Department of Public Administration Newsletter
Spring 2016

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Hello MPA Community! Whether you are a current MPA student, alumnus, prospective student, or other (family, friend, administration, etc.), you are the community that makes our MPA program great. We hope to see everyone at our MPA Speakers Series and all of our events. This is great for building your network; visit our homepage to stay up to date on events and to RSVP. Our MPA program is NASPAA accredited, which means that students are guaranteed to get the gold standard of education. Your NASPAA accredited MPA program is one of 11 in New York State and the only one in the Finger Lakes / Western New York Region. However, our program is only as strong as our students - so excel, engage, and make differences in your lives and communities.

If I, or the department, can ever be instrumental in complementing your vision for change, please meet with me and share your thoughts. Finally, a shout out to our MPA Graduate Assistants, Colin Fleming and Jana Wong who made this newsletter happen! We hope that it provides you with a rich variety of news and information.

My best,
Dr. Celia Watt
Professor & Chair
Dept. of Public Administration

MPA Faculty & Staff

Dr. Bradford Daly
Adjunct Lecturer

Nicole Dumbleton
Adjunct Lecturer

Jeremiah Kirkland
Adjunct Lecturer

Philip F. LaPorta
Adjunct Lecturer

Colin Fleming
Graduate Assistant

Brandon Leisten
SUNY Graduate Diversity Fellow

Doreen Hagen
Department Secretary

Jessica L. Muratore
Adjunct Lecturer

Dr. James J. Ross
Visiting Assistant Professor

Allyn M. Stelljes
Adjunct Lecturer

Dr. Weijie Wang
Assistant Professor

Dr. Celia Watt
Professor & Chair

Jana Wong
Graduate Assistant

Dr. Wendy Wright
Visiting Assistant Professor

Dr. Ryan Yeung
Assistant Professor
This semester we admitted over 30 new students into the MPA Program here at The College at Brockport. If you see them in class, in the hallways, or at MPA events, please stop and introduce yourself, say hello, and make them feel at home here in our MPA community. In particular, reach out to our incoming international students—we are proud to have a student body rich with diversity.
New MPA Students Continued...

Why Choose an MPA?

I am pursuing my MPA to continue my studies in Healthcare Administration in the hopes of working as a Hospital Administrator. —Lindsay Forsyth-Shelton

I would like to pursue a Healthcare Administration career. —Nandi Chhetri

I graduated with two degrees from The College at Brockport in 2008 and 2012. Currently, I am working for the New York State Department of Labor as a Labor Services Representative. —Ryan Trevas

I will be doing an MPA with a combined focus in Public and Non-Profit Administration. —Jay Lambrrix

I am Bhutan-born, received my undergrad degree from Purbanchal University and my Master's from Pokhara University in Nepal. I currently work at Strong Memorial Hospital and manage cases at the Catholic Family Center for seniors. —Karan Thapa

I am pursuing my MPA to make me a better administrator at Genesee County. —Matt Landers

I am interested in Non-Profit organizations. I work for one and would like to learn more. —Kerry Hart

I am pursuing my MPA to further my education to align with my career goals and passion in non-profits. —Alicia Lannon

I am pursuing my MPA to further my education with my career goals. —Kasey Fouquet

Adjunct Professor Nicole Dumbleton leading a panel featuring several fundraising professionals from the Rochester non-profit community.

New MPA students not pictured:
What have our recent MPA grads been up to?

The summer after graduation I embarked on a cross-country road trip where I landed in Reno, NV. I was fortunate to land a position as the Safety Administrator at Q&D Construction where I am responsible for maintaining safety records and am heavily involved in HR functions. I never thought that I would land in the construction industry, but working for Q&D has given me the opportunity to take initiative and turn my position into a leadership role. I’m proud to be piloting our new Language and Literacy initiative as well as a new Talent Development Program.

Since my completion of the MPA program in August 2015, I took on a temporary position as Assistant to the Chair of the Department of Public Administration (Dr. Celia Watt- she's the best!) followed by a contract Recruiting Specialist role at Rochester Regional Health. I recently accepted a full-time Development Associate position at Hope Hall. I will be responsible for the coordination of Hope Hall’s fundraising events in addition to managing communication between donors, volunteers, and the public through monthly newsletters, social media updates, annual reports and other multifaceted communication tools. I am very excited for this new opportunity and have the support of the MPA faculty and staff to thank for helping me achieve my career goals.

I finished my MPA in December of 2015, and currently work as the Senior Legislative Analyst for the Rochester City Council, where I research policy, attend to constituent outreach and assists with communications. In addition, I serve as Secretary for the Board of Directors at Trillium Health, a medical service provider that actively engages LGBTQ communities. Holding these two positions while studying provided real world examples of what we learned in the classroom; working and studying concurrently, enhanced my level of understanding new materials both on the job and in the classroom.

After graduating this past December, I accepted a full-time administrative position at Hillside Children’s Center, where I work directly with our Home Finders division. Home Finders are staff in the Therapeutic Foster Care program responsible for recruiting new foster parents and certifying foster homes. In this position I’m responsible for event coordination and planning, coordinating with staff members from various branches, daily office tasks, and marketing responsibilities. I’m hoping to work my way up into a higher-level marketing position after I’ve been with the agency longer.
Spring 2016 Student Spotlights

Bridget Fortner

Program: MPA, Public Management Emphasis
Expected Graduation Date: May 2016
Current Occupation: Program Registrar, Genesee Country Village & Museum

What have you enjoyed most about the program so far?
The professors and the variety of classes offered are what I've enjoyed the most. The first class I had was Organizational Behavior with Dr. Prather, and it was so interesting and she was so engaging that I immediately knew I had made the right choice in the MPA program. All of the professors truly care about the subjects they teach, and there's such a wealth of material this program covers that each class brings something different to the table.

What are your future goals?
It's pretty simple: I just hope I'm in a job that I'm passionate about. Right now, there are a bunch of areas that I'm interested in, so it's hard to narrow it down. That's the beauty of the MPA, though—it doesn't pigeonhole you into one specific area. There are a variety of ways to use this degree, and I'm looking forward to seeing where it takes me.

Jane Forbes

Program: MPA, Public Management Emphasis
Expected Graduation Date: Fall 2018
Current Occupation: Environmental Remediation Specialist, City of Rochester Division of Environmental Quality

What have you enjoyed most about the program so far?
Having been out of college for many years, I was initially apprehensive about returning to school. However, I've found that the staff and students are very supportive and encouraging. The program doesn't focus on inter-student competition, but on fostering achievement for everyone. I've particularly enjoyed the many opportunities to network with students, staff and alumni from the various sectors of the MPA curriculum. Those connections are invaluable in the 'real world'.

What are your future goals?
In the future, I'd like to be able to use both my experiences in the field, and what I take away from the MPA program to move into a department or program management position. I'd like to be able to work closely with regulatory agencies, investors and community stakeholders to achieve effective economic development and sustainable redevelopment that benefit the Rochester community.
**Academic Corner**

**Pi Alpha Alpha Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration (PAA)**
- PAA is a great tool for networking and career advancement
- Eligible students must complete 27 hours at the graduate level and hold a minimum GPA of 3.7
- If you're interested in applying, contact Doreen Hagen at dhagen@brockport.edu

**Graduation!**
- Friday, May 13th at 5pm in the SERC Field House at the Brockport Campus
- Don’t forget to apply for graduation, which can be done online at the Registration & Records

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**Writing Tutor Now Available**
- Hours: Monday - Thursday, 3:30-6:30 pm, and Saturdays 12:00-2:00 pm.
- Located in office 139, in the Grand Hallway at the MetroCenter
- Email Shay Neer for an appointment

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**Interested in a Certificate in Non-profit Management or Arts Administration?**
- Please make an appointment with Dr. Wendy Wright
- You will need to fill out a plan of study **BEFORE** applying

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**Phyllis Griswold**
Senior Career Services Counselor

Hours: Wednesdays 12-7pm
pgriswol@brockport.edu

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**Pi Alpha Alpha**
The Global Honor Society for Public Affairs & Administration

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**Need to make an appointment with Career Services?**
- Go online to Career Services
Advisement Corner

Dr. Wendy Wright
MPA Academic Advisor
MetroCenter, Room 104
(PAD Suite)
wwright@brockport.edu

Important dates

Registration
- Summer 16’ Semester
  Monday, March 21, 2016
- Fall 16’ Semester
  Monday, April 4, 2016

Last day to withdraw (without Department Chair Permission)
Monday, April 18th, 2016

When To See Your Advisor

- You want to change or declare your emphasis
- You want to transfer credits from another department or school
- You are about to graduate
- You want some advice on what to take
- You want to know if an internship is for you

Contact Dr. Wright before you start your internship!
She will help you decide what organization you should ask to sponsor you

Look over the course schedule when you are deciding what to take

- Don’t forget to click on the CRN number (Blue). This will give you information about the class. For instance, if the class is a hybrid, the CRN will tell you when the class is meeting.

- Hint: if two hybrid classes are taught on the same night and by the same professor, you could take both classes.
Upcoming Events

MPA Speaker Series

All MPA Speaker Series are from 5:30-7pm in the Grand Hallway at the MetroCenter. Light refreshments can be enjoyed at the reception afterward.

March 24th, 2016 – Ms. Rachel August, MPA alumna and former Executive Director of the Seneca Park Zoo. Rsvp here!

April 7th, 2016 – Lovely Warren, Mayor of Rochester. RSVP here!

April 12th, 2016 – Mr. James Sheppard, former Rochester Police Chief. RSVP here!

Dr. Kent Gardner, Principal and Chief Analyst at the Center for Governmental Research, speaking to students during an MPA Speaker Series event in February

MPA Open House

Wednesday, April 6th from 5-7pm in MetroCenter Grand Hallway.

Join prospective students as they tour the MetroCenter, learn about our program, observe in-class sessions, and talk with faculty, current students and alumni. RSVP here!

End of Semester Celebration and Networking Event

Thursday, May 12th from 5:30-7:30pm
Radisson Hotel in the Genesee Suite

You’re invited to come engage in an evening to renew, maintain, and create new relationships with current students, prospective students, alumni, faculty, and others that support the Department of Public Administration. It is also a time to honor students graduating and new inductees to the Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society. Come enjoy a drink and appetizers. RSVP here!

Alumna Dana St. Aubin and family at the December 15th End of Semester Celebration & Networking Event.
Upcoming Events Continued...

The Department of Public Administration presents...

Meet, Greet and Eat!

Come meet Dr. Muditha Halliyadde, MPA Faculty Fellow and former **UN Diplomat (Sri Lanka)**, for informal conversations regarding Human Rights Issues and Development.

**When:** Thursday, March 24th, 2016  
**Time:** 12:30pm-1:30pm  
Pizza will be provided  
**Location:** Seminar A

RSVP by March 20th [here!](#)

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**Security Appreciation Day!**  
Monday, April 4th

Make sure to thank the security guards for how hard they work to keep our building and our students safe. Please make sure to sign the card which will be circulated in your class!
Get Involved!
Social events and Student Government

Pub Nights
No RSVP necessary!
All pub nights are held from 8:30-10pm

Thursday, March 31st
The Daily Refresher
293 Alexander St.

Thursday, April 7th
Black Button Distillery
85 Railroad St.

Wednesday, April 20th
Stoneyard Brewing Company
1 Main St., Brockport

Thursday, May 5th
Genesee Brew House
25 Cataract St.

Pub Nights are reoccurring student-focused events throughout the semester where students meet after class at a convenient downtown venue to share a casual drink, appetizer, and to get to know their classmates. Students take advantage of these events to network with other students in the program, "talk shop," or mingle in a non-academic setting.

MPA Student Steering Committee
The MPA Student Steering Committee is a student-run organization that aims to address student issues and concerns, propose solutions, and organize activities that contribute to the culture and experience of the MPA program. We meet bi-weekly in Seminar Room A on the 1st floor of the MetroCenter to discuss initiatives and brainstorm as a group. Meeting nights vary, but announcements will always be sent out in the weeks prior via Facebook and email.

If you’re interested in student government and collaborative problem solving, or to just bring an idea or concern to the attention of your Graduate Assistants, please feel free to join us!