

Fall 2017

The Department of Public Administration Newsletter Fall 2017

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THE COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Public Administration Fall 2017 Newsletter

A Message from the Chair



Dr. Celia Watt

Hello MPA Community!

Whether you are a current MPA student, alumni, prospective student, Executive Advisory Committee member or other (family, friend, administration, etc.), you *are* the community that makes our MPA program great.

Our MPA program is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA). NASPAA is the recognized global accreditor of MPA programs and ensures excellence in education and training for public service. Our students are guaranteed to get the gold standard of education.

In this edition, you will see that the department now has an International City County Managers Association Student Chapter, MPA students attended a May conference of the New York State City County Managers Association, we now have an Executive MPA Advisory Board (and are looking for a few more members, so let me know if you are interested), we have dates set for our MPA Speakers Series and Open House, and have welcomed a new class of MPA students.

We hope that this newsletter provides you with a rich variety of news and information.

Best,
Dr. Celia Watt
Chair and Professor, Department of Public Administration
Director, Institute for Poverty Studies and Economic Development
“Like us” on [Facebook!](#)
Connect with us on [LinkedIn](#)
Support the MPA program. [Make your gift today!](#)
Keep current on [our news!](#)

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New MPA Students

This semester we admitted 20 new students. Below are pictures and a brief biography of some students. If you see them walking around the MetroCenter or at one of our social events please introduce yourself and make them feel welcomed!

Welcome!



Muris Avdic wants to improve the health and wellness of inner city communities.



Marc Anthony Bucci works for Camp Good Days & Special Times. Wants to help kids.



Roxanne Carey is a worker's compensation representative. Received a bachelor's degree in Community and Human Service from Empire State College.



Graham Curletts is excited to further his education with Brockport in the MPA community.



Jason France looks forward to studying in a field where he currently makes policy. Hopes the MPA degree will open new pathways to management.



Amber Hainey is a caseworker with Livingston County. Looks forward to continuing her education to open new job opportunities.



Dillon Hall looks forward to starting the MPA program to advance in the nonprofit sector.



Kisner Jean is a social worker and a strong advocate for social justice.

New MPA Students Continued



Gracelyn Granata is a Healthcare Quality and Compliance Specialist for Genesee County Mental Health Services. She is excited to start the program.



Amy Kugler is aspiring to be a director in an Office of International Education on a college campus.



Scott MacPherson is interested in continuing his education after law school, and learning about nonprofits.



Ariel McCollough currently works at Unity Hospital. She loves to read and motivate.



Sidnee McDonald looks forward to what she'll learn in the program.



Mason Meiler joined the MPA program to work in college administration; specifically advisement.



Juan "JL" Muriel is a former Marine Corps Captain seeking local leadership and management opportunities.



Julie Nichols is excited to have the opportunity to advance her leadership skills through the MPA program.



Morgan Seeley got her undergraduate degree from Brockport and is happy to be returning.



Amrit Singh is excited to further his education and meet the students and staff in the MPA program.



Sparkle Wells is looking forward to expanding her career with Brockport's assistance.

Also joining this semester:

Shanelle Hodge
Mariah Montalvo
Stephanie Nawrocki
Logan Peck
Kyli Phillips
Eliza Pionessa
Megan Torres
Zoe Seznec Sweetland

MPA Faculty



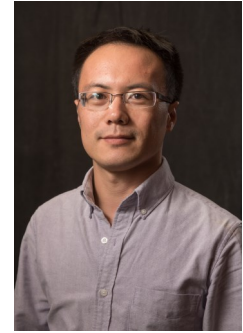
Dr. Celia Watt
Professor & Chair



Dr. Faith Prather
Associate Professor



Dr. Rhucha Samudra
Assistant Professor



Dr. Weijie Wang
Assistant Professor



Dr. Wendy Wright
Lecturer & Associate Chair



Dr. Shihyun Noh
Assistant Professor



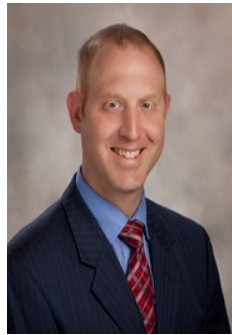
Mr. Phil LaPorta
Adjunct Lecturer



Dr. Bradford Daly
Adjunct Lecturer



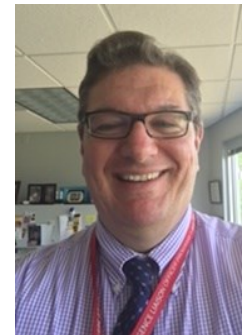
Ms. Nicole Dumbleton
Adjunct Lecturer



Mr. Jason Molino
Adjunct Lecturer



Mr. Alex Kralles
Adjunct Lecturer



Mr. Fred Rion
Adjunct Lecturer



Mr. Josh Bowers
Adjunct Lecturer



Ms. Allyn Stelljes
Adjunct Lecturer



Mr. Thomas Placito
Adjunct Lecturer

MPA Graduate Assistants

Whether you are a new, returning, or prospective MPA student we would like you to have the best experience possible! Your Graduate Assistants host social events and promote student engagement so that our MPA community is close-knit and welcoming. If you have any feedback for events or initiatives please contact us at jgunt1@u.brockport.edu or lluft1@u.brockport.edu. Please be on the lookout for future opportunities.

Joe Gunther

Looking back on my year-plus in the MPA program, I have many more friends and had more positive experiences than I thought I would. I have had the pleasure of working with City of Rochester leaders in two different capacities. The first, as a student working on developing a leadership academy with the Neighborhood Service Center offices. The second, and most current, is as the fall intern in the City's Bureau of Communications. I have the wonderful professors and staff in the program to thank for these opportunities. I hope everyone enjoys this program as much as I have.



Lindsey Luft

This is my second year in the MPA program. I have found myself expanding my horizons more than I had thought I would! I have taken an interest in City Management and was granted the opportunity to have an intern position with the City of Batavia throughout this school year. Our MPA community is genuinely committed to seeing everyone succeed and I hope other students enjoy their time here as much as I have.

Are you someone who is passionate about ending poverty?



Dr. Rhucha Samudra
Assistant Professor
Editor, Poverty Perspectives

Submit your work for a chance to be published in the Department of Public Administration's peer reviewed Journal, **Poverty Perspectives**.

We are excited to launch *Poverty Perspectives* to give faculty, students, staff, and alumni an opportunity to publish in a journal dedicated to poverty alleviation. Contact Dr. Samudra (rsamudra@brockport.edu) for submission details.



The Department of Public Administration houses the College's **Institute for Poverty Studies and Economic Development (IPSED)**. The IPSED's Mission is to better equip the College at Brockport Faculty, Staff, and Students to understand sources of poverty and, in doing so, be able to contribute to poverty alleviation in their communities.

This past year the IPSED co-hosted the *Many Faces of Poverty* conference with Brockport Central School District, launched the *Poverty Matters* speaker's series at the MetroCenter, and in conjunction with the City of Rochester, co-created the *Neighborhood Leadership Development Academy*. Learn more about the IPSED from [The Port](#).



Dr. Celia Watt
Professor & Chair
Director, IPSED

Get involved with your MPA community!

Student Steering Committee

The Student Steering Committee is a place for students to share their feedback about or launch ideas for the Department of Public Administration. Perhaps you would like to see more of a certain type of event or think we should be involved in an event in the Rochester community. This is the place for you to get these types of ideas out there!

Please join us on:

Wednesday October 4th

Wednesday November 1st

Wednesday November 29th

*All meetings will be held at 8:30 p.m. in Seminar Room A in the Grand Hallway of the MetroCenter
(55 Saint Paul St.)*

MPA Pub Night

Pub Nights and other social events are a great way to get to know your peers and alumni. These casual events create a sense of community within our department. Faculty kickoff the year by attending the first Pub Night of the Fall semester and close out the year by attending the End of The Year Celebration.

Don't be shy, come out on a Friday evening and relax!



Students and alumni can network at these events.

Next Pub Night

Friday October 20th
hosted at Salena's
Mexican Restaurant

RSVP [here](#) to let us
know if you will be
joining.



Alumnus Senator Joseph Robach
Current students Joe Gunther and Kisner Jean

MPA Speaker Series

Each semester the department invites members of the professional community to come and share their journeys with us. Often these individuals are alumni who have been exactly where our students are now. Many of our students have expressed that they feel inspired after hearing these talks of shared knowledge and experiences.

Coming up this semester we have:

- ⇒ **Women in Public Safety, October 10th**
- ⇒ **Nonprofit Management, November 8th**

To RSVP to these events and for further details please click [here](#).



Jane Shukitis, MPA Alumna and President and CEO of UR Medicine Home Care

Spring 2017 Speaker Series

Academic Advisement

Dr. Wendy Wright is the primary academic advisor for the Public Administration Department. She is able to answer your questions about course requirements and scheduling.

You should see your advisor:

- ◇ Before registering for classes
- ◇ Changing or declaring your emphasis
- ◇ When you are about to graduate
- ◇ If you need advice on what classes to take

How to contact Dr. Wright:

MetroCenter Room 104
wwright@brockport.edu
(585) 395-5570

WITHDRAW PERIOD WITHOUT CHAIR
PERMISSION ENDS NOVEMBER 3RD

The Spring 2018 course offerings will be available to view the week of October 16th. Registration will open November 6th for Winter and Spring semesters.

A Pi Alpha Alpha member's words of wisdom

Greetings:

To my past and current MPA fellows and current and future members of Pi Alpha Alpha—the Global Honor Society for Public Affairs & Administration and the more than 160 PAA chapters around the world at NASPAA member schools. As the MPA department is yet again embarking upon another exciting and event filled semester, as a MPA graduate and PAA member, I would like to take a few moments to share with you all what my exit was like upon completion of my program. Having majored in Education as an undergraduate, I was trained to write lesson plan objectives in such a way that would clearly show what the student was equipped to do upon completion of the learning experience.



So, upon completion of the MPA program, what is it that I was equipped to do? Upon my exit, I left with significantly sharpened writing skills. It was *drilled into me to say all that I needed to say in as few words as possible, to be succinct. So, I apologize up front for not being verbose. I am a slave to my training, but the trade-off is that I can tout proficiency in writing. Additionally, I have always been somewhat of an independent kind of fellow, a 'lone ranger', if you will, but the exposure to team building and team projects, wherein you were somewhat forced to trust and rely on someone else, and to see yourself as a part and not the whole, has made me a super team player. When, during interviews I boast what a great team player I am, it truly is for real.*

The emphasis placed on cultivating and crystalizing *critical thinking and analytical skills has not only heightened and strengthened my ability to break apart and examine the constituent parts, as a natural outgrowth, my problem-solving skills have reaped the greatest yield. I was taught to not view conflict as some daunting insurmountable thing to shrink in the face of, but to view conflict as an opportunity to challenge yourself to do something different, to build something that has not yet been done before. To borrow from the original French phrase "I think, therefore I am." By the time I exited the MPA program, my whole way of thinking had been completely revolutionized. At the end of the day, that is the ultimate challenge of higher learning—to teach us all how to think.*

These competencies and skillsets have greatly increased and enhanced my market value as a human resource. So, as you enter yet another year, you know what I say? I say aim high, shoot for the moon, and even if you miss, you will still be amongst the stars!

Peace, love, and much success.



Pi Alpha Alpha Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration

- ◇ Students are eligible for PAA after completing 21 credits and a GPA of 3.7 or higher
- ◇ Great resource for networking and career advancement
- ◇ Contact Dr. Watt if you qualify and haven't received your invitation
- ◇ PAA meeting October 10th at 7pm in MetroCenter's Seminar A / B — please come!

MPA Student Spotlight Fall 2017

Sabrina Smith

Hometown: Monticello, New York

Undergraduate College and Major: BS in Health Science

Expected Graduation Date: May 2018

Current Occupation: Peer Educator/Health Advocate for Prevention and Outreach Services at SUNY Brockport



How and why did you decide to apply for The College at Brockport MPA program?

I have always wanted to be a Registered Nurse, but due to some health related challenges I was unable to do so. I was encouraged by my advisor, who at that time was Dr. Fegley, that the MPA program at SUNY Brockport would allow me to continue to working in health care. He also informed me that this program would give me the opportunity to educate and advocate for programs to enhance services to marginalized populations who often fall through the cracks of our health care system. After hearing that I immediately applied to the program, because helping others is something I live for.

What have you enjoyed most about the program so far?

What I enjoy most about this program is the experience that comes with the professors and advisors who teach this program. As a student of the MPA program, I have access to professionals who can give me guidance and direction for my future career plans. To me that is invaluable.

What does your job entail?

My current job entails me creating, evaluating, and presenting programs that are health related as well as deal with social justice issues for The College at Brockport community.

What are your future goals?

My future goal is to work for a health organization and enhance or create programs/policies that remove barriers to service for marginalized populations.

The Department of Public Administration will be honoring one student per month for student spotlight. To see the students featured for the rest of the Fall 2017 semester, please see the bulletin board in the Department of Public Administration hallway.

Toys for Tots

The ICMA Student Chapter will be collecting toys to donate to Toys for Tots. These toys will be given directly to children who otherwise would not have a gift to open during holidays. Collection will begin in mid-October and run through the end of November. The organization asks that toys be new. Some ideas are coloring and reading books, interactive toys, sport toys, and games.





student chapter *SUNY College at Brockport*

Now in its second year, the College at Brockport Student Chapter of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) has many great initiatives planned including:

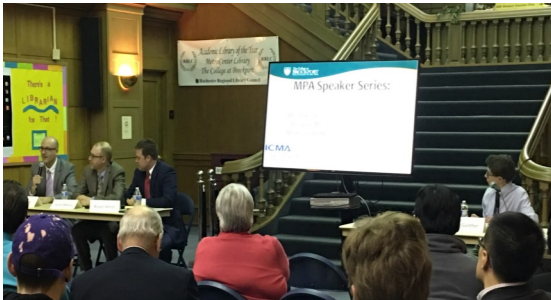
- Toys for Tots Drive
- House build with Habitat for Humanity
- Lunch and Learn on the main campus
- NYSCMA Conference at SUNY Oneonta on Nov. 17

Stay tuned for more information on these and

ICMA Meeting Dates:

- Monday Oct. 30 @ 8:30 pm
- Monday Nov. 27 @ 8:30 pm

All meetings are in Seminar B of the MetroCenter.



MPA Speaker Series Spring 2017 featuring NYCMA members:

- Ian Coyle**, Livingston County Manager
- Jason Molino**, Batavia City Manager
- Bryan White**, Fairport Village Manager

The Student Chapter of ICMA is lucky to have the following leaders:

- **Joe Gunther**, President jgunt1@u.brockport.edu
- **Lindsey Luft**, Executive Vice President lluft1@u.brockport.edu
- **Kirsten Sciandra**, Vice President of Communication kscia1@u.brockport.edu
- **Dawn Footer**, Vice President of Finance dfoot1@u.brockport.edu
- **Bruce Kowiak** and **Amelia Yousey**, Co-Vice Presidents of Engagement bkowi1@u.brockport.edu or ayous2@u.brockport.edu
- **Cara Farrell**, Vice President of Membership cfarr3@u.brockport.edu
- **Celia Watt**, Faculty Advisor cwatt@brockport.edu
- **Ian Coyle**, Chapter Mentor, Livingston County Manager icoyle@co.livingston.ny.us

Students can travel to SUNY Oneonta on 11/17 for the NYSCMA Fall Seminar. Contact Joe or Lindsey for more information.



Students networking with City/County managers at the May 2017 NYSCMA Annual Conference

For more information on the mission of the ICMA national organization, please visit www.icma.org.

For more information of the New York State Chapter of ICMA, please visit www.nyscma.govoffice.com

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining this great organization, contact chapter president Joe Gunther at jgunt1@u.brockport.edu

MPA Affinity Fund and Scholarships

Events such as the Speaker Series, End of the Year Event, and the first Pub Night of the year are all funded through the MPA Affinity Fund. In addition, this fund is used to sponsor student travel and lodging to conferences. It is because of faculty, peer, and advisory board members contributions that our department is able to sponsor such great events and scholarships. If you would like to contribute, please click [here](#).

Thanks to the following who have contributed in 2017 to date!

Hafiz Akram	Current MPA Student
Lindsey Baumler	2016 Alumna
Louis and Linda Betstadt	1970 and 1972 Alumni
Lara Press-Ellingham	2017 Alumna and Executive Advisory Board Member
Ronald Ellingham	1985 Alumnus
Cara Farrell	Current MPA Student
Dawn Footer	Current MPA Student
Mona Haleem	2008 Alumna and Executive Advisory Board Member
Julie Hutchinson	2007 Alumna
Eric Kline	2005 Alumnus
Bruce Kowiak	Current MPA Student
Stephen Lane	2017 Alumnus
Andrea Lanze	2017 Alumna
Steven Lewis	2006 Alumnus
Lindsey Luft	Current MPA Student
Kirsten Martin	2003 Alumna
Emily Marullo	2013 Alumna and Executive Advisory Board Member
Jessica Muratore	2005 Alumna and Executive Advisory Board Member
Kevin Montano	Current MPA Student
Danielle Pierleoni	2015 Alumna and Executive Advisory Board Member
Faith Prather	MPA Faculty
Robert Richardson	2017 Alumnus
Rochester Global Connections	Executive Director, Cecelia Hencke – 2017 Alumnus
Irene Sanchez Valentin	Current MPA Student
Robert Scanlon II	2015 Alumnus and Executive Advisory Board Member
John and Lori Schrenker	1997 and 1990 Alumni
Joseph Serio	2017 Alumnus
Erica Shaw	2017 Alumnus
Jane Shukitis	1993 Alumnus
Holly Smith	2017 Alumnus
Jordan Stenzel	2013 Alumnus and Executive Advisory Board Member
Sheila Strong	2004 Alumnus
Weijie Wang	MPA Faculty
Celia Watt	MPA Faculty
Wendy Wright	MPA Faculty
John Zwierzynski	1985 Alumnus