



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
School of Public Affairs
and Administration

Public SPAAce

A Newsletter for Friends of the Western Michigan University
School of Public Affairs and Administration

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SPAA Alumnus Leading the Way in the Use of Innovative Economic Development Strategies

SPAA graduates provide public service in a variety of sectors. The ability of alumni to affect policy and practice decisions creates “waves of influence” and “creative boundary crossings.” One of these alumni is Eric Schertzing, the current Ingham County Treasurer and Chairman of the Ingham County Land Bank. Eric, who graduated from the M.P.A. program in 2000, agreed to answer questions about his career in public service by interviewing with graduate assistant Jonathan Arneberg.

How has your M.P.A. degree proven to be an asset for you in your career as an elected official?

Honestly, I didn't see any difference for me as an elected official versus anybody else in public service. When I knew that I wanted to pursue a graduate degree, I took a look at what the area's different M.P.A. programs had to offer. I was looking for a program that was very hands-on and focused because I was Chief County Drain Commissioner at the time. Elected local government is very hands on, much more so than the state or federal government. What I saw from the Western's M.P.A. program was that it seemed very hands-on, and indeed it proved to be, which made the experience much more “real.” I'm a very experiential person and I believe that although you can plan, read, write, study, and predict, until you actually do it, you lack the understanding of how it all really works.

I think it was just thinking more deeply about the responsibility of the public position. You go to college and you get a general body of knowledge – you learn how to learn, how to figure stuff out. That may or may not be applicable to whatever job you end up doing in the world. Now I attended MSU's James Madison College, with interest in political science, and I've been surrounded by that all these years, but I think the WMU M.P.A. provides an opportunity to go beyond the general and get into the specific and really think about not only how we do things

but why we do those things the way we do. The Western experience and the faculty were certainly able to expose the students to theory and lay down those foundations to understand why we do a lot of the things the way we do.



Eric Schertzing

Considering the nationwide recession and economic climate here in Michigan, what sort of challenges have you had to face as Treasurer?

The Treasurer's job is actually one that increases in volume as the economy gets tough – we have more delinquent taxpayers, more foreclosures. So that extra workload in a reasonably stable county like Ingham brings in more revenue, which can be both good and bad.

The other thing a county treasurer does is invest our idle funds. We've gone from 6% interest rates that generated a couple million dollars to the general fund to under a 1% interest rate that generates considerably less. So that is one of the budgetary challenges we have to face.

In anticipation of all of that, I think the most innovative thing we've gotten into is the Land Bank. We worked hard in 2005 to bring the county-wide community together to establish the second county land bank in Michigan, with the one set up in Genesee County being the first. The interesting thing is that if you think about the world as of 2005, things were going relatively well, although Michigan certainly was having its struggles because of the auto industry, but the issues that the land bank is dealing with today were pretty hard, if not impossible, for any of us to conceive back then.

Not everyone may know about land banks so could you please describe the purpose of the Ingham County Land Bank and your role?

I think fundamentally it is an economic development tool. County treasurers, when they tax foreclosed parcels, historically auction those parcels off to the highest bidder. Now I grew up on a farm in the southeastern part of the county, and auctions were something I'd go to on the weekends with my father as a child. Auctions were a good way to get rid of used farm equipment, but I believe that real property is something that should not be just auctioned off. Then, though, you face the challenge of how to deal with those properties if you aren't going to auction them away. The land bank is a way to slow down that process and think more about what that property means, what that property's surrounding area has been through, and what we can do to take that property and turn it into an asset, instead of a liability, for the neighborhood.

The community gets to, county by county, make that decision on what they want their land bank to be. We focus a lot on housing mainly because in 2005, Michigan was 48th out of 50 in the public investment of housing. That was a signal to me that we should think about a public entity doing more with housing. So really the land bank represents a culmination of community interests, passions, desires, and risk tolerance.

As the chair of the land bank, I'm very hands on. Elected officials can make some things happen more quickly, and sometimes they can slow things down. But on the administrative side, like as a county treasurer or land bank chair, we can also speed them up because we can garner more attention more quickly. So with the land bank, I try to use it as a taller soap box, or louder megaphone, to make sure that attention is paid on the important activities. In fact, we try to have the land bank operate not like a government body at all, but instead operate at the speed of business.

Community-level economic development practices are not without controversy. Some people question whether it is appropriate for government to use tax foreclosures as a community development tool. What do you think is the appropriate role of government in this manner, especially considering the fiscal health of most Michigan communities?

The market has already failed these properties. If the market is functional in a community for a property, we never have to see that property, which would be the best outcome possible. But really this isn't a change in how things are done, but just a shift. What the old process essentially caused was the profits to be privatized and the losses be heavily publicized. Now the land bank and our efforts are trying to make sure that the public, the government, isn't always stuck with only the losses. We try to take some of the better properties, as well as the worst properties, and combine them together more holistically and deal with them all together.

It is important to keep in perspective that what we're doing in the land bank is infinitesimally smaller than the private sector. We have a capitalistic society and economy much more powerful than anything we should or could ever do. But what we can do is act as a catalyst, provide properties and homes that represent what people in communities can aspire to, and when dealing with the commercial side, act like just another economic development tool. Although we will own the property rather than somebody else, it is still available for sale, the market will determine the price, and the market will ultimately determine when that property will be absorbed back into the private sector. I don't think the community is losing from our efforts, in fact, I know it is not, and I don't think capitalism is being compromised by our efforts.

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The Graffiti Art Project at the Deluxe Inn in Lansing drew artists from around the country and well over 3,000 visitors.

Also, I think it's important to consider the magnitude of what is going on in different Michigan communities. Although Genesee County gets talked about more than Ingham since it was the state's first county land bank, we're much different stories, communities, and the market has created for us much different realities. This year I had about 270 tax foreclosures – a higher number than historically, but still manageable. In Genesee, they had almost 3,000 while only being about 50% larger than Ingham. So the level at which the market has given up on properties, or the level at which any of our efforts are intervening, is completely different in these communities, regardless of the decisions that we've made.

The SPAA is always looking for examples of students and alumni promoting innovation in the public sector. Tell me about some of the Land Bank's more innovative projects.

We've done some really innovative things involving the arts, like the Graffiti Art Project at the former Deluxe Inn in Lansing. We invited graffiti artists from around the country to paint the dilapidated structure, to serve not only as a public gallery and call attention to graffiti as an art form, but to address the real concern of blight in the city of Lansing. The Deluxe Inn could have sat there, blighted, pulling down the neighborhood as an eyesore and being known as a haven for crime, but the market failed that property and instead we were able pull it out from that downward spiral. We knew it was an intriguing idea, but it provided a completely unexpected positive. Sometimes you can work real hard to get 10 people to show up to an event, but the graffiti art project was organic, spontaneous, and self-propelled, with over 3,000 people showing up that weekend to participate.

We're also working on a garden project initiative in collaboration with the Greater Lansing Foodbank Garden Project. We were able to help them to expand their community gardens by over 25% last year, and we're continuing those efforts this year. Taking land in an urban area that would have been unproductively grown grass, we have helped to engage neighbors and community and turn it into something that provides

nourishment and eliminates some of the food-desert areas we have in town. I refer to that as "monetizing" the land. You can take land that is essentially free, use it to grow and sell vegetables, and instead of being just a patch of grass in a neighborhood, it becomes a source of income for people in that community to help them lift themselves up. A thousand or two dollars of additional income to lower income families is a fairly significant boost to their household income. We have hundreds of opportunities, just in Lansing, for some entrepreneurs with a green thumb to not only receive the benefit of eating better, but to generate cash from land that would otherwise go unused.



The Urbandale Farm Stand where produce is sold as part of the Lansing Urban Farm Project in collaboration with the Ingham County Land Bank and other local partners.

Do you have any advice for new M.P.A. graduates hoping to pursue a career in economic development?

I think it is the place to be and there are tremendous opportunities, but it is also hard work and you need to be dedicated to be successful. But I think that getting intimately involved in your community and the with issues that hold it back is very rewarding, while also providing tremendous opportunities. Michigan is a great state with great attributes, although we've lost sight of some of that, but I believe the solution needs to be more entrepreneurial and involve more economic development initiatives. I think you can create your own job and your own future by getting involved and attempting to figure out the issues that need to be taken on and then working hard to address them.

SPAA Honored for Excellence in Diversity



In April, the SPAA was honored with one of the inaugural Excellence in Diversity Awards. The awards program, sponsored by the WMU Office of Diversity and Inclusion, celebrates the accomplishments of faculty, staff, students, units, departments and teams that contribute to diversity and inclusion through exemplary leadership. Recipients represent outstanding, exceptional or extraordinary individuals and groups engaged in initiatives and innovations in such areas as teaching, research, programs and services.

The SPAA was honored at the event, which was held on April 6 in the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom along with seven other recipients, for its diversity initiatives within the M.P.A. program. Over the past year, the SPAA has performed a comprehensive review of all courses within the M.P.A., modifying course content where possible to include diversity, while also exploring ten social identity factors within the curriculum. In addition, the SPAA has been able to demonstrate its dedication to increasing diversity on campus by obtaining donor funding for multicultural education opportunities and forums, increasing the percentage of minority and international students in the M.P.A. program, and approving an SPAA Diversity Plan and Guidelines Pertaining to Faculty Diversity.



Nonprofit Leadership Students Provide Grants to Local Organizations

On April 14, over \$14,000 was granted to five Kalamazoo and Battle Creek area organizations by the students enrolled in PADM 4000, Seminar in Nonprofit Leadership.

- **Guardian Finance and Advocacy Services** received \$3,000 from Michigan Campus Compact's Pay It Forward Grant Program to provide financial literacy training for individuals who are struggling with economic self-sufficiency and working to reduce or eliminate their dependency on public assistance.
- **Community Homeworks** received a \$1,500 grant from Michigan Campus Compact's Pay It Forward Grant Program to expand its home education program to better address energy conservation, weatherization and financial security.
- **Family & Children Services** was granted \$4,000 from the School of Public Affairs and Administration donors to provide tutoring services to children in foster care, as this vulnerable population of children experience an average of one to two years of disruption in education each time they are placed into a different home.
- The **Oakwood Neighborhood Association** was chosen to receive \$2,000 from the School of Public Affairs and Administration donors to continue its six week Youth Summer Art Drop In for "at risk" youth by providing a stipend for an art instructor and two teen leaders and art supplies for the youth.
- The **Comstock Community Center** was awarded \$4,000 by the School of Public Affairs and Administration donors to provide stress management and leadership development workshops for Comstock teens.

Fulbright Scholar from Angola Joins M.P.A Program

The School of Public Affairs has a very diverse student population, with students hailing from nations scattered around the globe. This is owed, in part, to the fact that the SPAA is fortunate to have several international students that have been awarded scholarships as part of the Fulbright Student Program. The Fulbright Program, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, is the nation's largest international exchange program and awards candidates grants covering all or part of their travel, living expenses, books, health insurance, and tuition. The Fulbright Program not only offers students the chance to study in the United States, but it also provides institutions, like Western Michigan University, with the opportunity to welcome diverse individuals into its community.

Manuel Soque is a current M.P.A. student and Fulbright Scholar. Manuel, who comes to WMU from the African country of Angola, brings with him a set of experiences and perspectives that adds to the diversity present in the program. Because of this, graduate assistant Jonathan Arneberg interviewed Manuel, asking him questions regarding WMU, the Fulbright Program, and how his background has helped to shape not only his future career goals, but also who he is as a person.

Please tell me a little about your background.

I was born and grew up in one of the most impoverished neighborhoods of Luanda province, the capital of Angola, in southern Africa. I did all my elementary education up to my bachelor degree in Angola, having majored in Languages, Literature and Administration at the Catholic University of Angola. My commitment to my studies helped me to be in the honor roll of the Catholic University of Angola each year and I was awarded a full internal scholarship by Sonangol, a state owned oil company, for being top student of my faculty for two consecutive years. During my time at the Catholic University, I was also teaching at an elementary school, teaching Portuguese to expatriates, as well as tutoring English to Angolans and an Italian diplomat. Because of having strong French language communication skills, in addition to Portuguese and English, in the third year of my undergraduate I had the opportunity to do an internship with TOTAL

Exploration and Production Angola, a French oil company operating in offshore Angola. At TOTAL, I was able to apply and enhance my knowledge in translation and human resources capacity.

When I finished my undergraduate studies, I joined BP in the Health, Safety and Environmental Department where I worked as a translator and document controller for some time. Due to my law background and my commitment to work, I was promoted to HSE Legal Compliance Advisor, where I liaised with several departments such as Drilling and Completion, Logistics, HR, Seismic, Operations, IT and Legal to implement the compliance management system in BP Angola. After receiving training in Johannesburg, South Africa in the field of behavioral safety improvement, my professional life in BP was divided between health, safety and environmental legal compliance issues and occupational safety. Working for BP was a window of opportunity to the world because I was able to constantly communicate with co-workers based in UK and other parts of the world. I was still working for BP when I was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to further my education in the United States. I confess that it was not an easy decision to make between quitting my job and coming here. However, my desire to constantly seek knowledge, and in a country such as the United States with outstanding educational system, it was my first choice. I feel sad because of the very limited number of Fulbright scholarships offered to Angolans, but I also feel honored for being the only Angolan Fulbright candidate selected for 2010-2012 among such a very smart and experienced group of candidates.



Fulbright Scholar Manuel Soque

For most of its existence as an independent nation, your home country has experienced civil war. It wasn't until 2002, after almost three decades of conflict, there was finally peace. How has this history of turmoil in Angola influenced your decision to enter public service?

Thank you for asking me this question! Yes, after receiving independence from the Portuguese, Angola got involved in one of the longest and most devastating civil wars of modern history which lasted 27 years. The civil war coupled with the colonial era not only had negative repercussions in terms of human lives, but also it negatively impacted the country's strategic sectors of the economy such as agriculture, industry, tourism, education and public works, just to mention a few examples.

Also, having grown up in one of the most impoverished neighborhoods of Luanda province, and having faced and seen people facing many difficulties, especially in regards to having access to the very basic resources such as clean water, electricity, education, health care and jobs, it inspired me to pursue education and a career in the field of public administration. By working directly with the government or with a governmental partner, I believe that I can contribute in the formulation and implementation of strategic and sound public policies that best help translate governmental ideas into real programs and projects in order to mitigate the problems that Angola faces.

What are your future career goals once you finish your studies here at WMU?

After I finish my M.P.A. program I intend to use both my academic and my previous professional experience to join the Angolan government working either for the Ministry of Planning, or any other ministry, in the formulation and implementation of public policy and solving problems that can have a positive impact on Angolan lives. Also, as a plan B, I plan to join a multinational company operating in Angola which has a sustainable development department or even a governmental and international affairs department so that I can serve as a bridge and influence public policies and programs to improve people's lives. I also intend to continue be an active member of my community by continuing to volunteer with the Angola Mosquito Net Project, a non-profit organization committed to malaria prevention across Angola. I am certain that after completing my M.P.A. program at WMU and by being exposed to experts in my field of study, I will be prepared for the challenges of the future. Also, by

pursuing my M.P.A. at WMU with a concentration in Human Resources, I will obtain both government and management expertise, which I believe constitutes an excellent combination.

How do you imagine the Fulbright program and your future M.P.A. degree will help you in achieving those goals?

First of all, being a Fulbright has been such a great experience because it has given me the opportunity to be in the United States and pursue a high quality education. However, the meaning of being a Fulbright Scholar goes beyond the pursuit of education. I see it as a tool to experience leadership. For example, the Fulbright Enrichment Seminars are excellent tools because

Fulbright scholars are involved in different innovative projects and community service which helps students to enhance their leadership and

teamwork skills. As I said earlier, doing the M.P.A. program at WMU will help me to obtain scientific knowledge in both government related matters and management in such a way that I consider my M.P.A. degree and the Fulbright Program a perfect marriage. Therefore, both my M.P.A. and the Fulbright program are relevant for the accomplishment of my short, intermediate and long-term goals.

What are your early impressions of WMU's M.P.A. program, as well as life here in the United States?

Since the very beginning I have had an excellent impression of the M.P.A. program at WMU because of its diversity when it comes to area of concentrations, which gives the students plenty of options and allows us students to study what we are really passionate about. Furthermore, having an M.P.A. program accredited by a prestigious institution such as the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration also influenced me to choose this university. Being at WMU and in the United States has helped me to navigate in such a diverse cultural environment in which I have the opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds, therefore shaping my view of the world. I am very delighted and thankful to the Fulbright program, through the Institute of International Education, for sending me to WMU and also to all my friends, both Americans and internationals, for making my stay in the United States so pleasant. Moreover, I would like to express my appreciation to the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Western Michigan University for reserving me some space in its newsletter.

Pi Alpha Alpha Inductees

In January, the following students were inducted into the Western Michigan University chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha, the national honor society of students in public affairs and administration. Induction into the society recognizes a student's excellence in studying and practicing public administration. Congratulations!

- **Jonathan D. Arneberg**, Mason.
- **Paul A. Colligan**, Dewitt.
- **Sarah M. Davis**, East Lansing.
- **Nicholas M. Evans**, Okemos.
- **Julie A. Lowman**, Lansing.
- **Cortney E. Schaffer**, Grand Rapids.
- **Ann-Marie L. Smith**, Lansing.
- **Heather L. Sturtz**, Lansing.

*More information about Pi Alpha Alpha can be found on the organization's website:
<http://www.naspaa.org/initiatives/honor.asp>*

Margaret & Leo Stine Scholarship

The SPAA congratulates Malissa Trevino of Lansing for being the 2011 recipient of the Margaret and Leo Stine Endowed Memorial Scholarship in Public Affairs and Administration. Malissa was chosen from a number of applicants by a faculty committee from the SPAA. The Stine Scholarship is awarded to students who can show that their career objectives will enhance the capacity of public, nonprofit, or health care organizations to carry out their missions.



Malissa Trevino

M.P.A. Scholar Awards

The M.P.A. Scholar Awards and the M.P.A. Emerging Student Awards were created by the SPAA faculty in February 2010 to recognize the outstanding efforts of students pursuing the M.P.A. Courses both in the M.P.A. core and in the concentrations have been designated to identify award winners. Criteria for awards are specific to each course but generally require a student earn a BA or A grade in the course and exhibit high academic achievement. Full details on the program and awarding criteria can be found on the SPAA website, www.wmich.edu/spaa. The SPAA faculty is pleased to congratulate the following award winners for Fall 2010:

- **Best Project Paper Award** - **Scott Hershberger**, Albion.
- **Local Government Award** - **Vincent Delgado**, Lansing.
- **Nonprofit Governance Award** - **Sarah Davis**, East Lansing.

CAHEN Award Winner

The SPAA congratulates Vincent Delgado of Lansing for being the SPAA recipient of the Capital Area Higher Education Network (CAHEN) Outstanding Adult Learner Award. Each year, CAHEN member institutions search for outstanding adult students whose accomplishments in higher education and contributions to the community merit recognition.

Completed Project Papers

The Project Paper (PADM 6800) is the capstone requirement of the M.P.A. It provides students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of public administration in the completion of an original research project and analysis. The SPAA is pleased to recognize the following students for their accomplishment in completing their Project Paper in Fall 2010:

- **Emily Arndt**, Kalamazoo, “An Assessment of Perceived Barriers and Incentives to Participation in a Comprehensive Employee Wellness Program”
- **Jessica Austin**, Okemos, “Shelter from the Storm: Companion Animal Emergency Planning in Nine States”
- **Thomas Bucholz**, Grand Ledge, “Public Expectation of Government During Crisis Events: How Does Crisis Impact Public Confidence in Government Service?”
- **Patrick Essenmacher**, Perry, “The Rise of Low-Profit Companies: Comparative Social Enterprise Movements”
- **Doreen Harrison**, Bronson, “A Responsive Evaluation of a Domestic Violence Rapid Re-Housing Program”
- **James Hensley**, Okemos, “Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Perceptions of Tasers”
- **Scott Hershberger**, Albion, “Measuring Service Quality Within a Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Information Technology Department”
- **Adetunji Ilori**, Portage, “Effectiveness of Fall Prevention Technology on Patient Falls in the Nursing Home Setting”
- **Richard Payne**, Kalamazoo, “Evaluating Homelessness in Michigan”
- **John Robertson**, Union City, “Understanding Obesity in Adolescent Children in Hillsdale County, Michigan”
- **Joanne Roehm**, Grand Rapids, “Social Media as a Fundraising Tool for Nonprofits: Measuring Effectiveness and Determining Best Practices for use of Facebook’s Causes Application”
- **Nina Smith**, East Leroy, “The Effects of Property Turnover in a Down Housing Market on Taxable Values”
- **Michael Stuart**, Pleasant Lake, “Are Tasers an Effective Device to Restrain Suspects Who are Resisting Arrest?”
- **Paul Transue**, Elgin, Ill., “A Comparison of the Similarities and Differences of Airport Concession Practices Between a Privatized and a Public Airport”

A list of completed project papers is now available online! Head over to www.wmich.edu/spaa to see the topics of our students’ research projects.

Guest Lecturer on Health Policy

On March 23rd, Laura Appel, Vice President for Federal Policy and Advocacy for the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA), hosted Dr. Higbea and the students from his PADM 6530 Health Policy Analysis class to a presentation and discussion on health policy development and analysis. During the presentation, Ms. Appel described her career progression through several policy and advocacy agencies that ultimately led to her current position with the MHA. During the presentation, she also reviewed the implementation time line for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (HR 3590 – 111 Congress), the various provisions that are anticipated to become modified in the near future, and the process she followed to get specific language included under the “measurement of quality” section of the Act. Following the presentation, Ms. Appel engaged several students as they discussed policy questions and received career development tips.



Laura Appel (back row, center) with students from PADM 6530, Health Policy Analysis

Faculty Publications & Promotions

- **Dr. Barbara S. Liggett** presented “Ethical Dilemmas, Frameworks, and Decisions – Changing the Approach” as part of the Teaching Ethics Reports From the Classroom Symposium at the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society at Western Michigan University, March 16, 2011. Earlier in March, Dr. Liggett was a national examination reviewer in the areas of polity and Greek language for the Presbyterian Church USA. On January 26, 2011, Dr. Liggett conducted a workshop titled “Get a Committee that Works with (not against) You – It’s Your Choice” sponsored by the WMU Graduate College.
- In February 2011, **Dr. Raymond Higbea** presented the “Calhoun County Dental Partnership” to the International Conference on Health, Wellness, and Society at the University of California Berkeley Campus.
- In March 2011, **Ms. Janice Maatman** facilitated a training for new Campus Executive Directors of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (formerly American Humanics) in San Diego. The training was in conjunction with the Benchmark 3.5 (2011 Conference on Nonprofit and Philanthropic Studies) sponsored by Nonprofit Academic Centers Council (NACC).
- **Dr. Matthew S. Mingus** presented “Developing Federalism in Iraq: Reflections on Promoting Multilevel Governance” at the March 2011 ASPA National Conference in Baltimore. In his affiliation with the Naval Postgraduate School, he presented “From Post-Saddam Governance to Post-Election Iraq” and “The New Iraqi Government and its Impact on US-Iraqi Relations through 2012” to four Advisory and Assistance Brigades deploying to Iraq. Dr. Mingus received a WMU Support for Faculty Scholars Award for “The Bridge to Somewhere: Why Now?” to study the cross-border networks supporting and opposing an additional bridge between Detroit and Windsor, the most active border crossing in the world.



Liggett



Higbea



Maatman



Mingus



Peters



Wagle

- In April 2011, **Dr. Robert Peters** was the Chair and Discussant for the Considering Curricular and Department-level Issues Panel at the Midwest Political Science Association Meeting in Chicago. At the same conference, Peters presented the paper “An Analysis of Variables Affecting Student Preferences for Rote Memorization/Stimulus-Response Learning.” The paper is coauthored with Dr. Raymond Higbea. In March, Peters presented the paper “Linking Mission, Goals and Objectives to Admission Criteria, Pedagogy and Course Content” at the 2011 ASPA Conference.
- In January 2011, **Dr. Udaya Wagle** published “Working Poverty in Michigan, 1998/1999 and 2007/2008: Changes in the Magnitudes, Role of Transfer, and Socio-Demographic Characteristics” in the Social Science Journal. In 2010, Wagle published two articles including “Economic Inequality in the ‘Democratic’ Nepal: Dimensions and Political Implications” in the Journal of International Development in July and “Does Low Inequality Cause Low Poverty? Evidence from High Income and Developing Countries” in Poverty & Public Policy in April. In 2011, Wagle also published a book review of “Rich Democracies, Poor People: How Politics Explain Poverty” by David Brady (Oxford University Press) in the International Journal of Social Welfare. Wagle has also presented a number of publications including “Variations in Social Policy Extensiveness Across OECD Countries: Is Population Heterogeneity a Credible Explanation?” at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago in April, “The Additive or Synergistic and Interactive Effects of Human Development on Economic Inequality: Evidence from a Cross-National Analysis” at the February Eastern Economic Association Conference in New York City, and a November 2010 presentation of “Promoting Economic Security among Low Income Families: The Role of Food Stamps in Employment, Income, and Poverty” at the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management Conference. Wagle was also named an Editorial Board Member of Poverty & Public Policy (Berkeley Electronic Press) and “Encyclopedia of Quality of Life Research” (Springer).

Meet Our New Part-time Faculty

The School of Public Affairs and Administration at Western Michigan University welcomes its newest faculty members.

Summer **Dr. Dale Howe** taught for the SPAA in the past and received his Ph.D. in public administration from WMU. He has extensive experience in public management. His expertise in computers and technology is a valuable resource for our students.

Mr. Scott MacCallum is a CPA with an M.S. in accounting from Grand Valley State University. Although Mr. MacCallum has experience as an accountant in the private sector, he also works as an auditing specialist for governmental and not-for-profit entities. With his expertise in budgeting and accounting for nonprofit organizations, Mr. MacCallum makes a great addition to the SPAA.

Ms. Nancy McKeague has 20 years service as the Vice President of the Michigan Health and Hospital Association as well as serving as President of the Michigan Insurance Federation. Ms. McKeague, who earned her SPHR Certification and has an M.S.A. from Central Michigan University, brings expertise in human resources, nonprofit leadership, and health care administration.

Fall **Ms. Linda Burghardt**, who earned her M.P.A. from Michigan State University, brings to the classroom her extensive knowledge of government relations. Ms. Burghardt is currently the Executive Director of the National Alliance for Mental Illness Michigan, a statewide advocacy, education and support organization for individuals with mental illness diagnoses. Ms. Burghardt has also held positions as Legislative Analyst for the Michigan State Senate and Government Relations Director for the National Association of Social Workers.

Dr. Evelyn Winfield-Thomas is very familiar with WMU as she is currently the Associate Director of WMU's Office of Institutional Equity and previously served as the Director of the University Counseling and Testing Center. In addition, Dr. Winfield-Thomas is a licensed clinical psychologist. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Southern Illinois University and M.A. in General Psychology from the University of Northern Iowa.

Dr. Preston Hicks brings to the SPAA expertise in the areas of nonprofit and philanthropic fund raising and grantsmanship. Dr. Hicks, who earned his Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Michigan and an M.Ed. in counseling from the University of Virginia, is a licensed professional counselor and has over a dozen years experience as a development director in higher education.

Professional Recognition at ASPA

The SPAA was well represented by faculty, alumni, and a doctoral student at the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA) 2011 National Conference held March 11-15 in Baltimore. At the conference, both Dr. Matthew Mingus and Dr. Robert Peters presented papers (see Faculty Publications and Promotions). Four SPAA Ph.D. alumni also presented papers, including Dr. Anna Filipova (Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh) who presented "Ethical Climate and Perceived Organizational Support in For-Profit, Nonprofit, and Government Nursing Homes"; Dr. Anne Hacker (Instructor, Walden University) who presented "Online Education and Affirmative Action: Access to the Dream"; Dr. Anne Zahradnik (Assistant Professor, Marist College) who presented "Using Media Frames to Analyze International Influence on U.S. Health Care Debates"; and Dr. Alexander Dawoody (Assistant Professor, Marywood University) who presented "Self-Organization as a Paradigm Shift in U.S. Mideast Policy." In addition, K.P. Pelleran (MPA, 2009 and current Ph.D. student) presented on "The Relationship Between Witnessed Bullying and Violence Among Michigan Middle and High School Students" and moderated a roundtable on the topic. **WMU SPAA makes its presence known!**

Alumni News

- In November 2010, WMU alumnus **Jim Bredin** was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as Assistant Asian Carp Director of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. As the assistant to the “Asian carp czar,” Jim, who graduated from Western with a master’s degree in environmental education, will help to oversee the \$80 million federal response to the threat posed by these fish on the Great Lakes.
- The SPAA congratulates **Mark Heydlauff**. Mark, a 2010 graduate of the M.P.A. program, was appointed City Manager of Bronson, Mich., by the City Council this past November.
- In March 2011, M.P.A. graduate **Juli Liebler** ('97) was sworn in as East Lansing’s newest Chief of Police. Juli had been serving as interim police chief since October after the departure of Tom Wibert, also a WMU M.P.A. graduate.
- 1988 DPA graduate, **Dr. Gondy B. Rao**, passed away on March 22, 2011 at the age of 77. Dr. Rao retired as the Director of Financial Analysis and Chief Financial Economist of the Michigan Public Service Commission, and was also a professor and teacher. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Gondy and their two children, Dr. Vani Avula and Dr. Sudhir Rao.
- In February, a unanimous vote by the Ingham Regional Medical Center’s Board of Directors appointed **Patrick Salow**, a 1989 graduate of WMU’s M.P.A. program, to serve as the hospital’s interim CEO. Patrick had been serving as the manager of Ingham Regional Orthopedic Hospital.
- **Paul Todd**, age 68, passed away on February 27, 2011 in Anchorage, Alaska. Paul, a 1981 M.P.A. graduate, was a former Kalamazoo Gazette reporter who moved to Alaska to become the Services Coordinator for the Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau. For the past 18 years, Paul worked for several law firms as a paralegal. Paul was an active volunteer in his community, serving as a ski instructor for Challenge Alaska Adaptive Ski and Snowboard School, an instructional school for skiers with disabilities. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Mary.
- Congratulations to Ph.D. graduate **Dr. Christine Wallace**. Dr. Wallace ('04) was promoted to the role of Executive Director of Product Development at Laureate Higher Education Group in Baltimore. In this role she will oversee two academic domains as well as the Multilingual Product Development Team.

NASPAA Site Review

The WMU M.P.A. program is a nationally accredited program through the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA). Every seven years, the SPAA engages in a review with a team of academicians and practitioners from around the United States to ensure the program is adhering to the requirements of the accreditation. In February, the SPAA was host to a NASPAA team. We will hear about our reaccreditation during summer 2011.

Special thanks to the members of the NASPAA review team:

- **Dr. Steven Ott**, University of Utah
- **Dr. Shamima Ahmed**, Northern Kentucky University
- **Dr. Mary Hamilton**, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Let us hear from you!

Send updates to cpa_spaa@wmich.edu



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