



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Master of Public Administration

Summer 2023 Newsletter

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A Message from the MPA Director



It is our pleasure to present you with our annual newsletter, celebrating the remarkable achievements of our MPA students, alumni, and faculty in public service. Our students and graduates continue to make significant contributions to public service. Our MPA faculty are engaged in cutting-edge research and offer innovative instructions in classes.

At the Lent Upson Reception in May, we congratulated our graduating students and Pi Alpha Alpha inductees. We also recognized Susan Bristol (MPA 1981), the recipient of the 2023 Distinguished Graduate Award, along with the student award recipients for their outstanding academic performance and commitment to public service.

The upcoming academic year will be an exciting time of transition. To begin, our department recently completed a tenure-track faculty search and will welcome Professor Brian Min in the Fall term. This summer, I will also be concluding my second term as MPA director. It has been an honor and privilege to serve our MPA community. I am grateful for all the support that I have received during the past six years. With this transition, we welcome back Professor Brady Baybeck to serve as the MPA director, and we are delighted that Professor Baybeck will be taking over this leadership role.

I want to thank my colleagues, our students, and alumni who contributed to producing this newsletter. A final word of appreciation goes to MPA student Iris Brauer, who, with the support of the Elling Fund for Public Administration Educational Enhancement, has been serving as a graduate assistant to the program and has provided extensive assistance in developing this edition of the newsletter.

If you have any questions about the program, you can always get in touch with us at mpa@wayne.edu. Thank you for your continued support of our program in providing the highest quality graduate education to students committed to public service.

Kyu-Nahm Jun
MPA Director and Associate Professor

Exciting News from the Department of Political Science: New Student Learning Center

We are happy to announce that the University has generously funded the renovation of Room 2306 in the Faculty Administration Building, formerly known as the Social Science Data Lab, into a Student Learning Center. We extend our sincere gratitude to Professor John Strate for his amazing work in securing funding for the new Center.

The renovations are currently underway and are expected to be completed in time for the upcoming Fall semester. The Student Learning Center will be equipped with amenities designed to cater to the needs of our students for enhancing their overall academic experience.

We invite all MPA students to make the most of this space as a productive space to work on assignments, collaborate with fellow students, or relax before an evening class. Furthermore, the Center will be available for student group meetings.

We will send out more updates as we get closer to the Fall semester!

U.S. News and World Report Ranking

The MPA Program has achieved significant recognition, ranking among the top 100 public affairs programs in the nation, earning a place in the “America’s Best Graduate Schools” list by U.S. News and World Report in their 2024 [rankings](#). Out of 269 programs, the MPA Program attained the 85th spot, maintaining its position as the highest-ranked MPA program in Michigan. Wayne State shared the 85th rank with several other esteemed institutions.

These rankings were determined through a peer assessment survey, which involved deans, directors, and department chairs representing the various master's programs in public affairs and administration. We are grateful for this continued recognition from our peer programs and are committed to continuous improvement in delivering exceptional graduate education to students who are committed the values of public service.

For further details on all U.S. News & World Report rankings, please visit their [website](#).

Congratulations to Our Recent MPA Graduates!

Spring-Summer 2021

John Dillon
Hannah Lanfear
Juno McMillon



John Dillon



John Dembinski



Brandon Frye

Fall 2022

Charity Barnes
John Dembinski
Brandon Frye
Advait Rode



Advait Rode



Stephanie Baron



Chelsea Haskin

Winter 2022

Stephanie Baron
Chelsea Haskin
Maxwell Lark
Susan Reed
Stone Whalen

Congratulations to 2023 Pi Alpha Alpha Inductees

Undergraduates

Cordelia Krajewski

MPA Students

Isabel Allaway
Samiya Amica
Mason Brudzinski
Sean Deschamps
Susan Reed

Ph.D. Students

Donald Cooper
Mara Crawford
Reid Hulleza



Isabel Allaway, Mason Brudzinski, and Reid Hulleza (PhD student) with Dr. Sarbaugh-Thompson at the 2023 Lent Upson Honors Reception.

Pi Alpha Alpha is the National Honor Society for Public Affairs & Administration and recognizes outstanding undergraduates and graduate students in public administration, public policy, and public affairs.

We would like to thank Pi Alpha Alpha Faculty Advisor, Professor Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson and Academic Services Officer Ms. Detonya Clark for coordinating the selection of new Pi Alpha Alpha inductees.

2023 Lent Upson Honors Reception

This year's Lent Upson event was held on May 11, 2023, at St. Andrew's Hall. In a break from tradition, this year's event served as a networking reception for current students, alumni, and friends. The event provided an excellent opportunity to connect with other MPA students and alums and to honor current and former students with scholarships and awards.

The Distinguished Graduate Award was presented to Susan Bristol (MPA '81) for her excellence and contributions in human resources and healthcare management. See the Distinguished Graduate Award section for more information about Susan's extraordinary career.

- Charlaine Stevenson and Julia Bassier were awarded Alfred M. Pelham Scholarships.
- Isabel Allaway received the Dr. Daryl J. and Constance R. Delabbio Public Service Endowed Scholarship.
- Regina Dominick received the MPA Annual Scholarship.
- Mallory Hoppe received the MPA Annual Recruitment Scholarship.

During the event, the exciting announcement was made that MPA Alumnus Steve Townsend ('02) will be endowing the MPA Annual and MPA Annual Recruitment scholarships, allowing them to impact many generations of future MPA students.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2024 Lent Upson Lecture and Reception next year!



Professor Taylor



Professor Baybeck & Susan Bristol



MPA Students & Alumni



Julia Bassier



Charlaine Stevenson



Isabel Allaway



Mallory Hoppe & Steve Townsend

Celebration of Service

Susan Bristol, MPA 1981

2023 Distinguished Graduate Award Recipient



The 2023 Distinguished Graduate Award recipient is Susan Bristol, who has an extraordinary career in human resources management. She earned her master's degree in public administration from Wayne State University in 1981 and had previously earned a bachelor of arts in political science, also from Wayne State.

Her career began as an intern with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, where she worked on a special team developing surveys to gather data about client attitudes about new department systems. She also worked as a research analyst for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Later, she worked as a research analyst for Harper Hospital, with her focus on human resources and employment statistics.

Ms. Bristol has dedicated 26 years of her career to the Detroit Medical Center, holding a prominent role as the Director of Human Resource Information Systems. In this capacity, she worked on process redesign, system selection, and implementation, and data retrieval and analysis. Her leadership was instrumental in managing successful teams, overseeing major projects, and developing budget proposals. Furthermore, she managed the HR department through numerous changes and developed new HR information systems in response to the evolving technology and HR practices.

Since 2017, Susan has actively served as a board member of the Wayne County Conservation District, an organization committed to preserving the county's natural resources. Her commitment to public service led her to become the board chair in 2020, relishing the opportunity to serve the public. This position has also provided invaluable experience working in the public eye and building meaningful relationships.

For current MPA students, Susan offers a piece of invaluable advice: keep an open mind as to what you will use the degree for. With various opportunities open to MPA graduates, she recommends students to "expect the unexpected and be open to all opportunities available." Susan believes that statistics and data analysis are some of the most important skills for her career and is grateful for the knowledge she gained in these areas through the MPA program. Ms. Susan Bristol's inspiring career trajectory serves as a testament to the diverse avenues an MPA degree can unlock.

Alumnus Steve Townsend Endows Two Scholarships for MPA Program

MPA Alumnus Steve Townsend ('02) has always wanted to give back to the program. He started by establishing the MPA Annual Scholarship in 2017 and then added the MPA Annual Recruitment Scholarship in 2020. Both scholarships are available to students who are working full-time while pursuing their MPA degree. The scholarships have played a crucial role in attracting exceptional candidates to the program, enabling students to pursue their degrees with less financial stress and to finish their degrees faster with less debt.



Joe Fresard (MPA, '19), Amanda Jaczkowski (MPA, '21) and, Amy Zarichny (MPA, '19) with Steve Townsend (second left) at the 2019 Lent Upson Event

Steve, who currently serves as the Director of Marketing and Communications for Wayne State's Medical School, said that the reason he chose to focus on students who are working full-time while in the program is twofold. He feels that a program like the MPA gains great value from having in-service who are able to bring their experience and input to the classroom. "I got a lot out of the program, even beyond what I learned in the classroom. I learned so much from my fellow classmates. In a program like the MPA, so much of it is learning the material but also learning how it works in the real world," Steve said. He also worked full-time while completing his MPA, so he understands the struggle to balance work commitments with school.

As a result of these scholarships, the program has been able to welcome a multitude of talented individuals who may have otherwise chosen alternative paths due to financial challenges. Many of the scholarship recipients have gone on to assume important roles in both the public and private sectors, making impactful contributions to society.

The scholarships were previously funded by Steve's annual donations to the program, but he has now decided to endow both MPA scholarships. This extraordinary decision allows the program to support MPA students in perpetuity, supporting generation after generation of students. Steve's vision and commitment will ensure that the program continues to attract and nurture talented individuals who will contribute to the betterment of society through their public service and leadership.

The scholarships are a generous gift from both Steve and his wife, Dr. Amy Neville. Amy is a 2002 graduate of the Wayne State School of Medicine. Once fully endowed, the scholarships will be called the Neville-Townsend Endowed Master of Public Administration Scholarship and the Neville-Townsend Endowed Master of Public Administration Recruitment Scholarship, both available to current and incoming MPA students who are working full-time.

The MPA program would like to thank Steve and Amy for their generosity.

The MPA program would also like to recognize CLAS Senior Director of Philanthropy and Alumni Relations, Mari Vaydik and Associate Director of Philanthropy at the Mike Ilitch School of Business, Becky Dennis-Hulway (MPA '15) for their efforts in establishing these awards.

MPA Program Partners with the Office of International Programs for the 2023 Mandela Washington Fellowship Program

The Office of International Programs at Wayne State University was again chosen as a host university for the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. Over the summer, Wayne State hosted 25 of Africa's bright, emerging Public Management leaders for a six-week Leadership Institute, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. The U.S. Government's Young African Leaders Initiative was created in 2010 and supports young Africans as they spur economic growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa. Since 2014, the U.S. Department of State has supported nearly 5,800 Mandela Washington Fellows from across Sub-Saharan Africa to develop their leadership skills and foster connections and collaboration with U.S. professionals. The cohort of fellows hosted by Wayne State will be part of a group of 700 Mandela Washington Fellows hosted at 28 educational institutions across the United States.



Our MPA program played an integral role in providing an academic curriculum in public management for the Fellowship Program. Notably, Dr. Brady Baybeck served as the academic director. Other MPA and political science faculty who participated in the program were Professors Kristin Taylor, Ron Brown, Sharon Lean, and Michelle Wooddell. MPA alumna Dana Gill (MPA, '18) also led a session. Additionally, alums from the MA/Ph.D. programs with public affairs backgrounds participated: Esmat Ishag-Osman, Calvin Higgins and Ari Ruttenberg.

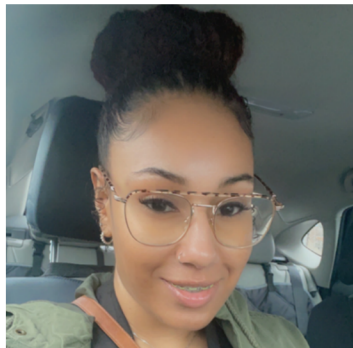
Several MPA alumni served as coaches, working one-on-one with the fellows during their time in the program. The coaches were: Dominique Blanks (MPA '17), Courtney Flynn (MPA '16), Elizabeth King (MPA '17), Jenny Mahn (MPA '15), Tim Michling (MPA '15), and Richard Pineau (MPA '16).

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders was indeed a great opportunity and experience for our MPA program and alumni. The MPA program looks forward to partnering with the Office of International Programs for the fellowship program next year!

Welcome to our Newest MPA Students



Morgan Alexis holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Michigan. She has always been passionate about helping others and serving her community. This has led her to seek a graduate program that would fulfill this passion and lead to a lifelong career in serving the public. As of now, she is specifically interested in studying urban sustainability and environmental policy, and she hopes to someday work in the public sector.



Kara Crank has a BFA in English Language and Literature from Wayne State University. She currently works as a Toyota Team Leader at Concentrix.



Tia Finney works as the Director of Assessment at Wayne State University's School of Medicine. She holds a Master of Arts in Organizational Communications, a Master of Education in Curriculum and Education, and a Ph.D. in Education Evaluation and Research, all from Wayne State University.



Darrius Hicks works as an admissions counselor at the University of Detroit Mercy. He holds a bachelor's degree in Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Mallory Hoppe serves as the Director of Administration at Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency. She holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Wayne State University.



Jeremy Johnson is from Flint, Michigan, and graduated from Oakland University with a BA in Political Science. He is looking forward to the MPA program at WSU!

Benjamin Linstrom is a teacher at Detroit Waldorf School. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Michigan.



Hunter Manikas has already been working on his MPA through the Accelerated Graduate Enrollment (AGRADE) program at Wayne, which allows undergraduate students to begin taking graduate courses while working on their bachelor's degree. He serves as the President of Wayne State's ICMA student chapter.

Miranda Marras is the development associate at Accounting Aid Society. She has a BA in Political Science from Wayne State University.



News from Current MPA Students

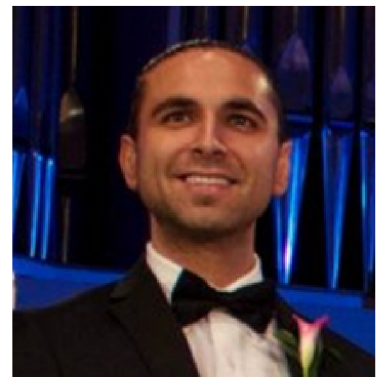


Alicia Arkwright (middle) at the Univ. of San Francisco

MPA students **Alicia Arkwright** and **Charmaine Valbuena** took part in the [2023 NASPAA Wildfire Simulation Competition](#). Participants worked in teams to collaborate on a joint wildfire mitigation plan for the fictional town of Westmount. The competition not only challenge their knowledge of public policy and administration but also emphasized the crucial skills of communication, negotiation, and teamwork, which are essential in real-world scenarios.

The competition demonstrated the significance of teamwork in the field of public service, where collaboration with individuals from diverse backgrounds is paramount to finding comprehensive and inclusive solutions to complex challenges. Both Alicia and Charmaine remarked on the valuable learning experience and networking opportunities they gained at the event. They encourage other fellow MPA students to consider participating in the next year's competition.

Benjamin Chirla started a new position as the Director of Client Services at EAM Sandler. EAM Sandler provides sales training to nonprofits, enabling them to greatly enhance their fundraising capabilities and expand their ability to assist more people. The company has established close partnerships with higher education institutions, including Walsh College and the University of Michigan. In collaboration with the University of Michigan, EAM Sandler has developed an innovative sales training and management curriculum, which will commence teaching on campus this year (classes begin in Fall 2023). Benjamin takes great pride in the work that EAM Sandler does.



Ginger Green has been promoted to the position of Senior National Corporate Partnership Director at CityYear. Previously, she served as the Corporate and Foundation Partnership Director.

Abigail Newland has taken on the role of a Grant Writer at United Healthcare Partners (Marlette Regional Hospital, Deckerville Community Hospital, and the Heartlands Marlette Senior Living). In this capacity, she works diligently to discover, submit, and secure grant funding for UHP entities to improve the quality of health throughout the communities served.





Thomas Shimmel has accepted a position with the City of Detroit's Office of Contracting & Procurement through the Mayoral Fellowship program. He worked full-time in this program, which allows engaged, motivated, and civic-minded students to apply their coursework working for the City of Detroit.

Charlaine Stevenson has started a new position as the executive assistant to the city manager at the City of Berkeley. In March 2023, she also completed her Graduate Management Analyst program at the City of Novi.



Eboni Williams started a new position as a Youth Outreach Manager at Community Home & Supports, Inc. Previously, she served as Outreach Navigator.

Katrina Wotjan started a new position as the Assistant to the President and Special Projects Officer at MomsRising. Additionally, she received a Graduate Professional Scholarship for the Academic Year 2023-2024.



Public Management Internships



Brandon Frye interned with the City of Lincoln Park, where he worked on documenting vacancies and researching urban blight in the downtown area. By the end of the internship, he successfully developed a GIS mapping project to further elucidate his research findings. Brandon expresses his gratitude to MPA alumna Elizabeth King (MPA, '17) for facilitating connection with Lincoln Park officials, Professor Brady Baybeck for being his internship advisor, and Dr. Kyu-Nahm Jun for guiding the entire process.



Abigail Newland worked as a management intern for the Shared Humanity Project. During her internship, she actively engaged in addressing poverty-related issues and explored the work of other nonprofits combating them. Her contribution extended to supporting the National Plan to End Poverty by identifying effective strategies and impactful nonprofits in the fight against poverty. Additionally, Abigail played a key role in creating a social media strategy and posts, as well as managing the organization's supporter database. Through this internship, she gained firsthand insight into the daily tasks undertaken by nonprofits, especially smaller ones, and honed her outreach and networking skills.



Charlaine Stevenson served as a Graduate Management Analyst for the City of Novi, gaining valuable insights into local government and its day-to-day operations. She worked with the Assistant City Manager, Victor Cardenas on updating Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) policies, HR turnover data, and employee wellness policies. Charlaine also actively supported residents with various needs and participated in meetings with different departments and outside vendors for weekly updates. Additionally, she attended conferences as both a Wayne State MPA student and an intern to enhance her professional networking experience.

Alumni News and Milestones



Lisa Anga (MPA '17) started a new position as Vice President of Development for the Kirk Gibson Foundation for Parkinson's. Previously, she served as the Associate Director, Division of Development and Alumni Affairs for Wayne State University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



Alan Balian (MPA '21) achieved a Lean Sigma Six Green Belt Certification from the City of Detroit. He continues working as a data analyst at the City's Health Department.



Amanda Berry (MPA '21) was promoted to Program Consultant at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. She previously served as a Senior Healthcare Analyst.



Melissa Brown (MPA '14) is currently pursuing her Master of Science in Entrepreneurship at Manchester Metropolitan University, with an expected completion date in January 2024. She is enjoying living and studying in the United Kingdom (see photos below from Melissa) and is planning to launch an academic consulting business to assist students interested in studying abroad.





Andrea Bukowski (MPA '21) started a new position as Data and Program Specialist at Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation –a Michigan Works! nonprofit agency in Detroit. Reflecting on her career path, Andrea says “I did not think my MPA degree would lead me to a career in Workforce Development, but I am so glad it did. I have learned so much in just one year from my wonderful team at DESC and they took the time to train me and educate me in the workforce development field.” In November, Andrea also had the opportunity to attend a professional conference, the National Association of Workforce Development Professional Youth Symposium, further enriching her expertise.

Erin Casey (MPA '16) joined the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan team in June. As the Project Director of the Pontiac Funders Collaborative (PFC), Erin provides leadership, management, and guidance in support of this place-based initiative. She will work to support the PFC to develop partnerships and fund projects that support organizations in Pontiac. In this role, Erin is excited to guide the mission and vision of the PFC, leading through continuous strategic thinking, managing implementation, projecting the initiative’s distinct goals, and measuring outcomes.



William Cochran (MPA '20) moved to Washington, D.C. at the end of 2022 to participate in the prominent Presidential Management Fellowship program. He is currently working for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Directorate. This directorate is responsible for adjudicating applications for overseas refugees and asylum seekers in the United States. He will continue this fellowship for another year.

Colton Dale (MPA '19) now serves as the Manager of Business Development for the Detroit Regional Partnership (DRP), a leading economic development nonprofit facilitating business expansion and location in the 11-county Detroit Region. As a member of the business development team, he focuses on lead and prospect generation, promoting the Region’s advantages to site selectors and corporate decision-makers. Colton works closely with attraction prospects, providing necessary data, partner connections, and support services to facilitate their expansion projects.





John Dillon (MPA '22) started a new position as an Economic Analyst with the Michigan Center for Data and Analytics (previously Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives) within the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget at the State of Michigan.



Melissa Fairbairn (MPA '20) has been promoted to Assistant City Manager at the City of Birmingham. Prior to this role, she served as the Assistant to the City Manager for two years. Melissa's journey with the City of Birmingham began as a Management Intern while pursuing her MPA program in 2019.



Brandon Frye (MPA '22) became the executive director of the City of Lincoln Park Downtown Development Authority. He started with the city in July 2022 as an intern.



Nedra Hall (MPA '21) was promoted to Data Analyst III at Detroit Land Bank Authority where she previously served as a Planning Research Analyst. Nedra was also featured in a film called "DetroitX." The film offers diverse perspectives and experiences that make up the rich tapestry of Detroit's Black community.



Yuliya Harris (MPA '18) started a new position as Senior Manager, Hyperautomation & Transformation at Roboyo, specializing in public sector automation. She previously worked as a Process Intelligence & Intelligent Automation Manager at PwC. She currently resides in Miami-Fort Lauderdale area in Florida.

Elizabeth King (MPA '17) started a new position as an Economic Development Specialist at Arlington Economic Development. She currently resides in Arlington, Virginia.



Amari McGee (MPA '19) has taken on the role of Community Director for Graduate and Family Housing at the University of California, Berkeley. Additionally, she obtained a Doctorate in Education from Ferris State University.

Renee Pelligrini (MPA '21) started a new position at the City of Detroit's Office of the Chief Financial Officer as Program Analyst II. She also volunteered with Canfield Consortium, as they broke ground on the pilot greenway lots for the Canfield Connect Project.



Poonam Purohit (MPA '20) was promoted to data manager at the Chronic Pain and Fatigue Research Center, Michigan Medicine. Her responsibilities include managing the organization's data and ensuring data quality, integrity, and security through the establishment of data governance policies and procedures. She oversees data acquisition, integration, storage, and organization while also implementing data quality assurance measures. Additionally, she collaborates with data analysts, researchers, PIs, and research assistants to provide reliable data for analysis and reporting. Poonam contributes to the organization's data strategy and leads a team of data professionals to execute data management initiatives effectively.



Amanda Reed (MPA '16) started a new career journey as a Program Manager at the Michigan Health Endowment Fund.

Amanda Rhea (MPA, '20) moved roles within WSU and became the Foundation Relations Writer in the Office of Business Engagement and Strategic Partnerships. She assists faculty through the grant writing process to secure funding for their projects and research. She is loving this role and the ability to connect with faculty across campus and learn about the fascinating research happening at Wayne State!



Michaela Therrien (MPA '20) started a new position as American Rescue Plan Act Data and Outcomes Manager for the City of Detroit.

Maria Totilca (MPA '21) received a promotion to Account Processor I at the Charter Township of Shelby. She was previously employed at Shelby Township as an office clerk.



Rainesha Williams Fox (MPA '20) has taken on the position of Program Manager for the Mobility Accelerator Innovation Network at TechTown Detroit. In her role, she is excited to apply her analytical thinking, restorative practices, and creative and innovative ideas. Rainesha also published a children's book, "Radiant Black Girl."

Program Faculty Activities



Associate Professor Brady Baybeck has had a busy summer. In June and July, he served as academic director for the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders on campus. He built upon the great work of the previous academic director, putting together a noncredit curriculum that exposed the Fellows to the wonders and complexities of the public management environment in the United States, in Michigan, and in the Detroit Metropolitan area. He also continued his work with the National Association of County Collectors, Treasurers, and Finance Officers (NACCTFO), putting together a noncredit program in public administration for the membership at their Annual Conference in Austin, Texas. He is also still serving as Interim Coordinator for the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management & Leadership and is looking forward to (re)assuming the role of the MPA Director in the Fall semester and again building upon the great work of his predecessor.

Associate Professor Kyu-Nahm Jun contributed to a co-authored book chapter, entitled “Public Value Contestation in the Era of Fiscal Austerity and Crisis” in the edited volume *Challenges to Public Value Creation: Authority, Process, and Complexity*. She has also started a new research project, “Are We in This Together? Exploring Inequality-Driven Mistrust and Compliance with COVID-19 Preventive Measures,” which received funding through the 2023 Social Sciences Research Support Program at Wayne. This project will study the potential impact of inequality on compliance with social distancing measures and explores how trust mediates the relationship between inequality and adherence to these policy interventions during times of crisis.



Professor Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson is currently serving as the Academic Director of State Oversight Academy of the Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy, housed in the Wayne State University Law School. The Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy was established in 2015 to advance former Senator Carl Levin's legacy of bipartisan, evidence-based legislative oversight. In her role as Academic Director of the State Oversight Academy, Dr. Sarbaugh-Thompson focuses on legislative oversight of state agencies and oversight of state contracts. To learn more about state oversight, please click [here](#).



As part of her work with the State Oversight Academy, Dr. Sarbaugh-Thompson completed two major reports on state legislative oversight: [one of oversight in the 50 states](#), and [one on six states' efforts to improve the oversight of state agency contracts](#). Dr. Sarbaugh-Thompson also contributed a chapter on Michigan's first experience drawing district maps with an independent citizen redistricting commission, created in 2018 through a citizen ballot initiative. The chapter, entitled “The Maiden Voyage of Michigan’s Redistricting Commission,” will appear in *The Roads to Congress 2022*, to be published soon by Palgrave Macmillan.



Associate Professor John Strate has accepted an offer from CLAS to retire Fall semester of 2024, with teaching responsibilities ending Fall semester of 2023. He first came to WSU, the Department of Political Science, and the MPA program in the Spring-Summer semester of 1984. He has taught the core courses PS 5630, Statistics and Data Analysis I, PS 7460, Program Evaluation, and PS 7480, Policy Analysis for Administration, along with eight other undergraduate and graduate level courses. In 2000 the Chairperson at the time, Richard Elling, appointed him as MPA Director, a position that he held for about seven years.

During his years as Director, MPA faculty members introduced changes to the curriculum that have remained in place to the present day. The MPA program was the first in Michigan to receive NASPAA accreditation. Since his arrival, all MPA directors have led successful efforts to achieve reaccreditation. The most recent successful effort was led by Kyu-Nahm Jun who has done an excellent job as Director. MPA faculty members have served as chairpersons for dozens of Ph.D. students in the fields of public administration and public policy, and have been very productive scholars, publishing regularly. A few have secured multiple and large research grants. As is true of all MPA faculty and staff, the most lasting reward of our careers is seeing our MPA graduates go on to successful public service careers. He is confident that current MPA students can look forward to receiving the highest quality public service education.



Associate Professor Kristin Taylor received an academic recognition award. She was awarded the Career Development Chair which are given to as many as 10 recently tenured faculty as part of the university's program to support the teaching and research endeavors of faculty members in the developmental stages of their scholarly careers. She also coauthored "Policy Entrepreneurs and Individuals: Influence and Behavior in Pandemic Response," published in *Public Administration Review* and "Visual Policy Narrative Messaging Improves COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake," published in *PNAS Nexus*.



Professor Lyke Thompson is the Director for the Center for Urban Studies. In this role, he works closely with community organizations and local governments to evaluate programs, study key policy questions, and test interventions. This year Dr. Thompson and the Center have initiated two new programs regarding climate change, one to help residents adapt to the increase in flooding in Detroit and the other a collaboration with WSU Engineering faculty to simulate and then assess ways that utilities might adapt to weather events that have led to flooding and power or water outages related to climate change.

New Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Byung Hee (Brian) Min joins Wayne State from Valdosta State University, where he served as an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science. Dr. Min earned his Ph.D. from the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at Florida State University. He also completed his B.A. in Public Administration from Michigan State University, and his master's degree in Sociology at Yonsei University in South Korea.

His expertise lies in the areas of public and nonprofit management, public budgeting and finance, organizational behavior and theory, and government-nonprofit collaboration.

His research has appeared in journals such as *Administration and Society*, *Public Performance & Management Review*, *Nonprofit Management and Leadership*, and the *Journal of Public Affairs Education*. Dr. Min's scholarly work and commitment to diversity and inclusion have earned him several prestigious national awards, including the 2021 Emerging Scholar Award by the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA), the 2020 Founder's Fellow by the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), the Best Thesis Grant from Florida State University, a Diversity Scholar Award by ARNOVA, and the Best Paper Award for the 2020 ASPA SKPA Junior Asian Scholarship.

The Graduate Program of Public Administration is thrilled to welcome Dr. Min and looks forward to benefiting from his wealth of expertise and experience!

Updates from the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management Program

Launched in Fall 2020, the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management program is still going strong. The program has welcomed more than 100 graduate students from diverse educational and social backgrounds, including those with many years of experience in the field and those with completed graduate degrees in other academic disciplines. In its first 2 years, 28 people have completed the certificate, either as a standalone program or in conjunction with another graduate degree.

Professor Brady Baybeck is currently serving as the interim program coordinator. He can be reached by email at npm@wayne.edu with questions about the program or for additional information.



Letter From WSU ICMA President Hunter Manikas

Greetings all! My name is Hunter Manikas, and I have the honor of being selected to serve as Wayne State University's International City/County Management Association's (WSU ICMA) second President. I am humbled to have been elected to this position by colleagues whom I hold in the highest of esteem and will take great pride in dedicatedly serving our Chapter. WSU ICMA has seen an outstanding year of growth since its inception, and the inaugural Executive Board along with our Body and Advisors have my utmost gratitude for making our time together so impactful.



Throughout the year, we have achieved great success in our mission to connect students with local leaders in public administration and municipal management. Our events have ranged from monthly discussions with managers of great prominence within the public sector to our Chapter's participation at the Michigan Municipal Executive Conference in Grand Rapids where our Chapter's attendance was noted and cheered on by City Managers from across the State. These events have exposed the members of our Chapter to career-applicable methods of management, all while having the opportunity to network with top administrators in the State. With the great successes we have experienced, we look forward to continuing these practices for many years to come.

It is no secret that Metro Detroit has a rich history in the field of Public Administration. Our community has always held true to its beliefs in the core values of public service, making WSU ICMA uniquely suited to be a community leader across southeastern Michigan. We will continue forth to act as a liaison for the many talented students in the area and want to give heartfelt thanks to the many prominent leaders who have spoken so candidly with us about the nature of a career path in public service. Our guest speakers from across different sectors of public service have made our discussion appeal to broader conversations such as hiring practices and economic development to ensure students specializing in nonprofit or other work will leave with pertinent information for career development.

In a post-pandemic world, many current students have been deprived of the opportunity for social connections and forge friendships with like-minded individuals. WSU ICMA presents an outstanding way to create bonds with fellow classmates while also professionally developing your skillset and knowledge base. Our members have overwhelmingly expressed how impactful these bonds are to their learning both in and outside of the classroom, and as such, WSU ICMA will seek to advance this objective throughout the coming years. If you are at all interested in joining, please reach out to icma@wayne.edu and we can add you to our mailing list to provide updates on upcoming events and opportunities. All are welcome.

Thank you for the opportunity to help further this Chapter, I look forward to another spectacular year.

Sincerely,
Hunter Manikas
WSU ICMA President



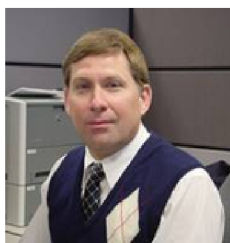
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Support the Elling Fund for Public Administration Educational Enhancement

In 2015, Dr. Richard Elling retired from a 35-year career as a core faculty member for the Graduate Program in Public Administration and 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 to sustain and strengthen graduate education in the MPA Program. Donations contributed to the Elling Fund provide scholarships for promising MPA students, support MPA 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 can be made by scanning the QR code below or 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.

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



Noteworthy News

Yuliya Harris (MPA '18) welcomed a baby boy named Nikolai in November 2022.

Poonam Purohit (MPA '20) got married in May 2023 in India.

Jenny Mahn (MPA '15) welcomed a baby boy named Lucas on February 19, 2023.

