

In the PUBLIC INTEREST

WINTER 2006-2007

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Director's Notes

by **Geralyn M. Miller**
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Geri Miller

One of the community advisory board member's recently told me that people outside the Division of Public and Environmental Affairs don't fully understand what we are all about.

After thinking about that for a bit, I decided to try to articulate what I see as the essence of DPEA and why I believe that a DPEA degree is so valuable. Let me share my thoughts with you.

DPEA is a multi-disciplinary unit that brings together theoretical and practical concepts and tools necessary for dealing with the complex sets of issues that society grapples with in today's world. It is designed around a dual purpose: first, to equip students with the knowledge and skills they will need for careers in improving the lives of people in various venues, and second, to use the expertise that it houses to assist its regional and community partners in enhancing the conditions in northeast Indiana.

Our programs of study in public affairs and public management, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, are intended to prepare people for responsible positions in the public sector. Public sector positions include not simply governmental positions, but

also positions in what is commonly referred to as the "third sector" or the world of nonprofit service agencies.

Furthermore, it provides a foundation for work in consulting firms and private firms that are required to deal with public policy issues. Many of our graduates are gainfully employed in positions in these types of service-driven entities, where they have the added bonus of knowing that the decisions they make impact the lives of others. DPEA produces people who are equipped to actively make a difference.

DPEA is also about providing expertise to our regional and community partners. The research undertaken by our faculty has appeared in some of the premier scholarly publications in the world. Our regional and community partners can rest assured that advice given or work provided by members of our faculty and staff both within DPEA and the Community Research Institute is sound and cutting-edge in its quality. Our students learn not only through basic classroom instruction, but also by being given the opportunity to work in internships that enable them to see how theory and practice come together, while simultaneously providing service and acquiring valuable contacts. Working together, we comprise a set of resources that have and will continue to enhance the economic and social conditions in northeast Indiana.

I'm proud of DPEA, and I hope you are as well. I believe it is a wonderful entity with a great purpose. Spread the word!

www.ipfw.edu/spea

DPEA Graduate Travels Abroad

This spring, IPFW alumnus and DPEA graduate student Justin Brugger participated in a five-week vocational exchange program in the State of Paraná, Brazil, sponsored by Rotary International.

During the program, Brugger observed the operations of the state-owned water and sewer utility, Sanepar, as well as those of the local governments, in four cities: Arapongas, Astorga, Apucarana, and Londrina. Living with a Rotarian family in each city, he was

fully immersed in Brazilian culture while learning and exchanging ideas with his Brazilian peers.

Brazil, especially Paraná, is developing rapidly. A large, young, and well-educated population is fueling this growth. With this growth comes a new set of challenges. Paraná is fortunate to sit atop the Guarani Aquifer, one of the largest aquifer systems in the world. Despite the abundance of water, it is threatened by the spiraling population growth within the region. "Paraná is experiencing a surge of domestic and international migrants who seek a share of its high standard of living," Brugger says.

Local governments in Paraná are taking proactive steps to ensure the sustainability of this resource. "Every home I stayed in had two water systems. While water from the toilets was sent directly to the sewage system, water from the showers and sinks was sent through a different set of wastewater pipes and stored in a tank below the home," Brugger says. "This water was then connected to outdoor faucets that

could be used for watering the lawn, washing the car, etc. Stormwater runoff from the roof was also directed to this same system. The water was heated from solar panels on the roofs. I tend to take really hot showers and found that this was only possible in the evening, after the sun had been soaking the panels all day."



Justin Brugger, B.S.P.A. '03, is currently a DPEA graduate student, and is a program manager for Fort Wayne City Utilities. He participated in a five-week vocational exchange program in Brazil.

After touring each filtration plant, Brugger knew that the water was high-quality and subject to regulatory standards similar to those in the U.S. "About 15 years ago, Sanepar had been purchased by a privately owned, European water utility that sent its revenue overseas yet did not maintain its Brazilian assets. Recently, the

State reacquired Sanepar and began investing heavily in its capital improvement program," Brugger says.

Brugger shares that Brazilian cities are much more condensed than American cities, and thus, do not suffer from many of the externalities associated with urban sprawl. He believes that this is a result of the structure of their property tax. "In Brazil, the property tax is a component of the comprehensive plan. An owner of undeveloped real property that is in a planned area of the city will face an escalating property tax rate each year that improvements are not placed upon the property. Once developed, the property tax will drop back down to the base rate," he says. "Conversely, a property owner who makes improvements upon agricultural land that lies outside the perimeter of the comprehensive plan must pay a heavy surcharge and increased property tax rates. This encourages development in the central cities while discouraging development on the periphery. Despite their concentrated populations, Brazilians and Americans are equally

infatuated with the automobile."

Brazil is also a leader in the production of ethanol, or in Portuguese, *alcohol*. Brugger toured plants where ethanol was produced with corn, soybeans, and sugarcane. "These ethanol-producing facilities had their own water and waste-water treatment plants," he says.

Before departing, Brugger took side trips to Iguacu Falls and Rio de Janeiro. At Iguacu, he toured Itaipu Dam, the largest hydroelectric dam in the world. "This is a remarkable engineering feat," he says. "The dam's 18 turbines supply 100 percent of Paraguay's energy needs and 20 percent of Brazil's." Environmental factors were also considered when constructing the dam. "The engineers designed a long fish migration channel around the dam, so that the fish can move upstream unhindered, without significant changes in water temperature," he adds.

When asked what made the greatest overall impression, he says, "Surprisingly, my most striking observations were not the differences between American and Brazilian culture, but rather, the many similarities. However, it did further encourage me to be adaptable to change and embracing new paradigms."

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Yes, I want to help continue advancing the quality of education at IPFW!

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Annual Recognition Reception

DPEA's 28th annual Graduation/Alumni Reception was April 28, 2006 at the Arlington Park Clubhouse. The 2005–06 graduates were recognized. The following individuals received an award:

Teaching Excellence Award
Full-time Faculty: *Stephen Ziegler*

Teaching Excellence Award
Part-time Faculty: *Robert Doolin*

Community Achievement Award
Wendy Robinson

Distinguished Alumni Award
*Gregory Meszaros, M.P.A. '96; Director,
Division of Public Works and Utilities,
City of Fort Wayne*

Outstanding Student Award
Graduate: *Alan Tio*
Undergraduate: *Meagan Pantello*

The following students were inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha, the national honorary society for public administration: Undergraduates: Meghan A. Doehla, Stephen M. Niemoeller, Trina K. Pugh, Justin C. Ralston; Graduates: Kelly F. Lundberg and Alan C. Tio.



Gerilyn Miller (left) presents Meagan Pantello (B.S.P.A. '05) with DPEA's Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award.



Professor Stephen Ziegler (left) and Robert Doolin, M.P.A. '01, were recognized as DPEA's Teaching Excellence Award recipients.

New Student Group

America's Renaissance, DPEA's new student organization, represents all academic areas of the division including criminal justice, environmental policy, health services administration, legal studies, and public management.

"The entire division is excited about our new student organization," says Professor Benjamin Pearson-Nelson, the group's advisor. The overarching initiatives are civic engagement, education, and service. "The members of America's Renaissance are highly active and passionate about government and their future role therein," says Aaron Williamson, president of America's Renaissance and also the IPFW student body comptroller. This academic year, the group has:

- conducted a voter registration drive
- hosted the Director of Fort Wayne-Allen County Homeland Security
- assisted IPFW's Michael Downs Center for Indiana Politics during its constitutional day
- hosted IPFW's "Rock the Vote"

Planned activities for this year include:

- working with Ten Thousand Villages, a nonprofit fair trade organization
- hosting a law school/graduate school workshop
- conducting additional voter registration drives

The organization also plans to host other local and state officials on campus. Anyone with questions or who wishes to make a donation to the group's efforts should send e-mail to ar@ipfw.edu.

Jospeter Mbuba Joins DPEA Faculty

Born and raised in rural Kenya, Jospeter Mbuba received a Bachelor of Arts (sociology and economics) from Egerton University, a Master of Arts (sociology) from the University of Nairobi, and a Ph.D. (sociology/criminology) from Louisiana State University. Professor Mbuba has been teaching since 1991 and has taught diverse populations of students in both America and Africa. Right before his appointment at IPFW, he was teaching criminal justice and law enforcement at Southern University in Baton Rouge, La. His research focuses on juvenile offending and juvenile justice, and his teaching interests include juvenile justice, law enforcement, criminal justice, and criminal procedure. He is currently examining the state and patterns of juvenile detention and adult incarceration in Allen County. He lives in Fort Wayne with his wife and two daughters.



Congratulations 2006–07 Scholarship Winners

Paul Helmke School of Public and Environmental Affairs Scholarship
Brooks Beatty and Sunila Chowdhry

Alumnae Begins Healthcare Management Career

As Maureen Kelsay began coursework at IPFW in fall 2000, she wasn't sure which major she would choose. Passionate about helping others and possessing a strong love for animals, she thought veterinary medicine might be for her. On the other hand, she liked the idea of working in corporate America doing fast-paced, challenging work in finance, strategic planning, or management.

So that fall, she began taking General Education courses and was surprised by what she found. One class that surprised her in particular was Contemporary Health Issues taught by Professor Koichiro Otani in the Division of Public and Environmental Affairs. The material began to teach her about healthcare in not just America, but also the world, and the severity of those problems. She was certain that if she got involved, she could make a difference.

Investigating the possible majors in healthcare, she found a bachelor's degree in public affairs with a focus in health services administration. Kelsay found that healthcare administration combined both of her passions: helping people improve their health by managing the delivery of healthcare services and using her skills in finance, communication, planning, and management to effectively manage those resources.

Three years later in a long-term care class, Professor Dan Carr mentioned that to get into healthcare management, a master's degree was going to be the minimum education needed. Kelsay began researching master's programs available in this discipline and

wondered if that should be her next step. She read all she could about the Master of Healthcare Administration, understood the program requirements, and spent the next few months preparing for the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

With much preparation, she took the test and qualified for the score she needed for top programs and applied to the top five in the country. In February 2004, she was invited to interview at three of the five schools.

Her first interview was at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The school was gorgeous, the people knowledgeable and friendly, and the program is ranked the No. 2 program in the country. She knew from that day if UNC accepted her, she would be going there. She went to the other two schools to interview, but when the acceptance letter from UNC came, her decision was made. Kelsay graduated from IPFW with her B.S.P.A. in May 2004 and moved to Chapel Hill, N.C., that August.

The master's degree program was difficult. In a new city and without knowing a soul, she was amazed at the diversity and high caliber of people in her class. Some were much older, some had already worked in hospitals for years, others had come from the military, and she felt out of her comfort zone. As time went on, however, she found she was able to do the coursework and things improved. She made new friends, was challenged in her coursework, and became comfortable with her new independence. She grew significantly from the experience. An internship at Duke University Hospital in the pharmacy and oncology departments solidified her desire for hospital administration during summer 2005.

In May 2006, she graduated with an M.H.A. from UNC and decided to take an administrative fellowship at

Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, N.C. As a fellow, she reports to the chief operating officer, does projects that support the health system and senior leaders, completes rotations and projects within each hospital department, and goes to management and committee meetings.

The purpose of the fellowship is to give a new graduate an opportunity to find what interests him/her in the hospital setting and to gauge whether a career in a particular area is desired. It also gives a fellow exposure to high-level, complex issues, exposure to senior leadership, and the chance to contribute skills and knowledge to the healthcare system.

Eventually, Kelsay aspires to be the chief operating officer of a healthcare system, but in the meantime, she recognizes the need to gain significant management experience. After the fellowship, she hopes to be kept on staff at Presbyterian Hospital, and accepted into a position where she can continue to grow as a hospital administrator. She credits her success thus far to the solid foundation of knowledge she gained in DPEA and to the favorable learning environment she found here. The knowledge and work ethic developed at IPFW contributed to her ability to be successful at UNC and in a professional healthcare environment.

In Kelsay's time away from the hospital, she likes to travel, play sports, try new restaurants, and is learning her way around Charlotte. She would also like to be a resource for students who may be interested in this particular career track and welcomes students to contact her if she can answer questions or provide advice. Please send her an e-mail at mekelsay@novanthealth.org.



Indiana Academic Advising Network Conference at IPFW

The ninth annual Indiana Academic Advising Network conference was at IPFW for the first time in May 2006, with a record 98 conferees in attendance. The theme was "It Takes a Village: Recognizing and Rewarding Professional and Faculty Advising." Advisors from as far away as Evansville, Ind., joined IPFW faculty and staff to hear Charlie Nutt, associate director of the National Academic Advising Association. His presentation was titled, "Rewarding Advising as Teaching."

A variety of interesting workshops were also presented, mainly by IPFW personnel, on such topics as "Gathering the Wayward Villagers: A Program of Intrusive Advising for Academically At-Risk Psychology Majors" by Professors Lisa Vartanian and Michael Bendele and "Creating an Academic Advising Guide for Families of New Students" by Alison Hoff, an academic advisor with

DPEA COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

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Karen Goldner, M.P.A. 1989
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Bruce Hamilton, M.P.A. 1985
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Lutheran Hospital of Indiana

Jill Korte, B.S.P.A. 1992
Economic Development Manager
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The conferees greatly enjoyed the IPFW campus, despite the inclement weather, and were appreciative of the opportunity to network with their peers from across the state. As IPFW focuses on

improving advising services on campus, such interaction is always valuable. This conference was the result of DPEA Coordinator of Advising and Student Services Nancy Leinbach and Director of General Studies Julie Hook who co-chaired the event.

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