

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



THE M.P.A. NETWORK

Note from the Director

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My first academic year at EMU is ending as I write. In the 10 months since arriving I have learned much about the operations and history of the MPA program, as well as about its deep roots into local area communities. I continue to be impressed by remarks from alumni who tell me how important the MPA program has been to their success. My goal as MPA director is to build on the many successes of the past to keep the program's course content relevant for the workforce of today and tomorrow. Achieving this goal will require an intensified connection to you – our alumni and stakeholders.



DR. GREG PLAGENS

As we reach out to you for input into the program's content.

Currently we are embarking on what will be an intensified, multi-year effort to review and, where necessary, retool the program to maintain our accreditation with the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. Our effort begins with a lengthy program self-study that Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein and I will finalize this summer and submit to NASPAA on Aug. 15.

Feedback from NASPAA will come in late October. At that time we will learn to what extent our program is operating in line with accreditation expectations.

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 managers and leaders for the state of Michigan and its many local government and nonprofit organizations.

The involvement of key stakeholders in the MPA program's operation is critical to our success as an academic program and as a developer of the next generation of public servants. In the past the program has employed elements of strategic management to guide its development, calling on alumni for feedback and input into the program's structure. We wish to continue to partner with you and hope you can be recep-

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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/pubad/>

EASTERN
 MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

2012 MPA ALUMNI EVENT AND PAA INDUCTION

On April 11th, the Political Science department and EMU Alumni Association hosted the MPA Alumni Chapter Reception and PAA induction ceremony. While the event is focused around building and maintaining network ties among fellow program graduates and department faculty, the evening also serves as an opportunity to honor the stars of the program and career administrators who have dedicated their careers to serving the public good.

This year's event was a huge *Continued on pg. 2*



2012 Outstanding Public Administrator Ed Koryzno and Family



ALUMNI EVENT AND PAA INDUCTION - CONT'D



PAA Inductees Patty Rayl, Nickie Bateson and André Johnson with Dr. Arnold Fleischmann



Nathan Geinzer, Julius Suchy, and Matt Baumgarten of MGMLA

success with nearly seventy people in attendance. Attendees were greeted by the university president, Dr. Sue Martin, with tales of her adventures working for the state of Michigan. Awards were given for Outstanding Public Administrator, MPA Intern of the Year, the Barson Fellowship, and a new addition this year, the Michigan Local Government Management Association Fellowship.

We thank everyone who joined us at the University House for the MPA Alumni Chapter Reception and PAA induction ceremony. For those who could not make it, we hope to see you at one of the upcoming alumni events. We encourage you to remain involved and stay in touch as we move forward in our efforts to strengthen alumni relationships.



President Sue Martin

MARY PENN INTERN OF THE YEAR

Former graduate assistant and MPA Intern of the Year Mary Penn is not new to the professional world. Years of work experience in the field of fine arts provided Mary an override to the internship requirement of the MPA degree. However, realizing an internship may be the key to future nonprofit job opportunities, Mary actively searched out placements with Chicago area nonprofits as a way of getting her foot in the door.

Mary spent the past summer working for the Donors Forum in Chicago in the External Relations Department, working on communications and development assignments. Through Donors Forum assignments and sponsored events, Mary developed a clearer understanding of nonprofit organizational structure, gained noteworthy professional experience, and achieved greater confidence in her abilities.

Upon completion of the internship, Mary utilized the learning experience and professional network she developed to find full time employment as the Communications, Development, and Administrative Manager for the Chicago Debate Commission. She finds the work exceptionally rewarding and attributes her good fortune to the internship at the Donors Forum.

SEHRISH SALAH-UD-DIN MLGMA FELLOW

For the past six years, the Michigan Local Government Management Association (MLGMA) has been awarding competitive three-month fellowships to promising students in the field of public administration. This year we are proud to announce one of the two awards granted was to EMU's Sehrish Salah-Ud-Din.

The MLGMA Fellowship is an opportunity available to graduate level students in public administration, and is offered to EMU on a three year rotating basis. The fellowship comes with a \$6000 stipend, which is contributed by both MLGMA and the participating university. This year the city of Novi has been selected as the fellowship placement.

Sehrish will be completing her MPA this coming fall and is currently working as a budgeting intern for the city of Farmington. She is a member of MLGMA and is looking forward to this excellent learning opportunity as a way to expand her local government management expertise.

For more info on MLGMA membership, visit <http://www.mlgma.org/>

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR - ED KORYZNO

For the past several years we have honored an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service to the public administration profession. That has included several local government managers, a successful school board president and most recently an EMU vice president. This year we again recognized a colleague from the local government management profession, one who has served EMU and the Ypsilanti community in a very special way as city manager for the past sixteen years. Ed Koryzno began his career as an intern and served in management positions in Fenton, Grand Haven and Spring Lake before accepting the position of manager in Ypsilanti in the mid 1990's.

Dr. Joe Ohren and Koryzno have worked together since the beginning of his time in Ypsilanti. Koryzno has shown himself to be devoted to his community, passionate about doing the right thing no matter how difficult it is, and supportive of both those who served him in the administration and of those to whom he reported on council. One measure of his impact over the past couple of years—each of the prior assistant managers who worked with him are now managing their own communities: Robert Bruner in Birmingham and April McGrath in Ferndale.



Ed Koryzno

This group also includes numerous EMU students who have interned on the third floor of Ypsilanti City Hall, and the many local government managers who respected Ed enough to select him as President of the Michigan Local Government Management Association.

He left the city early this year for a position in the state Treasury Department where he will advise similarly financially distressed communities on how to avoid takeover by an emergency manager.

At the 2012 MPA reception Ed was asked to share his reflections on the challenges facing local government managers and aspiring students. He noted that today's local government professionals face unprecedented chal-

lenges due to the transition from an industrial economy to an informational one. These are difficult times for local government officials, but those entering the local government profession should not be discouraged by these circumstances. He encouraged the graduates to view the current situation not with concern, but optimism because of the opportunities these challenges provide. Local government environments will continue to have uncertainty, but they will also require professionals who are innovative, energetic and dedicated. Limited revenues and shrinking budgets demand individuals who can experiment, be inventive and develop solutions to both today's problems and tomorrow's. In contrast to when he began his local government career thirty years ago, local government today is an incubator, where individuals will have the opportunity to determine what services will be provided, by whom and how. He also noted that managers will need to be attentive to the public's expectations for government to provide efficient and effective services. He closed by telling them he is excited about the opportunities for local government professionals and encouraged them to remain enthusiastic about public service.

2012 PI ALPHA ALPHA INDUCTION

Pi Alpha Alpha is the national honor society recognizing and promoting excellence in the study and practice of 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. We congratulate our students for achieving this recognition!



2012 PAA Inductees

Michael Demand
Alexis Jones
David Kanaan
Zoraida Trott

Brian Hawk
Andre Johnson
Daniel Passmore
Nicolette Bateson
Kelly Paquette

Catherine Behrens
Patricia Rayl
Stephanie Norman
Sasha Lotfi

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT GRADUATES!

2011 CAPSTONE TITLES

Amy Bunker, *Evaluation of a Federal Rulemaking: A Case Study from the Environmental Protection Agency*

Dean Montrief, *Shared Services*

Maureen Smith, *The 2012-2015 Strategic Planning Process in Michigan to Reduce the Burden of Chronic Kidney Disease: A Case Study*

Megan Waubright, *Can Nonprofit Organizations Achieve Financial Stability by Starting a Social Enterprise*

Joseph Miller, *A Comprehensive Research Design to Assess the Economic Impact of Newly Constructed Sports Stadiums on their Host Economy*

FACULTY RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Jeffrey Bernstein gave invited lectures on teaching and learning issues at McMaster University (Hamilton, ONT) and Washtenaw Community College. His chapter, "Plowing through Bottlenecks in Political Science: Experts and Novices at Work" is forthcoming in an edited volume entitled "*SoTL in and Across the Disciplines*." The book will be published this fall by Indiana University Press.

Dr. Claudia Petrescu attended the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) conference in Toronto (November 2011) where she participated in the "Training Diverse Leaders for the Future – Today and Tomorrow" panel and presented a paper titled "Building Communication Capacity in and between Nonprofit Organizations."

Dr. Raymond Rosenfeld has received three outside research grants for a non-North American stage of his Comparative Civic Culture project for field work in Norway (Winter 2011), Latvia and Ukraine (Spring 2012): Leiv Eiriksson Mobility Grant, The Research Council of Norway; Small Research Grant, American Political Science Association; and Title VIII Short-Term Travel Grant (STG), United States Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research with IREX (International Research & Exchanges Board).

JOE OHREN SCHOLARSHIP HAS REACHED ENDOWMENT



Dr. Joe Ohren

This past fall, a fundraiser was held honoring Dr. Joe Ohren. The goal was to raise funds for an endowed scholarship for graduate and undergraduate students pursuing internships as part

of their coursework. The MPA program, along with the EMU Foundation, is pleased to an-

nounce that the scholarship has reached the level of endowment status.

Endowed scholarships generally award 4% of the fund balance, which makes continuous donations essential for granting annual awards. Since a two-credit graduate internship can cost nearly \$1000, and many public and nonprofit sector internships are unpaid, awarding additional financial support to students is an excellent way of supporting upcoming public and nonprofit administrators. Edward Davis II, assistant director of Development and current student in the

MPA program, explains that the Joe Ohren Internship Fund offers a unique scholarship to promising students in need of work experience.

The EMU Foundation is continuing to accept donations honoring Dr. Joe Ohren's 26 year deep commitment to graduate and undergraduate students in public administration and public safety. Anyone wishing to contribute to the fund may do so online at www.emufoundation.org, by clicking on "Donate Now," and selecting "Fund #01868, Joe Ohren Internship Fund."

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



Have you ever wondered what the MPA program was up to in between our bi-annual newsletters? The Public Administration program now has a

Facebook group dedicated to connecting alumni, current students, and interested individuals from the surrounding communities. Join the group to receive updates about program activities, networking opportunities, and current events affecting Michigan public administrators. Search for us on Facebook under **Eastern Michigan University Students, Alumni & Friends** or type <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EMU.MPA.Group/> into your web browser.

M.P.A. DEVELOPMENT FUND

If you are wondering how you can give something back to the M.P.A. program, please consider making a contribution to the M.P.A. 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:

Eastern Michigan University

Please designate "M.P.A. Development Fund" on your checks so your contribution will go to the M.P.A. program.