



NORTHERN  
ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY

DIVISION OF PUBLIC  
ADMINISTRATION

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**TO:** MPA Students  
**FROM:** Samantha M. Fisher, MPA Program Coordinator  
**RE:** Fall 2009 Semester Announcements

This is going to be a great year, and faculty and staff of the MPA program are excited to welcome all of you to campus this fall. In particular we want to welcome 23 new students to the program this fall, continuing a tradition of recruiting the top public administration students from around the country and world thanks to the addition of our Muskie Scholars! And, with internships from Deerfield to DeKalb, and Highland Park to Hoffman Estates, the MPA program at NIU is proving once again that we dominate the field of public management!

As part of our commitment to professional public management, I am pleased to tell you about some great professional development activity updates for this semester. Thanks to the MPA Board of Advisors, Student-Faculty Advisory Committee, and faculty and staff input the Professional Development Activity process has been completely overhauled. The information on the changes to this process is outlined on the PSPA 695 internship course via blackboard under "Course Information" and "Assignments" section, and is also noted on the NIU MPA website under the "Current Students" page. The new PDA Checklist will help provide autonomy and flexibility to your professional development, and these checklists will be due by November 30, 2009 via blackboard for all full-time interns.

Moreover, the capstone process has had some major revisions as well. The revised capstone requirements and traditional capstone model option can be found under the "Current Students" page of the website as well. Please review this information at your earliest convenience to familiarize yourself with the changes. You will be able to select either model for your capstone project, so begin to cultivate your research ideas today.

**Important upcoming deadlines:**

**October 2** Fall Colloquium- See "Current Students" page of website for details  
**October 5** Receive substantive approval on paper from advisor  
**October 17** Take MPA comprehensive exam

**For those of you graduating, please note the following Graduate School deadline:**

**November 6** Last day to submit completed graduation application through My NIU for May 2009 graduation.

Please remember, it is your responsibility to be aware of and meet these deadlines for those of you graduating in December 2009 or May 2010. Please ensure you review graduate school calendars as well as public administration calendars to confirm you are adhering to all pertinent deadlines.

All students meet with me once each semester to make sure that all program requirements are being met. I am setting aside time from **October 26 to November 23** for these meetings; some evening appointments will be available. I will also issue permit numbers for the Spring semester at that time. All students must schedule appointments to meet with me during that time to get permit numbers. **Please call Ellen during the next two weeks at (815) 753-0184 to schedule an appointment. Part-time students may request**

***telephone appointments if they are not able to come to campus.*** After you have been issued a permit number you must use it within 48-hours after the enrollment period begins. Once a student has forfeited seating in a class by failing to register, a new permit for that class will not be reissued until the following semester. Students from the waiting list will be used to fill seating vacancies created by forfeiture. Students who will be graduating in December 2009 or May 2010 should also note that there are several great opportunities for 12-month internships and fellowships: L.E. O' Connor Public Administration Fellowship in Howard, WI; L.P. Cookingham Fellowship in Kansas City; Miami-Dade County; Phoenix; the Policy Fellows Program in Maryland; the Local Government Management Fellowships; and the Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program. Most of these programs have application deadlines in January or early February. Please note the online application for PMF is due in early October. Go to <http://www.pmi.opm.gov/> for more information. I also receive position announcements regularly in city management and non-profit management which you will find posted in the computer lab, and you can request via Ellen to be added to our job opportunity e-mail list.

Don't have enough to read this semester? This fall I have placed a few books on the recommended reading list on the "External Links" page via Blackboard, including some great management and leadership books.

Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions or concerns during the semester. I look forward to working closely with each of you as you work toward your personal and professional goals.

Warmest Thanks,

*Samantha M. Fisher, MPA*

MPA Program Coordinator

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*Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by  
the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did.  
So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor.  
Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.  
- Mark Twain*