



Doctoral Program in Public Affairs



News from the Doctoral Program in Public Affairs • College of Health and Public Affairs

Spring 2009

A Message from Director Thomas T.H. Wan



This is the “Year of the Ox (or Cow)” in the Chinese calendar. This symbolizes diligence, faithfulness and endurance, values we are trying to adhere to in our daily life. The faculty, staff and students in the doctoral program have been extremely productive in their pursuit of academic excellence. Allow me to briefly summarize our accomplishments on several fronts.

First, all the required core courses are being taught even though we have experienced a severe budget cut and a shortage of faculty members. Second, each educational program must be formally reviewed by an external reviewer, and the doctoral program successfully completed its review in January. The reviewer, Dr. Barry Bozeman from the Department of Public Administration and Policy at the University of Georgia, gave high marks on our accomplishments, such as efficiency, quality and student-mentoring activities. Third, continuous improvements in streamlining student advising and dissertation preparation are under way. Fourth, a strong collaborative culture in developing joint publications between the faculty and students is in place. There were more than 10 published articles that include students as co-authors last year alone. Fifth, three competitive, national projects were funded: 1) the National Children’s Study – Orange County, 2) Rural Clinics Evaluation and 3) Long-Term Care Research Capacity Building in China. Sixth, a new undergraduate course, “Leadership in Public Affairs,” has been introduced so that qualified students are able to serve as instructors and gain teaching experience during their doctoral studies. Dr. Martin serves as a mentor for this important educational program. Seventh, the third special issue on Public Affairs Informatics Research in the *International Journal of Public Policy* appeared in fall 2008. The fourth special issue is scheduled to be released in spring 2009. The fifth special issue, with an emphasis on policy informatics, is under preparation. Eighth, the program’s fund-raising activities have made some progress. We have now created three giving accounts with the UCF Foundation. The new venture account is for developing the advancement of our educational mission. The general scholarship account is to support student activities such as attendance at professional meetings. The

endowed scholarship is for offering stipends to graduate assistants. It is worth noting that Dr. Bozeman denoted the honorarium for his professional service as a program reviewer in support of our students attending professional meetings. Ninth, a new strategic plan (2009–2014) has been drafted as a product of numerous meetings held by the Public Affairs’ Advisory Committee, the Public Affairs’ Coordinators Committee and the core faculty. Tenth, a reaffirmation of the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to public affairs’ education and research has been made by the faculty and administration. This will further solidify cooperation among faculty members from multiple disciplines or cognate areas.

We now have 62 graduates and 89 actively enrolled students and I am proud to be a part of the program’s growth. The challenge is optimizing the program’s performance with limited resources and faculty members. I am grateful for the support I receive from the administration and faculty. After having served for five years as program director, I have not learned how to say “no” to others or prioritize my career goals. I, therefore, would like to relinquish my director position and concentrate on sponsored research and manage the research enterprise of the College of Health and Public Affairs. Fortunately, Dean Frumkin and Provost Hickey accepted my decision and will soon launch a national search for a new program director. I will remain committed to the program as a core faculty member after my replacement is in place in 2010.

In conclusion, this is an eventful year. The program has reached a milestone that we are very proud of in its continuing success. Our concerted effort of striving to be a premiere or nationally recognized program is not beyond our reach. My heartfelt thanks go to our faculty, staff, alumni and students. I wish you a very productive “Year of the Ox.”

Sincerely,

Thomas T.H. Wan
Director and Professor

Welcome to the eighth issue of this newsletter from the Doctoral Program in Public Affairs. We appreciate receiving your questions, comments and suggestions. Contact Alisha Mays, editor, at amays@mail.ucf.edu, or Margaret Mlachak, managing editor, at mmlachak@mail.ucf.edu.

Spring 2009

Graduates

Congratulations to our fall and spring graduates: Richard Bonnell, Kathryn Frahm and Rhonda McPherson. The Doctoral Program in Public Affairs wishes them the best of luck in all their future endeavors!

Dissertation Titles:

Richard Bonnell (Fall 2008): The Influence of Medical Education on the Frequency and Type of Medical Board Discipline Received by Licensed Florida Physicians

Kathryn Frahm (Spring 2009): Family Support and Mental Health Care Quality in Nursing Homes Serving Residents with a Mental Health History

Rhonda McPherson (Fall 2008): The Impact of Policy on Student Success in Secondary Online Education: A Case Study of Florida Virtual School

Spring 2009 Incoming Students

The Doctoral Program would like extend a warm welcome to our newest group of students who joined us this spring. Congratulations on your acceptance and we look forward to seeing your progress over the next few years!

Jessica Beyer - Criminal Justice Track

Thomas Brumley - Generalist Track

Jenna Cawley - Generalist Track

Terrance Ruth - Generalist Track

Doctoral Program Alumni Social

The UCF Alumni Association and the Doctoral Program in Public Affairs jointly hosted a holiday reception and social event on Dec. 10 for all alumni of and students in candidacy in the Doctoral Program in Public Affairs. Attendees included eight faculty members and 20 alumni. The social, at Hot Olives restaurant in Winter Park, was an evening filled with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and holiday cheer. We hope to make this an annual event, so stay tuned for more information in late 2009.



(Left to right) Doctoral program alumni Dr. Janet Davis and Dr. Nancy Ellis and doctoral student Jay Schaefer enjoy good company and the holiday spirit at the alumni social.

Faculty Spotlight: Thomas Wan and Lynn Crespo

UCF in First-of-Its-Kind \$54 Million National Study to Examine Environmental and Genetic Factors in Childhood Diseases

The University of Central Florida is partnering with local and state organizations to participate in a first-of-its-kind national study to examine the role environment and genetics play in the health of children.

The National Institutes of Health announced Oct. 3 that it has granted Florida a \$54 million contract to participate in the National Children's Study, an ambitious effort to follow 100,000 children across the country from conception through age 21.

The Orange County area's portion of the contract, which includes UCF, is about \$15 million.

The study's goal is to examine the environmental and genetic factors that contribute to a host of diseases in children — including asthma, diabetes, autism and obesity — which local doctors, like those across the nation, are seeing in epidemic proportions. The study also will investigate factors influencing the development of such conditions as cerebral palsy, learning disabilities and birth defects.

Experts expect patterns will emerge that can help physicians and scientists answer questions and potentially develop strategies for prevention, better treatment options and someday cures for these diseases.

Professor and Associate Dean Thomas Wan, the lead investigator for the UCF portion of the project, called the research grant very important.

"This project holds much promise to really help us understand and focus on improving the health of our children," said Wan. "It exemplifies the growing interest in preventing unhealthy pregnancies and children's health problems that are attributable to a variety of environmental exposures."

Wan and UCF College of Medicine Professor and Assistant Dean Lynn Crespo will work together on the project. They will work closely with the Orange County Public Health Department, a host of local pediatrician offices and all local hospitals where women deliver babies to enroll families in the area.

Wan and Crespo said that the data collected, even in the early years, would likely provide clues that they will be able to follow with further studies out of UCF.

"Many studies look at single factors," Crespo said. "This national database of information will offer some insight into trends, patterns and multi-factor causes and provide guidance for spin-off research that may lead us to some answers. It will expand our knowledge base immensely and that's good news for parents of children who are facing some of these diseases as well as for those whose children may be at risk for developing them."

Local residents will be hired with the contract money to go door to door and ask families to participate in the study. The

families selected will be based on a variety of factors so that the sample is appropriate for the study and representative.

Florida's team, a statewide coalition, is one of 36 new or existing study centers announced Friday in the second wave of contracts granted by the NIH. When the study is completely under way, about 105 locations nationwide will be part of the project.

Kathleen O'Rourke is director of research at the Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for Healthy Mothers and Babies and professor of epidemiology at the University of South Florida. She and her team will oversee the efforts in Orange and Hillsborough counties while the University of Florida will oversee work in Baker County. The University of Miami Medical School will serve as the study center hub and report findings to the National Institutes of Health. Researchers estimate women will start enrolling in the study in about two years.

Authorized by Congress in the Children's Health Act of 2000, the National Children's Study is being conducted by a consortium of federal agencies. This includes two NIH institutes, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

— *Medical News Today*, Oct. 6, 2008

Dr. Barry Bozeman's Program Review

Barry Bozeman, the Ander Crenshaw Professor and Regents' Professor of Public Policy at the University of Georgia, visited the doctoral program in January to conduct the required external review of the program. The program received high marks in several areas.



Dr. Barry Bozeman

Bozeman graciously offered his honorarium to the program after reviewing it. These funds were used to help support students who were traveling to conferences and making presentations this year. The doctoral program is very grateful for his contribution to the program and for the opportunities it presented for public affairs' students.



(Left to right) Drs. Lynn Crespo and Thomas Wan

Recent Presentations

Tamer Ahmed, Mamoon Allaf, Erlan Bakiev, Karemah Campbell, Maritza Concha, Hasan Karaca, Ismail Sahin and Yildirim Uryan

During their summer 2008 ethics course, these students wrote a high-quality paper titled "Ethical Dilemmas in Public Administration," which was subsequently submitted to the American Society for Public Administration for review. The paper was selected to be presented at the 2009 ASPA conference that will take place from March 20-24 in Miami. The students chose Karemah Campbell as their representative and she will travel to Miami to present the paper and facilitate a discussion session at the conference. Congratulations!

Dr. John Bricout

Associate Professor John Bricout made a presentation, "Creating Disability-Inclusive Learning Spaces in the Distributive Workplace," at a Research Colloquium at the University of Alabama School of Social Work in Tuscaloosa, Ala., in mid-November.

Kathryn Frahm, Dr. Denise Gammonley, Seung Chun Paek, Binyam Seblega and Dr. Jackie Zhang

Assistant Professors Denise Gammonley and Ning "Jackie" Zhang and doctoral students Kathryn Frahm, Seung Chun Paek and Binyam Seblega attended the 61st Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in Maryland last November. The theme of the conference was "Resilience in an Aging Society: Risks and Opportunities."

Paek, in conjunction with Zhang, presented a paper titled "State Requirement for Social Service Staffing and Psychosocial Care Quality in Nursing Homes."

Seblega presented his paper titled "Evaluating Nursing Staff Levels in Nursing Homes: 1997 and 2005."



(Left to right) Dr. Jackie Zhang, Dr. Denise Gammonley, Kathryn Frahm and Seung Chun Paek at the meeting.

Vanessa Littleton

Doctoral student Vanessa Littleton recently made a presentation at the McKnight Doctoral Mid-Year Conference, held Feb. 21 in Tampa, Fla. Her presentation was titled “A Confirmatory Analysis of the Relationship Between Environmental and Social Influences on Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes.”

Ali Unlu

Last September, doctoral student Ali Unlu had a full schedule filled with presentations.

On Sept. 18, Unlu presented his paper “Social Capital as a Successful Method of Preventing Substance Use” at the Public Administration Research Colloquium at UCF.

The following week, on Sept. 26, Unlu presented another paper at the Southeastern Conference of Public Administration in Orlando. The paper was titled “A Successful Method for Preventing Substance Abuse: A Social Capital Perspective.”

Also in September, Unlu, along with Associate Professor Naim Kapucu and fellow doctoral student Bahadir Sahin, presented a paper at the NATO Advanced Research Workshop in Washington, DC. At the workshop, the theme of which was “Together Against Terrorism: Building Terrorism Resistant Communities,” the gentlemen presented “Collaborative Crisis Management: Comparative Perspectives on Crisis Management in the European Countries: Germany, Spain, United Kingdom and Turkey.”

Recent Publications

Robert “Jake” Bebber

Doctoral program alumnus Robert “Jake” Bebber recently published an article, “Developing an IO Environmental Assessment in Khost Province: Information Operations at PRT Khost in 2008,” in the *Small Wars Journal*. He developed an Information Operations Environmental Assessment tool to help establish a benchmark and measure progress toward Information Operations program goals. It was hoped that this tool would indicate if the Information Operation efforts had their intended effects.



(Left) ENS Robert “Jake” Bebber while on deployment in Afghanistan.

Gerald-Mark Breen, Dr. Jonathan Matusitz and Dr. Thomas T.H. Wan

Doctoral student Gerald-Mark Breen, UCF communications Assistant Professor Johnathan Matusitz and Director Thomas Wan have an article in the latest issue of the *Journal of Public Affairs Education*. The article is titled “Applying Student-Centered Learning Concepts to

a Doctoral, Introductory, Interdisciplinary Public Affairs Course.” The aim of this study was to reveal the capacity for student-centered learning.

Dr. John Bricout

Associate Professor John Bricout wrote a peer-reviewed book chapter with P.M.A. Baker, A. Ward and N. Moon. The chapter “Teleworking and the Digital Divide” will appear in *Overcoming Digital Divides: Constructing an Equitable and Competitive Information Society*.

Currently in press is Bricout, J. Huang and B. Guo’s article, “From Concentration to Dispersion: The Shift of Policy Approach to Disability Employment in China,” for the *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*.

Jenna Cawley

Doctoral student Jenna Cawley wrote a letter to the editor of the *Orlando Sentinel* that was published on Jan. 12. In “What really should get cut” Cawley shared her opinion on the current Florida budget crisis.

Cawley also recently earned the UCF Department of Political Sciences’ Outstanding M.A. Thesis Award for 2008 for her thesis “Sex Education Policy in Florida: Strategies for Change.” Congratulations on this achievement!

Kathryn Frahm, Dr. Denise Gammonley, Seung Chun Paek and Dr. Jackie Zhang

Assistant Professors Jackie Zhang and Denise Gammonley, as well as doctoral students Seung Chun Paek and Kathryn Frahm, published “Facility Service Environments, Staffing, and Psychosocial Care in Nursing Homes” in the Winter 2008 issue of *Health Care Financing Review*. This study investigated if (1) psychosocial care quality was better in facilities where state requirements for qualified social services staffing exceeded federal minimum regulations and (2) facility service environments are associated with psychosocial care quality.

Renee Hotchkiss

Doctoral program alumna Renee Hotchkiss’ article “Valuing Volunteers: The Impact of Volunteerism on Hospital Performance” will be published in the April-June issue of *Health Care Management Review*. Hotchkiss and her co-authors, Professor Myron Fottler and Associate Professor Lynn Unruh, wrote the article based on Hotchkiss’ dissertation research. The study utilized multiple regression analysis to explore the impact of the use of volunteers and the level of professionalism of volunteer programs on cost effectiveness and patient satisfaction in hospitals. Hospitals throughout Florida were invited to participate by completing a brief questionnaire about their volunteer programs. Performance indicators of volunteer cost savings and patient satisfaction scores for 50 Florida hospitals were analyzed using data sets from the American Hospital Association and Agency for Health Care Administration, along with data obtained from the questionnaire. Results indicated that the

use of volunteers offers significant cost savings to hospitals and enhances patient satisfaction scores.

Dr. Naim Kapucu, Bahadır Sahin and Ali Unlu

Associate Professor Naim Kapucu and doctoral students Bahadır Sahin and Ali Unlu recently published “Collaborative Crisis Management: Comparative Perspectives on Crisis Management in the European Countries: Germany, Spain, United Kingdom and Turkey” in the *European Journal of Economic and Political Studies*.

Carey Thaldorf, John Haynes and YanYan Wang

Doctoral student Carey Thaldorf, with J. Haynes and Y.Y. Wang, recently published “Security Risks for Remote Intelligent Pharmacy-on-a-Chip Delivery Systems” in the *International Journal of Biomedical Engineering and Technology*. There have been many recent advances in remote intelligent drug delivery. The article addresses some possible security threats in Remote Intelligent Drug Delivery Systems (RIDDS) and proposes counter measures.

Recent Conference Attendees

Abiy Agiro and Beth Fiedler

The second annual CGI U (Clinton Global Initiative University) conference from Feb. 13-15 brought together students, university presidents and nongovernmental organizations from 60 nations around the world to create actions that can affect global change across five theme areas: education, energy and climate change, global health, peace and human rights, and poverty alleviation.

The meetings were arranged around plenary sessions, working sessions, skill sessions, meet-ups and an exhibition, allowing attendees to learn more about various organizations engaged in the five theme areas. Doctoral student Abiy Agiro participated in the facilitated group discussions within the global health (“Environmental Health”) and poverty alleviation (“Human Development as Urban Development”) plenary sessions, the latter of which was chaired by the executive director of UN-Habitat. Agiro also shared innovations in the model of supporting HIV orphaned children in Addis Ababa during the meet-ups and exhibition sessions.

Paul Gleason

In mid-October, doctoral student Paul Gleason attended the National Association for Single Sex Public Education IV International Conference in Memphis, Tenn.

A Message from the President of the Public Affairs Student Association

The Public Affairs Student Association is looking forward to the upcoming year as we dedicate ourselves to improving

the academic opportunities for students in the Doctoral Program in Public Affairs. Over the past year, public affairs’ students have produced a remarkable number of scholarly publications, attended numerous conferences across the U.S. and abroad, and have collaborated with myriad community partners on numerous subjects. As a newly formed student organization, our goal is to further improve these and other opportunities for students, the public affairs’ program and UCF. We are tremendously excited about the events and opportunities planned for 2009, including: quarterly student-association meetings, professional conference attendance, publishing workshops and increasing participation in the *Public Affairs Review*, our very own peer-reviewed journal. Our mission for the upcoming year is to increase opportunities for public affairs’ students through research, networking and collaborative partnerships with Central Florida and global communities.

— Vanessa Littleton

In Memory of Kelly Lee Kilpatrick

On Nov. 13, one of our incredible doctoral students, Kelly Lee Kilpatrick, passed away after a 14-month battle with ovarian cancer. Kelly joined our program in 2002 and from the beginning was an active member of our student body. She was committed to the plight of the homeless and founded The Ripple Effect, a charitable organization to help those in need. As a tireless advocate for the homeless, she assisted thousands of people through this organization by providing items such as food, post-office boxes, voice-mail access and other services. She also helped people obtain identification cards and offered bus rides back to family members. One story of success is a current student at UCF who was homeless and whom Kelly mentored. This student is now nearing graduation with honors. Through her selfless acts of kindness, Kelly’s memory will live on.



Kelly Kilpatrick (right) founded The Ripple Effect, a charitable organization to help those in need.

2008 Conference Photos

Each year, the Doctoral Program in Public Affairs and Center for Community Partnerships host a daylong research conference. The 2008 conference, held Oct. 23, focused on “Challenges of Community-Based and Action-Oriented Research.” Pictured here some of the conference participants.



Keynote Speaker Dr. Terry Cooper, School of Policy, Planning and Development, University of Southern California



Abiy Agiro and Natthani Meemon



Sedat Kula, Yildirim Uryan and Hidayet Tasdoven



Jim Downing and Dr. Chiung-Ya Tang



Dr. Larry Martin and Joan Nelson



Dr. Jackie Zhang, Seung-Chun Paek, Kathryn Frahm and Dr. Denise Gammonley



Bill Burns and Jay Schaefer