

**By Julie Cencula Olberding
MPA Director**

During the past year, the MPA faculty and staff have focused much time and energy on the NASPAA re-accreditation process. We worked together to develop the self-study report (SSR), which provides a detailed description of the MPA program, including our history, mission, curriculum, resources, faculty, staff, students and alumni.


The SSR is available to all faculty and students on Blackboard. Also, we are happy to share it with alumni and others who are interested but – we should warn you upfront – it's certainly not "light reading." This report contains a lot of data that we have been collecting from students, alumni and regional employers on a three-year cycle. (Alumni: please be on the lookout for an online survey coming your way in Spring 2012.)

The re-accreditation process is illustrated in the timeline above. The next major step will be in March, when a NASPAA team consisting of two professors and one practitioner will visit our campus.

In terms of faculty in the MPA program, Dr. Tom Lambert began teaching full time in the program this Fall, bringing years of teaching and research experience in the areas of public policy, economics and data

analysis. In addition, Dr. Whitney McIntyre Miller began teaching Organizational Theory and Behavior (PAD 602). She is an assistant professor in the undergraduate Organizational Leadership program, and her research is in the areas of community development and community leadership.


More good news in terms of faculty is that our department recently hired Dr. Marcos Misis to teach in the MPA program and undergraduate criminal justice program. Dr. Misis's research and teaching has been in police administration and criminology, and his professional experience includes 15 years in Spain's NATO forces. He will be a valuable asset to our MPA program, especially the Homeland Security and



During the past year, **Dr. Julie Olberding's** research continued to focus on student philanthropy and also the impact of major special events on host cities, including their image and other social assets. Two of her manuscripts were accepted for publication by the *Journal of Criminal Justice Education* and *Innovative Higher Education*. In terms of teaching, Dr. Olberding continues to incorporate service learning and student philanthropy into the classroom. In her Volunteer Management class, students worked with four nonprofits to improve their volunteer efforts. And, once again, her class partnered with Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing North America on the "indirect giving" model of student philanthropy, for which students reviewed and evaluated real grant applications submitted by real nonprofit organizations.

Dr. Shamima Ahmed has published an article, "The Impact of NGOs on International Organizations: Complexities & Considerations," in the *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*. She participated on a NASPAA site visit team to review the University of Western Michigan's MPA Program. Dr. Ahmed is a member of the NASPAA Nonprofit Section Executive Committee and has worked with the committee to develop a list of competencies (learning outcomes) for nonprofit programs, which will become standards for future accreditations.

Dr. Hongmel Wang published one paper in the *Journal of Applied Global Research*. She also has presented one peer-reviewed conference paper. As a primary investigator, she has successfully obtained two grants for NKU's Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics (CINSAM). She serves as the program director and advisor of the graduate and undergraduate GIS certificate programs. In addition, she also serves on the Faculty Benefit Committee and the Presidential Policy Committee on Intellectual Property



**By David Elmer
NKU MPA alum (2004)**

There have been many times in my academic career when I questioned the “real-world” value of theory-based curriculum. Such was the case back in Fall 2002 when I registered for Research Methods, an MPA core course that received little, if any, ardent fanfare from students. “When am I ever going to use this?” was a common concern.

Several years have passed since I graduated from the MPA program and, much to my surprise, I continue to use what I learned in Research Methods and other courses on a daily

The PASS Page

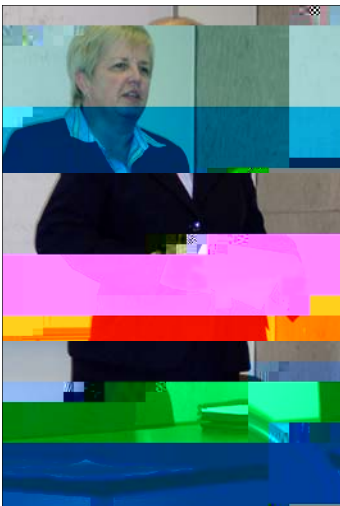
Public Administration Student Society (PASS) is an organization created to enhance the MPA student experience as well as represent the graduate program. PASS is open to any MPA student in good standing. Members participate in social networking events and community service projects and also schedule guest lectures on topics of interest to MPA students.

By Tori Vogelgesang NKU MPA student

In November 2011, PASS hosted guest speaker April Gillespie who presented "Personal Branding and Networking as a Lifestyle: How to Turn Your Everyday Interactions into Opportunities." Ms. Gillespie is founder of Starseed Consulting, a personal development consulting company. Starseed aims to help individuals become the best versions of themselves and realize that everything they need is already within them. She is also VP of Membership at District 40/Downtown Toastmasters, Director of Membership and Retention at Black Data Processors Association Cincinnati Chapter,

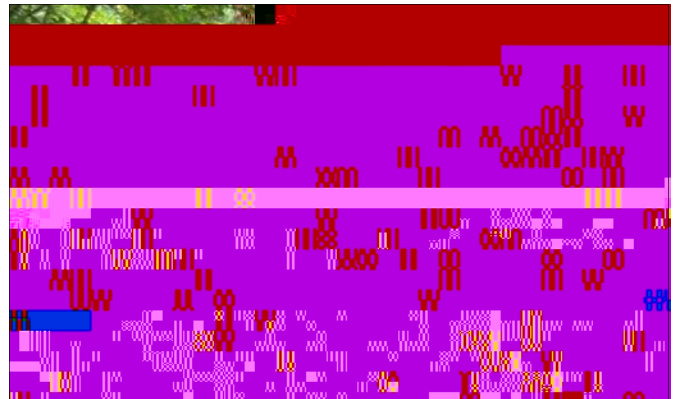
and Director of Business Development at NAS Recruitment Communications.

Ms. Gillespie's first topic was personal branding, specifically creating a brand for yourself on the Internet. Ms. Gillespie urged the audience to consider creating a personal web page, which can



In March 2011, PASS presented a forum with speakers from the Northern Kentucky Regional Ethics Authority. The NKREA enforces the ethics ordinances for 14 cities and Pendleton County.

Craig T. Bohman, NKREA staff member and MPA student, provided a brief history of the authority and the provisions of state ethics ordinances. Mary K. Molloy, an attorney and a long-serving member of the NKREA Enforcement Committee, followed with examples of common issues that come before the Enforcement Committee.





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Our Mission

The MPA program at NKU provides professional managerial, communication, and human relations skills and knowledge in preparation for or advancement in a variety of public sector and related careers. The program advances public sector values of effectiveness, efficiency, honesty, accountability, fairness, diversity and public service in the curriculum, extra-curricular events and speakers, and partnerships with area practitioners through the MPA Advisory Board, the American Society for