Spring 2017

Department of Public Administration Newsletter
Spring 2017

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Hello MPA Community!

Whether you are a current MPA student, alumni, prospective student, or other (family, friend, administration, etc.), you are the community that makes our MPA program great. Not a week goes by that I don’t hear something wonderful that one or more of you are doing; our communities are definitely a better place because of you!

I hope you can make it to our final Speakers Series event of the year or to our End of Semester Networking Event and Celebration (check emails for invitation). These events are great for building your network and staying connected!

Our MPA is accredited by the Network of School in Public Affairs (NASPAA) and Administration. NASPAA is the recognized global accreditor of master’s degree programs and ensures excellence in education and training for public service. Our students are guaranteed to get the gold standard of education. However, our program is only as strong as our students and alumni -- 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 Assistant, Lindsey Luft, who made this newsletter happen! We hope that it provides you with a rich variety of news and information.

Best,
Dr. Celia Watt
Chair and Professor, Department of Public Administration
“Like us” on Facebook!
Connect with us on LinkedIn
Support the MPA program. Make your gift today!
Keep current on our news!
New MPA Students
This semester we admitted 20 new students. Below are pictures and a brief biography of some students. If you see them walking around the MetroCenter or at one of our social events please introduce yourself and make them feel welcomed!

Hafiz Akram earned his undergraduate degree from Riphah International University in Electrical Engineering concentrating in Biomedical engineering. He hopes to use his MPA to continue his career within his field.

Ronieka Burns earned her undergraduate degree from SUNY Brockport in Women and Gender Studies, with a minor in African American Studies. She is heavily involved with the healthcare field and hopes to continue this by earning her MPA.

Vanessa Falzarano earned her undergraduate degree in Gerontology from King’s College. She currently is employed as Director of Quality at Friendly Senior Living. She plans to use her MPA to continue providing high-quality senior care.

Hafiz Akram earned his undergraduate degree from Riphah International University in Electrical Engineering concentrating in Biomedical engineering. He hopes to use his MPA to continue his career within his field.

Krista Jenkins earned her undergraduate degree in Biology and Religious Studies from Hartwick College. She previously worked for Geneseo Valley Podiatry but decided she would like to apply her skills to the non-profit sector.

Oscia Miles earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Integrated Arts for Children from SUNY Brockport. She is currently a First grade teacher at Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts. She is in the non-profit emphasis.

Gertrude Offei earned her undergraduate degree from SUNY Brockport in Healthcare Administration. She decided to pursue further education in the healthcare field through the MPA program.

Also entering this semester are:
- Tahani Alotaibi
- Bismark Ampem
- Marcus Bliss
- Katie DeMar
- Brian Gregor
- Rebecca Masse
- Natasha McFadden
- Sandra Miles
- Jessica Rivera-Stockwell
- Felicia Smith
- Holly Smith
- Hannah Stark
- Pedro Vazquez
MPA Graduate Assistants

Whether you are a new, returning, or prospective MPA student we would like you to have the best experience possible! Your Graduate Assistants host social events and promote student engagement so that our MPA community is close-knit and welcoming. If you have any feedback from events or initiatives please contact us at padga@brockport.edu. Please be on the lookout for future opportunities.

Rob Richardson

I graduated magna cum laude from the University of Hartford in 2005 with a BA in Politics and Government. I am in the Public Management tract and expect to complete my MPA in May 2017. After graduation, I hope to pursue a career in either city/county management, public policy, or lobbying. In my spare time I enjoy playing disc golf, watching/playing soccer, and spending time with the people who matter most to me.

Lindsey Luft

I received my undergraduate degree from SUNY Brockport in Health Science concentrating in Public Health and Health Education. I volunteered with a couple nonprofit organizations which sparked my interest in the MPA program. I am now interested in both city management and nonprofit management. I am on track to graduate May 2018 with my MPA with an emphasis in Public Management as well as receiving the Certificate in Nonprofit Management.
As of Fall 2016 The College at Brockport Department of Public Administration has its own student chapter of the International City/Council Management Association (ICMA). ICMA aims to create excellence in local governments by developing and fostering professional management to build better communities. ICMA identifies leading practices to address the needs of local governments and professionals serving communities globally. ICMA provides services, research, publications, data and information, peer and results-oriented assistance, and training and professional development to thousands of city, town, and county leaders as well as other leaders and organizations throughout the world.

Naming Contest
We would like to name our peer review journal. If you have an idea please submit your response to padga@brockport.edu

Submissions will be voted on anonymously at the next journal meeting.

Peer Review Journal

A peer review journal has been started for our department. The first publication is set to take place in April of 2018. The journal will contain one paper from each track of the program, totaling 3 published works. Students may submit their own papers to be considered during the double-blind review process. Papers must be written between January 2017 and December 2017 in order to be considered. The submission deadline is January 1st, 2018. All submissions may be sent to Dr. Samudra. If you would like to be a part of the reviewing committee, please inquire with your graduate assistants.
In Memory of Patrice Cummings

Patrice was one of our MPA students in the Healthcare Management emphasis. She was to be inducted in the Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society this month. She was a role model student who was highly respected within the program and community. Unfortunately, her time was cut short when she passed away in April 2017.

Patrice was a very dedicated student and was finishing her degree, as well as internship. She was interning with Planned Parenthood and gained their respect quickly.

In May, Patrice will receive her MPA and will be recognized at the graduation ceremony.

Registration is important!

◊ Summer 17’ Registration is open
◊ Fall 17’ Registration is open

Donate with your community

The American Red Cross will be at the MetroCenter on April 27th from 11a.m.-4p.m. in the Golden Eagle Room to help us give a charitable blood donation. You are encouraged to stop by and help save a life. This event is open to the public so please feel free to bring a family member or friend.
Get involved with your MPA community

Student Steering Committee

The Student Steering Committee is always looking for new faces and ideas. The committee focuses on promoting community engagement, public service, and enhancing the overall student experience. If you have an idea that you would like to see come to life, join us at our next meeting! All voices are heard and it is a great way to get involved with your MPA community.

This past year the Student Steering Committee, among other things, “gave back” to a few organizations in our community, including: Foodlink, Dimirti House, Bivona Child Advocacy Center, Genesee Land Trust, and American Red Cross.

MPA Speaker Series

Each semester the department’s MPA Speaker Series hears from various professionals, often Alumni, who share their depth of knowledge and experiences. This semester we have had the pleasure of welcoming an ICMA panel discussion featuring Jason Molino, Bryan White, and Ian Coyle.

Our second speaker, Jane Shukitis, delivered an empowering presentation. She is an Alumni and currently the President and CEO of U.R. Medicine Home Care.

There will be one more speaker series of the semester held on Wednesday April 12th. This event will also be a panel discussion. Members of the nonprofit community will be joining us to discuss strategic rebranding. We hope to see you there. RSVP here!
Academic Information

Pi Alpha Alpha Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration (PAA)

◊ Students are eligible for PAA after completing 21 credit hours and maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.7
◊ Great resource for networking and career advancement
◊ Invitations are sent to qualified students each Fall and Spring semester

Graduation

◊ Friday May 12th 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 Records and Registration tab on Banner

End of Semester Event

The 2016-2017 school year is coming to an end! The papers will be turned in and the tests finished. We encourage you to come celebrate with your peers and faculty members at the end of the semester event. New Pi Alpha Alpha inductees and those graduating will be toasted.

Where: MetroCenter Grand Hallway
When: May 11th 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Watch for an invitation from Dr. Watt toward the end of April.

Academic Advisement

Dr. Wendy Wright is the primary academic advisor for the Public Administration Department. She is able to answer your questions about course requirements and scheduling.

You should see your advisor:
◊ Before registering for classes
◊ Changing or declaring your emphasis
◊ When you are about to graduate
◊ If you need advice on what classes to take

How to contact Dr. Wright:
MetroCenter Room 104
wwright@brockport.edu
(585) 395–5570
Welcome to a new segment of the MPA Newsletter presented by the SUNY Brockport MPA Program Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA) Chapter. PAA is the Global Honor Society for Public Affairs & Administration and there are more than 160 PAA chapters located around the world at NASPAA member schools. The purpose of PAA “is to encourage and recognize outstanding scholarship and accomplishment in public affairs and administration” – PAA website.

The Executive Committee of the SUNY Brockport PAA Chapter has developed this segment for our MPA Newsletter to foster and encourage networking, communication and career advancement of our fellow MPA students and graduates. Each newsletter, a different member of PAA will be contributing to the Newsletter and sharing information about their experience in the MPA Program, why they decided to become a member of PAA, how the MPA degree and membership in PAA has contributed to their professional development and career advancement and finally, helpful advice and encouragement to our group.

As a graduate of the MPA program, past and current President of our PAA Brockport Chapter, Associate Faculty Member of the MPA Program, and Emergency Manager for the State University of New York College at Brockport, I can assure you that the impact that the College, the MPA Program and PAA have had on me has been tremendous. It has afforded me opportunities to continue my professional development, access to resources and contacts that I may have never had the pleasure to engage with, and has solidified a career path for me that initially I had never thought of, but now cannot imagine what else I would want to do.

If you are a graduate of the MPA Program but were not a member of PAA while there, it is not too late to join. Eligible individuals must have completed 27 hours at the MPA graduate level and held a minimum GPA of 3.7. If you meet these requirements and are interested in applying, please contact Doreen Hagen at dhagen@brockport.edu.

In addition to this segment in the Newsletter, our Executive Committee is hoping to branch out into areas that include PAA Social Networking Events, Community Building Activities, and Speaking Engagements throughout the community to name a few. I would strongly suggest joining PAA and become a member of this group that I am confident will become a driving force within our profession locally.

I would like to thank our Department Chair, Dr. Celia Watt, our PAA Executive Committee Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer, Lisa Lewis and Danielle Pierleoni respectively for their assistance and guidance as we move to reinvigorate PAA and all that it offers. In the coming weeks/months, Danielle will be canvassing PAA members to gather authors for this exciting Newsletter segment.

Thank you and all the best.

Fred Rion, Jr., MSW, MPA, CEM®
Pi Alpha Alpha SUNY Brockport Chapter President
Associate Faculty – Department of Public Administration
Emergency Manager – State University of New York College at Brockport
frion@brockport.edu
Carly Swieringa

**Program:** MPA, Nonprofit Management Emphasis

**Expected Graduation:** Winter 2018

**Future Goals:** I am hoping to enter into the Fundraising & Development field with my MPA. Nonprofits have become an important part of our society and I want to ensure their financial stability. I love working towards a goal, both practical and conceptual, and fundraising provides the opportunity for both. The relationships built based on common values and goals is energizing for me.

Miguel Baique

**Program:** MPA, Healthcare Management Emphasis

**Expected Graduation:** May 2017

**Future Goals:** I constantly try to imagine myself in the next 5-10 years — such a blurry vision! I wish I was able to take on everything I am interested in, but I know I need to think realistically. After finishing this program, I want to start my career in the healthcare world. I want to get into an organization that holds a mission to better the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS. While I focus on my career, I will also be studying for my LSAT and/or GRE. Law school or obtaining a PhD is my end goal in terms of education. Honestly, my overall goal is just to make an impact on society before my time is up. I hope that I can help society progress in some way, shape, or form.

Erica Shaw

**Program:** MPA, Public Management Emphasis

**Expected Graduation:** May 2017

**Future Goals:** As a result of my current work in Women’s Health Outreach and my work in the MPA program, I am hoping to continue studying the complex relationship between culture and policy formation and implementation. The ways in which cultural and social forces influence what policies are included on governmental agendas, as well a how policies are received are fascinating to me. Additionally I am highly interested in gender, inequality and difference in society, and would like to pursue either a PhD or a position researching these topics.
Announcing a New Emphasis in PUBLIC SAFETY!

The Department of Public Administration continues to expand offerings to meet the needs of a variety of those working in public service. The new Public Safety emphasis has the following three courses (9 credits):

- PAD 617 Disaster Recovery
- PAD 639 Cybersecurity for Public Managers
- PAD 652 Emergency Management

We have adjusted our Mission Statement as well to include the new emphasis.

The mission of the Master of Public Administration Program, College at Brockport, is to prepare leaders and managers in public, health care, public safety, and nonprofit organizations. The program maintains close student faculty interaction that enables graduates to lead, participate, analyze, articulate, and communicate in public service:

Lead and manage in diverse organizational contexts.

Participate and contribute to public policy in the student’s chosen emphasis: Public, Health Care, Public Safety, or Non-Profit Management.

Analyze to make informed decisions.

Articulate the public service concerns associated with the distribution of scarce resources.