

A TIMELINE OF NOTABLE EVENTS



1969

The master's degree program in Public Administration and the Division of Public Administration are established in the Political Science Department under the leadership of UNM President, Dr. Ferrel Heady. The Division of Public Administration developed from a National Aeronautic and Space Administration grant to study Public Science Policy and Administration.

The Division becomes an independent academic unit. Professor Albert H. Rosenthal is appointed as the first Director.

1970

The Division of Public Administration graduates its first class.

Director Rosenthal takes sabbatical leave at the National Science Foundation to establish the Office of Public Understanding of Science. Richard W. Heim is appointed acting director of the Division from September through December 1970.

1971

Dr. David R. Jones is appointed acting director of the Division of Public Administration from January through September 1971.

1972

More than 80 students apply to the program and 45 are admitted. Twenty-nine students graduate with Master's of Arts in Public Administration.

1973

Ten Fellows participate in a Program for Advanced Study in Public Science and Administration. The Division receives a \$10,000 grant to fund research in National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

1974

Dr. Leonard Stitelman is appointed director of the Division of Public Administration.

The Master's in Public Administration degree is the first graduate degree to be offered at the newly developed Santa Fe Graduate Residence Center.

1975

Middle Rio Grande Council of Government funds a Fellowship Program for minority and female students.

The Division of Public Administration is awarded a grant from the U.S. Office of Education to develop an interdisciplinary curriculum in Energy Management.

1976

The number of female students doubles from 30 in 1975 to 61 in 1976.

In cooperation with the Center for Public Affairs at Arizona State University, the Division of Public Administration begins the development of an Indian Administration Program.

The Division is designated to house a chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha, the national public administration honor society.

1977

The Division of Public Administration is awarded a third grant from the U.S. Office of Education to continue the development of an interdisciplinary energy management program and consider energy issues relevant to Indian lands.

1978

U.S. Office of Education grant provides for four Indian Administration fellows. The Indian Administration program is the first graduate academic program in Public Administration in the United States with specific courses on tribal government.

1979

The Division of Public Administration's faculty participates in a comprehensive review of the program measured against standards developed by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA).

1980

The Master's in Public Administration degree program is accredited by NASPAA as 1 of 45 graduate programs to meet its national standards.

The Public Administration Division has the highest percentage of minority students of any graduate degree program at the University of New Mexico, and is second in total number of graduate minority students at UNM.

The Master's in Public Administration degree remains the largest degree program in Santa Fe.

An introductory Public Administration course is offered in the community of Shiprock, NM through the Division of Continuing Education.

1981

Dr. T. Zane Reeves is appointed director.

Professor Albert H. Rosenthal retires.

Convenient course scheduling of once per week late afternoon or early evening is adopted to encourage the non-traditional learner.

1982

The Carl F. Hatch Endowed Professorship in Law and Public Administration is established.

The Master of Public Administration and Master of Community and Regional Planning (MPA-MCRP) dual degree program is approved.

1984

Dwight Waldo is appointed Carl F. Hatch Professor in Public Administration for academic year 1984-1985.

Curriculum for New Mexico Municipal Clerks Institute (NMCI) is approved. NMCI is co-sponsored by the Division of Public Administration and New Mexico Municipal League and is the first International Municipal Clerks Institute in New Mexico.

The Division hosts the Seventh Annual Conference on Teaching Public Administration.

1985

Concentration/Certificate in Energy/Environment Administration was renamed Natural Resources Administration.

1986

The Public Administration program at UNM is the eighth largest in the country.

The Division of Public Administration pursues a joint program with Latin American Programs in Education (LAPE) to train two groups of Ecuadorian public administrators in personnel administration.

1987

Dr. F. Lee Brown is named director of the Division of Public Administration.

The name of the degree is officially changed to Master's of Public Administration (MPA) from Master's of Arts in Public Administration (MAPA).

1988

The first cohort of students in the Master of Arts in Public Administration in Spanish (MAPAS) program arrives from Latin America. The MAPAS program is designed to teach the entire Public Administration curriculum in Spanish, principally to non-English speaking students from Latin America and Africa.

A newly formed interdisciplinary degree program in Water Resources Administration (MWRA) is placed in the Division of Public Administration.

1989

Faculty submits a proposal to the University's administration for a new degree program in Health Services Administration.

Faculty develops curriculum for a Master's of Environmental Sciences and Administration degree program.

1990

UNM Public Administration Alumnus, James Lewis, becomes State Treasurer of New Mexico.

1991

Public Administration is listed by the UNM's provost as "the most productive and among the highest quality units on campus."

1992

Significant growth and recommendations by a Graduate Review Team lead to a vote by the University Faculty Senate to rename the Division of Public Administration to the School of Public Administration (SPA).

1993

Dr. Bruce Perlman is appointed interim director of the newly named School of Public Administration.

1994

A joint project between SPA, the Latin American Institute, and the Office of International Technical Cooperation (OITEC) is started to instruct mayors and council members from Nicaragua.

1995

The School of Public Administration is moved to the Anderson School of Management (ASM), and becomes the fifth unit of the Anderson School.

Dr. Alistair Preston, Associate Dean of Anderson School of Management, is appointed administrator of the Public Administration unit.

1996

Dr. Preston is appointed director of the School of Public Administration.

1997

Dr. T. Zane Reeves is appointed director.

SPA's student body grows to a total of 239. Of these, 82 are full-time and 157 are part-time students. Seventy-one self-identify as members of minority groups and 128 are female students.

SPA Advisory Board is founded with Art Blumenfeld as Chair.

Rezler Visiting Fellowship Program is founded with six Hungarian universities; to date, over 23 Hungarian fellows have spent a semester at SPA.

1998

The School of Public Administration is awarded the competitive Muskie fellowship to host students from the former-Soviet Union.

1999

The School of Public Administration celebrates its 30th Anniversary. A banquet is held where distinguished alumni are recognized.

SPA receives \$30,000 in scholarship money from the New Mexico Distinguished Public Service Awards program (NMDPSA). The School is designated as an annual recipient of the NMDPSA program.

SPA publishes Dr. Ferrel Heady's autobiography, One Time Around.

2000

The School of Public Administration co-sponsors the spring conference of the National Academy of Public Administration in Albuquerque.

2001

Dr. Kenneth Baker from ASM is appointed director of the School of Public Administration.

2002

The School of Public Administration, under Anderson School of Management, launches the Center for the Support of Economic Development (CSED).

The first annual Arthur A. Blumenfeld endowed lecture and dinner features David Rusk, former Albuquerque Mayor.

2003

The second annual Arthur A. Blumenfeld endowed lecture and dinner features Janet Napolitano, Governor of Arizona.

2004

The School of Public Administration leaves ASM and again becomes an independent graduate school. Dr. Bruce Perlman is appointed director.

The third annual Arthur A. Blumenfeld endowed lecture and dinner features Henry Cisneros, former Secretary of HUD and Four-term mayor of San Antonio, TX.

2005

The fourth annual Arthur A. Blumenfeld endowed lecture and dinner features Pete V. Domenici, U.S. Senator.

Ferrel Heady Award for Professional Paper of the Year awarded to Ms. Kimmerly Henson, University of New Mexico Student Health Center Health Outcomes Assessment.

2006

Dr. Bruce Perlman becomes Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Albuquerque.

Dr. Lee Brown is appointed interim director of SPA in January 2006.

Dr. Ferrel Heady, founder of the School of Public Administration, passes away in August.

The fifth annual Arthur A. Blumenfeld endowed lecture and dinner features Douglas Minge Brown, New Mexico State Treasurer.

2007

Dr. Uday Desai is appointed director of the School of Public Administration in September.

The six annual Arthur A. Blumenfeld endowed lecture and dinner features James B. Lewis, New Mexico State Treasurer.

Ferrel Heady Award for Professional Paper of the Year awarded to Mr. Cary Weiner, Achieving Community Goals: Budgeting in the City of Albuquerque.

2008

SPA, now located on the third floor of the Social Sciences Building, receives an “extreme makeover” in December in recognition of the School’s commitment to the university’s sustainability and energy savings goals.

Ferrel Heady Award for Professional Paper of the Year awarded to Mr. Stephon L. Scott, “Whites Only” Racially Restrictive Real Estate Covenants: Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1940-1948.

2009

The seventh annual Arthur A. Blumenfeld endowed lecture and dinner features New Mexico Lt. Governor Diane Denish.

Ferrel Heady Award for Professional Paper of the Year awarded to Ms. Charlene Cain, The effects of conducting quality assurance reviews of individual service plans before the annual expiration date.

2010

The School of Public Administration celebrates its 40th Anniversary.

The eighth annual Arthur A. Blumenfeld endowed lecture and dinner features Dr. Garrey Carruthers,

former New Mexico Governor and current NMSU Dean of the College of Business & VP for Economic Development.

Ferrel Heady Award for Professional Paper of the Year awarded to Mr. Tom Verstynen, Pandemic Preparedness Policy in New Mexico.

2011

The ninth annual Arthur A. Blumenfeld endowed lecture and dinner features Dr. Fred R. Harris, former U.S. Senator and current UNM Professor Emeritus of Political Science.

Ferrel Heady Award for Professional Paper of the Year awarded to Ms. Glenda Kodaseet, In pursuit of a computing degree: cultural implications for American Indians.

2012

SPA receives State approval to offer a new Master's of Health Administration degree program.

Dr. Amy Wohlert is appointed acting director while Dr. Uday Desai is on professional leave for one year.

The tenth annual Arthur A. Blumenfeld endowed lecture and dinner features William F. Fulginiti, Executive Director of New Mexico Municipal League.

Ferrel Heady Award for Professional Paper of the Year awarded to Mr. Yashushi Morimoto, Do dual degree credit program locations and number of courses students take matter: a first look at dual credit in New Mexico and Mr. Eric Chenier, Service implementation network engagement: an indicator of policy advocacy?

2013

Dr. Amy Wohlert is appointed Interim Director.

SPA admits inaugural class into the MHA degree program.

The BLA/MPA Shared Credits Program is officially launched.

The eleventh annual Arthur A. Blumenfeld endowed lecture and dinner featured John Arthur Smith, New Mexico State Senator.

NASPAA acknowledges SPA for our "stand-out practices for diversity."

UNM SPA is chosen as the host school of the 2014 NASPAA Conference.

2014

Dr. Mario Rivera is appointed as Interim Director after Dr. Amy Wohlert becomes Chief of Staff for UNM president, Dr. Robert Frank.

SPA graduates its largest class of more than 90 students in May, including the first MHA graduate.

Ferrel Heady Award for Professional Paper of the Year awarded to Ms. Danila Zidovsky, "Determinants of Employee Motivation in the Nonprofit Sector: Findings from the Survey of Nonprofit Employees in Albuquerque, New Mexico"