Fall 2018

Department of Public Administration Newsletter

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A Message from the Interim Chair

Hello MPA Community!

Not only are we getting used to our beautiful new Brockport Downtown facility, but you may have noticed there has been a bit of musical chairs in the department. Dr. Celia Watt has taken on the role of interim Associate Dean of SOBAM for the next year. In her absence I am excited to be the Interim Chair in our department.

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 information on the International City/County Management Association Student Chapter, the Executive MPA Advisory Board (we’re always looking for a few more members, so let me know if you are interested), our MPA Speakers Series, an introduction to new faculty members, and a warm welcome to a new class of MPA students. We hope that this newsletter provides you with a rich variety of news and information.

Best,

Dr. Wendy Wright
Interim Chair
Department of Public Administration

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

This semester we admitted 38 new students. Below are pictures and a brief biography of some students. If you see them walking around or at one of our social events, please introduce yourself.

Patrick Coyle is very excited to expand the social safety net and help disadvantaged popularities.

Tracy Ibezim is elated to begin her journey within the MPA program. It is an opportunity to continue one of her educational goals.

Aaliyah Johnson is very grateful for the current and upcoming opportunities that the MPA program has to offer.

Allison Warren is looking forward to developing professionally in her new role running a non-profit’s marketing department.

Evan Warney is excited to join the MPA program and connect this to his experiences.

Vilma Luz Vendrell has been a social worker for 16 years and is excited to learn new ways to help change her community.

Ben Pate is looking forward to learning how to be a more effective analyst and future public administrator.

Anna Swisher is excited to begin the MPA program and continue her education.

Altrenia Boykin has been involved with direct care of patients as an LPN for 15 years.

Timothy Durfee is excited to join the MPA program and to begin this new chapter of his life!

Sabata Harley believes with every new start you plan, motivate, and achieve to accomplish the next goal.

Abigail Thompson is currently working at RGH as an access associate.
New MPA Students continued

Shaniece Blair is excited to be embarking on her new journey as a graduate student in the MPA program.

Abigail Wallace is looking forward to starting the MPA program and positively impacting her community!

Molly Downey is excited to study a new field and engage with peers..

Kate Hochbrueckner is excited to embark on this new chapter of her life as a Brockport MPA student!

Katie Kreutter is excited in joining the MPA program because she is passionate about shaping public policy in just ways and non-profit service.

Lindsay Ward is looking forward to expanding her education to become an effective leader in healthcare.

Not Pictured

Alyssa Farruggia is excited to grow and develop her skills to prepare for a future making a difference!

Justin Sullivan completed his undergraduate degree at Brockport and is looking forward to furthering his learning.

Alumni News

Congratulations to Robert “BJ” Scanlon, 2015 graduate of the Brockport MPA program, is a current recipient of the Rochester Business Journal Annual Forty under 40 award as published in the September issue. BJ works for the Rochester City Council as a Senior Legislative Analyst.

Sheila Strong, Brockport MPA 2004, BS 2001, has earned her Education Doctorate! Sheila successfully defended her dissertation on September 17, 2018. She will receive the Education Doctorate in Executive Leadership from St. John Fisher College.

If you have news you would like featured here (birth announcements, weddings, professional accolades) please send it to: kross4@brockport.edu.
Meet Our New MPA Faculty!

Keith Baker, PhD

Q: What is your teaching history?
Before joining the College at Brockport, I taught public policy and public administration at Oregon State University, and Northumbria University (UK), energy policy at the University of Southampton (UK), and I was a research associate at University of Manchester (UK). I completed my doctorate at the University of Birmingham in the UK.

Q: Why did you want to teach in the MPA program?
Teaching is an essential part of public administration scholarship but good teaching is informed by research. A big attraction for me was that the College at Brockport recognizes this interplay between teaching and research. The College encourages faculty to do well at both. I find that the MPA program is both enjoyable and rewarding and it is great to work with students who are committed to public service in Rochester, New York, and beyond. I have always felt that the biggest reward is of being able to see students use what they have learned in their MPAs to make positive and impactful changes in the world. Brockport excels at providing the opportunity for professors to connect with students who will go on to use their skills and knowledge to everyone’s benefit in the wider world.

Q: How will your past experiences help you as a professor?
My past experiences of teaching across multiple universities in different countries allows me to connect with groups of students from diverse backgrounds, and fields of study. I think I bring the big picture outlook. My past experiences are an opportunity to engage and inspire students to participate in public service. Public administration is the study and practice of public service. It is important that we as public administrators not only teach public service but also live it.

Vaiva Kalesnikaite, PhD

Q: What is your teaching history?
Prior to joining the College at Brockport, I spent four years as a graduate teaching and research assistant at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami, FL. I taught and assisted with classes in the BPA and MPA programs, including courses on program evaluation, public policy analysis, research methods, ethics, and others. I have experience teaching classes in face-to-face, online, and hybrid formats.

Q: Why did you want to teach in the MPA program?
The Department of Public Administration at Brockport is committed to educating future community leaders and managers. Contributing to the mission of the MPA program and seeing students succeed is very rewarding. Since the faculty are very actively engaged with current students and alumni, there are many opportunities to get involved with the local community and observe the impact that our students are making. At the same time, it helps me stay up to date with contemporary issues in public administration and the needs of the community. The College is very supportive of faculty professional development, which is essential in keeping up with the newest advancements in teaching and research in our field.

Q: How will your past experiences help you as a professor?
My main teaching objective is to equip students with analytical and collaborative skills that can be applied in their life experiences. Having lived in different countries, including Lithuania, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States, I strive to bring in multiple perspectives and points of view to my classes. My research helps inform my teaching methods and content, which provides students with the latest knowledge in public administration.
Meet Our New MPA Faculty Fellows!

Mike Hattery, PhD
Dr. Hattery joined the Department of Public Administration in February of 2018. He serves as the coordinator of the Public Management Program and will be teaching courses in the MPA program. He is currently teaching the core course on Statistics for Managers. Michael has over 30 years of experience conducting applied research and providing community based technical assistance and adult education for state and local officials. His work and interests are centered in the areas of local public finance, organization and service delivery alternatives. He has done significant work in the areas of management capacity building, budgeting, analysis of intergovernmental service delivery options and service cost analysis particularly among local governments in non-metropolitan regions.

Steven Hanmer
Mr. Hanmer joined the Public Administration Department as a Faculty Fellow this past summer. He will be working on advancing the mission of the Institute for Poverty Studies and Economic Development (IPSED). As IPSED’s Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships, he will be engaging with a wide cross section of leaders within the College and throughout the community to help define and prioritize strategies for 2019. One core function of IPSED will be connecting students to client-based projects that bring research, best-practices and a collaborative framework to enhance organizational capacity and address shared community challenges. Mr. Hanmer will be working with practitioners and student-led teams to create learning opportunities for future public sector leaders, while at the same time generating project experiences and solutions that benefit academic and professional networks in Rochester and beyond. To learn more about IPSED and exploring joint opportunities at the intersection of economic development and poverty alleviation contact Mr. Hanmer at shanmer@brockport.edu.

The Public Management Program (PMP) Gives Students Applied Research Experience

The PMP connects the Department of Public Administration with New York’s municipalities and other state, regional and local organizations. The PMP conducts applied research and projects which join faculty expertise and student skills with state and municipal needs for project-based analysis, research and training. We are currently conducting two municipal service delivery assessments. We are working with the Town and Village of Rhinebeck to assess opportunities for increased sharing in highway and related public works services and we are working with the Village of Johnson City to evaluate code enforcement options. In 2019 we will be conducting a statewide survey of municipal leaders on key topics. We are also working to create an electronic resource of high value municipal cases and applied research reports in New York State for use by students, researchers and state and municipal officials. For more information contact Dr. Hattery at mhattery@brockport.edu.
Student Spotlight

Sidnee McDonald

Hometown: Rochester, New York
Program: Public Administration
Expected Graduation Date: May 10, 2019
Current Occupation: I am the Democratic Engagement Graduate Assistant in the Office of Community Development at the College at Brockport and I am a Graduate Urban Fellow in the City of Rochester Mayor’s Office

How and why did you decide to apply for The College at Brockport MPA program?
I decided to apply to the MPA program because both of my mentors encouraged me to do so. They believed the program would prepare me for a career in public service which is something I aspire to do. In addition, one of my mentors, Renee Pink, is a graduate of the MPA program and she spoke highly of the program.

What have you enjoyed most about the program so far?
What I have enjoyed most about the program so far, is learning about career opportunities that I was unaware of. Prior to starting the program, I did not know what a City/County Manager was. Since then I have attended two International City/County Management Association Conferences, one in New York and the other in Washington. I am also serving as the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) President for the College at Brockport student chapter. Thanks to my involvement with ICMA and the courses I have taken, I know career in public service is what I aspire to do.

What does your job entail?
As the Democratic Engagement Graduate Assistant, I:
- Assist all members of the Brockport community in recognizing their democratic responsibility through Voter Registration.
- Create opportunities and programs that deepen awareness and understanding of social and political issues through Voter Education.
- Engage all members in the democratic process by encouraging and facilitating Political Action.
- Provide experiences that enhance the skills needed to be effective citizens, including communication, collaboration, critical analysis, and problem solving through Deliberative Dialogues.

As a Graduate Urban Fellow, I work on projects concerning community wealth building and alleviating poverty.

What are your future goals?
After graduating from the MPA program I would like to attend law school. Ultimately, I would like to own and operate a law firm in the city of Rochester while serving as an elected official.
**Get Involved**

**Student Steering Committee**

This 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 heard! The committee meets monthly. Contact Patrick Coyle, for more information at pcoyl1@brockport.edu.

**Pi Alpha Alpha**

The Pi Alpha Alpha Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration (PAA) recognizes outstanding undergraduate as well as graduate students in public administration, public policy, and public affairs. Enrolled Brockport MPA students are eligible for membership upon earning at least 21 graduate level credit hours and a 3.70 cumulative GPA.

**Your local Brockport Chapter offers these benefits:**
- Professional networking opportunities in the Greater Rochester area
- Opportunities to enrich the MPA program at Brockport through civic engagement, volunteering, educational programs, and involvement in MPA events & activities
- The ability to hold a PAA Brockport Chapter Executive Office position

For more information go to [pialphaalpha.org](http://pialphaalpha.org)

**ICMA Student Chapter**

The International City/County Management Association aims to create excellence in local governments by developing and fostering professional management to build better communities.

The College at Brockport ICMA Student Chapter is committed to ensuring that students are prepared with the skills and qualifications to enter a diverse and competitive workforce. For more information go to [my.brockport.edu/organization/icma](http://my.brockport.edu/organization/icma)

**Connect with the MPA Community**

**Pub Nights**

Periodically, throughout the semester students will get a chance to network with one another in a relaxed environment. Our first Pub Night was September 14th. For information on upcoming Pub Nights watch for email announcements. Graduate Assistant, Aaliyah Johnson is the Pub Night coordinator, ajohn18@brockport.edu

**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 experience.

**The first speaker series on 10/3, in the REOC Multi-purpose Room (room 148) is a panel discussion on collaboration. Panelists are:***

Tanishia Johnson, Children’s Agenda
Maya Crane, Connected Communities ROC
Loriane Ngarambe, Rochester-Monroe Anti-poverty Initiative

Watch for email updates!
Meet our Graduate Assistants!

**Aaliyah Johnson**
I graduated from SUNY Brockport with a Bachelor’s degree in science, and decided to continue my education at Brockport because of the opportunities and resources that the institution provided me with. I am currently a first year MPA student on the general emphasis 2 year track, looking to get into poverty studies for my concentration. Ultimately my career goal is to obtain a position as a Chief Diversity Officer at a higher education institution so that I can effectively implement policies and programs which display cultural awareness and competency towards marginalized groups and their respective causes.

**Kim Ross**
This is my second semester in the MPA program. 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 know the MPA program will help me develop stronger, sharper leadership skills and a clearer professional outlook. I especially appreciate the networking opportunities and look forward to my internship. Upon completing my MPA, I will pursue a career in arts administration, either in a non-profit or higher education setting.

**Dawn Footer**
I consider myself an interdisciplinary scholar. I received my M.S. in Accounting from Brockport in May 2018, while concurrently working on the MPA. The two degree areas mesh well for me, as my interests are in managerial accounting and public finance. Being a part of the MPA program has opened doors to professional networking opportunities that aren’t available to students simply pursuing an accounting degree. In the Fall of 2017 I co-authored a paper with fellow MPA candidate, Hannah Smith. It was submitted and accepted for presentation at the Spring 2018 APPAM Conference. The experience, as well as the support and encouragement we received from the MPA faculty, was amazing.

My future goals include completing the MPA in May 2019, and pursuing my PhD.

**Patrick Coyle**
I graduated from SUNY Brockport with a BS in Marketing in 2015 and spent 3 years working in business-to-business telecom sales before deciding to go back to school. I am very passionate about the social safety net and would like to devote my career to trying to help people escape generational, cyclical poverty. I am currently in the city and county management program and am really looking forward to working with all the incredibly accomplished faculty members we have in the department.
**Get Support**

**Tutoring**

Graduate Assistant, Dawn Footer, is the MPA tutor. Office hours are by appointment. Hours: Mon-Weds 4 - 5pm. To schedule with Dawn email: dfoot1@brockport.edu.

**Advisor Corner**

There have been some changes in our advising structure due to Dr. Wendy Wright stepping into the Interim Chair position. Advising of students in the Department of Public Administration is now divided among several of the program faculty members. Students in the MPA program are encouraged to check who their assigned advisor is on Banner.

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**Important Dates**

**College Specific Dates:**
- August 27th Instruction Begins
- September 3rd Labor Day – No instruction
- September 20th – Diversity Conference
  - Theme: Building a Strategic Roadmap for Inclusive Excellence
- October 15-16 Fall Break – No instruction
- October 17 NYSCMA Fall Seminar
- November 2nd – Deadline to withdraw without documented, extenuating circumstances
- December 10-15 Finals Week
- January 28, 2019 Spring 2019 classes begin

**Department of Public Administration Dates:**
- Fall 2018 MPA Speakers Series:
  - October 3rd and November 13th
  - Location: REOC Multi-purpose Room 148
- Fall 2018 MPA Open House
  - October 23rd from 5-7
  - RSVP: [https://forms.brockport.edu/view.php?id=1555862](https://forms.brockport.edu/view.php?id=1555862)

**New MPA Student Orientation at Brockport Downtown**

Icebreakers and information for new Fall '18 students. Pictured below from left to right are Aaliyah Johnson, Molly Downey, Sabata Harley, and Shaniece Blair.

Faculty members Dr. Vaiva Kalesnikaite, Dr. Rhucha Samudra, and Mr. Bryan White interact with students pictured above.