

THE MPA NETWORK

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EASTERN
MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- New Faculty* 1
- Featured Alumna* 2
- Faculty News* 3
- Student Internships* 4
- Recent Graduates* 5
- Networking Events* 5
- NASPAA Update* 6

Note from the Coordinator



One of the major components of earning my MPA was working as part of a team. Teamwork seems like one of those basic life skills first learned in childhood; however, it remains a valuable tenet in public service and community work. I have been a part of the EMU MPA Program team now for more than two years, and I can say with certainty that I am honored to work with this knowledgeable and dedicated team.

I have grown immensely as a program coordinator thanks in part to Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein, who served as MPA Director for the past two years. I have learned from his enthusiasm to work with students and his genuine interest to improve the program. I am grateful for his support with alumni events and having him as a sounding board for advising and other program issues. Adding Dr. Tucker Staley to our MPA team this year has brought a welcome new energy and voice. Dr. Staley, who has hit the ground running teaching our nonprofit courses, has also made great strides with the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance. I would like to thank all of our faculty, including our Political Science Department Head, Dr. David Klein, for all their support of the program. Dr. Gregory Plagens has been instrumental in guiding us through strategic planning, assessment, and the steps toward NASPAA reaccreditation. I am excited for the community outreach projects Dr. Barbara Patrick has planned for this winter term that will bring students, professionals, and faculty together. We are also thrilled to involve faculty from other departments, including Dr. Heather Khan Welsh, who teaches Urban and Regional Planning courses, including our cross-listed course on Local Development Policy.

Finally, I am grateful to all of you for being a significant part of our team. We are honored to have alumni serving on our Advisory Board, attending our events, sharing internship or job postings, referring our program to others, and staying engaged with us. We are also privileged to work with students who are passionate to improve their communities. You make our work worthwhile.

Looking forward to where our team takes us,

Rose Jindal

WELCOME TO DR. STALEY!

Dr. Tucker Staley joined the department this fall, bringing with him a vast knowledge of nonprofits, as well as local and state governments, with a specific focus on their finances. Dr. Staley also advises for the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance. Prior to joining the faculty at Eastern Michigan, Dr. Staley served as a professor at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and the University of Central Arkansas.



Dr. Staley completed his bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in business administration at the University of Oregon and his PhD in political science at the University of Missouri.

Dr. Staley's research focuses on how things work and the applied aspects of the research. Recently, Dr. Staley spent time looking at state revenue volatility and its long-term impact. He is now shifting his focus to researching homeowner associations and voluntary neighborhood associations, specifically, their impact on property values, how they impact local government finances, and how they may serve the community. Dr. Staley is also interested in the impact that large nonprofit land holdings have on public sector finances.

During his last year of grad school, Dr. Staley met his future wife, Madelynn. They were married in 2016 and now live in Ypsilanti, where they enjoy the walkability of the city. Dr. Staley stays very active with disc golf and biking. You can often see Dr. Staley riding his bike to work in the morning. He enjoys being involved in the community by making connections with people in his neighborhood, as well as those in leadership positions in the city.

THE MPA NETWORK

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Colleen Klus-Salisbury and
Marnie Michel, Editors

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

A CLOSER LOOK: NICOLETTE BATESON

Nicolette Bateson, 2012 alumna of the EMU MPA Program, is the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA).

She began her career with a national accounting firm and then gained extensive local government experience working in the City of Northville as the Assistant City Manager and Finance Director from 1994 to 2010. Some of Ms. Bateson's responsibilities in that role included strategic planning, financial turnaround, labor relations, employee benefit design, project management, multi-year budgeting, and capital planning. From 2011 to 2013, she assisted cities in fiscal stress as a visiting specialist for Michigan State University Extension.

Ms. Bateson became the first chief financial officer for the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department in 2013 and played a significant role in the formation of the Great Lakes Water Authority, a prime example of regional collaboration in Southeast Michigan.

Nickie writes about her current position:

"I am responsible for leading a great team that focuses on financial, procurement, and organizational change initiatives. The GLWA is one of the largest water and wastewater systems in the United States. The CFO/Treasurer is a member of an Executive Leadership Team that ensures alignment in achieving the organizational mission of providing water of unquestionable quality and assuring environmental responsibility."

Nickie shares how the MPA has aided her in her work:

"I encourage everyone in the public sector to pursue the MPA. The experience at EMU was particularly rewarding. Here are a few reasons why.

- 1. Cross-functional team interaction:** One of the many things that I appreciate about the MPA program is that it brings together students from different backgrounds and experiences who share a common core mission of public service. I learned something new from everyone I met.
- 2. Fulfilled my particular interests and needs:** The ability to take courses from other programs in the university enriches the learning opportunity for each student's needs. For me, that meant engaging in human resources, labor, and strategy courses in the Management Department.
- 3. Credentials matter:** Achieving the MPA opens new doors and personal growth. The EMU program and faculty are highly regarded. I am so honored to be an alum of the program.
- 4. Balancing perspectives:** Public administrators need to be tuned in to everyone's perspectives. While we know this intellectually, in practice, it is more challenging. The MPA program gave me the chance to learn this skill from watching our faculty practice it in the classroom every day!
- 5. Solid foundation of public administration:** Since my undergraduate degree was in accounting, I entered public service from a different path. The core curriculum prepared me to effectively navigate through policy, intergovernmental, and political agendas to achieve successful outcomes in many unique situations over the past five years."



EMU MPA ADVISORY BOARD

Nicolette Bateson, CFO/Treasurer, Great Lakes Water Authority

John K. Bennett, Police Officer, City of Detroit

Natalie Burg, Writer/Editor, self-employed

John Buzuvis, Community Development Director, City of Plymouth

Patricia Denig, Director of Human Resources, Pittsfield Charter Township

Garland Doyle, Deputy Director, Community Development Department, City of Pontiac

John Fike, President/CEO, Philanthropy Solutions

Alison Foreman, Executive Director, Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels

Nate Geinzer, City Manager, City of Brighton

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AnnaGloria M. McCormick, Senior Analyst and Lean Healthcare Consultant, Altarum Institute

Joe Ohren, Professor Emeritus, MPA Program and Department of Political Science, Eastern Michigan University

Debra Polich, President/CEO, Artrain/The Arts Alliance

Bill Richards, Local Government Management, EMU MPA adjunct faculty

John Seto, Director of Housing Security and Safety Services, University of Michigan; Public Safety Administration adjunct faculty

Laura Shue, Director of Health Data Quality, Compliance and Operations, Michigan Medicine

Caitlin Walton, Senior Business Manager/Financial Analyst, University of Michigan, College of Literature, Science and Arts

Jessica Warfield, Disaster Program Specialist, American Red Cross

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: HEATHER KHAN WELSH

Dr. Heather Khan Welsh has been a professor in EMU's Geography and Geology Department since 2011. She has a strong background in urban planning with a master's degree in urban planning from Wayne State University and a doctorate in urban and regional planning from Florida State University. She also completed her post-doctoral studies in global urban studies at Michigan State University. Dr. Khan Welsh serves on the Ypsilanti Zoning Board of Appeals, which helps her to focus on a different aspect of urban planning than her work at the university.

Dr. Khan Welsh has an interest in state and local community development, as well as economic development tools that can be used to increase the tax base. Dr. Khan Welsh is teaching a cross-listed course in the winter semester, PLSC 580, Local Development Policy. This course lines up with Dr. Khan Welsh's views that public administration is integral to urban development choices. There are so many ways the two are connected—in business development, human capital



“Public administration is integral to urban development choices. There are so many ways the two are connected – in business development, human capital development, and community development.”

development, and community development. Urban development must be discussed by public administrators to help communities succeed, and this course will

help with that discussion.

Looking to the future, Dr. Khan Welsh speaks of resiliency as an essential part of the conversation around urban development. Resiliency will help to create strong, thriving communities that will last.

FACULTY RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



DR. JEFFREY BERNSTEIN

Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein was recently named to the editorial board of *PS: Political Science and Politics*.

His work, “Rehabilitating Citizenship: Lessons from Across the Curriculum” (with Michael B. Smith and Rebecca S.

Nowacek), was published in the Fall 2017 edition of *Journal of Humanities and Rehabilitation*.

His upcoming article “Finding Moments of Meaning in Undergraduate Education: How the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Can Help” will be published in the *International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*.

Visit the Political Science Department website to learn more about our faculty:

www.emich.edu/polisci



DR. GREGORY PLAGENS

Dr. Gregory Plagens will be on sabbatical for the Winter 2018 semester conducting research for his upcoming work, “*Merit Pay in the Public Sector: A Conceptual History and Operational Classification*.”

Dr. Plagens writes about his research:

“One in six people employed in the United States works for the government, and calls for reform continue in the name of greater efficiency and effectiveness. One of the more recent reform efforts tries to link employee compensation to job performance as a means of maximizing efficiency. The idea is to create incentives for civil servants to perform their duties as well as possible. Many governments are experimenting with merit pay, which offers financial rewards for achieving desired outcomes. The goal of this research is to improve conceptual clarity in the area of merit pay by tracing its academic and applied roots, and by identifying and organizing the various forms it takes in national and state governments.”

STUDENTS ON THE MOVE: FEATURED INTERNSHIPS



William Oldham, Jr.
Second year MPA student

Bill completed an internship with the Wayne Main Street nonprofit this summer. This nonprofit focuses on the promotion of downtown Wayne for residents and visitors to gather, shop, work, and enjoy.

The internship provided a well-rounded experience in the day-to-day operations of nonprofit organizations. Bill was involved in event planning, designing marketing materials, developing fundraising activities, and grant writing. Bill also served as the development coordinator for the “Jazz on the Ave” event in Wayne.

Bill is currently participating in an internship program with the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation and Greenfield Village. He feels that his work with the Corporate Relations Department and Institutional Advancement Teams within the organization will successfully prepare him for his career within the nonprofit field.

“Being a student in the EMU MPA program has been a great experience. It has provided me with numerous opportunities for professional growth. I would not have secured these internship opportunities without the skills that I developed in this program.”



Alexa Timmreck
Second year MPA Student

Alexa completed an internship with the Texas Homeless Network in Austin during Summer 2017.

Alexa spent her summer connecting with Local Homeless Coalitions across rural Texas, collecting qualitative and quantitative data about developmental needs. These data were used to inform the creation of a holistic Local Homeless Coalition toolkit for Coalitions in the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care, which covers most of the geographic space of Texas.

In October, with University support, Alexa had the opportunity to present this work to local homeless coalition chairs and other stakeholders at the Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness. She continues to work with the Texas Homeless Network remotely by updating and continually refining the toolkit she created during her MPA internship.



Brian Rombalski
Second year MPA student

During the summer, Brian completed an internship in his hometown of Saginaw Township. He was tasked with completing objectives for the township manager for long-term objectives.

His main project during the summer was to develop a 10-year Capital Improvement Program so that the township can project its spending over the next decade. Brian also developed a process for yearly updating of the program so that the township can change how its funds are allocated.

Brian hopes to pursue a career in local government management, hopefully one day working for his hometown.

“The internship program allowed me to take what I learned in the classroom and apply those skills in the real world. It allowed me to see what does and does not work when applied.”

Do you have internship or job openings at your agency?

Feel free to send them to rsoliven@emich.edu, and we would be happy to share them with our students.

ALUMNI NEWS

Melissa Benson ('17) accepted a position as Director of Rehabilitation at Genesis Rehab Services upon graduation.

Craig Jefferson ('17) ran for the Mayor of the City of Pontiac in August 2017 and tallied 8.17 percent of the vote.

Christopher Preston ('17) accepted the position of Budget Analyst with the City of Ann Arbor upon graduation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FALL 2016 AND WINTER 2017 GRADUATES

- Eva Bedford
- Melissa Benson
- Madelyne Bernard-Diab
- Greta Bolhuis
- Weneshia Brand
- Gabrielle Coner
- Jessica Davis Johnson
- Aaron Dietz
- John Eynon
- Nicole Ford
- Jason Hoskins
- Jonathon Huguelet
- Craig Jefferson
- Hadeer Lutfi
- Corey Mason
- Karen Parker
- Megan Petersen
- Carolyn Poissant
- Christopher Preston II
- Darwin Roche
- Clinton Smith
- Staci Sturgill
- Donna Wilson



FALL NETWORKING EVENTS

The two MPA meet-and-greet events with current students, faculty, and alumni held this fall were a great success!

The November 7th event, held at Aubree's Northville near the Livonia campus, featured John Buzuvis, Community Development Director for the City of Plymouth and EMU MPA alum. John led the discussion on "The Politics of Local Government Administration."

The second event, held at Aubree's Depot Town in Ypsilanti on November 13th, featured Alison Foreman, Executive Director of Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels and EMU MPA alum, leading a discussion on "What's New in the Washtenaw County Nonprofit Sector and What MPA Graduates Should Know."



Look for details on upcoming Meet-and-Greet Events in our [Facebook group](#), [LinkedIn group](#), and on [Twitter!](#)



NASPAA ACCREDITATION UPDATE

The 2017-18 academic year is a self-study year for EMU's MPA program as it seeks reaccreditation in 2018-19. The program was last reaccredited in 2013. There has been a continuing effort to work towards full implementation of the revised standard adopted by NASPAA (Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration) in 2009.



In the past year, the program has systematized a strategic planning process, clarified more learning outcomes for students, and added an ongoing program evaluation component. In the coming months, small groups of faculty and alumni will be organized to assess student progress towards defined learning outcomes. Additionally, a diversity plan will be implemented to work in conjunction with the university's efforts to create and maintain a more diverse and inclusive environment.

STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

The MPA Program opened the 2017-18 school year with a strategic planning retreat on September 15, 2017. Advisory Board members, students, staff, and faculty met to review and discuss the program's mission, values, goals, and curriculum. The half-day session led to insightful discussions about how best to offer a program that meets the needs of contemporary employers and students. Participants also discussed challenges facing the program in 2017.

Since the retreat, faculty have met on multiple occasions to consider the ideas presented and how best to incorporate many of them into our operating procedures.

Update Your Contact & Career Information

Do we have your updated contact and career information? Do you have news you would like to share with us? Would you like to be more involved in the EMU MPA Program? Let us know by completing our [alumni form](#).

MAKE A GIFT

If you would like to give back to the MPA program, please consider making a contribution to the MPA Development Fund, which supports student and alumni programming. The Joe Ohren Student Internship Fund supports students who are doing an unpaid internship for academic credit. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Donations can be made online: www.emich.edu/polisci/donate

Please mail contributions to Eastern Michigan University Foundation, 112 Welch Hall, 850 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Please make checks payable to "Eastern Michigan University" and designate "MPA Development Fund" on your checks to ensure your contribution will go to the MPA program.

Thank you for your support!

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