Spreading the Carolina Spirit Far and Wide

By Maureen McCormick ’12

Carolina MPA alumni have spread across the country and around the world. They are using their MPA experience and training to organize collaborative efforts in their communities and, in so doing, making them better places to live and work.

Last August, Hurricane Irene ravaged the coastal areas from North Carolina to New York. Once the storm moved inland, it did its worst damage to portions of Vermont and upstate New York. Sarah Waterman ’07, who works as a research project assistant at the University of Vermont in Burlington, found herself somewhere she never expected to be again: in the midst of a major hurricane response effort.

In 2005, Waterman, like many others, was glued to the media coverage of Hurricane Katrina. “Almost on a whim,” she says, she joined up with another volunteer in New England and together they drove to the Gulf Coast. There, she attached herself to a group operating out of Biloxi, Mississippi, and worked to bring relief and aid to those affected by Katrina. Although this was supposed to be a two-week stint, she ended up staying nearly four months.

In August 2011, when Hurricane Irene hit the state of Vermont, Waterman immediately sprang into action and built a website coordinating response efforts, available resources, and volunteers from all corners of Vermont and beyond. On just its second day, VTResponse.wordpress.com had more than 45,000 hits. It worked as an electronic community message board where citizens and volunteers could post items they had (for example, grain and feed for livestock, backhoes, trucks, and other equipment) and what they needed done.

Waterman and her VTResponse co-founder, Matt Sisto, also took to social media, using Twitter (#vtresponse) and Facebook to coordinate the effort.

“Dreams are the seeds of change. Nothing ever grows without a seed, and nothing ever changes without a dream.”

—Debby Boone
Directors's Column

The Impact of Our Mission

Carolina MPA has a simple but powerful mission statement that guides the direction of our program: to prepare public service leaders. While many MPA program missions include the word “leadership,” we are actually in the business of preparing students to assume key leadership roles in their organizations, rather than just pursuing careers in public service.

Our mission is central to every important decision we make. For instance, it was relatively straightforward for us to revise our curriculum in response to the new mission-based accreditation guidelines from the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA). And our mission pays dividends in recruitment of new students. Every step of the way, throughout the rigorous process, we are looking for students with potential for leadership.

But leaders are not created in a vacuum. In order to fulfill our mission, we rely on substantial support from two sources: the School of Government and you.

Our program is able to emphasize professional development in ways unmatched by other MPA programs. As part of the School of Government, we are integrated with an organization focused on research, training, and technical assistance for state and local government officials. This integration allows our students to see government in action. The School of Government also provides the financial support needed for our students to obtain research assistantships with School faculty and provides in-kind support that greatly enhances classroom instruction. For example, we needed two electives in law and capital budgeting this academic year to complete our course schedule. Given the specific faculty skill sets needed, other MPA programs would face difficulty in offering these courses, but I was able to recruit two School of Government faculty members who are experts in these fields. More important, they are quality instructors.

Our alumni provide critical help to our program in numerous ways, including student recruitment, our annual public administration conference, and job and internship placement. In addition, three goals recently added to the Alumni Association by-laws are already adding value to the program:

1. **To identify, promote, and secure scholarship opportunities for the MPA program.** You have been extremely generous in your donations to the Gordon Whitaker Scholarship Fund, which will provide support for MPA students to help them complete their academic career. Special thanks to Doug Bean ’74 for his leadership as chair of the Alumni Association Scholarship Committee.

2. **To host and support networking and professional development opportunities for MPA students and alumni.** Because of our alumni network, we continue to achieve strong job placement, even in this challenging economy.

3. **To provide leadership in an advisory role to faculty and staff members of the MPA program.** This year in particular, alumni board members have provided focused, invaluable feedback as we have explored expanding the program with an online option.

On February 3, our annual Carolina MPA alumni breakfast brought together nearly 70 alumni, students, faculty, and staff at the 2012 North Carolina City and County Management Association Winter Seminar in Research Triangle Park. Looking around the room as I introduced myself, I saw alumni who have attained leadership positions across the state, sitting side by side with students who have attained leadership positions across the state, and students who are our future leaders. I saw our mission in action.

William C. Rivenbark
MPA Program Director

My door is always open. Please visit if you are in Chapel Hill or contact me anytime with questions or suggestions about our MPA program at rivenbark@sog.unc.edu or 919.962.3707.
“VTResponse represented a very MPA way of approaching a problem: practical, local, and collaborative. It seemed novel to many people here,” Waterman says, “but it was an easy tool for me to implement with my background. To me, it illustrates the promise of technology as a means of solving public sector challenges.” Waterman is currently a post-baccalaureate student at the University of Vermont and is planning to apply to medical school.

Kent Wyatt ’02 and Kirsten Olson Wyatt ’02 also relocated far from North Carolina after graduation. They currently live and work near Portland, Oregon. In 2010 they founded the Oregon Emerging Local Government Leaders (ELGL), an independent group of young, local government professionals, graduate students, retired city managers, and others interested in local government issues.

Although the group started with a narrow focus on developing future city managers, the mission has expanded to include all functions of local government, including management, finance, community development, communications, public works, and more. ELGL provides targeted training and education to its members as well as networking opportunities. Kent says, “I have come to realize that it is trendy to discuss developing the next generation, but those are often empty statements. ELGL is attempting to follow through on these goals where other organizations have fallen short.”

Sarah Waterman and Kent and Kirsten Wyatt may live on opposite sides of the country, but they have at least two things in common: a Carolina MPA education and the “Carolina Spirit,” which they take with them wherever they go.

Far and Wide

Carolina MPA alumni are working far and wide, including the following locations:

- Arkansas (2)
- Arizona (9)
- California (17)
- Colorado (7)
- Connecticut (2)
- Washington, DC (28)
- Delaware (3)
- Florida (20)
- Georgia (31)
- Idaho (1)
- Iowa (1)
- Illinois (11)
- Indiana (5)
- Kansas (2)
- Kentucky (2)
- Louisiana (2)
- Massachusetts (12)
- Maryland (30)
- Michigan (4)
- Minnesota (5)
- Missouri (3)
- Mississippi (2)
- North Carolina (442)
- Nebraska (1)
- Nevada (1)
- New Hampshire (2)
- New Jersey (3)
- New Mexico (1)
- New York (25)
- Ohio (4)
- Oregon (9)
- Pennsylvania (6)
- South Carolina (18)
- Tennessee (10)
- Texas (26)
- Utah (1)
- Virginia (85)
- Vermont (3)
- Washington (7)
- Wisconsin (4)
- West Virginia (1)
- Wyoming (1)
- Canada (1)
- China (1)
- Egypt (1)
- South Korea (1)
- Swaziland (1)
- Uganda (2)
- US Military (3)*
- *Military APO (exact locations unknown)

Please let us know how you’re spreading the Carolina Spirit in your community. Contact Jean Coble at 919.962.0426 or coble@sog.unc.edu.

continued from Carolina Spirit, page 3
Summer Internships: A Win-Win Situation

By Susan Austin ’97, Director, MPA Career Services

Each MPA class has a slightly different mix of interests and it’s always fun to see who ends up where. This year we have 21 students looking for summer internships in order to hone their skills and enhance their résumés.

Last summer our students worked in local, federal, and state government; nonprofit organizations; and the private sector. Almost 30 percent of these students worked directly for an MPA graduate or in a position made possible by MPA alumni. This is just one of the tangible ways alumni give back, and our students, faculty, and staff are incredibly grateful for these opportunities.

My own internship in 1998 was made possible by Barry Reed ’83, then manager of Person County, North Carolina. Reed is now chief of party for DAI in Herat, Afghanistan.

I encourage you to consider hiring a summer intern from the MPA program. Our students can make a valuable contribution to your organization at a reasonable salary, and you may be lucky enough to form a lasting friendship.

One of the hallmarks of the Carolina MPA program is the strength of our alumni network. Our ability to cite concrete examples of alumni giving back in the form of internships and permanent placements helps us to consistently attract high-caliber students. Keep those opportunities coming!

How to Get Involved

Join LinkedIn (Carolina MPA), an excellent way to reconnect and network with fellow professionals.

View student interest statements at www.mpa.unc.edu/node/104 to see if there is a student whose career interest or experience fits your needs. If you would like to access student résumés, contact me at austin@sog.unc.edu or 919.966.4159 for the password to the protected website.

Post an available position online at www.mpa.unc.edu/node/42 or send an announcement directly to me for dissemination. Second-year students are now actively applying for permanent positions and post-graduate fellowships.
Assessment Center 2012 is a Success

By Maureen McCormick ’12

Once again, the annual MPA Assessment Center was a success! First-year students spent January 4–5 conducting mock interviews and role-play scenarios with MPA alumni volunteers. Students reported that the experience gave them a new perspective on the process and opened their eyes to skills needed on the job.

Thanks to Our Alumni Volunteers

Justin Amos ’06
Jess Aylor ’05
Ed Bristol ’77
Emily Bruce ’03
Paul Caldwell ’03
Ryan Davidson ’06
Larry Davis ’85
Michael Davis ’08
Chad Fogleman ’01
Peter Franzese ’06
Michael Halford ’92
Duane Hampton ’07
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Marcy Onieal ’91
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Ed Regan ’71
Matt Roylance ’97
John Schelp ’90
John Smith ’68
Bill Stockard ’94
Mary Tiger ’07
Margaret Valyou ’97
Rod Visser ’85
Hardin Watkins ’88
William Webster ’85
Lee Worsley ’97

“This process provided me with feedback on my strongest skills, areas for me to work on, and prepared me for my future as a leader in public service. I have a new sense of confidence as I’m interviewing for a summer internship.”

— Christopher Kenrick ’13

Now Seeking Nominations

The Donald Hayman Distinguished Public Service Award is given to individuals who exemplify high standards of service to the public and/or the organizations they serve. Awarded only six times in the last 20 years, the criteria are rigorous.

Nominees must demonstrate a “consistently high level of service and concern for others rather than a single act or short-term project” and “unselfishly have given without expectation of recognition or reward.” Nominees must be graduates of the Carolina MPA program or otherwise associated with the MPA program or the School of Government.

The deadline for nominations is June 1, 2012. The award recipient will be announced at the 2012 Public Administration Conference on November 1–2. For details, visit www.mpa.unc.edu/node/38.
MPA Alumni Association Board News

Engagement Seen as Core to Alumni Connections

By David Vehaun, President, MPA Alumni Association

At our February 24 meeting at the School of Government, our newly expanded board engaged in a spirited discussion on a number of important issues. Some of the highlights are outlined below.

Alumni Connections

Suggestions from a working committee on engagement:

- Participate in satellite gatherings in your region, or start your own
- Attend the 2012 Public Administration Conference on November 1–2
- Participate in the MPA internship program
- Attend the fall picnic on August 25
- Post vacancies in your organizations by sending them to Susan Austin at austin@sog.unc.edu

Alumni Giving

Your generous support has allowed the program to offer $56,000 in scholarships to 29 students this year.

The board is always open to your ideas and suggestions. Please contact any of us at any time.

2012 MPA Alumni Association Board

President
David Vehaun, Class of ’87
Rock Hill, South Carolina
dvehaun@cityofrockhill.com

President-Elect
Marcy Onieal, Class of ’91
Marshall, North Carolina
marcy.onieal@gmail.com

Past-President
Randy Harrington, Class of ’98
Charlotte, North Carolina
rjharrington@ci.charlotte.nc.us

Treasurer
Lee Worsley, Class of ’97
Durham, North Carolina
leeworsley73@gmail.com

Secretary
Marc Nelson, Class of ’01
Roanoke, Virginia
marc.nelson@roanokeva.gov

2012 Conference Chairs
Peter Franzese, Class of ’06
Concord, North Carolina
franzese@concordnc.gov

Johanna Foster, Class of ’05
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
johannafost@gmail.com

Scholarship Chair
Doug Bean, Class of ’74
Charlotte, North Carolina
dbean@raftelis.com

At-Large Board Members
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Pinetops, North Carolina

Gary Cannon, Class of ’78
Columbia, South Carolina

Delvin Davis, Class of ’00
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Jim Greene, Class of ’87
Concord, North Carolina

Alicia James, Class of ’04
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Erin Langston, Class of ’03
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Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Katie McCoy, Class of ’01
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Julian Prosser, Class of ’68
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Steve Raper, Class of ’74
Rocky Mount, North Carolina

Matt Roylance, Class of ’97
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dudley Watts, Class of ’89
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Student Representatives
Kyle Haney, Class of ’13
John Rible, Class of ’12

Contact information for all board members is available at www.mpa.unc.edu/node/38.

Interested in Serving?

New MPA Alumni Association Board members will be selected for the 2013 term in November. If you would like to serve, please e-mail coble@sog.unc.edu by July 1, 2012. To review responsibilities of board members, please see the bylaws at www.mpa.unc.edu/node/38.
TRUE CAROLINA BLUE: BRENT TROXELL

By Maureen McCormick ’12

Like so many small towns, Spartanburg, South Carolina, was hit hard by the industrial decline in America. Historically a mill town that played a central role in the country’s textile industry, its economy slowly shrunk as jobs were outsourced and the once-bustling mills that dotted the skyline stood vacant and decaying. Spartanburg, however, has spent the last decade reinventing itself, reinvigorating its economy, and once again making itself relevant. For second-year student Brent Troxell, watching his hometown’s effort to rise from the proverbial ashes spurred his motivation to seek a career in public service.

Brent grew to appreciate how and why cities need to use innovative concepts and ideas to get through tough economic times. Furthermore, he learned the value of looking outside the box when solving problems.

Brent earned a BA in economics with a minor in government from Wofford College in Spartanburg. Serving as student body president, he acquired a deep understanding of both the student community and the issues of greater Spartanburg. He had the opportunity to work with many different stakeholder groups, an experience that has proved useful during his time in the MPA program.

Working as constituent liaison for US Representative Bob Inglis during the year after college gave Brent a behind-the-scenes look at government and a completely different perspective. As he interacted with community and business leaders, he came to understand the diverse and occasionally divergent needs of constituents across the district.

Brent began looking at several of the top public administration programs in the country, but kept coming back to Carolina's commitment to local and state issues, a focus that deeply appealed to him. In meetings with students and faculty during his campus interview, Brent says that he “fell in love with Carolina’s MPA program immediately.” He drove away that day ready to commit.

Currently working in the Town of Cary Budget Office, Brent held a research assistantship with Assistant Professor Karl Smith during the 2010 academic year and spent his first summer interning with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. These experiences have “reinvigorated and refocused” him, and he is now primarily focused on local government management. Working with Carolina MPA alumni in these jobs has demonstrated the value his degree will have in the real world.

When asked to name the most rewarding part of his MPA experience, Brent explained that he could not single out one specific instance. Instead, he says, “The culmination of activities in and out of the classroom with people from diverse backgrounds has enabled me to learn and grow in ways that I had not imagined before coming here.”

Brent Troxell is a 2011–2012 recipient of the Ronald Aycock Public Administration Scholarship, created upon Mr. Aycock’s retirement to honor him for 30 years of service to county government in North Carolina.
2011 Donors Make a Difference

The MPA program gratefully acknowledges alumni and friends listed below who have contributed to another successful year. Your generosity allows us to continue to offer valuable tuition scholarships and services to MPA students. Thank you.

Donors are distinguished in two categories of giving. The “A’ Honor Roll” recognizes donors whose cumulative giving has crossed a threshold of $5,000. “Sustained Givers” are donors whose cumulative giving has reached a threshold of $500.

“A” Honor Roll
These donors have taken a leadership role in supporting the MPA program’s mission to prepare students for leadership careers in public service. Those names shown in bold will be added to the plaque located in the MPA suite.
Russell Allen
**Steve Allred**
David Ammons
**Jerri Bland**
David Cooke
William Flexner
**Christopher and Catherine Foca**
Barbara Gunn
Donald Hayman
Wally Hill
Cal Horton
**Harry Jones**
Ed Kitchen
Robert and Geraldine Laport
Ellen Liston
Peggy Merris
Florentine Miller
MPA Alumni Association
NC Association of County
Finance Officers
NC City County Management
Association
Susan Stewart Mengel
Marcy Onieal
Jane Preyer
Steve Raper
Doug and Sharon Rothwell
**Michael Ruffin**
Gloria Saigo
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Carl Stenberg
Richard and Jere Stevens
Glen Stine
**Richard and Judy Vinroot**
Hardin Watkins
Malchus and Amanda Watlington
Gordon Whitaker
Kenneth Woodcock
Richard and Patricia Woodcock
Dei and Patricia Wright
Edward Wyatt

Sustained Givers
Our thanks goes to those individuals who give consistently to the MPA program. The donors listed below join a group of prior donors recognized on the “Sustained Givers” plaque located in the MPA program suite.
Justin Amos
Bruce and Janet Bondo
Robert and Tanya Easley
Robert Herwig
John Honeycutt
Tom Lundy
Julia Mack
Aaron Noble
Kristen Siebenaler
Paul Spruill
Nancy Sumner
Rebekah and Jack Temple
David Vehaun
Wright (Andy) Williams
Noah Woods
Mark and Susan Wright
Robert Yow

Your Gift Matters
The individuals below have demonstrated a commitment to providing a quality graduate education to future public service leaders by making an annual gift.
Kim L. Adams
J. Russell Allen
Stephen Allred
Lydian Altman
David N. Ammons
Justin Matthew Amos
Richard Nelson Apling
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Gerald L. Asher
Susan Lipman Austin
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Eleanor Link Blake
Jeri Lynne Bland
Bruce E. Bondo
Janet Arey Bondo
Gina Woodruff Boutwell
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Kristen Allan Bovid
Meghan Boyd
Molly Boyle
L. Ellen Bradley
Sean R. Brandon
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Carrie Bridgess Cook
David Craig Cooke
John Martin Cooper
Bree Bean Coplen
Seth Cutter
Andrew Clifford d’Adesky
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Larry Michael Davis
Wren Davison
Neil Hodges Dermody
Olivier (Oli) Devaud
Teresa Derrick-Mills
Matthew S. Duchesne
Matthew Dudek
Cynthia Lambert Eades
Robert C. Easley Jr.
Tanya Maureen Easley
Beth A. Eastlick
David John Eckert
Sean Coffey
Carrie Bridgess Cook
David Craig Cooke
John Martin Cooper
Bree Bean Coplen
Seth Cutter
Andrew Clifford d’Adesky
Anne Davis
Larry Michael Davis
Wren Davison
Neil Hodges Dermody
Olivier (Oli) Devaud
Teresa Derrick-Mills
Matthew S. Duchesne
Matthew Duke
Cynthia Lambert Eades
Robert C. Easley Jr.
Tanya Maureen Easley
Beth A. Eastlick
David John Eckert
Erin McIntyre Eckert
Club ’66 Members

Named for the year the MPA program was founded, and an option donors have used for more than 20 years, Club ’66 offers a way to give through automatic monthly drafts from a checking account or credit card to a scholarship of the donor’s choosing.

Stephen Allred ’74
Lydian Altman ’84
A lethia Bell ’74
Maureen Berner
Jerri Bland ’93
Sean Brandon ’99
Anthony Caudle ’81
Jean Coble
David Cooke ’82
Teresa Derrick-Mills ’90
Erin McIntyre Eckert ’00
Peter Franzese ’06
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Duane Hampton ’07
Gordon Hellwig
Margaret Henderson ’90
John Holloway ’88
Cal Horton ’76
Phyllis Hughes ’78
Harry Jones ’74
Suzanne Julian ’09
Julia Mack ’95
Kevin McLaughlin ’09
Matt Owens ’97
Jonathan Palmer ’08
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Rebekah Temple ’07
Faith Thompson ’03
David Vehaun ’87
Mary Vigue ’06
Terry Waterfield ’08
Hardin Watkins ’88
Kenneth Woodcock ’97
Lee Worsley ’97
Jonathan Yeomans ’09

continued on page 10
Beginning in January 2013, the MPA program will be offered in an online format (MPA@UNC) and will welcome its first cohort of students from across the country. MPA@UNC will provide a greater opportunity to respond to the critical need for leadership in government and other areas of public service. Also, the online format allows us to extend our program to qualified students who need the flexibility of an online program because they cannot leave their jobs or relocate to Chapel Hill.

MPA@UNC will utilize cutting-edge technology that includes a highly interactive social media networking platform. For more information, visit the MPA@UNC FAQ page at www.mpa.unc.edu/node/172.
Life Events

On the Move

Richard Apling ’73 retired from the Library of Congress and has moved to Tucson, Arizona. Contact him at rapling@gmail.com.

Stephanie Ashton ’04 has accepted a position with the Greensboro Children’s Museum as director of the Edible Schoolyard in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Ellie Blake ’09 is executive director of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of North Carolina in Raleigh.

Cathy Cake ’88 is manager of accounting and operations with Williamsburg Community Health Foundation in Williamsburg, Virginia.

John Day ’83 will retire as manager of Cabarrus County, North Carolina, effective June 30, 2012.

Meredith Farace ’96 is now the lead for the Race to the Top program with the Office of the Deputy Secretary, US Department of Education.

Randy Harrington ’98 has been named interim budget and evaluation director for the City of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Emily Williamson Gangi ’01 has accepted the position of director of SuccessNC at the North Carolina Community College System in Raleigh.

Ruffin L. Hall ’93 has been appointed assistant city manager for the City of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Meredith Hatch ’05 is associate director of programs (policy) for Achieving the Dream in Washington, DC.

Sherrick Hughes ’99 will join the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Education as an associate professor, effective July 1, 2012.

Gardner Johnson ’84 has been promoted to executive director, human resource services, for Marlboro County schools in Bennettsville, South Carolina.

Eddie Kirk ’85 is a broker/realtor with Coldwell Banker Howard Perry and Walston in the Southpoint office in Durham, North Carolina.

Erin Langston ’03 has joined the University of North Carolina General Administration as assistant vice president for finance.

Henrietta Locklear ’02 has been appointed senior consultant with Raftelis Financial Consultants Inc. as part of the company’s new stormwater management consulting practice.

Katie Loovis ’00 is chief operating officer at Achieving the Dream in Washington, DC.

Lori Nicholson ’91 is now a Certified HypnoBirthing Practitioner and certified hypnotist in Bethesda, Maryland.

Jonathan Palmer ’08 has accepted a position as fiscal analyst in the State of Connecticut General Assembly Office of Fiscal Analysis.

Doug Paris ’05 has been named city manager of Salisbury, North Carolina. He had been serving as interim city manager since June 2011.

Amy Strecker ’09 has accepted a position as policy analyst with the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research in Raleigh.

Mary Vigue ’04 has been named assistant to the city manager in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Accomplishments

Francinia McKeithan ’09 is serving as a 2011 State Policy Fellow. She and four other top US graduates will work as research and policy analysts at independent think tanks across the country.

Tim Morgan ’90 was elected to a four-year at-large seat on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education. He will resign from his District 6 seat in December 2012.

Lee Worsley ’97, deputy county manager, Durham County, has been elected a vice president of the International City and County Management Association (ICMA) 2012–2013 Executive Board.

Weddings

Emily Williamson Gangi ’01 and Greg Gangi were married on October 15, 2011.

New Arrivals

Adrienne Bailey Davis ’02 and Delvin Davis ’00 announce the birth of their second child, Isaiah Miguel Davis, born October 29, 2011.

Chanitta Deloatch ’08 and Kent Nealy announce the birth of their daughter, Madisyn Chakena Nealy, born November 17, 2011.

News for the Life Events section, along with comments or suggestions for Impact, should be sent to Jean Coble at coble@sog.unc.edu.
Save the Date

MAY 12, 2012

MPA GRADUATION
Speaker: Fagan D. Stackhouse ’71, Human Resources Director, Charleston County, South Carolina

AUGUST 25, 2012

ALUMNI PICNIC
School of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill
Connect with old friends and visit with current students. For more information, contact Jean Coble at coble@sog.unc.edu.

NOVEMBER 1–2, 2012

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE
School of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill
Conference co-chairs Peter Franzese ’06 and Johanna Foster ’05 are working with their committee to make sure you have the opportunity to acquire new information and reenergize your MPA batteries.

Visit our website
www.mpa.unc.edu

Make a gift online
givetompa.unc.edu

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