



# Doctoral Program in Public Affairs



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

Fall 2006

## A Message from Director Thomas T.H. Wan



We had a very productive academic year in 2005–2006. The program grew substantially from 70 students in 2004 to 85 in 2006. The number of graduates reached 29 this summer. We are proud of our graduates, who are paving the way for our students to establish distinctive careers in public services, academic and

research institutions, and consulting firms. The doctoral program continues to strive for excellence in many areas of education, research and public service. The program is positioning itself to be a center for serving the information needs of the public and private service sectors through an evidence-based approach.

Our program promotes interdisciplinary and collaborative research by offering joint appointments for those who are interested in conducting data mining and statistical modeling of data: Dr. Morgan Wang, professor of statistics; Dr. Kevin Sherin, director of the Orange County Health Department; Dr. Patrick McNees, chief scientist at Applied Health Science Inc.; and Dr. Owen Beitsch, executive vice president and partner of Real Estate Research Consultants. We recruited Dr. Duane Steward, a medical informatics expert, to foster the development of clinical and executive decision support software and informatics research. We have made innovative use of information technology to develop a fully functional informatics research lab for the faculty and students and offered a platform that enables researchers to formulate decision support systems to optimize service organizations' efficiency and effectiveness.

The doctoral program has been selected for review by the National Research Council in a national comparative study on the performance of Ph.D. programs. The project

will conduct a program assessment, surveys of students and faculty, and a review of institutional effectiveness. This offers a distinct chance for the program to be ranked nationally. I strongly urge our students and faculty members to promptly respond to the survey in September or October.

We organized an annual conference to feature our faculty and students' research and are very pleased to present a timely subject for this year's conference: Emergency Disaster Management and Planning. Presented papers will be reviewed for publication in the third issue of *Public Affairs Informatics Research*, a special issue of the *International Journal of Public Policy*.

I am pleased to announce that our doctoral students formed a new electronic journal, *Public Affairs Review*. The first issue will be released in early October. I encourage you to submit your research papers to this publication outlet.

Lastly, I would like to express my deepest appreciation for your support of the program. I want you to know that your effort, as a student, faculty member, staff member or friend, has made a big difference to our program. I look forward to hearing from and working with you to make our program stronger.

— Dr. Thomas Wan

**Welcome** to the fourth issue of this newsletter, which is designed for members of the Doctoral Program in Public Affairs at the University of Central Florida. We appreciate receiving your questions, comments and suggestions. Contact Hayden Smith, editor, at [hpsmith@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:hpsmith@mail.ucf.edu) or Margaret Mlachak, managing editor, at [mmlachak@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:mmlachak@mail.ucf.edu).

## Summary of the Faculty and Staff Retreat

A faculty and staff retreat was held on July 28 in the public affairs' conference room. The agenda included the following items:

1. Briefing on the status of the College of Health and Public Affairs
2. Vision and identity of the program
3. Recruitment of high-quality students
4. Interdisciplinary courses
5. Resource development and fund-raising plans
6. Class scheduling issues

The major strategic directions for program improvement were discussed. For example, we are a broad-based interdisciplinary program rooted in well-established disciplines in health and public affairs. We need to develop alliances with other doctoral programs (sociology, political science, economics, etc.) to foster genuinely interdisciplinary activities. Furthermore, we should employ tactics such as team teaching, offering more elective courses, developing more individualized and customized courses, improving student advising activities, using courses offered by other colleges, incorporating student views and interests, and reciprocating the course enrollment with other Ph.D. programs.

The program will start planning the celebration of our 10-year anniversary in 2007–2008. The establishment of an alumni association for public affairs' graduates will be considered to encourage their participation in the anniversary activities.



Attendees of the faculty and staff retreat shown here are (standing, left to right) Larry Martin, Pat McNees, Duane Steward, Ken Adams and Tom Wan; (seated, left to right) Jackie Zhang, Michele Pozdoll and Margaret Mlachak.

## Program's Vision Statement Revisited: Doctoral Students Took a Serious Look

A select group of doctoral students reviewed the program's vision statement in June 2006 under the direction of Professor Aaron Liberman and Director Thomas Wan. The students made the following recommendations in light of the emphasis on interdisciplinary orientation:

1. Incorporate an international focus into each core course.
2. Set up an interdisciplinary leadership course and, furthermore, incorporate the study of leadership into each course agenda.
3. Establish partnerships with all university social science programs and the president's distinguished Office of Global Perspectives.
4. Foster relations with the basic science disciplines.

The suggested changes will be reviewed by the public affairs' core faculty and coordinators this fall.

## Congratulations on Margaret's Promotion

Margaret Mlachak has recently been promoted to administrative assistant after serving as an admissions officer for the doctoral program for seven years. Her twins, Marc and Michelle, graduated from high school this spring.

## Thank You, Coordination Committee

The program's Coordination Committee consists of Professor Ken Adams (Public Affairs), Associate Professor Eileen Abel (Social Work), Associate Professor Wendell Lawther (Public Administration) and Professor Aaron Liberman (Health Professions) and is chaired by Director Thomas Wan. The committee meets monthly to work on the program's curriculum and management, student recruitment, and advising issues. The committee selected the group of 17 new students, who through their determined efforts met the program's high admission standards. It will continue improving the quality of the program and its students. The service and dedication of the committee are sincerely appreciated.

## Congratulations: Eight Graduates in 2006

### Diane Andrews

The Effect of Job Strain in the Hospital Environment:  
Applying Orem's Theory of Self Care  
Directed by Director Thomas Wan

### Gina Beckles

Preferences for Performance Measures: A Study of a  
Federal Agency  
Directed by Associate Professor XiaoHu "Shawn" Wang

### Wendy Bolyard

Identifying Factors that Influence General Disparities in  
Physicians' Income: Implications for Public Policy  
Directed by Director Thomas Wan

### Larry Cochran

Organizational Change at the Service Delivery Level: An  
Investigation into the Reaction to Change Initiatives in  
Moral, Welfare and Recreation Activities of the U.S. Army  
Directed by Associate Professor Paul Maiden

### Robin Davis-King

Transferring Juveniles to the Adult Court: A Statewide  
Study of Florida Prosecutors  
Directed by Associate Professor Brandon Applegate

### Matthew Hodge

Nonprofit Board Effectiveness: Funding Source and  
Financial Vulnerability  
Directed by Professor Larry Martin

### Karen Judd

The Relationship Between Resiliency in Rural African  
American Youth and Their Awareness of Citizenship  
Directed by Professor Mary Van Hook

### Christopher Sharp

Interprofessional Collaboration Between Criminal Justice  
and Mental Health Practitioners Regarding Mentally Ill  
Offenders: Perceptions of Collaboration from Criminal  
Justice  
Directed by Professor Raymond Surette

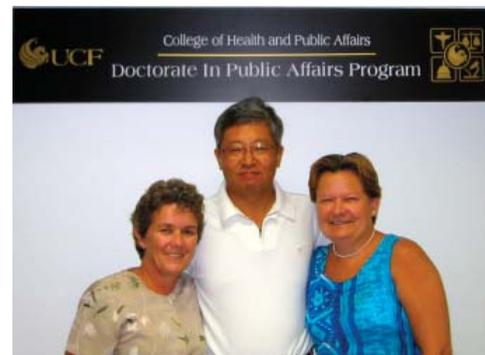
## Spotlight on International Students

Serdar Yildiz, Bahadir Kucukuysal and Erhan Beyhan presented papers at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences 2006 meeting in Baltimore in February. According to Bernard McCarthy, former professor and chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies, the students all did an excellent job. (McCarthy chaired the panel on comparative policy between the United States and Turkey.) Their presentations were informative and the question and answer session that followed was excellent. They all represented our program very well.

## Postdoctoral Fellows

Postdoctoral Fellow Maxime Gagnon, a gerontologist, and his family returned to Quebec, Canada. He has resumed his research role at the Usher Brooke Research Institute. Gagnon completed his postdoctoral fellowship (2004–2006) and developed a research project on "The Determinants of Cognitive Functional Status of Nursing Home Residents," under the guidance of Director Thomas Wan.

Hae Jong Lee spent the last year with the program as a postdoctoral fellow during his sabbatical from South Korea. He and his family returned to Seoul, Korea, on August 1. Lee was most grateful for the guidance he received from the program, particularly from Director Wan. He will prepare a manuscript on the comparative analysis of hospital performance for the *International Journal of Public Policy*.



Postdoctoral Fellow Lee (center) and staff members Margaret Mlachak (left) and Michele Pozdoll (right)

## Kudos to the Public Affairs' Faculty

Professor Ken Adams appeared on the Fox News Studio B show in July. Trace Gallagher interviewed him regarding allegations of excessive force by Flagler County Sheriff's deputies against Lisa Tanner. Tanner is the daughter of State Attorney John Tanner, who subsequently conducted a probe of the Flagler County jail that resulted in the indictment of two deputies. You can view the interview at [www.PAFresearch.ucf.edu](http://www.PAFresearch.ucf.edu).

Professor Lawrence Martin is co-author of the new book, *Contracting for Public Sector Services*, published by the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing. He also has a new book, *Privatization: Looking Backward, Looking Forward*, to be published by the Reason Foundation. Martin relinquished the position of director of the Center for Community Partnerships after successfully leading the program for three years. He resumes full-time teaching this fall and will teach courses in public affairs, social work and public administration.

Patrick McNees, senior research associate in the Doctoral Program in Public Affairs, was selected as an honorary fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Honorary membership in the academy is a high distinction given to very few individuals. McNees will be inducted into the academy at the annual celebration in November.

Duane Steward, who holds a doctorate in veterinary medicine, joined the faculty as a research assistant professor of health-care informatics in April. He is a practiced clinician and an experienced researcher in medical informatics, knowledge-based systems, decision analytical utility assessment and simulation. His industrial experience includes animal disease-outbreak disaster response planning, health care IT software, electronic medical records, enterprise architecture design, regulatory validation in pharmaceutical industry software and large-scale commercial software implementation. He is working with Director Thomas Wan in developing several research projects on syndromic surveillance modeling, funded by the Animal Diagnostic Laboratories of the Florida Department of Agriculture. Steward taught a summer Ph.D. course on decision informatics and analysis.

Director Thomas Wan co-authored the paper "Product-Line Extensions and Pricing Strategies of Brand-Name Drugs Facing Patent Expiration." The paper earned the

annual Award for Excellence for 2005 from the National Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy. You can download this paper from [www.PAFresearch.ucf.edu](http://www.PAFresearch.ucf.edu). Wan continues to serve on the Scientific Study Section of Health Services Organization and Delivery, National Institute of Health and on the Advisory Committee of the Center for Health Policy Research and Development of the National Health Research Institutes in Taiwan.

Jackie N. Zhang, assistant professor of public affairs and medical doctor, serves on the IRB Committee at the Orlando Regional Health System and on the advisory committee of the Florida Bureau of Emergency Management Service. He is a co-principal investigator, with Denise Gammonley, of a project titled "Cognitive Functional Change and Quality of Nursing Home Care of the Critically Ill Residents," recently funded by the Hartford Foundation.

## Alumni Spotlight



Kenneth P. Stackpoole, a 2005 graduate, appeared on CNN regarding future aeronautical and transportation trends. He is currently the vice president of university relations at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. In this role, he is responsible for university-level marketing,

communications, and corporate and government relations for the university system (which includes campuses in Daytona Beach, Fla., and Prescott, Ariz., and a worldwide network of teaching centers in 36 other states and Europe). Embry-Riddle educates over 30,000 students annually in more than 30 graduate and undergraduate degree programs in all aspects of aviation and aerospace, such as engineering, business, and the arts and sciences.

Diane Andrews, a 2006 graduate, received a Dissertation Research Award from the Southern Nursing Research Society. Andrews studied the effect of job strain on nurses in the hospital environment. She presented her findings at the society's annual meeting in February.

## Research Conference Announcement and Call for Papers/poster Presentations: Emergency Disaster Management and Planning

Purpose: The purpose of the Third Annual Health and Public Affairs Research Conference is to bring leading change agents together to discuss emergency disaster management and planning. The one-day conference will be held on October 27. The morning session will feature invited speakers addressing national issues. The afternoon session will provide a forum for faculty members, doctoral students, alumni and friends to share their research ideas and expertise through scientific papers and posters. All are encouraged to participate.

### Schedule and Location:

#### Morning Session:

8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.,

UCF FAIRWINDS Alumni Center

#### Afternoon Session:

Paper Presentations: 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.,

UCF FAIRWINDS Alumni Center

Poster Presentations: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.,

UCF FAIRWINDS Alumni Center

Abstract Submission Guidelines

This year, the conference invites both paper and poster presentations.

- Abstracts for paper and poster presentations must be submitted to the Doctoral Program in Public Affairs at [ijpp@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu](mailto:ijpp@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu) by the submission deadline, September 20, to be considered.
- For a paper presentation, the completed paper must be submitted as well.
- The abstract word limit is 250 words. Tables or figures do not need to be submitted as part of the abstract.
- Abstracts may include the following: title, author(s), purpose or objective (as appropriate by discipline), methods, results/expected results, discussion and conclusion (as appropriate by discipline).
- Necessary corrections and changes may be made to abstracts up to the submission deadline.
- Those with projects that are not fully developed or executed are encouraged to prepare a scientific poster to show the research agenda and activities.
- Authors of papers and posters selected for presentation will be notified of acceptance by October 1.

Poster Presentation Instructions: Doctoral Students are encouraged to prepare and submit an abstract for the poster presentation.

- Poster presenters will be assigned a number when they receive an acceptance notice. The number will correspond with the pre-assigned final abstract number printed in the conference program. The program will include a list of poster presentations by author and topic to help attendees locate posters of interest.
- Each poster should be 5 feet wide x 3 feet high and mounted on a white foam board purchased by the participant. Presenters will load their mounted posters on easels provided at the conference.
- Presenters are encouraged to bring handouts about their posters.
- Signs will direct presenters to the poster viewing area, where staff members will be on hand at a Poster Booth.
- Presenters should remain with their displays from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. for one-on-one discussions with attendees.
- Presenters should wear their attendee badges at all times while in the poster viewing area.
- To increase a poster's visibility, presenters are invited to submit a PowerPoint presentation of their poster in advance of the conference to be included on the Web site after the conference.

Presenters should submit their PowerPoint presentation as an e-mail attachment to [ijpp@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu](mailto:ijpp@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu) by October 15.

### Best Poster Presentation Awards:

A poster review panel will select the three best poster presentations for a special award.

### Panel Participation:

Those who wish to serve as panel delegates should contact Director Dr. Thomas Wan at [twan@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:twan@mail.ucf.edu).

## Research Publications: Fall 2005–Present

### Books:

1. Martin, L. L., & Miller, J. R. (2005). *Contracting for Public Sector Services*. Herndon, VA: National Institute of Governmental Purchasing.
2. Miller, J. R., & Martin, L. L. (2005). *Alternative Dispute Resolution*. Herndon, VA: National Institute of Governmental Purchasing.
3. Huelat, B., & Wan, T. T. H. (2006) *Healing Environments*. Taiwan. Wu-Nan Book Inc.

(See *Research Publications*, p. 6)

**Research Publications** (Continued from p. 5)

## Book Chapters:

1. Martin, L. L. (2005). Contract service delivery and public financial management: Bridging the gap. In A. Kahn & W. Hildreth (Eds.), *Financial management theory in the public sector* (pp. 55–70). New York: Greenwood Press.
2. Martin, L. L. (2006). Jeremy Bentham: On organizational theory & decision making, public policy analysis & administrative management. In T. Lynch & P. Cruise (Eds.), *Handbook of organizational theory and management: The philosophical approach* (2nd Edition, pp. 195–210). New York: Taylor & Francis Publishers.
3. Martin, L. L. (in press). United States: Human services. In C. Greve & G. Hodge (Eds.), *The challenge of public-private partnerships: Learning from international experience*. London: Edward Elgar.

## Articles:

1. Wan, T. T. H. (2006). Healthcare informatics research: From data to evidence-based practice. *Journal of Medical Systems*, 30(1), 3-7.
2. Harkins, S., Elliott, T. B., & Wan, T. T. H. (in press). Emotional distress and urinary incontinence among older women. *Rehabilitation Psychology*.
3. Wan, T. T. H. (in press). Public affairs informatics research. *International Journal of Public Policy*.
4. Yeh, J. Lo, Y.Y., & Wan, T. T. H. (2005). Ambulatory care visits and quality of care: Does the volume-control policy matter?. *Health Policy*, 74(3), 335-342.
5. Mark, B., & Wan, T. T. H. (2005) Testing measurement equivalence in a patient satisfaction instrument. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 27(6), 772-787.
6. Hong, S. H., Shepherd, M. D., Scoonees, D., & Wan, T. T. H. (2005). Product-line extensions and pricing strategies of brand-name drugs facing patent expiration. *Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy*, 11(9), 746-754.
7. Adams, K. (in press). Divergences and convergences in public affairs research. *International Journal of Public Policy*.
8. Baumer, T., & Adams, K. (2006). Controlling a jail population by partially closing the front door: An evaluation of a summons in lieu of arrest policy. *The Prison Journal*, 86, 386-402.
9. Lawther, W. C., and Martin, L. L. (in press). Innovative Practice in Public Procurement Partnerships. *Journal of Purchasing & Supply Management*.
10. Martin, L. L., Smith, H & Phillips, W. (2005). Bridging “town & gown” through innovative university-community partnerships. *The Innovation Journal*, 10(2), Article 20.
11. Martin, L. L. (in press). Performance-based contracting for human services: A proposed model. *Public*

*Administration Quarterly*.

12. Martin, L. L. (in press). The privatization of human services: Myths, social capital & civil society. *Journal of Health & Human Services Administration*.
13. Myers, S., Smith, H., & Martin, L. L. Conducting best practices research in public affairs. *International Journal of Public Policy*, 1(4).
14. Zhang, Ning, Unruh, L., & Wan, T. T. H. (2006). Minimum nurse staffing ratios for nursing homes. *Nursing Economics*, 24(2), 78-85, 93.
15. Unruh, L., Zhang, N., & Wan, T. T. H. (in press). The impact of medicare reimbursement changes on staffing and the quality of care in nursing homes. *International Journal of Public Policy*, 1(4).
16. Zhang, N., Wan, T. T. H., & Brent, R. (in press). Comparing four estimation methods for uninsured in Florida. *International Journal of Public Policy*.
17. Zhang, N. Do Medicare reimbursement changes influence nursing home efficiency of care?

**Doctoral Students' Publications:  
Fall 2005–Present**

1. Bebbler, J., & Liberman, A. (2005). Reimbursement challenges for emergency physicians. *The Health Care Manager*, 24(2), 159-164.
2. Bebbler, J. (2005). Public employee collective bargaining. *James Madison Institute Backgrounder*, 45.
3. Bebbler, J. & Liberman, A. (2005). Reimbursement challenges for emergency physicians. *Health Care Manager*, 24(2), 159-164.
4. Blackwell, C., et al. Discrimination of Gays and Lesbians: A Social Justice Perspective.” *Journal of Health & Social Policy* 19(4): 27-43, 2005.
5. Goltz, J. (in press). Police performance measurement in the state of Florida. *Florida Police Chiefs*.
6. Hodge, M. M. & Piccolo, R. F. (2005). Funding source, board involvement techniques and financial vulnerability in nonprofit organizations. *Nonprofit Management and Leadership*, 16(2), 171-190.
7. Sitren, A. H., & Applegate, B. K.. (in press). Intentions to offend: Examining the effects of personal and vicarious experiences with punishment and punishment avoidance. *Journal of Crime and Justice*.
8. Sitren, A. H., & Applegate, B. K. (in press). Testing the deterrent effects of personal and vicarious experience with punishment and punishment avoidance. *Deviant Behavior*.
9. Smith, H. (2006). Violent crime and victim compensation: Implications for social justice. *Violence and Victims*, 21(3), 309-324.

## Informatics Research Lab

In 2004, we established a state-of-the-art Informatics Research Lab. It is funded partially by the federal government and by the University of Central Florida. The lab generates new knowledge through action-oriented research and enhances performance of health and human services organizations. Researchers in the lab provide technical and research support to faculty members, doctoral students and community partners through data warehousing and mining as well as statistical modeling tools. The lab maintains several large national health-care databases, such as the MDS database, and a growing number of state and community databases, such as the FHSIS databases. The data warehouse provides a solid foundation for sustaining data storage and simulation. The ongoing projects include not only academic research projects funded by the federal government and private foundations, but also industry-related counseling and market-oriented research. The Informatics Research Lab's researchers include sociologists, economists, physicians, strategists and statisticians. These researchers, inspired by founder Dr. Thomas Wan, continue to explore new technology and deliver evidence-based research to meet the rapidly changing market needs. Detailed information on the lab can be viewed at [www.PAFresearch.ucf.edu](http://www.PAFresearch.ucf.edu).

## Public Affairs Student Association News

Due to my relocation to the city of Chicago, I am glad to announce that Tory Jennison is the new president of the Public Affairs Student Association. I would like to personally thank Tory for taking the initiative to lead the student association, and I believe that she will take the goals of the association to new levels. I would also like to thank everyone for their support during my time in office  
— Hayden Smith

Tory Jennison is a second-year student in the Doctoral Program in Public Affairs. She is a registered nurse, with a B.S. in nursing and an M.S. in administration and health policy from the University of New Hampshire. Tory transferred to UCF from the Yale School of Nursing doctoral program. Her background is eclectic — community and public health nursing, administration (home care, community health centers) and state-level consulting in adolescent health, pandemic planning, and grant writing and reviewing. She is the current editor of the UCF doctoral student developed *Public Affairs Review*. While at UCF, she has worked with Director Thomas Wan

on community health center efficiency and effectiveness, Professor Ken Adams on police use of Tasers, and Professor Mary Van Hook on mental health service needs assessment in west Orlando.

## Public Affairs Review

The *Public Affairs Review* is the new biannual electronic journal produced by the doctoral students in the public affairs program. The journal was established to provide a forum for innovative thinking on contemporary organizational, institutional and community issues and concerns. Spanning the disciplines of criminal justice, health, public administration and social work, the journal reflects a commitment to the development of a knowledge base of empirical research and theory development to guide public policy change.

Submissions that explore the roles of people, organizations, environment or technology in public policy analysis, planning and administration are invited. All submissions will receive both faculty and peer (doctoral student) review.

We plan to publish our inaugural edition in early fall. More information is available at the online submission Web site at <http://www.PAFresearch.ucf.edu/journals/index.php>. Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions about the journal as we roll it out, or if you are interested in participating as a reviewer to learn more about the process! We are very excited to join the ranks of the highest-quality public affairs programs around the country, which showcase their innovative student, faculty and community work via e-journals.

— Tory Jennison, Editor  
[vjenniso@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:vjenniso@mail.ucf.edu)