



# Public Administration Program Newsletter

SFSU MPA PROGRAM NEWSLETTER Vol. 1, No. 1 Fall 1997

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## SFSU Student Selected for Prestigious PMI Position

The Public Administration Program is proud to announce that one of our Spring 1997 graduates, Denise Sussli, has been selected as a Presidential Management Intern (PMI), beginning Fall 1997. This highly prestigious and competitive program is the federal government's fast-track management training program. Denise is working at the Social Security Administration here in San Francisco. While in this two year program, Denise will receive mentoring from senior level federal employees and will be able to complete training rotations within her agency so as to complete her training.

Earlier in their careers, SFSU Public Administration professors Genie Stowers and Kathy Naff were both also selected for the PMI Program. Professor Stowers worked in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Professor Naff, in the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board.

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## New Format for PA Culminating Experience Courses PA 895, PA 897, and PA 898

Beginning Spring Semester, PA 895, PA 897, and PA 898 will be taught in an entirely different way.

These courses are the Public Administration Program's culminating experience courses. PA 895 is the Master's Project course, PA 897 is the Research in Public Administration, and PA 898 is the Master's Thesis course.

*(See page 3 for continuation of this article...)*

## Spring Schedule Now Available!

An exciting selection of public administration courses in convenient times and formats is offered for Spring 1998. They include our first undergraduate course, our first weekend course, and another online World Wide Web course.

### Undergraduate Courses:

**PA 490: The Public Service as a Career.** This new course is a one unit offering that allows students to explore the variety and diversity of careers and jobs in the public and nonprofit sectors. Students in this online course will

*(See next page for more course listings...)*

## Open House to Celebrate Our New Office Space!

for MPA graduates, students,  
alumni, faculty and guests

**Monday, February 2  
from 4-7 in HSS 382**

**PLEASE COME!**

**CONTACT THE MPA OFFICE, 338-2985,**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION.**



investigate topics including and what is the public sector and what types of jobs are available there. Students in the course will do self-assessments of their skills and interests, informational interviews with public and nonprofit sector employees, and will develop a

resume. Access to an email account and to the World Wide Web is **required**. *To take the course, email Professor Genie Stowers at [gstowers@sfsu.edu](mailto:gstowers@sfsu.edu) or call her at 415-338-7501 with your email address. (1 unit; ONLINE; Schedule Number #31010)*

### **Core (Required) Courses**

**PA 700: Democracy and Public Administration in Diverse Environments.** This first course in public administration will provide an excellent introduction to the field. The course is taught by Professor Kathy Naff, one of our very best instructors. (3 units; Mondays 4:10-6:50 p.m.; #31021)

**PA 710: Research Methods for Public Administration** This course is required of all MPA students and has prerequisites of 300 or 400 level courses in both statistics and research methods. Professor Kathy Naff conducted program evaluations and statistical analyses for the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board for over 10 years and can not only do analysis but can explain the process effectively. (4 units; Tuesdays 4:10-7:50; #31032)

**PA 720: Microeconomic Applications for Public Administration** This course is also required and has a prerequisite: an undergraduate course in microeconomics (ECON 101). Taught by Professor Jack Osman of the Economics Department, the course focuses on the application of economic principles. (3 units; Tuesdays 4:10-6:50; #31043)

**PA 740: Managing Organizational Behavior.** Professor Carol Edlund, a very highly regarded instructor, will teach this required course on Mondays from 7 to 9:45 p.m. As an experiment, we have scheduled this course and PA 700 so that, if they choose, a student may take two courses in one day (PA 700 at 4:10 and PA 740 at 7 p.m.) (3 units, Monday 7 - 9:45 p.m., #31054)

**PA 745: Managing Human Resources.** Professor Ray Pomerleau will be teaching this weekend course. The course, one of Professor Pomerleau's specialties, will be taught on four weekends-February 6-7, 20-21, March 6-7, 20-21. Each Friday class will meet from 5 to 9:45 p.m. and on Saturdays, they will meet from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. (3 units; Friday and Saturday; #31065)

**PA 750: Managing Public Budgets.** Professor Genie Stowers will be teaching the public and nonprofit sector budgeting course. Professor Stowers has had budgeting experience in both the public and the nonprofit sectors and will incorporate skills in using spreadsheets and presentation graphics. In addition, one course unit will be taught as an online course module so students will also receive experience in online training methodologies (4 units; Thursdays 6:10-9:50; #31076)

### **Elective Courses**

**PA 767: Administrative Law.** This timely course, taught by Unemployment Appeals Administrative Law Judge Robert Mason, will cover the basics of the legal system and the specifics of administrative law, regulations, and how they affect public and nonprofit organizations. (3 units; Thursdays 7-9:45 p.m.; #31080)

**PA 780: Public Policy Analysis (4 units)** Jim Schultz, Executive Director and Founder of the Democracy Center, a former legislative advocate for Common Cause, and a former administrative assistant in the California Assembly, will teach this important elective course. (4; Mondays 6:10-9:50; #31091)

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*Are your friends and colleagues not yet enrolled in the SFSU Public Administration Program? They can try out our courses by enrolling using the Open University option: call 1-800-987-7700 or email [sfsucel@sfsu.edu](mailto:sfsucel@sfsu.edu) to ask for an "Open University" packet.*

## Course Listings, Continued

**PA 790: Special Topics: Diversity in Public Administration** Yet another new course for the MPA Program will be this Special Topics course. Appropriate for inclusion in both the Public Management and the Nonprofit Administration emphases, the course will focus on diversity as a human resource management and a service delivery issue (3 units; Wednesdays 7:00 to 9:45; #31102)

## Tentative Summer 1998 Courses: PA 700 and PA 730

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### PA 895 Course Format Changes, Continued

Currently, students select a Culminating Experience Committee Chair and Culminating Experience Committee member after nearing the completion of their course work. They then work with their Committee Chair to complete a project or thesis prospectus. After the prospectus is finished and both Committee faculty members have approved it and signed the University's Culminating Experience form, the student registers for either the PA 895 or PA 898 course, depending upon whether or not they wish to pursue a project or the formal thesis.

This process remains the same. However, now students will have the opportunity to work more closely with other faculty and have more structure to the project or thesis process.

**Starting in Spring 1998, all students in these courses will meet with a faculty member every two weeks for two hours.** Professor Debbie LeVeen will be the first instructor of the new PA 895, 897, and 898.

The first course meeting will be on February 3, 1998, at 6 p.m. in HSS 366. Professor LeVeen will work with all students to refine issues of the literature review, research methodology and research design, project implementation, and writing up the results of the research.

The faculty have decided to make this change as a way to assist students in completing their projects and providing additional guidance.

Each student will continue to work on the details of their project with their Culminating Experience Faculty Committee.

## Subscribe to MPA Program Listserv

The MPA listserv is an electronic mailing list designed to facilitate discussions among students, alumni, and faculty members on policy and other issues relevant to the Public Administration Program at San Francisco State University.

To send a message to everyone on the list, send your message to [mpa@sfsu.edu](mailto:mpa@sfsu.edu)

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### Other New Activities at the MPA Program!

- ✓ *We are in the process of hiring a new faculty member in Public Management and Nonprofit Administration*
  - ✓ *We have moved into new offices!*
  - ✓ *Program Faculty are beginning a comprehensive strategic planning process*
  - ✓ *A new, endowed fellowship and scholarship program has been created, to begin in Fall 1998*
  - ✓ *We are creating Student and Community Advisory Boards to advise on strategic planning, curriculum, and other issues*
  - ✓ *We have completed an application for a SFSU chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha, the public administration honorary society*
  - ✓ *We have completed a new one page description of the Program, suitable for mailing and using for recruitment*
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### Contacting the SFSU Public Administration Program

**Phone:** 415-338-2985

**FAX** 415-338-1194

**email:**

[mpa@thecity.sfsu.edu](mailto:mpa@thecity.sfsu.edu)

**Web Site:** [http://](http://thecity.sfsu.edu/~mpa)

[thecity.sfsu.edu/~mpa](http://thecity.sfsu.edu/~mpa)

**Public Administration**

**Resources Online:**

[http://thecity.sfsu.edu/~mpa/  
paonline.htm](http://thecity.sfsu.edu/~mpa/paonline.htm)



# Important Dates To Remember

Updates  
Available on  
the SFSU Public  
Administration  
Program Web  
Site: [http://  
thecity.sfsu.edu/  
~mpa](http://thecity.sfsu.edu/~mpa)

**Touchtone Registration for Spring 1998:**  
*December 9 1997-January 14 1998*

**Late Registration for Admitted Students:**  
*January 17-February 11*

**Academic Advising:** *January 27*

**Instruction Begins:** *January 28*

**President's Day:** *February 16*

**Spring Recess:** *April 6-April 11*

**Last Day of Instruction:** *May 20*

**Final Examinations:** *May 22-29*

**Commencement:** *May 30*

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**Forwarding address/return  
service requested**

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