

# IMPACT

**A L U M N I  
NEWSLETTER**  
SPRING/SUMMER 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 Director's Column
- 4 Congratulations,  
MPA Graduates
- 4-5 2015 Research and  
Communication  
Awards
- 6 True Carolina  
Blue: Matthew  
Ousterhoudt
- 7 2015 Public  
Administration  
Conference
- 9 A Conversation with  
Faculty Member  
Greg Allison
- 11 Life Events

## Vi Lyles: “The Embodiment of Our Mission”

“I truly believe that anyone can make a difference by living an exemplary life, even when that is hard to do,” said Vi Lyles '74, Charlotte city council member, consultant to government and nonprofit clients, and the 2015 MPA commencement speaker.

In her introduction, faculty member Willow Jacobson referred to Lyles as “the embodiment of our mission of being a public service leader.” Lyles worked for the City of Charlotte for almost 30 years, starting as a budget analyst and ultimately serving as assistant city manager. During that time she helped create the city's first capital budget and spearheaded many programs that have made an enormous difference to the city and its residents.

Along the way, Lyles discovered she felt particularly passionate about affordable housing for all, and she became one of Charlotte's experts in the subject. In her commencement address, she talked about the impact of a WWII-era federal policy that resulted in white—but not African American—servicemen returning from the war and qualifying for home loans. One of the policy's lasting consequences is that many African Americans became long-term renters instead of owners.



DOUG PITTS PHOTOGRAPHY

Vi Lyles addressed graduates and guests at the MPA commencement ceremony on May 9.

When Lyles served as Charlotte's budget director, the city adopted its first neighborhood improvement bond that was used to build affordable housing and make neighborhoods safer. A scattered housing program and investment in a low-interest housing loan program followed. After retiring from the city, Lyles served as startup director for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing.

*continued on page 3*

*“As you weigh your words, may they be clear, concise, and free of ambiguity—caring, giving hope, and fostering peace and love.”*

— Donald Hayman, 1919–2010

## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



William C. Rivenbark

When recruiting applicants to Carolina MPA, we talk about our program's strengths, including the curriculum's focus on public service leadership, faculty engaged in both the theory and practice of public administration, and our affiliation with the School of Government. But every conversation at some point involves alumni engagement. We point prospective students to your generous

support of much-needed scholarships, your offers to host interns and recruit for job openings, and most importantly, your example as public service leaders.

There is another aspect of alumni engagement that adds to the strength of the program, which I appreciate in particular: the willingness of alumni to give their valuable time in service to the Carolina MPA Alumni Association board. Board members attend meetings and serve on subcommittees that address issues and identify strategies that drive both the board and the program forward.

The board makes tangible the alumni association's mission to create a community—often referred to here as “the Carolina family”—among students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. This community promotes and extends the core values and goals of the MPA program. The board

has its own core values, which include collaboration, diversity, stewardship, integrity, professionalism, and exploration.

In 2011, the board decided to expand membership from nine to 20 members to better support the value of diversity—wanting to ensure its composition reflected the growing diversity of Carolina MPA alumni.

The board is making progress toward its three goals:

- Identify, promote, and secure scholarship opportunities for the MPA program
- Host and support networking and professional development opportunities for students and alumni
- Provide leadership in an advisory role to faculty and staff members

Board members, individually and collectively, have helped advance these goals by making annual contributions to the program, planning and attending the Public Administration Conference as well as other events, and providing leadership and feedback on possible new directions for the program as we seek to remain current in an ever-changing academic environment.

We recruit Carolina MPA applicants based on the strength of our alumni, and our students experience this strength in action during their time with the program. This only enhances the probability that they will become involved in the Alumni Association upon graduation.

I want to thank all of you who support Carolina MPA and especially those who serve on the Alumni Association board.

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

William C. Rivenbark  
Professor and Director

*My door is always open. Please visit if you are in Chapel Hill, or contact me anytime with questions or suggestions about our MPA program at [rivenbark@sog.unc.edu](mailto:rivenbark@sog.unc.edu) or 919.962.3707.*

*continued from Vi Lyles: "The Embodiment of Our Mission" on page 1*

Today, she said, Charlotte finances construction of more than 300 affordable houses per year, and the city has committed to ending chronic homelessness in the next two years.

That is public leadership at work.

"That passion for affordable housing made me think about being more involved in my community," she said. "And I decided to run for Charlotte City Council." She was elected in 2013.

Lyles urged this year's graduates to consider the impact they could have on their communities.

"Many people in our communities don't have access," she said. "Just think about your advantages, the things we take for granted: family and friends who encourage, praise, and support you; and schools and libraries accessible to you that have made it possible for you to attend this great university. Yet many of our citizens can't even move around their city because there is not public transportation to get to day care or work. They live in hotels or on couches. They work not one job but two.

"I implore you, as you go out to work, to think about economic

mobility, poverty, disadvantaged schools; think about how you can play it forward...for every child to have a home, food to eat, and support from adults who care about their success."

### Vi Lyles' Beacon Words

These are not small tasks, and Lyles acknowledged the challenges graduates might face. She shared what she calls her "beacon words," or thoughts she has returned to throughout her career.

- **Perseverance.** "At some point in your career, your engine will slow down or just stop, and you must figure out how to make it start again."
- **Principle.** "At some point in your career, you will have an opportunity that defines you. Ask for advice, but think and act on principle."
- **Play.** "It's not all about the weight of the world. Sometimes you have to stop and play."
- **Passion.** "Remember, life is a journey, not a trip. Find what puts gas in your tank, and go for passion."

## Vi Lyles: From MPA Graduate to Graduation Speaker

### Education

BA in political science, Queens University  
MPA, UNC-Chapel Hill

### Career

Assistant Budget and Evaluation Director, City of Charlotte  
Budget Director, City of Charlotte  
Assistant City Manager, City of Charlotte  
Consulting Director, The Lee Institute/Flynn Heath Holt Institute  
Owner, Vi Lyles Consulting  
Startup Director, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing  
Director of Community Outreach, Democratic National Convention  
Council Member, City of Charlotte

### Awards and Recognition

United Negro College Fund Maya Angelou Women Who Lead Award  
Johnston YMCA Spirit of Charlotte Award  
Charlotte Woman of the Year  
National Forum for Black Public Administrators Conference Leadership Award  
South Carolina Black Hall of Fame



DOUG PITTS PHOTOGRAPHY

Dean Mike Smith, Alumni Association President Katie Densford McCoy '01, Vi Lyles '74, and MPA Director Bill Rivenbark at MPA commencement on May 9.

## Congratulations, MPA Graduates

### Fall 2014

Two MPA@UNC students completed the program in 2014 but participated in the May 2015 graduation ceremony at the School of Government.

Ruth Llewellyn Rivas  
Jeremy Scot Schmidt

### Spring 2015

Rafael Da Costa Melo Baptista  
Joseph Fuller Beasley  
Edward Michael Blayney  
Nicholas Kehoe Byrne  
Brittany Jeannine Clark  
Summar Corley  
Adam John Decker  
Kasey Janai El-Chayeb  
David Henry Finley  
David Benjamin Goldberg  
Micah Marie Guindon  
Whitney Nicole Harris  
Nathan Hawthorne  
Michelle Yumi Holder



DOUG PITTS PHOTOGRAPHY

Cole James Justad-Sandberg  
Amanda Nicole Keesee  
Maia Elaine Knox  
Yifan Liu  
Brian Kevin Manning  
Anna Rose McGeehan  
Malcolm Turner Munkittrick IV  
John O'Connor  
John Alexander O'Daniel  
Maggie J. Parker

Eric Martin Reese  
Susan Rene Sanford  
Caroline Amity Simpson  
Anna Maxwell Snyder  
Katherine Denise Thompson  
Robert Marshall Wedge  
Samuel Grant Whitley  
Vincent Connor Winstead  
Anna Zhang

## 2015 Research and Communication Awards Presented at Graduation

### Deil S. Wright Research Paper Award

Since 2001, the Deil S. Wright Capstone Award has been presented to the MPA student whose capstone research paper is judged to be the best. Renamed in 2014 to adhere to the new competency-based curriculum, the award continues to honor Deil Wright's desire to recognize a student for outstanding research. The winning paper is chosen based on how well an issue is researched and addressed and whether it contains meaningful and persuasive conclusions.

This year's award was presented to Maia Knox for her research paper, titled "Freedom from Excessive



DOUG PITTS PHOTOGRAPHY

Carl Stenberg (left) and David C. Wright (right) presented Maia Knox with the 2015 Deil S. Wright Research Paper Award.

Entanglement? Public Accountability Challenges for Local Faith-Based Initiatives." Judges for this award included David A. Brown, director of the School of Government's Applied Public Policy Initiative; Mary Tiger '07, chief operating officer, UNC Environmental Finance Center; and Jessica Sherrod '14, PhD student at Indiana University Bloomington. The committee noted Knox's "...nimble writing demonstrated a firm grasp on her subject and how each side of a church/state partnership encounters costs and benefits when choosing to work with the other."

# One Graduate's Story: Leadership and Service

HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE GLOBALLY OR LOCALLY

US Navy Reserve Lieutenant Commander Amanda Keesee currently works for NATO, but her goal is to serve in local government. "I think having a tiny part in the collaboration among 28 nations has direct connections to becoming a local government leader," she said. "While we want the best for our own jurisdiction, our decisions will have an effect across geographical boundaries."

Keesee graduated from the US Naval Academy with a BS in information science. While on active duty, she directed a department of 20 people, taught courses for international military officers, served as navigator of a warship in Yokosuka, Japan, and served as operations assistant for the Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific. She

transitioned out of the Navy in June 2011 for family reasons—she and her husband, Lt. Cody Keesee, who serves with the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps, were facing years of separation from different assignments. After a year of government contract work, Keesee realized the value of service was missing from her job. "I had enjoyed being a leader and serving my sailors as much as my country." MPA@UNC answered her call to serve and gave her a way to attain a graduate degree while remaining with her family.

Even after years of serving in leadership positions, Keesee said, "It has been great to reflect and think about leadership in the MPA program from an academic perspective and with classmates from many different backgrounds."

"An MPA degree is very useful, whether you serve in the US Navy Reserves or in a local government," she said, "and whether you're bringing people together to achieve a mission or a community vision."



Amanda Keesee is among the first graduates of MPA@UNC, the online format of the MPA program.

## Nanette V. Mengel Communication Award

This award has been presented since 1997 to the student judged to be the best communicator during the oral presentations of the capstone conference. Under the new curriculum, the award represents a student's ability to clearly articulate—in written and oral formats—her or his personal leadership vision in an innovative and convincing manner.

After oral exams, four students were asked to present in front of a separate group of Mengel Award judges, who selected Brittany Clark to receive this year's award.

Judges for this award included Emily Guhde '12, assessment librarian, Georgetown University; Jenny Noonan Edmonds '95, director of office of policy analysis and communications in air quality planning standards, US Environmental Protection Agency; Phil Strach '97, shareholder and trial lawyer, Ogletree Deakins. "She woke the judges up immediately," the panel commented, "because in talking about her values, she talked about faith. That's a term we have to use carefully in the public sector, but she told the judges why she used it, why it was meaningful, and she delivered."



Margaret Henderson (left) presented Brittany Clark with the 2015 Nanette V. Mengel Communication Award.

## TRUE CAROLINA BLUE: MATTHEW OSTERHOUDT

by Whitney Harris '15



**Matthew Osterhoudt**  
MPA Candidate, MPA@UNC

*Senior Manager, Planning and Development Services  
Environmental Protection Division,  
Sarasota County, Florida*

Matthew Osterhoudt's passion for public service was inspired by his upbringing in a US Navy family. He grew up along the coasts of Virginia, California, and Hawaii before landing in North Carolina for college.

"Growing up in a military family instilled a sense of public service in me and established my core values," said Osterhoudt. "Living on the coast taught me the importance of supporting a community in its efforts to thrive and grow while ensuring that natural resources are protected for future generations."

Osterhoudt attended North Carolina State University, where he earned a BS in natural resources concentrating in marine and

coastal issues. He has worked for Sarasota County, Florida, since 1999. Currently, he is a senior manager for the planning and development services department leading the development services division and the environmental protection division. He has also served in leadership positions for the natural resources department, conservation and environmental permitting division, and mosquito management division.

"I've wanted to make a difference in my community," Osterhoudt said. "I work to build bridges between people and find common values among different sides of an issue. This challenge drives me to excel as a public service leader."

Osterhoudt has worked for Sarasota County for nearly 16 years with an environmental focus. However, he has had many opportunities to collaborate with (and learn about) a broad range of other local government services such as planning and development, parks and recreation, stormwater, transportation, utilities, public works, and health and human services. In addition, he has worked on special projects and initiatives outside of the scope of his regular duties, including serving as an acting director and interim manager and working on amendments to the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan.

"Embracing the varying scope of these projects has invigorated my passion for personal growth, broadened my understanding of local government, and bolstered my commitment to public service," he said. "My professional goal is to serve in county or city administration, where there is an opportunity to

facilitate multiple desired community outcomes."

Osterhoudt decided to pursue an MPA degree and entered the Carolina MPA program in 2013, the first year MPA@UNC was offered. "The online format gives me the flexibility to work full time, pursue the highest quality education, and be there for my family," said Osterhoudt, who has two young children.

He attended the 2013 and 2014 public administration conferences, where he met faculty and fellow students. "It was an amazing experience to meet classmates face to face and realize that the rapport we had established online translated well in person," he said. "These strong relationships are one of the great successes of MPA@UNC."

Osterhoudt tries to make as many connections as possible between his MPA coursework and his work with Sarasota County government. "Class assignments have given me a reason to reach out to departments in different ways and build new relationships," he said. "I have not only learned more about public administration through this program, but also about my own organization."

MPA@UNC students share common experiences with their on-campus counterparts, including the summer Professional Work Experience (PWE) practicum. Osterhoudt's PWE involved working with Sarasota County administration to reorganize a department. "I grew personally and professionally during that process," he said. "It was challenging work with many important and sensitive issues, but it was also an excellent learning experience."

# 2015 PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE

LEADERSHIP  
SCHOLARSHIP  
INTEGRITY  
ENGAGEMENT

NOVEMBER 5-6 | SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

## Three Tracks

Three conference tracks will give you opportunities to connect, learn, and remember your passion for service. Panels of MPA faculty will discuss their current research, and a range of speakers will present on timely issues such as big data, public/private partnerships, and the challenges of both sharing and competing for limited resources.

## Keynote Speaker



PHOTO BY KATIE SWEENEY

**Carol L. Folt**  
*Chancellor, UNC-Chapel Hill*

This year's keynote speaker will be UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Carol L. Folt. When she was installed as Carolina's 11<sup>th</sup> chancellor and first woman leader in October 2013, she said, "As America's first public university, Carolina became the gold standard. The founders passed the baton, and the future is up to us. How can we fulfill this honorable charge in

a way that is ever fresh and relevant?" Folt—an internationally recognized environment scientist, award-winning teacher, and accomplished administrator—has worked to fulfill that charge by preserving and expanding Carolina's academic excellence and innovation, access and affordability, and deep commitment to the state.

Declaring that "Carolina can indeed be the leader in shaping the path for the great public university in America," Folt has represented the University in the national dialogue about higher education, joining other leaders at White House meetings on topics as diverse as preserving accessibility to an affordable college degree and protecting students from sexual assault.

Folt came to Carolina from Dartmouth College, where she was interim president in 2012–2013, Dartmouth Professor of Biological Sciences, and a faculty member and administrator for 30 years.

An Akron, Ohio, native, Folt is a product of public higher education. Her parents were the first in their families to attend college. She worked her way through the University of California, Santa Barbara as a waitress, earning a bachelor's degree in aquatic biology in 1976

and a master's degree in biology two years later. She earned her doctorate in ecology from the University of California, Davis and did postdoctoral work at the WK Kellogg Biological Station of Michigan State University.

## Closing Session



**Deborah K. Ross**  
*General Counsel, Triangle Transit*

Prior to joining Triangle Transit in 2013, Deborah K. Ross served more than 10 years in the North Carolina House of Representatives and has practiced law in the state for more than 20 years. In her role as chief counsel, she provides legal support to the board of trustees and staff of Triangle Transit, ensuring agency compliance with the law and overseeing and managing contracts, property, and other legal matters.

She earned a BA from Brown University and a law degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. She has been a senior lecturing fellow at Duke Law School.

## Thanks to the 2015 Conference Committee

Monica Croskey '03  
*Co-Chair*

Taylor Libby '03, *Co-Chair*

Janelle Beverly '09

Laura Biediger '10

Emily Edmonds '12

Olivia Hammill '16

Allison Hutchins '13

Davena Mgbeokwere '13

Stephen Moore '12

Adam Parker '08

Ed Regan '71

David Stancil '91

Bill Stockard '94

Ronda Tatum '88

Mal Watlington '69

## MPA Alumni Association Update

by **Katie Densford McCoy '01, President**

I am thrilled to be a part of this year's MPA Alumni Association board. We have a fantastic group of 20 voting board members representing 16 class years. These alumni are from government, private, and nonprofit sectors—and some have worked



Katie Densford McCoy '01

in all three! Four student representatives offer insight and enthusiasm, and five ex-officio members are current School of Government faculty and staff.

In preparing for our first board meeting, one theme continued to emerge for me—that of “connections,” especially connections between students, alumni, faculty, and staff. This was affirmed at the start of the board meeting, where everyone shared a special memory from his or her days in the MPA

program. Memories ranged from faculty and staff pearls of wisdom (including those from one-name icons like Deil, Nanette, Gordon, Jack, and Jean), to cohort frivolity (intramural sports, class-created awards), to job advice from alumni (thank you!). All of these memories underscore the student-alumni-faculty-staff connections that make Carolina MPA so special.

I think the importance of connections resonates at a deeper level with all of us. After all, isn't that what “MPA'ers” do—connect the public to services and to each other?

As the year progresses, the alumni board will be focusing on connections. You may be asked to share your experience and expertise in the classroom (on campus or online) or one-on-one with students or with other alumni.

On behalf of the board, please consider making these four special connections:

1. Update your contact information so that MPA faculty, staff, students, and alumni can get in touch with you. Send your information to Brandon Foster, development and constituent relations officer, at [foster@sog.unc.edu](mailto:foster@sog.unc.edu).
2. Connect with new students and old friends at the MPA Fall Picnic in Chapel Hill on August 22.
3. Attend the 2015 Public Administration Conference on November 5 and 6. You'll benefit from a strong lineup of sessions and speakers while also connecting with fellow alumni, students, faculty, and staff.
4. Volunteer to help the program. If you're interested in serving on the board and/or next year's conference planning committee, contact Brandon Foster at [foster@sog.unc.edu](mailto:foster@sog.unc.edu).

## Welcome to New Staff Members



**Heather Duhart** joined the School of Government in January 2014 to take on the dual role of academic advising and career services for online students. She previously served as associate director of student life for Duke University's Daytime MBA program, and she served as academic advisor and assistant director of recruitment for North Carolina State

University. Duhart earned a BS and a Master of Education from James Madison University.



**Brandon Foster** joined the School of Government as development and constituent relations officer in October 2014, overlapping with Jean Coble's departure. He previously served as a development strategist at UNC's Ackland Art Museum. Before moving to the Chapel Hill area, Foster served for ten years as a marketing and communications specialist on political

campaigns and issues in multiple states. Foster holds a BA and an MA in art history from Emory University.

# A Conversation with Faculty Member Gregory S. Allison

by Whitney Harris '15



Greg Allison joined the School of Government (then the Institute of Government) in 1997. Prior to that, he was assistant director for the Technical Services Center of the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and serves on the board of directors of the North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants. He is co-author of the MPA textbook, *Governmental and Nonprofit Accounting: Theory and Practice*, and author of *A Preparer's Guide for Smaller Governments*. Allison holds a BA in accounting from North Carolina State University and has been licensed by the State of North Carolina as a Certified Public Accountant since 1986.

**Whitney Harris (WH):** *How did you end up at UNC-Chapel Hill?*

**Greg Allison (GA):** I came to Chapel Hill in 1997 from the Government Finance Officers Association in Chicago. My work there involved providing technical assistance, authoring and co-authoring publications, and teaching seminars across the country. I am a North Carolina native and was interested in returning to my home state. I served as a local government finance officer earlier in my career, had taken many courses through the Institute of Government, and had prior experience working with faculty here.

**WH:** *In addition to teaching in the MPA program, what other work do you do for the School of Government?*

**GA:** My primary responsibility is to coordinate and teach the Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting course. I work closely with accounting officers, budget officers, and elected officials on these issues. I serve as director of the School's flagship Municipal and County Administration program. This course goes back 60 years and is the longest-running program within the School. Managers and department heads take the course to learn about local government in North Carolina from a broad perspective. I took it myself 23 years ago!

**WH:** *What do you like about teaching?*

**GA:** Whether I'm teaching MPA students or practitioners, I have always been fortunate that 99 percent of the audience wants to be there. They want to better themselves, and the material is often directly related to their field. That connection makes teaching a rewarding experience, and I enjoy knowing that it can help people with their current job or future career. I also like to establish good rapport with people and try to make what can be a dull topic as interesting as possible.

**WH:** *What is one of the most memorable experiences you have from your time with the School of Government?*

**GA:** Recently, a memorable and challenging experience has been the development of my MPA@UNC course. It is interesting and ultimately fulfilling to provide the same quality of teaching in an online format. MPA@UNC is a brand new experience for me, and I feel that my work with the online format has improved my teaching overall.

## #CarolinaMPAmeans

For the second year, the #CarolinaMPAmeans social media campaign connected and inspired alumni, faculty, staff, and students. Here are a few of the sentiments posted on Facebook and Twitter and shared with friends and family at commencement on May 9.



**Pat Madej '16** • @pmmadej

#CarolinaMPAmeans gaining enriching experiences that will help me grow as I make a positive impact on my community.

#CarolinaMPAmeans lasting friends. Forever mentors. Supportive MPA family. Flagship faculty.

**Candy Terrell-Galke '95**



**Michelle Holder '15** • @my\_holder

#CarolinaMPAmeans connections with students, faculty, staff, and alumni!

#CarolinaMPAmeans my commitment to serve low socioeconomic communities.

**Alex Vazquez '16**



**Robin Broadnax '93**

#CarolinaMPAmeans an opportunity to serve and have a positive impact on the lives of others. Also...a fulfillment of my mother's dream for me.

 @UNCMPA and @MPAatUNC

 Carolina MPA and MPAatUNC

## 2015 Assessment Center Prepares Students for Next Steps

Each year, a group of volunteers helps new students prepare for the future by participating in a challenging day of mock interviews and role-play scenarios.

### Thanks to Our Alumni Volunteers

Lydian Altman '84  
 Alex Ashton '04  
 Stephanie Ashton '04  
 Jessica Aylor '05  
 Glenn Barnes '06  
 Ed Bristol '77  
 Johanna Foster '05  
 Annie Francis '09  
 Ursula Hairston '98  
 Libby Hodges '09  
 Izzy Kane '08  
 Taylor Libby '05  
 Adam Lindsay '03  
 Henrietta Locklear '02  
 Randall Lyons '06  
 Greg Mavraganis '07  
 Barron Monroe '09  
 Kim Oliver '95  
 David Parrish '03  
 Ben Ramsey '77  
 Matt Roylance '97  
 Christal Sandifer '12  
 Daniel Sargent '08  
 Kristin Siebenaler '92  
 Casselle Smith '12  
 Roger Stancil '77  
 Bill Stockard '94  
 Tonya Walton '05  
 Bill Webster '85

## Life Events

### On the Move

**Dayne Batten '13** is a senior data analyst with Bandwidth.com in Raleigh, North Carolina.

**Ashley Brown '14** is a research analyst with the Kenan Institute for Private Enterprise at UNC-Chapel Hill.

**Benjamin Chambers '13** joined the City of New York's Office of Budget and Management.

**Brodi Fontenot '99** was appointed as US Department of the Treasury's assistant secretary for management by President Obama on January 5, 2015.

**Joe Gavrilovich '05** is a program associate with the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, Maryland.

**David Goldberg '15** was selected as a Presidential Management Fellows finalist.

**John Gowan '07** is a financial analyst with Columbia University in New York City.

**Gwendolyn Harvey '76** and husband Roosevelt Carter are relocating to Portland, Oregon, from Hillsborough, North Carolina.

**Libby Hodges '09** is the planning manager for Alamance County, North Carolina.

**Amy Huffman '12** is a research specialist at the Office of Digital Infrastructure at OITS in Raleigh, North Carolina.

**Allison Hutchins '13** is an administrative specialist with the Town Manager's Office in Cary, North Carolina.

**Stephen Moore '14** is an associate attorney with Hartsell and Williams PA in Concord, North Carolina.

**Alicia James '04** is a budget analyst at North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts in Raleigh.

**Brandon James '04** is a performance auditor with the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor in Raleigh.

**Catherine Renbarger '08** is the city manager of Claremont, North Carolina.

**Christopher Riddick '07** accepted an offer to attend the University of Southern California's Doctor of Education in Organizational Change and Leadership program at the Rossier School of Education.

**Christal Sandifer '12** accepted a position as budget and management analyst with Orange County, North Carolina.

**Jeremy Schmidt '14** is an associate with Booz Allen Hamilton in Morrisville, North Carolina.

**Les Stewart '02** is the head brewer for Trophy Brewing in Raleigh, North Carolina.

**Amanda Stratton '14** is a health and human services consultant with Buncombe County, North Carolina.

**Alex Terry '09** accepted a budget analyst position with the Town of Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

**Kari Thomas '07** is managing director of academic programs with YES Prep Public Schools in Houston, Texas.

**Tyler Thomas '11** is the town manager of Pembroke, North Carolina.

**Sara Vinas '12** is a planner with the Office of Housing and Community for the Town of Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

**Joe White '05** is director of finance and business at the North Carolina State University Libraries in Raleigh.

**Lee Worsley '97** has accepted the position of executive director of the Triangle J Council of Governments in Durham, North Carolina.

### Accomplishments

**Harry Jones '74** authored a book, *How Cancer Cured My Soul*, published in March 2015.

**Adam Parker '08** published an article titled "Government Debt and the North Carolina Model" in the *Campbell Law Review* (volume 37, issue 107).

### New Arrivals

**Peter Franzese '06** and wife Chelsea welcomed Stella Rose on November 30, 2014.

**Carol Cooley Hickey '06**, husband Matt, and sons Ian and Patrick welcomed twins Samuel Allen and Joseph Scott on July 25, 2014.

**Mira Kline '09** and husband Marc welcomed Jonah William on January 29, 2015.

**Joe White '05**, wife Katherine, daughter Lola, and son Hughes welcomed Edward Pennington on February 25, 2015.

### In Memoriam

**Robert R. Risher '80** passed away on October 16, 2014. Bob retired in July 2014 after 30 years in contract administration at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. He is survived by his wife Marcia, son Matthew Risher, daughter Erin Haven, and son-in-law Tyler Haven.

Please send news for *Life Events* to Brandon Foster at [foster@sog.unc.edu](mailto:foster@sog.unc.edu).



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# IMPACT

## Save the Date

**AUGUST 22, 2015 | 6:00 PM**

**ALUMNI PICNIC**

School of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill

Connect with old friends and visit with current students. For more information, contact Brandon Foster, development and constituent relations officer, at [foster@sog.unc.edu](mailto:foster@sog.unc.edu) or 919.952.0426.

**NOVEMBER 5-6, 2015**

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE**

School of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill

**[pac.unc.edu](http://pac.unc.edu)**  
**#UNCPAC15**