



# Texas State University MPA NEWSLETTER

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## A Welcome From the Director

Dear Students, Alumni, and Friends of the MPA Program:

I hope you enjoy this Newsletter; it is filled with program highlights and accomplishments. First, we are excited to welcome another new faculty, Jayce Farmer, who comes to us from Florida State University. Second, the program has been busy making program changes in order to comply with new accreditation standards. In the fall we had a series of faculty meetings developing a strategy to make the necessary program adaptations. The new standards will require us to make many modification over the next few years. In January we changed our mission so that it would be consistent with the new accreditation standards.

Our new mission *"The Master of Public Administration Program's Mission is to cultivate practical, research-oriented students for careers as reflective practitioners guided by democratic values, integrity and service"* was crafted during a mission retreat. On January 25th we met at the Meadows Center overlooking the headwaters of the San Marcos River. During the morning session we heard from 14 practitioners, alumni and students. They discussed the larger public administration environment and how the Texas State MPA program contributed to it.

The new accreditation standards stress the role of public service values so the group spent considerable time examining public service values exhibited by the program. In the afternoon the faculty met separately to reflect on the morning discussion and to craft a new mission. We owe a much to Professor Walter Wright for facilitating this most productive meeting. I believe we are well poised to meet the new accreditation standards. Thanks to Debby Tucker, Philip Ruiz, Kolette Palacios, Jason Alexander, Ana Lisa Garza, Javier Prado, Stephanie Reyes, Alaric Robertson, John Sone, Ismael Amaya, James Hardin, Colin Smith, Bill Teeter and Larry Schooler for participating in the mission retreat.



Drs. Brittain and Shields present at the MPA Retreat

Finally, I wanted to formally announce that at the close of the Fall semester, I will be stepping away from the directorship of the MPA Program. The job of MPA Director has kept me busy for 17 years. I have enjoyed the opportunity to lead the program, particularly working with students. In January I will begin a faculty development leave and will return to full time teaching in the Fall of 2014. Dr. Thomas Longoria will take over as MPA Director. I leave the program in good hands!



Discussion Items at the MPA Retreat

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# The Public Service Recognition Week Awards Banquet

On May 22, 2013 professors and students of the Texas State's MPA program and William P. Hobby Center for Public Service gathered to represent the university and bring home some well-deserved awards at the Centex ASPA Public Service Recognition Week Awards Banquet.

The gathering at the iconic Green Pastures restaurant were addressed by Major General John F. Nichols, Adjutant General of Texas Military Forces National Guard, and Honorable Mike Martinez, City Councilman from the City of Austin, Texas.

The highlights of the evening included the presentation of the Public Administrator of the Year Award, the Public Administrator Educator of the Year Award, the Elected Public Official Award and the James W. McGrew Research Awards.

In addition to the award presentations, Texas State University and Texas A&M inducted their outstanding students into Pi Alpha Alpha, the National Honor Society for Public Policy & Administration. As a part of the program Texas State University's MPA Program recognized the William P. Hobby Family Scholarship recipients and the Balanoff Family Scholarship recipients. Also recognized was the recipient of Centex ASPA George Weinberger Scholarship.



Dr. Tom Longoria and Alejandra Pena

The recipient of the Public Administrator of the Year was Texas State MPA alumn Dr. Dee Ellis, Executive Director of the Texas Animal Health Commission. Receiving the Public Administrator Educator of the Year Award was Angela Evans, Clinical Professor in Public Policy Practice from LBJ's School of Public Affairs. The Elected Public Official Award went to the Honorable Sarah Eckhardt, Travis County Commissioner. The McGrew Award recipients for Texas State University were MPA students Houmma Garba and Tona Hernandez-Hart.

Additionally, Texas State University inducted seven MPA students into Pi Alpha Alpha. Inductees are Romy Adame Wilson, James Helfrich, Diana Spiller, Rebecca Stevenson, William Teeter & Jose Vargas.

The William P. Hobby Family MPA Scholarships were awarded to Texas State students, Maria Alejandra Fiallos and Alejandra Pena. Ms. Pena also received the Centex ASPA George Weinberger MPA Scholarship. The Frank Rich MPA Scholarship was awarded to Colin Smith and the Balanoff Family MPA Scholarship was awarded to Curtis Leeth. Congratulations to all the award recipients!



Dr. Howard Balanoff with MPA Graduate students Curtis Leeth (l) and Jamar Keaton (r)



Texas State University faculty, students and alumni that participated in the Centex ASPA Public Service Recognition Week Awards Banquet.



# MPA News

## Master of Public Administration Scholarships for 2013-14

William P. Hobby Family Scholarship  
Maria Fiallos  
Alejandra Pena

Balanoff Family MPA Scholarship  
Curtis Leeth

Francis M. Rich, Jr. Endowed Scholarship  
Colin Smith

### New MPA Student Online Hub

This past fall the indispensible Dodie Wiedner, Administrative Assistant and general problem solver for the department, was hard at work creating a new online destination for all the needs of MPA students: [mpanow.wp.txstate.edu](http://mpanow.wp.txstate.edu). The website functions as a resource and information kiosk detailing everything from admissions to graduations requirements and everything in between, but perhaps more important the website offers key updates on scholarships, job oppenings and internship opportunities for MPA students. Oh - and there is a new quote of the day to greet you upon every visit. Every MPA student should bookmark this page in the future to ensure all the latest updates from the department guru. I can attest to the website's usefulness personally, it has already saved me from missing one scholarship deadline, a scholarship I ended up recieving. Thanks Dodie!



[mpanow.wp.txstate.edu](http://mpanow.wp.txstate.edu)

### Ph.D. in Public Administration Update

Dr. Dianne Rahm has been assigned as head of the search committee for a new senior-hire (Full or Associate) professor. The search will take place in the Fall and, if the search is successful, the program will bring in the new faculty for the Fall of 2014. The planning for the PhD program is moving forward. The MPA program is currently working on our request for PhD program authorization. It will be a couple of years before it is ready but the program hopes to have it considered by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board by 2016. Further news on the search and the PhD program will be in next year's news letter.

### New Building gets Cozier by the Day

Last year the MPA newsletter detailed the department's move into the brand new Undergraduate Academic Center - UAC for the fall 2012 semester. A year's worth of lectures, grading and scholarship has taken place in the department's new home and by most measures the new building is becoming more comfortable by the day. The department's Graduate Assistants now enjoy their own lounge and the new facilities include an impressive Moot Courtroom, Conference Room and snazzy classrooms on the third floor of UAC. Leave it to college students to break in a building, it is one thing we are good at.





# Faculty Updates I

A yearly tradition, the following pages include the academic, professional and personal updates of the talented faculty of the Texas State MPA program.

Entries are in no particular order.

## Texas State MPA Introduces Dr. Jayce Farmer

This fall Texas State MPA students will greet a new professor to the program. Dr. Jayce Farmer is a graduate of Florida State University with over 15 years of professional expertise and experience in state and local government administration and finance. He previously has taught in the MPA programs at Northern Kentucky University and Florida State University. Some of his other areas of study include local government regional partnerships, nonprofit organizations, and organizational theory and behavior. His research can be found in some of the leading scholarly journals in public administration, urban affairs and political science. The program once again heartily welcomes Dr. Farmer, who begins teaching courses in the fall of 2013 at Texas State's San Marcos campus.



Dr. Jayce Farmer



## Dr. Billy Fields

This year Dr. Fields took over as director for the Center for Research, Public Policy and Training. In addition to work on several transportation grants, the Center hosted two events this year. Last fall, the Center co-hosted the first annual Transportation Policy for Central Texas Symposium series with the Texas Transportation Institute, the University of Texas Center for Transportation Research, and Bike Texas. The Center also co-hosted the Transportation Beyond Oil Symposium with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the University of New Orleans Transportation Institute in Washington, DC.



Dr. Billy Fields

In addition to the work with the Center, Dr. Fields has been active in research. He co-edited the just released *Transportation Beyond Oil* by Island Press. He has continued to present research findings at national conferences (ASPA in New Orleans and the Active Living Research Annual Conference in San Diego). He was also awarded a travel grant by the Center for Spatial Studies at the University of California Santa Barbara to be an invited participant in the Spatial Thinking Across the College Curriculum Specialist Meeting. Dr. Fields also joined the Childhood Obesity Intervention Cost Effectiveness Study stakeholder team. He traveled to Harvard University in June for the annual work group meeting. Dr. Fields will teach several sections of POSI 5321 (Introduction to Public Administration/Public Policy) this upcoming year and looks forward to engaging with you in 2013/2014.

## Dr. Dianne Rahm

During the past year, Dr. Rahm was involved in the following publications: Rangarajan, Nandhini and Dianne Rahm, "San Antonio's Mission Verde and Leading by Example Initiatives," in Osgood, Jefferey et al., *Local Economic Development and the Environment: Finding Common Ground* (Taylor & Francis Group, 2013).

Rahm, Dianne and Christopher Reddick, "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Emergency Services: A Survey of Texas Emergency Services Districts," *International Journal of E-Politics*, Vol. 4, No. 3, 2013 (forthcoming).



Dr. Dianne Rahm





# Faculty Updates II

A yearly tradition, the following pages include the academic, professional and personal updates of the talented faculty of the Texas State MPA program.

Entries are in no particular order.

## Dr. Tom Longoria

In 2012, Dr. Longoria had three articles accepted for publication including "Are We All Equal at Death?: Death Competence in *Municipal Cemetery Management*. *Death Studies*; "Predicting Use and Solicitation of Payments in Lieu of Taxes." *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*; and "Citizen Approval of CAOs in Texas Cities: An Exploratory Analysis of Anglo and Latino Attitudes." *Journal of Public Management and Social Policy*. He presented his work on Payments in Lieu of Taxes at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. He is currently working on a project to develop a cultural competency measurement instrument suitable for public administration (with Dr. Rangarajan) and a study examining local government commitment to environmental initiatives (with Drs. Fields and Rangarajan). He was also promoted to full professor.



Dr. Tom Longoria

## Dr. Patricia Shields



Dr. Patricia Shields

Dr. Shields has had a productive 2013, with five publications and five major presentations. Her publications include:

"Pragmatism and Public Administration: Looking Back, Looking Forward." In *American Pragmatism and Organization Studies: Researching Management Practices*. Miheala Kelemen and Nick Rumens(eds). Burlington VT: Gower Press. (with Travis Whetsell, Emily K. Balanoff-Jones), pp. 115-130.

"The Practice of Government Finance." In *American Pragmatism and Organization Studies: Researching Management Practices*. Miheala Kelemen and Nick Rumens(eds.). Burlington VT: Gower Press. (with John Bartle), pp. 175-199.

"Pragmatism, Peacekeeping and the Constabulary Force." In *A Bold new World: Essays on Philosophical Pragmatism and International Relations*. Shane Ralston (ed.). New York: Lexington Books. (with Joseph Soeters), pp. 87-110.

"Punctuation, Continuity and Historicity: Traversing the In-between." In *Comparative Decision Making* edited by P. Crowley and T. Zentall. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press. (with Travis Whetsell), pp. 66-69.

*A Playbook for Research Methods: Integrating Conceptual Frameworks and Project Management*. Stillwater, OK: New Forums Press. (with Nandhini Rangarajan).

Additionally, Dr. Shields made presentations at the following: the NASPAA conference in Austin in October, the ASPA conference in New Orleans in March, the European Group on Military and Society (ERGOMAS) Biannual Conference in Madrid, Spain in June, and the Netherlands Defence Academy in Breda, Netherlands in June.



# Faculty Updates III

A yearly tradition, the following pages include the academic, professional and personal updates of the talented faculty of the Texas State MPA program.

Entries are in no particular order.

## Dr. Nandhini Rangarajan

Dr. Nandhini Rangarajan was promoted to the position of Associate Professor and was granted tenure by the Board of Regents, Texas State University System in Spring 2013. In the spring semester, Dr. Rangarajan published a case study about San Antonio’s greening initiatives with Dr. Dianne Rahm. This case study entitled “San Antonio’s Mission Verde and Leading by Example Initiatives” was published in a book called *The Greening of Public Management*.

Dr. Rangarajan’s first book – co-authored with Dr. Patricia Shields entitled *A Playbook for Research Methods* -was published in the Summer of 2013. This book explains difficult concepts related to research using intellectually accessible metaphors (American football, organizing a kitchen, a mother comforting a crying baby, paint-by numbers, juggling etc.). It provides important research and project management tools for students who embark on their first major research projects.



Dr. Nandhini Rangarajan

Other significant scholarly milestones in the past year included presentation of papers at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Teaching Public Administration Conference, NASPAA conference and Texas Digital Libraries Conference.

## Dr. Howard Balanoff



Dr. Howard Balanoff

Dr. Balanoff recently presented at the Annual Texas City Management Association a presentation entitled: “Leadership Skills: What can we Learn from West Point and the Military” which was held in San Marcos on June 20, 2013.

Dr. Balanoff also traveled to Houston, Texas to attend a meeting of the Houston City Council and received a Proclamation issued by the Houston City Council designating July 30th as “Certified Public Manager” Day. The Proclamation was issued to honor the CPM graduates from the City of Houston. Further news on the CPM program and Dr. Balanoff’s CPM activities are listed later in the newsletter.





# Master of Public Administration 2013 Graduates

Found on this page is an alphabetical list of every 2013 Graduate of the Texas State Master of Public Administration program from both the Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 Graduation classes.

It goes without saying the Department will miss many of these fine students and wishes them well in their future endeavors!

## Fall 2012

Kara G. Crawford  
Andrew B. Freeman  
Raquel Garcia  
Latoya N. Harmason  
Tonya G. Hernandez-Hart  
Pamela Hinojosa  
Troy Houtman  
Christopher Jones  
Jay E. Koltermann  
Jessica C. Marek  
Jasmine B. Mathis  
Rachel E. Mazerolle  
Michael P. Mclear  
Claire A. Moyers  
Leah G. Neal  
April E. Shaw  
Roshanda L. Smiley (Titpon)

## Spring 2013

Romy L. Adame-Wilson  
Christy L. Carter  
Lorraine E. Grell  
Trenton K. Kennedy  
Ryan K. Lawhon  
Jacquelin Levario  
Jason C. Norton  
Christopher A. Orr  
Kimberly B. Painter  
Jordon M. Peterson  
Linday N. Rose  
Diana M. Spiller  
Pam A. Tise  
Alexandra Vlahodimitropoulos  
Joshua Walker  
Jared C. Werner

*The MPA Program's mission is to cultivate practical, research-oriented students for careers as reflective practitioners guided by democratic values, integrity and service.*



# A Playbook for Research Methods

A Student-focused Research Guide by Texas State MPA faculty and students

The new publication, hitting bookshelves and classrooms fall of 2013 is a collaborative project between two Texas State MPA faculty: Dr. Patricia Shield, Dr. Nandhini Rangarajan and utilizes the scholarly work of MPA graduates - both past and present.

This spring I, Curtis Leeth, had the opportunity to work with a draft version of *A Playbook for Research Methods* in POSI 5334 - Problems in Quantitative Research under the tutelage of Dr. Shields. The *Playbook* is quite unlike any research methodology textbook I have encountered - heck any textbook really. This is because the *Playbook* is both straightforwardly written and details the research process that former Texas State MPA graduates went through to produce their own ARP. The multitude of ARP examples gives a Texas State MPA student a level of intimacy and familiarity with the program and its student scholarship usually unachievable by graduate programs. This level of intimacy allowed me to both imagine these previous students in my position in years back, a comforting thought, and also provided templates within which to imagine my own research. All this is, of course, in addition to the valuable understanding gained from the book on of conceptual frameworks in general. Taking the lessons from the book, I gained a new vocabulary and understanding with which to discuss the ARPs our class read, in their entirety, for the course. The *Playbook* combined with the *Step-by-Step* research approach of Dr. Shields to writing research papers equipped me with both the abstract conceptual understanding and a gameplan with which to tackle my own ARP.



I cannot reiterate enough, *A Playbook for Research Methods* is truly a product of the Texas State MPA program. The football playbook approach is inspired by former MPA students of athletic backgrounds and utilizes a multitude of former Texas State MPA Applied Research Projects (ARP) as examples and source material. The *Playbook* not only has immense interdisciplinary potential as a research guide, but will more over serve as a vehicle to showcase the vast collection of high quality graduate work of the MPA program. Reading in full the many ARPs showcased in the *Playbook* heightened my awareness of the quality of previous student scholarship in the program. This awareness is not over-awing, however, because of the research tools found in the *Playbook* and *Step-by-Step*. These are the same tools used by these former MPA students and the same tools with which I will utilize in my own ARP, which I begin in earnest this fall semester.

The fine scholarly and conceptual work of Drs. Patricia Shields and Nandhini Rangarajan cannot be praised enough but it is the ARPs of Texas State MPA students that are the heart and soul of the new publication. This heart and soul makes the *Playbook* a special milestone in the continued growth of the Texas State MPA Program.

Curtis Leeth,  
MPA Graduate student





# Alumni Highlights I

## Texas State MPA Graduate Wins National Award

### Deborah D. Tucker (1981)

In 2012, Deborah D. Tucker, Executive Director of the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence, won the national National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration Alfred M. Zuck Public Courage Award for her decades of courageous and dedicated campaigning to reduce violence against women. Deborah's life-long mission began as a student volunteer at the Austin Rape Crisis Center in 1974, where she worked with survivors/victims under dangerous and threatening conditions (often surrounding testimony issues). Perhaps more impressively she took on male bastions of the Texas Legislature and the Texas Police departments to change time honored Texas mores and perceptions. At the time, she often faced not only unfriendly, suspicious legislators but also hostile crowds. It was not uncommon for Deborah to fear for her safety and request an escort from the Capitol Police after public testimony.

One of the keys to successful domestic violence resolution is police organization's recognition of the domestic violence problem and training officers to deal with such situations. Deborah was essential during her work in the 1970s and 1980s in changing the culture of police departments across Texas from the Capitol Police to rural sheriffs of west Texas despite resistance and outright hostility.

Deborah Tucker has gone on to achieve national and international recognize for the work she has done to end doestic and sexual violence. Her recent award is only the latest in her life long achievements. The Texas State MPA department is honored to call her an alum and sends her a heartily congragulations.



Deborah D. Tucker, Texas State MPA Graduate, and uncompromising champion of the fight against domestic violence against women. Recent headlines show her story and her fight is as relevent in 2013 as it was in 1974 when it began.

## Highly Respected MPA Graduate and Texas City Manager Retires

### Mike Tanner (1978)



Mike Tanner

After serving a 35-year career in city management, Mike Tanner has announced his retirement from public service this July. Mike was one of the first MPA graduates of Dr. Howard Balanoff and has gone on to enjoy a distinguished career as City Manager for five Texas cities (Portland, West University Place, Flower Mound, Universal City and Inglesaide). Mike announced his retirement in May of this year stating, "Being a member of the City of Portland Family has been an absolute pleasure. My tour of duty has been long as well as productive because of the outstanding city councils, highly competant staff officers and hardworking employees with whom I've been priviledged to serve." The Texas tate MPA program wishes Mike Tanner a restful and enjoyable retirment and thanks him for his long public service in Texas.

This page is dedicated to noteworthy accomplishments of Texas State University MPA alumni.

While impressive, these brief updates are a mere snapshot of our many older alumni and the undeniable impact they have had on communities across the United States during their careers.





# Alumni Highlights and Updates

The top of this page is dedicated to noteworthy accomplishments of Texas State University MPA alumni.

While impressive, these brief updates are a mere snapshot of our many older alumni and the undeniable impact they have had on communities across the United States during their careers.

The bottom half of this page is dedicated to Alumni Updates gathered in late May after the program sent out a call for updates from our many alumni. Here is a collection of their achievements since graduation.

## MPA Graduate becomes Atlanta Commissioner of Public Works

### Robert Mendoza (2007)

Former Texas State University MPA graduate, Robert Mendoza, recently became Commissioner of Public Works for Atlanta, GA. Richard Mendoza has been a municipal management executive for over fifteen years. As the Commissioner for the City of Atlanta Department of Public Works, Mendoza is responsible for managing the City's public right-of-way infrastructure, fleet of vehicle and motorized equipment, as well as solid waste administration, collections, and disposal. A former student of Dr. Patricia Shields, the program wishes Robert well during his tenure as head of Public Works in one of America's largest municipalities.



Robert Mendoza

## New Director of the Center for Local Governance is a Texas State MPA Graduate

### James Quintero (2005)

James Quintero, a graduate of the Texas State MPA program in the fall of 2005 recently became the Director of the Center for Local Governance. Quintero contacted the Department for the newsletter stating, "I just wanted to let you know about a new opportunity I was blessed to receive—serving as the Texas Public Policy Foundation's new Director of the Center for Local Governance. The focus of the new center, at least initially, will be four-fold: spending & debt; transparency; unfunded mandates; and local control. I'm sure as time progresses, the issues that we look into will expand. But this should prove to be an exciting adventure!" The Texas Public Policy Foundation is a non-profit, free-market research institute based in Austin.



James Quintero

### Amy Bresnen (2010)

Since earning her MPA at Texas State University, Amy has worked as a policy analyst in the Texas Senate's 2011 legislative session and now attends law school at St. Mary's University.

### Angela Peña de León (2011)

In October 2012 she began a new role as a College Liaison for the Center for Community College Student Engagement, a research initiative of the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin. Angela guides member colleges through the survey process including pre and post-survey administration.

### Bobby Seiferman (1995)

Since graduation Bobby has enjoyed a long career working in both advertising and accounting for several Texas newspapers between 1998 and 2012. Bobby has also been active in the community, serving as both Committee Chairman and Board Trustee for the Round Rock Independent School District in recent years. As of December 2012, Bobby works as an Agent for New York Life Insurance in Austin, TX.





# Alumni Updates I

In late May, the program sent out a call for updates from our many alumni. Here is a collection of their achievements since graduation.

## W. Brandon Tanous (2007)

Since graduation Brandon joined the Chief Auditor's Office at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality where he conducted external and internal audits as a audit project manager. In September 2010, Brandon joined the Texas Department of Public Safety Chief Auditor's Office where he conducts internal audits and advisory services as a senior internal auditor. Brandon has become a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), a Certified Government Auditing Professional (CGAP), Certification in Risk Management Assurance (CRMA), and a Certified Law Enforcement Auditor (CLEA). Brandon has co-authored a case study in the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners *Bribery and Corruption Case Book: A view from under the table*. Brandon was recently featured in the Institute of Internal Auditor's *Internal Auditor Magazine* article "Top 20 Under 30". Brandon recently finished a two year appointment as a Commissioner for the Travis County Emergency Services District No. 14. Brandon has conducted various trainings and presentations at the International Law Enforcement Auditors Association Conference (2011), Texas State Auditor's Office Conference and the IIA Southern Regional Conference (2012).

## Cameron Freberg (2011)

"I am currently working at Austin Energy as a Conservation Program Specialist in the Electric Vehicles & Emerging Technologies department. One of the projects I am working on is a US Department of Energy grant known as the "Central Texas Fuel Independence Project" that is focused on the integration of electric and natural gas vehicles into the central TX market. Also, while writing the grant proposal for the U.S. DOE, I did rely on the notebook method that Dr. Shields developed. This new project is built upon a previous grant effort known as the Texas River Cities plug-in electric vehicle initiative. This was a 500+ page comprehensive report that outlines all of the essential elements to prepare for electric vehicles. The executive outline and full report can be found at [texasrivercities.com](http://texasrivercities.com)."

## Delaina Toothman (2011)

Delaina is currently working on her doctorate at the University of Maine. Additionally, she is doing consulting work for several Maine State Elected Officials as well as the Maine Republican Party. On the side she is writing materials for Oxford Publishing for online instruction in Political Science.

## Jason Irle (2011)

Jason was hired in May 2011 by Brauntex Performing Arts Theatre Association Inc.; three days after graduation from the MPA program at Texas State University. Jason has used many of the tools the MPA program offers namely the Notebook method and skills learned in the public finance portion of the program. Over the past two years the Brauntex has increased its programming capacity and double audience participation. In an interview with the local arts council, Jason explained, "all the recent success of the Brauntex is attributed continued support of the people of New Braunfels and the skills and knowledge I accquired from the MPA program at Texas State. The program prepared me to successfully execute strategic plans and take our organization to a whole new level." Jason now serves as Vice President, President-Elect of the New Braunfels Downtown Association and continues to advocate the importance of the arts in community growth and economic stability.



# Alumni Updates II

In late May, the program sent out a call for updates from our many alumni. Here is a collection of their achievements since graduation.

## Juan Pablo Gutierrez (2006)

Juan Pablo currently serves the City of New York as Director of NYCAPS Functional Development & Analysis. In this position Juan is charged with modernizing, streamlining, and standardizing the City's complex human resource processes for 41 distinct mayoral City agencies into a state-of-the-art human resources system. He previously served the State of Texas in various positions at the Texas Department of State Health Services in Austin where he performed advanced senior-level consultative work on a variety of business improvement initiatives.

## Julissa Vela (2008)

Since graduation Julissa has completed law school at Texas Wesleyan School of Law. She was licensed to practice law in Texas in November 2011. Shortly thereafter, Julissa opened a criminal defense law firm in New Braunfels and has been in business ever since.

## Kelly Headrick (1994)

Kelly recently became the National Vice President, Field Advocacy Operations, for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN). In this capacity, she manages a team of over 150 staff nationwide as they work on public policies to help in the fight against cancer. Kelly's family has been living in the Denver, Colorado area for about seven years, after moving from Austin, Texas.

## Kelvin L. Spencer (2001)

Kelvin participated in the Environmental Protection intern program for two years after being hired in 2001. He currently works in Superfund Division Technical Enforcement Branch, Enforcement Assessment Section working on cost recovery from polluting offenders. Kelvin has 11 years of experience with environmental issues in 9 separate EPA divisions. Kelvin added, "thanks to this great program MPA SWT and my Graduate adviser Dr. Shield, great friend of mine. I love all of my professors."

## Ruth Anne Thornton (2010)

Ruth is currently employed at the Office of the Attorney General - Child Support Division as a program specialist. Her primary area of responsibility is agency family violence policy; she manages the Child Support and Family Violence Education and Outreach project, the purpose of which is to support safe access to child support services for survivors of family violence. She adds, "As part of this work, I have had the privilege of serving on statewide workgroups and participating in national roundtables examining economic justice issues for family violence survivors and providing technical assistance to other states' child support programs interested in developing their own family violence collaboration. I am grateful to the MPA program for the project management skills I learned thought the ARP process - my professional focus area is only peripherally related to my ARP topic, but the process by which I learned to organize and complete that project have served me every day and enabled me to much more effectively serve the State of Texas."

## Travis Whetsell (2011)

"I am currently a second year PhD student at The John Glenn School of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University. During my first year I continued my publication interests in public philosophy, receiving an acceptance to *Administration & Society* for a manuscript coauthored with Patricia M. Shields, entitled "The Dynamics of Positivism in the Study of Public Administration". I also won the Robert Backoff award at JGSPA for this article. I am currently working for Caroline Wagner at the Battelle Center for Science & Technology Policy."





# The Texas Certified Public Manager Program

## NEWS IN THE CPM PROGRAM

### 2013 CPM Graduation

Texas State University's William P. Hobby Center for Public Service graduated fifty new Texas Certified Public Managers at the Texas State Capitol on Monday June 10, 2013. The CPM graduates and their families came from CPM Programs across Texas. The CPM graduation speaker, Dr. Dee Ellis, Executive Director of the Texas Health Commission spoke about the need for public service and congratulated the graduates on achieving their CPM certification and choosing the fulfilling profession of public service.



Round Rock CPM Graduates with Dr. Howard Balanoff (far right), Director of the Texas CPM Program.

### CPM Goes International!

Texas State University's William P. Hobby Center for Public Service is preparing to start a pilot Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program in the countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Completion of the Program would result in public and not-for-profit managers in those countries receiving the designation of Certified Public Manager. In May 2013 faculty from the CPM program traveled to Latvia and Lithuania to work out details for beginning the pilot program in the Baltics. Several international faculty members were identified and have agreed to participate, building upon an already 15-year relationship. At the present time about a dozen graduate students/practitioners are being chosen to participate from both the Baltic countries and the US. These students will all participate in the one year CPM Program which is scheduled to begin sometime in September 2013.



The expansion of the CPM program overseas is yet another example that Texas State University is, indeed, the Rising Star of Texas.

### CPM Attends the Texas City Managers Association Conference

The Texas State CPM program was a major participant at the 2013 Texas City Management Association (TCMA) Conference which was held from June 20 – 23, 2013 in San Marcos, Texas. The Hobby Center provided a series of sessions for TCMA Conference participants and presented three TCMA Barney Knight Scholarships to Texas City Management Association members. The MPA program was also recognize with Texas State MPA Graduate Mike Eastland, Executive Director of the North Central Texas Council of Governments receiving a plaque recognizing his 40 years of service to the Texas City Management profession.

The Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program, housed in Texas State University's William P. Hobby Center for Public Service, and directed by Dr. Howard Balanoff, is designed for current professionals in public service who are seeking career advancement.

The CPM program, while not a part of the MPA program at Texas State, is stationed in the same building and maintains a close working relationship with the MPA program.

For more information visit the web site at: [www.txstate.edu/cpm](http://www.txstate.edu/cpm)



# Board of Regents

The Texas State University System's mission is to provide a high-quality education that is affordable and accessible in order to enrich the lives of all potential students and enable them to become productive and contributing members of society.

The Texas State University System is governed by a nine-member Board of Regents appointed by the governor. In addition, a nonvoting student regent is appointed annually to the board. The administration, which is headed by a board-appointed chancellor, is based in Austin, where it provides support to the System components and state government.

Donna N. Williams  
Chairman  
Arlington

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Vice Chairman  
Horseshoe Bay

Charlie Amato  
Regent  
San Antonio

Vernon Reaser III  
Regent  
Bellaire

Dr. Jaime R. Garza  
Regent  
San Antonio

Rossanna Salazar  
Regent  
Austin

Kevin J. Lilly  
Regent  
Houston

William F. Scott  
Regent  
Nederland

David Montagne  
Regent  
Beaumont

Matthew Russell  
Student Regent  
San Marcos

