



Department of

PUBLIC

Administration

at The University of Texas at San Antonio

FALL 2008



## Chair's Welcome

There are many exciting developments that are happening in the MPA program. We are very pleased to announce the addition of two new faculty members to the department, Dr. Tansu Demir and Dr. Branco Ponomariov. You can read about their accomplishments in this edition of the newsletter.

We have doubled our enrollment from when the MPA program moved to the downtown campus in early 2000, from around 70 students to almost 140 currently. We have added a half-time administrative associate, Ms. Keneka Garrett, to meet the needs of our students for internship placements. Please feel free to contact her if you have any questions about internships. Also, please congratulate Ms. Jo Reyes for being the recipient of the College's Dean's Staff Excellence award this year.

We are in the final stages of the graduate program proposal of a Master's of Science in Urban and Regional Planning, a joint degree program with the College of Architecture. As a result, we expect to start offering more classes in urban planning in the near future that MPA students will be able to take as electives. We are also working on a proposal of a graduate certificate in nonprofit management, which will provide more specialized training in this important area. We are hiring two faculty members this coming academic year to start fall of 2009, one of them with a specialization in urban planning and the other with financial management and economics.

In this edition of the newsletter there is a report from our GAR, biographies on our two new faculty members, profiles of two MPA students as well as our 2008-2009 scholarship winners.

As always, I welcome any feedback on the MPA program.

Christopher G. Reddick  
Associate Professor and Chair

## A Note from Dr. Francine S. Romero Graduate Advisor of Record

Welcome to the Fall 2008 semester. This is a great time for the MPA program, with so many talented new students on board, some of whom have moved to San Antonio just to join us. Our faculty and staff are all more than happy to help you with any questions or needs that may arise.

Graduate programs require a great deal of time and effort and we appreciate that. That's why we want to do whatever we can to help you succeed in the program. If you need help with the various challenges of graduate education we can help direct you to Graduate School's sponsored programs. If you are finding it challenging to keep up with your coursework, I encourage you to talk to your professor for some advice on how to improve your reading, writing, and studying skills, or just on graduate school time management in particular. (We have all been through this too, so we might be able to help!) And, please make sure to keep in touch with your assigned faculty advisor, particularly as you start planning your Spring 2009 courses. In particular, if Dr. Rahm was your assigned advisor, please contact Ms. Garrett or myself and we will assign you a new one.

It is important for all students to take ownership of their graduate education. Please make sure you have copies of both the UTSA Graduate Catalog and our MPA Student Handbook. The answers to many of your questions on policies and procedures can be found in these documents. They can also help ensure you meet important deadlines and have fulfilled all graduation requirements.

There are two deadlines in particular of which we want to make students aware. First, requesting a waiver of the internship requirement needs to be done the semester *prior* to the semester you plan to graduate. The procedures for requesting this waiver are in the MPA Student Handbook. Second, if you are planning on beginning a Spring 2009 internship, you must have all forms completed by **November 1**.

## Faculty Spotlight

### Dr. Tansu Demir

Ph.D., Florida Atlantic University

Tansu Demir is a new assistant professor to UTSA's MPA Program, having previously taught at the University of Illinois at Springfield, Florida Atlantic University and the University of Central Florida. Dr. Demir's research interests include public administration theory, bureaucratic politics, and public policy process. The products of his research have been published in such journals as *Public Administration Review*, *Administration & Society* and *International Journal of Public Administration* as well as a book chapter in Handbook of Public Policy Analysis: Theory, Politics, and Methods, published by Taylor & Francis Group.



Photo by Harold Kiolbasa

### Dr. Branco Ponomariov

Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology

Dr. Ponomariov comes to UTSA's MPA program after having taught as a visiting assistant professor in the Graduate Program of Public Administration at the University of Illinois - Chicago. His research broadly addresses the public management implications of changes in public policy and his current topical specializations include career trajectories of public servants, outsourcing in the public sector, and science and technology policy. His recent work appears in journals such as *Public Administration Review*, *Journal of Technology Transfer*, *Public Organization Review*, and *Journal of Higher Education*. Additionally, Dr. Ponomariov has been funded as a co-primary investigator through the NSF for a two-year grant.



Photo by Harold Kiolbasa

### New Internship Deadlines!

Students needing to complete their internship requirement for their program of study must begin the paperwork for Spring 2009 internships by **November 1st**.

This deadline reflects the requirements for the University's new agreement policies. Please contact Keneka M. Garrett, Administrative Associate II, for assistance at (210) 458-2534.

For Summer 2009 internships, the deadline is April 1.  
For Fall 2009, July 1.

## MPA Scholarship Recipients

MPA Program scholarship recipients for the 2008-2009 academic year are:

### Christopher Anderson

MPA New Admit (GIT) Scholarship

### Jose De La Cruz

The Department of Public Administration  
Graduate Student (GIT) Scholarship

### Carla Gomez

MPA New Admit (GIT) Scholarship

### Gyna Renee Gonzales

The Department of Public Administration  
Graduate Student (GIT) Scholarship

Generations Federal Credit Union Tuition Scholarship  
(formerly City of San Antonio Federal Credit Union)

### Claudia Picos Harding

The Department of Public Administration  
Graduate Student (GIT) Scholarship

Dominion Rotary Club Past President's Fund  
Scholarship

Presidential Scholarship

### Ross Johnson

MPA New Admit (GIT) Scholarship

### Shuchi Nagpal

The Department of Public Administration  
Graduate Student (GIT) Scholarship

MPA New Admit (GIT) Scholarship

Ivor H. and Sewell M. Schultz Scholarship  
(administered through the UTSA Alumni Office)

### Elizabeth Severance

The Rubén Munguía Scholarship  
in Public Administration

### Aaron Stein

The Department of Public Administration  
Graduate Student (GIT) Scholarship

Presidential Scholarship

## From Our Students

### ***My Internship Experience : United Way Claudia Picos Harding, Current MPA Student***

Spring 2008 Intern

During the Spring 2008 semester I was given the opportunity to intern at our local United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County. As an intern I worked with the Children's Issue Council, which is one of three Issue Councils under the Partners in Community Change unit. Our local United Way is committed to addressing the needs of the community and believes that in order to address those needs, it is crucial to first address the factors surrounding them. The Children's Issue Council, in particular, addresses the needs of children from newborns through age five in the 78207 and 78237 zip codes. The council's goal is to help children in these low-income areas be better prepared to enter school by giving parents much needed education and information to assist with their child's development.

Under the Children's Issue Council I worked on a variety of projects. During my six-month internship I designed the monthly newsletter, which provides partner agencies in San Antonio with parenting tips, free resource information, and success stories. For the success stories, I interviewed participating parents to share personal triumphs and spread the word about the agency's services.

The internship also gave me the chance to take part in events around the San Antonio area, the first of which involved block walking with Senator Carlos Uresti's Blue Ribbon Task Force. The mission of the group is to prevent child abuse and neglect in San Antonio and, as a participant, I was able to document the event for our newsletter and assist Senator Uresti as he canvassed.

For another event, *Kids Day in the Park*, I served as a planning committee member, acquiring in-kind donations for this free citywide event dedicated to San Antonio's children. The event provided kid-friendly activities, social service information geared towards families, and simply a fun day to enjoy San Pedro Springs Park. Kids Day was a huge success this year with over 8,000 people attending!

One of the final projects I began to work on through the Children's Issue Council was the Kimmelman Scholarship, which financially assists parents with childcare as they attend school or work full-time. I am actually still working part-time with the Kimmelman Scholarship.

The opportunities afforded by this internship have been many and I am grateful to the Director, Ms. Toni-Marie VanBuren, for her enthusiasm and willingness to teach me. I am also grateful to the whole council for making room for me in their corner of the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County.

### ***On Choosing the UTSA MPA Program Mary Peters, Current MPA Student 2010 Graduate***

For me, the MPA program at UTSA is a true learning experience. I distinguish it as "learning" experience because I went through my undergraduate studies in the mid '80s at a record pace - earning my BBA from St. Mary's University just 3 years after high school graduation with such an emphasis on finishing that I didn't optimize the value of the experience.



Soon thereafter, marriage, children, and a career that started in the private sector (medical billing), then transitioned to small business development work at the City of San Antonio and here for the past 17+ years at UTSA's Institute for Economic Development, took priority over returning to the classroom. But after years of encouragement by my supervisor and the physical and permanent move of my program (the Small Business Development Center) to the UTSA Downtown Campus, I well... ran out of excuses to start!

I enrolled in the MPA program in 2005 and have been taking advantage of the UTSA partial tuition benefit, moving slowly but manageably through my studies in an effort to nurture a delicate family/career/education balance. Unlike my undergraduate pace, I'm moving through coursework with an emphasis on applying new classroom knowledge to my daily work. Electives, such as the MIS course for public sector managers and regional/urban economic development planning, have helped me take advantage of truly career-applicable learning opportunities from professors that really care.

I am confident that my investment of time, energy, and money will bear fruit: Future career opportunities and a keener perspective on the vast disciplines underlying success in public sector administration and management.

## Spring 2009 Course Schedule

CRN	PAD	Sec	Course Title	CrHr	Days	Times	Bldg-Room	Instructor
24384	5003	901	Introduction to Public Administration	3.0	R	5:30-8:15 PM	BV 3.324	Nank, Renee
24385	5023	901	Quantitative Methods-Public Administration	3.0	T	5:30-8:15 PM	DB 2.228	Sanders, Heywood
22873	5033	901	Theories of Public Organization	3.0	M	5:30-8:15 PM	FS 2.520	Staff
25374	5233	901	Scope and Methods of Inquiry	3.0	W	5:30 – 8:15 PM	DB 3.218	Ponomariov, Branco
21577	5323	901	Public Policy Formulation & Implementation	3.0	M	5:30-8:15 PM	BV 3.328	Ponomariov, Branco
21578	5343	901	Human Resource Mgt. in the Public Sector	3.0	T	5:30-8:15 PM	BV 3.326	Demir, Tansu
21579	5393	901	Economics for Public Administration	3.0	W	5:30-8:15 PM	BV 2.306	Reddick, Chris
21497	6923	901	Applied Research	3.0	R	5:30-8:15 PM	BV 3.328	Romero, Francine
24899	5573	901	Public Policy & Policymaking in SA	3.0	R	5:30-8:15 PM	BV 1.312	Sanders, Heywood
26278	5913	901	Nonprofit Organizations	3.0	T	5:30-8:15 PM	BV 3.318	Staff
25554	5943	901	Strategic Planning and Management for Public and Nonprofit Organizations	3.0	M	5:30-8:15 PM	DB 3.214	Demir, Tansu

Please note: In addition to the courses listed above, each semester offers Internships (PAD 6963 , 6) and Independent Studies (PAD 6953) opportunities. Please visit ASAP [<https://asap.utsa.edu/>] for specific course information or to register for classes.

## Public Administration Contact Information

Name	Office	Office Phone	Email Address
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<b>Dr. Renee Nank</b> Assistant Professor	DB 4.244	210.458.2621	renee.nank@utsa.edu
<b>Dr. Branco L. Ponomariov</b> Assistant Professor	DB 4.246	210.458.2619	branco.ponomariov@utsa.edu
<b>Dr. Chris Reddick</b> Associate Professor and Department Chair	DB 4.114D	210.458.2501	chris.reddick@utsa.edu
<b>Dr. Francine S. Romero</b> Associate Professor and Graduate Advisor of Record	DB 4.230	210.458.2630	francine.romero@utsa.edu
<b>Dr. Heywood Sanders</b> Professor	DB 4.232	210.458.2538	heywood.sanders@utsa.edu

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[www.utsa.edu/copp/PA/publicAdmin.html](http://www.utsa.edu/copp/PA/publicAdmin.html)