

# 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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## THE MPA NETWORK

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Program

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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.

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

## FORTY YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE EDUCATION

This academic year marks the 40th anniversary of the Eastern Michigan University Master of Public Administration Program. While we could not celebrate in person with our alumni, students, faculty, administrators, and friends at our annual MPA Alumni Reception and Pi Alpha Alpha Induction this spring like we had planned, we would still like to honor various individuals from our program's past and present in this newsletter. Alfreda Rooks, Director of Community Health Services and Program for Multicultural Health for Michigan Medicine, was selected by MPA faculty to be our 2020 Public Administrator of the Year. Ten MPA students joined the ranks of Pi Alpha Alpha, the global honor society for public affairs and administration students. Andrea Martinovská was selected to be the MPA Intern of the Year, and Jacob Young was selected to receive the John Barson Fellowship Award. A special edition of this newsletter tells the story of the MPA program's progression and highlights five alumni from the early years. Our program has come a long way since 1980, and we are incredibly thankful for all the amazing people who have become a part of our story and helped us fulfill our mission.



## ALUMNI UPDATES

**John Buzuvis**, 2006 EMU MPA alum and Community Development Director of the City of Plymouth, and Dr. Gregory Plagens, MPA faculty member, recently discussed the use of resident surveys in planning and evaluating services in Plymouth in a virtual presentation to students in the PLSC 565 Local Governments and Politics course. John also discussed Michigan's recreational marijuana law and the expectations that were placed on local governments when it passed in another virtual presentation to students in the PLSC 695 capstone course. Students learned the challenges that local governments are faced with in implementing the law, as well as the approach that Plymouth has taken in the short run.

**Nicole Ford**, 2016 EMU MPA alum, was sworn in Feb. 2020 as Midland's new Chief of Police. She has become the city's first-ever female police chief.

**James Krizan**, 2013 EMU MPA alum, recently became the City Manager of Lincoln Park, MI, after serving as the Assistant to the City Manager in Royal Oak.

## FACULTY NEWS



### DR. JEFFREY BERNSTEIN

Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein was selected for the Ronald W. Collins Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching II, which is given to someone who has been teaching at EMU for more than five years. Congratulations to Dr. Bernstein for going above and beyond in his work with undergraduate and graduate students at EMU! He has started a new research project exploring the continued liberalism of Jewish Americans. He is currently analyzing data and hoping to use his virus-mandated "staycation" to get some serious writing done.

## THE RAYMOND ROSENFELD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND



Dr. Raymond Rosenfeld

After 36 years at EMU, Dr. Raymond Rosenfeld retired from teaching this academic year. ([For his reflections on his time at EMU, see the Fall 2019 newsletter.](#)) To honor Dr. Rosenfeld's countless contributions to the Political Science Department and the MPA Program, his commitment to excellence, and his dedication to student success, the department has created the Raymond Rosenfeld Professional Development Fund. This fund will facilitate our public administration students' participation in conferences, workshops, and other opportunities that will help them excel in their public service careers.

We had planned to announce this fund at this year's MPA Alumni Reception. Please read on for the tribute Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein prepared for that reception.

“ I am honored to have been asked to offer remarks in tribute to Raymond Rosenfeld on his retirement, and profoundly disappointed not to be able to share them in person. Raymond Rosenfeld was a mainstay in the MPA program when I first began teaching in it. He and Joe Ohren set the tone for committee meetings that were productive, efficient, and student-centered. At a time when the department as a whole was not always a collegial place, the PA committee was a setting in which all views were considered, all contributors valued, and where the whole was wiser than the sum of its parts. As an MPA faculty member, Raymond had a reputation for being a rigorous and demanding instructor, but was always supportive of his students in their quest to meet his high standards. Students taking his courses knew they would have to work, but they also knew they would learn a great deal.

Raymond has been a dear friend and mentor to me. He always supported my work in the classroom – I cherish the afternoons we'd spend talking about teaching, comparing notes on life in the trenches and sharing stories of struggle and success. Raymond enjoyed his research, and was quite successful in that realm. But he also loved the teaching, and displayed genuine enthusiasm for it in our conversations.

As a Department Head, and as a colleague, Raymond held us all to high standards. He always pushed me to build on what I was doing, and to try and do it better. I am more successful for having been Raymond's colleague, and my life is very much enriched for having been his friend. I know my colleagues, and our students, join me in wishing Raymond a long, happy, and healthy retirement! Thanks for all you did, Raymond!

**To donate to the Raymond Rosenfeld Professional Development Fund, please go to**

**<https://www.emich.edu/foundation/give/index.php?fund=02576>.**

*Thank you for your support!*

## 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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**AnnaGloria McCormick**, Director of Aging and Adult Services, 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**, Senior Business Manager/Financial Analyst, University of Michigan, College of Literature, Science and Arts

## OUTSTANDING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR AWARD RECIPIENT, ALFREDA ROOKS

The EMU MPA Program is proud to recognize Alfreda Rooks as the 2020 “Public Administrator of the Year.” Alfreda graduated from EMU’s MPA program in 2006 and is now Director of Community Health Services at Michigan Medicine.

Joe Ohren, Professor Emeritus, reflects on Alfreda’s career contributions:

For over 20 years, Alfreda has sought to connect Michigan Medicine with our larger community, creating a Community Health Coordinating Committee to evaluate collectively the opportunities for wider engagement. Internally, she facilitated a visioning program to develop a blueprint for how Community Health Services could more effectively connect with and strengthen community stakeholders, including Meals on Wheels, the Alliance for Healthy schools, the Senior Housing Bureau, Interpreter Services, Volunteer Services, among others. And, as a follow-up, Alfreda worked to establish an internal funding initiative to provide resources to community agencies in support of the priorities established in that blueprint.

As an effective public administrator, she has developed and facilitated leadership programs for her own staff and for community leaders—she was a Keynote Speaker at the opening of this semester’s programs under the auspices of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute—and instituted process improvement strategies to ensure that Community Health Services was operating as effectively as possible. She has provided leadership in opening lines of communication between Michigan Medicine and a diverse constituency, including the Comprehensive Gender Services Program, the Program for Multicultural Health, and several different efforts to provide accommodations for patients and visitors while being treated in the Health System.

Of course, I would like to say that none of this surprises me. After all, Alfreda holds an Eastern Michigan University Master of Public Administration degree. But she is special; she is more than we could ever have done in 39 credits of graduate coursework. How do we teach someone to have the awareness of and sensitivity to the needs of the community her agency serves that Alfreda’s career has manifest? What might we have taught that has allowed her to integrate all the efforts of a huge bureaucracy and, with laser-like focus, bring services to a whole range of community agencies across the region? And, all the while keeping her eyes on the need for efficiency and effectiveness in agency operations (well, maybe on this last one, we did make a contribution in our classes).

**Alfreda has recognized and used her personal influence to expand and strengthen the role that Michigan Medicine plays in our community. She has worked creatively and tirelessly to strengthen the connections between the University Health System and people across the region and state.** For all of what she has done, and no doubt will continue to do, we honor Alfreda Rooks, 2020 Outstanding Public Administrator. I for one am proud that we can call her one of our own. Congratulations, Alfreda!



*Congratulations to this year’s*

### PI ALPHA ALPHA INDUCTEES

*We are proud of you and your outstanding academic achievements!*

Emily Meredith Abela

Cameron W. Armstrong

William Bryan

Theodore W. Johnson

Tyler Jones

Jeremiah John Klemann

Marcus Lawniczak

Andrea Martinovská

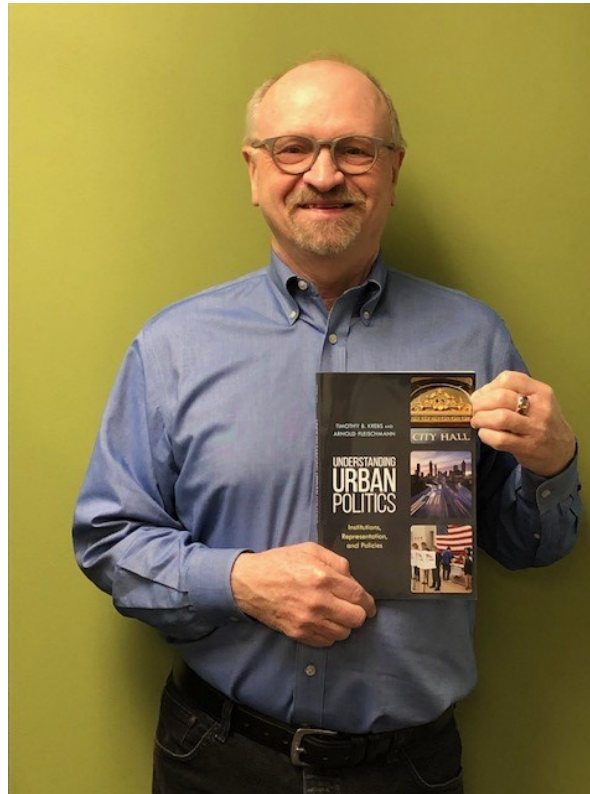
Juliane Vogl

Amelia Yunker

## DR. ARNOLD FLEISCHMANN RETIRES AFTER 11 YEARS AT EMU

Arnold Fleischmann, Ph.D. from the University of Texas, came to Eastern Michigan's Political Science Department as Department Head in the summer of 2009. Over his last 11 years in the department, he has enjoyed the high standards that the faculty holds themselves to along with the quality of teaching that each of them provides. In his time serving as Department Head and as a professor, Dr. Fleischmann has impacted students and faculty through his efforts to continuously improve the department. One of the activities that he enjoyed as Department Head was fundraising for the department and improving the scholarship opportunities available to students. Dr. Fleischmann said, "During my time as department head, we created awards for study abroad and internships and increased the amounts we handed out for scholarships generally." He believes in awarding the continuation of awarding scholarships to students as he has pledged a portion of his estate to future scholarships.

Over his time in the department, Dr. Fleischmann has contributed to hiring vital faculty and staff that he believes are assets to the department. Dr. Fleischmann said, "Despite the reduced size of the department, it was great to be able to hire some wonderful people and watch them succeed. During my time as department head, that included Rose Soliven, Barbara Patrick, and Greg Plagens in public administration." He taught several classes at Eastern Michigan University at the undergraduate level as well as the graduate level. Among the courses he has taught at the undergraduate level are American Government, State and



Dr. Arnold Fleischmann with his new book, *Understanding Urban Politics*

Local Government, and Urban Politics. For the MPA Program, Dr. Fleischmann has taught Urban Development, Local Governments and Politics, and the Research Seminar in Public Administration.

He is wrapping up a successful career with the publication of a new textbook, *Understanding Urban Politics*. Dr. Fleischmann believes the feedback from the students at Eastern Michigan University who used the draft chapters in his class helped improve the book.

Dr. Fleischmann has great plans for his adventure into retirement. One of his plans is to spend time volunteering for causes and organizations instead of just donating money. He also plans to travel and to figure out where he is going to live. Over his time at Eastern Michigan University, Dr. Fleischmann

has impacted many students and faculty members, all who will greatly miss him.

"It has been said being a Department Head at EMU comes with all the responsibility and none of the power," Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein shared. "Arnie proved that wrong, in becoming a powerful Department Head. How? Just simply by being a nice, decent, honest, and honorable man, what my people would call a *mensch*. Turns out, people will come forward to help out a nice guy! I'm grateful for the impact Arnie had in changing the mood and tone of the department, and proud to call him a trusted colleague, and a valued friend."

Dr. Dave Ivers knew what kind of colleague Dr. Fleischmann would be after his first review of his teaching. Based on the evaluation, Dr. Fleischmann could clearly sense how he interacted with his students. "I knew we

were going to get along fine after reading that. That and I have always found him to be unfailingly gracious in our personal and professional relationships," Dr. Ivers explained.

"Arnie's dedication to EMU shows through in almost every way possible," Dr. Gregory Plagens shared. "Future generations of students won't have the opportunity to learn from him in the classroom, but they will learn in an environment that was significantly influenced by his dedication and generosity. I am thankful to have been hired by him and to have learned about the profession from him. His retirement and increased time for leisure activities is much deserved. Best wishes to you in retirement, Arnie!"

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

## A CLOSER LOOK: CRAIG JEFFERSON

2013 EMU Undergraduate Alumnus,  
Public Administration Major

2017 EMU MPA Alumnus

Craig Jefferson is a two-time graduate of the EMU Political Science Department, and he is very grateful for all his experiences at EMU. Today, Craig is the Deputy Director at Tarrant County Child Care Management Services in Fort Worth, Texas, one of the largest child development programs in North Texas. He attributes his career path to the preparation and training that he gained while attending EMU.

Mr. Jefferson is a first-generation college graduate. His journey to where he is today is not typical, nor has it been easy. He never planned to return to college and never envisioned himself with a master's degree in public administration. Before coming to EMU, he didn't even know what public administration was. Before returning to college, Mr. Jefferson was a self-employed licensed realtor, real estate investor, and small business owner. After the Great Recession, he decided to do a total career change and go back to school full-time.

He completed his associate degree in mental health/social work in 2010 at Oakland Community College and then continued his education at EMU. Craig joined the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, headed by then Campus Director Dr. Claudia Petrescu, and received his Certified Nonprofit Professional Certification in 2013. That same year Mr. Jefferson was asked to be a panelist at the "Statewide Forum on Privatization of Prisons, Mass Incarceration and Prison Reform in Michigan," which was held in the EMU Student Center Auditorium. Based on his presentation, the Director of the Flip the Script Program at Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit approached Craig and offered him a job that started immediately after his undergraduate graduation in 2013. Despite a car accident that impacted his first semester in the MPA program, Craig persevered and graduated with his MPA



in 2017.

Mr. Jefferson had the opportunity to meet, learn from, and be mentored by many great professors at EMU. While pursuing his bachelor's degree in public administration, professors like John Fike, Adrian Lottie, Joe Ohren, Claudia Petrescu, and Dave Ivers left Craig with countless memories and life lessons that he will never forget. In graduate school, he met professors like Gregory Plagens, Arnold Fleischmann, Raymond Rosenfeld, and Barbra Patrick, who all contributed a great deal to his professional development and gave him the confidence and support to run for Mayor of the City of Pontiac in 2017. Craig remembers EMU professors always challenging him and his classmates. At that time, they couldn't see the benefits of what their professors were doing and how it unconsciously helped them all to learn skills and competencies many of them use daily in their leadership and management roles in the public and nonprofit sectors today.

### *Craig's Advice for Current Students*

**"Soak up everything you can from the many amazing professors and people from all walks of life and from all over the world that you will meet on your way to becoming an MPA grad. You will find those experiences priceless as you get into your professional life and vocation.**

**Also, take your classes, lectures, one-on-one meetings with professors, and study time very seriously. While some of it might not seem enjoyable at the time, hang in there -- these components will really prepare you for this tough vocation. We so greatly need knowledgeable and competent leaders in the public and nonprofit sectors to guide the way with honesty, integrity, and humility in these very different and changing times we currently and will continue to live in."**

## FEATURED STUDENTS

## BARSON FELLOWSHIP AWARD



Jacob Young, second-year MPA student, was awarded the John Barson Fellowship Award for the 2020-21 academic year. “I am deeply humbled to be receiving the John Barson Fellowship in Public Administration. **I am very grateful for the much needed support this fellowship will provide me as I finish the MPA program. I would like to thank my professors and classmates for challenging me throughout my undergraduate and graduate studies at EMU -- you have made me a better student and public servant.** On top of being an MPA student, I am a father of two boys under the age of 5, and I work full-time at the University of Michigan in Research Administration. My achievements would not be possible without the team I have supporting me: my wife, children, family, friends, and the entire EMU Political Science community.” Jake’s goal is to leverage his broad financial and administrative experience with his MPA to earn a management position in local government and serve his community. “In my current work, I provide contract and grant management for sponsored research projects, many of which are federally funded. Though there are many opportunities in higher education, my heart is in local government.”

## MPA INTERN OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Andrea Martinovská, the MPA Intern of the Year! In the summer of 2019, Andrea interned at the Department of the Middle East and Northern Africa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, where she gained a lot of exposure. **“I am so grateful that I had an opportunity to obtain experience within the highest level of the Czech government,”** Andrea reflects. The internship helped her to gain a better understanding of what she would like to do in her future career. Andrea believes that the internship helped her realize that she is on the right path to achieving her dream career of becoming a career diplomat and serving her beautiful little country. After graduating from the Master of Public Administration program at EMU, Andrea knows she will have the necessary knowledge and understanding of the public administration that is necessary to succeed in the public sector. Andrea shares, “Because of my experience in the United States of America, I hope to get a chance to serve in one of the consulates in the states. No matter where my career will go, I will always use the ideas and values that the MPA program taught me over the past two years.”

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

