

## Letter from the Director

The Center for Public and Nonprofit Management has enjoyed an engaging and, dare I say, inspiring year. We bear witness to and demonstrate through our work the power of higher education to transform communities and contribute to the strengthening of individuals. I can state without hesitation that our return on engagement (ROE) is high.



In this annual report, we highlight some of the exemplary community engaged research and teaching conducted by scholars and staff who work with and through the center. A major focus is on our Walking School Bus program, which builds capacity

of local schools, school districts and community partner organizations to establish safe walking routes for elementary school children who live within a two-mile radius of their school. See our profile of Assistant Professor Christopher Hawkins, who is contributing to the success of Walking School Bus through applied research and service learning.

This year we celebrate a highly successful 8th annual public administration research conference. The conference featured record attendance, nationally known keynote speakers and participation from scholars from around the United States. Select papers from the conference plus additional writing from international scholars are

published in a book, *National Service and Volunteerism: Achieving Impact in our Community* (2014, published by Lexington Books).

Finally, we highlight our ongoing work as host of an AmeriCorps VISTA project. Building on the efforts in Seminole County and Orange County public school systems, we add Brevard County and the University of Central Florida to our partners list. Ultimately, we are seeing transformation of community institutions to help homeless students succeed in school and beyond.

We are indeed achieving a high ROE. Please join us in our efforts. Contact me at [thomas.bryer@ucf.edu](mailto:thomas.bryer@ucf.edu) and view our new website at [cpnm.ucf.edu](http://cpnm.ucf.edu).

— Thomas A. Bryer, Ph.D.,  
CPNM Director

## Research Focus

The mission of the Center for Public and Nonprofit Management at the University of Central Florida is to strengthen communities through relevant research by faculty members and students and through capacity building services to public and nonprofit organizations.

The center's research areas will remain responsive to community needs through evaluation, scheduled review and periodic renewal.

## CORE RESEARCH AREAS IN 2014

- Collaborative Governance
- Democracy and Citizen Engagement
- Diversity and Inclusiveness
- Sustainability

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Community Service

The Center for Public and Nonprofit Management Walking School Bus program partners with local communities to organize safe walking groups for schoolchildren led by trained adult mentors. Through involvement with Walking School Bus, young people learn pedestrian safety, engage in increased physical activity and form new friendships. The program has the added advantage of improved air quality and reduced traffic congestion. Faced with a severe traffic congestion



problem, Stevenson Elementary in Merritt Island turned to the Walking School Bus program for answers. Walking School Bus volunteers escort

students down a trail connecting to the rear of the school as an alternative to the car loop. Noted Principal Michael Corneau, "The kids love it because they get to hang out with their friends on the walk. The parents love the ease, and I like it because I know my kids are safe and getting some exercise, and we're being good neighbors."

The push for added academic rigor has far too often led to diminished

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## Community Service (Continued)



Abi Bell

opportunities for physical activity during the school day. Lake Sybelia Elementary in Maitland responded to this challenge by started a Walking School Bus. At this site, a group of dedicated volunteers pick up students

along two routes. "It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to get exercise and get the wiggles out before the school day begins," said Lake Sybelia Principal and UCF alumna Julie Paradise (Ed.D. '07, M.Ed. '93).

"We highly encourage it."

Walking School Bus also partners with Soldiers to Scholars, a UCF program that provides academic and tuition support to returning veterans in exchange for community service. Volunteers escort a group of students from an apartment complex to school as a part of a broader enrichment program. Many of these students would be forced to walk to school unsupervised down a busy section of Kirkman Road in Orlando without the program.

Center staff members support these efforts through route mapping, volunteer training and ongoing technical assistance. More than 60 Walking School Bus volunteers serve nearly 250 youth at five schools in Central Florida. This program is provided in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation. For more information visit [www.walk2schoolcf.org](http://www.walk2schoolcf.org).

## Research Colloquium Series

The Research Colloquium Series provides a forum for intellectual dialogue with prominent researchers on topics relevant to public affairs and administration. The series focuses on current topics in public administration and brings together community leaders, scholars and students. The 2013-2014 series addressed the following topics:

**October 23, 2013 Conflict of Interest Regulations: How to Manage?** by JoAnn Smith, Ph.D.

**November 13, 2013 Korea Study Abroad** by Thomas Bryer, Ph.D., and students

**January 30, 2014 Examining Collaborative Response to Disasters: The Case of Pakistani Floods in 2010** by Sana Khosa, Ph.D.

**February 12, 2014 Collaboration in Virtual Environments as Embodied Avatars** by Barbara Truman, Ph.D., Simulation Strategist with Fusion Unlimited Networks, LLC

**March 12, 2014**

American Society for Public Administration Conference Presentations:

**21st Century Crisis Challenge: Climate Change Research in Public Administration Literature** by Claire Knox, Ph.D.

**Three Sectors and a University: Impacting the Education of Homeless Students** by Thomas Bryer, Ph.D.

**April 9, 2014**

Research Fellow Presentations:

**Early Warning and Response Systems, With a Touch of Disney** by Steven Carrillo, M.P.A. student

**Nonprofit Organizations, Volunteers and Risk Management** by Samantha Whitham and Jeremy Waller, undergraduate students

**Roles and Responsibilities of Organizations Engaged in Emergency Management: Evidence from Central Florida** by David McMahan, undergraduate student

**Voter Support for Statewide Environmental Bonds** by Andrew Russell, Graduate Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning student

## FEATURED

## Researcher Profile

Assistant Professor and M.S.-URP Director Christopher V. Hawkins joined the faculty in 2008. His primary research interests are metropolitan governance and urban sustainability, with a focus on local government collective action and political institutions. He has published/forthcoming articles in the *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, *Public Administration Review*, *Urban Affairs Review*, *Journal of Urban Affairs and Urban Studies*.

Hawkins has also conducted numerous community-based research projects that enable students to apply analytical skills learned in the classroom to a local planning issue. A recent study conducted by Hawkins and graduate student Nik Thalmueller, in partnership with the Orange County Fire and Rescue

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Abi Bell

## Contracts 2013–2014

INVESTIGATORS	RESEARCH TITLE	AGENCY NAME	AMOUNT	TIME FRAME
Brandi Blessett, Ph.D.	Data Analysis: Children's Services, Central Florida College Access Network, Data Work Group	Heart of Florida United Way	\$6,000	January – December 2014
Thomas Bryer, Ph.D.	Workshop: Citizen Engagement: Innovative Ways to Enhance Public Participation	Sarasota County Government	\$1,000	July 12, 2013
Thomas Bryer, Ph.D.	Data Analysis: Children's Summit	Heart of Florida United Way	\$3,000	Fall 2013
Claire Knox, Ph.D.	Workshop: Editing and Polishing Your Writing	Florida Grant Developers Network K-12	\$272.50	February 6-7, 2014

## Grants 2013–2014

INVESTIGATORS	RESEARCH TITLE	AGENCY NAME	AMOUNT
Naim Kapuchu, Ph.D.	Collaborative Research: WeatherBlur (ID: 1055815)	Karen Peterman Consulting, Co.	\$34,416
Thomas Bryer, Ph.D.	CPNM AmeriCorps VISTA Project (ID: 1053733)	Corporation for National and Community Service	\$18,000
Wendell Lawther, Ph.D.	Flexible and Rapid Decision Making Related to Public-Private Partnerships (P3) Funding Models in Transportation (ID: 1054017)	Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)	\$146,969
Claire Knox, Ph.D.	IH: Implementation of a State's Coastal Restoration Program in a Home-Ruled Local Government Institutional Context (ID: 1056993)	Office of Research & Commercialization	\$7,500
Qian Hu, Ph.D.	IH: Building, Developing and Sustaining Local Economic Development Networks (ID: 1055360)	Office of Research & Commercialization	\$7,500
Thomas Bryer, Ph.D.	Project Oasis: Evaluation Plan (ID: 1052096)	Hebni Nutrition Consultants, Inc (HNCI)	\$15,000
Dorothy Norris-Tirrell, Ph.D.	RF: Board of Directors Development (ID: 1056405)	United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties, Inc	\$2,625
Jo Smith, Ph.D.	RF: 2014 UCF Walking School Bus - Safe Neighborhoods Safety Grant (ID: 1056808)	Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando Area	\$3,541
Thomas Bryer, Ph.D.	RF: 2014 UCF Walking School Bus - Safe Neighborhoods Safety Grant (ID: 1056808)	Orange County Board of Commissioners	\$9,655
Christopher Hawkins, Ph.D.	RF: Economic Impact of Successful Orange County Commercial Fire Interventions (ID: 1056828)	Orange County Fire Rescue Department	\$4,035
Thomas Bryer, Ph.D., Christopher Hawkins, Ph.D., (Co-PI)	Walking School Bus Administration and Evaluation (ID: 1053910)	Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)	\$250,000

## Researcher Profile *(Continued)*

Department (OCFRD) and East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, examined the economic impacts of successful commercial fire interventions by Orange County. The results were used by public officials to determine the employment and wages that would have been lost without a response by OCFRD. The results of the team's analysis indicate that without a response by OCFRD, 8,741 total jobs in Orange County would have been lost, as well as 10,082 jobs in Florida. In addition, gross domestic product (GDP) would have decreased by \$720 million in Orange County and real disposable personal income would have been reduced by nearly \$200 million.

Hawkins' community-based research is also conducted through his classes. His graduate-level planning methods class conducted neighborhood profiles and pedestrian safety and walkability audits for elementary schools in Orange County. These reports provided valuable information for administrators of the CPNM Walking School Bus program to prioritize their allocation of resources.

### 8th Annual UCF Public Administration Research Conference

Number of Attendees: **147**  
 Number of Nationally Recognized Keynote Speakers: **2**  
 Number of Books to be Published from the Conference: **1**

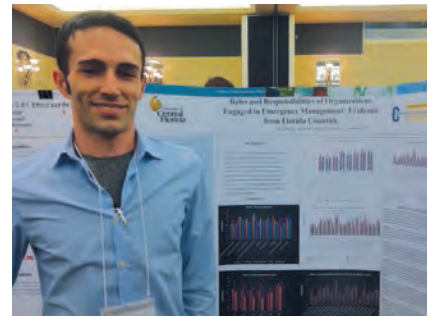
## Fellows Program

Five outstanding students were competitively selected as fellows in spring 2014, pursuing rigorous research throughout the semester on topics related to their discipline and presenting their findings at a research colloquium.

**CPNM Fellow** – Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) student Steven Carrillo completed research with Assistant Professor Brandi Blessett on the topic: Early Warning and Response Systems, With a Touch of Disney.

**Urban and Regional Planning Fellows** – Graduate Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning student Andrew Russell worked with Assistant Professor Christopher Hawkins on the topic: Voter Support for Statewide Environmental Bonds, and presented at the Graduate Research Forum.

Undergraduate student David McMahan (pictured) worked with



Courtesy of Christopher Hawkins

Hawkins on the topic: Roles and Responsibilities of Organizations Engaged in Emergency Management: Evidence from Central Florida, and presented at the Undergraduate Research Forum.

**Nonprofit Management Fellows** – Undergraduate students Jeremy Waller and Samantha Whitham worked with Assistant Professor Dorothy Norris Tirrell and Director of Nonprofit Leadership Alliance Stephanie Krick on the topic: Nonprofit Organizations, Volunteers and Risk Management.

## Eradicating Poverty



Courtesy of Steven Carrillo

Passionate Volunteers in Service to America (VISTAs) serve with community partners in Brevard, Orange and Seminole counties through the CPNM AmeriCorps VISTA Project. The AmeriCorps VISTA vision to eradicate poverty is facilitated by its capacity building work with homeless education programs.

## CENTER FOR PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ADVOCATES

**David Krepcho**, *Chair*, President/CEO, Second Harvest Food Bank

**Ray Larsen**, *Vice Chair* Director of Children's Community Services, Heart of Florida United Way

**Allie Braswell**, President/CEO, Central Florida Urban League

**Mark Brewer**, President/CEO, Community Foundation of Central Florida

**Liz Buckley**, Executive Director, FOCUS Orlando

**James "Jim" Coffin**, Executive Director, Interfaith Council of Central Florida

**Patty DeYoung**, Assistant to the President for Special Projects, Heart of Florida United Way

**Marie-Jose Francois**, Executive Director/CEO, Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention

**Keith Gooden**, Development and Marketing Director, Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention

**Marcia Hope Goodwin**, Chief Service Officer, City of Orlando

**Dean Grandin Jr.**, Manager, City of Orlando Planning Division; Chair, Urban and Regional Planning Advisory Board, UCF

**Bruce Greer**, Executive Director, Community Foundation of South Lake

**Ann Hellmuth**, President, League of Women Voters of Orange County

**Thomas Holley**, Attorney, Law Offices of Thomas B. Holley, Esq.

**Joel Hunter**, Senior Pastor, Northland, A Church Distributed

**Jon Ippel**, Sustainability Director, City of Orlando

**Ann Manley**, Executive Director and Secretary, Dr. Phillips Charities/Chair, Nonprofit Management Advisory Board

**Lauren Nelson**, Director of Individual Giving, Orlando Science Center

**Kevin Sherin**, Director of Public Health, Orange County Health Department

## New Books

*Higher Education Beyond Job Creation: Universities, Citizenship, and Community* (2014), by Thomas Bryer, and published by Lexington Books.

Professors Naim Kapucu and Kuotsai "Tom" Liou are the editors of a new book, *Disaster and Development: Examining Global Issues and Cases* (2014), published by Springer.

**Contact us** for opportunities to partner with the CPNM.  
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