Dr. Barbara Romzek has been appointed the new dean of the School of Public Affairs. She began working in her new position on July 1 after a two-week transition period as dean designate.

Dean Romzek comes to AU from the University of Kansas, where she has served as chair of the Department of Public Administration, interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and interim senior vice provost for academic affairs across the university. Recognized internationally as an expert in public management, Romzek has written three books and over 40 journal articles, book chapters, and monographs. She is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

“The experience that Dr. Romzek will bring to the SPA deanship is comprehensive,” said AU Provost Scott Bass. “She has extensive leadership experience that included managing the University of Kansas strategic planning process and chairing KU’s reaccreditation. Her record and standing within the academic community is a welcome asset that will build upon an impressive SPA foundation created under the leadership of Dean William LeoGrande.”

LeoGrande stepped down in July after twelve years of service as dean. He will spend the next year on sabbatical, after which he will return to the Department of Government faculty.

Recent graduate receives national dissertation awards

Resh honored by Academy of Management and American Political Science Association

Recent graduate William Resh (PhD ’11) has been selected to receive two national awards for his dissertation, Rethinking the Administrative Presidency: Trust, Intellectual Capital, and Appointee-Careerist Relations. Resh’s dissertation committee included Profs. Robert Durant (chair), David Pitts, and Patricia Sykes.

Resh will be honored by the Academy of Management with this year’s award for the best dissertation in public and nonprofit management. The Academy of Management is the leading professional association for scholars who focus on management and organizations, and Resh will receive the award at its annual meeting in August.

Resh will also receive this year’s George C. Edwards III Dissertation Award, given annually by the American Political Science Association for the best dissertation on the presidency. With more than 15,000 members in 80 countries, APSA is the largest professional association for the study of political science.

Resh is currently an assistant professor in the School of Public & Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. His research and teaching focus on public management, executive branch politics, administrative rulemaking, and organization theory. His work has appeared in the Review of Public Personnel Administration and Public Administration Review. Prior to his time at AU, Resh earned a bachelor’s degree from West Virginia University and an MPA from the University of Baltimore.

DPAP graduates have received three dissertation awards in the past two years. Amanda Girth (PhD ’10) received last year’s Leonard White Award, given annually by the American Political Science Association for the best dissertation in public administration.

Policy & Administration is the newsletter of the Department of Public Administration & Policy at American University in Washington, D.C. Thanks to MPP student Erin Crawford for all of her work in identifying and writing stories.

www.american.edu/dpap
The 2012 Charles H. Levine Lecture was delivered by Laurence E. Lynn, Jr. to a standing-room only crowd of faculty, staff, students, and friends. The lecture capped off a two-day visit with the Department of Public Administration & Policy that included informal visits with several classes and smaller groups of faculty and students.

Howard McCurdy, Bob Durant, and William LeoGrande offered opening remarks, as well as Lee Fritschler, former dean of the School of Public Affairs and currently a professor of public policy at George Mason University. Lynn’s lecture, America’s ‘Broken Government’: What Would Madison Say, compared current issues in politics to similar struggles faced by the founding fathers during the early development of the United States.

Lynn is a distinguished scholar who has written broadly in the areas of public administration and policy. He has held faculty positions at the University of Chicago, Harvard, Stanford, Texas A&M, and the University of Texas, where he is currently the Sid Richardson Research Professor in the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs.

The lecture was followed by the presentation of the Levine Award for Doctoral Student Research, given annually for the best Ph.D. student manuscript written over the previous year. This year’s recipient was Michael Hayes for his paper, “The Effect of School District Tax and Expenditure Limitations on State Education Funding after No Child Left Behind.” Hayes’ paper was selected by a committee of three external scholars who reviewed all submissions blindly.

The lecture was created to honor the contributions of Charles Levine, one of the most influential scholars in public management and a champion of the public service. Levine was the school’s first distinguished professor, a position he held until he passed away in 1988. The department is joined each year for the event by Levine’s wife, Elaine Levine, and son, Jordan Levine, as well as a number of family friends.

The lecture was initiated alongside a memorial fund, also in Levine’s name, designed to provide resources for AU doctoral student research and travel. Previous lecturers include Kenneth Meier of Texas A&M University and Hal Rainey of the University of Georgia.

Lynn delivers 2012 Levine Lecture
Third Annual Key Executive Leadership Conference focuses on innovation

The Key Executive Leadership Programs sponsored the Third Annual Key Executive Leadership Conference on May 15, 2012. A record crowd of over 150 participants attended the event, which took place on campus followed by a reception at Chef Geoff’s.

The theme of the event was Innovative Leadership: The Time is Now. After opening remarks from AU President Neil Kerwin and Prof. Robert Tobias, the participants split into two concurrent tracks: “Engaging Leadership” and “Leading in the Digital World.” Sessions addressed a variety of leadership issues, including generational challenges, social media, coaching, and trust.

All of the attendees came together for two keynote sessions about neuroleadership, a growing field of study that uses evidence from neuroscience to understand how individuals become effective leaders. Dr. David Rock, co-founder of the NeuroLeadership Institute, led the morning session, and Dr. Alexander Caillet of One21Five, Inc., led the afternoon session.

Other speakers included Dr. Reginald Wells, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Human Capital Officer for the Social Security Administration, and Charles Young, Director of Public Affairs for the Government Accountability Office. DPAP professors Patrick Malone and Ruth Zaplin also spoke at the event.

For more on the conference, visit www.american.edu/spa/key/Key-Conference.cfm.

On the Calendar

August 25
Key Executive Leadership Programs Speaker Series: Patton Hyman, “Mindfulness and Emotional Intelligence”
9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Watkins Building

August 30
AU Reception for Faculty, Alumni, and Friends: American Political Science Association Conference
7:30-9:00 pm, Maurepas Room, Sheraton New Orleans

October 13
Key Executive Leadership Programs Speaker Series: Janet Ioli, “Executives as Change Agents”
9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Watkins Building

October 26-27
Symposium: The Life, Legacy, and Contributions of John Rohr
Contact: Stephanie Newbold (newbold@american.edu)

November 13
SPA Student-Alumni Networking Reception
Sponsored by SPA, Career Center, & Alumni Relations
7:30-8:30 pm, Mary Graydon Center 4

Fall Research Seminars
All seminars begin at noon.

9/6 Karen Baehler & Dan Fiorino, AU
9/20 Matthew Dull, Virginia Tech
10/4 Omari Swinton, Howard University
10/11 Jaclyn Schede Piatak, AU
10/25 Elisabeth Gilmore, Univ. of Maryland
11/1 Jiaqi Liang, AU
11/15 Germa Bel, University of Barcelona
12/6 Sarah Pettijohn, AU

Questions?
Contact Seth Gershenson at gershens@american.edu

Up to date information about DPAP events is also available online at www.american.edu/spa/calendar
Sanabria accepts faculty position at top university in Colombia

Pablo Sanabria (PhD ’12) has accepted a tenure-track faculty position in the Alberto Lleras Camargo School of Government at the University de los Andes in Bogota, Colombia. The Universidad de los Andes is the top-ranked university in Colombia and is consistently ranked among the top five universities in South America.

It has been a busy year for Sanabria, who was also elected to the board of directors of the International Research Society for Public Management in April and defended his dissertation in June.

“I feel encouraged and committed to doing a great job at Los Andes,” said Sanabria. “I have no words to describe what the Department and AU mean to me. It is a place where I found intellectual rigor, passion for public affairs, and hope. I will always feel thankful for this wonderful environment which has made me grow as scholar but, above all, as a human being.”

Sanabria’s research focuses on public management and public service motivation. Prior to enrolling at AU, Sanabria earned his undergraduate degree in economics from the National University of Colombia and a master’s degree in public policy from the London School of Economics.

Sanabria’s dissertation committee included Profs. David Pitts (chair), Laura Langbein, and Ed Stazyk.

To learn more about DPAP PhD students who are on the job market, visit www.american.edu/spa/dpap/degrees/PhD-in-Public-Administration.cfm.

Liang awarded ICPSR scholarship

The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) has selected DPAP Ph.D. candidate Jiaqi Liang to receive this year’s scholarship for students in public administration and policy. The scholarship will cover all of Liang’s fees associated with attending ICPSR’s annual summer program in quantitative methods of social research.

ICPSR’s summer program has been hosted by the University of Michigan every year since 1963, and its instructors are among the most accomplished methodologists in social science. Only one scholarship is awarded in the fields of public administration and policy, making Liang’s selection a particularly noteworthy honor.

Liang’s dissertation, Unmasking Covert Justice: Minorities, Social Constructionism, and Environmental Enforcement in the United States, examines whether enforcement of environmental regulations is lower in areas populated by racial/ethnic minority groups. She has also written an article about renewable energy with Prof. Dan Fiorino that is forthcoming in Policy Studies Journal.

Prior to enrolling at AU, Liang completed MPA and LLM degrees from the University of Missouri. Her dissertation committee includes Profs. Robert Durant (chair), Dan Fiorino, David Konisky of Georgetown University, and David Pitts.

SPA journal features research by MPA and MPP students

Two MPA students and three MPP students had manuscripts published in the most recent edition of The Public Purpose, SPA’s graduate student research journal.

Aubrey Grant, a 2012 MPP graduate, wrote the lead article, “United Nations ‘Persons of Concern’ and the Environment in State of Origin.” Other contributors included 2012 graduates Chanon Bell (MPP), Emily LaClair (MPA), and Mayuko Yatsu (MPA), as well as Mark Kane, a first year MPP student.

The Public Purpose invites submissions from all SPA graduate students and uses a double-blind peer review process to select manuscripts for publication. All aspects of the journal’s production are managed by a team of graduate students, led this year by Editor-in-Chief Kimberly Meyer, a 2012 MPA graduate.

Read more about the journal online at www.american.edu/spa/publicpurpose.
Feeding America, a nonprofit organization focused on hunger relief, has awarded funding for a research project co-led by DPAP Prof. Alison Jacknowitz and Prof. Anastasia Snelling of the School of Education, Teaching, and Health (SETH). In addition to Jacknowitz (Co-PI) and Snelling (PI), the team includes DPAP PhD student Andrew Brannegan, recent MPP graduate Ashley Roberts, and several SETH graduate students and faculty members.

The project, Understanding Feeding America Elementary School-Based Food Pantries, is an in-depth examination of food pantries that are located in elementary schools.

"As the economy declined, non-federal food assistance played a larger role in fighting food insecurity," explained Jacknowitz. "Increasingly, food has been distributed at pantries located in schools, which are convenient locations for parents to visit. However, little is known about good practices associated with running a school-based pantry and who participates in them. Hence, the need for our study."

The project will take an in-depth look at seven school-based food pantries located in Minnesota, Ohio, and California. The research team will visit each pantry, interview pantry staff, and administer a survey to recipients and non-recipients of pantry services. In addition to providing information about how pantries operate, the project will help staff to understand why some parents take advantage of pantry services and others do not.

"Existing data on assistance programs provide information on those who receive services, but they typically do not contain information to help us explain why eligible households do not use these programs," Jacknowitz said. "By interviewing both users and non-users of school-based pantries, we are able to explore why households who are eligible to use the school-based pantries do not."

Feeding America is one of the largest hunger-relief organizations in the U.S. It supports over 90,000 programs across the country, including soup kitchens, food pantries, after-school programs, and emergency shelters. It also sponsors an extensive research agenda aimed to identify solutions to food insecurity.

Jacknowitz is an associate professor with research interests in poverty, income and food assistance programs, and children and families. Her work has appeared in the Journal of Human Resources, Pediatrics, Journal of Policy Analysis & Management, and Demography, among others. She teaches courses in quantitative methods, program evaluation, and social policy.
Rosenbloom’s textbook recognized in recent study

A textbook written by Prof. David Rosenbloom has been included in a list of influential books in public administration written over the past twenty years. *Public Administration: Understanding Management, Politics, and Law in the Public Sector* (4th edition) ranked fifth in the “Great Books of Public Administration, 1990-2010” study recently published by *Administration & Society*.

The study was conducted by David Kasdan, an assistant professor at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. Kasdan sought to build upon Frank Sherwood’s earlier work that identified influential books published between 1940 and 1990. Kasdan contacted 30 scholars to create a second list of books published since 1990. Rosenbloom’s textbook ranked fifth on the list, behind David Osborne & Ted Gaebler’s *Reinventing Government*, Hal Rainey’s *Understanding & Managing Public Organizations*, Richard Stillman’s *Preface to Public Administration*, and Charles Goodsell’s *The Case for Bureaucracy*.

Rosenbloom’s textbook is now in its seventh edition, and he has been joined by co-authors Robert Kravchuck of Indiana University and Richard Clerkin of North Carolina State University. As the title implies, it views public administration through three distinct lenses: politics, management, and law. It is one of the most frequently used texts in introductory public administration courses around the world.

For more on Prof. Rosenbloom, see www.american.edu/SPA/faculty/rbloom.cfm.

Durant receives 2012 Waldo Award for distinguished research

**Professor Bob Durant** received the 2012 Dwight Waldo Award from the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA). The Waldo Award is presented for “outstanding contributions to the professional literature of public administration over an extended career.” Durant received the award at ASPA’s annual conference earlier this year.

“It was a nice surprise and quite an honor,” said Durant. “Dwight Waldo is really one of our most prominent historical figures in the field. The folks who have received the award, it’s a literal who’s who, including my colleague David Rosenbloom.”

Durant is a foremost expert in the areas of executive branch politics, public management, and environmental policy. He has published over 100 books, articles, and monographs. His most recent books include the *Oxford Handbook of the American Bureaucracy* and *Debating Public Administration: Management Choices, Challenges, and Opportunities*.

Durant was nominated for the award by James Perry, a professor at Indiana University and the current editor of *Public Administration Review*. “Durant has made outstanding contributions to research in public administration over the past three decades,” Perry wrote. “He has also actively advanced research opportunities for junior scholars in the field, contributing importantly to future generations of scholarship.”

Newbold to spend upcoming year working in Supreme Court

**Supreme Court fellowship** has been a dream of Professor Stephanie Newbold for over a decade, and in August her dream will become a reality. Newbold will begin a year-long fellowship in the office of Chief Justice John Roberts.

The Supreme Court Fellows program was created in 1973 by Chief Justice Warren Burger to give individuals an opportunity to learn about the judiciary and its relationships with other branches of government. Newbold started the application process by submitting materials in October and learned that she was selected in March.

“I couldn’t believe it when I was chosen for THE fellowship I had wanted for more than a decade. I was overwhelmed with excitement and I cannot wait to begin my work,” Newbold said.

After she was selected, Newbold was invited to a dinner with program alumni, where she had the opportunity to meet Chief Justice John Roberts. “I was so impressed to know that he was normal! He took a photo with us and said he had to get to his son’s hockey game. It was surreal that someone with that post could also have a personal life — it’s fascinating!”

The fellowship is a full-time obligation, so Newbold will be unable to teach during the 2012-13 academic year. “I will miss my students, but this experience will allow me to give back to the classroom and become a better teacher,” said Newbold. “I also personally have to thank the university — AU has been so supportive of my pursuit of this fellowship and I have received congratulations from everyone from my students and coworkers to the President and Provost of the University. I am overwhelmed by their congratulations and I hope this experience will allow me to give back to AU.”

Though Newbold is excited about her upcoming experience, there is a drawback: lost time with her dog, Abigail Adams. “Abby will definitely miss me and I will miss her, but I have someone who is going to give her walks each day so she’ll have a new friend, and I think she’ll forget me while I’m working those late nights at the court.”
Prof. Howard McCurdy has always been intrigued by science and space. “Space was always just a hobby, but I have been lucky enough to incorporate that hobby into my work.” His hobby has turned into seven books at the intersection of space policy and public management, including his award-winning book now in its second edition, *Space and the American Imagination*.

However, it would be decades into his career before McCurdy became known as one of the foremost experts in space policy. He grew up in Seattle, Washington, where he started out as a young campaign worker for a local politician. “It began as a job that was interesting and our candidate just happened to win too – it was exciting.”

From there, McCurdy moved on to pursue degrees in chemistry and moved to Washington DC and American University in the late 1960’s. “I have seen American University move and grow in a span of over four decades, but I have to say the late ’60’s were the most dynamic. I remember seeing students protest the Vietnam War in Ward Circle and thinking, ‘wow, this is definitely a place where change and ideas are happening.’ I also remember seeing our current President, Neil Kerwin, in that circle”, McCurdy chuckles, “I really liked those times.”

McCurdy remembers AU as always being a politically charged campus, but a campus that remained outside the hustle and bustle of Washington politics. “We are in D.C. without being caught up in everything. We have academic isolation, but we still have the community involvement. AU has remained a prevalent place of study without getting tangled in the city scene. I have always admired that quality.”

It was only by chance that McCurdy found the opportunity to combine his long-standing interest in space and his research in public administration. “I was walking by the bulletin board on the third floor of Ward one afternoon and saw a posting for a research grant sponsored by NASA, so I applied and I got it and there began my ‘hobby career’ with NASA.”

The product of McCurdy’s grant was *Space and the American Imagination*, a book that reviews the emergence of space travel in the popular mind, how it evolved via science fiction, and the influence that popular culture has had on NASA’s space program. Now in its second edition, the book was honored with the Eugene M. Emme Award, given annually by the American Astronautical Society for the book that “best advances public understanding of astronautics.”

McCurdy has further integrated his interest in space into his work by teaching an elective course to masters students in science and technology policy. “I like to mix organization theory and science – I think science and technology is related to everything we do. There is technology in art, there is technology in biology, music, business and everything that is taught. Technology is our future and integrating it into coursework at the undergraduate and graduate levels so students realize technology and innovation is our future.”

As one of AU’s most experienced faculty members, is there any advice McCurdy would offer students? “I am the accidental professor,” jokes McCurdy. “I would advise students to take advantage of opportunities around them and always look out for things. That bulletin board brought me to an experience I never saw coming and now I have a book about space. It taught me to always be aware of my surroundings and to be alert for wonderful opportunities.”

Prof. McCurdy speaks at a recent campus event.
The annual commencement ceremony for the School of Public Affairs took place on May 13, 2012, followed by a reception for graduates and guests. DPAP awarded 6 PhDs, 116 MPAs, 73 MPPs, and 23 MS degrees in Organization Development.

Erskine Bowles, former White House chief of staff and president of the University of North Carolina, gave the commencement address. MPP graduate Winfield Wilson was the graduate student speaker.