

THE MPA NETWORK

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EASTERN
MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

EMU PRESENTED SPEAKER SERIES ON POLICING

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



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The MPA Network is published 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.

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

In Fall 2020, in the aftermath of summer protests calling for social justice and change, Dr. Barbara Patrick organized a three-part series on policing titled “Race, Policing, & Social Justice in 2020: Looking Back and Moving Forward.” The well-attended virtual speaker series allowed for important discussions on policing reforms and police engagement tactics by addressing the controversial Floyd Dent Case in Inkster, Michigan. At the first event on September 24, 2020, Dr. Patrick explored provisions of Michigan legislation and local administrative practices that served as precursors to the Floyd Dent incident and undermined public trust within the Black community. On October 8, Inkster Chief of Police William Riley discussed his efforts to transform relationships, establish trust, improve morale, reduce crime, and repair the reputation of the Inkster Police. The October 22 event speakers included Derrick Jackson, Director of Community Engagement for the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Office; Kevin Karpiak, Associate Professor of Criminology at EMU; and Suntrese Williams-Maynard, Former Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama and Southern District of Texas. They discussed highly debated proposals regarding police oversight, de-escalation tactics, prosecutorial discretion, social advocacy, voting, and policy reforms and presented their recommendations for pursuing change.



Inkster Chief of Police William Riley (right)

Abdimalik Farah, a first-year MPA student, attended the speaker series and reflected: “With all the fallout from social and political upheaval in the last few months over policing practices, I was left feeling uncertain and filled with questions. The policing series did an amazing job of showcasing police practices’ flaws, such as allowing an officer to quit one agency over poor conduct. For example, when an officer applies for a new job with a different agency, the officer’s past actions do not carry over. The series also highlighted some of the financial issues different departments face.”

[Watch recordings of the speaker events here.](#)

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHT: Performing a Financial Analysis

Students gained applied experience in James Tatum’s PLSC 540 Public and Nonprofit Budgeting course this Winter 2021 term. All students contributed to the final report, which was a financial condition analysis of the City of Ypsilanti, and a few students volunteered to present their findings to the City Council and Mayor at the City Council meeting on May 4, 2021.

Karalyn Anderton, first-year MPA student, shared her experience: “Being able to present our financial condition analysis to the City of Ypsilanti was a great experience. In the budgeting class, we worked over the latter half of the semester collecting data from city financial documents and calculating metrics which show how the City is doing in four areas: Operations, Public Investment, Legacy Costs, and Taxes. The final report summarized our findings and was sent to the City at the end of the semester. Giving this presentation allowed us to deliver our results to the City firsthand and gave us the opportunity to foster a relationship between the City of Ypsilanti and the EMU Political Science Department and MPA program.”



Karalyn Anderton,
MPA Student

FACULTY NEWS

**DR. JEFFREY BERNSTEIN**

Jeffrey Bernstein has an edited volume, *Teaching Research Methods in Political Science*, coming out in June with Edward Elgar Publishers. Bernstein edited the collection and wrote the Introduction. He also has an article, "Using Think-Alouds to Understand How Students Balance Free Speech and Inclusion" forthcoming in *First Amendment Studies*. This piece is co-authored with 2021 MPA graduate Cameron Armstrong.

**DR. BARBARA PATRICK**

Barbara Patrick's research titled "Delivering Culturally Competent and Equitable Police Services Via Social Media: Assessing Two Way Dialogue between Police Agencies and Vulnerable Citizens," has been accepted for publication in *Public Administration Quarterly*.

In Fall 2020, Dr. Kevin Karpiak and Dr. Patrick received \$9,850 in funding through the James Brickley Faculty Professional Development & Innovation Award to support a one-year project entitled "Southeast Michigan Criminal Justice Policy Research

Project." The funds will support expanding Dr. Patrick's current research and work on police agencies in Southeast Michigan.

Dr. Barbara Patrick was selected for the Ronald W. Collins Distinguished Faculty Award for Service, which is given to someone who has generously contributed to meet the needs and enhance the state of departments/schools, their college, the university, their profession, or other communities. Congratulations to Dr. Patrick for going above and beyond at EMU!

**DR. TUCKER STALEY**

Tucker Staley joined a team with representatives from the University of Michigan, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Michigan State University, Oakland University, Citizens Research Council of Michigan, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Guidehouse, and Municipal Analytics to develop a [guide](#) that will aid local governments in Michigan as they navigate the fiscal stress brought on by COVID-19. It covers a range of topics including capital assets and projects, federal aid, financial management strategies, revenue sources, and information technology. Read more about the project in [The Eastern Echo](#).

In addition to local governments, Dr. Staley's work this year also served nonprofit professionals. He partnered with Professional Programs and Training, ENGAGE@EMU, to offer a new, non-credit certificate in nonprofit management. The certificate program consists of eight courses which can be taken either as part of the certificate program or as stand-alone courses. This project was sponsored in part by a GameAbove Faculty First Professional Development and Innovation Award. [Course information and registration can be found here](#).

**2020-21
TEACHING
FACULTY**

Jeffrey Bernstein, Ph.D.
Michael Montgomery, MA
Brian Pappas, Ph.D., J.D.
Vince Pastue, MPA
Barbara Patrick, Ph.D.
Gregory Plagens, Ph.D.
Tucker Staley, Ph.D.
James Tatum, MPA
Stephanie Zorn-Kasprzak,
MOL, CCAP

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

www.emich.edu/polisci

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR AWARD RECIPIENT, DEB POLICH

The EMU MPA Program is proud to recognize Deb Polich as the 2021 “Public Administrator of the Year.” For over 30 years, Deb has championed the arts and creative fields, and she currently serves as the President/CEO of both Artrain, Inc and Creative Washtenaw/The Arts Alliance.

Deb joined the MPA Advisory Board in 2003. In addition to this service, she also serves on the boards of EMU’s College of Arts and Science Advancement Board, Creative Many, Michigan Works!, and formerly the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance at EMU. She serves on the City of Ann Arbor’s Economic Development Advisory Committee and Destination Ann Arbor’s marketing and community grants committee. Deb also co-hosts the weekly segment creative:impact on WEMU.



Over the last year, the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted many industries across the United States. Among the hardest hit sectors was the arts and creative community. **Deb’s tireless work and dedication provided the essential leadership to connect the arts and creative community to vital resources during this trying time.**

The creative industries in Washtenaw County contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to the local economy; however, since the pandemic started in early 2020, virtually every arts organization had to cancel events and, in many instances, close their doors for extended periods of time. The pandemic caused the arts and creative communities across the country to lose over \$14 billion in revenues, and over \$15 billion in audience spending in local businesses. Staffs were fired, individual income losses were severe, creative supplies were limited, and many organizations are uncertain whether they’ll recover from the effects of the past year.

In this trying environment, Deb provided a guiding light for the arts and creative community in Washtenaw County. Her experience and skill as an administrator has served as a driving force and beacon of hope for those in the creative community negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a tireless arts advocate for the state of Michigan, Deb exemplifies service to the community.

In response to being notified of this recognition, Deb stated, “This acknowledgement is especially meaningful after such a grueling year and feeling like no matter how much time and effort we put into assisting the arts and creative community, it is not enough.” It is our honor to recognize Deb for her exceptional administrative leadership and skill not just over the past year, as trying as it was, but for over more than 30 years of service to the community.

To learn more about Deb’s work, check out her [radio show creative:impact on WEMU](#), where you can find an archive of more than 150 shows.

EMU MPA ADVISORY BOARD

Nickie Bateson, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, Great Lakes Water Authority

John Buzuvis, Community Development Director, City of Plymouth

Patricia Denig, Director of Human Resources, Pittsfield Charter Township

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Garland Doyle, Interim City Clerk, City of Pontiac

Alison Foreman, Executive Director, Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels

Emily Guyton, Human Resources Business Partner, University of Michigan Medical School

Amy Malmer, Membership Manager, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

AnnaGloria Kemppainen, Chief Integration Officer, Area Agency on Aging- 1B

Joseph Ohren, Professor Emeritus, EMU MPA Program and Department of Political Science

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

Laura Schultz Pipis, Associate Director, United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties

Caitlin Walton, Business Manager, University of Michigan Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design

JAMES “DAVE” IVERS RETIRED AFTER 20 YEARS AT EMU



Dave Ivers began teaching at EMU in Fall 2000. In his 20 years at EMU, he taught over 15 different courses for the MPA program, including budgeting, research methods, organizational theory, and human resource management. He considered highlights of his career to be guiding students through the capstone process until they graduated, working with colleagues who shared his vision of what the MPA program could accomplish, telling more bad jokes during lecture than anyone ever, wearing the same “outfit” for 15+ years, and working with students from across the globe and across Michigan.

Ivers valued being a part of the Political Science Department. “I enjoyed watching so many colleagues go out of their way to not just educate but strive to improve the lives of our students,” Ivers reflected.

He certainly left an imprint with his students.

“Dave Ivers is one of the most interesting people I've ever met,” said Andy LaBarre, 2012 MPA graduate and Member of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. “He helped me become a better writer, an effective user of data, and a more adroit public servant.

He's both a special character and a wonderful teacher.”

MPA alumna Laura Shue said, “I credit Dr. Dave Ivers with my ongoing ability to apply all the primary skills one would expect to possess upon graduation from an applied MPA program: Public Budgeting, Municipal Finance, mowing a lawn with a push mower, and a robust knowledge of the dietary requirements and preferences of hamsters. May he enjoy many more years with the benefit of his lovely wife Donna Balash by his side.”

“The impact Dave Ivers had on my time in the EMU MPA program cannot be overstated,” reflected MPA graduate David Palmer. “As a student, his gruff demeanor was refreshing. Those who could see past this sometimes contrarian positioning learned a lot- I know I did. There is strong value in leveraging inquiry with a near-religious fervor. Dave's lived experiences, and mind-bending grasp of details, data, and context informed and inspired my approach to convening, facilitation and analysis.”

“Whenever we graduate assistants surveyed alumni of the MPA program, time and time again, students indicated that Dr. Ivers was the person who never gave up on them,” MPA

“...Time and time again, students indicated that Dr. Ivers was the person who never gave up on them.”

- Alexa Timmreck, MPA Graduate

graduate Alexa Timmreck shared. “True to this, Dr. Ivers has continued to have a positive impact on my professional development, both during my time in the program and in my continued endeavors.”

Congratulations to Dr. Ivers on retiring, and we wish you well!

Congratulations to this year's

PI ALPHA ALPHA INDUCTEES

We are proud of you and your outstanding academic achievements!

Pi Alpha Alpha is the global honor society for public affairs and administration students in programs accredited by Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration.

- Chartice Hobbs
- John Peterson
- Brandon Praski
- Candace Reum

- Kinsey Roberts
- Melva Smith
- Jacob Young

FEATURED STUDENTS

BARSON FELLOWSHIP AWARD



Congratulations to Chelsea Thomas, second-year MPA student, who was awarded the John Barson Fellowship for the 2021-22 academic year. “It is an honor to be a recipient of the John Barson Fellowship,” Chelsea shared. “It will be a much-needed support as I successfully complete the MPA Program. **I would like to thank all who have helped me along the way. I would not be where I am if I did not have those who had seen potential or believed in me.** My goal is to use my MPA degree to obtain a leadership role within government, to better understand policies, and to become an effective public servant in future communities I will serve. My dream is to become a change agent, whether it be at the local, state, or federal level. I currently work for the City of Ypsilanti as the Deputy City Clerk, and I can see firsthand how resolutions are passed and the process of how change is implemented from the Council and City Clerk’s office.”

MPA INTERN OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Kinsey Roberts, the MPA Intern of the Year! In the summer of 2020, Kinsey interned at the National Veteran Business Development Council (NVBDC), a Detroit nonprofit that helps Veteran business owners obtain the proper certification to compete for corporate contracts. Her tasks included managing a database, performing a database audit, working on a social media project, and developing a step-by-step checklist for the organization’s certification application. Some key things she learned were “the importance of peer review of documents, no first draft is perfect, and **certain skills can only be learned in the ‘real world.’**” Kinsey found the atmosphere the most valuable aspect of her internship: “From the moment I met my team, I was encouraged to reach out to any team member and my manager whenever I was stuck or needed to run an idea by someone.” The internship gave Kinsey the chance to develop her skills and gave her an experience that she would otherwise not have had. She encourages current students to pursue an internship if they are able. “If they are not able to, I encourage them to seek out similar experiences within the classroom, by making the most of each speaker, professor, and every opportunity to learn and grow as professionals.” Kinsey had such a wonderful internship experience that she now works at the NVBDC as an Intake Specialist.

Want to learn more about our graduate students?

Visit our website to view the profiles of students in our MPA program:

<https://www.emich.edu/political-science/grad/master/graduate-students.php>

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 TO OUR FALL 2019 - WINTER 2021 MPA GRADUATES!

Emily Abela	Jessica Haywood	Matthew Lane	Johnna Thompson
Meaad Albassami	Meghann Hollowell	Marcus Lawniczak	Juliane Vogl
LaMisha Berryhill	Wendy Inhmathong	Patrick Maguire	Bradley Wheelock
Christopher Callis	Theodore Johnson	Andrea Martinovská	Jacob Young
Zoe Crowley	Tyler Jones	Henry Outlaw	Amelia Yunker
Yvonne Cudney	Megan Keefer	Shaun Pawlus	
Andrew Dabrowski	Jeremiah Klemann	Candace Reum	
Erika Davis	Shannon Kowalski	Andrea Taylor	

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.

- The [MPA Program Support Fund](#) supports student and alumni programming.
- The [Joe Ohren Student Internship Fund](#) supports students who are doing an unpaid internship for academic credit.
- The [Raymond Rosenfeld Professional Development Fund](#) supports student participation in conferences, workshops, and other opportunities that will help them excel in their public service careers.

All contributions are tax-deductible.

Donations can be made online: <https://www.emich.edu/political-science/alumni/donate.php>

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