Friends, students, colleagues, and family members honored Deil Wright at a Celebration of Life service held at the School of Government on November 5. Speakers shared memories that solicited laughter, nostalgia and, at times, tears. Deil’s stunning Carolina blue blazer, which he proudly wore at numerous UNC events, was draped across the back of the chair beside Patricia Wright, his beloved wife and partner of 56 years.

Deil’s long-time friends and collaborators George Rabinowitz and Jeffrey Brudney spoke about Deil’s ability to make deep, lasting connections with everyone he met. He not only remembered the names of everyone in a room, but he would also know a few personal details about each person—and made sure to ask about it. Deil became personally invested in the people he encountered, and each person was better as a result of that investment. He often said to his students, “You honor me with your accomplishments.”

Many speakers noted Deil’s athletic abilities, which surprised many students over the years. In his “field research” at Finley Golf Course, Deil would often shoot scores “lower than his age.” Perhaps the most famous sports story told among MPA alumni is Deil’s third base antics during the 1998–1999 school year. The MPA students were playing in an intramural softball league. Deil asked if he could join the team. The students, of course, agreed and, in fact, went one step further, telling Deil that he could play any position he wanted. He arrived at the first game wearing a 1980s Carolina MPA t-shirt printed with the words, “All MPA Students are Bureaucrats.” Almost immediately, the opposing team hit a line drive at Deil, who deftly fielded the ball and threw it to first base with such force that it knocked the glove off the hand of the first baseman. Deil was the spirit of the team, often admonishing students who were not playing to their full potential. His presence on that field is the perfect example of Deil’s service matches his scholarship, and that is no mean feat.”

—Jeffrey Brudney, Chair, Urban Studies and Public Service, Cleveland State University
This summer we lost one of the giants in the field of federalism and intergovernmental relations scholarship. We also lost an able teacher, trusted advisor, caring mentor, and wonderful colleague.

As one of his former students observed, Deil Wright was truly “an institution within an institution.”

Deil joined the UNC Department of Political Science in 1967, just a year after the MPA program was founded. Thirty-six years later, in 2003, I joined the faculty of the School of Government, and Deil soon invited me to team-teach the Capstone course, co-author an article, and accompany him for “field research” sessions at Finley Golf Course.

By then, Deil had technically retired, but that wasn’t apparent in his work habits. His productivity was awesome, including three editions of his landmark book, Understanding Intergovernmental Relations, and more than 100 articles. He was the most widely published member of our MPA faculty in the journals that count with those who compile national rankings. At a time when he could have rested on his laurels as Professor Emeritus, Deil had his nose to the grindstone. Just a week before his death, we talked about his plans to teach courses next year and to finish five articles he had in the pipeline.

When people think about the UNC-Chapel Hill MPA program, they think about Deil Wright. He is credited with creating the “culture” of the MPA program as one that expects a great deal from students but also offers substantial support. He supported alumni in founding the MPA Alumni Association and initiated the annual alumni conference.

Deil loved alliteration, especially “c” words, in his study of historical phases of intergovernmental relations. So, in summarizing Deil’s contributions, I’d like to use a few “c” words in his honor:

• Collaboration. Deil maintained offices in both the political science department and MPA program, and he was a regular traveler between Hamilton Hall and the School of Government. In addition to helping keep communication lines open, he was quick to identify opportunities for us to work together more closely. Just last spring he collaborated with colleagues to develop an undergraduate course designed to attract political science undergraduates to public service and to our MPA program. He also was a collaborator with colleagues, especially his former students, on scholarly articles, and he was always there to support and celebrate their rise through the academic ranks.

• Caring. Deil genuinely cared about his colleagues and students, as well as UNC, and he was particularly helpful to students from Korea and Japan. He wore his Carolina blue with pride! When we team-taught the Capstone course in 2004, Deil introduced himself on the first day of class as follows: “My name is Deil; that is devil without the ‘v’!” That announcement got the attention of the students, but they soon discovered this was far from the case.

• Camaraderie. Deil was a serious scholar, teacher, mentor, and friend, but there was another dimension, perhaps best shown in his “Angus” stories, which were appreciated by many, confusing to some, but endearing to all.

The sentiments of the Class of 1988 at Deil’s memorial service provide a fitting closing to this remembrance: “Deil was a wonderful man and we are all better for having known him. He taught us lots of things about lots of subjects, and not all of them were public administration topics.”

Carl Stenberg
MPA Program Director
2009 Conference on Public Administration
CSI Chapel Hill: Change/Strengthen/Innovate

The 2009 Conference on Public Administration was held at the School of Government on November 6. With a focus on the economy, the conference sessions addressed budgeting, innovations in government, career strategies, creative communities, and local housing issues.

Longtime School of Government faculty member Jack Vogt presented the results of his research on “Local Innovation in Management Practices in Responding to the Recession and Budget Shortfalls.” Vogt shared successful strategies utilized by 10 local governments—seven in North Carolina and one each in Florida, South Carolina, and Georgia—in order to balance their FY 2009–2010 budgets. The participating governments included cities and counties of various sizes, and Vogt worked with MPA alumni in each entity to identify the most innovative or positive strategies. Vogt reported that responses generally fell into two camps: reduction of spending and changes/reorganization of the budget process.

**Spending Reduction Strategies**
Units that emphasized their spending reduction strategies described a number of different approaches. One city created an early retirement program that allowed for the elimination of positions without significant layoffs. Several units contracted out specific programs and services and brought others in-house, resulting in significant savings overall. Reported savings also came from reductions in pay for performance programs, automation of services, and deferral of capital purchases. One town realized significant savings by combining and relocating government offices into a town-owned converted textile mill and leasing their previously occupied buildings.

**Process Change Strategies**
The major process change initiated by many of the units was an early start to budget season as well as the inclusion of department heads, middle managers, and line employees. Working together early and often was a popular approach for many of the units when balancing the budget. One county relied on its performance measurement system to supply commissioners and top-level managers with information needed to make budget decisions.

**Long-Range Planning**
MPA alumna Ellen Liston is deputy city manager for Coral Springs, Florida. She provided conference attendees with an in-depth view of how Coral Springs is working to close its widening budget gap. Liston explained that staff members have convinced the council to take deliberate and strong steps to correct the city’s deficit with long-range planning, as opposed to short-term fixes.

To view Jack Vogt’s and Ellen Liston’s PowerPoint presentations, please visit the conference website at pac.unc.edu.

**Dean’s Luncheon**
School of Government Dean Mike Smith updated alumni, students, faculty, and members of the School of Government Foundation Board on the School’s financial position, and he explained the School’s ongoing strategies for coping with the difficult economic climate. Smith also noted that the School of Government has benefited from its designation as a “School” instead of its former designation as an “Institute” in terms of funding from the General Assembly. Smith explained that the School of Government received a nine percent cut in state funding this fiscal year, as opposed to much higher cuts seen by centers and institutes across campus.

“This conference always offers innovative ideas and a place to recharge my batteries for the year ahead. That’s especially important when times are tough.”

—Marchell David ’92, City Manager, Hamlet, North Carolina

**SAVE THE DATE**

2010 Conference on Public Administration
**November 4–5**
Details will be posted to pac.unc.edu next summer.
A Conversation with Jack Vogt
by Ashleigh Martin

Jack Vogt’s Capital Budgeting course has long been an institution in the MPA program and one that I am excited to begin in January. Recently, I had the opportunity to sit down with Dr. Vogt and ask questions that practitioners and alumni have always wanted to ask but never had the opportunity.

Ashleigh Martin (AM): Why did you choose the field of public administration?
Jack Vogt (JV): That is a question I’ve thought about now and then. I chose the field in the 1960s when there was considerable confidence in what government could do. I also had a few mentors—including Miller Hillhouse, a government finance goliath—who were influential in my decision.

AM: Why did you choose to come to the School of Government in 1973?
JV: Ken Howard, an employee at the School, called and informed me of an opening in the MPA program to teach government budgeting. I’ve been here ever since.

AM: What has been your most significant accomplishment?
JV: Let’s call it satisfaction. The greatest satisfaction throughout my career has been working with students while they study here and continuing those relationships when they leave to take up their careers. I would say the same thing about the elected officials I have worked with.

AM: What projects are you working on currently?
JV: I have been working with Bill Rivenbark and Justin Marlowe to complete the second edition of Capital Budgeting and Finance: A Guide for Local Governments, to be released soon by ICMA. I have also been gathering information from public entities about the strategies they used to balance their FY 2009–2010 budgets. (See p. 3, “2009 Conference on Public Administration,” for more about this project.)

AM: What is the most important characteristic of a successful practitioner today?
JV: A willingness and ability to work very hard, the ability to focus and set priorities, and the flexibility to adjust goals and objectives to new challenges and situations.

AM: What is the best piece of advice that you’ve ever received?
JV: The best advice I’ve ever received is two-fold:
1) At one point I had a choice between working for the School of Government at UNC-Chapel Hill or for a state university in California. In comparing the two, I spoke with my father. He told me to choose the place where I would be most comfortable. I have always been thankful for that advice.
2) Don Hayman and Jack Wicker exuded advice through their work and demeanor. Their commitment to public service, their work, and their encouragement meant a lot over the years.

AM: Due to the budget crisis, the School of Government was not able to renew your contract. What are you doing with the extra time you’ve gained?
JV: I’ve been able to become more active in organizations outside the School of Government, including the Orange County Human Relations Committee. I have also been appointed by Gov. Perdue to the North Carolina Local Government Commission* for a four-year term.

AM: In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges facing public administration today?
JV: Over the years, the challenge has been to provide effective, honest, professional administrative management of public services and programs in a political milieu. I think that challenge is even greater today because of the deep divisions between political parties. Despite that division, a public administrator can be effective, honest, and professional, but it’s more difficult.

*The Local Government Commission (LGC) was established in the 1930s to help North Carolina local governments cope with the effects of the Great Depression. Since then, it has played an important role in helping local governments follow sound financial management practices, remain financially strong, and access the municipal debt markets. Today, the LGC oversees local government finance throughout the state. It approves and sells nearly all local government debt and sets rules and regulations concerning local accounting, financial management, and budgeting.  

IMPACT
MICHAEL SMITH  
*Dean*  
School of Government  

**September 22, 2009** — Dean Mike Smith introduced the 2009 cohort to the history, values, and unique qualities of the School of Government. He also explained the School’s funding sources, which include annual voluntary dues paid by municipalities and counties. Smith reminded students that the School’s mission is to *improve the lives of North Carolinians by engaging in practical scholarship that helps public officials and citizens understand and improve state and local government*. He said, “While the mission remains the same, we are continuing to find new ways to advance that mission every chance we can.”

REGINALD SPEIGHT  
*Chief Executive Director*  
Martin County Community Action  

**October 20, 2009** — Reginald Speight, chief executive director of Martin County Community Action in Williamston, North Carolina, tackled the weighty issue of weatherization as it pertains to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Speight explained that the idea of weatherization only recently came to the attention of the American public as a part of the Department of Energy’s Weatherization Assistance Program, which distributes funding to states as part of the ARRA and helps to provide jobs and decrease energy costs for lower-income households.

PATRICIA WALLACE INGRAHAM  
*Founding Dean*  
College of Community and Public Affairs, Binghamton University  

**November 6, 2009** — Patricia Wallace Ingraham delivered the Deil Wright Lecture at the 2009 Conference on Public Administration. Ingraham addressed the need for change and innovation throughout government, but cautioned managers to fully think through changes before adoption. She used contracting as an example of change/innovation that should be well thought-out due to the potential for detracting from an organization’s missions, goals, and ability to remain operational.

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**SAVE THE DATE: LECTURE SERIES**

**February 2, 2010**  
School of Government  
Leslie Winner, Executive Director, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation  
*Philanthropy’s Role in Shaping Public Policy*

Lectures are free and open to the public. For updated information on future lectures, visit [www.mpa.unc.edu](http://www.mpa.unc.edu).
The Wright Stuff: Remembering a Legend

Deil’s contributions to the MPA program are hard to measure. Perhaps this is one time where quantification of impact fails due to the sheer magnitude of his contribution to the profession and academia.

—Ruffin Hall ’93, Budget and Evaluation Director, City of Charlotte, North Carolina

You didn’t have to know Deil for long to realize that this supremely accomplished professional, this icon of our discipline, was also a thoughtful, generous, and warm man. I know that everyone in our class marveled at his energy and his range of interests. We named our abysmal softball team “Deil’s Wheels,” complete with t-shirt, and naturally Deil was our shortstop and star player, even though he had nearly 25 years on everyone else. We intended that name to honor him, and I think Deil was flattered. I hope he was.

—Tom Thompson ’77, Department Head and Accounting Instructor, Savannah Technical College, Savannah, Georgia

I will miss the melodic way he said “Hmmm” spanning five octaves and ending with a chuckle.

I owe my obsession with the “one-pager” to Deil. During my career, I have always required my staff to limit memos to Council to no more than one page. No exceptions. Just as Deil allowed us, my staff members are permitted to monkey with the fonts and the margins as needed, but it must be no longer than one page. Being concise matters.

—Brannon Godfrey ’88, City Manager, Winchester, Virginia

Deil was the director of the MPA program when I entered. What impressed me about him immediately was his effort to create a special environment to learn within the program. Regardless if it was a picnic or softball, he looked to create opportunities for students and staff to be together, both inside and outside of the classroom.

—W. Brian Hiatt ’79, City Manager, Concord, North Carolina

Deil Wright was truly an institution within an institution, a person whom I highly respected and learned from for 38 years. As a professor, he taught me more than the coursework, for he helped to create the focus for applying what I had learned. As an advisor, he demanded quality. Finishing the thesis paper and defending it was rigorous, but that experience provided a structured regimen.

“He has left a profound legacy and I’m grateful for the opportunity to have known him, learned from him, and called him a friend.”

—Joanne Scharer ’95
Adjunct Faculty, Chemeketa Community College, Salem, Oregon
that is a part of me today. As a lifelong mentor, he showed his caring manner and genuine interest in my career and family. He will remain an institution, for his presence will be indelible with so many of us and our families.

—Fagan D. Stackhouse ’71, Director of Human Resources, Virginia Beach, Virginia

After moving a number of times and moving into higher education finance as a field of endeavor, I could easily have lost touch with the MPA program, but Deil made sure that didn’t happen.

—Glen Stine ’70, Vice President, Kaludis Consulting Group, Atlanta, Georgia

“...and by extension, his students, paved the way for the next generation of public administration students and professionals. Let us strive to live up to the example he set and continue to ask the hard questions he pushed so many of his students and colleagues to address.

Visit www.mpa.unc.edu to view a video of the Celebration of Life service.

Deil Wright, 1953

I will always remember and treasure the time I spent with Deil—the good advice he always offered and the example he set for me and so many others.

—Michael K. McMahan ’75, Chairman, McMahan & Associates, Gastonia, North Carolina

I write multimillion dollar grant proposals to the NIH, DOD, and philanthropic foundations. I have been responsible for the award of more than $10 million in 2009 alone. These proposals always convey huge projects or concepts in 25 pages or fewer. I just completed seven five-page stimulus proposals totaling more than $10M to the National Cancer Institute in the last six weeks. When people ask me the secret to my skill or success, I often respond, “Deil Wright.”

—Anita Harrison ’90, Director of Administration, Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina

Two Deil quips that still hold great meaning today and have throughout my career are “touch all the bases” and “where you sit is where you stand.”

—Rochelle D. Small Toney ’78, Assistant City Manager for Public Development, Savannah, Georgia

Thanks, Deil. As we say in the Air Force—job well done!

—Lt. Col. Michael C. Summer ’88, United States Air Force, MSC, CAAMA Administrator, 23rd Medical Group (SGA), Moody AFB, Georgia

metaphor: playing with him made each player better.

Deil and, by extension, his students, paved the way for the next generation of public administration students and professionals. Let us strive to live up to the example he set and continue to ask the hard questions he pushed so many of his students and colleagues to address.

Visit www.mpa.unc.edu to view a video of the Celebration of Life service.
TRUE CAROLINA BLUE: ASHLEIGH MARTIN

by Jean Coble

If you take a thorough look at this issue of Impact, you will notice Ashleigh Martin's name on many of the articles. She is working with the Impact team this year as a research assistant and student editor. I have learned a lot about Ashleigh in the last few months and want to tell you her MPA story.

Ashleigh grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina. "There is something for everyone in Charlotte," she says. "Within its borders, there are several mini-cities, each with its own unique flavor and offerings." Ashleigh has a particular respect for Charlotte's city and county government. "The way they collaborate to provide services to citizens is impressive," she says. "They always seem to have the greater goal in mind."

Public Service is a Family Tradition

Ashleigh will be the fourth generation in her family to work in North Carolina local government. Her father is deputy superintendent of the Street Maintenance Division of Charlotte's Department of Transportation. "He went in as a sign fabricator 28 years ago and worked his way up," Ashleigh says. "He is my hero!” Ashleigh's grandfather helped install the crest in the square in downtown Charlotte. Her great-uncle Tom mowed grass using mules and farm implements and later was the first Charlotte employee to cut grass with a motorized mower. Her great-grandfather helped pave some of the first streets in the city. Ashleigh muses, "Am I destined for public works? Perhaps, but I see myself being comfortable anywhere in a local government setting.”

Originally Ashleigh planned to attend law school and work as a city attorney. After gaining experience in the field of law, she decided to refocus her career so that she could still achieve the goal of working in public service. She found that the local government positions that she was most attracted to invited applicants with MPA degrees. "I decided that I needed an MPA.

"Going to Carolina was a matter of pride and sheer love of the school. I don't want to say it was Carolina or nowhere, but I didn't apply anywhere else. I knew the reputation of the School of Government—everyone in local government recognizes the School's brand and reputation. I wanted to be a part of the best.”

Summer Internship Solidifies Direction

Other than being on Franklin Street in March 2009 to celebrate the Tar Heels' NCAA basketball championship, Ashleigh says her most rewarding MPA experience has been her summer internship with the City of Mount Holly. "The city manager let me experience everything. I created the city's budget document. I revised their personnel policies. I picked up garbage for a week." She adds, "I have a great deal of respect for those guys and the hard work they do everyday.”

Ashleigh says her internship in Mount Holly reaffirmed her interest in a local government career. "Seeing how theory learned in class is actually applied in local government was enlightening. Local government managers deserve a lot of respect for their complicated jobs."

Ashleigh says her first year of MPA classes prepared her for her internship. "Budget forecasting, trend charts, budget documents, personnel policies—I learned so much in the classroom”

After graduation, Ashleigh plans to pursue a position near her hometown. "I hope to locate a job within a one-hour radius of Charlotte," she says. "I don't think there is any better way to use my education than to take it back home to the place I am passionate about.”

Scholarship Expands Options

Ashleigh is the recipient of the 2009 Local Government Scholarship. "Receiving this scholarship has made a tremendous difference for me," she explains. "It allows me to consider positions that are a good fit and that will give me the opportunity to build experience without having to be so focused on finances.”

"Everyone in local government recognizes the School’s brand and reputation. I wanted to be a part of the best.”

Ashleigh Martin
Managing Complexity

David Parrish—Town Manager, Yanceyville, NC

For as long as he can remember, David Parrish has had a desire to make a difference. As town manager in Yanceyville, North Carolina, he has ample opportunity. The manager in this small community (population 2,800) also serves as town clerk, zoning officer, budget officer, personnel officer, and executive director of a women’s shelter operated by the town. “I was looking for complexity when I took this job,” says Parrish, who assumed the manager’s office in 2007, “and I am being bathed in experience.”

Yanceyville and Caswell County have suffered in recent years as agricultural and manufacturing jobs have sharply declined, and the economic circumstances present a number of significant challenges to local leaders. Several years ago, the Town of Yanceyville acquired an abandoned textile mill that is now being renovated to house the town offices and council chambers. The town has seen other improvement in the downtown district as well with the arrival of two new restaurants. Under Parrish’s management, the town has begun to grow, and he and his wife added to that growth with the birth of their twin boys, Luke and Carter, in May 2009.

When asked about useful skills he brings to his position, Parrish cites “multi-tasking.” He says it is typical for him to be on the phone with one person with someone else on hold, another person sitting in his office, and one more waiting in the hallway—each needing to talk about a different topic. Previously, Parrish was a management analyst for the City of Danville, Virginia. He points out that Danville had many different departments with staff to handle specific areas. In Yanceyville, questions about a wide range of issues often come first to Parrish.

Adaptability has been a constant in his career. After graduating from UNC—Greensboro, Parrish joined ARC (Association for Retarded Citizens, now known as The Arc) as a job coach for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. After moving on to work as the recreation director for a continuing care retirement community, Parrish realized he wanted more responsibility and decided to enroll in the MPA program.

When Parrish arrived in Yanceyville, he inherited “a tumultuous situation.” The former manager left on less than positive terms, and the position had been vacant for a time. Parrish faced major projects with quickly approaching deadlines. He worked to meet the deadlines but also to instill confidence in the office with an open-door policy. A town newsletter keeps citizens informed, and Parrish takes time to ride along with staff members when they go out on the job, so that he can be better informed as well.

“This is a good opportunity to use people skills,” Parrish says. “I’ve been a supervisor before, but there was always someone above me. Being a manager is different. Whether I’m picking a paint color for town offices or deciding the consequences when someone hasn’t paid their water bill, I feel the responsibility of that.”

Parrish says that his connections with fellow MPA alumni and faculty continue to be important. Before taking the Yanceyville position, he discussed the opportunity with several alumni who are also town managers. Seeking counsel of this kind gave rise to new and valuable friendships with experienced managers. “It’s nice to know you’ve got support,” Parrish says.

Parrish’s advice to current and future MPA students is to “soak up all you can and be open to new ideas. Make connections with School faculty and with your classmates. Embrace the community. You will value the built-in network once you’re on your own.”

David Parrish ’03
MA Students Meet with Alumni in Washington, DC
by Allan Beckmann

Washington, DC, is a bustling city of almost 600,000 people and the core of a metropolitan area of 5.3 million people. It is the seat of the federal government and home to countless nonprofit organizations and local governmental entities.

Over fall break, 10 MPA students traveled to Washington with faculty member Maureen Berner to meet with alumni in the area. The alumni spoke with students about how to find a job in the Washington area; what it’s like to live in such an expensive, crowded region; and the types of professional opportunities available for summer work experiences and positions after graduation.

The two-day visit included panel discussions on federal agencies, Capitol Hill, state and local government, and nonprofit and business sector work. Students also met with alumni in smaller groups over lunch and at a networking event. In addition to the structured portion of the trip, students had opportunities to explore the city on their own. Some visited sites such as the White House, the Capitol, and Howard University’s Homecoming festivities, while others explored suburban areas including Arlington, Virginia, and Silver Spring, Maryland.

On behalf of the students, I would like to express sincere appreciation to the many alumni who organized and participated in programs, joined us for social events, and who extended a warm welcome to our group. In particular, we are grateful to Joe Gavrilovich ’05, who works for The Pew Charitable Trusts, for hosting us on Friday, and to Carol Weatherly ’79, who works for the US Department of Homeland Security, for obtaining meeting space for our group on Thursday.

On the Move

Emily Anderson ’07 is a development associate for the Police Athletic League in New York City.

Adam Basch ’04 is a program analyst/statistician with the Organization Evaluation and Accountability Branch of the Census Bureau.

Katie Burdett ’07 is a project manager for UL Environment Inc. in Durham, North Carolina.

Shannon Byers ’06 recently joined COPE Eldercare as the director of communications and development.

Carrie Cook ’07 is a regional liaison for the Office of Senator Kay Hagan in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Victoria Cunningham ’07 is a contract specialist for RTI International in Durham, North Carolina.

Jason Damweber ’07 is an administrative analyst for the Public Works Department in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Teresa Derrick-Mills ’90 passed the PhD qualifying exam in public policy and public administration at the Trachtenberg School at George Washington University. Teresa has also received a one-year policy analyst appointment in the Office of Research and Development for the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Cynthia Eades ’84 was named Iredell County’s human resources director after serving as assistant director and personnel analyst for four years.
Monica Evans ’07 is a management analyst for the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts.

Brodi Fontenot ’99 is the deputy assistant secretary for management and budget at the US Department of Transportation.

Melanie Greenspan ’05 is a development officer for the College of Arts & Science at New York University.

Jonathan Jones ’02 received a doctorate in rhetoric and public affairs from the Department of Communication at Texas A&M University in December 2009.

Eddie Kirk ’85 retired from Orange County, North Carolina, in September 2009 after 32 years of service.

Jim Klingler ’99 accepted the position of budget director for the Facilities Division at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Greg Marvraganis ’07 is a Presidential Management Fellow at the Durham VA Hospital in Durham, North Carolina.

Joe Moore ’05 was named city manager for Brevard, North Carolina, in September 2009.

John Quinterno ’00 is principal of South by North Strategies, Ltd. in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Harvey M. Richmond ’77 retired in December 2009 from the US Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards after more than 31 years of service.

Zulayka “Mary” Santiago ’99 started a small business venture, Liberacion Juice Station, which creates, serves, and delivers fresh teas and juices across central North Carolina in a customized, converted school bus.

Mira Schainker ’07 is a policy associate for the American Public Health Association in Washington, DC.

Sybil Tate ’07 is employed as a management analyst in Chatham County, North Carolina.

MPA Class of 1997 held an informal reunion at Topsail Beach in September 2009. (This group knows how to have a reunion!)

MPA Class of 1974 celebrated their 35-year reunion on November 6 at the Carolina Club in Chapel Hill.

Marriages

Justin Amos ’06 and Misty Holebrooks were married on July 18, 2009, in Asheville, North Carolina. Justin is a Local Government Management Fellow with the City Manager’s Office in Charlotte, North Carolina.

New Arrivals

Ryan and Robyn Fehrman ’02 celebrated the birth of their first child, Fiona Lea Fehrman, on July 27, 2009.

Chelsa Gurkin ’00 and her husband, Chip, welcomed a daughter, Clementine Violet Gurkin, on June 18, 2009.

Henrietta Locklear ’02 and her husband, Cole, celebrated the birth of their second daughter, Molly Catherine Locklear, on February 1, 2009.

Ben Mount ’03 and his wife, Celina, celebrated the arrival of a daughter, Madeliene Christine Mount, on March 26, 2009.


Andy Willis ’94 and his wife, Jennifer, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Harper Bailey Willis, in fall 2009.

Kent Wyatt ’02 and Kirsten Olson Wyatt ’02 celebrated the birth of their first child, Eleanor Marie Wyatt, on October 5, 2009.

Awards/Recognitions

Harry L. Jones Sr. ’74 has been selected as the 2009 Harvey E. Beech Outstanding Alumni Award recipient by the UNC General Alumni Association and was honored during the Light on the Hill Society Scholarship Awards Banquet on November 6, 2009.

Flo Miller ’77, deputy town manager for Chapel Hill, North Carolina, was awarded ICMA’s Assistant Excellence in Leadership Award at the ICMA annual conference in September.

Emily Williamson ’01 received the Distinguished Young Alumni Award this year from the General Alumni Association and also received the Laura L.D. Thomas Access to the Journey Award. This award honors distinguished and dedicated service that builds the community and enables others to have better access to more meaningful lives.

Send your news for the Life Events section, along with other comments or suggestions for Impact, to Jean Coble at coble@sog.unc.edu.
2009 Deil Wright Memorial Golf Tournament
by David Vehaun ’87

The Twin Lakes Golf Course in Chapel Hill was the setting for the 2009 Deil S. Wright Memorial Golf Tournament, held on November 5 prior to the Wright memorial celebration. Sixteen alumni, faculty, and students were joined by Deil’s four children on a cool, sunny morning for the Captain’s Choice event. Five teams competed for the honor of claiming the tournament’s first-place prize, which was a warm MPA sweatshirt. The 10 a.m. shotgun start set things in motion as 20 “serious” golfers began the process of hacking their way through the nine-hole course. Over the next two hours, these well-meaning duffers drove, pitched, putted (and groaned) under a bright Carolina blue sky.

Congratulations to the first-place foursome (pictured at right). However, the real winners of the day were current and future MPA students. More than $2,000 was raised for the Hayman-Howard-Wright Scholarship fund. A special thanks goes to the following hole sponsors: The Deil S. Wright Family, MPA Faculty (two holes), David and Cindy Ammons, MPA Classes of 2010 and 2011, MPA Class of 1988, MPA Class of 1974, Michael MacKuen and Michele Hoyman, and David Cooke.

The first-place foursome (left to right): Mal Watlington ’69, Carl Stenberg, Mark Wright, and Jack Vogt