Recreation Center. We thank the Dean, the Chairs of the Departments and the UAB Administration to make this a reality for the MPA program and the Department of Government.

Alumni Donation
The MPA Alumni Association is needs your help. The UAB National Alumni Association has taken the initiative to raise at least $25,000 in five years to insure funding for MPA Alumni Scholarship. Currently the funding is at a low level to sustain the scholarship that has benefited a large number of needy students for more than a decade. Please donate generously to this cause. Write your check directly to the MPA program. Please designate the money for MPA Scholarship Fund. Thank you.
Mission

“The Master of Public Administration (MPA) is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to become professionally competent leaders of public and nonprofit organizations.”

Note to current students

All students from now on will have to attend the Student Orientation in the fall term. If you do not have a faculty advisor assigned to you and have not attended the Orientation you must contact program director Dr. Haque. He can be reached via email ahaque@uab.edu.

The MPA students and Alumni have launched a new yahoo online group. This yahoo group is envisioned as a place for interaction between MPA students and Alumni. It is an excellent place to network and remain informed about the latest developments in the MPA program. Check for new pictures and links being posted every month. Go to www.groups.yahoo.com/group/UABMPA or email Kamna

MPA Faculty Highlights

The following are the very recent articles and chapters published or accepted for publication by the MPA faculty.


**Michael Howell-Moroney.** “The geography of opportunity and unemployment: An integrated model of residential segregation and spatial mismatch.” Journal of Urban Affairs (forthcoming Sep. ‘05 as the lead article)
