

# THE MPA NETWORK

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**EASTERN**  
MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

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



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## THE MPA NETWORK

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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>

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CLUB EVENTS

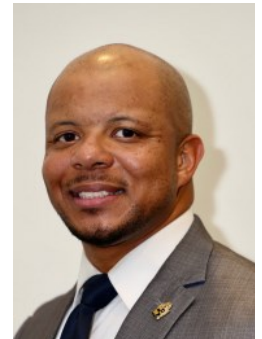
The Public Administration Club had a busy year presenting events for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as the university community.

### Networking

More than 20 participants attended a networking event with students and MPA Advisory Board members on February 24. Students enjoy meeting professionals from the field and being able to ask them questions.

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace

On March 31, the Public Administration Club collaborated with EMU's new [Civil Rights and Social Justice Center](#) in presenting a panel discussion on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace. Panelists included Dr. Aaron C. Rollins Jr. and Ebony Walls. Dr. Rollins is the Chair of the Department of Urban and Public Affairs and Director of the MPA program and the Peace, Justice, and Conflict Transformation program at the University of Louisville. Ms. Walls is Philanthropy and Events lead at Intersport for the inaugural John Shippen National Invitational and Sports Business Summit and the Philanthropy and Partnerships Manager for the PGA Tour's Rocket Mortgage Classic. Ebony is also a 2017 EMU MPA graduate.



Dr. Aaron C. Rollins Jr.

“The whole event helped provide a channel where working professionals helped show the importance of DEI in any setting. The professional experiences Ebony Walls and Dr. Rollins shared also gave perspective on the challenges people will face when trying to implement more equity for their respective organizations.”

- Abdimalik Farah, MPA Student



Ebony Walls

### Resume Writing and Interviewing Skills

At the Resume and Mock Interview Workshop on April 12, students learned valuable tips for writing their resume from April Calkovsky, Senior Career Coach with the University Advising and Career Development Center, and practiced their interviewing skills with MPA faculty and members of the MPA Advisory Board.

The [Public Administration Club](#) is designed to introduce students to opportunities in the fields of government and nonprofit administration. Students gain insight on the status of the discipline, job opportunities, professional development, tools for success, the significance of networking and other pertinent issues impacting citizens and public administrators who serve at the forefront addressing problems at the local, state, and federal levels of government.

**Want to be get involved?** Contact Dr. Barbara Patrick at [bpatric@emich.edu](mailto:bpatric@emich.edu).

## FACULTY NEWS

**DR. JEFFREY BERNSTEIN**

Jeffrey Bernstein became the Director of the Bruce K. Nelson Faculty Development Center at EMU in July 2021. While he is enjoying his new gig a great deal, much of his heart remains in Pray-Harrold, where he continues to teach a course each semester in the department. This past year, he and Amanda Shannon (EMU Political Science Class of 1998) published *Vital Statistics on American Politics, 2017-2020*.

**DR. HEATHER KHAN WELSH**

The EMU College of Arts and Sciences recognized Dr. Heather Khan Welsh as the winner of the 2022 Outstanding Contributions to Interdisciplinarity Award. Dr. Khan Welsh has held leadership roles in three interdisciplinary programs: Master of Public Administration, Urban Studies minor, and Environmental Science and Society (ENVI). She is also the director of the Urban and Regional Planning program, in addition to having served on the President's Commission on Women and the President's Commission on Sustainability.

**DR. SHU WANG**

Shu Wang joined the Political Science Department Faculty in Fall 2021. In her first year at EMU, she taught the Public Policy course and the Local Governments and Politics course for the MPA program.

Regarding her current research interests, she shared, "Although my main area of research is public finance, I have started broadening the scope of my work to other areas related to local government. One of my current projects examines how local governments collaborate for climate change actions. I am reviewing local sustainability plans and interviewing local policymakers for this project. Social equity is an important component for environmental justice and has been a focus of my research, too. For example, I investigated the uneven paces of recovery within a metropolitan area (for example, the stark difference between Highland Park and West Bloomfield within the Detroit metro), and examined its implications for residents' quality of life."

Regarding what she enjoys so far about EMU, Dr. Wang shared, "I find myself using the word 'wholesome' a lot when describing my experience at EMU. I am thankful for the supportive environment here that enables me to grow as a scholar and educator. I am also very impressed by the diversity of students, not only by race and ethnicity but also by life experiences. I learn a great deal from the students; they provide me with perspectives to education and motivate me to be a more effective educator."

Dr. Shu Wang and James Tatum, adjunct professor in the MPA program, are coauthors of a [study about the City of Flint's financial condition](#) published by the University of Michigan's Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy.

**2021-22  
TEACHING  
FACULTY**

Jeffrey Bernstein, Ph.D.

Vince Pastue, MPA

Barbara Patrick, Ph.D.

Gregory Plagens, Ph.D.

Tucker Staley, Ph.D.

Shu Wang, Ph.D.

Stephanie Zorn-Kasprzak,  
MOL, CCAP

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

[www.emich.edu/polisci](http://www.emich.edu/polisci)

## OUTSTANDING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR AWARD RECIPIENT, JACQUELINE BEAUDRY

The EMU MPA Program is proud to recognize Jacqueline Beaudry as the 2022 “Public Administrator of the Year.” The following is an excerpt of Dr. Joe Ohren’s speech for Jackie, 2003 EMU MPA alumna who now serves as Ann Arbor’s city clerk:

As Clerk, Jackie manages the office and serves on the city administrator’s executive team. As Election Supervisor, Jackie has made Ann Arbor a model of effective election operations by, for example, implementing new voting systems making voter registration easier and more secure, creating a real-time polling place line tracking program, establishing a satellite polling place primarily for student voters at the University of Michigan Museum of Art, sponsoring a student election inspector program for high school students with the AAPS district, piloting implementation of new statewide systems for voter registration and voting, among other unique and creative ways of making voting in Ann Arbor more accessible.



My guess is that until 2020 most of us really didn’t know what clerks did in local government—the common notion of clerk implies some administrative or secretarial responsibilities. Who goes to graduate school to take a clerk’s position?

Can you imagine a more challenging position to be in right now? Dealing with the challenges to mail-in ballots, limits on hours of election, the placement and security of vote collection boxes, handling security with election inspectors who may be armed and may even have expanded authority to challenge the vote counting process? She and her staff in the Clerk’s Office are truly Civic Heroes!

Everything that Jackie has done thus far in her role in Ann Arbor suggests that she can manage the demands that are being placed on her. **She has demonstrated leadership in adapting the efforts of her office to accommodate the many challenges that the virus wrought, has been committed to expanding access to the voting process, and has been exemplary in experimenting with new approaches at cooperation and collaboration with other entities to achieve the mission of her office.**

Jackie has recognized and used her positional and personal influence to expand and strengthen the role that the Clerk’s office plays in a functioning democracy. She may not think of it in those philosophical terms, but free and fair elections are the foundation of democracy.

For all that she has done and will undoubtedly continue to do, we honor Jacqueline Beaudry, 2022 Outstanding Public Administrator.

## 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

**Aaron Desentz**, City Manager, City of Mt. Pleasant

**Garland Doyle**, Interim City Clerk, City of Pontiac

**Alison Foreman**, President and CEO, Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels

**Amy Malmer**, Membership Manager, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

**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

## MPA ALUMNI RECEPTION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

After two missed years, the annual MPA reception was held on April 6, 2022, in the EMU Student Center. A number of alumni, professors, current students, and friends of the program gathered to mingle and celebrate our honorees both in person and on Zoom. Jacqueline Beaudry, the City Clerk of Ann Arbor and 2003 EMU MPA alumna, received the Outstanding Public Administrator award. MPA students were inducted into the Pi Alpha Alpha honor society, and awards were presented for the MPA Intern of the Year and the John Barson Fellowship Award. The Political Science Department also presented the Pardee/MGFOA Scholarship Award for the first time.



(From left to right) Dr. Joe Ohren, MPA student Jason Meier, MPA alumnus Cliff Camp, MPA alumnus David Palmer, and Dr. Gregory Plagens



Alfreda Rooks, 2020 Public Administrator of the Year (left) and Dr. Wade Tornquist, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research (right)



Dr. Barbara Patrick speaks to the in-person and Zoom audience at the MPA reception.

Abdimalik Farah (left) and Karalyn Anderton (right) are Pi Alpha Alpha inductees and graduate assistants for the department.



*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.*

Meaad Abdullah  
 Mohammed Albassami  
 Karalyn Anderton  
 Andrew Parker Box  
 Steven Brummer  
 Matthew Jennings  
 Burnett

Gabrielle Fagan  
 Abdimalik Farah  
 Jackson J. Pahle  
 Lisa D. Perschke

## FEATURED STUDENTS

### BARSON FELLOWSHIP AWARD



Dr. Barbara Patrick and MPA Student Jason Meier

Congratulations to Jason Meier, who was awarded the John Barson Fellowship for the 2022-23 academic year. Jason shared: “I am completely honored and humbled to have received this fellowship. It was quite unexpected, and I am grateful for the board and my professors who supported me in this endeavor. I have committed my entire adult life to public service and continued education. For the last 23 years, I have had the utmost privilege and honor to work at the Novi Police Department. I currently serve as the Lieutenant in our Support Services division, where I oversee our Investigations, Training and Accreditation, and Records sections. In addition to that, I also serve as the Department’s Intelligence Analyst, Internal Affairs Department, and Public Information Officer. **As I look forward to the next step in my career, this program and degree means a potential role in a police executive team or, perhaps a role in local and state administration, where I can use my knowledge and skills to continue my passion for service to others.** Though if Dr. Patrick has her way, I may also pursue academia.”

### MPA INTERN OF THE YEAR



Dr. Tucker Staley and MPA Alumna Chartice Hobbs

Congratulations to Chartice Hobbs, the MPA Intern of the Year. Chartice worked as an assistant to the Vice President of the EMU Board of Regents and Government Relations. Some of her tasks included delegating and supervising tasks to employees, preparing materials for University Board Meetings, reconciling receipts and producing budget reports, assisting with capital funding for on-campus projects, and handling human resources tasks. Two highlights from her time in the Board Office included organizing and welcoming Governor Whitmer and Lt. Governor Gilchrist when they visited Eastern Michigan University and preparing and assembling documents used to support the EMU President at a Higher Education Committee hearing held at the Michigan State Capitol. Chartice shared: **“Working in the Board Office developed me as a leader and gave me the confidence that I needed to operate in a management role.** It allowed me to act out what I learned in class by assessing the needs of the workplace and providing solutions. In addition, it has given me the experience and resources I needed to be more marketable.”

### 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>

FEATURED STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

PARDEE/MGFOA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Dr. Gregory Plagens (left), Erin McCargar (center), and Dr. Barbara Patrick (right)

Congratulations to Erin McCargar, the first-time recipient of the Jeffrey C. and Mary W. Pardee/MGFOA Scholarship. This award is a collaboration between and among Jeffrey Clark Pardee, Mary Weil Pardee, the Michigan Government Finance Officers Association, The Lenawee Community Foundation, and the Eastern Michigan University (EMU) College of Arts and Sciences – Department of Political Science. Erin shared: “In the future, I hope to work in local government management. I would like to serve as a city manager or CEO of a local-level public organization. If I do not serve in a chief executive role, I would also enjoy working as a department head in economic development, urban planning, finance, or strategic planning. **I consider myself a localist and strive to exemplify the work of local government employees who work every day to make their communities better places to live.** I’m extremely honored to receive this award. The support offered by this scholarship will allow me to focus on my studies and lessen my financial burden as I work my way through my MPA degree. I’m immensely grateful to Jeffrey and Mary Pardee and the MGFOA for their

contributions to this award. I’m also excited to become a student member of the MGFOA, and I hope to continue their tradition of promoting excellence in government finance. Finally, I’m grateful to EMU’s Political Science Department and their continual efforts to provide support and opportunities to their students!”

EMU GRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE



Alfreda Rooks

On March 18, 2022, Alfreda Rooks, 2006 EMU MPA alumna and Director of Community Health Services for Michigan Medicine, was the keynote speaker for the 2022 EMU Graduate Research Conference, which gives students from all disciplines the opportunity to participate in graduate student research and creative activity in a professional conference format. Alfreda remembered fondly when she herself participated in the Graduate Research Conference in 2002 and 2003. Her speech explored the key lessons she learned from her time at EMU, and Alfreda highlighted the faculty who left a lasting impression on her.

This year, two MPA students participated in the Graduate Research Conference: Karalyn Anderton, who graduated from the MPA program this spring, and Kylar Chandler, who will graduate this fall.

“I presented my research on utilizing a joint fact finding approach to alleviate a community dispute about wind energy development. Helping communities pursue policy solutions toward a more sustainable future is what I hope to make into my career, so this experience and doing this research feeds directly into my future as a professional. I am grateful to my advisor Dr. Shu Wang, whose expertise and passion for research inspired me to present.”

**Karalyn Anderton**  
MPA Graduate



“It was an honor to work with Dr. Patrick (Detroit Land Bank and Federalism) and Dr. Koscielniak (Affordable Housing in Cincinnati), out of Urban Regional Planning, on my two projects. I do not think graduate school will be the end of my academic journey, so the Graduate Research Conference provided me the opportunity to materialize my academic interests. It was a supportive, low-stress, high-praise opportunity to both apply and explore outside of our program’s curriculum. This experience is something I can take to future programs and employers to prove my analytical capabilities.”

**Kylar Chandler**  
MPA Student



## NICOLETTE BATESON RECEIVES THE EMU ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



This year, the Eastern Michigan University Office for Alumni Relations recognized Nicolette Bateson, 2012 EMU MPA alumna, as a recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award. This award is presented to alumni who have achieved distinction in their chosen field, clearly demonstrated the value of their college education, and maintained a continuing interest in Eastern Michigan University. Generally, recipients have been graduates of EMU for 10 to 25 years.

In her current role as the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Great Lakes Water Authority, Nickie worked to transform the City of Detroit's Water and Sewage Department into the successful regional authority it is today – and in the process, saved \$1 billion in debt service charges. Nickie has served on the EMU MPA Advisory Board since 2015. Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein shared, “Nickie has served as a member of the MPA Advisory Board, regularly attending our meetings and offering her guidance and wisdom to help guide the program. She has attended alumni events, spoken

with students who wanted career guidance in her field, and has met with job candidates as part of our faculty searches. I could always call her (and often did) for guidance and insight as I was making programmatic decisions. I trusted her advice completely, and was always grateful by how much she gave back to the university.”

See the alumni awards video (Nickie's feature starts at the 14-minute mark): <https://www.emich.edu/alumni/awards-scholarships/alumni-awards/61st-annual-alumni-awards.php>. She was recognized at the 61st Annual Alumni Awards Celebration on May 7, 2022.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DAVID PALMER

David Palmer, 2014 EMU MPA alumnus, conducted [research regarding single-family housing](#) in collaboration with Southwest Economic Solutions and the University of Michigan Center for Equitable Family & Community Well-Being. David provides a summary of the report: “The report notes that nearly 7,500 Detroiters participated in homebuyer education programming in Detroit between 2014-2019, but less than 1,500 report purchasing a home. Program participants closely mirror the demographics and income levels of Detroiters. In about 2/3 of the city, less than 20% of annual home sales are purchased using a mortgage. The vast majority of Prop N homes targeted for “stabilization” with publicly financed bond dollars are in neighborhoods with very low mortgage activity, meaning it is unlikely that median income Detroiters will be able to purchase these homes receiving public investment.” David explores opportunities for solutions to these challenges in this OpEd [article](#).



David was recently awarded one of two 2022 Michigan State University Innovation Fellowships. With this fellowship, he will be collaborating with a wide range of organizations to build out the solutions matrix noted in the OpEd mentioned previously.

### Do you have internship or job openings at your agency?

Feel free to send them to [rsoliven@emich.edu](mailto:rsoliven@emich.edu), and we would be happy to share them with our students.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FALL 2021 - WINTER 2022 MPA GRADUATES!

Karalyn Anderton

Shawn Campbell

Melva Smith

Cameron Armstrong

Kennedi Cummings

Nabil Syed

Brett Braun

Chartice Hobbs

Chelsea Thomas

Steven Brummer

John Peterson

William Bryan

Brandon Praski

### 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>

*Thank you for your support!*

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Eastern Michigan University Master of Public Administration (MPA) Students, Alumni & Faculty