Professor Robert Durant Named American University’s 2011 Scholar/Teacher of the Year

Professor Robert F. Durant receiving the 2011 Scholar/Teacher Award from American University Provost Scott A. Bass duringCommencement Exercises held on May 7, 2011. This annual university-wide award recognizes exceptional teaching, a record of significant contributions to the scholarly life of the university, and a commitment to high standards of professional and personal life. Durant was the Chair of DPAP for the 2010-2011 academic year and has recently published two books: The Oxford Handbook of American Bureaucracy (2010) and The Greening of the U.S. Military: Environmental Policy, National Security, and Organizational Change (2007).

Durant’s past awards include the 2003 Charles H. Levine Memorial Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Research, Teaching and Service by the American Society for Public Administration, the prestigious Leslie A. Whittington Award for Teaching Excellence given by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, and the American University School of Public Affairs Award for Outstanding Teaching in a Full-Time Appointment. He is also an elected fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

Durant has written extensively on the presidency, executive agencies and organizational behavior. He is a recognized leader in the study of environmental policy as influenced by executive institutions. His scholarship and contributions to DPAP have helped to position the department and SPA at the top of the public administration and policy fields.

PhD Students Receive National Research Awards

The Department of Public Administration and Policy is pleased to announce that two Ph.D. students recently received national research awards.

Amanda Girth, a 2011 DPAP Ph.D. and now assistant professor at Ohio State University, has been selected to receive the Leonard White Award from the American Society for Public Administration, the prestigious Leslie A. Whittington Award for Teaching Excellence given by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, and the American University School of Public Affairs Award for Outstanding Teaching in a Full-Time Appointment. He is also an elected fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

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PhD Alums Receive National Recognition

Scholar Research Award from the American Political Science Association. The Volcker Award is a competitive research grant that is given annually to a junior scholar whose work shows “potential to shed new light on important public administration questions and promise for advancing practice and theory development.”

Resh’s proposal expands upon his dissertation, ‘Re-thinking the Administrative Presidency: Trust, Intellectual Capital Building, and Appointee-Careerist Relations.’ His committee included professors Robert Durant (chair), David Pitts, and Patricia Sykes. Bill joined the faculty at the School of Environmental and Public Affairs at Indiana University in August.

The Public Purpose: SPA’s Student Journal Features Graduate Student Research

The Public Purpose, an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal sponsored by the School of Public Affairs, gives graduate students the opportunity to submit research for review and publication. The journal features student-authored articles on topics related to public policy and public affairs. DPAP students have been well represented in the journal since its establishment in 2003, with five DPAP contributors in the most recent 2011 edition. The current Table of Contents, with DPAP student-authors highlighted, is provided below:

- The Amnesty Effect: Evidence from the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act - Joshua Linder (DPAP MPP)
- Health Insurance Choice, Moral Hazard and Adverse Selection: A Study of the Chilean Case Using Panel Data - Javier Bronfman (DPAP PhD)
- China, Multinational Corporations, and Internet Privacy Issues: An Incoherent Landscape - Lysette Kent
- Fiscal Implications of Legislative and Executive Team Limits at the State Level - Dillon T. Klepetar
- Are Cigarette Excise Taxes Effective in Reducing the Habit? - Michael Palinkas (DPAP MPP)
- Budget and Cost Analysis for the Proposed Rappahannock-Shenandoah-Warren Regional Hall - Matthew Reges (DPAP MPA)
- The Flat Tax: An Analysis of America’s Most Controversial Tax Reform Ideas - Lane B. Teller (DPAP MPA)

Each spring, SPA sponsors a reception to honor the authors and provide a venue for the headline author—most recently a DPAP MPP student—to present his/her research. All authors are given the opportunity to discuss their work with fellow students, faculty members, and other friends of the University.
Interview with Professors Rosenbloom and Newbold About Upcoming John Rohr Symposium

David Rosenbloom, Distinguished Professor of Public Administration and Stephanie Newbold, Assistant Professor of Public Administration have planned a symposium to be held on October 26 and 27, 2012 honoring the life, legacy, and contributions of John Rohr to the study and practice of public administration. We recently asked Professors Rosenbloom and Newbold to elaborate on the symposium.

Can you explain how you came to plan a symposium on the work of John Rohr?

Professor David Rosenbloom: “The purpose of this symposium is to further institutionalize a series of symposia in which DPAP regularly recognizes and celebrates Great Thinkers in Public Administration. The foundation for this idea dates back to 2005 when DPAP organized a symposium that brought together leaders in the field to contemplate the continued importance of Dwight Waldo’s classic work, The Administrative State. Several of the papers presented at this symposium were subsequently published in Revisiting Waldo’s Administrative State (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2006), edited by Howard McCurdy and me. The book establishes more definitively the continued relevance of Waldo’s work to contemporary administrative theory and practice. We are in the early stages of planning a similar symposium for next fall to contemplate, discuss, and analyze the impacts of John Rohr’s scholarship and to creatively build on his approach to public administration. We will invite some of the most prominent scholars in the field to AU in an effort to fully discern how Rohr’s work broadened the scope of public administrative thought and provided an agenda for future research and theory building.”

How did you decide to focus on Rohr for this seminar?

Rosenbloom: “Unfortunately, John Rohr died this past summer. We want to remember and celebrate his invaluable contributions to the field of public administration. This seminar will focus on the three areas of Rohr’s scholarship that continue to have the greatest impact on the field today: comparative constitutional analysis, regime values, and public service ethics. Our main objective is to further institutionalize a series of symposia in which DPAP regularly recognizes and celebrates Great Thinkers in Public Administration. The foundation for this idea dates back to 2005 when DPAP organized a symposium that brought together leaders in the field to contemplate the continued importance of Dwight Waldo’s classic work, The Administrative State. Several of the papers presented at this symposium were subsequently published in Revisiting Waldo’s Administrative State (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2006), edited by Howard McCurdy and me. The book establishes more definitively the continued relevance of Waldo’s work to contemporary administrative theory and practice. We are in the early stages of planning a similar symposium for next fall to contemplate, discuss, and analyze the impacts of John Rohr’s scholarship and to creatively build on his approach to public administration. We will invite some of the most prominent scholars in the field to AU in an effort to fully discern how Rohr’s work broadened the scope of public administrative thought and provided an agenda for future research and theory building.”

Can you elaborate on how your work has interacted with Rohr’s – that is, how your respective bodies of work have influenced one another?

Rosenbloom: “John and I were classmates in the political science doctoral program at the University of Chicago in the mid-60s. We were both heavily influenced by Professor Herbert Storing’s approach to public administration, which is explained in the 2010 Public Administration Review article, “Recovering, Restoring and Renewing the Foundations of American Public Administration: The Contributions of Herbert J. Storing,” to which we both contributed. John undeniably had better notes, but we were always more or less on the same page. Our work was intertwined in its analysis of the impact of the U.S. Constitution and constitutional and administrative law on various aspects of public administration, including human resources management, ethics, public employees’ rights, the incorporation of democratic constitutional values into administrative practice, the legitimacy of the administrative state, and the constitutional roles of civil servants in the political system. In some ways, our basic project was to retrofit the contemporary administrative state into the constitutional regime. We read each other’s work and had countless conversations about it. There are a lot of “free floating” competing frameworks in public administration; we always tried to anchor our work in constitutional and legal arrangements. Over a lunch in 2003, we both agreed one could pretty much reduce our entire careers to two words, “constitutions matter.” We also concurred that if mainstream public administration hadn’t been so resistant to this idea, but rather had readily accepted it, we probably would have had very different careers, if any!”

Professor Newbold – You are a relatively new scholar. Can you explain your involvement in this endeavor?

Professor Stephanie Newbold: “John Rohr was the most important person in the development of who I have become as a scholar. What John did as well as anyone is demonstrate the validity of historical research. His work on the constitutional legitimacy of U.S. public administration, public service ethics, comparative constitutional studies, and the importance of regime values to the advancement of democratic governance transformed the field of public administration.”

About the Professors:

David Rosenbloom is a leading scholar of public administration and democratic constitutionalism, administrative law, and theory. Author or coauthor of some 300 professional publications, he is a member of the National Academy of Public Administration and the recipient of the Charles Levine, Dwight Waldo, John Gaus, and Louis Brownlow awards for excellence in public administration. Stephanie Newbold specializes in the intellectual history of public administration and the intersection between the American Constitution and the administrative state. She is the author of All But Forgotten: Thomas Jefferson and the Development of Public Administration.
DPAP Professors Receive Research Grant to Further Studies on Childhood Obesity

With grants from the University of Kentucky’s Center for Poverty Research and the Institute for Research on Poverty’s RIDGE Center for National Food and Nutrition Assistance Research, Associate Professor Alison Jacknowitz and Assistant Professor Taryn Morrissey are studying food insecurity and obesity among young children. Specifically, Professors Jacknowitz and Morrissey are examining the life events that lead to food insecurity, such as job loss or divorce, as well as the events that help lift children out of food insecurity. They will also look at how local food prices contribute to food insecurity and obesity among young children, and whether participation in food assistance programs changes these relationships. Their research will help create a more comprehensive picture of food insecurity and obesity among children in the United States.

Their research is supported by American University’s Washington Institute for Public and International Affairs Research (WIPAR). The Institute serves as a bridge between the academic and policy worlds, advancing scholarly research that address pressing issues and concerns. The Institute also helps AU researchers to organize and support research projects and promotes collaborative work, effectively putting the lessons of academic research into practice. WIPAR offers scholarly expertise in several areas, including Public Policy, Public Administration, Criminal and Civil Justice, Government, Economics, Law and International Relations.

To read more about the research of Professors Jacknowitz and Morrissey, please visit the website of the Washington Institute for Public and International Affairs Research: http://www.american.edu/wipar/index.cfm

Social Policy Panel Connects Students with Alumni

DPAP uses many strategies to prepare our students for their careers, including hiring experienced professors, running workshops, and hosting networking events. Professor Alison Jacknowitz, MPP Director, has expanded DPAP efforts by asking AU alumni to sit on panels and advise current students on career paths. The 2011 Careers in Social Policy Alumni Panel on March 24th brought together six alumni from various jobs in social policy to explain their careers and provide suggestions for students interested in the field. This was the third annual Careers in Social Policy Alumni Panel. Jane Clark, Mary Rose Conroy, Shelby Kain, Alison MacDonald, Krista Niemczyk and Carrie Skura all graduated in the last five years having studied social policy during their time in DPAP. The range and breadth of employment encompasses offices in the Federal Government including the Departments of Education, and Health and Human Services as well as non-profit organizations. Alumni serve as Congressional analysts, and as coordinators or in specialist positions.

Each of these women came to their positions in different ways. Three pieces of advice were stressed by all panelists: build and maintain your network, never be afraid to reach out to your network, and pursue jobs or internships with a high level of determination, focus, and energy. Alison MacDonald, for example, began her career working in the private sector and now works for a Congresswoman on the Hill. By keeping an open mind and maintaining her network, she has created a successful and diverse career for herself. Each panel member addressed her own professional journey by discussing how she got the job, how her AU degree impacts potential success at work, and the nature of the job and work environment.

The panel discussion served not only to advise students but also to reassure them. For example, when discussing internships, the panel agreed that the value of an internship lies in learning outside of the classroom, experiencing the workforce first-hand, and building connections – regardless of the internship’s prestige. A valuable experience can come from interning on the Hill as well as from a small non-profit organization. The Careers in Social Policy Alumni Panel offered social policy students important insight into how their degree can be useful and where it can eventually lead them.

If you are interested in participating in this year’s panel on April 9th 2012, please contact Alison Jacknowitz at jacknowi@american.edu.
The Department of Public Administration and Policy cordially invites you to join us in welcoming our new faculty.

Lewis Faulk
Seth Gershenson
Bradley Hardy
Taryn Morrissey

Friday, November 4th
7:00 pm—8:30 pm
APPAM Fall Conference
West End Ballroom C
The Washington Marriott
On Monday, September 19, 2011, Professor Daniel Fiorino and the AU Center for Environmental Policy (CEP) hosted a panel entitled: “A Turbulent Environment: American Politics and the EPA.” Students and faculty were invited to hear four former presidential appointees discuss past, future and current challenges faced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The invited panelists were Terry Davies, Senior Fellow for the Resources for the Future, EPA Assistant Administrator for Policy, Planning and Evaluation (1989-1991); Timothy Fields, Jr., Senior Vice President, MDB Inc., EPA Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response (1997-2003); Ben Grumbles, President, Clean Water Alliance, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water (2004-2009); and David Gardiner, President of David Gardiner and Associates and EPA Assistant Administrator for Policy (1993-1999).

Professor Fiorino, CEP Director, began the panel discussion with a brief history of the EPA, the controversy that has surrounded the agency since it was founded in 1970 and the agency’s challenges in the current political environment, including the upcoming presidential election. Terry Davies then led a discussion on the political nature of the EPA and its controversial profile. He also stressed the continued conflicts between the federal and state governments over EPA policies.

Timothy Fields focused on the partisanship that surrounds environmental issues and the mounting tension over the past decade. He noted that the EPA’s role is constantly evolving, in part because each new presidential administration brings changes in regulatory approaches.

David Gardiner examined the federal government’s support of the EPA in recent years, but lamented that the states enforce environmental regulation “with a heavy hammer or as a last resort,” and that partisanship still exists at several levels of the state and federal government.

Gardiner discussed the “Rush Limbaugh Effect” and its impact on the perceived relevance of the science that underlies EPA policy. He also highlighted the challenges posed by conflicts between scientific evidence, such as that supporting the existence of climate change, and the reality of budgetary constraints and short-term cost perspectives. The current economic climate, in particular, tends to preclude a longer benefit/cost time horizon.

The panel entertained comments and questions, with a focus on the future of the EPA.
Eight new students join the Department of Public Administration and Policy’s PhD program this fall, representing a diverse array of backgrounds and research interests. This year’s class has impressive credentials: an average undergraduate GPA of 3.66, average graduate GPA of 3.89, and an average combined GRE of 1298. Please welcome the following new students:

Manjyot Bhan
B.A. St. Xavier's College; MS in Sustainability at Arizona State University
Experience: Climate Solutions, The Natural Step, Portland Sustainability Institute
Interests: Sustainability, environmental policy and management

Amanda Janis
B.S. Birmingham-Southern College; MSW Boston College
Experience: United Methodist Committee on Relief, Catholic Charities USA
Interests: Nonprofit organizations, disaster relief

Aviva Liu
B.A. South China University of Technology, MPA Renmin University
Experience: China Center for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research
Interests: Administration reform, health care policy reform

Ned Malone
B.A. University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill; MPA American University
Experience: Office of Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC)
Interests: Public administration theory and history

Yusra Shawar
B.A. MPH, University of Virginia
Experience: Altarum Institute, United Nations Relief & Works Agency
Interests: Global health policy

Chad Smith
B.S. Touro College; MBA/MHA Baylor University
Experience: U.S. Navy, Johns Hopkins Health System
Interests: Health administration and policy

Sarah Towne
B.A. University of Colorado; MPA Appalachian State University
Experience: Boulder Valley School District, Appalachian State University Office of Multicultural Development
Interests: Gender and diversity, public human resources management

Katie Vinopal
B.S. Xavier University
Experience: D.C. Hunger Solutions—Food Research & Action Center, The Urban Institute
Interests: social policy, education policy, poverty and food insecurity

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John Rancourt graduated in May with an MPA. He is a Program Analyst within the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, a division of the Department of Health and Human Services. John earned this position as a Presidential Management Fellow. His work focuses specifically on “state policies related to health information exchange.” The skills learned as an MPA student empowered John to succeed as a PMF finalist and secure an appointment. His capstone paper focused on health information technology and was directly relevant to his work. John notes that American University’s MPA gave him a solid foundation for executing his new job well, but also for having a successful career in public service.

Deanna Stephens graduated with an MPA. Her federal career began when she was an undergraduate student. She participated in the Washington Internships for Native Students (WIN), which helped drive her interest in the MPA; her academic and professional pursuits are closely related. She maintained contact with the office in which she interned through WIN, was hired again as an intern, and was then brought on full time as a Policy Analyst in the Office of Communications at the Department of Health and Human Services. The “MPA taught more political aspects of working in restrictions and restraints you’re faced with.” With this in mind, she’ll use a “balance of passion and desire for public service and being able to have the appropriate skills to work within the system.” (Story Continued on Pg. 6)
Nonprofit Management Concentration: Growing in Popularity!

Our department is starting a new academic year with 127 talented and motivated students entering our MPA and MPP programs. Both degrees offer a number of exciting concentrations that allow students to explore various sub-fields and master the management tools necessary to compete in the marketplace. These concentrations include social policy, state and local administration, science, technology and environmental policy, financial management, international management, and many others. The nonprofit management concentration, in particular, has a long history in our Department, and it has grown considerably during the past few years.

The concentration was formally established by Professor Robert Boynton, who was one of the first in the field to recognize the importance of aligning nonprofit studies with public administration and policy, given the public service orientation of both. He was also one of the first scholars nationally who taught nonprofit management. Professor Boynton’s interests and expertise grew out of his interest in comparative public administration and his work with NGOs in Indonesia, where he assisted in the development of its public sector. Today, roughly 27 percent of our students have a job in the nonprofit sector at the time of graduation (compared to 47% and 37% in public and for-profit sectors, respectively), and our nonprofit offerings are more diverse than ever.

Several professors currently teach in this concentration. Professor Anna Amirkhanyan’s research focuses on public-private partnerships and performance. She is teaching Managing Nonprofit Organizations and Marketing for Nonprofit Organizations, covering the history, theory and various management strategies in the nonprofit sector. Professor Lewis Faulk recently joined DPAP and his research focuses on nonprofit competition, and diversity and wages in the nonprofit workforce. Professor Faulk’s contributions to the nonprofit concentration include Nonprofit Resource Development and Nonprofit Advocacy and Law. In addition, our PhD students (most recently, Amanda Girth and Sarah Pettijohn) have contributed to our graduate and undergraduate nonprofit offerings. These departmental courses are supplemented by an array of courses offered by other departments at AU, such as International NGO Management, Grant-writing, Advanced Marketing, Advanced Fundraising, Board Governance, Strategic Planning and others. Most of these courses offer exciting opportunities to “practice” management through semester-long client-based projects and interactions with distinguished guest speakers readily accessible to us due to our unique location in Washington, DC. Two years ago, we became one of the few schools in our area (and in the nation!) to offer an 18-credit multi-disciplinary Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management.

Our alumni’s career trajectories and achievements rarely disappoint us: they establish nonprofit organizations and excel as nonprofit management generalists, specialists, or consultants. Occasionally, they even return as guest speakers to share their expertise and experience with our current students. For instance, Marshal J. Bailly II serves as the founder and executive director of Leadership Initiatives, a nonprofit that seeks to enable impoverished people around the world. Teach on the Beach founder and Executive Director Sarah Riczo has dedicated herself to ameliorating illiteracy in West Africa.

In how I approach my work and people I work with and how to get the best results.”

Samantha O’Leary graduated with an MPP and was hired as a Consultant at Lewin Group, a leading health care policy consulting firm focused on states and payer practices. Ms. O’Leary’s work will focus on Medicaid analysis and policy recommendations, which will draw from her MPP coursework. Samantha “never took a statistics class in college so classes like methods of problem solving and program evaluation gave me the skills and insight that I will need in my job”.

(Story Continued from Pg. 5)
Nonprofit Management Concentration

Program Director of Kid Power Andria Hollis, Project Manager for FAIR Health Joyce Raby, and associate administrator Kyle Sutton at Christ Church have been at the forefront of empowering low-income communities in the U.S.A. who have been deprived of much needed healthcare and academic services. Devoted to alleviating crippling poverty in his community, alumnus Mohammad Abu Asaker has returned to Gaza to head the United Nation's effort as Program Coordinator. Derek Priddy, Heather Konjura and Stephanie Counts have found competitive consulting positions at Deloitte, one of the world’s largest consulting firms, while Senior Director of ORR Associates Emma Kieran works with dozens of nonprofit clients on annual and capital campaign management, their marketing, board building and strategic planning.

Capitalizing on development and financial management skills, Jessica Rudman, Manager of Digital Direct Marketing at the Wilderness Society, Caitlin Geary, associate in Finance and Economic Development at the National League of Cities, and Bill Brown, SPA Financial Manager, assist their nonprofit organizations to achieve financial sustainability while preserving natural treasures, funding education and constructively developing local communities. These success stories comprise only a small fraction of the meaningful and compelling careers our graduates have discovered in the nonprofit sector.

For more information about the nonprofit degrees offered by The American University School of Public Affairs, please visit [http://www.american.edu/spa/dpap/degrees/CERT-GNPMG.cfm](http://www.american.edu/spa/dpap/degrees/CERT-GNPMG.cfm).

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Clients Needed for Policy Practicum

The School of Public Affairs is currently seeking clients for its Policy Practicum.

To participate in this unique opportunity, please contact

Professor Sonja Walti.

202-885-3738

walti@american.edu

Department of Public Administration and Policy
American University
AU Policy Practicum Provides Opportunity for Both Clients and Students

For Department of Public Administration and Policy MPP students, the Policy Practicum class serves as a final learning and training opportunity before graduation. Originally developed by Professor Beryl Radin, the course aims to reinforce analytic skills learned in other classes, deliver work that meets professional standards, offer experience outside of the classroom, and help students contemplate various careers and roles in the public policy field. While there are several components to the class, the primary focus is the group client project completed by students over the course of the semester.

In groups, students work on a project from a real client outside of American University. Each semester, analyses are provided for clients from public, private, and non-profit sectors. Because the students and the school are unpaid, course professors generally choose clients who would otherwise be unable to afford outside assistance with a project. The lack of payment also gives the students a certain amount of freedom to really delve into the assignment and think outside the box. Students serve clients less like interns and more like outside contractors. Students meet with clients at the beginning of the semester, continue to correspond or meet during the semester to discuss progress reports and questions, and in most cases will present findings and conclusions to the client at the end of the semester. They also submit a final written report.

This assignment gives students a unique opportunity to work with a real client but also to learn from one another. Within one team there might be a few students particularly interested in the client, others in the topic, and others in the method of the project. According to Professor Sonja Walti, who has taught the class for three semesters, nearly all students report having gained a high level of utility from it. Former students have told her that the assignment helps to contextualize what they have learned in the classroom, and where they see themselves after graduation. Overall, Professor Walti has been impressed every semester with the level of professionalism that students bring to the class. Despite how busy students can be with classes, jobs, and internships, they always take it seriously and fully commit to meeting the client’s objectives. In fact, several government agencies have repeatedly participated in this DPAP MPP course, including the General Accountability Office, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Environmental Protection Agency. This assignment is truly unique among MPP programs and students report that the course provides significant benefits and a “win-win” for both students and clients.

Our alumni play a large role in providing clients for the Policy Practicum class. If interested in the practicum please contact Professor Sonja Walti: walti@american.edu.

DPAP Announces 3rd Annual Charles H. Levine Memorial Fund Lecture, featuring Laurence E. Lynn, Jr., Sid Richardson Research Professor, LBJ School, University of Texas

March 2012
Further Details Forthcoming
www.american.edu/dpap
Anna Amirkhanyan is the new MPA Director for DPAP

The Department of Public Administration and Policy would like to congratulate Anna Amirkhanyan, who has been named the Director of the MPA Program. She joins MPP Director Alison Jacknowitz and PhD Program Director David Pitts who manage each of the department’s graduate programs. Congratulations Anna!