

Letter from the Director

The Center for Public and Nonprofit Management has enjoyed a year of accomplishment, both internally and for the communities we serve. 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 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. We provide a summary of the success

of our Walking School Bus program, which came to an end in June 2015, and we provide an update on our AmeriCorps VISTA project. Notably, over the past year, our VISTA project has expanded to include new partners, and we continue to add partners as we evolve and strengthen our project.

We also introduce a new project that was awarded to us in 2015 – a leadership development program for the Florida Department of Children and Families.

Each year we profile a member of our faculty; this year assistant professor Claire Knox received the spotlight as we celebrate her research achievements that have been recognized by our friends in academia and in practice.

We profile three books—one that emerged from the 2014 Public Administration Research Conference, one that emerged from research funded by the Florida Department of Transportation, and one that is now available in paperback form following a positive sales rate.

Finally, we highlight our international activities in Europe. Internationalization is one of the university's goals, and we are paving the way to new and bold partnerships through our work in Lithuania, Romania and elsewhere.

We are indeed achieving a high return on engagement. Please join us in our efforts. Contact me at thomas.bryer@ucf.edu and view our new website at 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 2014-2015

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

CPNM Director Beginning Fulbright Award in Lithuania

CPNM director Thomas Bryer, Ph.D., has received a Fulbright grant. Beginning in fall 2015, Bryer will begin a period of research on civic engagement in Lithuania, where he will be hosted by Kaunas University of Technology's Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities. Bryer received the Fulbright Flex Award, which requires Bryer to be in Lithuania for six months over three years. He intends to travel to Lithuania from mid-September to mid-November in the

years 2015 through 2017. As a Fulbright Scholar, Bryer's research will focus on civic engagement in Lithuania, specifically within the context of local government. He will utilize a variety of data collection techniques, including interviews, focus groups and surveys, each embedded within a broader action research methodology that builds on research he performed at the University of Southern California. Bryer said that he is pleased to

continue his relationship with the Kaunas University of Technology. He first visited its faculty in summer 2014 to explore partnership opportunities. In spring 2015, Bryer returned twice. During the first trip, he joined a project, called Volunteering-Code of Active Citizenship, which is funded by the European Commission, as an associated partner. He joined his colleagues at the Municipal Training

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Fulbright Award *(Continued)*



Provided by Tom Bryer

Center at Kaunas University of Technology (in many ways, a parallel center to the CPNM) for an initial meeting of partners that convened in Kaunas, including university and civil

society officials from Poland, Italy, Latvia, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Soon thereafter, he moderated a debate about the role of local government in supporting volunteer

initiatives in Riga, Latvia. While on this journey, Bryer delivered a lecture, titled “Social Media: Bad for Democracy?,” in Kaunas to more than 70 students. As a Fulbright grantee, Bryer will join the ranks of distinguished participants in the program. Fulbright alumni have become heads of state, judges, ambassadors, cabinet ministers, CEOs and university presidents, as well as leading journalists, artists, scientists and teachers. They have been awarded 53 Nobel Prizes. Since its beginning in 1946, more than 360,000 Fulbright Scholars have participated in the program. The Fulbright Program, named for the leading sponsor Senator J. William Fulbright, aims to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries, and it is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government.

Walking School Bus

The Center for Public and Nonprofit Management’s Walking School Bus program, which officially concluded on June 30, partnered with local communities to organize safe walking routes for schoolchildren led by trained adult mentors. CPNM staff supported these efforts through route mapping, volunteer training and ongoing technical support. Since its inception in 2013, the program served a total of 851 youth at 10 sites across three counties. This two-year pilot project was funded through a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation.



Faced with a long-term decline in student pedestrian activity, Indian River Elementary physical education teacher Brent Robitszsch partnered with the CPNM to start a Walking School Bus in September 2014. That program grew to include 33 registered youth. The school sponsored a Walk to School Day event in October 2014 that was attended by 300 youth – more than half of the school’s population. Robitszsch and co-leader April Michalowski were honored as their school’s volunteers of the year.

CPNM Homeless Education VISTA Project

The Center for Public and Nonprofit Management’s Homeless Education VISTA project partners with local school districts and community organizations to address the needs of homeless students and families. The center’s team of 17 AmeriCorps VISTAs work to enhance organizations’ capacity to serve homeless students through projects that include volunteer management, resource development and program evaluation. This past year, CPNM VISTAs raised more than \$67,000 in cash and in-kind donations, recruited 158 community volunteers, and provided services that reached a total of 4,250 youth.



The CPNM also worked to address the pressing issue of homelessness at UCF by partnering with the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. VISTA member Lauren Cantrell developed a campuswide survey examining the extent of homelessness on campus, worked with students to host Hunger and Homelessness Week, and developed a map of community resources using GIS technology.

FEATURED

Researcher Profile

Assistant professor and emergency management and homeland security program director Claire Connolly Knox joined the faculty in 2010. Her primary research interests are environmental policy and management, discursive policy theory, and environmental vulnerability and disaster response. She has published articles in the *Public Administration Review*, the *Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning*, the *Journal of Emergency Management*, and the *Journal of Public Affairs Education*.

Knox's research bridges theory with practice. She has applied Habermas' critical theory to the "Everglades Restoration" policy narrative and public administrators' use of social media. Additionally, Knox has co-authored, with academics and a practitioner, a study implementing experiential learning and

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Grants 2014–2015

INVESTIGATORS	RESEARCH TITLE	AGENCY NAME	AMOUNT
Thomas Bryer, Ph.D.	CPNM AmeriCorps VISTA Project	Corporation for National and Community Service	\$18,000
Jo Ann Smith, Ph.D.	Development of a Model Research Operation and Administration (ROAd) Program for the Petroleum Institute	Louisiana State University Education Institution	\$96,505
Naim Kapucu, Ph.D.	Collaborative Research: Pervasive Spectrum Sharing for Public Safety Communications	National Science Foundation	\$85,000
Chris Hawkins, Ph.D., Rachel Krause, Ph.D., Richard Feiock, Ph.D.	Collaborative Research: Integrated City Sustainability: Administrative Apparatus for Overcoming Collective Dilemmas of Agency Fragmentation	National Science Foundation	\$271,784
Latarsha Chisholm, Ph.D., Vanessa Lopez-Littleton, Ph.D.	2015 Evans CMS Evaluation	Children's Home Society of Florida Inc.	\$40,000
Thomas Bryer, Ph.D., Chris Hawkins, Ph.D.	Walking School Bus Administration and Evaluation	Florida Department of Transportation	\$28,222
Kristina Fisher, Ph.D. Vanessa Lopez-Littleton, Ph.D., Kimberly Gryglewicz, Ph.D., Roberto Potter Ph.D.	Comprehensive School Safety Initiative: Developing Knowledge about What Works to Make Schools Safe	Brevard Public Schools	\$305,862
Dorothy Norris-Tirrell, Ph.D.	2015 Orange County Capacity Building for Nonprofits	Orange County Board of Commissioners	\$50,000
Thomas Bryer, Ph.D., Stephanie Krick, Ph.D., David Mitchell, Ph.D., Dorothy Norris-Tirrell, Ph.D., Jo Ann Smith, Ph.D., Bonnie Yegidis, Ph.D.	Center for Public and Nonprofit Management and Leadership Development Training Proposal	Florida Department of Children and Families	\$250,000
Thomas Bryer, Ph.D.	Continuation to Walking School Bus Administration and Evaluation	Florida Department of Transportation	\$64,660
Thomas Bryer, Ph.D.	RF: 2014 UCF Walking School Bus - Safe Neighborhoods Safety Grant	Orange County Board of Commissioners	\$5,000
Dorothy Norris-Tirrell, Ph.D., Barbara Howell	2014 Nonprofit Essentials Boot Camp	Orange County Board of Commissioners	\$50,000
Thomas Bryer, Ph.D.	Pioneering Healthy Communities - Walking School Bus	Florida Alliance of YMCAs	\$1,000
Chris Hawkins, Ph.D.	Orange County Public Schools Road Safety Audit	Orange County Public Schools	\$7,295
Thomas Bryer, Ph.D., Vanessa Lopez-Littleton, Ph.D.	West Orange Health District Evaluation	West Orange Healthcare District	\$34,514

Researcher Profile *(Continued)*

cultural competencies in emergency management higher education. Based on this research and related teaching, she won the 2015 Florida Emergency Preparedness Association's Gary Arnold Award.

Knox previously worked for the U.S.G.S. National Wetlands Research Center, and her current funded research continues the study of large-scale restoration programs by analyzing comprehensive land use and hazard mitigation plans for Louisiana's 20 coastal parishes. She is measuring the extent of the local government's implementation of the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan's nonstructural elements and if home rule is affecting this implementation. A primary goal of her project is to strengthen the alignment of large-scale restoration policies and programs with local land use and hazard mitigation plans to create more resilient coastal communities and ecosystems.

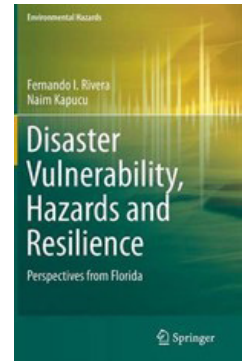
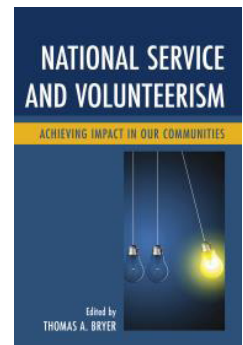
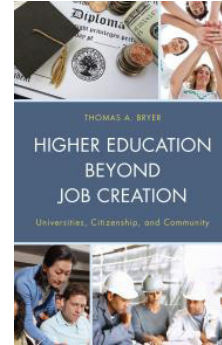
Faculty Books

Professors Fernando Rivera and Naim Kapucu published *Disaster Vulnerability, Hazards and Resilience* (Springer).

Associate professor Wendell Lawther and professor Lawrence Martin (editors) published *Private Financing of Public Transportation Infrastructure: Utilizing Public Private Partnerships* (Lexington Books).

CPNM Director Thomas Bryer (editor) published *National Service and Volunteerism: Achieving Impact in Our Communities* (Lexington Books)

CPNM Director Thomas Bryer published *Higher Education Beyond Job Creation: Universities, Citizenship, and Community* (Lexington Books - now in paperback).



9th Annual UCF Public Administration Research Conference

Number of Attendees: **122**
 Number of Nationally Recognized Keynote Speakers: **2**
 Sessions: **7**
 Number of papers presented: **19**

Leadership Program

The CPNM is launching a new leadership program under a contract with the Florida Department of Children and Families. The program will be coordinated by CPNM assistant director for special projects Tim Pehlke, who previously led the Walking School Bus project under a contract with the Florida Department of Transportation. The program will also be led by CPNM Director Thomas Bryer and various faculty members from the UCF schools of public administration and social work. Together, they will assess current and projected gaps in leadership and management competencies within DCF, develop a management and leadership training plan to close critical competency gaps, develop a four-level management and leadership development training curriculum, and implement and pilot a training program at four leadership levels, up to and including DCF assistant secretaries.

CPNM RESEARCH ADVOCATES

This year we launched our Network of Research Advocates! Moving away from a traditional advisory board, we are seeking to mobilize government, nonprofit, faith and civic leaders who understand the value of high quality research and who seek to apply research to improve practice.

We have a growing network and we want to add you to it. Join your peers, network with colleagues, and help demonstrate the power of good research.

We look forward to being your partner. Email CPNM Director Thomas Bryer at thomas.bryer@ucf.edu for more information.

DONORS

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For opportunities to partner with the CPNM.
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