

# The MPA Messenger

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Fall 2001

## Advisory Council Spotlight: Esther Wunnicke

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“Public service is a worthy occupation and worthy of people’s best efforts.” says Esther Wunnicke who also believes that “people who are in public service serve with a great deal of skill and concern for the welfare of the public as a whole.” Ms. Wunnicke should know. She had a distinguished working career in Alaska in public service and has been a member of the Masters of Public Administration (MPA) Advisory Council at the University of Alaska since 1997. Ms. Wunnicke first became in-

involved with the MPA program when she helped coordinate a class on women in public administration.

A lawyer by profession, she began her career as Counsel to the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska where she was one of the authors of *Alaska Natives and the Land*, a foundation document for the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971. She served briefly at the Alaska Department of Law as Assistant Attorney General before joining the Federal/State Land Use Planning Commission, first as co-counsel, and later as Federal

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## Accountability and Ethics Class: Spring 2002

- *Have you ever wondered about what’s ethical and what’s not in your workplace?*
- *Whether you or someone else has a conflict of interest?*
- *Have you ever wanted to know more about the responsibilities government agencies have to be accountable to the public?*
- *Whether government is being responsive to citizens?*

If so, then UAA has a class for you. The Masters of Public Administration (MPA) program is offering a class in Public Accountability and Ethics for public administrators and people in the community interested in governmental accountability. Students will study the institutions that keep government accountable, basic ethical concepts and decision-making models and their own ethical standards.

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### ACCOUNTABILITY & ETHICS

PADM 618

LOCATION  
Business Education Building  
(BEB) Room 207A

TIME: Tuesdays  
7:00 p.m.— 9:45 p.m.

01/08/02 — 05/04/02

## Wunnicke...

Co-Chair; much of the work from this body provided the background for the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980.

She next served as Manager of the Minerals Management Service following which she served for four years with Governor Bill Sheffield as Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources for the State of Alaska.

Since then, she continues to be active. Ms. Wunnicke has served on a number of pro-bono boards and commissions including the Oil Spill Commission after the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, State Human Rights Commission, Rural Governance Commission for Governor Tony Knowles, as well as the Oil and Gas Policy Commission, the Alaska Highway Natural Gas Policy Council and the recent Subsistence Summit. In 1991, she was one of the

"people who are in public service serve with a great deal of skill and concern for the welfare of the public as a whole".

founders of Alaska Common Ground, a citizens' group addressing long-term public policy issues in Alaska.

In 1980, while at MMS, Ms. Wunnicke was chosen Administrator of the Year by the South Central Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration. In 1980, while at DNR, she was one of five administrators chosen by the National Academy of Public Administration and American Society for Public Administration as an outstanding public servant. In 1985, she was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Public Service by the University of Alaska.

Ms. Wunnicke hopes that more students pursue public service and that when they help to develop and enforce policies in the future they will always keep in mind that they work for the people.

## Ethics class...

**Dr. James Liszka** and **Dr. Steven Aufrecht** will teach the class. Dr. Liszka is Professor and Chair of Philosophy at UAA, Anchorage. He is the author of *Moral Competence* (2nd edition, Prentice Hall) and teaches ethics for the philosophy program. Dr. Steven Aufrecht is professor of Public Administration. He regularly teaches an ethics workshop for Municipal employees and does research on a variety of public administration topics covering accountability and cross-cultural administration. Both Dr. Aufrecht and Dr. Liska are currently working with the Municipality of Anchorage's Board of Ethics to rewrite the Municipal Code of Ethics.

The class will be held in the **Business Education Building (BEB) Room 207A** on **Tuesdays from 01/08/02 — 05/04/02, 7:00 p.m.— 9:45 pm**. For Alaska residents the tuition is approximately \$500 dollars plus student fees. Acceptance into the MPA program is not required in order to take the class, but students must have faculty permission.

For registration information contact Mike Smith at 786-4101 or [anmbs1@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:anmbs1@uaa.alaska.edu).

## Stafford Scholarships

Congratulations!

Steven Smith

Marianne Johnstone-Petty

Congratulations to MPA students Lieutenant **Steven Smith** with the Anchorage Police Department, and Registered Nurse **Marianne Johnstone-Petty**. The Alaska Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration honored Steve and Marianne as outstanding students and awarded them the John Stafford Fellowship for the 2001-2002 school year—a scholarship fund established in memory of John Stafford.

**John Stafford** joined the MPA program at UAA after a distinguished career as an engineer in the Air Force and as Assistant Adjutant General of the Alaska Air National Guard. The MPA program had a strong impact on his life and he continued as an alumnus to promote the program and assist other students. John died suddenly in January 1991 three weeks after being diagnosed with leukemia. At the time of his death he was President of the Alaska Chapter of ASPA.

## Non-Profit Management

The University of Alaska Anchorage, particularly the Departments of Public Administration and of Workforce and Community Education, are working closely with the Foraker Group to develop training and education options for non-profit managers. The Foraker Group recently received a significant grant from the Murdoch Foundation for improving the skills of non-profit managers. This grant will enable UAA to take action on work they have been preparing for several years.

In February 2002, the first workshops will be held for the certificate in non-profit management. The MPA program is developing a graduate non-profit management certificate program and emphasis area within the MPA program. Mary Hall of the Non-Profit/Social Enterprise Management department at Seattle University and Ed Schumacher an instructor at the non-profit programs at Universities of Washington and Indiana are assisting in developing this program. These programs have become possible through the hard work of Dennis McMillian and Joan McCoy.

## Faculty News

On November 8, Dr. Steven Aufrecht participated in a UAA Bookstore conference titled "The Molding of Alaska: A Fresh Look at Contemporary Native Issues". The conference provided a forum for members of the UAA community to come together to discuss developments within their disciplines, and at the University, relating to vital Alaska Native issues. He is also working with Dr. Teresa Rapida, Chair of the MPA program and Director of Tribal Administration Program at Oregon State University to get the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) to include Native Governance issues in the standard MPA curriculum.

On November 2, Dr. Greg Protasel presented a talk and hosted an open dialogue on "Managing Complexity in Your Business".

Dr. Sharman Haley received a UAA community based mini-grant to extend her evaluation research of the fiscal impact of Homeward Bound. The mini-grant is titled "Medical Costs for Chronic Homeless Public Inebriates: Does the Homeward Bound Program Make a Difference?"

## Who gets an MPA?

### Some of our current MPA students...

West Point graduate Gavin Luher is the Personnel and Supply Officer for his army unit at Fort Richardson. He began the MPA program at UAA spring semester 2000 — eight days after arriving for duty in Anchorage. Gavin says he uses what he learns in the program every day at work and that most high ranking officers in the army have graduate degrees.



State House representative Sharon Cissna began the MPA program with a focus in health care fall semester 2001 — 29 years after last attending university. She thinks it is imperative to have the knowledge she's obtaining from the MPA program in order to better serve District 21, which includes UAA and most of the university-medical area.



### MPA Alumni...

MPA student Tracy Speier won a national award from the American Correctional Association for her 13 minute video tape "Killing Time" made inside the Spring Creek Correctional Center in Seward. The video is unique because it was made by prisoners for prisoners to educate them on prevention of infectious diseases such as HIV, hepatitis C, and tuberculosis. It has been distributed to prisons in all 50 states, ten U.S. territories, and three Canadian provinces.



After getting his PhD from the University of North Carolina last December, Xun Wu (MPA, 1995) was appointed Assistant Professor in the Public Policy Programme at the National University of Singapore.

Lewis E. Gorman III (MPA, 1979) retired from the US Army after 30 years of Reserve and Active service on May 31, 2001. He started his military career as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Medical Service Corp at Ft. Richardson, AK and completed his service at Walter Reed Army Medical Center at the rank of Colonel. Among other awards, he received the Order of Military Medical Merit and the Legion of Merit. He continues to serve the US Army as a civilian at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC.

**MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
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*The MPA Messenger was written and edited by  
MPA students Leann Ferry and Lucas Lind.*

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## Spring 2002 MPA Classes

**PADM 601— Introduction to Public Administration —** Dr. Aufrecht's Wednesday class gives an overview of the field of public administration and develops the analytical skills necessary for graduate study. Emphasis is on understanding the underlying issues such as power, decision making, ways of knowing, measurement, organizational structure, accountability and learning to use the theoretical models in actual situations. **Wednesdays, 5:30—8:15 p.m.**

**PADM 602— Seminar in Public Management—** In Dr. Aufrecht's Monday class, students design projects relevant to their work that demonstrate their achievement of eleven learning objectives from time management to developing personal work performance measures and improving interpersonal and group skills. **Mondays, 5:30—8:15 p.m.**

**PADM 604— Research Methods in Administration—** Dr. Sharmen Haley's class will take students through steps to define the policy research problem, to structure and analysis, to gather and organize data, and communicate the results. Students will get training in basic analytic methods and an introduction to more advanced techniques in survey research. At the end students should be able to think critically about their own and others' research. **Thursdays, 5:30—8:15 p.m.**

**PADM 610— Organizational Theory and Behavior—** Dr. Protasel's Tuesday class will review the evolution of organizational theories from the classical models to the current discussions of post-modern organizations. The class will focus on how managers can use metaphors and theory to develop better management in their organizations. **Tuesdays, 5:30—8:15 p.m.**

**PADM 618—Public Accountability, Ethics & Law—**see article on page 1. **Tuesdays, 7:00—9:45 p.m.**

**PADM 628—Administration of Financial Resources—**Dr. Protasel's Wednesday class will cover five general topics: budgeting, policymaking, accounting, financing and managing. Cases will help managers deal with the technical and political challenges inherent in managing budgets in the public sector. **Wednesdays, 5:30—8:15 p.m.**

**BA 690—Current Topics in Business: Health Systems Management—**Dr. Prasad's course will be guided by the following questions: What skills enable an individual to manage effectively in healthcare systems? What are the current "best practices" among healthcare organizations? How do organizations cope with an environment that is highly regulated, complex and dynamic? In what ways is Alaska's health system exceptional? **Tuesdays, 7:00—9:45 p.m.**