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Scholars who **Serve**

THE COLLEGE OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND URBAN AFFAIRS

THE
PUBLIC
SERVANT

Fall 2011

Message from the Department Head

Dear alumni, current students, colleagues and community members-

Please take a moment to learn about the accomplishments and activities of the Department of Public Administration, in the College of Public Service and Urban Affairs at Tennessee State University. We house a NASPAA-accredited [Masters in Public Administration](#); the sole [PhD](#) program in Public Administration offered by a public institution in the state of Tennessee; two graduate certificates in [Nonprofit Management](#) and [Healthcare Administration and Planning](#); and the [Masters in Professional Studies](#) (a Regents Online Campus Collaborative online degree).

For many years, the public administration faculty of Tennessee State University have issued a publication each semester which highlights the work of our students, alumni and faculty. This email series, while in a different format, continues that tradition of [The Public Servant](#). Please continue to look for news from our College, led by Dean Bruce Rogers, and our new sister department, the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Urban Professions, led by Dr. Oscar Miller, Jr. This is also a special year for all of us, as our University enjoys its [centennial anniversary](#) - please join our community in celebrating TSU's distinguished past and bright future.

Finally, I encourage alumni to stay in touch. We encourage any and all submissions of accomplishments, awards, career changes, life events or just a change of address. Simply visit our website at www.tnstate.edu/cpsua and look for the [Alumni Contact Form](#) invitation at the top of the home page - it only takes a moment. Job postings and other news are also available at our site, and we are eager to hear how we can better serve you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rodney Stanley
Professor and Department Head, Department of Public Administration
rstanley1@tnstate.edu

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ALUMNI NEWS

ADVANCED STUDY. Recent alumna **LaToya Trotter ('11, MPA)** begins her legal studies the University of Tennessee College of Law in Knoxville, Tennessee this Fall. The University of Tennessee College of Law is the only ABA-accredited law school in the East Tennessee region. LaToya aspires to start her career as a District Attorney and continue to work as a government attorney throughout her career.



LaToya Trotter ('11, MPA)

HONORS. Alumna **Emily Gregg ('11, MPA)** was inducted into the national honor society for public affairs and administration, [Pi Alpha Alpha](#), on April 26, 2011 at a special recognition luncheon for CPSUA graduates and alumni. Membership is based on a high level of academic achievement; Pi Alpha Alpha is a national honor society that recognizes outstanding scholarship and accomplishment in the field of public affairs and administration, and seeks to foster integrity, professionalism and effective performance in the conduct of government and related public service activities. For more information, please contact [Dr. Rodney Stanley](#).

IN THE NEWS. **Dr. Carlos Thomas ('06, PhD)** was [featured](#) in a March 2011 special feature by Dr. Boyce Watkins in AOL's *Black Voices on Money*. Having receiving his PhD in public administration at TSU, he pursued a second (!) Ph.D. in Information Systems and Decision Sciences. Dr. Thomas is now an assistant professor of information systems and operations management at Southern University.

PROFESSIONAL DISTINCTIONS. **Dr. Jill Pittman ('11, PhD)** was installed as an Executive Board member of Professional Educators of Tennessee in June. PET is a growing state association that represents over 5,000 pre-service and K-12 public school educators. She was also accepted as a member of Leadership Nashville's Class of 2011-2012.

Alumnus **Dr. Curtis Nolen ('10, PhD)**, Assistant Professor in Clinical Practice Management at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, was voted Outstanding Faculty Member for 2010-2011 by students in the School of Allied Health Sciences.

NEW POSITIONS. We congratulate alumna **Cheri Carter Rand ('09, Health Cert., '10, MPA)** on her new position as a Benefit Specialist with the State of Tennessee Department of Treasury.

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STUDENT NEWS

INTERNSHIPS. Three of our students students - **Halima Labi (MPA)**, **Lindsay Gilmore (PhD)**, and **Amanda Hoover (MPA)** - obtained internships with the Tennessee Legislature this spring. MPA student **Keilani Goggins** was awarded a prestigious NextGen

award from the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance to fund summer internships. Keilani worked at the Tennessee Department of Education on Race to the Top policy initiatives. Two students completed Public Service Internships in Summer 2011 through a joint program of the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) and participating schools. **Michael Thompson (MPA, '11)** served in the City of La Vergne; **current MPA student Aris Walker** served in the City of Franklin. **Laronda Henderson (MPA)** interned this summer with [Oasis Center](#).

RESEARCH. **Marie Martin**, current PhD student and Senior Program Manager, Education and Training at the Vanderbilt Institute of Global Health, has a new paper in the British Medical Journal (Vermund SH, Audet CM, Martin MH, Heimbürger DH. Training programmes in global health. *BMJ* 2010;341:c6860). We also congratulate Marie and **Dr. Arie Halachmi** on their recent paper accepted for publication, titled "Public-Private Partnerships in Global Health: Addressing Issues of Public Accountability, Risk Management and Governance" which will appear in the symposium Accountability, Good Governance and Public Private Partnership (PPP) of the journal *Public Administration Quarterly*. **Cliff Lippard**, current PhD student and Associate Executive Director of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR), will present the paper "Intergovernance: Intergovernmental Relations in an Era of Post-Traditional Governance" at the 2011 Southern Political Science Association meeting in December.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES. Current PhD student **Mark Fulks** (Senior Counsel and Appellate Team Leader, Office of the Attorney General & Reporter) was one of three candidates recommended to the Governor by the Judicial Nominating Commission in June, to fill a vacancy on the Court of Criminal Appeals created by the retirement of Judge David H. Welles.

SERVICE. MPA students participated with CPSUA undergraduates in the College's student organization, **Nonprofit Leaders Association of TSU (NLA-TSU)**. NLA-TSU conducted a Food Drive during the months of March and April 2011, collecting over 500 lbs of food. Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee collected the food donations, sorted and inspected the food, and distributed the food to nonprofit organizations that serve Middle Tennessee.

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FACULTY NEWS

TRANSITIONS. The faculty of the Department of Public Administration congratulate our colleague and former CPSUA Assistant Dean, **Dr. A. Dexter Samuels**, on his new position as Vice President for Student Affairs at Tennessee State University. While we will miss his dedicated administrative, scholarly, and teaching contributions, we know that in this new role Dr. Samuels will bring excellent leadership and support to all TSU students, and the University community will benefit as a result.

We are pleased to welcome a new faculty member to the Department of Public Administration, **Dr.**

Lisaann Gittner, who joins us following the retirement of Dr. Chet Robinson. Dr. Gittner received her doctorate in Health Policy, Public Administration and Urban Studies from the University of Akron in 2009. She brings extensive research experience in the area of health policy, having served as Director of Research in academic, healthcare, and pharmaceutical settings. Dr. Gittner's publications have appeared in the *Journal of Medical Ethics*, *Obesity*, and *The Permanente Journal*. She has engaged in multiple funded research projects on topics including electronic self-management resource training to reduce health disparities, and a church-based heart health initiative. She brings her expertise to our students by teaching research methods, statistics, and health policy topics.

GRANTS. Dr. Ann-Marie Rizzo and colleagues from Engineering and Business were awarded a University grant to finance a study abroad experience. CPSUA graduate and undergraduate students travelled to China in May 2011 for study abroad, led by Dr. Rizzo along with Dr. Chen (Business) and Dr. Hargrove (Engineering). The group learned about China's economy, governmental institutions and business environment, with an itinerary including Beijing, Shanghai, and Tianjin.

Dr. Lisaann Gittner brings to TSU her recently awarded grant, "Identifying Survivorship Needs of African American Breast Cancer Survivors: a Pilot Study" from the Komen Foundation. The grant involves a pilot study to conduct focus groups of African-American women who are reproductive cancer survivors and to develop the knowledge base so an appropriate support system can be designed.

SCHOLARSHIP. Dr. Arie Halachmi continued his travels as a distinguished internationally-known scholar in the field of public administration, including work in Anogeia, Greece (see photo) where he met with scholars and public officials. His 2005 article published in the *International Journal of Public Sector Management* has recently been honored by inclusion in Emerald Reading List Assist - learn more in this [Sun Yat-Sen University piece on Dr. Halachmi](#). He has a longterm affiliation with that Chinese university.

Dr. Meg Streams had a paper accepted for publication: Kukla Acevedo, S., M.E. Streams, E.F. Toma. in press, 2011. "Can a Single Performance Metric Do it All? A Case



Prof. Arie Halachmi (center) meets with Anogeia Mayor Sokratis Kefalogiannis, Ms Vrentzou, project manager of EU cofunded projects, and colleagues.

Study in Education Accountability." *American Review of Public Administration*.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION. TSU's Avon Williams Campus once again hosted the Tennessee Political Science Association regional conference on April 16, 2011. **Dr. Rodney Stanley**, Public Administration department head, serves as the organization's secretary. Dr. Stanley also moderated a panel discussing public policy issues in Tennessee.

For the 2011-2012 fiscal year, **Dr. Meg Streams** serves as President of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (TN-ASPA). In this role, she leads the Executive Council in organizing monthly "Third Thursday Lunchtime Lectures," held at Avon Williams campus. These noontime sessions are free and open to the public, serving as a venue for public and nonprofit professionals to speak to interested members, students, faculty and community members about their organizations and current issues in the field. TN-ASPA also hosts an annual all-day Fall Symposium, this year to be held on Friday December 9 at Avon Williams Campus (to learn more, contact Dr. Streams or [sign up for updates](#)).

Many CPSUA faculty and students attended or participated in last year's TN-ASPA symposium, held December 10 at the Avon Williams Campus: **Dean Bruce Rogers** and **Drs. Rizzo and Gibran** provided a panel presentation on "Public Administration: State of the Profession"; **Dr. Streams** moderated a panel on Tennessee's success in the Race to the Top Federal grant competition; and alumnus **Dr. Greg Schutz ('07, PhD)**, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research and Assessment at Tennessee Board of Regents moderated a panel on "Budgeting in a Retrenchment Environment." Keynote speakers were Ed Cole, Executive Director, Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee and Chancellor John Morgan of the Tennessee Board of Regents.

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SPOTLIGHTS

CPSUA STUDENTS AND FACULTY VOLUNTEER IN 2011 POINT IN TIME HOMELESS COUNT EFFORT FOR NASHVILLE DAVIDSON COUNTY

Six CPSUA students (**Abayomi Atolagbe, '11 MPA and Healthcare Certificate; Carlton Adkins, Healthcare Certificate; Lindsay Gilmore, PhD; DaMicheal McLean, BSUS; Chris Moore, BSUS; and Jermaine Johnson, BSUS**) participated with **Dr. Meg Streams** in the annual Point in Time Homeless Count effort coordinated by the Metropolitan Housing Development Agency in the very early, very cold hours of the morning between 1:30am and 5am on February 2, 2011. The Point in Time Count is a Federally-mandated activity for the agency to receive funding for services for the homeless; teams of volunteers are assigned to quadrants throughout Davidson County to conduct the count. **PhD student Lindsay Gilmore** observed, "I am glad to know that my volunteer work will be beneficial to getting the homeless of Nashville the resources necessary to make better accommodations than the interstate bridge. Seeing fellow members of CPSUA as well as community members come together for the common goal of helping others identifies with our goals as public service leaders."

STUDENT VOICE - MPA STUDENT GAINS VALUABLE EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTER FOR SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

MPA student **Brittany Sims** shared the following insights into her work through AmeriCorps VISTA and as a graduate assistant in TSU's Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement:

"The Triple Impact Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) is a youth mentoring program funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health. It is a collaborative effort between Tennessee State University's Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement, Oasis Center, and the Metro Nashville Public School System to increase the academic and health outcomes of college and high school students. This partnership promotes positive youth development by providing mentoring, academic support, health education, plus coping skills and leadership training. The five goals of the program are: Academic Enrichment, Personal Development and Wellness, Life Skills through Service Learning and Civic Engagement, Cultural Enrichment, and Career Development.

Students at Pearl Cohn and Pearl Cohn 9th Grade Academy at McKissack are mentored by TSU college students through experiences designed to enhance their academic performance, basic life skills, self-esteem, and personal resiliency. All partner organizations coordinate efforts to provide caring adults; structured weekly programming; and opportunities for the youth to develop healthy lifestyle behaviors and to achieve academically. The curriculum includes sessions on violence prevention, safety, nutrition, fitness, coping strategies for avoiding drugs and alcohol, men's/women's issues, healthy sexuality, adolescent development, and leadership. YEP brings together resources of the university, the schools, and the community in ways that are mutually beneficial for all partners.

As the graduate assistant/mentor coordinator, my role is to recruit, train, and supervise all TSU college student mentors. I match them with mentees, track their service hours, and encourage them be the best mentors and role models they can be to the high school youth. I also assist the director and Youth Engagement Specialist in coordinating all activities and community service initiatives. I participate in workshops and special events with the kids, and I administer assessment tools for grant reporting. I help write and edit YEP literature, as well as manage the website. Although my specific role is to work with the mentors, I assist in every capacity needed since we have such a small staff. I first began working with YEP in March 2010 as an AmeriCorps VISTA member, and will continue working with the program until the end of my graduate assistantship in May 2012. Being a part of the Youth Empowerment Program has been a wonderful learning opportunity and invaluable work experience."

STUDENT VOICE - PHD STUDENT SUCCEEDS IN GRANT EFFORT FOR HBCU WELLNESS PROJECT

PhD student **Harold Moses Love, Jr.** is working to bring resources to bear on community health issues, in a way that involves students; he provided the following information about this project.

"The HBCU Wellness Project is a collaboration between The Meharry Medical College and Tennessee State University. This collaboration is a pilot demonstration project that

involves the recruitment and training of up to 25 undergraduate students who will ultimately develop health and wellness IRB-approved projects focusing on HIV/AIDS, infant mortality, obesity reduction and breast cancer. These projects will target the reduction and elimination of conditions that disproportionately impact the citizens of Tennessee by promoting healthy changes in behaviors, knowledge and attitudes.

Tennessee State University has a rich history of training leaders to engage the community around the campus as well as the larger society. With the humble beginning as a training school for teachers that evolved into one of the nation's top universities, Tennessee State University maintains its commitment to developing students that will 'enter to learn and go forth to serve.' The HBCU Wellness Project not only aligns with TSU's mission but also allows the students and faculty to continue the community engagement and transformation tradition that has woven Tennessee State University into the fabric of the lives of the surrounding community. Health disparities can't be eradicated by governmental efforts alone. It will take public-private partnerships to bring balance to resource allocation of tools that are necessary to improve the health of all Tennesseans. The HBCU Wellness Project is vital to enhancing our students' understanding of how service learning and civic engagement can make our communities better.

The funding for this project is \$135,000. My involvement with the project began as I was organizing the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity "Day on Capitol Hill" event for 2010. I was looking for a piece of legislation that the members of the fraternity could speak with their legislators about, and I chose the HBCU Wellness Project. The Directors of the Meharry Project believed that our involvement was a crucial part of their program being funded for that year and wanted to support initiatives that the fraternity was interested in. I was made aware of the fact that TSU had been requesting to participate in the program for about three years but had no success. My request was simple: please allow TSU to participate as a demonstration project to see if we could impact our community in a positive way in health initiatives. The request was granted and funded for \$135,000 with one addendum-I was to run the program since I was familiar with it."

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