Spring 2018

Department of Public Administration Newsletter
Spring 2018

Celia Watt
The College at Brockport

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A Message from the Chair

Hello MPA Community!

Whether you are a current MPA student, alumni, prospective student, MPA Executive Advisory Board member, MPA Board of Ambassadors member, or other (family, friend, administrator, etc.), you are the community that makes our MPA program great.

Our MPA program is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA). NASPAA is the recognized global accreditor of MPA programs and ensures excellence in education and training for public service. Our students are guaranteed to get the gold standard of education.

In this edition, you will see that the department now has an International City County Managers Association Student Chapter, MPA students attended a May conference of the New York State City County Managers Association, we now have an Executive MPA Advisory Board (and are looking for a few more members, so let me know if you are interested), we have dates set for our MPA Speakers Series and Open House, and have welcomed a new class of MPA students.

We hope that this newsletter provides you with a rich variety of news and information.

Best,

Dr. Celia Watt

Chair and Professor, Department of Public Administration
Director, Institute for Poverty Studies and Economic Development

“Like us” on Facebook!
Connect with us on LinkedIn
Support the MPA program. Make your gift today!
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!

Joe Bovenzi is excited to expand his technical skills and knowledge of Public Administration.

Roxanne Carey hopes to be an Administrator or Director in a medical facility.

Daniel Caufield enrolled in the MPA program to enhance his career.

Matthew Cook enrolled in the MPA program to become a better public official and community servant.

Gage Gruschow loves Public Policy and is excited to get into the field.

Sean Kellas is excited to be getting a Master’s Degree in the combined MPA/Political Science program.

Bridget O’Brien is looking to enhance her skills and knowledge in the public and non-profit sectors.

Chris De Vaun Parker wants to create and run an immigration-focused non-profit.

Kim Ross wants to excel in either non-profit or higher education leadership.

Lisa Waltzer looks forward to expanding her knowledge of non-profits.

Shayna Jennings Weider is excited to make an impact on our community.
MPA Faculty and Staff

Dr. Celia Watt  
Professor & Chair

Dr. Faith Prather  
Associate Professor

Dr. Rhucha Samudra  
Assistant Professor

Dr. Wendy Wright  
Lecturer & Associate Chair

Dr. Shihyun Noh  
Assistant Professor

Dr. Michael Hattery  
Faculty Fellow

Mr. Phil LaPorta  
Adjunct Lecturer

Mr. Bryan White  
Adjunct Lecturer

Ms. Allyn Stelljes  
Adjunct Lecturer

Mr. Fred Rion  
Adjunct Lecturer

Dr. Bradford Daly  
Adjunct Lecturer

Mr. Steven Bouteiller  
Department Secretary
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 for events or initiatives please contact us at jgun1@u.brockport.edu or kross4@u.brockport.edu.

Please be on the lookout for future opportunities.

Joe Gunther

Looking back on my year-plus in the MPA program, I have many more friends and had more positive experiences than I thought I would. I have had the pleasure of serving the City of Rochester as well as the Department in many capacities. The first, as a student working on developing a leadership academy with the Neighborhood Service Center offices. The second is serving as a fall intern in the City of Rochester’s Communications Bureau. Finally, as president of the College’s Student Chapter of ICMA - which you’ll learn more about in the newsletter - I have the opportunity of spreading the values of local government service to the student body. I have the wonderful faculty, staff and students of the Department to thank for these opportunities.

Kim Ross

I am returning to college after many years. My professional experiences have included business ownership in graphic communications, a leadership role in the non-profit sector, and various roles in higher education. I have some innate talents in developing and running programs/businesses but what I’ve learned in these past experiences is that there are deficits in my knowledge base that have put me at a disadvantage in professional settings. As they say, you don’t know what you don’t know. I am expecting to have a lot of “Aha” moments over the next two years! My goal in getting my MPA is to fill the deficits in my understanding of public administration so I can be a strong, effective, and confident leader in my next career.
Save the Date For Dr. Faith Prather’s Retirement Jubilee

When: Friday, June 15, 2018
6:00 – 9:00 pm

Where: The College at Brockport MetroCenter
55 St. Paul Street
Rochester, NY 14604

In lieu of gifts, contributions will be accepted for the Dr. Faith Prather Scholarship Fund

For more information contact:
cwatt@brockport.edu
Get Involved with Your MPA Community

Student Steering Committee

The Student Steering Committee is a place for students to share their feedback about or launch ideas for the Department of Public Administration. Perhaps you would like to see more of a certain type of event or think we should be involved in an event in the Rochester community. This is the place for you to get these types of ideas out there!

Please join us on:

Wednesday February 28th
Wednesday March 28th

MPA Pub Night

Pub Nights and other social events are a great way to get to know your peers and alumni. These casual events create a sense of community within our department. Faculty kickoff the year by attending the first Pub Night of the Fall semester and close out the year by attending the End of The Year Celebration. Don’t be shy, come out on a Friday evening and relax!

Next Pub Night

Apr. 13 - Winfield Grill

RSVP here to let us know if you will be joining.
**MPA Affinity Fund**

Events such as the Speaker Series, End of the Year Event, and the first Pub Night of the year are all funded through the MPA Affinity Fund. In addition, this fund is used to sponsor student travel and lodging to conferences. It is because of faculty, peer, and advisory board members contributions that our Department is able to sponsor such great events. If you would like to contribute to hosting our events please click [here](#).

Thank you, as well, to our MPA Executive Advisory Board members. Their exemplary service to our Department makes many of our events possible.

**Affinity Fund Donors**

*Denotes MPA Executive Advisory Board Member*

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MPA Speaker Series

Each semester the department invites members of the professional community to come and share their journeys with us. Often these individuals are alumni who have been exactly where our students are now. Many of our students have expressed that they feel inspired after hearing these talks of shared knowledge and experiences.

Coming up this semester we have:
⇒ Media in Public Administration, March 7th
⇒ ICMA, March 20th
⇒ Poverty Studies, April 15th

To RSVP to these events and for further details please click here.

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

Withdraw Period Without Chair Permission Ends March 30th.

The Fall 2018 course offerings will be available to view on Web Banner the week of Monday, March 12th.

Fall 2018 registration will begin Monday, April 2nd.

Summer Session 2018 registration begins Monday, March 19th.
Dear MPA Community:

It is my pleasure to share with you a bit about myself as a proud MPA alumna and PAA College at Brockport Chapter Executive Committee Officer. Like many undergraduate students, I struggled to see a clear future career path. As a sophomore political science major at The College at Brockport, I saw many of my peers around me planning for law school or a Ph.D. program. I knew those options were not for me. I had an interest in politics and government so I chose a semester internship in Washington, DC working for a partisan organization. I quickly realized during my time there that a direct role in government was not a good fit.

Thankfully, through an undergraduate advisor I was connected to Brockport's MPA program. I was encouraged to try out a few MPA courses through their Combined Degree Program for undergraduate political science and criminal justice majors. In all honesty, I was terribly overwhelmed at first and unsure that I made the right decision to begin graduate level courses during my senior year of undergrad. Many of the students in my MPA classes already had careers in their desired fields but were looking for promotions to supervisory roles. Due to my lack of on-the-job experience in the public, non-profit, or health care fields, I felt I did not offer much to group discussions and that I was in over my head. However, after reaching out to my MPA professors, I was able to feel welcomed and comfortable offering my unique perspective to my classes.

My experience in the MPA program opened up so many doors for me academically and professionally. It was refreshing to be surrounded by classmates who were dedicated to their education and career growth. I found myself more engaged in my classes with my peers and the professors because of the professional, welcoming atmosphere. I was able to network with current students and alumni which helped me learn what careers were available in the Greater Rochester Region. The professional connections, friendships, and course content in the MPA program have proven invaluable to me. My coursework has been extremely relevant to all aspects of not only my work life, but my personal life as well.

My biggest hope after graduation was to find a career in the non-profit world that allowed me to make a difference in my local community and to work for a cause that I deeply care about. Thanks to the connections I made in the MPA program, I landed a job working for Hope Hall School; a local private, non-profit, 501(c)(3), non-sectarian school for students in grades 3-12 who experience frustration in a traditional classroom setting.

I am very proud to say that I am able to provide fundraising, marketing, and leadership services to help raise funds and awareness for our school. Through my efforts, I am able to help over 85% of our students living in poverty to be able to afford to attend Hope Hall School through our Tuition Scholarship Program.

As a take away for the reader, I want to summarize in emphasizing the tremendous versatility the MPA program provides to its students and alumni. The MPA network extends beyond the classroom and into professional networks and honorary organizations, including the Pi Alpha Alpha Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration along with the MPA Executive Advisory Board. Even after graduation, I am excited to continue to participate in helping to continuously improve and enhance the MPA program at The College at Brockport through these outlets. I am honored to give back to the community that gave me a better future and I hope that my message has inspired you to do the same.

Regards,

Danielle Pierleoni, MPA ’15
Secretary and Treasurer, Brockport Pi Alpha Alpha Member, MPA Executive Advisory Board
dpierleoni1@gmail.com

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
Student Spotlight

Lindsey Luft

Hometown: Webster, NY
Program: General Public Management and Certificate in Non-Profit Management
Undergraduate College and Major: BS in Health Science
Expected Graduation Date: May 2018
Current Occupation: Confidential Secretary to the Village Manager, Village of Ardsley, NY

How and why did you decide to apply for The College at Brockport MPA program?
I decided to obtain my MPA because I wanted to work for the administrative side of nonprofit organizations. When I started the program, I wanted to explore more of the Public Management field. I ended up choosing this line of work, but still received my Certificate in Nonprofit Management.

What have you enjoyed most about the program so far?
I have enjoyed the people - the professors, fellow students, and the MetroCenter staff as a whole. Everyone works together to create worthwhile experiences.

What are your future goals?
For the near future, I would like to dedicate myself to being the best I can be within this position. I want to learn as much as I can from the projects and the individuals around me. For the most distant future, I would eventually like to be a City/Town/Village Manager. I would like to stay in ICMA and NYSCMA and become a credentialed Manager.

Alumni Spotlight

MPA Alum Lori VanAukcn ‘05 has been named one of the Rochester Business Journal’s Inaugural Women of Excellence Honorees.
VanAukcn, the Executive Director of the Catholic Charities Community Services joins a long list of program alums to be honored for their work in the Greater Rochester Region.
For more information on the award, please visit the Rochester Business Journal website.
Now in its second year, the College at Brockport Student Chapter of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) has many great initiatives planned. Planned events include:

- House build with Habitat for Humanity
- NYSCMA Conference at Cornell from May 8-10

Stay tuned for more information on these and other events!

ICMA Meeting Dates:
- Monday March 26th
- Monday April 30th
All meetings are at 8:30 PM in Seminar B of the MetroCenter.

The Student Chapter of ICMA is lucky to have the following people as its leaders:

- **Joe Gunther** - President
  jgunt1@u.brockport.edu
- **Dawn Footer** - Executive Vice President
  dfoo1@u.brockport.edu
- **Kirsten Sciandra** - Vice President of Communications
  ksci1@u.brockport.edu
- **Amelia Yousey** - Vice President of Engagement
  ayous2@u.brockport.edu
- **Cara Farrell** - Vice President of Membership
  cfarr3@u.brockport.edu
- **Dr. Celia Watt** - Advisor
  cwatt@brockport.edu
- **Ian Coyle** - Chapter Mentor, Livingston County Manager
  iccoyle@co.livingston.ny.us

Students can travel to Cornell for the NYSCMA Spring Conference from May 8th thru the 10th.

For more information on the mission of the ICMA national organization, please visit [www.icma.org](http://www.icma.org).
For more information of the New York State Chapter of ICMA, please visit [www.nyscma.govoffice.com](http://www.nyscma.govoffice.com)

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining this great organization, contact chapter president Joe Gunther at jgunt1@u.brockport.edu.