## Changes, connections and competitive advantages

By Dr. Julie Olberding

As many of you know, I assumed the role of MPA director in Fall 2010 because Dr. Shamima Ahmed was selected to serve as chair of the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice, initially on an interim basis and now on a more permanent basis. In her new role. Dr. Ahmed oversees five academic programs including the MPA program with nearly 30 full-time faculty and 1,500 students. We are fortunate that Dr. Ahmed will continue to teach in the MPA program and support it in her new role.

I am honored to serve as director of NKU's MPA program, which has made great strides in recent years. A key reason for this progress is the hard work and accomplishments of our faculty, staff, alumni and students, which are highlighted in this newsletter. In addition to these individual accomplishments, we have worked together to raise the profile of the program by connecting to public administration professionals and groups in Northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati.

One key connector has been the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration. Each year GCC-ASPA hires an intern and, during the past four years, the organization has selected an NKU MPA student – most recently Tracy Wilking. Further, each year GCC-ASPA recognizes an outstanding student at its Public Administrator of the Year Awards Luncheon and, during

the past three years, the organization has chosen an NKU MPA student for this award – most recently Lynne Ausman.

Another way that NKU's MPA program has connected to the "real world" is by inviting practitioners to teach some classes and to speak at special events. Our newest adjunct instructor is Dina Minecci, Township Administrator of Liberty Township, Chio. She taught Human Resource Management in Fall 2010 and will teach it again in Summer 2011.

Our guest speakers in the past have included noteworthy elected officials and public administrators such as David Pepper, Milton Dohoney and O'dell Owens. The next special event will be the MPA/ ASPA dinner on Thursday, February

## Dr. Lambert to join faculty

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Thomas Lambert will join NKUs MPA program as an assistant professor, starting in Fall 2011. He has a Ph.D. in Public and Urban Affairs from the University of Louisville and more than 10 years of teaching experience, most recently in the Indiana University system.

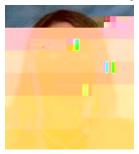
Dr. Lambert has taught courses similar to those in NKU's MPA program, including public policy, budgeting, urban economic development, research methods and statistics. He will teach a course in our Homeland Security and Emergency Management area of

concentration and will advise students in this area.

Dr. Lambert has authored more than a dozen articles in academic journals on topics including emergency management services (EMS), enterprise zones, casinos, state taxes and highway expenditures. Further, he has been involved in applied research with various government agencies and nonprofit organizations. For example, he co-authored a report on the costs and benefits of Kentucky's Early Childhood Initiative for the state Department of Education. Welcome Dr. Lambert!

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# MPA faculty keep busy with research and projects



For the past few years, Dr. Julie Oberding has focused on student philanthropy in her teaching, research and service. In Fall 2010, her Resource Acquisition and Management class partnered with Toyota through NKU's Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project. In Summer 2010, Dr. Oberding co-authored Student Philanthropy: A Handbook for College and University Faculty, which provides research and best practices related to this pedagogy. She also authored or co-authored two manuscripts on student philanthropy. One manuscript is a quasiexperimental study the impacts of the philanthropy experience on student participants, and the other analyzes the longer-term impacts - one to 10 years after the experience - on alumni.



Dr. Shamima Ahmed presented an article at the Brooklyn Law School's conference on Nongovernment Organizations (NGO's) and their accountability. The article title is "Assessing the Impact of NGOs on International Organizations." Dr. Ahmed has recently published an article (co-author Allison Adams, MPA alum) in Public Performance & Management Review on "Web Recruiting in Government Organization: A Case Study of the Northern Kentucky/ Greater Cincinnati Metropolitan Region." She participated in a NASPAA site visit team to review the University of San Jose's MPA Program. This past summer, she offered a study abroad course in Bangladesh on "Grameen Bank and Micro-Credit."

During the past year, **Dr. Hongmei Wang** has published one article in the International Journal of Information Systems and Social Change. Also, three of her peer-reviewed papers were either presented or accepted for conferences. In addition, Dr. Wang has served the university on the Faculty Benefits Committee and Presidential Policy Committee on Intellectual Property.



Dr. Gary Mattson presented a workshop at the Kentucky Area Planning Association's Spring Conference. It was entitled "Small Town Mini Economic Engines: Key Tools for Main Street Revival." Last winter, Dr. Mattson was invited to be the key speaker for Sherwood Anderson Weekend in Clyde, Chio. His paper was, "How Would Winnesberg, Chio Fare in Today's Economy?" Dr. Mattson also served on the academic advisory board for "Taking Sides: Clashing Wews for Political Issues."





**Dr. Edward Kwon** has presented a paper, "Managing a Financial Orisis," at the 51st International Studies Association Annual Convention in New Orleans, LA. He also served as a panel discussant and a panel chair at the ISA Convention. He reviewed two books and an article from scholarly journal and book publishers. Dr. Kwon is working on several research projects on corporate governance and international security. He is serving the advisor of the Model United Nations Student Organization and participated in the AMUN Conference.



Dr. Fred Rhynhart has worked on a pro bono appeal that involves both administrative law and criminal justice. The case is Gerald Barker v. Commonwealth. He took it pro bono when the Kentucky Bar Association asked the membership to help the Department of Public Advocacy after budget cuts in 2008. Professor Rhynhart wrote the brief to the Court of Appeals, which decided 2 to 1 for the Commonwealth {2008-CA-01312}. He also wrote the Motion for Discretionary Review to the Kentucky Supreme Court, which granted the motion in August 2010. He wrote the brief to the Kentucky Supreme Court in October 2010.

### By Lynne Ausman, MPA 2010

MPA students traveled to Bangladesh in July 2010 to learn about micro-credit and social businesses from Nobel Peace Prize

#### By Deborah Kittner

I have been a proud graduate of the NKU MPA program since 2007. Like many students who enter the program, I brought various educational, professional, and personal experiences with me that would be steadily stretched and refined by the time graduation day arrived. My education included a bachelor's degree in international affairs from NKU and another in French from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). Professionally, I worked in the nonprofit sector at the Global Center of Greater Cincinnati. Prior to that, I had worked at American Airlines and American Express Corporate Travel Management.

Only one year after receiving my MPA, I was accepted in the University of Cincinnati's geography graduate program. Today I am a Ph.D. student and teaching assistant with the intention of graduating in 2012.

Reflecting on my time as an MPA student, I now realize that

the program in its entirety broadened the scope through which I evaluate the world, both locally and globally. The small class sizes afforded direct access to and personalized assistance from professors as well as a supportive environment for quality peer discussion. The curriculum provided new skills and knowledge about the public and government sectors that I had previously never realized. My classmates included working professionals from these unfamiliar places. They added valuable information about issues that we considered in class. It was not only a benefit to hear about important issues in the public sector but also as a means to directly connect and network in this sector.

Frequently, leaders from regional government or nonprofit organizations supplemented our courses by coming to speak. The rigorous and applicable currectulum gave

me and my classmates the 71.1cs2v-a]TJn7w(0etor bpra25 U)5.9( Mow realize that)-6.3(3011 1261/ Cs6 414 1 scr

#### By Dustin Lester, MPA Student

In Spring 2010, MPA students were informed about the Murray & Agnes Seasongood Good Government Foundation Internship with the City of Cincinnati, Ohio. It is designed to give students who are interested in pursuing careers in public administration or public policy an opportunity to gain valuable experience in a large local government. I was selected as one of five interns for the summer and was placed in the

Oty of Cincinnati's Department of Planning. Seasongood staff pointed to the work I had completed in Dr. Gary Mattson's Planning and Community Development (PAD 660) class as an important qualification.

The experience in the City of Cincinnati's Department of