

GMU Launches New School

By Tonya T. Neaves

George Mason University (GMU), located in Fairfax County, Virginia, has merged its former Department of Public and International Affairs and School of Public Policy to create a new School of Policy, Government and International Affairs (SPGIA).

Building on the university's pillars of innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership, SPGIA's fundamental purpose is to enhance impact-driven scholarship to effectively transfer gained knowledge, skills and abilities to the public sector. SPGIA prepares its students to tackle complex public challenges across all sectors and at all levels of governance. It also supports accompanying research performed by its faculty and provides valuable insights from both resident scholars and practitioners. GMU's location in the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area provides outstanding opportunities for students and faculty to engage with key stakeholders throughout the region, nation and world.

Founded in 1957 as a branch campus of the University of Virginia, GMU did not become an independent institution until 1972. Over the years, it has expanded to include campuses in Arlington, Prince William and Loudon Counties and a burgeoning international presence in South Korea. GMU is an academic community committed to creating a more just, free and prosperous world through research, service and teaching. As the largest public university in the state, Mason is nationally recognized for a number of academic programs, including economics, law and, more notably, public service.

On December 11, in commemoration with George Mason's birthday, SPGIA held its official launch. Other significant initiatives underway at SPGIA include new programs launched by its Centers on the Public Service (CPS), established to help public sector professionals address emerging challenges that are unprecedented in both scope and complexity. The Center plays an important role by providing executive training programs, conducting impact-driven research and promoting cross-cutting collaboration, at the local, state, national and international level. SPGIA encourages practical implementation of effective public service through education. It is the state designee for the Certified Public Manager® Program through the Centers on the Public Service.

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administration, and the Warner W. Stockberger Achievement Award from the International Public Management Association for Human Resources for outstanding contributions in the field of public sector personnel management. Kettl has taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Vanderbilt University, University of Virginia and Columbia University.

Dan Lasseter, a public service assistant with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia, will serve as District III's newest representative. An ASPA member for more than a decade, Lasseter managed ASPA's recent search for an executive director. He has been an active member of the Founders' Fellows Mentoring Committee for the past two years working closely with the Founders' Fellows Selection Committee.

Alfred Ho, the newest representative for District IV, is associate professor in the School of Public Affairs and Administration at the University of Kansas. He has been an ASPA member since the late 1990s when he was a graduate student. Ho has served as secretary of the Association on Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM) from 1999 to 2000. He is a board member of the ASPA Section on Public Administration Research and editorial board member of *Public Administration Review*.

James Nordin will begin a third term as District V representative. A founding member and treasurer of the Section on Democracy and Social Justice, Nordin served for four years on the Budget and Finance Committee and currently chairs the Audit Committee. He co-chaired the working group to review the ASPA Code of Ethics and served on the Code of Ethics Implementation Committee. He endowed the Gloria Hobson Nordin Social Equity Luncheon.

Lindsey Evans, a doctoral student at Virginia Commonwealth University, will begin her term as Student Representative in March 2015. A former Founders' Fellow, Evans works as a program assistant with the Grace E. Harris Leadership Institute at VCU. She participated in the 2014 Young Scholars Program at Jilin University in China and has been coordinating the 2015 class of Founders' Fellows.

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