

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Beyond The Green

*Preparing
Innovative
Leaders for the
Public Sector*

INSIDE Vol. 3, No. 1

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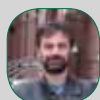
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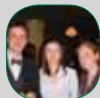
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ASIM ZIA:

A POLICY BOOST TO THE MPA PROGRAM

Asim Zia joined the MPA program as Assistant Professor in August, and has already started putting his experienced and unique touch on courses and research within the program.

With Christopher Koliba on sabbatical this semester, Zia assumed responsibility for teaching *PA 301 Fundamentals of Public Administration* in addition to *PA 306 Introduction to Public Policy*, which he will continue to teach in the coming years.

Zia has a strong sense of commitment to sustainability and community. By seeking out and working with the UVM Office for Community-University Partnerships & Service Learning, Zia has already transitioned the Introduction to Public Policy course into a service-learning course.

As an official faculty fellow for service-learning next semester, Zia is creating a new course based on his research and activism, *PA 395 International Climate Change Policy*. "I am hoping to partner students with the City of Burlington to create a climate action plan for the city within the larger context of global climate change policy," says Zia.

Zia's background is one indicative of those who are perpetually striving to improve themselves and achieve perfection in their work.

Zia received his BA and MA in Philosophy from the University of the Punjab in Lahore, Pakistan. He started his professional career as a civil servant in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of the Federal Government of Pakistan, where he was responsible for managing German-



Asim Zia on the University of Vermont's main campus

US- and Australian-funded bilateral and multilateral developmental cooperation projects in Pakistan. He spent two years working on Ecological Economics at the Ruprecht-Karls University in Heidelberg, Germany. Zia completed his PhD in Public Policy at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia in 2004 and his dissertation was the 2004-2005 recipient of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Dissertation Award.

Upon completing his PhD, Zia served in a post-doctoral position at the Institute for the Study of Society and Environment at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado and then went on to a position as Assistant Professor in the department of environmental studies at the San Jose State University in California.

Continued on page 2...

MPA NEWS

Colleagues and Friends,

In has been a privilege to serve as Interim Director of the MPA program while Chris Koliba has been on sabbatical. Greater interactions with staff, faculty, students and alumni and more direct work on planning and administration have all furthered my great respect for and passion about UVM's MPA program. The program has continued to grow and evolve as evidenced by the newsletter's new look and the coverage of the many exciting new efforts underway this year.

Our growth is also evidenced by the addition of new faculty member Asim Zia, whose contributions to the program and research is already opening up new opportunities for students and new partnerships for research and teaching. Asim's work is reaching out across the university in many ways. Having an additional core faculty member for teaching, advising and program building activities also continues to increase the quality of student experience.

This fall saw the initiation of a new series of professional development roundtables where we reviewed the value of publishing, networking with alumni, career options in Vermont's public sector and how to make the most of an internship experience. Current students and alumni have been great contributors to new initiatives for the program, including planning for the roundtables, developing tools to connect to alumni and participating with faculty on research work. Our alumni continue to be generous with their time, sharing their experience and helping students link to internships and careers. For that we are always grateful.

Working with the MPA staff, Leslie Barchard and Anna Masozera, this semester reminded me that so much of the success of the program and the value it has for students relies on the work that happens outside the classroom. I want to thank both of them for their assistance this fall and for their continued energy and hard work that helps make the MPA program successful.

Glenn McRae, Interim Director of the MPA Program

Zia, cont.

Teaching policy is closely aligned with what drives him as a researcher. "When I was at San Jose State," said Zia, "I taught several courses in renewable energy for which I would have to study in depth the engineering and thermodynamic components of solar energy, for example. It's all very interesting, but I am happy to be back in the policy realm where my research directly relates to what I teach in the classroom."

Zia's research investigates the role of adaptive decision making in the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies at multiple governance levels. Although one could broadly categorize his work in the area of environmental policy, Zia believes that environmental stewardship is fundamental to community sustainability.

Currently, Zia and colleagues are further developing a behavioral theory of sense of place. "This research looks at human settlement and mobility patterns over time," explains Zia. "Why do people choose to settle where they do and what are the reasons they travel once settled?"

Recently sponsored by the National Science Foundation's Human Social Dynamics program, the findings will appear in a book, tentatively titled *Scale Matters: Where We Are, Who We Are and Why We Care*.

Zia finds that his research direction is augmented by his new position in the MPA program and throughout the university. "There is a lot of good, common ground to explore collaborations here at the University of Vermont," he says, specifically pointing to the Transportation Research Center.

Since his arrival in Vermont in August, Zia has submitted three substantial grant proposals with partners internal and external to the University of Vermont.

Zia believes that climate change is having accelerating effects on human settlements and ecological systems. "Through my theoretical and policy research, I try to improve the adaptive capacity of human and biological communities to deal with that change," explains Zia.

Originally from the Punjab region of Pakistan, Zia grounds his work in being able to give back to the society that helped form him as a person, although his work takes him all over the world.

Now, Zia and his family call Shelburne, Vermont home. He's found the transition to be a challenging one (from California to Vermont and from an environmental studies department to a public administration program), but one brimming with potential.

- Anna Masozera

MPA Gets a New Look

The MPA Program is unveiling its new logo in this issue of *Beyond the Green*. Developed with input from faculty and students, this logo reflects the mission of the program and reveals the connections among community, classrooms, and institutions.

This new look will be integrated into a new MPA brochure and an updated MPA website which will contain some additional information of interest to prospective students, current students, and alumni.
www.uvm.edu/mpa



MPA Alumni Connections... Career Connections

The University of Vermont has a networking resource for alumni with a designated area for public administration alumni.

When you opt to become a Career Connection volunteer, you opt to assist current MPA students and alumni while you network.

When you activate your UVM Connection account, you choose your level of participation.

Volunteering could involve...

- a quick e-mail response to questions from an undergraduate or graduate student considering your field
- a fifteen minute scheduled phone appointment
- a 30-minute on-site visit
- providing networking leads for an alum who is relocating to your region
- sending internship or job postings to UVM Career Services

For Information/ To Enroll:
www.uvm.edu/career

2009 MPA Alumni Survey

Be on the lookout for an alumni survey the MPA will be conducting throughout 2009. If you are unsure if we have your correct email and home address, please call 802.656.0009 or send an email to mpa@uvm.edu.

More than One Term, Rachel Weston ('06) is Re-Elected

Young people are often described as being politically apathetic. The significant role that the youth of this country played in President-elect Barack Obama's campaign and subsequent election has helped young people shake that reputation to some degree. However, well before the youth mobilized to support an inspiring candidate who promised change in a troubled world, the MPA program's very own Rachel Weston was becoming active in politics, taking on significant challenges, and affecting change in her community.

After her graduation from the MPA program at UVM in May of 2006, Rachel started campaigning for an open seat in the Burlington House of Representatives. She ran a grass-roots campaign, knocking on hundreds of doors, registering countless voters, and utilizing facebook as a campaigning tool. All of Rachel's hard work paid off, and along with running mate Jason Lorber, Weston won 2/3 of the total vote, receiving 2,000 votes and defeating her opponents.

Becoming involved in politics has not been a lifelong goal of Rachel's. A native of Massachusetts, Rachel

became involved with community organizing and issues around housing and food security as an undergraduate student at UMass Amherst. After graduation, she worked for a non-profit organization and as a public school teacher. Although she enjoyed her work, she felt that she was not getting at the root causes of injustice and decided to pursue a Master of Public Administration at UVM. Part of the appeal of UVM's program for Rachel was that it was under Community Development and Applied Economics, not political science. It was not until she took a course with former Vermont Governor Madeleine Kunin that Rachel decided to pursue politics. Kunin said that women who are passionate about social justice and environmental issues often pursue careers in non-profit organizations and do not envision themselves as political leaders. Rachel realized that she wanted to be able to affect change on a much larger scale by becoming involved in politics. So began the campaigning.

Rachel is passionate about a number of issues, and is not afraid to make her voice heard, even when it brings

Continued on page 4...



Trevor Lashua ('05) and Jane Van Buren discuss careers in public administration with current MPA students as part of the November 19 MPA Reality Roundtable. More about the roundtables on page 5.

OUR MISSION

The Master of Public Administration at the University of Vermont is a professional interdisciplinary degree that prepares public leaders by combining the theoretical and practical foundations of Public Administration with the democratic traditions of Vermont communities.

Weston, cont.

criticism. She is especially vocal about issues surrounding global warming, clean energy and the environment, and wrote an op-ed piece for the Burlington Free Press in 2007 where she vehemently criticized Governor Douglas' energy policy. She is a champion of livable wages, civil rights, health care for all, affordable housing, fair taxes and prison reform, among other causes.

Rachel was the youngest member of the House of Representatives by nine years, but now will be joined with recent UVM graduate Kesha Ram, another energetic and passionate young woman. With her youth come passion and fresh perspectives, and those things are critical if politics is to continue to be relevant and progressive in our ever-changing society. Rachel herself sees the value in generational

diversity in politics, asserting that it strengthens Vermont's ability to be forward-thinking. Rachel Weston decided to take on the tough challenges and become involved in politics before it was fashionable for young people to do so.

-Diana Colangelo ('10)

Spring 2009 MPA Courses

PA 206 INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Catherine Finley Woodruff

PA 302 PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS
Thomas Patterson

PA 303 RESEARCH METHODS
Jane Kolodinsky

PA 317 SYSTEMS ANALYSIS AND STRATEGIC
MANAGEMENT
Christopher Koliba

PA 320 LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Richard Cate

PA 321 NEGOTIATION AND MEDIATION
Doris Anderson

PA 323 NON-PROFIT ADMINISTRATION
Jane Van Buren

PA 326 COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
Rhonda Phillips

PA 395 INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE
POLICY
Asim Zia

PA 395 SELECTED TOPICS IN HEALTH CARE
Meg O'Donnell and Steve Kappel

PA 395 PEACE CORPS SERVICE ANALYSIS
Ken Bauer

PA 380 INTERNSHIP
Glenn McRae

PA 391 MASTERS THESIS
Christopher Koliba

PA 397 READINGS AND RESEARCH
Christopher Koliba

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Reflection by Morgan Daybell ('09)



MORGAN DAYBELL ('09)

I am finishing up my second year as Director of the Vermont Progressive Party. We are the most successful third party in the country, with six members elected to the State House in the current session, and a long-running presence in the Mayor's office and City Council in Burlington. As the only full-time staff member, my job on any day includes recruiting volunteers and candidates, fundraising, and strategizing with legislators.

There is no "manual" that explains how to build a viable third party, and those of us involved in the day-to-day work of the party try to take lessons and ideas from across the spectrum. It is a rare drive home from class that I am not working some new idea into a training session, campaign, or some other initiative.

Because of the focus of the party, and the people that we attract, my job is a blend of both political work and issues advocacy. National parties don't work on issues outside of electoral campaigns, and non-profits rarely do politics other than lobbying. My work allows me to blend an interest in politics with my past non-profit work. This dichotomy is echoed in the balance between book learning and service-learning in our program. In the same class, we might move from an academic discussion about health care policy or staff motivation to sharing experiences on lost battles over health care reform or successful strategies for retaining people. Just like a normal day at the office.

- Morgan Daybell ('09)

Professional Development in the MPA Program

Each student within the MPA program is on an individual journey of professional development, but are not on that journey alone. Initiated this semester was a series of Wednesday night gatherings, called the MPA Reality Roundtables designed to assist MPA students think about how to make the most of their program experience and prepare themselves for new career opportunities in public administration and related fields. It was a great opportunity to network with fellow students and MPA faculty, and connect to resources on campus and off.

MPA REALITY ROUNDTABLES WILL CONTINUE SPRING 2009

Dates/Details TBA: uvm.edu/mpa
Wednesday from 5-7 pm

On September 24, Shelley Warren (part-time; began S'07), Elle Petcavage (part-time; began F'07), and David Curtis (full-time; began S'08) shared their experience thus far in the program and their unique way of approaching courses and course assignments.

As internships are an integral part of the public administration experience,

Beth Krueger ('08) joined students along with MPA internship director Glenn McRae in a discussion about the internship experience on October 1. Krueger, after completing an internship at the Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS) as part of her MPA experience is now grants manager for COTS. It is never too early to plan for an internship, and the group discussed internship ideas and opportunities and how to take full advantage of the experience once you're in it.

On October 22, students were joined by MPA faculty members and researchers Joshua Farley and Asim Zia to share ideas on how refine writing skills and review opportunities for publishing in both popular and professional publications as a way of building a portfolio.

November 5 and 19 roundtables were focused on getting a job. Alissa Strong, Alumni Career Programs Coordinator and Career Counselor with UVM Career Services, and Alice Christian ('07), Executive Director of Champlain Valley Area Health Education Center, discussed formal and informal channels available to students to connect with

MPA and other UVM alumni as a vital way of exploring careers paths and job networking. One of the formal channels discussed was Career Connections through UVM Career Services. Alumni can register on a database and select ways they agree to be contacted by current students and other alumni, creating a very valuable networking tool (www.uvm.edu/career).

On November 19, Trevor Lashua ('05) with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and Jane Van Buren of NoonMark Nonprofit Services discussed with students specific opportunities in the municipal and nonprofit sectors. Van Buren shared results of a survey of the nonprofit sector in Vermont, pointing out opportunities and potential barriers to employment. Students received inside information on how job applications are processed and interviews are assessed.

So, what comes next? Based on discussions held during the open forum on December 3, the MPA program will schedule several faculty and student meet and greet events will be scheduled during the spring semester as a continuation of the MPA Reality Roundtable series. - Anna Masozera

MPA REALITY ROUNDTABLES



VERMONT GOVERNOR MADELEINE KUNIN
BOOK READING AND SIGNING, APRIL



GLENN MCRAE ADDRESSES FACULTY
AND STUDENTS AT THE ANNUAL CDAE
GRADUATE STUDENT PICNIC,
AUGUST

*Other 2008 MPA activities beyond
the classroom.*



SECRETARY OF STATE DEB MARKOWITZ
SPEAKS AT MPA DINNER, APRIL

Rhonda Phillips, Spring 2009 MPA Lecturer



RHONDA PHILLIPS

PA 326 Community Economic Development will be taught this coming spring semester by Dr. Rhonda Phillips. Phillips is the former director of the School of Community Resources and Development at Arizona State University and is currently a visiting professor at SUNY Plattsburg. She serves on the Board of Directors for the national non-profit Community Development Council. Other activities include serving as a member of the International Committee of the Community Development Society and editor of *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society*. She is author of several books, including *Concept Marketing for Communities* (2002, Praeger Publishers), *Introduction to Community Development* (2008, Routledge), and *Community Development Indicators Measuring Systems* (2005, Ashgate Publishing).

FACULTY PROFILE

SPOTLIGHT ON: Thomas F. Patterson, Jr. MPA Faculty

At the end of each semester, Dr. Thomas F. Patterson, Jr. invites the MPA graduate students enrolled in his courses to his house. Together, they share a meal and rejoice in a job well done. However, Patterson has to plan the timing of the visit carefully so as not to interfere with any of his other commitments. You see, Patterson has a lot going on.

Not only does he teach at least three MPA courses and various undergraduate courses each year, serve as director of first year programs for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs), and advise more students than any other CALs faculty member, but Patterson also makes stained glass, is in the process of building a cabin for he and his wife on Lake Dunmore, is a huge UVM sports fan, was recently inducted into the State of New York football hall of fame, crafts beautiful jewelry, works out at the gym every day, and actively administers the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (he has assessed more than 2,000 people with the tool).

A self-described “generalist,” Patterson is pretty good at just about everything. A geographer by training, the native of New York’s St. Lawrence River valley attended Middlebury College on an ROTC scholarship. After returning safely from conflict in Korea, Patterson dabbled in business and got married. Eventually, he earned a master’s degree in extension education from UVM and a doctorate



THOMAS PATTERSON

in adult education, with concentrations in public management and educational philosophy, from Indiana University.

And, since 1987, Patterson has been a popular member of the MPA program’s faculty. As a faculty member, Patterson has undertaken research in experiential learning at Australia’s University of Western Sydney at Hawkesbury, helped to develop curriculum, and served important posts on many committees that have helped UVM’s CALs and MPA program become what they are today. But, Patterson most enjoys his role in the classroom, which allows him to “work with people – and help them.”

Patterson lauds MPA students for their diverse experiences, their “ability to share – and change – their opinions,” and their commitment to “learning and

MPA Faculty and Lecturers

DORIS ANDERSON ('04)
LISA AULTMAN-HALL
FRANK BRYAN
RICHARD CATE
JOSHUA FARLEY
GARY FLOMENHOFT
LYNN GREGORY
RICHARD JOHNSON, III
STEVE KAPPEL ('03)
CHRISTOPHER KOLIBA
JANE KOLODINSKY
ROBERT LAWSON
EDWARD MCMAHON
GLENN MCRAE
MEG O'DONNELL
THOMAS PATTERSON
RHONDA PHILLIPS
FREDERICK SCHMIDT
MICHELE CRANWELL
SCHMIDT ('06)
JANE VAN BUREN
CATHERINE FINLEY
WOODRUFF ('07)
MAURA VERSLUYS ('08)
ASIM ZIA



Patterson, cont.

contributing to the world” above all else. Patterson credits more than the talented MPA students for the program’s success. In particular, he has praise for former UVM provost John Bramley, Leslie Barchard and her two predecessors in the post of student services coordinator, CALS administrators, faculty, and staff who welcomed the MPA program with open arms after it had been an orphan for many years, and the administrators,

faculty, and staff of the MPA program itself.

The father of two adult children and proud master of a nineteen-year-old dog, Tripper, Patterson is smart, modest, and entertaining. If UVM is lucky, he’ll stick around the MPA program for another 21 years. In the meantime, he’ll teach *PA 302 Public Sector Organizations* this spring.

Since Patterson teaches a course that is part of the core curriculum, each MPA student, at one point or another, will have him as a professor. So, a word of advice to students: when you receive your invitation to the delicately timed, post-semester potluck soiree at Patterson’s Burlington home, do attend. And bring Mexican food; it’s his favorite.

-Kelsey Jewell ('10)

NOTEWORTHY

Endowed Position Honors Robert B. Lawson

Robert Lawson is a long-standing faculty member in the Master of Public Administration program at the University of Vermont, with an appointment in the Department of Psychology. The following was reported by Jay Goyette in the November 5, 2008 article “Gifts Establish Green & Gold Professorships” published in the University of Vermont’s the View.

The Segal & Davis Family Foundation has made a \$250,000 commitment to establish the Robert B. Lawson Green & Gold Professor of Psychology in honor of Robert B. Lawson, professor of psychology, who has announced that he will retire in May of 2010 after having served 44 years on the faculty in the Department of Psychology. The philanthropic foundation was formed by Scott S. Segal '77, a prominent trial attorney in Charleston, West Virginia, and his wife, Robin Jean Davis, Chief Justice of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.

Segal says the Segal & Davis Family Foundation has founded several professorships in law and medicine at institutions in West Virginia, and “we just thought it was time to do something for my alma mater at Vermont.” When he began looking back at his time at UVM, he says, Professor Lawson immediately came to mind. “Professor Lawson was one of my favorite professors of psychology,” says Segal, who majored in psychology at UVM and earned his law degree at West Virginia University. “He opened my eyes to a lot of perception issues in psychology and how important they can be, and I’ve applied many of those in my practice of law. I continue to believe that a strong psychology department is critical to the University of Vermont, and that is one of many reasons that we donated the professorship.”

“I just about fell off my chair” when learning at a dinner with Segal last April of the Segal & Davis Family Foundation’s forthcoming gift, Lawson says. “I was very humbled and honored by it. I think it’s a real tribute to the department and to the university reflecting the commitment and the value that former students get from being part of the UVM community.”

“I’m very grateful to Scott and Robin for their support of UVM and the students and faculty who will benefit in the years to come. All of us here at the university appreciate the support and sustained participation of alums in university life. They are remembered just as they remember their time at UVM. You can take them out of Vermont, but you can’t take UVM out of them.”

- Jay Goyette

Richard Cate is now the Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration at the University of Vermont.

Jennifer Kenyan ('09) was elected vice-president of the Graduate Student Senate at the University of Vermont

Edward McMahon completed his role as director of the Peace Corps Fellows Program at the University of Vermont and passed the responsibilities of this program in which the MPA program participates to **Ken Bauer** of CDAE.

Glenn McRae presented *Bridges to Relevancy: Linking Public Administration Education to Practice* at the 2008 National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) Conference in Charleston, SC in October. The paper reviewed the establishment of a successful collaboration with the Snelling Center for Government to expand public policy internships and reviewed options for expanding policy internship opportunities in the future.

Jane Van Buren has been appointed a full-time visiting faculty member at St. Michael’s College for the spring ‘09 and spring ‘10 semesters based in the Department of Business Administration and Accounting.

Asim Zia was selected as a faculty fellow for service-learning by the UVM Office for Community-University Partnerships & Service Learning.



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Summer 2009 MPA Courses

PA 307 ADMINISTRATIVE ETHICS
 Curt Ventriss/ May 28- June 6

PA 395 ENERGY POLICY
 Gary Flomenhoft/ May 18- June 5

PA 395 WOMEN, POWER, AND LEADERSHIP
 IN ORGANIZATIONS
 Jane Van Buren/ June 22- 26

PA 395 COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT
 INSTITUTE
 Christopher Koliba (MPA)
 Claire Ginger (RSENR)
 Michael Gurdon (BSAD)
 July 13- 17, 2008

PA 395 ORGANIZATION RESOURCES AND
 DEVELOPMENT
 Ricardo Johnson/ June 15- July 9

PA 380 INTERNSHIP (3-6 CREDITS)
 Glenn McRae

PA 391 MASTERS THESIS RESEARCH
 (1-6 CREDITS)
 Christopher Koliba

PA 397 READINGS AND RESEARCH
 (1-6 CREDITS)
 Christopher Koliba

Find all the latest MPA news and events at www.uvm.edu/mpa.



MPA EVENTS

FACULTY/STUDENT MEET AND
 GREET (OPEN TO PUBLIC)
 Select Wednesdays in Spring 2009
 5-7 pm in 104 Morrill Hall
 Details to follow: uvm.edu/mpa

2009 MPA GRADUATE RECEPTION
 Saturday, May 16, 2009
 3:30- 5:00 PM
 Details to follow: uvm.edu/mpa

MPA Congratulates:

2008 MPA GRADUATES



CENTER FOR RURAL STUDIES, CELEBRATING THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

