

# WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY MPA NEWSLETTER

Graduate Program in Public Administration

FALL 2020

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## A Message from the MPA Director



The end of the previous academic year was like no other before it. We are proud to report that the MPA Program has been weathering the COVID-19 storm successfully thus far. Our faculty and students are resilient as we carry on with our public service mission. The current crisis further underscores the relevance of public service. Even during these hard times, there is much to celebrate.

The Network of Schools in Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) has reaccredited our MPA Program through 2027. The successful reaccreditation would not have been possible without the dedication of our MPA faculty and their commitment to quality education

for public service professionals. We truly appreciate the students and alums who participated in the March site visit by the NASPAA team, just before the pandemic lockdown occurred.

We also have exciting news about the establishment of the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management. The certificate targets current nonprofit professionals and graduate students with career aspirations in the nonprofit sector. Professor Alisa Moldavanova, who was the main driving force behind the successful launch of the program in Fall 2020, will serve as the certificate coordinator. We appreciate all of Dr. Moldavanova's efforts throughout this process.

This newsletter features noteworthy public service works in our MPA community. A word of appreciation to MPA student Amanda Rhea is in order. Amanda has been serving as a graduate assistant to the program and has provided considerable support in developing this issue of the newsletter.

Finally, our MPA Program will continue to thrive in this new era of COVID-19. Our MPA and Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management programs are accepting applications for this academic year, and we look forward to welcoming new students who are committed to public service. If you have any questions about the program, you can always get in touch with me at [mpa@wayne.edu](mailto:mpa@wayne.edu).

Kyu-Nahm Jun  
MPA Director and Associate Professor

# NASPAA Reaccreditation Decision

The Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) has reaccredited the Wayne State University MPA Program through August 31, 2027. The accreditation process serves to maintain and enhance the recognition and reputation of graduate public service degrees. With this decision, the Wayne MPA program demonstrated a substantial commitment to and continuous contribution to quality public service education. The NASPAA accreditation process includes four phases: Prerequisite, Eligibility, Self-Study, and Accreditation Cohort. Our MPA Program participated in the Self-Study phase in 2018-2019 and the Accreditation Cohort phase in 2019-2020. The Accreditation Cohort phase included a site visit, which took place from March 4-6, 2020.

We are grateful to both current students and alums who aided in the reaccreditation process and participated in the site visit. Also, a special thank you to our political science department faculty, Professor Daniel Geller (Chair), Ms. Detonya Clark, Ms. Delinda Neal, and especially, our MPA Program faculty. Our reaccreditation would not have been possible without all of your help and continuous support.



Wayne State University's Master of Public Administration Program is accredited by the NASPAA Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation and listed on the Annual Roster of Accredited Programs in conformity with NASPAA standards.



**Fall 2020: We are excited to announce the launch of the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management!**

On June 19, 2020, WSU's Board of Governors approved the establishment of the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management. This new certificate program will launch in Fall 2020. It will offer an academically rigorous and practically relevant curriculum to serve the unique needs of nonprofit organizations in Metropolitan Detroit and Southeast Michigan.

The 12-credit-hour program comprises 3 required courses and 1 elective course and can be completed in as little as one academic year. Courses will be taught primarily online by a mix of our full-time and part-time MPA faculty. Additionally, some MPA courses could be counted toward the certificate (and vice versa).

To request more information please contact Nonprofit Management Graduate Certificate Coordinator, Dr. Alisa Moldavanova, at [npm@wayne.edu](mailto:npm@wayne.edu).

For more information visit: [go.wayne.edu/NonprofitManagement](https://go.wayne.edu/NonprofitManagement).

# Congratulations to our Recent MPA Graduates!



## Winter 2019

Anisa Bala  
Alexander Bedz  
Paul Corbett  
Joseph Fresard  
Amari McGee  
Dennis Whittie  
Sean Wolski  
Amy Zarichny

## Spring-Summer 2019

Nicholas Sivosky  
Malak Srour

## Fall 2019

Colton Dale  
James Gallagher  
Khadijah Jones  
Scott Stewart

## Winter 2020

William Cochran  
Bashar Dimitry  
Melissa Fairbairn  
Zoey Lofgren  
Priscilla Tatum  
Michaela Therrien  
Olivia Winey  
Lauren Wright

# Celebration of Service

*Heather Van Poucker, MPA 1997*

*2020 Distinguished Graduate Award Recipient*

Heather Van Poucker currently serves as the Executive Director of the Ferndale Housing Commission. Heather received her Master of Public Administration degree from Wayne State University in 1997. She graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.



Heather Van Poucker (right) with a resident of a Ferndale Housing Commission's building.

Heather's passion for municipal government began during her MPA internship with the City of Oak Park. It was then she came to realize that, although working in state or federal governments may seem more glamorous, local government is where you can see the biggest impact of your daily work. It is this work that impacts the things that matter most to people, such as the cleanliness and safety of the community.

After graduate school, Heather worked for the Michigan Municipal League from 1997 to 2016. When she became the Director of Information and Policy Research there, Heather led a team engaged in a range of programs and activities, such as providing member communities with hands-on research and policy analysis. Heather and her team also provided human resources and operational consulting services, and engaged in grant-funded demonstration projects. From 2000 to 2002, Heather also served as a Human Resources Administrator with the City of Dearborn. This allowed her to accumulate direct, practical experience.

Ultimately, it was the grant-funded demonstration projects at the Michigan Municipal League that inspired Heather to seek more hands-on, tangible impacts from her work, which led, in 2016, to her current position as Executive Director of the Ferndale Housing Commission. Heather was drawn to Ferndale's inclusive and progressive policies and welcomed the chance to work with then-City Manager, April Lynch. She was also intrigued by the challenge this position offered. At the time, the Ferndale Housing Commission needed improvement and new leadership to restore trust among citizens. Although it was one of the toughest positions she has taken on, Heather said it has also been among the most rewarding.

The main function of the Ferndale Housing Commission is to provide housing assistance to low-income families through the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher, two federally funded HUD programs. Among Heather's many responsibilities were strategic planning, budgeting and finance, communication, resident and community relations, operational reporting and compliance with HUD, grant writing, human resources, operations management, and policy development. In light of the pandemic, the Ferndale Housing Commission is about to open on-site computer labs in each apartment building. This project will allow the elderly and disabled, an especially vulnerable population in the pandemic, to access the internet so that they can pursue educational opportunities and access safe and convenient online shopping.

Heather believes that public service is one of the most honorable callings and attributes this notion to her experience in the WSU MPA Program. She characterizes the Program as "a way to marry passion for public service, with a disciplined, analytical approach that provides the public with confidence that we are excellent stewards of the public's resources." Heather attributes her interest in human resources to the late Professor Richard Elling and her love for data analysis to Professor John Strate. Heather's advice for current MPA students aspiring to work in public service is that even though these positions can sometimes be thankless, it is important to have confidence that your contributions will make a difference. She also advises students interested in starting a career in public service to reach out to the Michigan Municipal Executives ([mme.org](http://mme.org)) to network and find internships and job opportunities.



# Welcome to our Newest MPA Students

Starting with the University shut down in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, student life and learning has had to make dramatic changes. The MPA Program is glad to continue to welcome new students amid the challenges of switching to online learning. In the Spring/Summer of 2020, the MPA Program welcomed **Hillary Aerts, Juno Mcmillion, Rodney Hamilton, and John Dillon.**



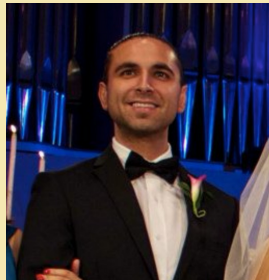
**John Dillon** enrolled in the MPA Program to kick-start his career in public service. While he began his career in the private sector, John is keen to dedicate his career to the improvement of public policies and the community. John believes the MPA Program will provide him with the tools, both from a research and management perspective, and the networking opportunity to transition from the private to public sector. When asked about his experience with remote learning, John said, "I feel that I'm in a great place to begin my graduate studies. The coursework has been challenging but rewarding, and I feel very welcome by the staff and my fellow students."

## Congratulations to the Newest MPA Pi Alpha Alpha Inductees

**Andrea Bukowski**



**Benjamin Chirla**



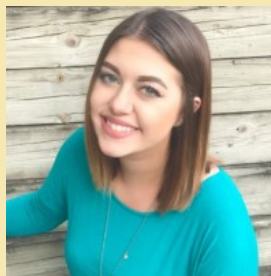
**Zeinab Moussa**



**David Mueller**



**Amanda Rhea**



**Katrina Sweet**



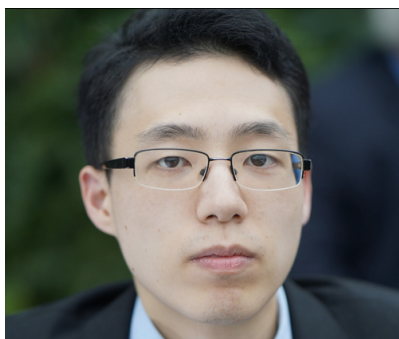
Pi Alpha Alpha is the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. Pi Alpha Alpha recognizes outstanding undergraduates and graduate students in public administration, public policy, and public affairs.

## Current MPA Student Internships



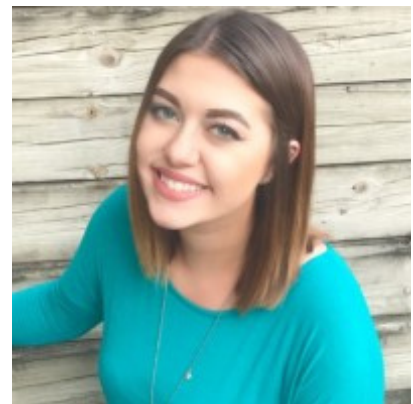
**Natalie Marie Cote** is a student intern for Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWHIN) and works with the Workforce Training & Development department. DWHIN is a community mental health services organization that coordinates care for residents in Wayne County. Natalie has focused on literature reviews, presentations, and research centered around mental health issues such as suicide, nutrition, and substance abuse. She has also spent a great amount of time working with high school students in the area to educate them on mental health issues. Currently, Natalie is attending many virtual conferences and webinars.

**Sean Davidson** interned for Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones in the summer and fall 2019. The internship provided Sean with real-life experience in an important local government setting and allowed him to be directly involved in public policy matters that affect Detroit residents. Sean led several special projects, which involved, but was not limited to, researching and writing, contacting involved parties, and amending drafts. At times, he was charged with operating in a supervisory capacity and other times worked alongside fellow interns. Sean said, "I found the internship challenging and fulfilling."



**Joseph Koo** interned for the Mayor's Office in the City of Dearborn during summer of 2020. Joseph provided valuable research to support the Mayor's Office on various policies. Joseph was also responsible for compiling documents with evidence-based recommendations to guide the development of policies in the Mayor's Office. One of these policies dealt with deciding how to support local businesses within the City of Dearborn to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Another policy Joseph assisted on was a bike-share relaunch program.

**Amanda Rhea**, recipient of the 2020 Dr. Daryl J. and Constance R. Delabbio Scholarship, was a student intern for Detroit City Council Member Raquel Castaneda-Lopez during the summer of 2020. Castaneda-Lopez works to promote a just and thriving Detroit through community advocacy, public service, and inclusive policy. Amanda has assisted local nonprofits and community organizations by writing grant proposals for community beautification projects. She has worked with constituents of District 6 to resolve issues they may be facing and has created social media content that provides residents with information on resources, programs, and upcoming events. Amanda has also created multiple databases to better serve the community, such as a resources map and a contact database for Racial Justice Resources. Amanda is also currently serving as an MPA Program Graduate Student Assistant.





**Thomas Shimmel** recently began an internship with the City of Detroit's Food Delivery Program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In this role, he will provide administrative and logistical support for the program's effectiveness and efficiency. He will also head the Sustainability initiative of this program, connecting with other public, private, and nonprofit organizations throughout Detroit to maintain the program over the long term. Previously, Thomas worked as a Policy Assistant for Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones. His main role was Committee Coordinator for the Planning and Economic Development committee, which deals with issues such as new private developments, affordable housing, zoning ordinances, and preservation of historical districts. Thomas found this to be a great opportunity to gain experience in local government and allowed him to observe legitimate political actors in an intimate setting, while gaining a fresh nuanced perspective on public policy process in the City of Detroit.

**Stephen Todd** is currently serving as an intern for the Michigan State Appellate Defender Office (SADO), a public defender office that represents clients appealing their felony convictions. He is working in their Juvenile Lifer Unit, which represents clients who were sentenced to life in prison as children and, hence, are entitled to a re-sentencing under the Supreme Court decisions in Montgomery and Miller. Stephen assists with reviewing, summarizing, and synthesizing mitigation records, converting life history information into timelines and spreadsheets, and writing research memos on mitigation-related topics.



**Poonam Yadav** was selected for the Michigan Municipal Executive (MME) Fellowship with the City of Plymouth from August 2019 through April 2020. As a local government management fellow, Poonam was able to train in all city departments. She learned how to organize and direct a team of department heads, supervisors, technicians, and support staff to implement programs and deliver services. Poonam had many wonderful opportunities during her fellowship. She participated in city hall meetings, informed citizens about operations of local government, prepared suggestions to new or existing policies, and investigated citizens' complaints in the community.



## News from Current MPA Students



**Renee Pellegrini, John Dembinski, Mark Navarro, Melissa Fairbairn (MPA, '20), and Austin Colson** participated in the 2020 NASPAA-Batten Simulation Competition at Ohio State University on March 7, 2020. The competition allows graduate students in public affairs to test their skills on real-world data. Our MPA students used their knowledge in realistic situations and practiced their leadership, negotiation, and critical thinking skills. They had the amazing opportunity to represent our MPA Program and network with great students from across the region.

(Pictured from left to right: Melissa Fairbairn, Mark Navarro, Austin Colson, John Dembinski, and Renee Pellegrini)



**Amanda Jaczkowski** joined the Board of Directors of Detroit Revival Engaging American Muslims (DREAM) of Detroit, a nonprofit organization on the West side of Detroit. DREAM of Detroit is a faith-based nonprofit, working to build a healthy, empowered community near the Muslim Center. The main goal is to promote stabilization in this community through housing renovation, community building, and economic development. Through an anti-racist lens, this work is done with input from the existing community and community partners. You can find more information, projects, events, and photos on their Facebook page: [facebook.com/dreamofdetroit](https://facebook.com/dreamofdetroit).



**Cyndia Robinson** is the Director of Communications at Macomb County Community Mental Health. She is also in the process of grant accruals for her business, Cure Nailhouse, a philanthropic beauty salon that provides nail services while dismantling barriers to accessing skilled-trades opportunities within the beauty industry. The skilled-trades program provides young men and women with the education to become licensed nail technicians at little to no cost. The skilled-trades program focuses on individuals that are returning citizens, high-school students, and those living within the low-income margins. She has been awarded the Space Award, Design Award, and twice awarded the Motor City Match. Cyndia has secured a partnership with G1 Impact, a nonprofit 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor for funds and enterprises that are creating access, impact, and jobs.



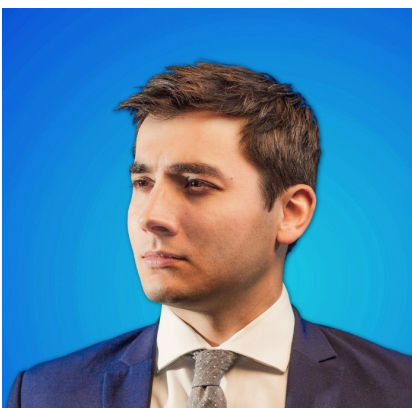
## Alumni News and Milestones



**Joan Budden (MPA, '87)** will retire after 5 years as President and CEO of Priority Health in Grand Rapids and 12 years with Spectrum Health, the parent company of Priority Health. Joan began her career with Priority Health as Chief Marketing Officer in 2009 and was later named CEO in 2016. During her career, Joan received the 2020 Woman of Achievement and Courage Award from Michigan Women Forward, and was named a Detroit 500 Honoree in 2018 and 2019, a Notable Women in Health Care in 2018, and one of 100 Most Influential Women in Michigan in 2016 by Crain's. Joan was also the recipient of the 2016 Wayne State MPA Distinguished Graduate Award.



**Erin Casey (MPA, '16)**, Assistant Director of the City of Detroit Parks and Recreation, is coordinating food procurement and packing it up for delivery for a new food-delivery program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. To meet growing need for food during this crisis, the City of Detroit Parks and Recreation Department switched its focus from programming to food distribution and is working with departments such as Health, Housing & Revitalization, Neighborhoods, and groups within the Mayor's Office to implement this food-delivery program. This program is helping solve the City's hunger problem while also helping prevent the spread of COVID-19 by allowing those infected to stay home and receive groceries. Since March, the program has distributed over 600,000 meals to Detroit residents. In 2019, Erin received an award for the Early Career Public Service Professional by the American Society for Public Administration - Detroit Metropolitan Chapter for showing promise in contributing to the advancement of public service and good governance ideals in the Detroit Metropolitan area.



**Colton Dale (MPA, '19)** recently accepted a new position as Economic Development and Planning Specialist for the City of Oak Park. Colton previously served as an intern and worked as Community Engagement and Development Specialist for the city.



**Daryl J. Delabbio, PhD (MPA, '77)** is one of three recipients of the International City/County Management Association's Distinguished Service Award for 2020. Each year, the award is presented to a local government manager who has been retired for at least two years, whose service in the profession has been judged by peers as strong or exceptional, and who has made major contributions beyond direct service to local government. Daryl was also the recipient of the 2014 Wayne State MPA Distinguished Graduate Award. Daryl retired in 2017 after serving in four different Michigan local governments during a 40-year career. He retired as County Administrator/Controller in Kent County. Daryl and his wife, Connie, established the Dr. Daryl J. and Constance R. Delabbio Scholarship in 2017 to support current MPA students who are interested in pursuing careers in public service.



**Stephanie Fries (MPA, '08)** recently started a new position as a Government Relations Manager at the Government Relations team of Ford Motor Company. Her role within Ford is to support the plant operations and facilitate relationships with communities in Michigan and Ohio. Stephanie assists and manages relationships and resolution efforts when a plant or a community has obstacles, issues, and concerns. She also supports philanthropic efforts in targeted communities on behalf of the Government Relations Office and builds relationships with Chambers of Commerce and other entities that serve the community.



**Joseph Gacioch (MPA, '11)** recently assumed the role of City Manager of Ferndale, where he helps establish, align, and drive forward the City's strategic plan. Joseph also serves on nextERA, which is a national board of next-generation leaders. He has presented at organizations, including the National Association of County Collectors, Treasurers, & Finance Officers (NACCTFO) on balancing culture and emergent technology. Recently, Joseph received the Service is Beautiful Award for exceptional commitment to government innovation from SeamlessGov.



**Dana Gill (MPA, '18)** is currently working as U.S. Policy Advisor for Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). Dana recently wrote an opinion piece for the Boston Globe, "Put public health over profits." She discusses her opinion on allowing pharmaceuticals to hold patents on new drugs as they hit the market. Below is a link to the full text: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/04/27/opinion/put-publichealth-over-profits>. Dana also has said, "NYC is fun, but Michigan is always home."



**Yuliya Harris (MPA, '18)** received the award for Civilian of the Year at the annual Novi Police and Fire Awards during her tenure at City of Novi as a Performance Measurement Crime Analyst. Yuliya recently also started a new position as the Senior Business Analyst with PricewaterhouseCoopers working in their Digital Artificial Intelligence and Automation Lab where innovation is a driving force.



**Twianna Hatcher (MPA, '17)** became the Vice President of Programs for a mid-sized public health nonprofit after graduating in May 2017. Twianna has since started a nonprofit consulting agency, Composed Consulting. Her agency works with nonprofits to provide business solutions, such as grant writing/management, fiscal management, and quality assurance. She is thankful to the MPA Program and professors for giving her the invaluable information that she uses in her business. Twianna believes that the program offered a balanced perspective of the history and application of administering public programs.



**Elizabeth King (MPA, '17)** is the Redevelopment Ready Communities Planner for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and has been helping her communities change policies and pass resolutions that allow for more outdoor dining and service activities. Elizabeth inspired these changes to her communities by presenting examples of policy changes and mechanisms from other communities across the county. So far, she has inspired many communities in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties to take various actions. Elizabeth is also the recipient of the 2020 Public Service Partner Award from the American Society for Public Administration - Detroit Metropolitan Chapter.



**Khadijah Jones (MPA, '19)** recently moved to Phoenix, Arizona and is currently working as the Program Manager for Arizona Charitable Organizations tax credit programs for the Arizona Department of Revenue, Office of Economic Research and Analysis.





**Richard Pineau (MPA, '17)** continues to teach at Wayne State in the mathematics department. Richard will be inducted into the WSU Academy of Teachers, which honors excellence in teaching. He has also expanded his role around the university considerably, working on the WSU Human Resources Restart Subcommittee, the Inclusive Access Pilot Committee, and numerous other projects. Richard piloted the first-ever Mathematics Placement Exam Boot Camp for incoming freshmen whose majors are in STEM fields. The camp was a joint venture between the mathematics department and the physics and astronomy department with funding from a Physics Alumna. Richard is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Educational Studies and hopes to finish by the winter of 2023.



**Patricia Rencher (MPA, '11)** celebrated 5 years in March of publishing Urban Aging News (<https://www.urbanagingnews.com>), a free, quarterly tabloid publication that targets "seniors and those who love them." The mission of Urban Aging News is to facilitate aging matters for Detroit seniors and their caregivers by offering resources, information, and insight on aging services and tools. For the past 6 years, she has also organized an annual Aging Matters Education & Expo event, which provides education on programs, services, and resources to overcome the challenges of aging. She currently serves on the Michigan State Aging Advisory Council until 2021.



**Zachary Rich (MPA, '18)** is working as a caseworker for Congresswoman Haley Stevens (MI-11), assisting constituents who experience issues with federal agencies and conducts outreach and provides policy advice regarding the departments of Education, Defense, and Veteran Affairs. He is in his second year on the Farmington Public School Board, currently navigating the global pandemic while ensuring that students are educated and the staff and students remain safe. Zach is also serving as 1 of 24 fellows in the Michigan Political Leadership Program, housed in Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. The program has provided him insight into different populations and procedures throughout the state and has been informative about how to be a true leader in Michigan government. Zach strongly encourages current MPA students and alumni to apply for this fellowship in the future.



**Scott Stewart (MPA, '19)** has started a position as the Senior Director of Programs and Development at the Pontiac Community Foundation (<https://www.pontiaccommunityfoundation.org>). The foundation's mission is to promote Pontiac as the premier place to live, work, and play. Before joining the Pontiac Community Foundation, Scott served as Development Director at the Build Institute in Detroit.





**Sandra Svoboda (MPA, '97)** received the 2015 Wayne State MPA Distinguished Graduate Award. She works as the Program Director for Great Lakes Now, Detroit Public Television, overseeing the website and the production of a monthly, magazine-style show about the Great Lakes and water quality issues. Sandra also develops and maintains key partnerships, consults on long and short-term strategies, assists with funding development, and tracks budgets.



**Giles Tucker (MPA, '19)** received the Outstanding Public Service Award from the American Society for Public Administration - Detroit Metropolitan Chapter in 2019 in the early career public service professional category. This award recognized his outstanding achievement as an early career local government professional, and his commitment to public service demonstrated by his contributions to local governance in the Detroit Metropolitan area. Giles currently works as an Economic Development Supervisor for the City of Madison Heights.



**Anita (Ungaretti) DeGrouchy (MPA, '18)** recently accepted a position as Business Analyst II at United Shore Wholesale Mortgage. Anita works with the application development team and interacts with stakeholders. United Shore is ranked number one in wholesale mortgage lenders in the United States. Anita previously worked as Business Analyst for Meridian.



**Lauren Wright (MPA, '20)** recently accepted a position with the City of Detroit as a Design Researcher. With a focus on community development, Lauren works to connect nonprofits to volunteer labor. She began her career working in Lansing Public Schools before moving to Ethiopia to work in the Peace Corps. Lauren previously worked as a project manager at Quicken Loans Community Fund.

## Program Faculty Activities



**Associate Professor, Brady Baybeck** spent the year getting back to research and teaching, realizing a long-standing dream of better understanding county government. He presented a paper, "Remind Me Again Why We Elect the Coroner? Exploring Why County Row Offices Survive," at the 2020 meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Professor Baybeck is also working with WSU Ph.D. and University of Michigan Lecturer Kevin Lorentz on a paper, "Local Democracy or Perfunctory Legitimation?" Before the pandemic happened, this exploration of who gets elected to county offices in Michigan was scheduled to be presented at the 2020 meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.



**Associate Professor and MPA Director, Kyu-Nahm Jun** was selected as one of the recipients of the Wayne State Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship Competition on Democracy. Her study, "Fiscal Crisis, Austerity, and the Prospects of Democratic Governance and Public Participation," examines the impact of financial exigency on fiscal austerity on citizen participation at the local level. Using the US Census Current Population Survey, the study examines the effect of state takeovers of public finances in municipalities. Although the presentations were canceled due to the pandemic, this research was scheduled to be presented at the 2020 Annual Conference of the American Society for Public Administration and at the Humanities Center's 2019-20 Faculty Fellows Conference.



**Associate Professor and Coordinator of Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management, Alisa Moldavanova** received a research grant of \$10,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts to study how arts and culture nonprofits contribute to community sustainability. Professor Moldavanova has also published an article in the *American Review of Public Administration*, "How nonprofit arts organizations sustain communities: Examining the relationship between organizational strategy and community sustainability." Based on the survey of 175 nonprofits in the state of Michigan, the article investigates the relationship between several elements of organizational strategy and arts and culture nonprofits' contributions

to community sustainability. The study advances our understanding of the role that nonprofit organizations play in fostering local sustainable development, and it also informs broader scholarly discourse on the role of arts and culture organizations in a society. She has also published an entry, "Interorganizational Networks in the Context of Arts and Culture," in the *Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance*, and a book chapter on the nonprofit sector in Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia in the *Routledge Handbook of NGOs and International Relations*. Professor Moldavanova is also a recipient of the 2020 WSU President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



**Professor, Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson** was a Co-Principal Investigator in the study, "Checks and Balances in Action: Legislative Oversight across the States." She worked with the Principal Investigator, Professor Lyke Thompson, with assistance from multiple students in WSU political science department. For this study, Professors Sarbaugh-Thompson and Lyke Thompson received The Levin Center Grant for \$100,000. For the study, data was gathered on state legislative oversight by examining committee documents and web sites, listening to committee hearings, searching news media accounts, reading committee minutes, conducting interviews with knowledgeable sources in the states, and reading audit reports.

For more information on the study, visit: [https://law.wayne.edu/levin-center/pdfs/accessible\\_cus\\_full\\_report\\_07-08-19.pdf](https://law.wayne.edu/levin-center/pdfs/accessible_cus_full_report_07-08-19.pdf).



**Associate Professor, John Strate** has coauthored an article with Robert Heuton on cutback management in Canadian cities. They conducted a study that looks at the views of municipal managers about cutback management using data from a national survey that was undertaken in 2009 and 2015. Their results indicate that the choice of cutback management strategies in Canadian cities is derived by the concern of taking actions that can be justified and avoiding losses in services. Professor Strate also coauthored an article with Nahla Yassine-Hamdan on gender inequality in the Arab world. Below you can find more information on the articles coauthored by Professor Strate:

Robert Heuton and John Strate. 2019. Cutback management in Canadian cities. *Local Government Studies*. Published online: 16 August 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03003930.2019.1654999>.

Nahla Yassine-Hamdan and John Strate. 2020. Gender Inequality in the Arab world: a comparative perspective. *Contemporary Arab Affairs*. 13 (3): 25-50. <https://doi.org/10.1525/caa.2020.13.3.25>.



**Associate Professor, Kristen Taylor** received a research grant as the 2020 Levin Center Research Scholar, which is funding her study on the question: "How can governmental oversight promote disaster resilience?" The central theory of this research is that oversight can help promote disaster resilience by shifting federal oversight attention from personal and public assistance to hazard mitigation programs. Professor Taylor was also the recipient of the 2020 Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship, which funded her study, "Do All Failures Lead to Change? A comparative analysis of policy failure and learning after natural disasters and infrastructure crisis." The findings of this project will be presented at the Humanities Center Faculty Fellows conference in April 2021.



# Practitioner Advisory Council Update

## *Welcoming the newest Practitioner Advisory Council Member, Nicholas Lomako!*

**Nicholas P. Lomako (MPA, '83)** recently retired after 41 years in public service working as a community planning consultant. Nicholas started his career as a Transportation Planner, then as a Community Planner with Detroit-area consulting firms. Joining Wade Trim Associates, Inc., in 1981, he quickly advanced, eventually serving as Vice President and as member of the company's Board of Directors for more than 10 years. Nicholas specialized in community master planning, strategic planning, and land development. He also served as the Newsletter Editor for the Michigan Chapter of the American Planning Association. Nicholas received the Eminent Conceptor Award from ACEC Michigan and Project Manager of the Year Award. He also was the 2019 Wayne State Distinguished Graduate Award Recipient.



The Graduate Program in Public Administration very much appreciates Nicholas's decision to join the Practitioner Advisory Council and to help improve the program and the educational experience of our students.

Below is a list of current Practitioner Advisory Council 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
- 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

On behalf of the MPA Program, thank you to the members of the Practitioner Advisory Council for your continued commitment in improving public service education at Wayne State University.



## 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. The Elling family will match all contributions from alumni, students, and friends of the MPA Program up to a total of \$5,000.

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](https://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!

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## Noteworthy News

**Rainessa Williams-Fox** welcomed baby Marlee Rai on September 19, 2019, during her final year of the MPA Program. While enjoying motherhood, Rainessa continues to work as Coordinator of Student Wellness and of The W Food Pantry for Wayne State University.

**Natalie Cote** will be getting married to her fiance, A.J. Felling in September 2020 in Hamtramck. Congratulations, Natalie and A.J.!

