From the Department Chair...

Dr. Kirk Harlow

Planning for change has been a topic of discussion high on the list of nearly every administrator. There is no question that as our current and former students undertake their administrative careers in both health and public administration, they are faced with a constantly changing and dynamic operating environment. In just the past year we have seen the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Health Reform), a dramatic change in the political make-up of the Federal government, and state and local governments facing substantial budget shortfalls. You can add to those changes the unending changes in technology, an uncertain economy, and even invasions of non-indigenous species.

It is certainly the aim of most administrators to try to plan for change, but we all know that unplanned change is part and parcel of the administrative landscape. Consequently, as we continue progressing through the 21st century, one of the most important attributes that we will need in our organizations is resilience. Resilience is the ability to adapt to change, manage the stress of change, and sustain our focus in the midst of change.

Although there are many, many ideas about how to strengthen resilience let me offer just a few. First, people need social support systems. Social support systems can be anything from having friends to walk with to a faith community. Second, people need to celebrate success. Most of us complete one task and jump immediately to the next. Take the time to savor the moments of success before jumping to the next task. Whenever you can, celebrate in a group. Finally, learn something new. It doesn’t have to be job-related or career related, just something you have always wanted to learn about.

Whether you are one of our alumni, a friend of our programs, or one of our current students, I hope you will take time to renew yourself and strengthen your own resilience. And of course, if you want to learn something new, you know where we are.

MHA Online Announcement

Beginning in the summer of 2011, the MPA Program will no longer hold classroom sessions during the semester. We at the Health and Public Administration Department are very excited about this development as it gives all students the opportunity to pay in state tuition. Please help us spread the word about the latest development in our program to perspective students in your area.

Sue Cook Wins Prestigious Award

Earlier this fall, Sue Cook was awarded the President’s Classified Staff Award. To be eligible for this award, Cook had to have worked at Midwestern State University for at least two years, and go through a rigorous nominating process. Faculty members were able to provide their support in the form of letters to the committee.

“There is no one more deserving of this award than Sue. She is the heart and soul of the department. We couldn’t get along without her,” said Dr. Laura Fidelie. Even students know and comment on how much she does.

Said Mr. Philip Plubell “When students graduate they say, “I couldn’t have done this without Sue Cook...and my parents...and my spouse...and my computer.”
Dr. Kirk Harlow, Chair of Health and Public Administration, in addition to his administrative and teaching duties, has been involved in a number of other activities. He presented papers on absenteeism and presenteeism at the World at Work Conference and the Employee Assistance Roundtable. He also was appointed to the University Advisory Committee of the Medical Group Management Association and to the Community Advisory Board of Health-South Rehabilitation Hospital of Wichita Falls. Finally, he received another grant to work with the Wichita Falls Health District on their community planning activities.

Dr. Kirk Harlow, Chair of Health and Public Administration

Dr. Susan Sportsman

Dr. Susan Sportsman, the Dean of the College of Health Science and Human Services for the past 14 years, holds a PhD in Nursing from Texas Women’s University. Prior to coming to Midwestern State University, she served as the Associate Dean of Practice at Texas Tech University Health Science Center School of Nursing and an Administrator of two psychiatric hospitals and a behavioral health managed care company. Dr. Sportsman is currently the president of the Texas Nurses Association and Vice-President of the Texas Allied Health Society.

Dr. Susan Sportsman, Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Human Services

Dr. Phyllis Behrens

Dr. Behrens current research focuses on opportunities for growth and development important to both individuals and geographic areas. Advanced telecommunications are expected to facilitate opportunities by increasing capabilities, enhancing productivity, and improving labor. Rural and remote areas typically lag behind prime urban areas in diffusion of innovation and deployment of advanced telecommunications and thus find development efforts a greater struggle than do prime urban areas. A case study is made of Parkersburg, Iowa, and Harlem, Georgia, both places fewer than 2000 residents near to but separate from larger metropolitan areas. Descriptive statistics and location quotients are examined. Information sector in the smaller place is found to be about half that of the larger place in Iowa when compared to either the state or the nation as a base. In Georgia, the smaller place is about 28-29 percent of the larger place on either scale. This finding leads to perspectives on inequalities of access and their role in the issues of marginalization and uneven development that can increase digital divisions.

Dr. Phyllis Behrens, Professor of Public Administration
Dr. Roe Roberts

Since 2006, Dr. Roberts has served as a peer reviewer for the “Scientific Journals International.” In the past year, Dr. Roberts worked with several of her students in conducting and publishing research. She worked with Shruti Shastri on a project entitled “Dentistry in India: An Underappreciated Necessity.” She along with Professor Plubell worked with Sajjid Pathan on a project entitled “Air Pollution: Balancing Economics and Health Care in India.” Dr. Roberts is currently working on a project that uses data collected from the national

Dr. Nathan Moran

Dr. Nathan Moran was recently contracted with Sage Publication to write a textbook entitled “Comparative Criminal Justice Systems: A Regional Approach.” The book is scheduled for publication in 2012.

Dr. Nathan Moran’s research interests are in the areas of international organized crime, terrorism, comparative systems analysis, and international policing. In the course of this research, he has traveled broadly and published three books, more than 60 articles, four anthologies, and has made more than 120 professional presentations on the topic.

Professor Philip Plubell

Professor Philip E. Plubell co-authored several papers and presentations with his faculty colleagues and his graduate students, and is working toward completing his dissertation, a study of the comparative effectiveness of high-fidelity patient simulators (robot patients) vs. the traditional method of training new nursing hires. His work will be included in the Caribbean Journal of Criminology and Public Safety and presented at the Southwestern International Studies Association Annual Meeting regarding the Migration of Health Care Workforce: Issues and Impact on Quality of Health Care in India.
SPRING SCHEDULES NOW AVAILABLE

The spring 2011 course schedule is now available on the registrar’s website (http://registrar.mwsu.edu/). Early registration for currently enrolled students begins on November 8, 2010 and will close on December 3, 2010.

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>Health Services Admin</td>
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<td>Roe A. Roberts</td>
<td>01/23-04/17</td>
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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT GRADUATES:

Ikechikwu Igwebe
Ketankumar Makawana
Angela South
Rachael Williams
Martin Garsee
Kyla Warner
Shani Katadia
Punit Vasa
John Kinlaw