

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY MPA NEWSLETTER

Graduate Program in Public Administration

FALL 2021

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A Message from the MPA Director



Welcome to a new academic year! All of us at the Graduate Program in Public Administration hope you and your family are in good health. We are excited to return to campus this fall with some classes offered online and others in person. During the last year, the Program successfully delivered online academic programming. In doing so, our students and faculty demonstrated remarkable agility and resilience and created a learning environment of mutual support. We look forward to welcoming new students committed to advancing our public service mission. Our MPA and Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management Programs are accepting applications for this academic year.

In May, the Program hosted the 20th Annual Lent Upson Lecture and Alumni Reception. The topic of the Lent Upson Lecture was “Conducting Elections in Uncertain Times,” and the keynote speaker was Mr. Christopher Thomas, a fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center and former Michigan State Director of Elections. Although the event was held virtually, it drew considerable interest from our MPA community and beyond.

Wayne State University was chosen as an Institute Partner for the 2021 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Our Program partnered with the Office of International Programs to deliver an academic curriculum for this prestigious fellowship program. MPA Program faculty developed and virtually delivered lectures in public management, and MPA students, alumni, and friends of the Program contributed to the various components of this six-week fellowship.

In this newsletter, we highlight notable works within our MPA community from this past academic year. I would like to express my gratitude to MPA student assistant Iris Brauer, who provided extensive assistance in developing this newsletter.

We thank you for your continued engagement and support for the MPA Program.

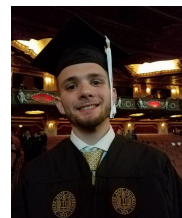
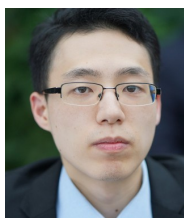
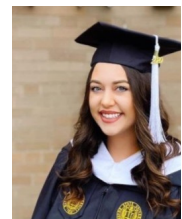
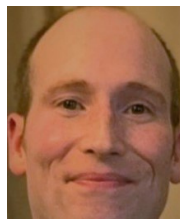
Kyu-Nahm Jun
MPA Director and Associate Professor

MPA Program Ranked in the Top 100 of U.S News' 2022 Best Graduate Schools

The MPA Program was ranked among the top 100 public affairs programs in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. The Program was ranked 83rd out of 285 in the 2022 Best Graduate Schools rankings. It continues to be the highest-ranked MPA program in the State of Michigan. Wayne State was tied with several other schools for the 83rd spot.

Our MPA Program was among the 25 Wayne State Graduate programs that were ranked in the top 100 of the Best Graduate Schools rankings, including four other graduate programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Chemistry, English, History, and Sociology. Scores were based on peer assessment surveys that collected responses from deans, directors, and department chairs representing master's programs in public affairs and administration.

Congratulations to Our Recent MPA Graduates!



Spring-Summer 2020

Taylor Simone Bell
Sean Davidson
BreAnna Lockhart
Caroline Radzwion

Fall 2021

Grace Alanskas
Natalie Cote
Amanda Rhea
Jihad Taleb
Stephen Todd
Rainesha Williams-Fox
Poonam Yadav

Winter 2021

Ajee Jones
Joseph Koo
Alan Osterling
Renee Pellegrini
Lindsey Saunders
Maria Totilca

MPA Program Partners with WSU Office of International Programs for the 2021 Mandela Washington Fellowship Program

Wayne State University was chosen as an Institute Partner for Leadership in Public Management Fellows participating in the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. The Fellowship allows young leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa to develop their leadership skills and foster connections and collaboration with U.S. professionals. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Fellows remained in their home countries and participated in activities virtually. More than two dozen other educational institutions throughout the United States were also selected as Institute Partners for the Fellows. As part of the academic curriculum, Community of Practice sessions gave them the opportunity to engage across Institutes with others with similar backgrounds and interests. For these activities, MPA Program faculty were involved with developing lectures on the topic of Democracy and Governance.

- Dr. Alisa Moldavanova acted as the academic director.
- Dr. Kyu-Nahm Jun served as the faculty coordinator.
- Dr. Brady Baybeck served as the faculty liaison.



Wayne State Adjunct Professor and MPA Practitioner Advisory Council member, Dr. Robert Heuton served as a facilitator. Three WSU political science PhD students also served as facilitators: Stephanie Beres (MPA candidate), John Bulat (MPA, '11), and Karine Ibrahim. MPA student Hillary Aerts served as the graduate student assistant for the fellowship program.

Coaches worked with the Fellows for mentoring and to share their experience and expertise in developing their focus projects. Several MPA alumni served as coaches for this program. The coaches were:

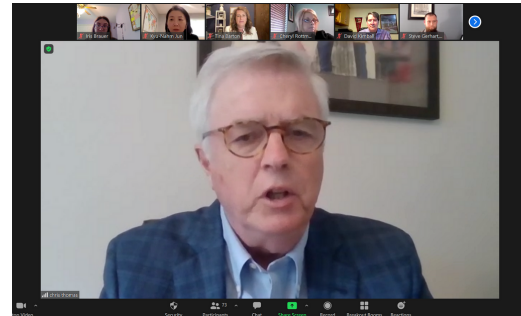
- Simone Bell (MPA, '20)
- Dominique Blanks (MPA, '17)
- Erin Casey (MPA, '16)
- William Cochran (MPA, '20)
- Sean Davidson (MPA, '20)
- Stephanie Fries (MPA, '08)
- Abby LaFramboise (MPA, '18)
- Jennifer Mahn (MPA, '15)
- Timothy Michling (MPA, '15)
- Scott Stewart (MPA, '20)

Several alumni and friends of the Program also created community service opportunities at their organizations for the Fellows.

- Fellows at the City of Ferndale working with Joseph Gacioch (MPA, '11) worked on municipal website analysis and municipal election support.
- Fellows at the National Coalition of STD Directors working with Jennifer Mahn (MPA, '15) participated in research, co-hosting focus groups, planning a webinar, and staff meetings.
- Fellows at the Citizens Research Council working with Timothy Michling (MPA, '15) worked on co-authoring policy blogs and short research pieces.
- Fellows at the Urban Aging News and Alzheimer's Association-Greater MI Chapter being coached by Patricia Rencher (MPA, '11) conducted research projects.
- Fellows at the Office of Congresswoman Haley Stevens working with Zachary Rich (MPA, '18) attended local government meetings and worked on research assignments, newsletters, and social media posts.
- Fellows at the Office of Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones working with Jasmine Barnes attended city council meetings and produced meeting minutes and policy reports.
- Fellows at the Ralph Bunch Institute working with Barbara Jones assisted in preparing pre- and post-evaluation of their program curriculum.

20th Lent Upson Lecture Event Held Virtually for the First Time

This year's Lent Upson event was held virtually on May 18th, 2021. The topic was "Conducting Elections in Uncertain Times" and featured a keynote speech by Christopher Thomas, former Michigan State Director of Elections and a fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center. The lecture included a panel discussion from Ann Arbor Deputy City Clerk, Stephen Gerhart (MPA, '12), Senior Program Advisor to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, Tina Barton, and the President of the Oakland County Clerks Association, Cheryl Rottmann (MPA, '92).



Christopher Thomas



Tina Barton



Stephen Gerhart



Cheryl Rottmann

The event was well-received and included some great and lively discussions from current and former MPA students. Discussion centered on some of the difficulties of being an election administrator within the current political climate, the significance of maintaining nonpartisanship, and the importance of education and internships for future election administrators.

The event also included an awards ceremony where we honored the 2020 Distinguished Graduate Award recipient Heather Van Poucker (MPA, '97) and the 2021 Distinguished Graduate Award recipient James Haag (MPA, '66).

We also recognized several MPA students at the event. Several MPA students were inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha, the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. The Alfred A. Pelham Scholarship was awarded to Jashira Jackson, the Dr. Daryl J. and Constance R. Delabbio Public Service Endowed Scholarship to Austin Colson, the Master of Public Administration Annual Scholarship to Stone Whalen, and the Master of Public Administration Recruitment Scholarship to Mohamed Ayoub. The Michigan Municipal Executives' Local Government Fellows, Steven Hoy (City of Plymouth, 2020-2021), Dylan Clark (City of Plymouth, 2021-2022), and Advait Rode (City of Troy, 2021-2022) were awarded scholarships through the Wayne State Internship in Local Government Fund. We thank the donors for their continued support for our students.

We are looking forward to next year's event and hope to see you all there!

Celebration of Service

James J. Haag, MPA 1966

2021 Distinguished Graduate Award Recipient

This year's Distinguished Graduate Award recipient is James Haag. James received his Master of Public Administration degree from Wayne State University in 1966. He received his bachelor's degree in history from the University of Detroit Mercy in 1963.

James began his career as an intern at the Citizens Research Council of Michigan. He was then hired as a research associate, where his main responsibilities included city/township consolidation and municipal administrative studies.



His next position was at the University of Maine, where he began as a research associate and then became Assistant Director for Research. His work included numerous publications on topics such as a statewide property tax assessment and a series of town and city charter commissions.

From 1973 to 1992, James worked for the New York State Legislative Commission on Expenditure Review, the legislature's nonpartisan staff agency, beginning as publications coordinator and eventually becoming the director. His work initially involved layout, effective presentation, and publication of reports that assessed state government program effectiveness but later involved directing multidisciplinary teams in planning and implementing program audits.

His next position was at the Michigan House Fiscal Agency (HFA), where he served as a nonpartisan staff director. He had a big task in front of him as the previous director had been indicted for fraudulent actions, so he had to work to restore public confidence in the HFA. He created the Fiscal Focus, Fundamentals, and Forum publications, teaching materials, and recorded cassettes specifically to help newly elected representatives understand the complexities of Michigan state government budgeting, finance, and taxation. Confidence in the HFA was restored in 1995, and he continued to serve as the director until 1999.

Finally, James worked for the North Carolina Commerce Department as the Director of Research, analyzing community development and job creation programs. He identified communities in need and helped them attract and grow jobs, evaluated the effectiveness of the job credit program, and articulated the state's motor vehicle parts and accessories cluster.

Jim retired in 2006. Today he enjoys church and community volunteer efforts, playing banjo and guitar in bands, and traveling to visit his three grown children and ten grandchildren with his wife Terri. He also recently wrote the only history of the New York State Legislative Commission on Expenditure Review.

He credits his time at the Citizens Research Council as what first sparked his interest in public service and good government. "Lent Upson's good government philosophy was a dominant influence in my 42 years of public service", he said. His advice to current MPA students is to "get to know your professors and to do internships to gain experience."

Welcome to our Newest MPA Students



Isabel Allaway is a legal assistant at an education law firm in the Detroit metro area. She is pursuing an MPA to build her career in community and economic development and to connect with local leaders doing that work.

Alicia Arkwright is the Development Director at North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy. She hopes to sharpen her professional skills and learn more about how nonprofits impact policymaking.



Mohamed Ayoub began his work in community planning for the City of Dearborn over four years ago. He first served as a Planner I and was promoted within a year to become their Senior Planner, heading the planning division. He was recently appointed by Mayor Wild to serve the City of Westland as its Planning Director. He oversees the day-to-day planning and zoning duties along with taking charge of updating the zoning ordinance and formulating long-term planning strategies. He holds a B.A. in Urban Studies and a Master of Urban Planning, both from Wayne State University. He was also elected in 2018 by his peers to serve as a board member for the Michigan Association of Planning. Mohamed has returned to his alma mater to study public administration, which will complement and balance his education and professional experience in urban planning. He hopes this will land him a career at an agency in the federal government.



Madison Bjertness has been taking MPA classes in the [Accelerated Graduate Enrollment \(AGRADE\) program](#) that allows undergraduate students to simultaneously take courses in undergraduate and graduate programs. She is currently taking her internship credit working as a community development intern for the City of Livonia and the City of Westland. She hopes to broaden her knowledge of public administration in the Program and will pursue a public service career in municipal government.



Bryana Martin works as a credit underwriter at Rocket Pro TPO, a division of Quicken Loans. “Earning this degree is essential for me to obtain because the program will offer me a wide range of subjects that will reflect the multidisciplinary nature of public administration. I wish to accomplish mastery of all the key elements needed to effectively manage policies for the public and private sector,” she said.

Anu Ngwa graduated this summer from the University of Houston with a B.S. in Psychology and minors in English and Health. She is currently a substitute teacher and nanny in the Detroit area. “I believe Wayne MPA program will provide a multidisciplinary exposure to prepare me for a career in advocacy for mental health, focusing on adolescents and young adults of immigrant and minority communities,” she said.



Robert Reaves is a two-time graduate of Wayne State with a bachelor’s in public relations (’11), and a master’s in business administration (’15). He currently serves as the Director of Accreditation for the WSU School of Medicine. In this role, he collaborates with the leadership team in strategic planning and continuous quality improvement to drive organizational effectiveness and compliance with national medical education standards. Additionally, he serves on the boards of nonprofit and charitable organizations. He is currently President of the WSU Alumni Association Board of Directors; Board Chair of Strategic Planning at Ronald McDonald House Charities Detroit; and an ambassador for the Michigan Opera Theatre. He recently earned the Crain’s 2021 Notable Nonprofit Board Members award. Robert noted that “In the near term, my goal is to utilize the program’s training and knowledge to benefit the nonprofit organizations that I currently serve and those that I will serve on in the future. My long-term goal is to apply my accumulated skills/knowledge/experience in a public affairs leadership position within local, state, and/or federal agencies.”



Charlaine Stevenson is an underwriter for United Wholesale Mortgage company. In the MPA Program, she hopes to gain a better understanding of public policy and equity.

MPA Public Management Internships



Zahraa Ayache completed an internship with the Department of Human Resources at the City of Dearborn Heights. She primarily assisted the HR Director in several tasks, such as filing employee applications and forms, attending interviews, and helping with their job fair. She learned how to communicate professionally with city residents and coworkers. “The City of Dearborn Heights HR Department gave me enough knowledge during my internship that I feel confident in taking with me in expanding my career,” Zahraa said.



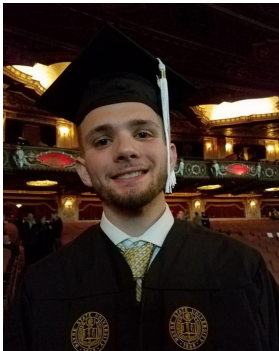
Madison Bjertness is a community development intern for the City of Livonia and the City of Westland. At the City of Livonia, she is working on implementing a senior mental health program with the CARES Act funding to combat the isolation and grief seniors have felt due to the pandemic. At the City of Westland, she is working on implementing a microenterprise program. She also helped prepare for and attended a Section 8 housing choice voucher briefing. Her internship has been valuable in gaining significant experience in multiple aspects of local government. She broadened her professional network through her internship activities.



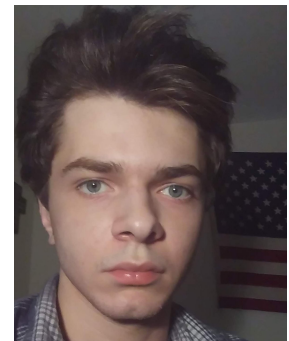
Iris Brauer completed an internship with the City of Detroit Parks and Recreation Department. She worked on the city’s emergency food delivery program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Her responsibilities included calling residents to get them enrolled in the food delivery program, managing the resident database, and calling residents for any follow-up that was needed. The internship was a great experience to see how local governments respond to and shift operations during a crisis situation.



Andrea Bukowski completed an internship with the Safe Routes to Health AmeriCorps Program. Her main activities included being a liaison for Troy Beaumont, collaborating with two new community partners and upholding current partnerships, creating an 18-week wellness program at Beaumont, and leading AmeriCorps group classes and events. She also helped her supervisor research and design performance evaluation metrics for the AmeriCorps mid-term service evaluation. Lastly, she served as a member of the Troy Community Coalition and assisted them with their monthly newsletters and various programs. She was chosen as Michigan’s AmeriCorps Member of the Month for June by the Michigan Community Service Commission!



Alan Osterling interned as the Public Health and Safety Committee Manager for the Office of Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones. He was responsible for policy analysis, agenda and committee work for the Public Health and Safety Committee, and database management. He learned what it was like to work within a city government, how to manage and construct a database for the committee, and the level of teamwork and collaboration that it takes for a government to ensure best and efficient services to residents.



Steven Wood completed an internship with the Planning Department of the City of Dearborn. He was in charge of researching and drafting an ordinance to establish a new transportation commission. The major lesson he learned at the internship was how to see a task through from start to completion. He said it was also an interesting experience to watch a new commission being formed.

Congratulations to the Newest MPA Pi Alpha Alpha Inductees

Sean Deschamps
Hannah Lanfear
Thomas Shimmel

John Dillon
Juno McMillon
Melanie Speelman

Chelsea Harris
Mark Navarro



John Dillon



Hannah Lanfear



Thomas Shimmel



Melanie Speelman

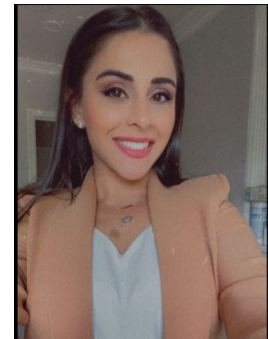
Pi Alpha Alpha is the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration and recognizes outstanding undergraduates and graduate students in public administration, public policy, and public affairs. We like to thank Professor Sarbaugh-Thompson and Academic Services Officer Detonya Clark for coordinating the selection of new Pi Alpha Alpha inductees.

News from Current MPA Students



Stephanie Beres, Juno McMillon, Advait Rode, Thomas Shimmel, and Max Voigt participated in the 2021 NASPAA Batten Simulation Competition, The Pandemic 2.0. The competition allows graduate students in public policy and related fields to test their skills on real-world data. This year the event took place virtually and involved a simulation game charting how a government would deal with a pandemic in a fictional country. **Stephanie Beres** was a member of the third-place regional winning team. Our MPA students had the opportunity to meet other students from all over the world and to apply the skills and knowledge that they have learned in their classes.

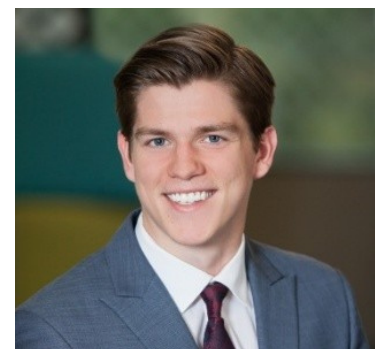
Amanda Berry started a new position as a Senior Health Care Analyst at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Blue Cross has been providing complimentary consultants who bring best practice ideas to provider offices to help improve their patient experiences and survey ratings. Amanda has been working with provider offices to identify, define, and improve common patient experience interactions with their doctor's office. She works with the manager and the staff to understand and map the patient experience journey to identify gaps for improvement opportunities and then create an implementation action plan. Helping a provider office understand the changing role of patients to health care consumer and their ever-changing expectations for health services is key to the offices, the patients, and their families.



General Services Department

Sean Deschamps started his new position as a manager in the Strategy and Planning Division of the General Services Department of the City of Detroit. The department is in charge of the City's vehicle fleet, forestry services, vacant lot maintenance, city-owned building maintenance, and park and recreation center planning, design, improvements, and programming.

John Dillon began a new position as a COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness Specialist with the Wayne County Emergency Preparedness team. His main responsibility within this role is to manage operations at a Wayne County COVID-19 vaccination point of disbursement. His role also involves research and logistical coordination. He also received the Graduate Professional Scholarship from Wayne State and was inducted into Wayne State's Chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha at the conclusion of the winter semester.





Nedra Hall serves as the Site Coordinator of Martin Luther King Jr. High School for the C2 Pipeline, which is a Community Learning Center funded program through the Michigan Department of Education. C2 Pipeline operates in 24 Metro Detroit schools with the goal of college and career readiness. As schools shut down during the pandemic, C2 Pipeline developed ways to keep students engaged. They redeveloped their model curriculum to continue providing services for Metro Detroit students remotely. Nedra continued to teach students about S.T.E.M-related careers and helped students navigate the college-going process. She held virtual FAFSA and college application meetings for high-school seniors and juniors. Many of them were accepted into post-secondary institutions. She also partnered with the Wayne State College of Engineering to conduct virtual summer camps. “As an educator, I take pride in not only providing students with educational opportunities but also providing social-emotional resources for students who need assistance during these trying times,” she said.

Jashira Jackson started a new position as a utilization reviewer in the Compliance department at Team Wellness Center. In this position, she is responsible for researching trends and gathering resources on utilization management compliance tasks and activities. She assists in the planning, development, and presentation of staff training in the clinics to understand the importance of utilization management authorizations and how it applies to their specific roles. By doing so, she can accurately identify the needs of staff and adjust accordingly to ensure that quality and compliance are being met with service timelines, documentation, billing, and city, county, state, and federal laws. Jashira is also the recipient of this year’s Alfred A. Pelham Scholarship award.



Amanda Jaczkowski works as a Health and Basic Needs program specialist at United Way for Southeastern Michigan. She is also running for Hamtramck City Council! MPA Student **Mark Navarro** designed her campaign logo. She recently came in second place in the primary election and will be on the ballot in the November election. Some of the coursework, especially classes like PS 7330 Public Budgeting and Finance with Professor Baybeck, gave her the confidence to take this step. Her campaign Facebook page is [here](#).

Alexandra Lazarow started a new position as a policy intern at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. She works within the Government and Regulatory Affairs department, which serves BCBSM's interests in four areas: advocacy, implementation, policy development, and social mission. Her duties include tracking legislation, summarizing current legislation, researching areas for policy advancement, as well as attending meetings with various associations with similar policy goals.



Torri Mathes works as a community engagement officer for the City of Berkley. During the pandemic and throughout re-opening, her work shifted. She worked on community outreach pieces in partnership with the state and county to ensure a unified message. The City of Berkley also established a wellness check hotline for seniors and the at-risk population and created a dedicated COVID-19 section on their website. External communication also shifted to e-blasts, social media, and the city's broadcast station. She also worked on internal communications that were focused on wellness and checking in on staff.

Melanie Speelman started a new position as the database and donor relations coordinator at the College for Creative Studies. She previously worked as a philanthropic services assistant at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.



Alumni News and Milestones



Anisa Bala (MPA, '19) started a new position as a Council Services Assistant at the Municipality of Leamington in Ontario, Canada.



Simone Bell (MPA, '20) started a new position with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. She works as a Business Operations Analyst supporting their Research, Policy, and Public Engagement department. She previously served as the Assistant to the City Manager for the City of Novi.



Colton Dale (MPA, '19) started a new position as a Business Development Manager for Wayne County. He was previously an Economic Development and Planning Specialist for the City of Oak Park.



Sean Davidson (MPA, '20) started a new position at Guidehouse as a State & Local Government Consultant. Guidehouse is a worldwide management consulting organization that provides public and commercial markets with broad capabilities in management, technology, and risk consulting. His responsibilities include serving states, counties, cities, nonprofit, and multi-lateral clients in the areas of: economic development, sustainability, disaster recovery, business design, organizational strategy, technology strategy, market analysis, financial modeling, operational analysis, process improvement, change management, technology implementation, risk management, compliance monitoring, and program management.



Sean Kammer (MPA, '13) started a new position as the Executive Director at Birmingham Principal Shopping District. He was previously the Downtown Manager at Royal Oak Downtown Development Authority.



Abby LaFramboise (MPA, '18) accepted a position as the Assistant Director at the Office of Development and Grants in the City of Detroit. She previously served as a Program Analyst in the same department.



Jennifer Mahn (MPA, '15) serves as the Associate Director, Clinical Programs at the National Coalition of STD Directors. She was quoted in a [Politico](#) article about at-home STD testing, an article from [The Guardian](#) about access to sexual health services during the pandemic, and an article on [Healio.com](#) about the pandemic's influence on congenital STDs.

Richard Pineau (MPA, '17) is currently involved in many projects and initiatives related to student success around Wayne State University. He has participated in several webinars focused on accessibility and student success, as both a speaker and panelist. His work on the Human Resources Restart Committee (related to the COVID-19 pandemic) continues as the university plans for a return to face-to-face operations in the fall. This year, he was recognized for his teaching with the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. With his admission to the WSU Academy of Teachers last year, Richard now holds the two highest teaching awards the university offers. He also was one of three faculty to receive the first-ever General Education Teaching Award, which honors faculty committed to the General Education Program. He continues his Ph.D. in Educational Studies and will be serving as Chair of the WSU Academy of Teachers beginning in the fall term.





Caroline Radzwion (MPA, '19) started a job with Washtenaw County as a Client Services Manager in April. She previously worked as a Care Manager at Team Mental Health Services.



Kathy Ralston (MPA, '16) accepted a new position as a financial and housing educator with MSU Extension. She previously worked for Southwest Solutions.



Amanda Rhea (MPA, '20) accepted a position as a Development Officer for Methodist Children's Home Society in January. She works on large fundraising events, donor cultivation and retention, and writes all of the organization's grants to private foundations.



Scott Stewart (MPA, '19) started a new position as the Vice President of Programs at the Pontiac Community Foundation. Previously, he worked as the Senior Director of Programs and Development for the Foundation.



Maria Totilca (MPA, '21) accepted a position with Shelby Township's General Bargaining Unit as an office clerk.



Sean Wolski (MPA, '19) started a new position as a Consumer Complaints Coordinator with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in Detroit. He previously worked as a Staff and Scheduling Assistant with the U.S. House of Representatives.



Poonam Yadav (MPA, '20) is currently working as a research analyst at Wayne State University's Center for Behavioral Health and Justice. She previously completed the Michigan Municipal Executives Fellowship with the City of Plymouth.

Program Faculty Activities



Associate Professor, Brady Baybeck started teaching a new course in the Winter 2021 semester, PS 6700 Financial Management for Nonprofit Organizations. This course can be used to satisfy course requirements in both the MPA and nonprofit certificate programs and will be offered every winter. Like everyone else, new teaching technology and modalities took up a large portion of Professor Baybeck's year. He also led a Wayne State Executive and Professional Development certification program for the National Association of County Collectors, Treasurers, and Finance Officers (NACCTFO), coordinating the noncredit course offerings and getting to know county elected officials from across the country. Related to that, he continues to work on his projects studying local elected officials.



Associate Professor and MPA Director, Kyu-Nahm Jun published her co-authored paper, "Bureaucratic Contacts and Their Impact on Citizen Satisfaction with Local Government Agencies: The Influence of Expectation" in *Public Policy and Administration*. She also co-authored an article with WSU colleagues, "Women's Civic and Political Participation in the Developing World: Obstacles and Opportunities" in the *Journal of International Women's Studies*. Finally, she virtually presented her study, "Fiscal Crisis, Austerity, and the Prospects of Democratic Governance and Public Participation" at the 2021 Annual Conference of the American Society for Public Administration.



Associate Professor and Coordinator of Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management, Alisa Moldavanova has published two articles featuring her research on arts and culture organizations in Metropolitan Detroit. The first article published in the *International Journal of Public Administration* investigates the structure and composition of inter-organizational networks that 27 arts and culture organizations relied on during and after the Great Recession, featuring findings from research supported by the American Political Science Association's Paul A. Volcker Endowment for Public Service Research. The second article in the *Journal of Urban Affairs* is a collaboration with the Center for Urban Studies and Professor Lyke Thompson. The article investigates differences in access to cultural organizations located in Metropolitan Detroit.

The study, which was funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, revealed that certain groups of the population have relatively low access to particular cultural amenities. Building on this work, Dr. Moldavanova became a Ford Fund Community Corps Grantee (2020), working in collaboration with the Wayne County Council for Arts History and Humanities, and with doctoral students from Political Science, Anthropology, and History, to create a comprehensive database of cultural sector organizations located in the Wayne County. In 2021, Dr. Moldavanova was elected to serve as the Chair of the Theories, Issues, and Boundaries Section – the largest organized group of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action. She has also joined the Educational Committee of the Detroit Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and was elected to the Leadership Council of the Nonprofit Management Education Section at the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration.



Professor, Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson produced a report on legislative oversight on state government contracts in six states sponsored by the Levin Center and the Center for Urban Studies. She served as a panelist on a webinar for 60+ state legislators from the Midwest Region on Best Practices in State Legislative Oversight for the Council of State Governments. She also presented several public presentations as an expert in discipline, including an interview with Amanda Allie of WXYZ and WMYD commenting on the Governor's State of the State address, an interview with Brian Abel from WXYZ in advance of the State of the State address, an interview with Taylor DesOrmeau from MLive about the U.S. Capitol chaos, and an interview with WXYZ about the final days of the 2020 election.



Associate Professor, John Strate serves as the Chair of the Political Science Technology Committee and Director of the Data Lab, which has been awarded a total of \$23,494 from the CLAS Student Service Fee funds for instructional support. He published an article with Nahla Hamdan, entitled "Gender inequality in the Arab world: a comparative perspective" in *Contemporary Arab Affairs*. He also worked with Tim Kiska at the Detroit Free Press on election night regarding vote estimates based on sample precincts. Professor Strate observed that Biden's victory in Michigan owes much to the competence of election administrators throughout the state who worked hard to ensure that Michigan residents during the pandemic were able to register and vote by mail.



Associate Professor, Kristin Taylor co-authored an article that first appeared in *Newsweek* and was also featured in *Today@Wayne*. The article relates findings from her National Science Foundation-supported project on COVID issues and was co-authored by the Risk & Social Policy Working Group, an interdisciplinary team of scholars formed to study risk messaging and public policy during the COVID-19 pandemic. The article centers around vaccine hesitancy. You can read the article [here](#).

Updates from the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management Program



The Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management program that the MPA Program launched in 2020 is approaching its first anniversary. Since its first semester in Fall 2020, the certificate program has been offering nonprofit management classes, professional development, and networking opportunities to more than 30 graduate students. The inaugural cohort of graduate certificate students represents diverse educational and social backgrounds and all walks of life, including those with many years of experience in the nonprofit field, and those who already completed graduate degrees in other fields. The certificate program accepts applications three times a year and can be completed independently or in conjunction with the MPA Program.

Several professional highlights from our current students:

- Katelyn Hatton has joined the Citizen Research Council's team; her work will focus on marketing and fundraising tasks supporting the organization.
- Alicia Arkwright won a prestigious professional development scholarship from the Association of Fundraising Professionals designed to support early-career professionals in the field of resource development and fundraising. Alicia has also started her MPA program at Wayne in Spring-Summer 2021.
- Theresa Tupacz has been appointed to the Washtenaw County Environmental Council. In her role on the council, Theresa will focus on sustainable energy systems in the private and nonprofit sectors.
- Robin West Smith has been appointed to serve on the Board of Directors for the Monroe Community College Foundation.

Join the International City/County Management Association Student Chapter

Please join the new Wayne State International City/County Management Association (ICMA) student chapter for networking and opportunities in local government. We are excited to bring this new student organization to the MPA Program and allow students with similar local government interests to get to know one another, as well as work with leaders in the field.

A first-year MPA student, **Madison Bjertness** will be serving as the chapter president. Madison has had an interest in local government for a few years and initiated the launching of this student chapter to introduce it to Wayne State. She is excited to get to know more fellow students who have career aspirations in local government. The chapter practitioner is **Mr. Victor Cardenas**, who is the assistant city manager in the City of Novi. Professor **Kyu-Nahm Jun** will serve as the faculty advisor.

We are currently in the planning phases of the chapter and would love for you to join and offer any ideas or insight you may have.

Some of the benefits of joining the ICMA Student Chapter are:

- Free student membership in ICMA
- Free registration to the ICMA Annual Conference
- Full digital membership, including ICMA's Newsletter, PM Magazine Online, members-only files, and content (such as the Job Hunting Handbook and Leading Ideas interviews)
- ICMA-sponsored competitions (e.g., responding to case studies, best event contests, etc.)
- Free chapter-only content (archived webinars and custom webinars)

If you would like to join the chapter or if you have any questions, please email us at icma@wayne.edu.



Practitioner Advisory Council Update

Students pursuing their MPA degree at Wayne State have long benefited from the involvement of practicing professionals in their education. The MPA Practitioner Advisory Council (PAC) meets annually to discuss a wide range of issues related to the mission of the Wayne State Graduate Program in Public Administration.

The members of the committee are pursuing, or have pursued, careers in the public or nonprofit sectors. Below is the list of current PAC members:

- Eric Adelman, MPA '08 - Executive Director, Kadima
- Susan Bristol, MPA '81 - Board Director, Wayne County Conservation District
- Robert Heuton, MPA '98, PhD '05 - Retired, Windsor public manager
- Charo Hulleza, MPA '92 - Managing Director, Wayne State University Center for Urban Studies
- Nicholas Lomako, MPA '83 - Retired, Senior Vice President, Wade Trim Associates, Inc.
- Kevin Kelley - Retired, Director of Senior and Veteran Services, Wayne County, Michigan
- Tracy Utech - Associate Vice-President for Individual Giving, Wayne State University
- Mari Vaydik - Senior Director of Philanthropy and Alumni Relations, Wayne State University
- Howard Whitney, MPA '11 - Michigan Department of Treasury
- Mark Wollenweber - Retired, City Manager, City of Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan

The PAC met this year on May 27th. At the meeting, the council members discussed MPA program data, data from the first year of the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management, and the possibility of a mentorship program for MPA students.

The Graduate Program in Public Administration very much appreciates the commitment these practitioners have made to help strengthen the Program and enhance the educational experience of our students.

Support the Elling Fund for Public Administration Educational Enhancement

In 2015, Dr. Richard Elling retired from a 35-year career as a core faculty member for the Graduate Program in Public Administration and as a Professor of Political Science. Following his retirement, Professor Elling generously established the Richard C. Elling Endowed Fund for Public Administration Education. After his passing in 2017, Dr. Elling's family has continued to honor his memory by supporting the Elling Fund with a generous match.

Professor Elling had a passion for public administration and the success of the MPA Program. Taking great pleasure in watching his students succeed, he created the Elling Fund in order to sustain and strengthen graduate education in the MPA Program. Monies contributed to the Elling Fund provide scholarships for promising MPA students, support current students who are serving in valuable, but unpaid internships, and enable the Program to produce the newsletter.

We hope that you will join us in honoring Professor Elling's legacy by contributing to a cause that was so dear to his heart and makes a difference to so many.

Gifts to the Richard C. Elling Fund for Public Administration Education can be made by mailing a check to:
Wayne State University Gift Processing
PO Box 674602
Detroit, MI 48267-4602
Attn: Richard C. Elling Endowed Fund for Public Administration

Education Contributions can also be made via the MPA giving page at: giving.wayne.edu/donate/mpa. Contributions are tax deductible on your federal income tax return.

Thank you on behalf of the MPA Program and the Elling Family!

Noteworthy News

MPA Student Chelsea Harris is getting married!

The wedding of Dane Haskin and Chelsea Harris will be on September 3rd, 2021, in Wyandotte, MI. They are planning a small ceremony on the Detroit Riverfront. Chelsea is the traffic officer at the Wyandotte Police Department and a current graduate student in the MPA program at Wayne State. Dane is a police officer for Wayne State and a current student of the MBA program.

