

IMPACT

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2014

All in the Family

by Ashley Brown '14

Being part of the Carolina MPA alumni network often feels like being part of a family. While in school, MPA students enjoy a cohort culture that encourages students to work closely with their peers who will one day become colleagues. But for some students and alumni, the connection is even closer.

**Elizabeth Biser '17, Richard Self '81,
and Becky Veazey '76**

MPA@UNC student Elizabeth Biser was inspired to pursue a career in public service by her father, Richard Self. In his 35-year career, Self served as a city and county manager and also worked for the North Carolina Department of Commerce. Currently, he is a consultant for the Management and Personnel Services (MAPS) Group, where his wife, Becky Veazey '76, is president.

"My kids had no choice but to be exposed to the public sector," said Self. "You are a county manager 24/7, so when they were young, my kids went to a lot of meetings and conferences with me. Elizabeth found it all fascinating."

Biser is currently a government relations and policy advisor for Brooks Pierce law firm in Raleigh, North Carolina. Previously, she served as director of legislative and intergovernmental affairs for the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. When she

decided to pursue her MPA, she was looking for a program that would allow her to earn her degree while continuing to work. MPA@UNC gave her that option, and she was excited at the prospect of following in her father's footsteps.



Elizabeth Biser '17, Richard Self '81, and Becky Veazey '76

"The MPA@UNC experience has given me an opportunity to connect with the faculty and my peers," said Biser. "I can tell a lot of time was spent to make sure the curriculum would transition well to the online format."

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"People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel."

—Maya Angelou

HIGHLIGHTS

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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



William C. Rivenbark

I am delighted to report that we had another successful graduation ceremony in May for 21 outstanding students and their families. I always look forward to celebrating their academic and professional achievements while in the program. I cannot help having a sense of pride when our students—who are now alumni—obtain a Carolina MPA degree in their quest to become public service leaders.

This year was the first time students earned their degrees under our new competency-based curriculum. As you may have read previously in *IMPACT*, the curriculum change strengthened our ability to measure competencies for our accreditation body (NASPAA) and created a stronger alignment with our mission of preparing public service leaders. As a result, this year's graduates also celebrated the successful completion of their portfolio and oral exam—both new requirements of the revised system.

The Portfolio

Students are required to take the portfolio course during their final semester of the program. The class is specifically designed to give them time to reflect on their academic and professional experiences. They prepare a final written portfolio containing five sections, which are reviewed and evaluated by a committee of three faculty members. The sections address personal leadership vision, ethical

issues in public administration, the public service professional learning experience, decision-making skills, and student-specific competencies. Students are required to integrate our program's eight major competencies around the central theme of leadership. They are also required to reflect and build upon the literature and practice of public administration as they compile a portfolio that is unique to each of them.

The Oral Exam

After students successfully complete their portfolios, they schedule an oral exam with the same three-person committee. Each oral exam begins with a brief presentation from the student on his or her understanding of leadership and on the materials contained in the portfolio. Faculty members first ask questions about the student's leadership vision and then broaden their inquiry. Topics range from public service values and research methodology to public sector decision making. Students must demonstrate their knowledge of the themes, issues, scholars, and central debates of public administration and articulate their career goals as they relate to the field. Without question, a major competency that runs through the curriculum, the portfolio, and the oral exam is the ability to communicate effectively—a skill required of effective public service leaders.

I recently heard Harry Jones '74 reflect upon his career and how his leadership views have evolved over time from many personal and professional experiences. This is a theme that I often hear when I meet with alumni. I believe the new portfolio and oral exam experience will help our students think about this evolutionary process at the beginning of their careers.

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 or 919.962.3707.

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"Elizabeth has shared her experience, and it sounds marvelous," said Veazy. "I did not realize how much interaction the students could have with the faculty online."

For Biser, attending her parents' alma mater through MPA@UNC shows how she has taken their passion for public service and carved out her own path.

"My dad is the reason I am in public service," she said.

Kat Thompson '16 and Thomas Thompson '77

Kat Thompson grew up wearing Carolina blue. Her dad, Thomas Thompson, attended UNC-Chapel Hill for his undergraduate and MPA degrees. He worked in government finance for the cities of Roanoke, Virginia, and Savannah, Georgia; spent a number of years at the Savannah Housing Authority; and is now a department head and accounting instructor at Savannah Technical College.

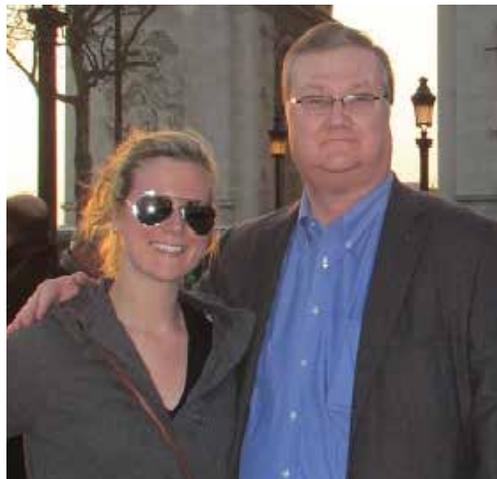
When it was time for Kat Thompson to choose a graduate school, she knew she would apply to UNC. However, the opportunity to pursue a dual degree in public administration and social work made Carolina her top choice.

After graduating from Emory University, Kat Thompson worked with the Child Advocacy Center through AmeriCorps in West Virginia. She always knew she wanted to pursue an MPA degree, but the AmeriCorps experience left her with a greater interest in family welfare.

"I remember telling my dad that it would be ideal if there was a way to incorporate my interests in child and family welfare with an MPA," she said. "He had already done some research on his own, and told me about the UNC dual-degree program."

For Thomas Thompson, having his daughter attend his alma mater has given him the opportunity to reconnect with the MPA program.

"I met Kat in Chapel Hill for her admissions interview so that I could catch up with Gordon Whitaker. We joked that I was walking her to school like when she was in kindergarten," he said.



Kat Thompson '16 and Thomas Thompson '77

When Kat Thompson was accepted into the MPA program, one of the first people she called was her father.

"He said, 'The only reason I am not jumping up and down at my desk is because I am at work and there are people around,'" she said. "He later sent me an e-mail that just said, 'Kat, I am infinitely proud of you.'"

Susan Datta '83 and Ann Wall '86

Sisters Susan Datta and Ann Wall share a passion for local government that led them down parallel career paths. After graduating from the University of Virginia (UVA) with an undergraduate degree in political science, Datta enrolled in the Carolina MPA program.

Seeing how much her sister enjoyed the program's focus on local government, Wall, who also attended UVA, followed in Datta's footsteps and enrolled in the MPA program three years later.

"When I visited UNC for my interview, Susan was there for the city and county management conference, and she showed me around," said Wall.

Datta is currently the chief financial officer of Fairfax County, Virginia, and Wall is an assistant city manager for the City of Charlotte, North Carolina. The sisters often talk about their experiences in local government and serve as sounding boards for one another.

"Susan has always worked for a county, and I have always worked for a city, so we talk about those differences," said Wall. "Also, Susan is a good person to bounce ideas off of in order to help problem-solve."

"We enjoy talking about what we do and comparing notes," adds Datta. "Local government is just fun. You have a lot of variety in your job, so it's fun to share that with Ann."

“Sometimes You Just Have to Take the Leap”

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER JANE PREYER '91

In her address to the 2014 Carolina MPA graduates, Jane Preyer talked about three essential lessons that have sustained her throughout her life and career.

Lesson 1: Take the leap into new learning experiences.

Preyer played tennis for Carolina as an undergraduate, then played on the women's professional tennis circuit against champions such as Billie Jean King, Martina Navratilova, and Chris Evert. “And yes,” she said, “I was beaten by all of them!”

She “took a leap” to leave the circuit and became coach of women's tennis at Duke University. She loved coaching but was also serving on boards of nonprofit organizations that addressed issues that mattered to her. “At some point, it clicked,” she said. “I thought, this is what I can do for my career—some sort of public service, working on public policy or social change.”

That's when she took another leap by deciding to enter the Carolina MPA program in her late 30s.

To the graduates, she said, “You, too, will face the pivot points—whether they are everyday decisions or radical career changes. Sometimes, you just have to take the leap.”

Lesson 2: Understand yourself so you can figure out what else you need to learn.

After graduation from the MPA program, Preyer took a “foot in the door” job—a temporary, unpaid internship with the Environmental Defense Fund. That platform has grown over the years into a position of organizational responsibility and political influence. Along the way, she defined

her strengths and continued to build the skills she needed to manage and collaborate with ambitious lawyers, economists, and scientists. “I'm back to being a tennis coach once again. Just without the tennis.”



Jane Preyer '91, Southeast regional director of the Environmental Defense Fund in Raleigh, North Carolina, delivered the Carolina MPA commencement address on May 10.

“You may think I had to become a substantive expert in all the different areas that the Environmental Defense Fund addresses,” Preyer continued. “But honestly, it was only once I woke up to the nature of my real job as a manager that I started intentionally honing the skills necessary to be more effective—how to develop a big vision but set realistic objectives, how to collaborate with different people and institutions that might see the world much differently than I do. And how to build a team.”

“As you enter the workforce,” Preyer said, “I suspect you'll also figure out more about your own strengths and areas to improve. And in each situation, figure out what you need in order to learn and grow.”

Lesson 3: Nurture your motivation.

“You are here because you are motivated to make this world a better place,” said Preyer, “but you have to stay motivated. There is lots of work to do, and we can't allow you—our future leaders—to burn out.”

Preyer talked about the discouragement that can occur in a world of public policy “fraught with barriers and impediments to progress” and about the people who have inspired her to stay motivated at different points in her career.

“Be on the lookout,” she said, “for ways to push your motivation button and become renewed as challenges emerge.”

2014 Graduates

Brittany Alliese Bennett
Ashley Michelle Brown
Megan Dale
Carla Yasmin Davis-Castro
Jenifer Cristine Della Valle
Matthew Lloyd Dolge
Sarah Alongi Forbes
Sarah Marie Hazel
Catherine Ann Jahnes
Jordan Addison Jones
Christopher Raymond Kenrick
Sophia Nicole Lafferty-Hess
Katie Reich Martiniuk
Sarah C. Mills
Stephen Abbott Moore
Lori K. Neumeier
Deepti Ramesh Panjabi
Trevor Pettit Presler
Ryan Russell Regan
Jessica LeeAnn Sherrod
Amanda N. Stratton

2014 Research and Communication Awards Presented at Graduation

Under the new competency-based curriculum, students are required to complete a portfolio of their work and undergo a comprehensive oral exam. Transitioning from one type of thesis substitute (capstone) to another (portfolio) presented challenges in considering how to recognize excellence, but Carolina MPA faculty concluded that the longstanding Wright and Mengel awards are applicable to the new curriculum.

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. The renamed award honors 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 Catherine Jahnes, Jessica Sherrod, and Amanda Stratton for their research paper, "BigBelly Solar Systems: Analysis and Recommendations for Improvement and Implementation."



Graduates (left to right) Jessica Sherrod, Amanda Stratton, and Catherine Jahnes were presented with the 2014 Deil S. Wright Research Paper Award by David C. Wright.

Judges for this award included Christina Farrell '92, deputy commissioner of external affairs, New York City Office of Emergency Management; Alex Hess, School of Government librarian; and David A. Brown, director of the School's Applied Public Policy Initiative.

Nanette V. Mengel Communication Award

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

This year, the award was granted to Sarah Forbes. Judges for this award included Glenn Barnes '06, senior project director, UNC Environmental Finance Center; Emily Bruce '03, director of development, Marbles Kids Museum; and Greg Bethea '74, administrator, Town of Pinetops, North Carolina.

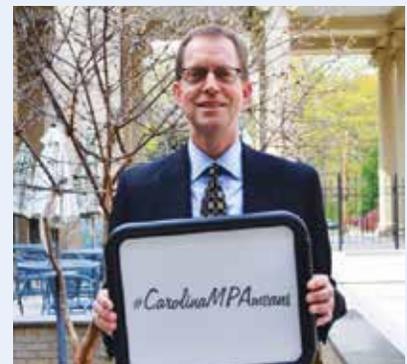


Margaret Henderson (right) presented Sarah Forbes with the 2014 Nanette V. Mengel Communication Award.

Join the Conversation: #CarolinaMPAmeans

"#CarolinaMPAmeans a great career with EPA and NIH, and MPA faculty that have helped me find excellent people for numerous critical positions."

—Chris Long '81



This spring, the #CarolinaMPAmeans social media campaign connected alumni, faculty, staff, and students around a theme that clearly resonates with them. From March 20 through May 12, 2014, #CarolinaMPAmeans had more than 54,000 impressions on Twitter.

Family and friends of 2014 graduates got a glimpse into the value of our program when many of the campaign tweets were shared at commencement on May 10.

Keep the conversation going. What does Carolina MPA mean to you?

 @UNCMPA and @MPAatUNC

 CarolinaMPA and MPAatUNC

TRUE CAROLINA BLUE: ADAM DECKER

by Ashley Brown '14

Prior to entering the MPA program, Adam Decker worked in local government halfway around the world. As a member of the US Army, he served as platoon leader in Iraq from 2007 to 2009 and as company commander in Afghanistan from 2011 to 2012.

In Afghanistan, Decker not only conducted traditional military duties, but he also provided economic development support for several Afghan communities.

"The work I did as company commander is why I wanted to join the Army in the first place. You have the tactical components, but you also assist with strategic planning and take part in the 'hearts and minds' side of diplomacy," said Decker. "A significant portion of my time was spent under the umbrella of nation building."

Being a military commander during war time comes with significant responsibility. In Afghanistan, Decker was accountable for the safety of 170 of his fellow soldiers plus the area's civilians; he was also tasked with encouraging regional economic growth and political stability.

"Undoubtedly, the hardest part is dealing with the loss," said Decker. "But professionally, the most challenging aspect of the job was trying to inspire Afghan professionals to act with integrity. The officials can be very corrupt, but they do not see it as corruption. It is just the way things have always been done."

Born and raised in Warren, Pennsylvania, Decker decided early on to pursue a military career after reading an autobiography of General Norman Schwarzkopf.

Decker attended the United States Military Academy at West Point where he majored in Russian language. Since



graduating, he has moved extensively in the United States, having lived in Georgia, Tennessee, and Alaska prior to relocating to Chapel Hill with his wife.

The military entrusted Decker with a lot of responsibility early in his career, helping him develop his abilities as a leader.

"I acquired a depth of experience that I would not have gotten otherwise," said Decker. "Also, the army has a good evaluation system. I know exactly where I stand among my peers, which has helped me make professional decisions."

Decker chose to attend the Carolina MPA program in order to gain new skills that will help him continue to advance in his military career. He has particularly enjoyed the close cohort culture.

"I really like the program's focus on state and local government because that is the area I have worked in—but without formal training. Also, my cohort peers have had a diverse set of experiences, so it's been great for me to share my perspective and hear theirs in turn," said Decker. "The Army is a family-oriented, tight-knit group, and the MPA program is very similar. You can tell the people in the School of Government care about you."

After he graduates in 2015, Decker plans to attend the Army's Command and General Staff College to train for his next position.

Adam Decker is a 2013–2014 recipient of the Hayman-Howard-Wright Scholarship.

PAL Challenge Promotes Public Administration

by Nick Byrne '15

On March 28, 2014, the Jake Wicker auditorium at the School of Government was transformed into the council chambers of the Town of Grand Junction. Twenty-five UNC undergraduate students of diverse backgrounds were on hand to participate in the 2014 Public Administration Leadership (PAL) Challenge.

Students in attendance had been selected to participate in the final round of a case study competition sponsored by the Carolina MPA program and the School of Government. Finalists were vying for a \$1,000 cash prize for the winning presentation. Conceived in 2012 by MPA students Deepti Panjabi and Maggie Parker, the PAL Challenge is modeled after case study competitions prevalent at business schools. The goal is to draw interest in and promote the practice of public administration. An added benefit of the competition is to recruit future MPA students. Parker explains, "Our goal from the beginning was to encourage interest in public administration and educate prospective students about Carolina MPA with an eye toward increasing diversity within the cohort ranks."

The PAL Challenge has developed into an all-hands effort led by an organizing team of first- and second-year MPA students. Significant logistical, promotional, and financial support from the MPA program and School of Government staff has been critical to its success. "The PAL Challenge is a positive outreach and promotional tool for our program," said MPA Director Bill Rivenbark. "In many ways,

it has become an extension of our recruitment efforts to attract the next generation of public service leaders."

Since the inaugural case study competition in 2013, 185 undergraduates have participated in the PAL Challenge, including almost a dozen repeat competitors.

The Challenge begins with an informational session—a "crash course" in public administration led by faculty member Carl Stenberg—to better acquaint undergraduates with the field. Next, the case is unveiled. Teams are given a week to draft a case memo and prepare a presentation outlining their case proposal. Submissions are screened by an MPA student-led judging panel, and the top five teams are invited to present at the final round.

2014 Case: Downtown Redevelopment and Revitalization

To arrive at the 2014 topic, PAL Challenge co-leaders Maggie Parker and Brittany Bennett sought ideas and inspiration from area local governments. Staff members from the City of Durham's Office of Economic and Workforce Development responded with a case idea about local government funding and incentives for local businesses. Though specifically focused on economic development, the case study encouraged participants to consider the many trade-offs facing real-world public administration decision-makers and to apply legal,

political, and policy judgments in arriving at their recommendations. The final teams presented their recommendations to the mock Town Council of Grand Junction, composed of School of Government faculty members Bill Rivenbark, Kim Nelson, and Margaret Henderson '90; Jason Damweber '09, assistant to the town manager, Town of Chapel Hill; Reginald Jones, economic development coordinator, City of Durham; Thomas Leathers, economic development coordinator for business development and neighborhood strategic initiatives, City of Durham; and Rob Carty, director of career services and next generation initiatives, ICMA.

UNC undergraduate and 2014 winning team member Sagar Shukla summed up his PAL Challenge involvement as "providing a lens into the world of public decision making and an invaluable experience to complement my previous work in the nonprofit and private sectors."



To learn more, visit the PAL Challenge website at palchallenge.web.unc.edu. Follow the competition on Twitter (@UNCPALChallenge) and Facebook (UNCPALChallenge).

On-Campus and Online Students Blog About Professional Work Experiences

Four on-campus and two MPA@UNC students have added blog posts to their list of internship or work duties this summer. To follow their experiences and reminisce about your own, visit sogmpa.web.unc.edu.

Rafael Baptista is an intern with the Catawba County, North Carolina, manager's office. He also blogs for the Emerging Local Government Leaders and Careers in Government websites.

Joseph Beasley is an intern for the managers' offices of the cities of Concord and Kannapolis, North Carolina. Prior to entering the MPA program, he was a constituent services intern and a communications fellow in the office of North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue.

Brittany Clark is an intern with the nonprofit Community Action Opportunities in Asheville, North Carolina. She is a dual-degree student with

the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work and was an AmeriCorps volunteer in New Orleans prior to joining the MPA program.

Kasey El-Chayeb is an intern with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, part of the US Department of Commerce in Washington, DC. She worked as a freelance writer for *Southern Neighbor* before joining MPA.

MPA@UNC students who are already working in public service leadership roles have the opportunity to apply core public administration competencies to further develop in their current positions.

Mike Silver is assistant district attorney with the Forsyth County District Attorneys Office in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He will also work with the NC Council for Women's Domestic Violence Commission, the Forsyth County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, and on other smaller projects as requested by the District Attorney.

Lena Geraghty is an intern with the Alameda Free Library in Alameda, California. She will work on updating the library's Internet policy and evaluating the effectiveness of the library's website. She has worked as a legal assistant for a San Francisco Bay area law firm while pursuing her MPA.



Top row, left to right: Rafael Baptista, Joseph Beasley, and Brittany Clark; bottom row, left to right: Kasey El-Chayeb, Mike Silver, and Lena Geraghty

Save the Date: November 6–7, 2014

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE

School of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill

Concurrent Tracks

Leveraging Technology in the Public Sector

- Smart technology investments
- The technological link to budget and management
- The net and community engagement

Human Resources

- Diversity in leadership
- Succession planning
- Measurement and evaluation

Management

- Government/nonprofit partnerships
- Community engagement
- Navigating the hyper-partisan political environment

Closing Session • November 7

Katherine Barrett and Richard Greene, Columnists, *GOVERNING* Magazine

Katherine Barrett and Richard Greene research and write about state and local government as columnists and correspondents for *GOVERNING* magazine, where they founded the Government Performance Project. They are consultants to the Pew

Charitable Trusts government performance unit and The Volcker Alliance and senior advisers to the Fels Institute at the University of Pennsylvania.

Barrett and Greene helped found and serve on the boards of two organizations—the State Government

Workforce Project and GovPerformance. They have also advised many organizations including the National League of Cities, the Urban Institute, and the Council of State Governments.

DEIL S. WRIGHT LECTURE • NOVEMBER 6

L. Douglas Wilder, Former Governor of Virginia

L. Douglas Wilder's career in public service spans 40 years and is noted for several historic milestones. He became the first African American in the United States to be elected governor, leading the Commonwealth of Virginia from 1990 to 1994. *Financial World* magazine ranked Virginia as the best-managed state in the country during his time in office.

Wilder was the first African-American state senator in Virginia since Reconstruction, representing Richmond



from 1969 to 1985. In 2005, he became Richmond's first popularly elected mayor since the 40s. During his four-year term, Richmond's crime rate was the lowest in 27 years. Downtown economic development and neighborhood development improvements were widespread, and financial management reached a new level of scrutiny that served taxpayers well. He also established the \$300 million "City of the Future" program

for building schools and making improvements to neighborhoods, parks, libraries, streets and sidewalks—without requiring tax increases.

Wilder earned a BS in chemistry from Virginia Union University and a JD from Howard University School of Law. He is a Distinguished Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University's L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs.



The Deil S. Wright Lecture, established in 2002, is held annually and is open to the public. The lecture is sponsored by the UNC MPA Alumni Association and Fidelity Investments.

Life Events

On the Move

Alex Ashton '04 joined the UNC Property Office as a real property administrator in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Brittany Bennett '14 joined the Development, Policy, and Impact team at Self-Help Credit Union in Durham, North Carolina.

Janelle Beverly '09 is a policy analyst for Section 8 programs with the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials in Washington, DC.

Molly Boyle '10 is a human services specialist with the Orange County, North Carolina, Department of Social Services.

Mike Branum '03 will be attending the William S. Byrd School of Law at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in the fall.

Marisa Morgan Bryant '98 is the major gifts coordinator for Urban Ministries of Wake County, North Carolina.

Gus Carvalho '12 is a management and budget analyst with the City of Rockville, Maryland.

Joanna Carey Cleveland '96 is senior associate vice president for legal affairs in the UNC-Chapel Hill Office of University Counsel. It is her 27th year as a student or employee at UNC.

Nick Dula '06 has joined Harnett County, North Carolina, as an economic development planner.

Sarah Forbes '14 accepted a position with the Colorado Education Initiative in Denver.

Jordan Jones '14 is a project manager with the School of Government's Development Finance Initiative.

Ashley Barriga Lategan '09 is compensation and benefits manager for the City of Asheville, North Carolina.

Deepti Panjabi '14 joined the Charlotte, North Carolina, office of Teach for America.

Katie Paulson '13 is the online engagement coordinator for the North Carolina League of Conservation Voters in Raleigh.

Ebony Perkins '13 joined Central Carolina Community Foundation in Columbia, South Carolina, as donor relations manager.

Ryan Regan '14 is a policy associate with Market Street Services in Atlanta, Georgia.

Record Number of Carolina MPA Alumni Serving as ICMA Fellows

Megan Dale '14 is an ICMA local government management fellow with Catawba County, North Carolina.

Jenifer Della Valle '14 is an ICMA local government management fellow with the Town of Hillsborough, North Carolina.

Sarah Hazel '14 is an ICMA local government management fellow with the City of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Mattie Sue Stevens '13 is an ICMA local government management fellow with the city and county of Durham, North Carolina.

Izzy Rosiuta '08 is senior project coordinator with the Department of Development and Alumni Relations at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

Jessica Sherrod '14 is pursuing a PhD at Indiana University Bloomington.

Amanda Stratton '14 is working for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners in Raleigh.

Accomplishments

Safa Sajadi '09 was inducted into the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law Davis Society. Students are selected based on leadership ability, integrity, dedication, and character as exemplified by extracurricular activities and academic achievement.

Weddings

Alicia Jolla '03 married Marcus Anthony LeBeouf on February 15, 2014, in Charlotte, North Carolina. The couple will reside in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Erika Walker '09 and Simon Haake were married on May 3, 2014.

New Arrivals

Daniel Baird '13, wife Mandi, and daughter Marlee welcomed Daniel "Ryan" Baird on March 16, 2014.

Daniel Newman '98 and wife Julie announced that Liam Zachary Newman arrived on March 2, 2014.

Parker Wiseman '03 and wife Lindsey welcomed Graham Parker Wiseman on April 8, 2014.

Megan Wright '07 and husband Nolan welcomed Elliott James Wright on April 29, 2014.

Faculty News

David Ammons and Dale Roenigk's manuscript, "Benchmarking and Interorganizational Learning in Local Government," has been accepted for publication by the *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*.

David Ammons was honored by the American Society for Public Administration with the Joseph Wholey Distinguished Scholarship Award for "outstanding scholarship on performance in public and nonprofit organizations."

Maureen Berner has been selected by the Carolina Center for Public Service as a Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholar, a distinction that will support her work on summer meal programs for children in need in North Carolina.

Carl Stenberg is the first faculty member to be awarded the James E. Holshouser Jr. Distinguished Professorship. Created in honor of former North Carolina Governor James Holshouser, the award recognizes Stenberg's leadership as former director of the Carolina MPA program, his work with North Carolina local government managers, and his national work in the field of public administration.

Send news for the Life Events section, along with comments or suggestions for IMPACT, to Jean Coble at coble@sog.unc.edu.



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IMPACT

Save the Date

AUGUST 23, 2014

FALL KICK-OFF EVENT

School of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill

For more information, contact Jean Coble at coble@sog.unc.edu.

SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2014

ICMA 100TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Charlotte Convention Center, North Carolina

Join Carolina MPA at the following events (ICMA conference attendance is not required).

SEPTEMBER 15, 5-7 PM

MPA INFORMAL HAPPY HOUR

Carolina Ale House

SEPTEMBER 16, 7:30 AM

MPA BREAKFAST

Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts and Culture

NOVEMBER 6-7, 2014

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE

School of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill

Register: pac.unc.edu

Follow on Twitter: #uncpac14

DEIL S. WRIGHT LECTURE

The Honorable L. Douglas Wilder
Former Governor of Virginia

Information: bit.ly/uncwilder

Follow on Twitter: #uncwilder

CLOSING ADDRESS

Katherine Barrett and Richard Greene, Columnists,
GOVERNING Magazine

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