

# IMPACT

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER FALL 2011

### The Whitaker Legacy

By Maureen McCormick '12

Michael Jordan. Maya Angelou. Gordon Whitaker. What do these three individuals have in common? They are all members of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. This award, one of the highest honors the governor can bestow on a North Carolina

attended by nearly 200 alumni, students, colleagues, and family members who celebrated Whitaker's many accomplishments.

Undoubtedly, few individuals in North Carolina have done as much to contribute to excellence in public service as Whitaker. Throughout the course of his nearly four decades at UNC, he has served as a professor, student mentor, and director of the MPA program. His lasting contributions include establishment of the MPA Assessment Center, the North Carolina Civic Education Consortium, and the Public Intersection Project. He also created a resource website—Managing in North Carolina—for local government managers.

As Whitaker is preparing to retire from the School's faculty, his legacy is being recognized in many ways, large and small. A scholarship has been established in his name to provide funding to second-year MPA students, an area Whitaker defines as having the greatest need for financial support. The Gordon Whitaker Scholarship Fund is just one more way that future Carolina MPA students will feel his impact long after he has left the program.



Gordon Whitaker was named a member of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine at the Dean's Dinner on November 3.

citizen, recognizes those with a proven record of extraordinary service to the state. It was presented to Whitaker at the Dean's Dinner, a part of the annual Public Administration Conference, on November 3 at the Carolina Club. The dinner was

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*"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can."*

—George Bernard Shaw

## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

### Director's Column



William C. Rivenbark  
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I want to thank Carl Stenberg for his five years of leadership. As expected, I found the MPA program in excellent shape and positioned to confront the challenges that lie ahead.

What has been most gratifying to me in my first couple of months as director is the level of dedication shown by MPA faculty, staff, and alumni. Each week, I receive calls or e-mails praising the success of our program or offering suggestions for how to take it to the next level.

#### Alumni Engagement

We are already taking steps toward one of my goals: to increase opportunities for alumni engagement. The Alumni Association by-laws were revised and adopted at the 2011 Public Administration Conference, resulting in an increase in the size of the board. Thank you to Randy Harrington '98 for his leadership as board president. I look forward to working with incoming president David Vehaun '87 on expanding alumni engagement. In addition, my thanks go to Matt Roylance '97 for chairing the conference planning committee and for his dedication to the program.

#### Whitaker Scholarship Fund

As most of you know, Professor Gordon Whitaker will retire at the end of this academic year. In recognition of his legacy, we have created the Gordon Whitaker Scholarship. Doug Bean '74, scholarship chair of the Alumni Association, has been working hard to make this initiative a success. We are in the process of contacting alumni on a class-by-class basis, and I strongly encourage you to consider making a contribution to this fund.

#### Focusing on Impact

In response to the mission-based accreditation guidelines adopted by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA), the Carolina MPA program is adopting a new curriculum beginning in Fall 2012 that focuses on our mission to prepare public service leaders. Our goal is not only to educate future public servants, but also to prepare our graduates to have an impact on the profession by taking on leadership positions.

We also continue to explore the possibility of an online MPA degree as another way to enhance and expand our impact (see the Summer 2011 issue of *Impact* for more information). This is a decision that we are not taking lightly. Our goal is to increase our impact in the field of public administration and expand our resources in order to strengthen the residential program. We have been in constant communication with the Alumni Association board and have received feedback from a number of alumni on this issue. Your input continues to be invaluable.

#### My Challenge to You

One of the major strengths of our program is our alumni network; however, there is always room for improvement. With this, my first column, I challenge you to expand your involvement with the program. This can include making a financial gift, supporting a summer internship, hiring graduating students, or taking on a leadership role in the Alumni Association.

Thank you again for your dedication to our program. I look forward to working with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Rivenbark". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

William C. Rivenbark  
MPA Program Director

# Erskine Bowles: “Time of Reckoning: Facing Facts About the Federal Deficit”

2011 DEIL S. WRIGHT LECTURE

by Maureen McCormick '12

In his introduction of Erskine Bowles at the Deil S. Wright Lecture during this year's annual Public Administration Conference, Dean Mike Smith told the audience that Bowles is a man who is “not afraid to speak truth to power.” Just days before, Bowles had sat before a congressional subcommittee and testified that he was “worried that you’re going to fail the country.”

Bowles, who has served as President Bill Clinton’s chief-of-staff and president of the UNC system, was tapped by President Obama to lead the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, tasked with coming up with a solution to the current fiscal crisis.



Erskine B. Bowles

originally underestimated the breadth, depth, and immediacy of the problem. “When [former Senator and committee co-chair] Al Simpson

and I started, we thought we were doing this for our 15 grandkids. The more we got into it, the more we realized we weren’t doing this for our grandkids. We weren’t even doing it for our kids. We were doing it for *us*.”

According to Bowles, the fiscal problems our nation is facing today are dire

and complex. “This is not a problem that we can simply grow our way out of,” he said. “It is not a problem that we can tax our way out of. We also

At the core of his speech was the message that one does not have to be an elected official in order to make an important difference in the direction of a government. Bowles noted that he himself is not an elected official, and yet he has been able to hold positions of power and influence. He is, through and through, a public servant who has, in the words of Dean Mike Smith, “answered the call to service” time and time again.

Bowles’ timely and important message is one that resonated throughout the Public Administration Conference this year. A repeated undercurrent of many speeches and sessions was that leadership as a non-elected official can be difficult, especially in these politically and fiscally uncertain times. It is increasingly the duty of public servants to be, in the words of Mike Smith, “courageous leaders.”

At the end of his lecture, Bowles answered several questions, including one in which he was asked what the appropriate call to action should be at this time. He responded that this was, in his opinion, quite simple. What we all need to do is “Keep pressure on these guys to go big. Put politics aside and pull together, not pull apart.”

Bowles began his speech by praising School of Government faculty member Norma Houston, calling her “the greatest public servant” he has ever known.

***“There is no easy way out. The problem is real, and it’s going to require a shared sacrifice on everyone’s part.”***

In a frank speech to conference attendees, Bowles outlined his plan to turn the economy around. He told the audience how he had

can’t solely cut our way out of it. There is no easy way out. The problem is real, and it’s going to require a shared sacrifice on everyone’s part.”

## 2011 Conference: A Memorable Experience

By Johanna Foster '05

The 2011 Public Administration Conference proved to be an especially memorable one as we celebrated Gordon Whitaker's astonishing 39 years of public service. But it was also unique for its changes in format and focus. The conference committee, led by Matt Roylance '97, incorporated

the feedback of past conference evaluations and examined trends in attendance in an effort to develop a program that responded to your needs as professionals and alumni.

### Networking Opportunities

One notable change was a return to the two-day format and Dean's Dinner. According to past participants, one of the primary motivations for conference attendance was the chance to network with professionals and students, as well as to reconnect with classmates and professors. The extended conference time, lively Dean's Dinner, and alumni-hosted lunches for students were designed to provide such opportunities, and many attendees voiced appreciation for these events.



Cynthia Eades '84, Gordon Whitaker, and Julian Prosser '68 at the November 3 Dean's Dinner

### Three Learning Tracks

Perhaps the most distinct change to the conference format was the adoption of three learning tracks. Based on requests for meaningful professional development, the committee organized sessions that allowed participants to build skills and knowledge in particular subject areas that they could apply directly to their work. Additionally, School of Government faculty delivered the majority of the sessions, making the conference an especially cost-effective option for attendees in light of shrinking training budgets.

Whether it was Vaughn Upshaw explaining a new approach to leading group decisions or Donna Warner '78 offering strategies to motivate employees without the promise of a raise, many of you expressed enthusiasm for the ability to return to work with new skill sets.

### 2012 Conference Planning

Peter Franzese '06 and I will serve as co-chairs for the 2012 MPA Alumni Conference, and we will strive to keep the very best of this year's event.

Please contact us with feedback or to serve on the 2012 committee at [jmfoster@alumni.unc.edu](mailto:jmfoster@alumni.unc.edu) or [franzese@ci.concord.nc.us](mailto:franzese@ci.concord.nc.us).



Andy Willis '94 greets Gordon Whitaker



Steve Raper '74 congratulates Gordon Whitaker

### SAVE THE DATE

2012 Public Administration Conference  
November 1-2

# A Conversation with Willow Jacobson

by Maureen McCormick '12

For nearly a decade, Associate Professor Willow Jacobson has been a member of the Carolina MPA and School of Government faculty. She has most notably taught the MPA courses, Human Resources Management and Ethical and Effective Public Administration. Upon Gordon Whitaker's retirement in May 2012, she will take over responsibility for his Organizational Theory class. Recently, I had the opportunity to sit down and talk with her.

**Maureen McCormick (MM):** *Where did you grow up?*

**Willow Jacobson (WJ):** I was born in Iowa and spent most of my childhood in rural, northern Idaho, but went to high school in Long Beach, California. These were very different environments. For instance, our town in Idaho had a population of about 4,000. To go from that to a *school* of around 4,000 was definitely a change. I value having had the chance to gain a varied sense of community, and to learn about how people form and define communities.

**MM:** *How did you end up at Carolina?*

**WJ:** After earning a PhD at Syracuse University, I taught at the University of Connecticut. I came to Carolina and the School of Government in 2003, being drawn to the opportunity to teach practitioners as well as graduate students. Having the chance to interact with people "on the ground" who are exposed to these issues every day is a unique opportunity for a faculty member.

**MM:** *What is your favorite thing about teaching? What's the most gratifying thing you can hear from students?*

**WJ:** Having the opportunity to give someone knowledge or skills that may positively impact their world is extremely gratifying. Occasionally, someone will have an "a-ha" moment in class, and I can see in their eyes that something I have said has helped them to understand something that they did not before. More than anything, I love hearing stories from current and former students about how they have been able to apply the concepts from class to their professional lives.



Willow Jacobson

**MM:** *You're doing some interesting things at the School of Government these days, including the move to teaching organizational theory. What are you most excited about?*

**WJ:** With Gordon Whitaker's plans to retire next summer, I have been given the opportunity to work in the field of organizational theory. Though I have some very large

shoes to fill, I am looking forward to teaching the subject. When I was working on my master's degree at the University of Oregon, I had a colleague who came to the program after years of working for the Forest Service. She decided to pursue an MPA in organizational theory after witnessing a tragedy in her job, where several people were killed as a result of ineffective interagency communication. This really opened my eyes to the practical, important implications that organizational theory can have.

**MM:** *How are you preparing to switch from teaching one subject to focusing on another?*

**WJ:** The disciplines of human resource management and organizational theory are fundamentally inter-related, and an appreciation of each brings greater value to the other. I taught both organizational theory and human resources at the University of Connecticut, and my graduate studies included a concentration in both. Even with this background it will be a transition. But I am excited to consider how to best design the course and make it mine.

**MM:** *What other projects are you working on?*

**WJ:** I am excited to have been appointed by the School as director of the new Local Government Credit Union Fellows Program, which will provide mid-level public executives with the skills to develop and lead programs and people, as well as to build systems and cultures that contribute to overall organization performance.

## Celebrating a Distinguished Career

### 2011 DEAN'S DINNER HONORING GORDON WHITAKER

At the Dean's Dinner on November 3, Gordon Whitaker sat alone on stage as MPA alumni, students, and colleagues stood to share their thanks and appreciation with him. He was also presented with an album of testimonials, some of which are excerpted here.

"My friend Gordon, you are a man with a life well-lived and well-loved. None of us could aspire to achieve any greater success."

—J. Russell Allen '77, City Manager  
Raleigh, North Carolina

"Thank you for anchoring the education of so many young professionals, including me."

—Doug Fountain '88  
Uganda Christian University

"Your classes developed me more fully as a person...Thank you for all of the countless and selfless hours you have spent with me, my cohorts, and the many others before and after us. The light of your influence and spirit will shine within all of us forever."

—Joseph M. Moore II '05  
City Manager  
Brevard, North Carolina

"The success of the program that we see today is due in great part to Gordon's work."

—David Vahaun '87, City Manager  
Rock Hill, South Carolina

"Thank you for all of the time, effort, and passion you put into the classroom and your students. My short time practicing law has had a lot of unexpected turns, but I have held steadfast to the lessons I learned in your classes and put them to use for my clients."

—Ben Eisner '05, Associate  
Attorney, Oliver Friesen Cheek  
New Bern, North Carolina

"I don't know if any rules were broken, policies violated, or procedures sidestepped, but I am forever grateful. In simple terms, I asked if I could change my mind and join the MPA class at UNC...I am forever grateful to Gordon for saying yes."

—David Cooke '82, Manager  
Wake County, North Carolina

"I hope that you enjoy your retirement, and thank you again for everything you've done for us as students."

—Katie Sirakos '09  
Associate, Clarkson Davis  
Dallas, Texas



Gordon Whitaker was moved by many of the tributes paid to him at the Dean's Dinner celebration.

"Both your work and your example have helped me in teaching other students about service as a career."

—Pat Pate '84  
Assistant City Manager  
High Point, North Carolina

"At some time during my second semester, Gordon invited me to join him for coffee. He told me that he was pleased with my academic performance thus far. Gordon's statement was a huge confidence builder for me. For the first time, I was hearing words of encouragement and support from a faculty advisor. And for a change, I worked even harder to prove them right!"

—Brannon Godfrey '88, Deputy City Manager  
Portsmouth, Virginia

"Gordon is a deep thinker, a warm professor, and friend with an unswerving commitment to his students. He valiantly and patiently imparted his knowledge to us in class as we sometimes struggled to keep up!"

—Barbara Dwyer Gunn '74, President and CEO, Seedco  
New York, New York

"I remember first meeting you at the Carolina Inn cafeteria about 37 years ago. It was a pleasure meeting you then, and it has been a pleasure working with you over the decades."

—Jack Vogt, Professor (retired)  
UNC-Chapel Hill

"I remember your calm demeanor and reassurance, your great smile and optimistic approach to life as one of the big factors in my survival."

—Roger Stancil '77, Town Manager  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

"Gordon, throughout my career you have been a dedicated mentor, an excellent role model and a true friend."

—Florentine Miller '77, Deputy Town Manager  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

"You genuinely care for students past and present. Please enjoy your retirement and know that you've enriched so many lives."

—Bill Stockard '94, Human Resources Director  
North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management

"No one has contributed more to the MPA program than you. You have created an ethical consciousness that pervades all the courses, all the faculty, all the students—it is the spirit of the program. It will continue long after you are gone. It is a gift to future generations who will earn a Carolina MPA."

—Cal Horton '71, Town Manager (former)  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

"Retirement is only a change in status. It is not the end of one's life, but rather a time to find and utilize your remaining time in additional pursuits that add value to others, the greater society, and oneself."

—Douglas Bell '74

"Gordon Whitaker defined: simply, the most excellent and the highest quality. Period. Happy trails, my friend."

—Harry Jones '74, Manager  
Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

"Thank you for modeling what it means to be a colleague. You have been the "go to" guy for ideas and feedback on the School's leadership programs."

—Donna Warner '78, Director  
Local Elected Leaders Academy  
School of Government

## TRUE CAROLINA BLUE: RENISHA HOWARD

by Maureen McCormick '12

Growing up in Charlotte, North Carolina, first-year student Renisha Howard lived in a city where opportunities were physically close at hand, but often seemed out of reach. She attended what she calls an “underserved” high school in Charlotte—one that has since

After earning a bachelor’s degree in 2009, Renisha spent two years with the Carolina College Advising Corps working with high school students in the Tarboro/Rocky Mount area. Although the schools were far more rural than her own high school, she was doing exactly what she was

Renisha chose to return to Carolina for several reasons: the MPA program’s emphasis on professional development, combining the theoretical and the practical, and the “personal touch” of the program. Her biggest surprise since entering has been how much she is learning about herself. “I thought I was going to be learning about theories, and I have,” she says. “But what has been just as important and helpful is learning about what kind of leader I am and discovering my strengths and weaknesses.”

*“You grow where you’re planted, and you do your best to thrive.”*

closed its doors. In this environment, Renisha learned a great deal about social justice and access to education. “The reality is, different schools and different places do not have the same resources,” she says. “But you grow where you’re planted, and you do your best to thrive.”

Renisha had always wanted to attend Carolina, and she entered college as a pre-nursing student. She lost her passion for the profession when she had no contact with people during her prerequisites. When she learned about the School of Government, the MPA program, and public service, she was very excited: “I finally had a *name* for what I was passionate about! I always knew that was what I wanted to do, but now I knew exactly what to call it and where to look.”

yearning for at that age: facilitating access to higher education in underserved high schools. Through that position, she was able to provide a degree of social justice to other students.



Renisha Howard

She is currently working as a graduate assistant with the UNC Office of Research Development, which helps faculty members find funding for community research projects. She likes the job because she is “indirectly helping people have a positive impact on the broader community.”

Renisha’s future is wide open. She is interested in all aspects of public service, and cannot wait to get her feet wet in a professional position. Although she came into the program sure that she that she wanted to work in nonprofit management, she is seeing how much she can do with an MPA degree. Her one requirement is that she wants to work with people so that she can continue to spread the “personal touch” she loves so much about Carolina MPA.

*Renisha Howard is a recipient of the 2011-2012 Diversity in Public Administration Scholarship.*

# MPA Alumni Association News

By Randy Harrington '98, President

## Alumni Association By-Laws Updated

Over the past year, your MPA Alumni Board reviewed potential updates to the Association's by-laws, which were last updated in 2004. During the Public Administration Conference in November, Association members approved a proposed set of by-law changes that focused on the following additional goals:

- To identify, promote and secure scholarship opportunities for the MPA Program
- To host and support networking and professional development opportunities for MPA students and alumni
- To provide leadership in an advisory role to faculty and staff members of the MPA program



Randy Harrington

## New Position of Secretary Added to Board

The person holding this new position will document the discussions and actions of the Association and Board and support online and social media efforts.

## Additional At-Large Board Members

The number of at-large board members was increased from three to twelve, in order to improve board diversity and alumni participation opportunities. This increases the board to 20 members.

## Thank You

My thanks to the Board; they worked hard to review the by-laws and produce a recommended set of changes to the Association membership. I also want to thank MPA Program staff who assisted with research of alumni board models used across the UNC-Chapel Hill campus and the U.S. Job well done!

To see the new by-laws and list of board members who will take office January 1, 2012, visit the Alumni News web page at [www.mpa.unc.edu/node/38](http://www.mpa.unc.edu/node/38).

*“The number of at-large board members was increased in order to improve board diversity and alumni participation opportunities.”*

## Life Events

### On the Move

**Jessica Gilmore Aylor '05** is now director of development and community partnerships at the Triangle Community Foundation in Durham, North Carolina.

**Allan Beckmann '08** has accepted a position as an economist with the US Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration in Washington, DC.

**Nathan Branscome '04** has accepted a position as a policy analyst for the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget for the State of Georgia.

**Mike Branum '03** is serving as fire chief at Fort Mojave Mesa Fire Department in Fort Mohave, Arizona.

**Kevin Bryant '09** has accepted a position as outreach associate with Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina in Raleigh, North Carolina.

**Heather Chartier '05** is moving to Chicago, where she will be continuing with the US Government Accountability Office.

**Lindsey Davis '07** has accepted a position as planner for Ayers Saint Gross, a national design firm with offices in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Heather Drennan '03** has accepted a position as budget and management analyst with the City of Raleigh, North Carolina.

**Catherine Durham '08** is assistant to the county manager in Dakota County, Minnesota.

**Robyn Schryer Fehrman '02** has been appointed executive director for Eastern North Carolina Teach for America.

**Chris Foca '00 and Catherine Foca '00** have relocated to Richmond, Virginia. Chris has accepted a position as senior team manager for cost and pricing at NISH Products. NISH is a national nonprofit agency that creates employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities.

**Brodi Fontenot '99** is deputy assistant secretary for administration at the US Department of Transportation in Washington, DC.

**Annie Francis '09** is an investigative social worker with Orange County Department of Social Services in Hillsborough, North Carolina.

**Bo Gattis '08** is a budget analyst with Durham County Government in Durham, North Carolina.

**Ariel Gold '03** has relocated to Seattle, Washington.

**Joel Harper '86** is serving as executive director of St. Louis Jaycees in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Meredith Hatch '05** is associate director of programs for Achieving the Dream Inc. in Silver Spring, Maryland.

**Peter Key '95** is director of the Harris County Toll Road Authority in Texas.

**Whitney Mitchell '08** has accepted a position as an education evaluation specialist with the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, DC.

**Michael Ousdahl '09** is a transportation planner with HDR Engineering in Raleigh, North Carolina.

**Doug Paris '05** was named interim city manager in Salisbury, North Carolina, in July 2011.

**Danielle Peacock '09** has accepted a position as a project associate with GreenBlue in Charlottesville, Virginia.

**Emily Portner '09** has accepted a position with the Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator in New York City.

**Heather Stingley Pulitzer '09** is a budget analyst with the Office of Management and Budget in New York City.

**Safa Sajadi '09** is continuing her education at the UNC School of Law in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

**Katie Sirakos '09** is an associate with Clarkson Davis, a management consulting firm serving nonprofit organizations in Dallas, Texas.

**Alicia Middleton Stephens '00** was appointed financial analyst with the State and Local Government Finance Division of the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer.

**Alex Terry '09** has accepted a position as internal auditor with the City of Durham, North Carolina.

**Tyler Thomas '09** is the business development and diversity officer with Metcom Inc. in Pembroke, North Carolina.

**Faith Thompson '03** accepted a position as community outreach coordinator with the Town of Chapel Hill. She is assisting the town in support of its new comprehensive planning process, a major initiative involving the town and the University.

**Devorah Waesch '78** completed a 15-month tour in Kabul, Afghanistan, as district comptroller. Effective December 31, she will retire after 31 years of service as an Army civilian.

**Erika Walker '09** has accepted a position as Asia program coordinator with Ipas in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

**Andy Williams '99** is controller for College of Lake County in Grayslake, Illinois.

**Lee Worsley '97** left his position as deputy county manager of Catawba County to accept a position as Durham County deputy manager. In addition, he has been nominated by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) nominating committee to the ICMA Board of Directors.

**Jonathan Yeomans '09** is a management analyst with Orange County Department of Social Services in Hillsborough, North Carolina.

## Weddings

**Nick Dula '06** and Anomis Davis were married in September 2011.

**Ashleigh Martin '08** and Justin Price were married on September 10, 2011.

## Accomplishments

**Lukas Brun '07** recently published an article in *Economic Development Quarterly*, "Increasing Stakeholder Participation in Industry Cluster Identification," which, incidentally, is the same title as his capstone paper.

**Tony Caudle '81** assistant city manager of Wilmington, North Carolina, accepted his city's Susan M. Burgess Sustainability Award during the North Carolina League of Municipalities' Annual Conference in Raleigh. Wilmington won the award for cities with a population of 10,000 and more.

**Teresa Derrick-Mills '90**, PhD candidate and instructor in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, The George Washington University, wrote a chapter in *New Directions for Evaluation*, and published an article in the September 2011 volume of *Administrative Theory & Praxis* about online police-citizen discussion groups in Washington, DC. In addition, she is teaching a new course this fall on the nonprofit role in cross-sector collaboration.

**Danielle Peacock '09** was recently published in *Recycling Works*, Volume 17, Number 2. The article is titled, "Study Recommends C&D Recycling Development at Private Facilities."

**Bob Ward '78** retired in July 2011 as city attorney for Burlington, North Carolina, after a 39-year career handling the city's legal affairs.

## New Arrivals

**Jennifer Snow Butler '00** and Stockton Butler are happy to announce the birth of Helen Marshall Butler on September 29, 2011. Big brother Walton is very proud of his baby sister.

**Christina Lyndrup Farrell '92** and Timmy Farrell announce the birth of twin boys on September 2, 2010. Cullen Albert and Martin Oscar joined Olivia (now 4) and Brendan (now 3).

**Erin Eckert '00** and her husband, David, welcome daughter Elise Marie Eckert, who was born on November 17, 2011.

## In Memoriam

**James Brumby '91**, of Cary, North Carolina, passed away on December 19, 2010, at age 61.

**Ken Cornatzer '81** passed away October 2, 2011. He was the retired town manager in Wallace, North Carolina, where he served for 12 years. He was 53 years old.

**Jefferson Dale Morgan '80**, who was president of a management consulting firm, passed away at age 52 on September 5, 2010. At UNC, he was on the *Daily Tar Heel* staff and a member of the Society of Janus.

**Albert Nelson '71** of Longwood, Florida, passed away on May 12, 2009.

*Alumni who entered the program in 2010 or later are designated by their year of graduation. Those who entered before 2010 are designated by their cohort year.*



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## IMPACT

# Pete Scram Society Strikes Again

by Jean Coble

On the morning of November 3—the opening day of the 2011 Public Administration Conference—a courier delivered a plain brown box to my office and told me it was from the Pete Scram Society. Armed only with the instructions printed on the box, “Deliver to Gordon at Dinner,” I immediately approached Jeff Richardson ’88, emcee for the Gordon Whitaker tribute at the Dean’s Dinner planned for that evening. As we considered the possibilities (could be homemade brownies; hoping it wasn’t a bomb), Jeff hatched a plan.

Midway through the dinner, as attendees paid tribute to Gordon, Jeff pulled out the box, explained the potential danger of opening it, and asked for volunteers. Seeing none, he identified Cal Horton ’71 as the most expendable person in the room, and asked him to come up on the stage and do the honors. Much to everyone’s relief, Cal safely opened the box and helped Gordon

unwrap an item that every MPA professor dreams of receiving: a personalized bobble head doll.

Alumni with a keen memory will recall that this is not the first Pete Scram Society incident. Deil Wright was similarly “honored” at the 2006 conference.

Will the Pete Scram Society strike again? Will the group’s operatives ever be revealed? Those in the know should send anonymous tips to [coble@sog.unc.edu](mailto:coble@sog.unc.edu).

