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**Master of Public Administration**

331 MSCX  
Troy University  
Troy, AL 36082  
334-670-5926  
www.troy.edu/mpa

# MPA Program Newsletter

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January, 2017

## Interim MPA Program Director Named

Dr. Michael O. Slobodchikoff, International Relations Program Director, has also been named Interim MPA Program Director until a permanent director can be named. We wish him luck juggling his dual hats.

## Going International

### Back From Georgia and Gone Again!

Dr. Terry Anderson recently returned to the U.S. from her year-long teaching activities overseas in Tbilisi, Georgia and Kyiv and Lviv, Ukraine, and already she is gone again. This time, Dr. Anderson is back in Lviv, Ukraine at Ukrainian Catholic University, where she arrived on December 2 and will remain until February 21. Her visit this time will include teaching Research Methods to the new class of MPA students as well as delivering several additional presentations to faculty and other student groups on a variety of different subjects. Dr. Anderson is also working with the university's School of Social Science to develop a new undergraduate program entitled, *Ethics-Politics-Economics*, which is an interdisciplinary degree program that does not exist anywhere else in that region of the world.

### The South African Connection

Dr. Manfred F. (Fred) Meine, Professor of Public Administration, recently returned from South Africa, where he was invited by the School of Public Management and Administration (SPMA) of the University of Pretoria, South Africa, to conduct presentations to the SPMA faculty on blended and distance learning and publishing internationally. The University of Pretoria is facing a critical need to conduct much of their course delivery online because of violent campus protests, and the faculty is under increasing pressure to publish internationally.

While working with the University of Pretoria, Dr. Meine was also invited to participate in their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual SPMA International Conference on Public Administration, where he presented two papers co-authored with Dr. Thomas P. Dunn, one focused on "Public Management and Internet Education in the United States: Are There Lessons to be Learned" and the second examined "Using the Military for Social Engineering: Ethical, Moral and Practical Issues."

#### Important Dates

**Jan 16:**

Last day for free schedule change for Term 3 and Spring

**Jan 27:**

Deadline to file Intent to Graduate form for Term 4, 2017

**Feb 3:**

Full payment for T3 due

**Feb 17:**

Deadline to drop online classes or withdraw

**Feb 20:**

Registration for T4 begins

**Mar 12:** Term 3 ends.

**NOTE:** There is no break between Terms 3 and 4, with Term 4 beginning March 13th.

## Student News

**Way to go!** Troy University Master of Public Administration students Ashton Moody, Edwina Gibson, Talia Butts, Lakendria Richardson, Tracy Armstead, Doylian Settles, Cherene Nicholson, Allene Harris, Lindsey Belser, and Rosilin Johnson presented their research findings on the successes and challenges of new majority-minority cities to the South DeKalb Improvement Association.

**Congratulations!** Natasha Hartry, one of our MPA students, received a scholarship from the National Association of African Americans in Human Resources.



**Making a Difference:** Troy Today highlighted Troy MPA student Lakisha Smith who has made a difference by focusing her efforts on a campaign to improve the lives of disabled adults in the Atlanta area. Lakisha, who is pursuing her MPA and also holds a master's in business administration from TROY, is the mother of a 13-year-old diagnosed with spastic quadriplegia, the most severe form of cerebral palsy. Read the full article at: <http://troy.today/students/troy-grad-student-turns-classwork-advocacy-disabled-adults/>

**Feedback we love to hear:** I knew that TROY was the best choice for me in pursuing an M.P.A in hopes of thriving in the public sector. Going from the traditional classroom setting to exclusively online learning has been very demanding; however, the instructors have motivated me, challenged me and have been instrumental in helping me realize my full potential. "Thanks to Dr. Pamela Gibson and her public policy course, I have taken an interest in becoming a policy analyst. Recognizing that there are many areas of policy that need to be amended, terminated or replaced, I have particularly grown fond of policy pertaining to the rights of persons with disabilities."

**New Students:** Please welcome the following students who are new to the program for Term 3, 2017. Best of luck to each of them.

Joseph K. Bayer, Christopher Beamon, Teresa M. Brazile, Thomas Burke, Andrea L. Chaney, Christopher D. Coleman, Datrianna Godbolt, Crystal R. Hiltz, James Hoagland, Robert Lewis, Myia Mills, Julia Murphy, Teirdre K. Owens, Alice Price, Michael C. Quinn, Quamere Rooks, Aleeah G. StigarII, Tamina Turner, Mary E. Wasden, an Margaret Wilson.

**Congratulations Graduates:** Congratulations Term I and Term 2 , 2016 graduates. We wish you the best for your future, and encourage you to stay connected via the Alumni Association:

Alisha Bibb, Anthony Bryant, Brian Buffett, Jeffrey A. Dewitt, Cherae L. Gamble, Marquita L. Gates, Tabetha A. Getz, Shaquna N. Gouch, Veronica L. Gray, Tiara Hardaway, Angela L. Hartman, Yolanda Kerr, Ashley R. Lofton, Jerry Lewis John D. Lyndall, Sarah J. Mrazek, Lisa D. McCants, Clinton Poston, Kristen Remington, Angel M. Rodriguez, Shamirah D. Ross-Gowdy, Brittany Scott, Autumn Tinsley, Elysia N. Wilson, and Latoya C. Wilson.

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## Grades are Based on Much More Than a Simple Roll of the Dice (Repeat post—we can never emphasize this too much)

Ever wonder why you received a particular grade? Do you sometimes think grades are the result of random action? There are actually well-defined considerations for how to assess student work. Here is an example of what one instructor uses to help determine what grade a student deserves.

**Added:** An important point to remember is that if there are grade issues or questions during a term, contact the faculty member to discuss at that time. Asking for special dispensation or extra point opportunity at the end of a term is not an appropriate way to address the issue.



	The "A" Student - An Outstanding Student	The "B" Student - A Good Student	The "C" Student – A Fair Student	The "D" Student - A Student in Difficulty
Attendance	Students have virtually perfect attendance. Their commitment to the class resembles that of the teacher.	Students miss class infrequently. Academics sometimes compete with other priorities.	Students miss class too frequently. Too often they put other priorities ahead of academic work.	Students miss classes frequently, sometimes a majority of the time. When they miss class, they often fail to find out what was covered in class or even what work was assigned.
Preparation	Students are prepared for class. They always read assignments fully. Their attention to detail is such that they occasionally catch the teacher in a mistake. They always participate in class.	Students are usually prepared for class. They try to participate in class discussion.	Students prepare their assignments consistently but in a perfunctory manner. Their work may be sloppy or careless. At times, it is incomplete or late.	Students prepare their work in a slipshod fashion. Sometimes they miss assignments and fail to follow directions on others. Work is submitted late.
Curiosity	Students show interest in the class and in the subject. They look up or dig out what they don't understand. They often ask interesting questions or make thoughtful comments.	Students have some interest in the subject and ask questions when they do not understand.	Students ask few questions and show little interest in course readings and class discussion.	Students rarely ask questions and often hope not to be noticed during class discussion.
Retention	Students have retentive minds. They are able to connect past learning with the present. They bring their background with them to class.	Students will frequently make connections among different ideas in the course and occasionally with other ideas from outside.		

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## Grades are Based on Much More Than a Simple Roll of the Dice

	The "A" Student - An Outstanding Student	The "B" Student - A Good Student	The "C" Student – A Fair Student	The "D" Student - A Student in Difficulty
Attitude	Students have a winning attitude. They have both the determination and the self-discipline necessary for success. They show initiative. They do things they have not been told to do.	Students desire to master the course material. They are active participants. They occasionally show initiative and seek out additional topics related to the course.	Students are not visibly committed to the class. They participate without enthusiasm. Their body language often expresses boredom.	Students are uncommitted to the class. They may be in the course only because it is required or because the other alternatives are worse. They are frequently bored by the class and show it. They have poor study habits and try to minimize their study time in the course.
Talent	Students have something special. It may be exceptional intelligence and insight. It may be unusual creativity, organizational skills, commitment—or a combination thereof. These gifts are evident to the teacher and usually to the other students as well.	Students have talent and the ability to master novel material. Some students underutilize abundant skills. Others are still learning academic skills, which can later make them "A" students. Some "B" students are excellent in other fields of knowledge and skill, but must work harder in this subject.	Students vary enormously in talent. Some have exceptional ability but show undeniable signs of poor self-management or bad attitudes. Others are diligent but simply average in the academic skills they've developed so far.	Students may have many abilities but do not utilize them. They also usually lack self-discipline and diligence in class work. They try to minimize the effort made for any assignment.
Results	Students make high grades on work in courses—usually the highest in the class. Their work is a pleasure to grade.	Students usually improve over the duration of the course with increasing grades on course work as they master the material and become more efficient in their work.	Students obtain mediocre or inconsistent results on tests or presentations. They have some concept of what is going on but clearly have not mastered the material.	Students demonstrate little understanding of course material on papers, class work, and exams. They fail to complete many assignments and rarely participate in class discussions unless forced to do so.

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**Consult your course syllabi for specific course related requirements and grading information.**

**Wishing you success in Term 3 and beyond.**

## A Few Editor's Graduate Writing Tips

While these tips are intended to be of help in preparing graduate level writing assignments, be sure to follow the specific instructions of the course instructor. Below you will find some writing tips for term/research/case analysis papers using the APA style guide. The TROY Writing Center has extensive information online for your use. You can access the writing center via this link: <http://www.troy.edu/writingcenter/>.

It is important for you to give your best effort in writing and submitting a term/research paper, because faculty members are likely not to permit rewriting of submitted papers. Therefore, plan on your first effort being your best effort.

Proofreading your work is critical so that instructors do not spend their time editing grammar, spelling, and punctuation, but rather can focus on paper content. There is nothing more distracting than finding spelling or grammatical errors in graduate level writing.

Remember, that in many cases your instructor requires pre-approval of your topic and may want to review an outline of the topic you intend to write about and how you plan to approach that topic. If you do not submit an approved topic, do not be surprised by a negative result.

While the type of paper will often dictate the length, here again, be sure to follow instructor guidelines about minimum length, the number and types of references required and the submission process. It is also important to ask for a marked up copy of your paper so you can focus on improvements for the future.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *When researching a topic for a graduate level research paper, you should focus on academic, professional, and governmental sources. Newspapers and commercial magazines are not usually acceptable sources due to their editorial slant, except that they may be considered as evidence that something was newsworthy or well publicized. Despite that, such sources can provide leads to appropriate useful sources.*

*It is also important to try to get to the original source of information as opposed to using secondary sources. As an example, if author Smith explains the meaning of a Supreme Court case, it is best to actually look at the case to be sure the meaning is accurately portrayed.*

*Also, remember that "Wikipedia" and other open source sites are not appropriate sources for academic writing.*

*The most critical aspect on identifying and using sources is that you must credit where you get your ideas and information with proper citations. This is an area where faculty are typically quite strict, as they should be, since portraying someone else's thoughts as your own is not only plagiarism, but a form of intellectual theft. Be sure that anytime you make an assertion of fact, you cite a source for that information. Also keep in mind that all quotes must be clearly identified as such in one of the approved ways, but you must also be careful to not overuse quotes in your paper, so that your writing is not a collection of quotes. Consult the syllabus for any special instructor guidelines on quotation limitations.*

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## A Few Editor's Graduate Writing Tips (Continued)

While these tips are intended to be of assistance in preparing graduate level writing assignments, be sure to follow the specific instructions of the course instructor, and remember, TROY uses the APA style guide for writing assignments. The TROY Writing Center has extensive information online for your use. You can access the writing center via this link: <http://www.troy.edu/writingcenter/>.

*In this day of electronic access to material, it is easy to be tempted to insert material taken from other people's work. Be especially careful, because if you found it, your faculty member can find it as well. You must be extra careful not get into a plagiarism or lack of originality situation. Some faculty require students to submit their work to [www.Turnitin.com](http://www.Turnitin.com) or will submit questionable papers to that service to check for plagiarism and originality. The TROY Library can provide helpful instructions and information for these issues.*

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## Library News

Library update from Librarian Jay Brandes:

The Library has a new suite of chat tools: Live Chat (new interface), chat by web form, and chat by text (from your phone).

### LIVE CHAT

If a Librarian is monitoring chat, the chat box will be available to ask your question. The majority of time the Troy Campus Library is open (103 hours a week), chat will be live.

If chat is not live, the box will tell you "Sorry, chat is offline but you can still get help. Submit your question by form or by text," and it will link you to a form you can fill out with your question.

### FORM/TEXT

You can submit questions by form and text 24/7, but they will only be answered when the library is open because chat/form/text questions all go to the same place – the chat queue. When we are closed, form and text questions are in the queue waiting to be answered when the librarian comes on duty.

For library research assistance, go to: <http://trojan.troy.edu/library/> or TEXT 334-781-5463 for help. Access databases at: <http://trojan.troy.edu/library/databases.html>

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The mission of Troy University's Master of Public Administration Program is to strengthen the quality of public service by facilitating learning, promoting scholarship, improving practice and engaging in public service. The program strives to develop graduates who bring to the public work force the intellectual acuity, ethical commitment, and professional competence to effectively serve the public interest.

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## Alumni News

Congratulations to Sheriff Joe Baron for becoming sheriff of Norfolk, VA replacing retiring Bob McCabe, both TROY MPA graduates.

## Faculty News

Congratulations to Dr. Leora Waldner, for receiving the 2016 "Spotlight Award" from Blacks in Government Region IV.

Dr. Kern Craig's article will soon appear on the website of the Florida Political Chronicle: Craig, K.W. (2016). The Arctic frontier in international relations. *Florida Political Chronicle*, 24(2).

Dr. Fred Meine provided pro-bono early morning ethics training programs for the Fort Walton Beach Police Department on Dec 1st and 15th.

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### Editor's Corner: Share Your News!

Our next issue will be March 2017 and we need your help to fill it. Please e-mail the Editor, Dr. Fred Meine ([drmmeine@troy.edu](mailto:drmmeine@troy.edu)) if you have recent news that you would like to have included in the newsletter.

*A special thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter. Your help is greatly appreciated.*

**Go Trojans!**

**Congratulations to the Troy Trojan Football Team for their exciting win of the Dollar General Bowl—way to go team!**

**Happy New Year**  
**Best wishes for a healthy, happy, and successful 2017**



Dr. Fred Meine