The MPA Program has always had an internship component. In the 1990s, the internship evolved from a one-year full-time experience to a three-month summer Professional Work Experience (PWE). This summer 28 students participated in the Professional Work Experience component of the program, traveling as far away as Singapore and staying as close as Chapel Hill.

Internships provide a valuable learning opportunity for MPA students. For example, over the summer we received an e-mail from Trina Ozer, who commented, “This is why they send us to do internships: Today I learned why pig iron is called pig iron. Apparently when you make steel, you melt iron ore and in doing so, oxygen separates from iron. This freed iron forms a pattern that steelmakers thought looked like tiny piglets surrounding their mother. Thus, pig iron and Frederick Taylor.” In case you are wondering, Trina interned with the NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources. You learn something new every day!

The Impact staff has asked five second-year students about their PWE experience; their comments are below.

**Jess Aylor** worked with Regional Technology Strategies (RTS) in Carrboro, North Carolina, this summer. RTS is a nonprofit that assists governments, foundations, and other clients in creating, implementing, and evaluating innovative economic development strategies. John Honeycutt worked in the city manager’s office in Asheville, North Carolina, for Jeff Richardson ’89. Abby Parcell worked for Michael Williamson ’78 at the Department of State Treasurer in the Retirement Systems Division as a policy analyst, along with another MPA student. Doug Paris worked for the city manager’s office in his hometown of Salisbury, North Carolina. Tonya Walton worked for the Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C., as an analyst on the Strategic Issues Team, where she examined the pay for performance systems for 10 financial regulatory institutions such as the FDIC and the SEC.

The students said that several of their classes helped prepare them for the PWE experience. Jess Aylor commented, “Most of my work focused on evaluating programs or conducting research for program or policy development, so I relied heavily on work and readings from our classes on statistical and qualitative research methods. I also appreciated other classes like professional communications and nonprofit management for prioritizing and tailoring messages. And I found myself recalling exercises from public management and organizational theory that helped with time management and professional relationships in the workplace.” Doug Paris said, “All of the classes helped prepare me. Bill Rivenbark’s budgeting class and Greg Allison’s financial statements class helped form a solid base of understanding. Gordon Whitaker’s class on leadership, which included an assessment center and individualized learning plan, helped me the most in building teams, and managing and leading people.”

When preparing students for the PWE, faculty encourage them to think creatively, to immerse themselves in the agency, and to get to know the region if they are in a new area. It is always enlightening to hear students share the stories that will follow them through a lifetime. For example, John Honeycutt enjoyed a unique living arrangement. “For the summer, I lived in an old firehouse the city doesn’t use anymore as a fire station,” he said. “The second floor is an apartment that has a balcony overlooking Merrimon Avenue, and my favorite memory of the summer was watching fireworks on the 4th of July from that balcony.”

When students return to campus in August, they participate in a transition retreat, which serves several purposes. One function is simply to give the cohort time to readjust to and plan for life on campus after being out in the work world. Another purpose is to provide an opportunity for everyone to hear about each other’s experience; sometimes students find they shared common experiences with

**UNC MPA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide community among students, faculty, alumni, and friends in order to promote core values enhancing public service. Those core values include:

- Collaboration
- Diversity
- Stewardship
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Exploration

**continued on page 7**
ON THE ROAD AGAIN
by Carl Stenberg, MPA Program Director

It is an honor for me to take the baton from David Ammons and begin my service as director of your MPA Program. The program is highly ranked and widely respected across North Carolina and the nation. Its key assets include a talented student body, dedicated faculty, engaged alumni, and a supportive environment within the School of Government. So it was easy for me to “just say yes” to Dean Mike Smith’s invitation to lead the program and to build on David’s and Steve Allred’s accomplishments.

This is an exciting time for all of us who are committed to preparing public sector leaders and improving the lives of citizens through good government! During the year we will check the alignment of our activities, plans, and priorities with the mission of the MPA Program, and identify what new or renewed actions are needed to bring them into closer proximity. Among the initiatives on the drawing board are the following:
- A comprehensive review of the curriculum
- An assessment of the desirability and feasibility of an applied doctoral degree
- An investigation of ways to better integrate the MPA Program with the Institute of Government
- A strategy for bolstering career placements
- A series of programs to showcase faculty and student research
- A plan for increasing student scholarship support

Alumni input will be a critical component of these initiatives. We will schedule time during the Alumni Conference on November 2-3 to present our ideas and solicit your views. We always welcome telephone calls, e-mails, and visits to our offices to get better acquainted and share information and insights.

We realize that it is difficult for many alumni to come to Chapel Hill so, as Willie Nelson would put it, we’re going to be “on the road again.” Last October Maureen Berner piloted a field trip to Washington, D.C., to give MPA students an opportunity to meet with alumni on their “turf” and talk about career opportunities and placement strategies. In June and August, I joined David Ammons, Mike Smith, Jean Coble, Ann Simpson, and Sharon Pickard on field trips to Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Charlotte to meet with alumni and talk about the MPA Program.

These outreach efforts were well-received, and more are on the way. On October 12-13, Maureen is leading a field trip to Charlotte, and most of our students are planning to make the journey. On October 26, Mike, Jean, Ann, Sharon, Susan Austin, and I are planning to have lunch with alumni in Asheville. And on January 19, students will visit with alumni in Raleigh to explore career opportunities with state government.

Please join us when one of our road trips comes to your area!

2006–2007 SPEAKER SERIES

The MPA program and the School of Government have teamed with the Carolina Society for Future Leaders to bring outstanding speakers to the Knapp-Sanders building. Dean Mike Smith kicked off the year on September 6 by sharing with MPA students the history of the School of Government’s two main components: the Institute of Government and the MPA program.

We are honored to have former UNC President William Friday as our next speaker. He will address the MPA students on October 18 at 8:30 a.m. at the School of Government.

The Deil S. Wright Lecture, scheduled for November 2 at 9 a.m. at the School of Government, is a pre-conference event for the 2006 Conference on Public Administration.

Dr. Matthew Holden Jr., Henry L. and Grace M. Doherty Professor Emeritus of Politics at the University of Virginia, will deliver this year’s Deil S. Wright lecture. Holden is a former president of the American Political Science Association, a former president of the Policy Studies Organization, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. His primary professional interests are executive politics, public administration, and public policy, especially related to energy and the environment.

For more information on Holden’s lecture and the 2006 Conference on Public Administration, visit www.mpa.unc.edu.

FIRST–YEAR CLASS: BY THE NUMBERS

The newest members of the MPA family have settled into life as first-year students. These new students are among the best and brightest graduate students in the country. The first-year class is composed of 28 students, 16 of whom are North Carolina residents. They represent 21 colleges and universities (7 are from UNC-Chapel Hill). The average age is 25.

FAMILY WEEKEND OPEN HOUSE

MPA alumni are invited to drop by the School of Government between 3 and 5 p.m. on Friday, October 27. The School will host an open house for alumni and families who are on campus for Family Weekend at UNC-Chapel Hill.
TRUE CAROLINA BLUE
by Jean Coble

In this issue of Impact, we highlight a student who has already made a positive impact in Greene County, North Carolina. Let me introduce you to Chris Sherman.

When interviewing students for Impact, I always start by saying, “Tell me where your hometown is.” That question seemed to stump Chris. Finally, the answer came with an explanation. Chris said, “I grew up in Riverside, California, but I am one of those out-of-state MPA students whose intent from the beginning was to call North Carolina home. When it came time to select an MPA program, I knew I wanted to relocate. Riverside has developed into the smog capital, although there are some wonderful natural areas nearby. For example, I can enjoy breakfast in the mountains, lunch in the desert, and have dinner at the beach. But Riverside itself is busy and congested, and I knew I wanted a less urban setting. I was very focused in my search. I got out a map and circled areas where I wanted to live, then looked at the best schools in those regions. UNC was the best school, by far, for several reasons: no other MPA programs were tied to anything like the Institute of Government, there was a cohort component, and I could drive 20 miles and be in the country. I knew I was going to have great opportunities here. Now I consider Chapel Hill to be my hometown.” In fact, Chris’ parents have also relocated to North Carolina.

Chris received his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Riverside, but his MPA admission interview was done by telephone from Romania. “While my wife was pursuing a Fulbright Scholarship in Romania,” Chris explained, “I was teaching an American government course at the University of Bucharest.” Chris added, “Because I was so far away, I depended greatly on my dad to help me with the admissions process. He was the one to actually receive my admissions letter when it came in the mail. He later told me that he immediately called my mom to say, ‘This is the best thing that ever happened to us.’” He called me second! I’m so grateful that David Ammons gave me the opportunity to be a part of this program.”

Chris is a second-year student, and in addition to attending classes full time, he works with the NC Civic Education Consortium, under the direction of MPA alumna Kelley O’Brien ’99. As part of his work for the Consortium, Chris is updating a Web-based local government resource guide for teachers.

In spring 2006 Chris was named a Robert E. Bryan Fellow by the Carolina Center for Public Service. He received a grant to work with tobacco farmers in Greene County, helping them assess their options after the recent tobacco buyout. Working in Greene County was a valuable learning experience, according to Chris. “I listened a lot,” he said. “I learned about the issues farmers face, from hiring to technology. I tried to help them develop ideas to sustain their farms, and I created an information piece to help educate them regarding available resources.”

In addition to his work this summer in Greene County, Chris completed an internship in the Town Manager’s Office in Chapel Hill. “Chris did a great job for us and had a lot of fun doing it,” town manager Cal Horton ’71 said. “We hope he’ll stay in North Carolina local government.”

According to Chris, his most enjoyable MPA experience has been playing flag football—he proudly points out that the students have a winning team this fall. He is also glad to get back to racing bicycles, which he did during his undergraduate years.

When asked why he chose a career in public service, Chris said, “I knew I wanted to work in business and politics. I liked political science but did not see the value of working in the private sector unless I was working for myself. I thought I would have to make a choice between business and government until a faculty member told me to look at public administration. City management combines business along with delivery of services. I believe I can make a difference.”

And after all, isn’t that what we all want—to make a difference!
This year, Impact will profile faculty who have recently joined the MPA Program. These new professors continue the program’s tradition of excellence in teaching and dedication to public service. Professor Rick Morse, who joined the faculty earlier this year, teaches Public Policy Analysis to the second-year MPA students. Profiles of all MPA faculty members are available online at www.mpa.unc.edu/faculty/index.html

Name:
Rick Morse

How long have you been at the School of Government?
Since July 1, 2006

Hometown:
Blacksburg, Virginia

Educational background:
I graduated from Brigham Young University in 1998 with a BA and MA in public policy, and in 2004 I received a PhD in public administration from Virginia Tech.

What attracted you to the School of Government and the MPA Program?
Primarily the school’s mission and focus on engaged scholarship. The SOG is really in a league of its own, and I feel honored to be a part of it.

What is your favorite thing about the MPA Program?
The fantastic students, of course!
NEW FACES IN THE MPA PROGRAM

Two new faces have helped welcome MPA students and alumni back to the School of Government this fall. Susan Lynch comes to the MPA program as assistant to the program manager. She takes over the role formerly filled by Sharon Paynter '01, who has returned to her PhD studies full-time. Lynch has been at the School of Government since 2005. She says that she joined the MPA staff because of a desire to work with students. “My hope is that every student will graduate feeling a strong sense of family and continue to stay connected to the program for years to come,” Lynch said.

Susan Austin '97 will work with students on placement for full-time employment and internships. Austin has worked at the School of Government since 2001. In addition to her new responsibilities with the MPA Program, she will continue her work with local government elected and appointed officials through the Essentials of Municipal/County Government programs and other community-based projects. “I’m thrilled to ‘come home’ to the MPA Program,” Austin said. “It’s uplifting to work with students who are passionate about public service and to be a part of preparing them for leadership. We’ve got a great team, an incredible network of involved alumni, and an impressive group of students all working together to make our program very special. Plus, it’s an honor to be able to give back to a program that’s had such a positive impact on my own life.”

MPA KICK-OFF EVENT A SUCCESS

Late summer means many things for the MPA Program. Anticipation grows regarding the entering class, and everyone is excited to hear the new second-years talk about their summer internship experiences. This time of year also brings the annual MPA Picnic, hosted by the MPA Alumni Association and Professor Deil Wright. This year’s picnic was held on August 19, and for the second year in a row, it took place on the lawn of the Knapp-Sanders Building. Alumni and friends were treated to an evening of great food and great music, performed by the Charlotte-based group Melonbelly (www.melonbellymusic.com). This is an event that the entire MPA family looks forward to every year!

ON THE ROAD IN NORTH CAROLINA

by Jean Coble

This summer new director Carl Stenberg, Dean Mike Smith, and former director David Ammons visited alumni in three locations in North Carolina: Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Charlotte. Stenberg described the road trip as an exciting effort designed to bring alumni up to date on MPA developments, ask for their feedback on program initiatives, and “give me an opportunity to put faces with names.” We thank our alumni hosts Larry Davis ’85, City of Greensboro; Ed Jones ’68, Forsyth County; and Katie Densford McCoy ’01, City of Charlotte.

Next on the agenda is Asheville, which we will visit on October 26. For more information, e-mail coble@sog.unc.edu. We look forward to visiting with you soon.

Winston-Salem alumni welcomed Dean Mike Smith (center), former program director David Ammons (second from right), and new program director Carl Stenberg (right).
2006 CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Join UNC public administration alumni from around the country for the 2006 Conference on Public Administration, to be held November 2-3 at the School of Government. This year’s conference, with the theme of “Mind the Gap: Achieving the Common Good in a World of Change,” will also celebrate the 75th anniversary of the School of Government and the 40th anniversary of the MPA Program.

The 2006 Conference will provide a forum for public leaders and interested citizens to come together to consider the challenging issues facing the public and nonprofit sectors.

A range of dynamic sessions will address the following questions:

• What is the common good?
• Where are the gaps in what is needed or expected?
• What are we, as public leaders, able and willing to do?
• What innovative strategies can we use in our organizations to address those gaps and to reach the common good?

Visit www.mpa.unc.edu to view the conference agenda, including registration information. For additional information, contact us at mpastaff@sog.unc.edu or 919.962.0425.

For the first time, conference planners are working with UNC’s Division of Continuing Education and International City/County Management Association (ICMA) to offer continuing education credits and ICMA emerging leader credits to conference attendees. For more information on these credits, contact Sharon Pickard at pickard@sog.unc.edu.

LIFE EVENTS

ON THE MOVE…

Raleigh City manager J. Russell Allen ’78 was featured in the August 17, 2006, edition of the News & Observer in an article titled “City leader hits his stride, takes tough stand.”

Judith Blanchard ’78 is a federal relations manager for Chevron, overseeing traditional EPA environmental issues. O. Roff Blizzard II ’95 has opened the Raleigh office of Turnpike Properties, a real estate development company headquartered in Winston-Salem. Mark Bondo ’02 has left GAO and is now a research associate at the University of South Carolina’s Institute for Public Service and Policy Research in Columbia.

Brian Brooks ’99 is the new assistant city manager of Forney, Texas, outside Dallas. Larry DiRe ’99 has been admitted to the ICMA Emerging Leaders Development Program’s October class.

Amy Hurtt Foley ’98 is the new development director for Interact in Raleigh. Brodi Fontenot ’99 is leaving the GAO for a position on the Senate Budget Committee-Minority Staff.

Randy Harrington ’98 was elected president of the NC Local Government Budget Association at the July meeting. Cal Horton ’71 retired as Chapel Hill town manager, and Roger Stancil ’77 assumed that role in September.

James Howerton ’72 has relocated to San Antonio, Fla. Brandon James ’04 has taken a position as management analyst for Manassas Park, Virginia.

Adonis “Sporty” Jeralds ’81 received the University of Massachusetts Sport Management Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Janet Thomas Johnson ’79 is executive officer of the Baltimore County Fire Department and was named to the board of directors of the Community College of Baltimore County Foundation.

Alicia Jolla ’04 is an economic development specialist in the Charlotte City Manager’s Office and is manager of the Mayor’s Youth Employment Program.

Harry Jones ’74 and Barbara Gunn ’74 have been elected to the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Visitors; members of the Board of Visitors serve as ambassadors to their communities.

Alicia Moore ’04 has accepted a position as a budget and management analyst for the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Gregory Pitoniak ’76 is deputy state treasurer for Michigan.

Andy Willis ’94 has been named by President Erskine Bowles as vice president for government relations for the University of North Carolina system.

WEDDINGS…

Amy K. Hurtt ’98 married Chad Foley on April 28, 2006. The outdoor ceremony was held in Positano, on the Amalfi Coast, and was performed by the mayor.

Henrietta Pressler ’02 and Cole Garrett Locklear were married in a small family ceremony on October 7, 2006, in Blowing Rock, North Carolina.

NEW ARRIVALS…

Elizabeth Jordan ’00 and her husband, Chris, welcomed Maddux Elizabeth Jordan into the world on September 16, 2006.

Elias Silverthorn Michel was born to Matt Michel ’97 and his wife, Jennifer, on August 19, 2006. He weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz.
classmates who worked in very different environments. And finally, the students are encouraged to dig below the surface, to assess what they learned about their skills, interests, concerns, or future goals. The learning goes beyond “cool” projects done on the job and delves into personal growth and defining their management style.

“My goals have always focused on cultural assets in my community,” Jess Aylor said, “but now I have a fuller appreciation for policy analysis as a complement to my work experience in project implementation. I went to high school in a textile town in North Carolina, and my work experience is in nonprofit management for professional performing arts and a Research I university. I am now interested in economic development strategies that build on existing assets in North Carolina communities.” Abby Parcell said the PWE helped her zero in on the kinds of work that she finds most engaging. “Working under good managers also provided examples of how to manage people and create an enjoyable, productive work environment.”

Tonya Walton said her PWE “opened up a lot of possibilities and even reopened some doors that I thought were closed for good. Now I am considering a PhD in evaluation research, and I am continuing to look at nonprofit organizations. The PWE helped not only bolster my ability to perform professionally, but it also gave me the confidence to consider new options.” While John Honeycutt enjoyed confirming his interest in human resource management, he said, “I saw several unique opportunities for public service that exist only in local governments.”

We extend a thank you to those agencies that partnered with us to provide internships, and a special thank you goes to alumni in these agencies for helping make our PWE program the best.

NC Local Government
City of Asheville*
Town of Cary
Town of Chapel Hill*
City of Charlotte*
Charlotte/Mecklenburg Utilities Department*
Health Department, Davie County
Durham County*
Town of Rocky Mount*
City of Salisbury
Community Services Department, Wake County*
Wake County*
City of Winston-Salem*

State Government
Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance, NC Department of Environmental & Natural Resources*
NC Office of Indigent Defense Services
NC State Treasurer’s Office*
NC State Retirement System*

Federal Government
US Government Accountability Office*

Nonprofit Organizations
Alliance for Excellent Education (Washington, DC)
Our Children’s Place (Chapel Hill, NC)*
Regional Technologies Strategies (Carrboro, NC)
The Resources Group (Cary, NC)

University of North Carolina
Graduate School, UNC-Chapel Hill*
Human Resources Department,
UNC-Chapel Hill
NC Civic Education Consortium,
School of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill*
Southeast Asia Summer Program,
UNC-Chapel Hill
UNC General Administration

*Agencies where MPA alumni are employed.
WHAT’S NEW?

You can submit address changes online by going to [www.mpa.unc.edu](http://www.mpa.unc.edu) and clicking on “Alumni” and then “Directory.” Or you can submit new information about job changes, marriages, births, and retirements by returning this form. Information submitted using this form will be highlighted in *Impact*. Send your information to Susan Lynch, MPA Program, CB# 3330, Knapp-Sanders Bldg., Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3330 or mpastaff@sog.unc.edu. Thanks for your help.

Last Name

First Name

Home Address

City

State

Zip

Home phone

Home e-mail

Employment

Position

Retired?

Agency Name

Work Address

City

State

Zip

Work phone

Work fax

Work e-mail

Marriage/Birth/Adoption

Month/Day/Year

Spouse's full name

Child's Full Name

_____ Girl  _____ Boy