

# Public SPAAce

A Newsletter for Friends of the School of Public Affairs & Administration

## 2008 College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Achievement Award recipient

Karen Aldridge-Eason has been named Alumni Achievement Award recipient by the School of Public Affairs and Administration for 2008.



Aldridge-Eason is the Foundation Liaison for the State of Michigan. A joint appointment by Governor Granholm and the Council of Michigan Foundations; she serves in the Governor's Cabinet. The establishment of the Office of Foundation Liaison within the Executive Office marked the nation's first formal state/philanthropic partnership. The office is funded through the support of 15 Michigan foundations, with in-kind support from the State of Michigan.

Aldridge-Eason is on loan to the State of Michigan from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation where she works with the Governor, Executive staff, state officials, foundations and the business community to help increase strategic partnerships and collaborations between state government and foundations in a particularly tight economic climate.

Her early career includes mission

work in West Africa. She has extensive experience in public service, both in state and local government before joining the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

Aldridge-Eason earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from the University of Michigan, and received a Master's of Public Administration from Western Michigan University. She is serving a three-year term as chair of the board of trustees of the Genesys Health System/Genesys Regional

Medical Center, Grand Blanc, Mich; she currently is a member of the board of directors of Tapology, Inc., a Flint-based dance program for youth; and just recently ended her 10 years of service on the board of directors of the Michigan Public Health Institute. Aldridge-Eason has served on several other local, state and national boards and committees and has been recognized for her work locally as well as nationally. She is a life-time member of the WMU Alumni Association. Aldridge-Eason and her husband, Greg Eason, reside in the city of Flint.

## Student Events

- Upcoming Open House in Lansing: WMU President Dr. John M. Dunn will be at a "networking and refreshments" event for students and alumni at the Lansing campus on Jan. 20 from 4-6 p.m.. He'll be there with Dr. Judith Cardenas, Director of the LCC University Center; Teresa Kmetz, President & CEO of the Capital Area United Way (and M.P.A. student!); representatives from the Michigan Capital Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration; and many others. Contact K.P. Pelleran at (517) 371-3565 or [kppelleran@fight-crime.org](mailto:kppelleran@fight-crime.org) for more information.
- Federal Careers Mixer: Amy Corder (M.P.A., '04) and Greg Shanley (M.P.A., '04) discussed career opportunities in the federal government and how to use the [usajobs.com](http://usajobs.com) system to apply for federal positions at a student mixer on Oct. 8. Dr. Kevin Corder, chair of WMU's Department of Political Science also shared information on the Presidential Management Fellows program.

# Message from the Director



Matthew S. Mingus  
SPAA Director

Never before has it been so clear on the evening news, night after night, how important good governance is to our society. The bad news is that my small retirement fund is valued a third less than

it was at the end of the second quarter. The good news is that far more people are discussing the key role of government, and whether or not recent actions reach too far in the direction of socialism or fail to be aggressive enough to help out the average citizen. These are indeed interesting times and they might spur more students to study critical fields such as public administration, political science, and economics.

Meanwhile, back home at SPAA, you'll notice that faculty and students have been very active. In particular, numerous faculty members—Beeson, Filipova, Maatman, and Peters—are looking closely at public sector ethics and how to teach ethics within the public administration curriculum. Others—particularly Liggett, Wagle, and myself—are pursuing research of an increasingly global nature. Those who think academia is out of touch with society may have missed the connection between this paragraph and my opening paragraph!

The recent financial meltdown is all about ethics and globalization, including more than a pinch of greed. Numerous questions arise, yet those who disagree on the solutions seem to largely agree that governments,

driven by a Libertarian political ideology, failed to appropriately regulate various financial industries. In particular, people were allowed to sell risky mortgages as if they were safe choices for consumers and then institutions were allowed to package these “bad debts” and sell them as securities. Toss in an increasingly innumerate population and we have a crisis.

One should ask, “Where was the public interest while all of this took place?” There is no easy answer to this question, but some answers might surprise you. For example, “The Economist” reported that America’s banks have loaned out roughly 90 cents for every dollar of deposits. That might bother you until you hear the punch line: European banks have loaned out 1.4 Euros for every Euro of deposits. Are they more greedy than Americans, or might our regulators and bankers be better at their jobs than we think?

When talk turns to bailouts, as it has, it is important to keep in mind the great job that American public administrators have done with previous bailouts. When we bailed out Mexico in 1994 during

their currency meltdown, as they devalued the peso, the U.S. made money on the venture. When the U.S. offered \$1.2 billion in loan guarantees in 1979 to help stop Chrysler from going out of business, American taxpayers reportedly made money off the deal through loan guarantee fees and stock warrants. Headlines at the time stressed that American taxpayers were out \$1.2 billion, but that was a half truth from a long-term perspective. With the recent AIG deal, you and I now own 80 percent of the company.

Much punditry suggests that all the politicians involved, including the treasury secretary, have serious financial conflicts of interest. Few pundits are talking about the lower level GS-15s who are working all weekend (every weekend lately) to design company specific approaches that ARE in the public interest! These things do not come about by accident or purely because of political ideology; they come about because well-trained, highly experienced administrators are in the room. My advice: don't toss that word “socialism” too far until you read the fine print.





# Nonprofit Seminar to Grant \$15,000 in Spring 2009

Campus Compact

Janice Maatman's Nonprofit Seminar (PADM 4000), in conjunction with the American Humanics Student Association at WMU, is one of 10 universities to be awarded \$15,000 from Campus Compact and Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund in a program called Students4Giving.

Campus Compact, a national organization, whose mission is "to educate college students to become active citizens who are well equipped to develop creative solutions to society's most pressing issues" and Fidelity's Gift Fund created this program to inspire philanthropic education on college campuses. Prior to awarding the grants, students will research local issues, set priorities, issue a request for proposal, review responses, and interview finalists. Twenty-five students enrolled in the Nonprofit Seminar (PADM

4000) at WMU and another 30 students from the WMU chapter of the American Humanics Student Organization will be a part of the Students4Giving program.

WMU was chosen from 21 universities and colleges across the country that submitted proposals for the program. Five academic institutions participated in the pilot program last year: Boston University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, California State University at Fresno, Portland Community College in Oregon and Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington.

Through the Gift Fund's Giving Account, student-run programs at these academic institutions gave tens of thousands of dollars to a variety of local charities including a Boys and Girls Club in California, a community hot-meal program in Oregon

and a mobile classroom reading program in North Carolina. Besides WMU this year's recipients include George Washington University, in Washington, D.C.; Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass.; Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Mo.; Providence College in Providence, R.I.; Southwestern College in Winfield, Kan.; the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, N.C.; the State University of New York at Binghamton, N.Y.; Wheelock College in Boston, Mass., and Northeastern University in Boston, Mass.

Nonprofit organizations cannot apply for these funds unless they have been identified by the students as a "high priority" need. For more information, contact Janice Maatman at [janice.maatman@wmich.edu](mailto:janice.maatman@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-8945.

## New Faculty Member

Dr. Yuan-Kang Wang (Ph.D., Chicago) joined WMU as an assistant professor starting fall 2008. He holds a joint appointment with the School of Public Affairs and Administration, though his tenure home is the Department of Sociology. At SPAA, Wang will primarily teach methods course such as analytical methods and quantitative data analysis.

Dr. Wang has been an assistant professor of political science at Northern Illinois University, a visiting fellow in the Brookings Institution's Center for Northeast Asian Policy Studies, an assistant

professor of diplomacy at national Chengchi University in Taiwan, and an international security fellow in Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.

Wang specializes in international security policy, East Asia, and Chinese foreign policy. He currently is finishing a book manuscript on Confucian culture and Chinese power politics. Wang has published articles in scholarly journals, with topics such as using international relations theory to understand the rise of China, explaining how the process of Taiwan's democratization

increased tensions with China, evaluating the U.S. policy of strategic ambiguity in deterring conflict in the Taiwan Strait, and synthesizing theories of peripheral nationalism by examining China's Muslim Xinjiang region and Guangdong province. Wang has received fellowships and grants from various sources, including Andrew Mellon Foundation and Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation.



# Faculty Highlights

- **Dr. Melissa Beeson** presented “Revising Nonprofit Management and Leadership Curriculum”, co-authored with Janice Maatman and Dr. Robert Peters, at the 2008 SeCoPA conference. She also presented “Preparing for Public Service: Developing Skills to Meet Increasing Demands of the Sector” at the ASPA Region IV conference in November, was elected to serve on the Volunteer Center of Greater Kalamazoo board, and has participated in the WMU Faculty Learning Community.

- **Janice Maatman** received a \$15,000 grant from Campus Compact and Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund for Students4Giving.



- **Dr. Anna A. Filipova** submitted “Licensed Nursing Personnel’s Perceptions of Ethical Climates” to Nursing Ethics and “Ethical Climates and Perceived Support as Predictors of Licensed Nurses’ Turnover Intention” to the Journal of Applied Gerontology. Along with Dr. Robert Peters she has submitted “Optimizing Ethics Education in the Public Administration Program” to Public Integrity. She will be presenting “Ethical Leadership Training in M.P.A. Programs: How to Bridge Theory and Daily Practice” at the International Conference on Education in January.
- **Dr. Barbara S. Liggett** edited “Sponsorship in Transformational Change,” as part of the position papers series for the Society

for Human Resources Management, Alexandria, Va. She was invited to the International Comparative Policy Analysis Forum, hosted by the School of Management at Bocconi University in Milan, Italy, to present “Human Resources Policies and Employee Engagement: A Comparison of Regional Government Practices in Japan and the United States of America” in October and presented “What Now? Genetics, Fair Pay, Immigration, RESPECT, Wired for Healthcare, Judicial Changes and Other HR Musings” at the ASPA Region IV conference in Grand Rapids, Mich. in November. Liggett also contracted with the city of Wayland for delivery of professional development services for all city employees in October 2008.

- **Dr. Matthew S. Mingus** presented a critique of the field of public administration titled “Deinstitutionalization: Purging Static Customs Is the Key for a Prosperous Future for Public Administration” at the Minnowbrook III. emerging scholars retreat in September, and is co-editing a special issue of the International Journal of Organizational Theory and Behavior that will include an array of critiques from Minnowbrook III. Mingus also had book reviews published in Public Administration Review and in Administrative Theory and Praxis in 2008 and co-chaired the ASPA Region IV conference in Grand Rapids.
- **Dr. Robert Peters** published “Facilitating Interaction to Promote Learning” in

the International Journal of Learning. This article examines the impact of the traditional lecture-exam format and a derivation of active learning which bases the assessment of student performance on class participation.

- **Dr. Jim Visser** was selected as a manuscript reviewer for the academic journal Governance this past July. Additionally, he regularly reviews manuscripts for the American Review of Public Administration, Journal of Urban Affairs, and Economic Development Quarterly. Dr. Visser is currently conducting research in the application of social network theory to local government decision making in the United States, particularly among township governments.
- **Dr. Yuan-Kang Wang** presented “The Case against Chinese Exceptionalism: Confucian Culture and the Use of Force” at the 2008 American Political Science Association meeting, received a 2008-09 Junior Scholar Grant from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, and recently was elected Coordinator for the Conference Group on Taiwan Studies within APSA.



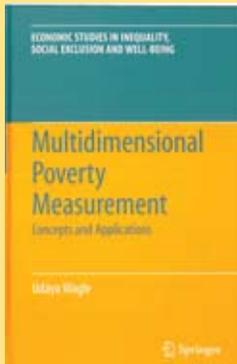
# Wagle Quickly Becoming Internationally Known Researcher

Dr. Udaya Wagle has been very active in research and in the profession. His research focuses on poverty and inequality at both domestic and international levels with important implications for social policies and economic development, as exemplified by his book *Multidimensional Poverty Measurement: Concepts and Applications* published by Springer. He has over 14 research articles published or forthcoming in peer-reviewed journals, with two of them published and three more accepted for publication during the last academic year.

The journals to which he has recently contributed articles include the *Eastern Economic Journal*, *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, *Review of Social Economy*, *Social Science Research*, *South Asia Economic Journal*, and *World Development*. Other pieces that are published or forthcoming in 2008 include book reviews, working papers, and conference proceedings. During the last academic year, he presented and served as panel chair or discussant at various conferences including those of Eastern Economic Association, Nepal Study Center, and Midwest Political Science Association.

Wagle is recognized as an emerging scholar in the field of poverty and inequality. For example, he currently is a visiting scholar at the Institute for Research on Poverty (University of Wisconsin Madison) and a local research affiliate at the National Poverty Center (Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan). He also is analyzing the changes in working poverty in Michigan between 1998 and 2007 under a project partly funded by the Upjohn Institute for Employment Research in Kalamazoo. Dr. Wagle is working on several other research projects, one of which has benefitted from his participation at a week-long seminar in Luxembourg hosted by the Luxembourg Income Study. This training was funded directly by SPAA and by the WMU Office of the Vice President for Research.

At SPAA, Wagle took over as the doctoral director in September 2008. This is fitting as the revised Ph.D. curriculum was launched this Fall and some “new blood” can help ensure this program has the energy to thrive in an ever-changing world. For more details on this, see the Ph.D. Handbook at [www.wmich.edu/spaa](http://www.wmich.edu/spaa).



## Death Notices

- **Jim Kadlecek** (D.P.A., '96) of San Miguel, New Mexico, died unexpectedly on July 14 at age 70 while visiting relatives in Colorado. Kadlecek was an influential Colorado state senator from 1976 to 1984. The Denver Post headline read, “Former state Sen. Kadlecek put Colorado on fiscal diet.” Kadlecek had been doing consulting work on public policy, economic development, and housing issues in Michigan, Colorado and New Mexico. He was chairman of Southern New Mexico Common Cause and worked tirelessly for more open and transparent government. He died while visiting his daughter, Kathryn Erbaugh of Broomfield. “He taught me that helping others is what makes a really good life,” she said.
- **Pearl Ann Miller** (M.P.A., '83), 76, died on July 3, 2008, after a long battle with Hodgkin's disease. She served in the Michigan Office of Management and Budget for 18 years, eventually retiring from the Office of retirement Services in 1997. Pearl also earned her M.S. in Librarianship at WMU in 1978, was a Michigan Master Gardener Volunteer, and served multiple terms as a Trustee at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing.
- **James V. Worline** (M.P.A., '08) died unexpectedly Sept. 6, 2008 at Lutheran Hospital in Ft. Wayne, Ind. Jim was born Jan. 16, 1970 in Pueblo, Col. to Darlene (Russell) Worline, who survives. From October of 1990, Jim proudly served in the U.S. Navy until honorably discharged in July of 1997. Jim was a loving and dedicated family man who loved vacationing, traveling and camping with his two daughters. He served on the Oshtemo Township Board of Trustees for two years and was a member of Kalamazoo VFW Post # 1527. Also surviving Jim are his daughters, Emily and Laura Worline; sister, Lanita (Dallas) Hankinson; numerous other relatives; and significant other, Tyson Smith. Interment was at Ft. Custer National Cemetery with Military Honors.

# Alumni Notes

(please send us your updates at [cpa-spaa@wmich.edu](mailto:cpa-spaa@wmich.edu))

- **Carolyn Cassin** (M.P.A., '78) assumed the roles of President and CEO of the Michigan Women's Foundation in September 2008.
- **Amy Corder** (M.P.A., '04) was recently promoted to the GS-13 (supervisor) level, Defense Logistics Agency, Battle Creek Federal Center.
- **John E. Crews** (D.P.A., '90), SPAA's 2007 Alumni Achievement Award recipient, returned to Kalamazoo in October to present "Disability and Health Matters: The Intersection of Public Health and Disability." Crews is the Lead Scientist, Disability and Health Team, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- **Bhama Cairns** (M.P.A. '05), is now the Deputy City Manager, Finance Director and Treasurer for the City of Wayland, Mich.
- **Richard Dama** (M.A. in CECP, '05), former SPAA graduate assistant, is now Director of the Berrien County Juvenile Center.
- **Brian Disette** (M.P.A., '02), has been selected as the new City Manager for South Haven, Mich. Disette was city manager in Watervliet for five years before becoming assistant city manager for public works in South Haven
- **Nicole Evans** (M.P.A., '98) recently took over as the City Clerk for East Lansing, where she has been Deputy Clerk since 2006. Evans also received her JD from Cooley Law School in 2007.
- **Jessica Harrington** (Barron) (M.P.A., '08) is Assistant Director of the Student Outreach and Resource Center (SOURCE) at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Specifically, she works with public health, nursing, and medical students, and student groups, to complete health related community service projects.
- **Daniel Hurley** (Ph.D., '02) is Director of State Relations and Policy Analysis for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Along with Eric Gilbertson, president of Saginaw Valley State University, he published "The Pursuit of Efficiency and the Pursuit of Folly" in *Inside Higher Education* (April 29, 2008).
- **Charles Jones** (M.P.A., '85), senior deputy director for the Michigan Department of Human Services, was recognized recently as a distinguished alumni of Albion High School. His wife Judy also earned an M.P.A. ('86) from WMU. Mr. Jones' father is a former Albion mayor and so public service runs in the family!
- **Lynn Kellogg** (M.P.A., '81) was recently elected president of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging. She serves as CEO for the AAA for Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties. Lynn is also past president of the WMU Alumni Association!
- **Doty Latuszek** (Ph.D., '04) is now Associate Provost for Academic Affairs at Gateway Community and Technical College in Covington, Kentucky. It is just across the Ohio River from Cincinnati.
- **Larry Leatherwood** (M.P.A., '82), former Deputy Director of the Michigan Department of Transportation, has been appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm as Executive Consultant to the Michigan Higher Education Facilities Authority. Leatherwood founded the Uplift Our Youth Foundation to provide educational, cultural, and career opportunities for at-risk youth, and is currently Chair Emeritus for the foundation.
- **Don Lehman** (M.P.A., '02) has recently been tapped to be MSU Extension's Southwest Region Extension Director. In this role he will help direct educational programming for 140 county Extension directors throughout SPAA's service area. You might be curious to know that his Project Paper was titled, "Montcalm County Land Use Trends and Citizens' Attitudes Survey."
- **Larry Lewis** (M.P.A., '93) went to Thomas Cooley Law School after earning his M.P.A., where he earned his JD in 1999. He finished out his career with the Michigan State Police, retiring after 25 years of service in 2003 with the rank of Lieutenant. In his "retirement" he opened up his own law firm and operated it for two years before becoming the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Barry County.

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- **Brucer Nanzer** (Ph.D., '03) served as Co-Chair for the American Society of Public Administration Region IV annual conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on November 6-7, 2008.
- **Chris Rundle** (M.P.A.), a retired Michigan State Police officer, is now the Superintendent of the Gull Lake Community Schools. He moved to this position from the Harrison (MI) Public Schools superintendency.
- **James J. Walters** (Ph.D., '06), has been an active part-time instructor for SPAA for the past several years, primarily teaching research and
- **Anne Zahradnik** (Ph.D., '06), Assistant Professor at Long Island University, is Vice Chair elect for the ASPA Section on Health and Human Services Administration. She recently published "Does Providing Uninsured Adults Free or LowCost Primary Care Influence Their Use of Hospital Emergency Departments?" in the Journal of Health and Human Services Administration 31(2).

We would like to thank **Gus Breyman** (M.P.A., '79), retired Lansing Regional Director for WMU, for continually keeping us up-to-date on the lives and deaths of so many individuals in the SPAA family.

## Alumni Anecdote



**Jim Leidlein** (B.A., '73) is the City Manager for Harper Woods in Wayne County, Michigan. He recently contacted us with the following (slightly edited) anecdote:

I was in one of the first undergrad PA programs at Western in the early 1970s. One of my political science professors was William N. Thompson. I believe that I took two classes from him, but students and professors at that time knew each other fairly well.

After I graduated, I moved to Washington D.C. to go to graduate school. (Western did not have an M.P.A. program at the time!) I also landed a job with the U.S. Department of Labor. I had been there about three years when out of the blue I heard a familiar voice call out my name. I thought "that can't be Dr. Thompson" but sure enough, it was. When I asked what the devil he was doing in my office he told me he was on a one-year

assignment from WMU to study the new ERISA law and would be working down the hall.

After the year, he returned to Western and continued teaching. I finished my M.P.A. in D.C. and became a township manager in the Saginaw area in the late 1970s. At about the same time Thompson was elected as the Supervisor for Kalamazoo Township so we were back in touch again. That lasted until about 1980. . . .

Two years ago when I was president of ASPA's Detroit chapter, we needed a speaker on casino gambling. Having seen Thompson twice on the Today Show (another story) I knew that he had moved to UNLV and became a gambling expert. So I e-mailed him.

We had not spoken in over 25 years and he returned my call. We talked as if it was yesterday. Well, to make an already too long story short, he and I wrote a book with 21 case studies, *Ethics in City Hall: Discussion and Analysis for Public Administration* (Jones and Bartlett, 2009).

# Yes, I want to support the WMU School of Public Affairs & Administration

In a time when state funding is increasingly restricted, the support we receive from friends and alumni is vitally important. Such funds are used to take advantage of new or unbudgeted opportunities in order to enhance the teaching or the research of the department, or to assist students in achieving their educational and professional goals. Thank you for considering a gift to the WMU School of Public Affairs and Administration.

The WMU Foundation processes all gifts that come to the University and turns them over to the department. Michigan residents: Remember that 50 percent of your gift to a Michigan University is returned to you as a tax credit on your state income tax (up to \$200 for a single filer; \$400 for joint filers).

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