

*The biannual newsletter of the public administration program at Eastern Michigan University*



# THE M.P.A. NETWORK

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## *Note from the Director*

The 2012-13 year is coming to a close and as usual we are busy wrapping up capstone projects with students, winding down classes and preparing for summer and next year. It is week fourteen and students are showing signs of being ready for the semester to come to an end. In case you're wondering, that seems not to have changed over time.



**DR. GREG PLAGENS**

My summer will be consumed largely by rewriting and resubmitting the self-study report to NASPAA for reaccreditation. In December we received word that our progress toward meeting the revised NASPAA standards (adopted in 2009) was not sufficient for renewal. We are in the middle of the one-year extension they have granted us to continue making revisions to the program. There is not enough space in this column to describe all the process changes that NASPAA is requiring, but a few examples will give you some sense of them.

This includes directly assessing student learning in addition to course grades. Second, programs must develop and implement diversity plans for recruiting and retaining diverse faculty and students, making sure to actively promote inclusive environments for all students. Third, programs must report annually to stakeholders – prospective and current students, faculty, employers of current students and graduates, university administrators, alumni, and accrediting agencies – what progress is being made toward the program's stated objectives.

As a side note, in October 2012 the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration officially changed its name to the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration. Organizational leaders felt the change was necessary to reflect the increasing number of public policy and non-United States programs becoming accredited.

First, the new standards require programs to operate on strategic planning or strategic management models and to complete annual program evaluations. This means, among other things, having measurable program objectives and collecting data that can be used to assess progress toward these objectives.

I look forward to sharing updates with you in the year ahead and to working closely with you to shape the program to achieve our overall mission of preparing the next generation of leaders for public and nonprofit organizations.

## ALUMNI RECEPTION AND PAA INDUCTION

This month, the Political Science Department hosted its annual M.P.A. Alumni Reception. At the event, scholarship winners were announced, special recognition was given to John Fike, this year's outstanding public administrator, and new members were inducted to Pi Alpha Alpha. The reception was held on Thursday, April 11, 2013 at the University House.

Pi Alpha Alpha is the national honor society for students of programs accredited by National Association of Schools and Public Affairs and Administration. Invitation to join PAA is designed to recognize and encourage outstanding graduate work and is limited to those students who are in the last quarter of their degree work and have a minimum 3.7 grade point average. Congratulations to the 2013 PAA inductees!

- |                |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Mark Angott    | Kristal Davis  | Shane Redman         |
| John Bollinger | Daniel Frayman | Christopher Sadler   |
| Joshua Carr    | Kailey Henry   | Sehrish Salah-Ud-Din |
|                | David Palmer   |                      |

**THE M.P.A. NETWORK**

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The *M.P.A. Network* is published biannually by the Department of Political Science at EMU to inform M.P.A. alumni, current students, public officials, and academics about the activities of the M.P.A. program and its graduates.

<http://www.emich.edu/polisci>



## MPA STUDENTS PRESENT AT GRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR

On March 18, 2013 five graduate students from the Political Science Department presented their research papers at EMU's 15<sup>th</sup> annual graduate research fair. The research fair takes place every spring and is an opportunity for graduate students across campus to showcase their research and creative projects to the campus community and general public. Dr. Claudia Petrescu was the faculty sponsor for each student from the Political Science Department. Garland Doyle, Jennifer Hawes, Andrew Levin, David Palmer, and Shane Redman all presented their research papers in the panel titled "Organizational Changes: How Theory Helps Managerial Practices." Paper topics revolved around managerial and leadership practices in the public and nonprofit sectors.



Pictured (from left to right):

David Rodriguez, Dr. Claudia Petrescu, Andy Levin, and Jennifer Hawes

## RECENT HIRES IN THE FIELD

**Nicolette Bateson** was named as the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's first Chief Financial Officer in February 2013. Ms. Bateson is a certified public accountant who boasts extensive financial experience in the public sector. Prior to her position with DWSD, Ms. Bateson served as Assistant City Manager/Finance Director with the City of Northville, worked as an audit supervisor with a national accounting firm, and was a visiting specialist for the State and Local Government Program with the Michigan State University Extension Service.

**Matthew Lane** began working as an Administrative Budget Analyst in the City of Saginaw's Office of Management and Budget in November 2012. In this position, Mr. Lane is responsible for co-managing the city's \$134 million budget, acting as the city's grant administrator, coordinating city-wide data collection, and managing special projects.

**Sehrish Salah-Ud-Din** recently started working as an Assistant to the City Manager for the City of Troy. Her responsibilities include budgeting, organizational development, and reviewing and implementing ICMA recommendations from a recent organizational analysis. Prior to this position, Ms. Salah-Ud-Din served as a budget intern for the City of Farmington. She was also the 2012 Michigan Local Government Management Association Fellow, which provided her 10 weeks city management experience with the City of Novi.

## JOINT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

On February 8, 2013, the Political Science Department hosted its first joint financial management seminar in the Student Center on EMU's campus. Participants included students from Dr. Joseph Ohren's fall 2012 PLSC 591 Financial Management Seminar, as well as a group of German students who participated in a similar course at the University of Applied Sciences in Kehl, Germany.

While the department has been hosting a group of German students since the early 2000s as part of a study abroad program, this was the first year that students from the two universi-

ties collaborated on their research efforts. The seminar was the culmination of research that both groups worked on throughout the semester surrounding the topic of municipal financial management. Specific paper topics included citizen participation in the budgetary process, regulation of municipal finance, and contracting arrangements and privatization by municipalities, among others. A similar joint seminar is currently being planned for 2014 revolving around the topic of regional economic development.



German students present their paper on public private partnerships.



EMU Provost and Vice President Kim Schatzel addresses the seminar attendees.



EMU MPA students Kristal Davis and Joshua Carr present their paper on contracting services and privatization in the public sector.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT – WENDY CHANDLER

In an increasingly connected and fast-paced world, Wendy Chandler has become a pioneer for local government information sharing. Currently serving as a Business Analyst for Oakland County's eGovernment, Ms. Chandler's drive and expertise have made her an invaluable leader in the county's information sharing systems.

Ms. Chandler accepted her position as a Business Analyst with Oakland County in August 2011, one year after completing her MPA degree at EMU. She explains that in her role with Oakland County, she is "responsible for identifying the business needs of stakeholders related to the development and redesign of websites and related applications."

Ms. Chandler has played central roles in several Oakland County IT initiatives. Recently, she has been involved in working with the county's G2G Cloud Solu-

tions project. She explains, "This is an Oakland County initiative developed to improve government services by sharing technology with other governments at little to no cost to them. The G2G



Wendy Chandler

Cloud Solutions initiative is unique in that it involves many government organizations. We're currently working with four counties, 11 courts, 18 cities, villages and townships, and two school systems. This doesn't include those

government units we already support." Her role in this initiative involves the implementation for web suite hosting, online payments and over the counter payments for participants.

In addition to the G2G project, Ms. Chandler played a central role in the recent completion of the MITradeSchools website, which is designed to help connect job seekers to positions available within their area of trade and expertise. The site also allows people to search jobs in the Economic Growth Alliance, a consortium of Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, Genesee, Lapeer, and Livingston Counties. The site launched in February 2013.

The MITrade website can be found at:

[www.mitradeschool.org](http://www.mitradeschool.org)

## STUDENT RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Garland Doyle, an MPA student in the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance program, was nationally recognized for his research on EMU's Alliance Student Association. Doyle's research project, "Leadership in the Making: A Nonprofit Leadership Alliance Graduate Program Case Study," received the second place award at the 2013 Alliance Management/Leadership Institute (AMI) in Atlanta, Georgia. Doyle was among almost 90 students from across the country to present their research as a poster at AMI.

More than 600 students from across the country attended the AMI at the beginning of January. The purpose of AMI is to allow students to connect with peers from all areas of the nation by attending workshops, showcasing their research, and meeting with representatives from the country's largest and best known nonprofit organizations. AMI is also the last step for students working on becoming a Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP). Along with Doyle, two other MPA students recently received CNP certification: David Palmer and Samuel DeMarco. For more information on the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance program at EMU, visit [www.emich.edu/nonprofit](http://www.emich.edu/nonprofit).



Garland Doyle

## DAVID BEHAN SPEAKS ABOUT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



David Behan

On February 7, 2013, EMU MPA alumnus David Behan visited the campus in order to speak about information technology and his new role as Governor Rick Snyder's Chief Information Officer. The discussion focused on the operations of the state's Department of Technology, Management and Budget. Mr. Behan also engaged in a question and answer session immediately following his speech.

Mr. Behan previously served as the CIO for Washtenaw County. He was also recently recognized by Crain's Detroit Business as the winner of the CIO award in 2012. MPA

Director, Dr. Greg Plagens, attended Mr. Behan's discussion. He commented, "A significant challenge for public administrators and for programs that train them is to remain current on matters of information technology. Having such a knowledgeable alumnus in David is a real benefit to EMU's MPA program and students. In conversation following the event, David agreed to assist us in our curriculum planning pertaining to IT. We look forward to working with him."

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT GRADUATES! CAPSTONE TITLES

**Mark Angott:** Public-Private Partnerships and Lease-Purchase Arrangements in U.S. Governments

**Justin Armiak:** Support for Police Service Merger in Western Wayne County, MI

**Patrick Belanger:** Financial Cutoffs in the Children with Special Needs Program: Why States Choose Them

**John Bollinger:** Using Theories of Human Motivation to Measure Employee Satisfaction in Health Care Organizations

**Michael Demand:** Building Strong and Safe Communities in America: Measuring the Impact of Community Engagement Programs

**Aaron Desentz:** Spontaneous Volunteer Management: Developing a Best Practices Model in Response to the Dexter MI Tornado Incident

**Garland Doyle:** Nonprofit Leadership Competencies, A New Way to Develop Leaders and Build Nonprofit Capacity: A MPA Program Case Study

**Angelica Glenn-Martin:** Developing a Recruiting Strategy: Recruiting and Retaining Nonprofit Volunteers

**Andrew Graves:** Analyzing Firefighter Injuries at Vacant and Abandoned Building Fires in Flint, Michigan Before and After Implementation of a Risk Management Policy

**William Hamilton:** Helpless or Hopeful? Volunteer Retention within Health Related Nonprofit Organizations in Metro Detroit

**David Kanaan:** The New Campus Project and Survey

**James R. Krizan:** Examining the Effects of Union Representation on Job Satisfaction in the Nonprofit Sector

**Jason Leone:** Criminal Justice Gender Bias Towards Sex Offenders in Southeast Michigan

**Sasha Lotfi:** A Tale of Two Cities: Livonia and Ypsilanti's Response to the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act

**Philip Mintz:** Deciding Whether to Pursue a Grant: Considerations for Nonprofit Executives

**Stephanie Norman:** Developing Recommendations for a PTO (Paid Time Off) Program for Macomb County

**Sehrish Salah-Ud-Din:** Assessing the Extent of Formalized Succession Planning in Michigan Local Government

**Neha Singh:** An Assessment of Local Government Associations

**Anouar Hadj Smaine:** Recommendation for the Rules and Regulations of the Taxi Franchise Program in the City of Santa Monica, California

**Leroy E. Smith:** Activity-Based Costing: Developing Recommendations for Capturing Cost Data for the Wheelchair Seating Service Repair Department, University of Michigan Health System

**Patricia Snyder-Rayl:** Interlocal Agreements in Jackson County

**Tykeisha Tate:** Increasing High School Graduation Rates for Detroit Public Schools

**Valerie Tchorz:** Employee Engagement: A Study of the Lowe's Employee Opinion Survey and the Results for the Lowe's Store #1859 in Allen Park, Michigan

**Zack D. Tracy:** Internet Gambling: An Analysis of Federal and State Laws and Options for the State of Michigan

**Yvonne Valdez:** Program Audit of the Fostering Innovation Grants at the University of Michigan Health System

**Tarja Virtanen:** Ruben J. Williams Foundation Program Evaluation

**Tamika Washington:** Public Policy's Effect on Public Health: Welfare Reform and Hypertension among Women in Washtenaw County Michigan

**Deneen L. Whitaker:** Union Membership and Voter Participation: Is There a Correlation?

**John Wilkinson:** Equity in Taxation: Comparative Analysis of Tax Burdens on Economic Classes in the United States Under Different Tax Regimes

**Brandt Williams:** A Tale of Two Cities: Livonia and Ypsilanti's Response to the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act

**Joseph Yelick:** Elderly Suicide

### FIND US ON FACEBOOK & LINKEDIN



Have you ever wondered what the MPA program was up to in between our bi-annual newsletters? The Public Administration program has Facebook and LinkedIn groups dedicated to connecting alumni, current students, and interested individuals from the surrounding communities. Join the groups to receive updates about program activities, networking opportunities, and current events affecting Michigan public administrators. Search for us on Facebook under **Eastern Michigan University MPA Students, Alumni & Friends**, or on LinkedIn under **Eastern Michigan University Master of Public Administration**.



### MPA DEVELOPMENT FUND

If you are wondering how you can give something back to the MPA program, please consider making a contribution to the MPA Development Fund. All contributions are tax-deductible and are used to support student and alumni planning and events.

**Please mail contributions to:**

Eastern Michigan University  
Foundation  
1349 South Huron Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

**Please make checks payable to:**

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*Please designate "MPA Development Fund" on your checks to ensure your contribution will go to the MPA program.*