Due to events of September 11 and the war with Iraq, a few MPA students went from active student to active duty in the military.

Nancy Pettit (Class of ‘03) serves in the Utah National Guard and was placed on active duty shortly after September 11. She has had to focus on her duties both in the military and as a student since her first semester in the program. Nancy has a delayed deployment but hopes to be ready to go sometime this summer.

Rex Warner (Class of ‘03) is serving in the Utah National Guard, 300th Military Intelligence Brigade. He has achieved the rank of specialist and is a Spanish linguist for the military. He acknowledges that there are “few Iraqis who speak Spanish” and thus he has not been deployed with the rest of his battalion serving the Persian Gulf. He has been following the current war with Iraq and says, “I have been continuously impressed with our troops. The U.S. Army is the best army in the world.” He hopes morale remains high for the fighting men and women. He said his wife is “extremely supportive of my military endeavors. She comes from a military family herself, in fact her brother and uncle are currently serving in the Gulf.” He is impressed with those in the military who are “risking it all so people they have never met may enjoy freedoms they themselves may have to forego.”

Matthew Jones (Class of ‘05) serves in the 1457th Engineer Battalion as a first lieutenant. The battalion was mobilized to February. He is currently stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, awaiting further deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He writes, “I’m the battalion’s S-2, or intelligence officer. I am the commander’s ‘eyes and ears’ on the battlefield. I help him/her understand the enemy, terrain, weather, and other threats to our operations so better decisions can be made.” Matthew has a wife and two-month-old son named Camden. Matthew says his wife, Buffy, is amazing. “She has been very understanding and supportive.” Buffy and Camden have moved to California to be with family while he is deployed. He states it is hard to find balance between “giving my family the attention they need and staying motivated to do my job.” Matthew expresses appreciation for the excellent support circles their families have been.

Captain Brett Swigert (Class of ‘04) is currently an assistant professor of aerospace studies and admissions officer with the BYU Air Force ROTC Detachment. He entered the U.S. Air Force in December of 1996 after having received a bachelor’s degree in communications from BYU. He has served as an intelligence officer, assistant flight commander, and chief of an executive protection team for the president and vice president of the United States. He has previously been assigned to Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, and Fort Meade, Maryland. Captain Swigert was assigned to BYU’s Air Force ROTC Detachment in March 2001 and plans to graduate from the Romney Institute Executive MPA program in 2004. He is happily married and has two energetic boys. While he is not currently deployed in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he stands ready if called to serve. In the meantime he is helping hundreds of young men and women achieve their dreams of earning a commission in the U.S. Air Force.

Captain Erik Verhoef (Class of ‘05) is the recruiting operations officer of BYU Army ROTC Battalion. He was commissioned a second lieutenant from Utah State University in December 1994 and entered active duty in January 1995 as a goldbar lieutenant. He is a graduate of Chemical Corps Officers Basic and Advanced Course and the Combined Arms and Services School. He received his bachelor’s degree from Utah State University in biology and will complete his MPA at BYU in 2005. His initial assignment was with the Division Chemical Office in Katterbach, Germany. After completion of the Chemical Officers Advanced Course, Captain Verhoef was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas. There he was the brigade chemical officer of the Second Brigade, Fourth Infantry Division. There he participated in the fielding and testing of the new digital command and control system known as Force XXI. Captain Verhoef left active duty to work at BYU as an assistant professor of military science. At BYU he serves as the recruiting operations officer coordinating the
Let me update you on the state of the department. Things are going well here at the George W. Romney Institute of Public Management. I wanted to list a few of the events currently happening.

Students
Our goal is to admit approximately fifty students per year to the two-year, on-campus, pre-service program and thirty-five students per year to the three-year, in-service, Executive MPA program at the BYU Salt Lake Center. That admissions policy translates into about 100 students on-campus and 120 in the EMPA program at any given time. GMAT, GPA, and the number of applicants since 2000 are summarized in the following table.

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Curriculum Review
In order to make sure that our curriculum continues to meet the needs of future employers of our students, our current students, and accreditation standards, we are reviewing all of the courses being offered both on-campus and at the Salt Lake Center. We’d like your input in this review process. Please email your thoughts and/or suggestions that would assist us in this review to Professor Lori Wadsworth, lori_wadsworth@byu.edu, who chairs the Department Curriculum Committee. What courses have proven to be helpful to you throughout your career? What topics should we add to the curriculum? What areas should we strengthen?

George W. Romney Lecture Events
We are pleased to announce that the George W. Romney Lecturer this coming academic year is Dr. James Q. Wilson, a retired professor of government at Harvard University and author, is planning to join us on the BYU campus in March 2000. We have also established a new Romney Lecturer Series that will feature three guest speakers per semester. Each speaker will be on campus for a one-day lecture. We will also provide opportunities for our students and faculty to meet with the lecturer in an informal setting. Past speakers include Carroll Robinson, city council member, Houston, Texas; Olene Walker, lieutenant governor of the State of Utah; Dwight Denison, assistant professor of public and nonprofit finance, Wagner School, NYU; and David McEntire, program coordinator, Emergency Administration and Planning, at the University of North Texas. We will be inviting Laura Miller, mayor of Fort Worth, Texas, to visit our campus during the Fall Semester, 2000. As mentioned in this newsletter Ed Alter, Utah State treasurer was the recipient of the Administrator of the Year Award and John Darrington will be speaking to our EMPA students on 9 May as this year’s recipient of the N. Dale Wright Outstanding Alumni Award. The visits are a wonderful opportunity to have these individuals on our campus, for the students to interact with them in informal discussions, and to provide networking opportunities.

Scholarships Established
This past year we have been able to establish three new student scholarships. The first is the Lave and Nellie Evans Bertelson Scholarship that will be given to a second-year female MPA student. The second is the Utah City Managers Association Scholarship, that will be given each year to a second-year MPA student interested in urban management. The third is a new scholarship that will be awarded each year in the name of Professor D. Kirk Hart. Thanks to all of you for your continued financial support of the Romney Institute.

Join Us
If you will be in Provo and would be willing to speak to the students while you are here, please contact us. We welcome the opportunity to learn from your expertise.

“Service is the rent each of us pays for living—the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time or after you have reached your personal goals.”

—Marian Wright Edelman
Jay Stephens was born in 1976 in Provo, Utah, and spent his entire time growing up in the small mining town of Beatty, Nevada. He even worked in the mine for one summer. Jay served a mission from 1995-97 to Portugal and the Azores Islands, one of the most beautiful places on earth as far as he is concerned. He received a bachelor’s degree in history from BYU in December 2000 and still loves reading history books, mostly about World War II. One of his favorite hobbies is building furniture, although living in an apartment he’s running out of room for the things he builds.

Jay’s decision to enter the MPA program came in a roundabout way. He had considered at one time being a school teacher but after taking three education classes and speaking with his father he decided against it. He received a letter in the mail about the MPA program open house and decided to go. “I was having a really hard time figuring out what I wanted to do and I figured, ‘why not go?’” After attending the open house and talking to students as well as faculty like Dr. Adolphson, Jay knew that the program was right for him. “I knew it was the right place for me, and that I could make a difference with my education.”

Jay’s emphasis within the program is human resource management. “I have always had an interest in working with people and making an individual difference for people, and I feel like HR is the place to do that.” Jay feels that the MPA program has given him a great foundation in many aspects of human resource management. “I could not have found a better fit for myself than the Romney Institute. My time in the program has been amazing from the curriculum to the classmates to the faculty. The Romney Institute really prepares us well for careers in public service.”

Most of Jay’s free time right now is taken up by job applications. Jay is actively seeking employment in the public sector within the western United States. “I really believe that HR in the public sector offers a lot of challenges but so many opportunities.” He hopes that he will find a place that offers him a challenging and exciting place to work in the HR field as well as a place to grow. He feels like his greatest skill, no matter where he goes, is his ability to get along well with others. His time here at the Romney Institute will always be one of his fondest memories.

A Second Opinion from Classmate Sarah Hartsfield

Jay is a kind friend, a team-player, and a loving family man. I feel honored to know him through the MPA program. Jay is the kind of person everyone likes. He is one of the nicest people I have ever met. He is always going out of his way to help others. One day last year, he jumped up to help me open a classroom door, forgetting that his laptop was all plugged in. To make a long story short, he tripped over the cord and knocked his laptop over. Thankfully, his laptop survived, but I will never forget how willing he was to sacrifice to help a friend.

Jay is willing to share his talents with everyone in the program. His easy-going nature is refreshing among a group. He is a talented writer and researcher and is willing to do his share of the work in a group setting. I will always remember his stories about his childhood in a small mining town in Nevada. He also contributes to the program as internal vice president of the MPAA council.

Another thing that has always struck me about Jay is how dedicated he is to his family. His wife, April, and his darling one-and-a-half year old son, Quinton, have always come first with him. He always makes it a priority to spend as much time with them as possible. He has been known to put off schoolwork in order to spend time with his family. He also works part-time throughout the MPA program as a legal researcher at NuSkin in order to support his family.
The Romney Institute named Utah State Treasurer Edward T. Alter as the 2003 Administrator of the Year. Alter has been treasurer since 1980.

Addressing public management students and faculty at a banquet held in his honor, Alter said, “I have a brief plea to all of you to keep statesmanship and civility in mind as you serve in the public arena. We need to be the ones who are polite and who are civil and who are gracious.”

Romney Institute Chair Robert Parsons says, “Ed Alter exemplifies a man of vision, integrity, and hard work. He has served well as treasurer for the State of Utah. It was an honor for us to present him with this award.”

Alter has been a member of the Utah State Retirement Board since 1981 and served as president of the board for nine years. He is also a member of the State Bonding Commission, the Private Activity Bond Review Board, and the Utah Housing Finance Agency Board. He earned a BA degree in banking and finance in 1966 and an MBA degree from the University of Utah in 1967.

The Romney Institute has presented this award annually since 1972. Institute faculty nominate and select an outstanding man or woman who has achieved distinction after many years in public sector management. Past recipients include Calvin Rampton, former Utah state governor, Neal Maxwell, former commissioner of education for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and William H. Hansell, executive director of the International City/County Management Association.

Also at the banquet each year, the Institute awards individuals who have demonstrated academic and personal excellence.

The Stewart L. Grow Award is given to the student who demonstrates qualities exemplified by Grow—founder of the MPA program at BYU—including service and volunteerism. Students nominate and elect a winner from among their peers. This year’s winner was Korby Lee from Cortez, Colorado.

The Karl N. Snow Award is named for the founder of the National Association of Schools of Public Policy and Administration. It is given to the daytime student with the highest academic record since beginning the MPA. Mary Alice Cannon of Blackfoot, Idaho, was this year’s recipient with a 3.98 GPA.

The Lennis M. Knighton Award is named for the third director of the Institute of Public Management, who oversaw the development of the executive program. It is presented at a separate banquet to the graduating executive student with the highest GPA. There are two students receiving the honor this year with a graduate GPA of 3.94, R. Val Johnson, assistant managing editor for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Michael Harroun, director of BYU’s University Police.

Dr. Gloria Wheeler was presented the Faculty of the Year Award. This is the highest faculty honor presented each year based on a vote by MPA students. When presented with this year’s award, students commented on Dr. Wheeler’s constant willingness to meet with them and ensure they learn the concepts crucial to their future success.

Dr. Wheeler’s specialties in the program are statistical analysis and human resource management. Some less known facts about her life include working in the Middle East, growing up in foreign countries, finding adventure wherever she may be and supporting the Girl Scouts, especially in their cookie sales. A few qualities that are well known about her life are her excellent analytical skills, her ability to lead others in her career and church callings, as well as her love for N’Sync concerts. We applaud Dr. Wheeler for the excellent work and help she continues to give to all those around her!
Ryan J. Lambert (Class of ’03) is the first person in Utah to win an American College of Healthcare Executives scholarship since the fund was started in 1969.

Lambert, the BYU ACHE student chapter vice president, received the Foster G. McGaw national scholarship. “Being the vice president of the BYU chapter really improved my chances to win this award,” Lambert said. Of the 3,500 students affiliated with the ACHE, fewer than 20 awards were given in the U.S. and Canada during the past two years.

“We’re very pleased with the honor that Ryan has received, since the ACHE scholarship is a very competitive national award,” says Robert Parsons, chair of the school’s Romney Institute of Public Management. “Ryan is a serious student, hard working, conscientious and very deserving of this scholarship award.”

Besides relieving some financial stress for Lambert and his wife, this scholarship has provided him with other opportunities. “I listed the award on my resume and it has helped me get some job interviews that I may not have,” Lambert said. He was also chosen to be on Utah’s ACHE Regent’s Advisory Council, the governing body for ACHE in Utah. The board includes 15 healthcare executives and three students. They discuss issues related to Utah health, the ACHE, and healthcare management.

Lambert became interested in the organization after shadowing an alumnus as part of the Marriott School mentor program. The ACHE is an international professional society of nearly 30,000 healthcare executives. It is known for its prestigious education, research and public policy programs. The ACHE also publishes the Journal of Healthcare Management and Healthcare Executive.

Gary C. Cornia has been elected president of the National Tax Association, the country’s most prestigious organization of tax professionals.

Cornia is a former Utah state tax commissioner and current chair of the Utah governor’s tax review commission.

“Gary has a wonderful blend of solid academic background and practical experience,” says Kurt Zorn, NTA member and associate dean at the school of public and environmental affairs at Indiana University. “The NTA’s main audiences are the academics and practitioners of tax, and he has a foot solidly planted in both camps.”

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the NTA provides a setting for its 1,400 members to exchange ideas about public finance systems through information, research and shared viewpoints. The association also publishes the National Tax Journal, a leading academic publication focusing on public finance, policy and economics. Candidates for president of the organization are nominated by its board and elected by the membership.

“The NTA has a very good reputation for fostering serious policy discussions, and I hope to contribute to that process,” Cornia says.

Prior to his election Cornia was a member of the board of directors for the NTA from 1997–2001 and co-chair of the NTA study on the taxation of electronic commerce. He is a visiting senior fellow at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in Cambridge, Mass., and will return to teach at BYU in September 2003.

Professor Rex Facer was honored by ASPA’s Section on Personnel Administration and Labor Relations (SPALR) at the 2003 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Facer received an award for “Outstanding Service to the Section.” During the summer and fall of 2002 he chaired the strategic planning effort of SPALR. As a result of his work the section adopted a new mission statement and has started several strategic action steps. These efforts range from sponsoring student scholarships to cover the registration cost of ASPA’s annual conference to hosting a mini-conference on personnel issues prior to the annual meeting. This year's mini-conference was co-sponsored by the Brookings Institution and explored issues of human resource management for the new Department of Homeland Security. Facer was also appointed treasurer of SPALR at the section’s annual business meeting.

Robert J. Parsons was awarded one of the Marriott School Teaching Excellence Awards in recognition of his outstanding teaching efforts. Parsons received his BS and MS in economics from BYU and his PhD in economics from the University of California, Riverside in 1971. He did a post-doctoral study in health care economics at the University of Michigan in 1976. Parsons has also taught at the University of California, Riverside, Eastern Michigan University, and Chapman College. He is the Marriott School National Advisory Council Professor of Public Management. He was selected as the Marriott School’s Outstanding Faculty in 1991 and received the National Advisory Council Faculty Award in 1987 for his work in the health care industry. In 1994, he received the Seawell Best Article Award for an outstanding contribution to the professional literature by the Healthcare Financial Management Association. He is the chair-elect of the Committee on Governance for the American Hospital Association, serves on the AHA’s leadership Development Committee, and is Chairman of Board for the Urban South Region of Intermountain Health Care. Parsons and his wife, Connie, have five children and fourteen grandchildren.
Corine Larsen Bradshaw
Class of 1991

Corine completed her undergraduate degree in education with special interests in history, economics and political science at Utah State University (but we’ll forgive her for that). Rather than heading right out to teach, she decided that she should get some experience in the field first. She knew she wanted to go to Washington D.C. and through a serendipitous connection landed a job with Representative Jim Hansen from Utah. She worked there for three years gaining some valuable experience on the Hill.

In 1989 she made her way back to Utah and entered the MPA program where, unlike some of her classmates, Corine had actual experience working in government that added greatly to everyone’s education. She worked for the Utah Office of Legislative Research as an intern after her first year and continued there part-time during her second year.

After graduation, Corine heard about a job opening with Senator Orrin Hatch through a friend of a friend. She worked for Sen. Hatch for a time and then after a brief position working for Sen. Kassebaum from Kansas she was recruited to work for Senator Robert Bennett where she has worked for nine years. Corine began in Sen. Bennett’s office as a legislative assistant on education, defense, and foreign relations policy and worked her way up to her current position as legislative director.

Corine enjoys her job most days. On days when it gets challenging she still recognizes that she is a part of one of the world’s great problem solving bodies—which she compares to a 553 member group project. Like any group project, she has seen both foolish and wise decisions made, and has seen ordinary people be both courageous and disappointing, but also inspiring. She marvels that the founding fathers created a structure that would continue to work in spite of (or perhaps because of) the vast differences in perspective and politics that exists in Congress. She particularly likes working for Sen. Bennett because of the kind of person he is: a peacemaker who works hard at being civil and respectful. Corine’s time in Washington has been especially meaningful because of the significant events that she has witnessed on a firsthand basis. She remembers vividly driving across the 14th Street bridge and seeing the smoke from the Pentagon the morning of September 11. Her office used to be in the same building as Senator Daschle’s office, and she was amazed to see how things continued to function after the anthrax attacks. All in all, she has seen ordinary men and women doing their best and says that, “those events have underscored the importance of actively valuing what is important in life.”

Corine and her husband, Sheldon Bradshaw, live in Virginia. Sheldon is an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Why Alumni Updates?

Keeping your address current will allow you to receive the Outreach newsletter, inform you of alumni luncheons in your area and alumni gatherings at national conferences, and (if you choose) it allows current students to contact you regarding internship and job opportunities.

Alumni are divided into four groups, and one of these groups is contacted each year. Thus, you should only be contacted once every four years. Email is the first point of contact; otherwise we will contact you by mail or phone. Once you have responded to let us know of changes or to tell us everything is correct, we won’t contact you for another four years! However, if you do not respond, we will attempt to reach you until we can verify that the information is correct.

You can help the Romney Institute keep informed by responding to update requests, or by sending new information as you move or change jobs. To update your information, either:

- Send an email with the new information to mpaalumni@byu.edu
- Fill out the information form on the Marriott School website (msm.byu.edu), choose Alumni and Friends(Database)Update Personal Information.

G. Tracy Williams
Class of ’73
West Carrollton City Manager G. Tracy Williams was named Public Manager of the Year by the Dayton Area Manager’s Association at association’s Dec. 6 meeting.

In his career, Williams has been the recipient of several management innovation awards from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). His civic involvement includes membership in the West Carrollton Rotary Club, and he is a past president of that organization. Over the past couple of years, Williams has made three trips to Bulgaria and has greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work with their mayor, Dr. Ivan Cenov, and his staff as they strive to make the transition in their new system of government (see msm.byu.edu/mpa/alumni for more information).

Williams is also a graduate of the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia. He has also served as president of several local government management associations including the Dayton Area Managers and the Ohio City/County Management Association. Williams’ local government service includes serving the city of Manitou Springs, Colorado as city manager for two years before being appointed in 1977 by the West Carrollton City Council as city manager. His education includes a bachelor of science degree from Ball State University, an MPA from BYU, and post graduate studies in public administration at the University of Colorado, Denver.

Tracy and his wife, Karen, were married in the Salt Lake Temple in 1968. He joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints when he was twenty-one and has served in many leadership positions since then, but says “home teaching has always been the most important calling.” He has been president of the Dayton Ohio stake for five years. “We enjoy serving in this great work and helping build the Church in the Dayton area. We are grateful for our new temple in Columbus, Ohio, and the wonderful association with the people in this area.” Karen serves in the temple twice a month in addition to her other callings in the Miamisburg Ward. The Williamses have two children and are expecting their second grandchild in June.
Len Knighton is nearing the completion of his thirty-second year as a member of the MPA Faculty at BYU. Prior to coming to BYU in 1971, he was on the faculty of the Graduate School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin, where he received the school’s highest award for faculty excellence in 1968. He also taught at Michigan State University.

In 1963 Knighton left a promising career in public accounting to pursue his graduate studies, because he wanted to go home each night knowing that his work had made a difference in the lives of other people. He decided that while teaching would not bring the financial rewards that might be obtained in the business world, it would have other rewards of far greater significance: it would provide an environment in which he and his family could pursue their goals more effectively.

Knighton earned his PhD from Michigan State University in 1966, majoring in accounting and finance, and minoring in economics and public administration. While there, he decided that he would focus his teaching, research, and professional service on the public sector. He felt that need to improve financial management systems in the public sector was great, and the opportunity for service was obvious.

Early in his academic career, Knighton published a book from the work he had done for his doctoral dissertation, entitled The Performance Post Audit in State Government. It was the first publication on that topic in the country, and it quickly became the center of much attention both in Washington, D.C., and in state capitols around the nation. Thus, for many years, he was deeply involved in helping federal, state, and local governments all across America pass laws, set up programs, and develop professional staff capabilities to establish performance auditing as an exciting new way to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public programs and organizations.

Knighton was a lead author of the original edition of Government Auditing Standards, the authoritative statement of auditing standards for the public sector today. While on leave from BYU, he also served as the legislative auditor general of the State of Utah, from 1975 to 1977. There he set up a program of performance auditing that continues to be one of the top programs in the country. Several years ago, the National Association of Local Government Auditors honored him with the creation of the Lennis M. Knighton Award and Trophy. The award is given each year to audit offices judged in a national competition to have produced the outstanding performance audit of the year. He has authored dozens of publications, received three national author’s awards, and served as a national officer in several academic and professional associations.

Since coming to BYU in 1971, Knighton has contributed significantly to the development of both the MPA and the Executive MPA programs. From 1978 to 1984, he served as the director of the Institute of Public Management. During that time, the MPA program was among the first in the nation to go through the peer review process of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. As an outgrowth of that effort, BYU’s MPA program was cited in a national study as the model program to which other developing programs could look for examples. Also, during the time of Knighton’s service as director of the Institute, the Executive MPA program was set up in its present form; it has been a wonderful mid-career program for hundreds of students since then. An MHA program was also created within the Institute; and for a few years it, too, filled a great need in preparing healthcare administrators.

Knighton received the annual Distinguished Faculty Award from BYU’s School of Management in 1982 and a Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award from BYU Alumni and Friends in City Management in 2000. Always committed to his teaching, he has taught twenty-five different courses for the Institute and for other programs on campus. He currently has the heaviest teaching load of any faculty member in the Romney Institute and says that his greatest joy comes from his service to his students.

From 1987 to 1990, Knighton served as president of the Brazil Rio de Janeiro Mission. He served in the U.S. Army as a military intelligence specialist. He and his wife, Peggy Lee, are the parents of eight children, and they have eighteen grandchildren.
Named for the late three-term governor of Michigan, former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, former president of American Motors, and tireless volunteer, the George W. Romney Institute of Public Management is located at Brigham Young University’s Marriott School.

In his last speech as governor, Romney reiterated his values—values shared by the institute: “My parting prayer for Michigan and for America is that we may each join in a rededication to the common good through a deeper sense of our personal responsibility to obey our creator, respect the law, and serve our fellowman.” Inside the nourishing environment of BYU and the Marriott School, the George W. Romney Institute of Public Management aims to strengthen the “rededication to the common good” among students and faculty.

BYU’s motto, posted at the entrance to the university, publicly declares what the Romney Institute accepts as its underlying philosophy, “Enter to learn, go forth to serve.” The goals of the Romney Institute combine the vision of BYU with Romney’s legacy of public service, volunteerism, and the highest standards of personal integrity. In an age of profound individualism and cynicism regarding public service, the Romney Institute is committed to promoting the principle of quiet service to humanity.