

THE MPA NETWORK

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EASTERN
MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

The Biannual
Newsletter of the
Master of Public
Administration
Program at Eastern
Michigan University



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Master of Public Administration
Program
Department of Political Science
Eastern Michigan University
601 Pray-Harold
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
734.487.3113

Andrea Martinovska and
Kinsey Roberts, 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.

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DR. RAYMOND A. ROSENFELD: MPA VISIONARY AND LEADER

This December, Dr. Raymond A. Rosenfeld will submit grades for the final time at Eastern Michigan University. Since 1983, he has been teaching in the MPA Program, a program that had just turned four years old when Dr. Rosenfeld joined the Political Science faculty. Its creation is what drew him to EMU. "Eastern is a large regional state university in a large metropolitan area. The opportunity for an MPA program in such an environment was tremendous," the longtime EMU professor explained.

Dr. Rosenfeld's initial hope for the MPA program was the creation of "a public administration program that would be as strong as any of the programs at Eastern's peer and aspirational institutions. EMU would be right along with the best of them." This meant providing a full range of programs, from a doctoral program for both academic and applied careers, master's, graduate certificate, and combined undergraduate/graduate programs. **(continued on Pg. 2)**

NASPAA ACCREDITATION UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that the accreditation of the MPA Program at EMU by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) has been extended through the 2025-26 academic year. Many thanks to all who assisted us in our efforts!

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLUB

In its second year, the Public Administration (PA) Club is thriving with 22 members, both undergraduates and graduates. The PA Club meets bi-weekly to discuss upcoming events, conferences, and what members would like to see the club accomplish.

On October 15th, the PA Club held the second annual "What is PA?" event for undergraduate students. Overall, the event was well attended with 16 undergraduate students and 9 graduate students. Dr. Tucker Staley spoke about nonprofit careers. Dr. Barbara Patrick spoke about what the field of public administration is like and possible careers for students interested in this kind of work. Current MPA students spoke about why they decided to pursue the MPA degree and their experiences in the program. **(continued on Pg. 4)**



Dr. Barbara Patrick speaking at the What is PA? event

DR. ROSENFELD (CONT. FROM PG.1)

In the MPA program's adolescence, the process of NASPAA accreditation was essential for the program's growth, and Dr. Rosenfeld was one of the key players in achieving accreditation. It was both expensive and time consuming, but the difficult work was accomplished. At the same time, he led the development of a PA doctoral program, which Dr. Rosenfeld believed was vital, as almost every other MPA program at Eastern's peer and aspirational institutions had a PhD program. While the proposal was selected by the university's administration, internal disagreements within the Political Science Department meant that it never came to fruition. This may have been a blessing in disguise, however, because "Michigan's economy has wreaked havoc on both its local governments and EMU's budget," Dr. Rosenfeld lamented.

When looking back on his time within the program, Dr. Rosenfeld reflected that his best memories are the relationships made with students and alumni. "After gaining tenure, I had a 12-year period where I did a tremendous amount of research, more than I could ever do by myself. Graduate students allowed this research to happen." Dr. Rosenfeld has published three books and countless journal articles, including one on the Community Block Grant Program which was co-authored with two graduate assistants. Not only was this beneficial to the professor, but it provided valuable experience in survey research, statistical analysis, and much more to graduate students. Kellee Remer, now an academic specialist at Michigan State University, was one such graduate student who felt that Dr. Rosenfeld and his guidance and mentoring were instrumental as she completed the MPA program:

"He encouraged me to think outside of the box and to challenge myself to expand my intellect. He was always kind and compassionate but firm in his expectations that we focus and put in 100% effort in what we were working on."

The success of the MPA Program is evident through the success of its alumni. "This MPA program has an incredible track record of training people for leadership positions in public service in Michigan. You see EMU MPA graduates across local governments throughout Michigan," Dr. Rosenfeld explained. He highlighted a few examples, including Brian Keisling, a director at the Bureau of Medicaid Operations and Actuarial Services for the State of Michigan; David Gajda, who worked as the finance director/treasurer for the City of Farmington Hills; and Nicolette Bateson, who is CFO of the Great Lakes Water Authority. These are just three examples of EMU MPA alumni working throughout state and local governments in Michigan, but there are many more. When asked what advice he would give to MPA students interested in a career of public service, **Dr. Rosenfeld recommended that current students "have to think about leadership positions, not just good jobs. This program is intended to train people for leadership positions."**

After a long and successful career, Dr. Rosenfeld is ready to hang up his gloves. His journeys to Ukraine in the 1990s brought back fond memories. Dr. Rosenfeld spent the 1995-96 academic year teaching on a Fulbright Scholarship in Kyiv, Ukraine, at the country's top public administration program. This ability to take risks and think outside the box not only resulted in an EMU professor teaching halfway across the world in the former Soviet Union, but in the development of one of Michigan's best MPA programs.

- Written by Marcus Lawniczak, contributing writer

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RESEARCH NEWS

Very few students across the country publish research in an academic journal. Those that achieve this task stand among a small group of accomplished scholars advancing knowledge in the discipline. **Theodore Johnson** and **Johnna Thompson**'s co-authored work titled "How Does the Effectiveness of Collegiate Aviation Online Marketing and Websites Impact Diversity in Recruitment?" places them among the ranks of this elite group. The work, which will appear in the *Journal of Public Management and Social Policy*, examines the recruitment strategies of colleges and universities in the Midwest. The manuscript has implications for research in public administration, aviation science, university recruitment, and diversity. As the faculty mentor working with students through the research and publication process, I was extremely impressed with their commitment to the research process, work ethic, and desire to produce a work that has power to impact administrative practices and strategies. Their achievement is a testament to the caliber of students enrolled in our Master of Public Administration program. Both students are to be congratulated and celebrated for their efforts. Kudos! We look forward to the next publication and the great things that will definitely come in the future.

- Submitted by Dr. Barbara Patrick, MPA Faculty Member



MPA Students Theodore Johnson (left) and Johnna Thompson (right)



Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein,
MPA Faculty Member



Cameron Armstrong,
MPA Student

Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein is working closely with MPA Graduate Assistant **Cam Armstrong** on research on civic education, specifically focused on how students process difficult cases connected with the freedom of speech. This project is a piece of his larger work about how higher education positions itself to remain relevant in turbulent political times.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Jackie Beaudry ('03) works as the City Clerk for the City of Ann Arbor and was honored as Michigan's city clerk of the year by her peers in the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks.

Brian Rombalski ('18) has been named Assistant Manager of Saginaw Township, MI, and will be interim manager starting in January 2020 when the current manager retires.

Laura Shue ('11) was presented the 2019 Rising Star Award by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). She currently works as the Health Information Services Director for Michigan Medicine.

Alexa Timmreck ('18) was presented the Marvin S. Gilman/National Housing Endowment Scholarship in U.S. Housing and Urban Policy. This award is presented to a student who exhibits an exemplary commitment to housing research and a dedication to the strengthening of housing policy in the U.S. Alexa plans to continue research that addresses affordable housing policy and homelessness in Delaware with the Center for Community Research and Service, while working toward her Ph.D. in Urban Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Delaware.

Dr. Willie White II ('92) was recognized as a 2019 Michigan Chronicle Men of Excellence honoree. This award recognizes local African-American men who inspire others through their vision, leadership, exceptional achievements, and participation in community service. Dr. White is the Principal for Detroit Public Schools' Frederick Douglass Academy for Young Men.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLUB (CONTINUED FROM PG. 1)

On October 19th, the PA Club hosted a tailgate at the EMU v. WMU football game as a mix-and-mingle for the members. Fun was had by those who attended, and the PA Club hopes to continue to have fun events in the future for all members and alumni to attend.

The PA Club has several events in the works for next semester to help students develop vital professional skills, such as interviewing, resume writing, networking, and more. Two of the events planned will be a Resume Workshop in February and a Networking Event in March. The PA Club welcomes MPA alumni at these events to connect and share advice with current MPA students who are looking to meet professionals working in the field.

For more information on these events, please contact PA Club President, Kinsey Roberts, at krober46@emich.edu, or Advisor, Dr. Barbara Patrick, at bpatric1@emich.edu.



Students at the PA Club Tailgate

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Dr. Barbara Patrick,
Advisor

Look for details on upcoming events in our [Facebook group](#), [LinkedIn group](#), and on [Twitter](#)!



MPA NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

On September 7, 2019, the MPA program hosted a social as part of the orientation for new MPA students. The MPA program continues in this fairly new tradition and this time hosted a picnic in the park. On a beautiful Saturday afternoon, the students had a chance to meet each other and the faculty members. The atmosphere was very friendly and cozy. Sometimes, it was hard to tell if it is a big family gathering or actual meeting of faculty and students.

Students also used this event for gathering information and getting to know each other more. Students learned about scholarships, internships, and programs, which is information that sometimes students miss.

Besides the official program of the picnic, the event also offered fun and sports activities that helped to break away the initial shyness. Thanks to the beautiful weather, faculty and students enjoyed games of Scrabble, volleyball, and more. To maintain good

relations, the score of the games will stay unpublished. This was the second time a social orientation like this was held, and there were positive reactions from faculty and students. The program hopes to keep this tradition for future years. Many thanks to MPA Coordinator Rose Jindal, Associate Professor Barbara Patrick, Department Head David Klein, and all faculty and students who assisted with the planning and execution of this successful event.



MPA Students at the Fall 2019 MPA New Student Orientation

FEATURED STUDENTS

MPA student **Andrea**

Martinovska spent Summer 2019 as an intern at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic at the Department of Northern Africa and the Middle East. The selection for candidates was competitive, and she believes her experience from EMU helped her get selected.

Andrea learned so much during her internship, such as how the public sector is a dynamic and vibrant working environment. She had a great networking experience as she met many diplomats from different countries. The ability to connect her experience with the internship course material was beneficial for her as well.

She was surprised to see how material from her classes overlap with real situations in the workplace. Andrea was able to implement management and use analytical thinking to perform her duties. After her experience, Andrea realized



Andrea Martinovska (second from the left), with representatives from the New Zealand Rugby Team

“Every student should get an internship to experience the real workplace. I argue that it will help students realize if what they want to do is the right fit for them. In my case, I found out that being a diplomat is even cooler than I thought.”

- Andrea Martinovska, MPA Student

that being a diplomat at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is about learning and waiting for a chance. She knows that to be competitive at this level she has to gain more working experience and start studying French. Andrea plans to gain more working experience after graduation and then plans to fight for a position at the Diplomatic Academy in Prague.



MPA student **Patrick Maguire** currently serves as a patrol sergeant with the Ann Arbor Police Department. As a patrol sergeant, Patrick is responsible for helping supervise the night shift officers on patrol. He will be graduating from the MPA program in December 2019.

The MPA program has provided Patrick the opportunity to learn skills and knowledge that not only are applicable to his current role but also will help him in his career overall.

“From learning about HR issues, to becoming a better researcher, to gaining insight on strategic management and developing policy, I have found the MPA program to be especially helpful in my career in local government.”

- Patrick Maguire, Patrol Sergeant, Ann Arbor Police Department

After graduation, Patrick plans to utilize his MPA in the short and long term. He plans to use the MPA to move in higher administrative levels within his agency. He has a few years left in his current role and hopes to use the MPA to explore another career after retirement, possibly in local government or local politics.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS, FALL 2018-SUMMER 2019 GRADUATES!

Andrea Burks	Jason Hackney	Daryl Holman Jr.	Robert Morrison
Makiah Bynes	Ian Hatch	Benjamin Hourani	William Oldham Jr
Terrence Crimes	Clifton Hawkins	Colleen Klus-Salisbury	Jeremy Waechter
Rachel Dresser	Daniel Hoang	Jasmine Morris	Phillis Webb

Save the Date

At our upcoming **MPA Alumni Reception** and Pi Alpha Alpha Induction on **Wednesday, March 25, 2020**, 5:30-7:30 p.m., in McKenny Hall, we will celebrate our students, faculty, and community leaders, as well as the EMU MPA Program's 40th Anniversary. We look forward to seeing you then!



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 online [alumni contact form](#).

MAKE A GIFT and help our program grow

If you would like to give back to the MPA program, please consider making a contribution to the [MPA Program Support 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/political-science/alumni/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.

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