The year 2005 is just around the corner. Marking our third year in the Republic of Macedonia, this is a time for celebrating the achievements of students, staff, faculty, and sponsors of the Graduate Center for Public Policy and Management (GCPPP). Together, they have shown that the achievement of the Center’s mission—the creation of a critical mass of public administration professionals prepared for the challenges of administrative reform—is not the impossible dream many believed it was when we inaugurated the Center in 2002.

By September 2005 we will have admitted over 100 students who have completed different phases of the GCPPP program. The GCPPP program is tailored to the needs of fulltime working students and their employers. GCPPP students are fulltime professionals working in governmental, business, and nongovernmental organizations including Ministries of Finance, Economy, Education and Science, Local Self Government, Agriculture, Labor and Social Policy, Environment, and Transportation; in local governments including Skopje and Karpus III; in international governmental and non-governmental organizations such as Development Alternatives Incorporated, the World Bank, UNICEF, USAID’s Macedonia Competitiveness Activity, Peace Corps local staff, and the British public administration reform agency DFID; and in commercial firms such as Pivara Skopje, Komercijalna Banka, and Eurolink. Many of these agencies and organizations also provide employee scholarship support. World Learning-USAID, the Soros Fund/Open Society Institute of Macedonia, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, and the Republic Macedonia provide funding that goes into a general scholarship fund.

**Governmental, Economic, and Ethnic Integration**

The GCPPP student body cuts across public, private, and nonprofit management, all integrating key sectors of the Macedonian government and economy. GCPPP students are also integrated in another very important way. The student body includes the two main cultural groups—ethnic Albanians and ethnic Macedonians—in a common educational enterprise through which they become professional colleagues and friends. In this context, GCPPP has agreements and activities with Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje and the new tri-lingual South East European University in Tetovo.
Mire Desoski  
Economist, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy  
MPPM

Ivica Jovancovski  
Language Assistant, OSCE  
CPPM

Olivera Micevska  
Senior Advisor for Economic Matters, Ministry of Transportation, Communications  
MPPM

Elica Percinkova  
Senior Official, Ministry of Transportation and Communications  
MPPM

Dimitar Dimitrovski  
Head of the Unit for Harmonization of Legislation, Ministry of Economy  
MPPM

Jadranka Kungulovska  
Chief of the Mayor’s Cabinet, Municipality of Karpos  
MPPM

Elena Misik  
Education and Youth Officer, UNICEF  
MPPM

Rrezearta Reka  
Part-time Instructor, SEEU  
MPPM

Sonila Gogu  
Director, Balkan Sunflowers, Albania  
MPPM

Jadranka Lazarevska  
Head of the Unit for Economic Research and Analysis, Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia  
MPPM

Zdenka Nikolovska  
Program Manager, U.S. Peace Corps Macedonia  
MPPM

Efimija Pecinska  
Agricultural Credit Discount Fund Manager, Ministry of Finance  
MPPM

Nora Sabani  
Project Officer, Early Childhood, UNICEF  
MPPM

Rozalija Vasilevska  
Manager, (DAI) Local Government Reform Project  
MPPM

Biljana Janevska-Nedelkovska  
Head of Insurance System Division, Ministry of Finance  
MPPM

Mirjana Makedonska  
Association Development Specialist, (DAI) Local Government Reform Project  
MPPM

Elica Percinkova  
Senior Official, Ministry of Transportation and Communications  
MPPM
On 10 September 2004, the Graduate Center for Public Policy and Management hosted an open house reception welcoming new and continuing students, faculty, friends, and supporters of the GCPPM.

The open house reception was an opportunity for students to meet and exchange views on the challenges facing them in the new academic year. As dedicated employees from the public and private sector, GCPPM students have diverse interests and ethnic backgrounds. At the same time, they all share a common aspiration to excel in public service and their profession.

In an informal setting, students interacted with GCPPM Professors from Pittsburgh and adjunct faculty from Macedonia. Dr. William Dunn, Director of the GCPPM, and Dr. David Miller, Co-Director of the GCPPM, as well as IT professor Dr. Michael Spring came from Pittsburgh to welcome the students. Adjunct professors from Macedonia included Dr. Vanco Uzunov, Dr. Pande Lazarevski, and GCPPM Assistant Director, Veli Kreci.

The reception was an occasion to welcome Michael Orlansky, the new Public Affairs Officer at the United States Embassy in Skopje and Leigh Shamblin, USAID officer for higher education. Bill Hennessy, Executive Director of AMCHAM, Patrick Coughlin, Director of World Learning, David Falcon, Director of DFID, and Ana Nikovska from the Macedonian Competitiveness Activity also attended the reception. Dr. Blerim Reka, Dean of the Public Administration Faculty at South Eastern European University (SEEU), came to mark the occasion of the signing of the MOU between GCPPM and SEEU. Among the guests was Mr. Fred Fisher, the external evaluator of the GCPPM program, who spent a week in Skopje learning about the GCPPM.

Photographic Highlights

Incoming and continuing GCPPM students

Co-Director David Miller and Fred Fisher, External Evaluator: “Evaluating the GCPPM has been a satisfying effort.”

Pande Lazarevski and Fred Fisher

Blerim Reka, the Dean of the Public Administration Department at South Eastern European University (SEEU) held an interview with the Albanian Desk at Macedonian Television.

In 2004, the GCPPM and SEEU signed a Memorandum of Understanding for junior faculty development. Each year, SEEU will select from among its finest and brightest junior faculty members to attend the Masters Program at GCPPM.
The University of Pittsburgh is proud to present the new portal technology that delivers a single point of web access to useful information. Users can access this completely customizable application from anywhere by logging into the http://my.pitt.edu site with their Pitt username and password. Students find the classes they are registered for each semester, their semester grades, and other personal information. The portal allows users to access Pitt e-mail from any location with Internet access. Users can also adjust settings to receive Pitt e-mail on other personal or work accounts by following the instructions on the technology link on http://my.pitt.edu. Users still have to clean up their Pitt mailbox sporadically, to avoid exceeding the allocated mail quota.

The Pitt username and password also allow access to the University’s course websites at http://courseweb.pitt.edu. CourseWeb is a course management system that provides course information to faculty and students, including syllabi and assignments.

On-line databases and readings can be accessed from the computer lab at the GCPPM, or by using the new Internet VPN access. Users can go to http://sslvpn.pitt.edu and log in with the Pitt username and password to get access to library resources on http://www.library.pitt.edu.

The integrated system of cutting edge technologies provides live interactive lectures from Pittsburgh to Macedonia. Please visit www.mk.pitt.edu and follow the link to distance education to view lectures from the GCPPM courses. Lectures are added as they take place.
The Graduate Center for Public Policy and Management in Macedonia co-hosted a luncheon welcoming a delegation from St. Louis Community College, Missouri. Their visit to Macedonia, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, is part of an ongoing effort supported by the US Embassy in Skopje, the American Chamber of Commerce and the GCPPM to develop new business and educational opportunities.

A leader in promoting high-tech distance education, the GCPPM shared its experience with the St. Louis team, and demonstrated the enormous potential of internet technology for securing first-class education for its students. These and other achievements, realized in close cooperation with GCPPM’s partner, UNET, the first internet service provider in Macedonia, have promoted new knowledge and learning opportunities in Macedonia.

Impressed by the advantages and possibilities of distance education, St. Louis Community College, which has a program at the Faculty of Hotel Management and Tourism in Ohrid, is assisting the Ohrid Faculty by supplying similar state of the art equipment.

The GCPPM is Moving to New Facilities

The Graduate Center for Public Policy and Management is moving to new facilities at the International Educational Center (IEC). Svetozar Janevski, General Manager of the Skopje Brewery, was instrumental in obtaining space for the GCPPM at the IEC. The International Educational Center is designed to promote private and public partnerships in education.
A Few Words from the Incoming Students

Rezearta Reka, Part time instructor, SEEU: My hopes for this program are based on the quality of the professors who teach here and the wonderful team of students attending the program. I hope to complete the Master’s Program in Public Policy and Management successfully, which will equip me with the sufficient knowledge I can apply in my future work in public policy areas. I hope I will be in a position to contribute more to the administrative reforms in Macedonia, and in the broader region.

Rozalija Vasilevski, Manager, (DAI) Local Government Reform Project: I considered the bigger picture of my professional career development. As employee in an international organization in Macedonia, I know that requirements for good job positions are high and include expertise in the areas such as organizational training, private business sector, continuing education and strategic planning. I found that working with experts and consultants and using the Internet were helpful, but not sufficient to fill the theoretical and practical gaps of my educational background. When I heard about the GCPPM, a branch of Graduate School of International and Public Affairs of the University of Pittsburgh, I knew I had found the right solution of my problem.

From the Director continued from page 1

National and International Competition among Fellow Public Administration Professionals

GCPPM students are professionally active at the regional and international levels, as well as in the Republic of Macedonia. GCPPM students also effectively compete with public administration counterparts in Central and Eastern Europe. GCPPM students, teaching assistants, and staff will present papers at the forthcoming 2005 Annual Conference of NISPAcee (the Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe), which will be held in Moscow this May. Together with governmental leaders from the Macedonian General Secretariat and the Civil Servants Agency, they constitute one of the largest country delegations in NISPAcee. NISPAcee is the main public administration professional organization among European Union accession and pre-accession states in Central and Eastern Europe.

GCPPM Courses: Problem Solving in Real-Life Contexts of Practice

GCPPM courses are part of a curriculum that focuses on problem-solving in real-life contexts of practice. Although courses do and should provide theoretical knowledge, the majority of assignments require that students and their faculty mentors address problems of management and policy making actually facing Macedonia and the region. The typical products of classes in management, policy analysis, applied economics, information technology, and strategic planning are management case studies, policy papers, and implementation and action plans. A computer-based policy information system that catalogs and stores these different products (now numbering well over 100) is now being developed with the support of the Soros Fund and the Open Society Foundation (OSF) of Macedonia. In addition, the GCPPM and OSF will jointly sponsor a continuing public policy forum based on papers in the information system. The public policy forums will disseminate research and analyses prepared by students and faculty about urgent problems facing Macedonia in areas including the management of foreign direct investment, health care reform, fiscal decentralization, European Union accession, and environmental protection.

Innovation in Distance Education

The high-quality GCPPM program is affordable to students and their sponsors in large part because of the GCPPM’s special distance education technology, developed with the help of the University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education and a Macedonian internet service provider called UNET. In each course, a minimum of 18 hours of instruction are delivered face-to-face in Skopje. The remaining 27 hours are broadcast from Pittsburgh to GCPPM via a distance education system that integrates voice, video, and data. The system has worked so well that it is possible to speak of an “international virtual classroom” that spans the Atlantic. Discussions about other distance education sites in Tetovo, Pristina, Belgrade, and other locations in the region are now under way. Please visit recorded lectures online at www.mk.pitt.edu.

Ivo Jovanovski, Language Assistant, OSCE: Looking for good quality graduate education in southeast Europe can be a challenging effort. When I found out about the GCPPM, I knew I had hit the jackpot. With an up to date curriculum and a hands-on approach to educational training, the GCPPM is a pathway for developing new ideas, gathering new analytical skills and interacting with experienced professionals from different fields of public life. The experience of a multicultural exposure and a dynamic learning environment will equip me with problem solving skills and new knowledge that will be a great asset in my future professional plans.

Jadranka Kungulovska, Chief of the Mayor’s Cabinet, Municipality of Karpos: I am very excited at the superb opportunity to upgrade my education at the GCPPM. If you want to be considered an expert in your professional field, you have to upgrade your education and practical experience. I am proud to be a part of this Program and at the same time I’m aware that it will take a lot of work and effort on my part to obtain my Master’s Degree. The challenge is enormous but that makes me even more motivated.
**GCPPM and SEEU Sign Memorandum of Understanding**

*As a Memorandum of Understanding for Furthering Common Objectives*

In June 2004, the Graduate Center for Public Policy and Management (GCPPM) and the Faculty of Public Administration at the South East European University in Tetovo (SEEU) signed a memorandum of understanding. This Memorandum of Understanding is the first activity that grew from the General Academic Agreement between the University of Pittsburgh and South East European University, which was also signed in June 2004. The memorandum of understanding between the GCPPM and SEEU further formalizes and expands the level of academic cooperation between the two universities. It reflects the University of Pittsburgh's and the GCPPM's goal to develop close cooperation and working relationships with Macedonian universities.

The memorandum of understanding between the GCPPM and SEEU Faculty of Public Administration outlines activities that will advance the common objectives in graduate education in the field of public administration and management. With the help of Dr. Paul Foster, Director of Graduate Studies at SEEU, the GCPPM will assist junior faculty at the Faculty of Public Administration in applying to its Master of Public Policy and Management degree program. Each year, the Faculty of Public Administration at SEEU will sponsor a select number of its most talented staff to pursue graduate studies at the GCPPM.

The GCPPM and the Public Administration Faculty at SEEU also agreed to collaborate on designing a junior faculty development program at the Faculty of Public Administration to improve the professional, academic, and pedagogical knowledge and skills of SEEU faculty. The cooperation in the design and development of curricula and the education of faculty in Public Administration is expected to bring significant improvements in the undergraduate Public Administration program at SEEU.

**GCPPM’s Meets Challenges of Graduate Education in English**

*The GCPPM provides assistance with upgrading the English Language Skills of its current and future students*

The unique character of the GCPPM allows working professionals in Macedonia and the region to receive a world-class graduate education from a leading U.S. University in the heart of South Eastern Europe. The challenges for non-American, international students are manifold: from English language proficiency to the American graduate study environment.

The GCPPM is dedicated to helping students overcome these challenges and is developing a strong in-house capacity for English language support. Sonja Andonova, the Communications Coordinator, is there to assist incoming and current students, though workshops and individual consultation.

To prospective students, the GCPPM offers assistance for passing the English proficiency tests (TOEFL and IELTS) required for admission into the program. Candidates are given guidelines and practice tests to familiarize themselves with the tests and test taking techniques.

For enrolled students, the GCPPM organizes a Workshop on Professional Communication designed to raise the level of the students’ understanding of academic writing and research, develop their professional vocabulary, and advance their ability to prepare oral and written presentations.
On the evening of May 15, 2004, the Graduate Center for Public Policy and Management (GCPPM) of Skopje, Macedonia, held a reception at the 12th NISPAcee (The Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe) Annual Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania. The reception gave opportunity to actively exchange information about the GCPPM with deans, professors, and leaders from international organizations and training centers from Eastern, Central, and Western Europe, as well as the U.S. Guests at the reception were impressed by the curriculum of the GCPPM, with all classes being held in English and its case studies focusing on Macedonia. The innovative distance learning method of real-time web-based instruction combined with face-to-face sessions of American and Macedonian faculty also drew a lot of attention.

“The Center provides an opportunity to prepare current and future leaders for positions of public service,” said GSPIA Associate Dean David Miller, who is the Co-Director of the GCPPM and the Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. William Dunn and GSPIA Associate Dean David Y. Miller as well as the two GCPPM coordinators Veli Kreci of Skopje and Jacqueline Saslawski of Pittsburgh hosted the reception and had many interesting talks with the guests. In addition, GSPIA PhD candidate Philip Murphy, whose research focuses on Macedonia, attended. GCPPM student Magdalena Shaldeva traveled to the conference with fellow Macedonians from the Civil Service Agency, the EU integration sector, Ministry of Local Self Government and the Ministry of Justice.

Murphy, Saslawski, and Kreci presented their paper, “Public Administration Education in Southeastern Europe: Accelerating the Process” at the conference. The paper was selected for publication in the conference proceedings.

Dunn coordinated, chaired and moderated sessions of the Working Group on Public Sector Quality.

GCPPM and GSPIA will be actively participating in the newly formed Working Group on Ethics in Governance.

Several GCPPM students and junior faculty have submitted paper proposals for the upcoming NISPAcee conference.

About the GCPPM

After more than a decade of joint planning with university, government, and business leaders from the United States and Macedonia, the Graduate Center for Public Policy and Management (GCPPM) has been established in Skopje, Macedonia in September 2003. The GCPPM is the first graduate school of public policy and management in Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe, and the first foreign university accredited in the Republic of Macedonia. The University of Pittsburgh, through its Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), delivers the GCPPM’s graduate academic programs. To learn more, please visit our website www.mk.pitt.edu.

Contact Information

Director: Dr. William N. Dunn
Co-Director: Dr. David Y. Miller
Business Coordinator: Verica Hadzi-Vasileva Markovska
Assistant Director, Skopje: Veli Kreci
Coordinator/Registrar, Pittsburgh: Jacqueline Saslawski
Office Manager, Skopje: Shqipe Tahiri
Communication Coordinator: Sonja Andonova
Inter-University Liaison: Dr. Dimitar Mircev
Training and Research Coordinator: Dr. Pande Lazarevski

Skopje:
Graduate Center for Public Policy and Management
1000 Skopje
Republic of Macedonia
Tel: +389 2 317 5953
Email: tahiri@gspia.pitt.edu
http://www.mk.pitt.edu

Pittsburgh:
University of Pittsburgh
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
Macedonia Program
3418 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Tel: +1 412 383 8970
Email: saslawski@gspia.pitt.edu
http://www.mk.pitt.edu
http://www.gspia.pitt.edu

Contributors

Newsletter Contributors:
William N. Dunn, Veli Kreci, Jacqueline Saslawski, Shqipe Tahiri, Sonja Andonova, Rrezearta Reka, Rozalija Vasilevska, Ivica Jovanovski, Jadranka Kungulovska

Designer and Editor:
Jacqueline Saslawski