



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

SPAA Members Highlight Research at WMU Graduate College Research and Creative Activities Poster Day

Three members of the SPAA academic community presented findings from their research at the Research and Creative Activities Poster Day sponsored by the WMU Office of the Vice President for Research. Current student Doreen Harrison (M.P.A. '10) presented, "Grant Writing Success=\$61,608 for S.A.F.E. Place." Alumnus Chad Rogers (M.P.A. '09) presented, "Institutional Justice: A Multi-variate Analysis of the Relationship between Social Class and the Use of Institutional Controls at Environmental Clean-up Sites." SPAA Assistant Professor Udaya Wagle presented "Economic Security under the PROWRA: The Role of Food Stamps on Income, Employment, and Poverty among Low Income Households with Children."

Doreen Harrison's poster focused on her work at S.A.F.E. Place, a domestic assault shelter serving the Battle Creek area since 1983. During PADM 5830: Grant Writing for Nonprofit Organizations, taught by SPAA Assistant Professor Dr. Melisa Beeson, Harrison developed a grant proposal to fund the creation of a case manager position and supplement funding for a clinical director at S.A.F.E. Place. In February 2010, S.A.F.E. Place was awarded \$61,608 in Community Development Block Grant funds by the City of Battle Creek.

The success of the proposal, Harrison suggests, was found in the extensive research and presentation of the local data. For example, in 2008, there were no deaths related to domestic violence in Calhoun County, while six deaths were reported in just the first nine months of 2009. S.A.F.E. Place, however, seeks to reverse this rise by emphasizing the empowerment of victims of domestic violence. "We want to help them [victims] identify their own solutions. Each person has interpersonal resources

that domestic violence represses," Harrison said.

Beeson was not surprised Harrison's proposal was accepted for funding. Beeson noted, "It's one of the best grant proposals I've seen. Doreen had lots of ideas and effectively used the class to take an idea and structure it into the submission of a very strong grant proposal." Harrison credits the focus Beeson placed on evaluation for some of the success of the grant proposal. "She's [Beeson] motivating, she pushed us further. Her requirement of an evaluation mechanism in the proposal helped me fine-tune and strengthen the proposal." The award to S.A.F.E. Place was the largest CDBG grant made by Battle Creek



Doreen Harrison at the WMU Graduate College's Research and Creative Activities Poster Day

in its category and money will be received by the organization later this summer.

Harrison was among 15 university students given special recognition for work presented at the poster session.

Chad Rogers' poster described the research he conducted for his Final Project Paper, the capstone research course in the Master of Public Administration. He examined the "relationship between demographic indicators and the disparities in use of institutional controls at leaking underground storage tank sites in Michigan." Rogers said he chose to focus on environmental degradation at storage tanks because of their ubiquitous presence in communities across Michigan.

Wagle was Rogers' faculty mentor for the project. "Dr. Wagle was very helpful when I was considering ways to test the variables in my research. I was able to get good feedback on the concepts in my research because of his knowledge of statistical tools," Rogers said. Ultimately, Rogers' research found no relationship between race and the use of institutional controls and "a significant but negligible relationship between household income, vacant housing and population density and the use of institutional controls."

"Chad's research was one of the most serious attempts by our M.P.A. students to tackle applied policy problems using empirical data," Wagle said. "Although his suspicion that race may play a significant role in exerting institutional controls for environmental cleanup does not appear to stand out, the findings are of great significance to both researchers and policy- or decision-makers in Michigan and beyond."

Assistant Professor Udaya Wagle's research focused on efforts to reduce poverty in the United States. The Food Stamps Program historically was one of several programs intended to serve as a safety net for low income families but welfare reform in 1996, with major restrictions on aid,



Chad Rogers at the WMU Graduate College's Research and Creative Activities Poster Day

placed more strain on the Food Stamps Program. The explicit goal of this program is to increase food security among low-income families. Given the near-cash nature of the program, however, it is important to find out if it has helped increase economic security. As Wagle said, "This research emerged out of my interest in assessing the impact of public policies (in this case the Food Stamps Program) on individual well-being, which cannot be meaningfully examined without looking at how it affects employment, income, and poverty, in the short as well as the longer term." Wagle's econometric analysis using data from the Survey of Program and Program Participation suggests that while the program has been able to increase income and reduce poverty among participating families, it may also have provided work disincentives encouraging people to work less.

Doctoral Dialogue

On March 9, SPAA hosted its first Doctoral Dialogue. The gathering included current and former SPAA doctoral students, SPAA faculty, and featured Dr. Peter KobraK, a WMU Professor Emeritus of Public Administration. KobraK offered a presentation entitled "Doing Less with Less in the Years Ahead." Focusing on the current state of public fiscal affairs, KobraK suggested public institutions at all levels will increasingly function on less revenue and thus strain or reduce service and program offerings. Attendees engaged in extensive conversation regarding this subject. Watch for information on a second doctoral dialogue scheduled for this fall.



Dr. Peter KobraK

AHSA Grant Celebration

Almost \$14,000 was granted to five Kalamazoo area organizations on April 15 by students participating in SPAA's American Humanics Student Association (AHSA) and students enrolled in PADM 4000: Seminar in Nonprofit Leadership. Grant funding came from WMU's School of Public Affairs and Administration, Campus Compact/Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund's Students4Giving Program, and generous friends of the SPAA.



Jane Rooks Ross (left) of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra receives a check from WMU AHSA student Emily Wacyk

The Research

Prior to awarding the grants, students in Janice Maatman's PADM 4000: Seminar in Nonprofit Leadership course researched local issues and, based on that research, determined grants should go to agencies working toward the following outcomes:

- Strengthening families through parent education programs and/or adequate prenatal care
- Developing youth through after school programming with an emphasis on skill building and/or mentoring programs
- Alleviating and preventing homelessness through advocacy that works to change the current systemic policies that perpetuate homelessness
- Saving capacity for existing arts or cultural programming jeopardized by a recent funding shortfall attributable to the current economic downturn

The Selection Process

Twenty-seven agencies responded to the call for proposals. Students reviewed responses, conducted site visits, interviewed finalists, and spent over seven hours coming to consensus on which programs to fund. At the end of that process, students selected five organizations to receive grants:

- Advocacy Services for Kid—\$4,200 for its leadership program for youth struggling with mental health issues
- Kalamazoo Book Arts Center—\$2,100 for its summer program where youth write poetry and make their own book by hand
- Kalamazoo County Michigan State University (MSU) Extension—\$3,000 for breast pumps for mothers whose babies are vulnerable
- Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra—\$3,450 for its music education program in public schools
- Michigan Organizing Project—\$1,000 to organize for a vote on the City of Kalamazoo's homelessness fund

The Celebration

More than 100 students and nonprofit professionals gathered at the Coover Senior Center of Kalamazoo, Mich. Grant announcements were preceded by a keynote address by Dr. Joel Orosz, Distinguished Professor of Philanthropic Studies at The Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership at Grand Valley State University and author of, "The Insiders Guide to Grantmaking, How Foundations Find, Fund, and Manage Effective Programs." His talk focused on the difficulty in giving away money.

During the event, AHSA student Kyle Smith thanked all the agencies that submitted a proposal saying, "We did not know the amount and quality of the nonprofit work being done in Kalamazoo. Even if you walk away without a grant tonight we hope you know that you have made a profound difference in the lives of 17 students who will one day work for nonprofit organizations. We will forever know how difficult it is to decide between so many worthy organizations and causes. Thank you."

AHSA Receives Prestigious Program Excellence Award

SPAA's chapter of the American Humanics Student Association (AHSA) received the Program Excellence Award, a prestigious national honor awarded to institutions dedicated to preparing the next generation of nonprofit sector leaders.

Students and representatives from Western Michigan University traveled to the American Humanics Management/Leadership Institute in Phoenix, Ariz.,

January 3-6 for the final round of competition, which resulted in WMU winning the award. The WMU program was honored for "demonstrating best practices in all nonprofit leadership program areas, with strengths in the areas of institutional support, fundraising, nonprofit management curriculum, and community service," according to American Humanics. Founded in 1948, American Humanics is a national alliance of nearly 70 colleges and universities nationwide and more than 60 national nonprofit organizations.

"The students did a great job with their presentation and responding to questions from the committee, and I note that Janice Maatman as WMU campus director for the American Humanics Program has done an excellent job in preparing the students for their participation at the Institute," said Dr. Barbara S. Liggett, WMU interim director of the School of Public Affairs and Administration. Liggett, Maatman, and Ms. Kristin Rossi (B.A. '07; M.P.A. '09), a current nonprofit professional working as telemarketing coordinator for the WMU Annual Fund, traveled to Phoenix with the students.

Prior to the WMU group traveling to Phoenix, WMU was named one of two finalists for the honor, along with the University of Central Florida. Representatives from each school made a formal presentation to the Program Excellence Award Review Committee and produced a video about its program. (To see the video, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LlFuqTNwul>).

The student association also completed four additional fundraising projects, including an annual letter appeal and Santa's Village, raising a total of \$26,695. WMU students logged 1,190 community service hours planning and implementing seven community service projects, including Bowling for Kids' Sake and a Head Start Christmas Party.



Janice Maatman (left) and WMU AHSA President Candice Kinsey (right) accept the award.

SPAA Office Coordinator Retires

Ms. Jackie Van't Zelfde began her Western Michigan University career in 1992 as a secretary in the Benefits Department of the Human Resources Office. In 1994, she began work as a secretary in the Office of the Provost/Vice-President for Academic Affairs. But in 1996, the SPAA was lucky enough to steal her, where she has been employed for 14 years.

In that time, Van't Zelfde has been an effective Office Coordinator by being a discerning shopper for the many office needs of the staff and faculty and by being an eagle eye on the budgetary bottom line. More importantly, however, Ms. Van't Zelfde has been an asset to the School with her kind-hearted interaction with students and supportive demeanor with faculty, new and experienced alike.

When she retires on July 31, she will be missed by faculty and students but we thank her for a job well done over the past 14 years and we wish her a happy retirement, where she will undoubtedly spend more time with her grandchildren.



Jackie Van't Zelfde with granddaughter Kaylee.

Faculty Awards & Publications

- **Dr. Barbara S. Liggett** was selected as a Nonprofit Section Curriculum evaluator for the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) in November 2009. She also continued in her examination evaluator role for the Presbyterian Church, USA, at the March 2010 meeting in Chicago. Dr. Liggett's review of "Leading Across Boundaries: Creating Collaborative Agencies in a Networked World" by Russell M. Linden, was accepted for publication in Public Integrity.

- Dr. Liggett with **Ms. Janice Maatman** presented "Learning to Give Away Money" at the 33rd Annual National Teaching Public Administration Conference, held at Grand Valley State University, on May 14, 2010, in Grand Rapids, Mich.

- **Dr. L. Robert McConnell**, along with Brenda Cartwright and Robin Washington, published "Examining Racial Microaggressions in Rehabilitation Counselor Education" in the December 2009 issue of Rehabilitation Education.

- **Dr. Robert Peters** presented "Serving Dual Purpose: Using Student Assessment Tools to Enhance Teaching Effectiveness and the Value Added by Class Sessions," at the 2010 American Society for Public

Administration (ASPA) National Conference, held in San Jose, Calif., April 9-13. He presented "Linking Mission, Goals, and Objectives to Admission Criteria, Pedagogy and Course Content," and "Exploring the Limits of Concept Mapping, PowerPoint and Active Learning in Enhancing Student Learning and Job Performance," at the Teaching Public Administration Conference held May 14 at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Mich.

- **Dr. Udaya Wagle** published "Inclusive Democracy and Economic Inequality in South Asia: Any Discernable Link?" in the September 2009 issue of the Review of Social Economy. Dr. Wagle's review of Johann Lambsdorff's book, "The Institutional Economics of Corruption and Reform: Theory, Evidence, and Policy," appeared in the winter 2009 issue of the Eastern Economic Journal.

In May 2009, Dr. Wagle presented "Economic Footing of the Global Poor, 1980-2005: The Roles of Economic Growth and Openness and Political Institutions," at the Global Studies Conference in Dubai. In October 2009, he presented "Remittance to Nepal from Foreign Employment: Changes and Implications," at the Himalayan Policy Research Conference held in Madison, Wisc.

In February 2010, Dr. Wagle presented "The Role of Inequality in Poverty Reduction: Evidence from High Income and Developing Countries," and "Rethinking Economic Security of Low Income Families with Children: The Role of Food Stamps on Income, Employment, and Poverty," at the Eastern Economic Association Conference in Philadelphia, Penn. In April 2010, he presented "Socioeconomic Implications of the Increasing Foreign Remittance to Nepal: Evidence from the Nepal Living Standard Survey," at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago.

Dr. Wagle's "Capability Deprivation and Income Poverty in the United States, 1994 and 2004: Measurement Outcomes and Demographic Profiles," was published in the December 2009 issue of Social Indicators Research. "Income and Wealth Inequality in Nepal, 1996 and 2004: Changes and Socio-Demographic, Spatial, and Economic Determinants," was published in the February 2010 issue of the Journal of Contemporary Asia.

- **Dr. Yuan-kang Wang** presented his paper "The Chinese World Order at War in Asian History," at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association held September 3-6, 2009 in Toronto.



Liggett



Maatman



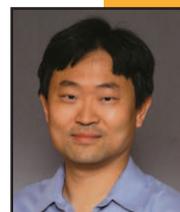
Peters



McConnell



Wagle



Wang

Part-time Faculty

This summer is the first term for two new part-time faculty members in the School of Public Affairs and Administration.



Ms. Dana Linnane, teaching PADM 5870: Fundraising for Nonprofit Organizations, brings significant experience in nonprofit leadership and fundraising to the classroom. She is currently the William C. Richardson Fellow in Government Affairs and Philanthropy at the Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF). She plans and coordinates much of the Council's policy briefing program, connecting grantmakers with public officials. She researches and prepares materials for the lobbying visits to the Michigan Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. and legislative leaders in Lansing. Prior to her current work with CMF, Linnane served in various development and major gifts positions with several organizations in Michigan. She holds a Master of Public Policy (MPP) from the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.

Mr. Gary Uptigrove, teaching PADM 6270: Human Resources Administration, has extensive professional experience in human resources. He is currently the Associate Director of Human Resources Business Intelligence at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. His responsibilities include assisting Unit HR Officers/Staff to analyze workforce trends, diversity, promotions, terminations, and demographics. He also develops HR training materials and develops internal and external HR-focused survey instruments to improve services. Prior to his service at the University of Michigan, Mr. Uptigrove served as Corporate Human Resource Officer for Mount Hope, a non-profit corporation in Lansing, in the roles of Assistant Director of Personnel, Manager of Compensation at Michigan State University in East Lansing, and as a Management Analyst for Genesee County, Michigan. He holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of North Alabama, Florence.



Student News

Pi Alpha Alpha Inductees

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!

Jessica J. Austin, Okemos, Mich.
Victoria M. Baron, Lansing, Mich.
Brad O. Barron, Lansing, Mich.
Michael T. DeRose, East Lansing, Mich.
Scott A. Hershberger, Albion, Mich.
Mark L. Heydlauff, Sturgis, Mich.
Todd A. Walsh, Haslett, Mich.
Craig R. Wheeler, Coopersville, Mich.

Stine Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations to Joshua Hundt as the recipient of the Margaret and Leo Stine Endowed Memorial Scholarship in Public Affairs and Administration. One of several applicants, Hundt was selected by a faculty committee from the School of Public Affairs and Administration. He is currently employed as a Project Specialist for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) where he manages Economic Development Job Training Grants and works with grantees to achieve progress goals in the program.

Hundt has served as an MEDC specialist for various Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA) job training programs. He holds a Bachelor of Arts cum laude in political science from Hope College (Holland, Mich.). He has also been accepted to the Thomas M. Cooley Law School (Lansing, Mich.). Congratulations, Joshua!

The Stine Scholarship will again be offered during the Spring semester of 2011. Watch for further details.

Student News

ASPA Fellowship Award



Doctoral student Kathy “KP” Pelleran (M.P.A., '09) has been named a 2010 Founders’ Forum Fellow with the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA). The fellowship is awarded to outstanding graduate students nominated by a faculty member. SPAA part-time faculty member, Dr. Robert Sobie nominated Pelleran. As a Founders’ Forum Fellow, Pelleran attended the ASPA Annual Conference in San Jose, Calif., and is receiving a free, one-year electronic student membership to ASPA.

In addition to her studies, Pelleran is the state director of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Michigan, a nonprofit crime prevention organization of more than 400 sherriffs, prosecutors, police chiefs, and crime survivors. SPAA congratulates KP Pelleran for her accomplishments!

CAHEN Award Winner

Each year, the Capital Area Higher Education Network (CAHEN) member institutions search for outstanding adult students whose accomplishments in higher education and contributions to the community merit recognition. This year, SPAA student Sarah Davis was selected as the Outstanding Adult Learner.

SPAA Assistant Professor Yuan-kang “YK” Wang nominated Davis citing her as “an outstanding adult learner” in his PADM 6070 Quantitative Data Analysis course. He continued, saying of Davis “she is capable of seeing through the intricacies of problems.”

Davis graduated summa cum laude from Valparasio University (Valparasio, Indiana) in 2000 and since 2006 has been employed as senior program development coordinator for The Children’s Trust Fund in Lansing, Mich. She also is employed as a consultant for Communications & Research of East Lansing. In addition to her employment, Davis has volunteered for the Capital Humane Society and recent political and environmental campaigns. She also has volunteered with her church, local child abuse prevention council, World Vision, Michigan Public Radio, and Central Michigan University Public Broadcasting.

SPAA congratulates Sarah Davis for her work in the community and Todd Walsh, who was also nominated by SPAA for the CAHEN Outstanding Adult Learner Award.

Our thanks to the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation for providing a recent gift to the SPAA through the donor match program.

Did you know?

Do you serve the public?

Check out the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program from the Department of Education to find out if you qualify for loan forgiveness.

See www.studentaid.ed.gov for more information.

Student News

Completed project papers: Fall 2009 & Spring 2010

The M.P.A. 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. While not a formal thesis, the project paper is no less significant. The SPAA is pleased to recognize the following students for their accomplishment in completing their Project Paper in the previous year:

Fall 2009:

- Jonathan W. Buffenbarger, Kalamazoo, Mich., “A Graduated Income Tax: Raising State Revenues”
- Lloyd Caesar, Berrien Springs, Mich., “A Tale of Two Cities: Analysis of Factors Related to the Success and Failure of Proportional Representation in Two U.S. Cities”
- Daniel Guy, Eaton Rapids, Mich., “Teacher Compensation: Is it Time for Change?”
- Robert Jordan, Lansing, Mich., “Planting the Seeds of Community Development: Implementing Community Gardens to Remediate Blighted Buildings and Foster Social Capital in Low-income, Urban Communities”
- Christina Kenney, Spring Lake, Mich., “Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative: Effectiveness at Reducing Recidivism”
- Robert M. Keough, Portland, Mich., “Does the Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative Reduce the Rate of Recidivism?”
- Darla McAllister, Niles, Mich., “Lean Six Sigma Methodologies in Healthcare: Its Effectiveness in Improving Efficiency and Controlling Costs”
- Waiming Vivien McCurdy, Albion, Mich., “Evaluation of the Effectiveness of a Home-visit Based Prenatal Support Service Program in a Rural County”
- Michelle Reardon, Lansing, Mich., “Affordable Housing in East Lansing, Michigan: Meeting the Needs of a Changing Economy”
- Bradley A. Ritter, Kalamazoo, Mich., “Borgess and the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award: An Evaluation and Recommendation for Success”
- Cory Rutgers, Portage, Mich., “The Peer Interview Process: Effects on Employee Turnover and Employee Satisfaction”
- Jennifer Tafil, Kalamazoo, Mich., “Rewarding Quality: Risks and Rewards of the Pay-for-Performance Program at a Hospital in Southwest Michigan”

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SPAA 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 Spring 2010:

- Research Proposal Award, Mark L. Heydlauff, Sturgis, Mich.
- Best Project Paper Award, Susan Germann, Coldwater, Mich.
- Organization Theory and Behavior Award, Joshua Hundt, Lansing, Mich.
- Concept Mapping Award, Michael Campbell, Richland, Mich.
- Healthcare Planning and Administration Award, Julie Lowman, Lansing, Mich.
- Emerging Student Awards: Courtney Schaffer, Jackson, Mich. and Jonathan Arneberg, Mason, Mich.

Student News

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Spring 2010:

- Alfred Barikdar, Three Oaks, Mich., “Cost-benefit of Picture Archiving and Communication Systems (PACS): A Meta-analysis”
- Alison Black, Plainwell, Mich., “Consulting the Policy: Do Federal Guidelines Promote Successful Tribal Consultation?”
- Elizabeth H. Coss, Kalamazoo, Mich., “Patient’s Journeys and Disparities in Calhoun County Breast Cancer Care: Early Breast Cancer Detection Increases Life Spans”
- Debra DeVon Moss, Benton Harbor, Mich., “Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative: Is it Successful at Reducing Cost and Recidivism?”
- Susan M. Germann, Coldwater, Mich., “Are Community Mental Health Services Effective for Women with Alcohol-related Disorders? A Case Study of Pines Behavioral Health Services in Michigan”
- Amy Gifford-Ziegler, Coldwater, Mich., “Generations X and Y Building the Future: A Study of Michigan Community Foundations”
- Paige Hathaway, Lansing, Mich., “Childhood Obesity and the Health of Society: Sustainable Lifestyle Changes for American Families of Michigan”
- Laura Mahank, Portage, Mich., “Assessing Cost Effectiveness in a Mental Health Managed Care Organization: A Case from Southwest Michigan”
- Derek N. Perry, St. Joseph, Mich., “A Proposal for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update in St. Joseph Michigan”
- Megan Scanlan, Comstock Park, Mich., “Internet Fundraising at Selected Nonprofits in Kent County: A Comparative Case Study”
- Jill Yehl, Jackson, Mich., “A Study of Youth’s Unstructured Outdoor Play Activities”

SPAA Nonprofit Leadership Scholarship Winner

Douglas C. Kelsey is the 2010-11 recipient of the Nonprofit Leadership Scholarship offered by the School of Public Affairs and Administration. In his second semester of M.P.A. coursework, he already has shown a high degree of academic achievement. Though he is relatively new to the M.P.A. program, he has extensive nonprofit leadership experience. Currently Kelsey is the owner of Kelsey Consulting & Management Group, LLC, and offers his clients expertise in all areas of nonprofit management from mission development, staff and volunteer management, member communication, and government relations.

Before opening his own firm, Kelsey served as executive director of the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Central Michigan. He is a member of the American Society for Association Executives (ASAE) and serves as village president of his hometown of Vermontville, Mich., among his many civic and association activities.

SPAA congratulates Kelsey for his commitment to nonprofit leadership and for his academic excellence! Be sure to check the SPAA website (www.wmich.edu/spaa) next year for your chance to apply for this scholarship.

2010 NASPAA /COPRA M.P.A. Self-Study Results

Our thanks to students, graduates, and employers responding to surveys conducted as part of the re-accreditation process for SPAA. The following data are from the surveys conducted in fall 2009 and spring 2010.

Survey Participant Overview

M.P.A. Current Students (Fall 2009)

Students Receiving Survey via E-mail = 180

Respondents = 72 (Response rate = 40%)

M.P.A. Program Graduates (Fall 2009)

2005-2009 Graduates Receiving Survey by U.S. Mail = 261

Respondents = 111 (Response rate = 43%)

Select Michigan Public Sector Employers (Spring 2010)

Employers Receiving Survey Invitation via E-mail = 225 (10 e-mails returned as “undeliverable”)

Respondents = 21 (Response rate = 8%)

From the Survey:

1. How much knowledge did you gain during the M.P.A.? Highest rated areas of knowledge-change during program (% of respondents reporting rating at 5 or 4 on a 5 point scale, with 5 being high.)

Current Students	%	Graduates	%
Organizational Behavior/Mgmt	69.7	Organization Behavior/Mgmt	87.0
Leadership	69.7	Leadership	82.0
Political Institutions/Processes	64.2	Political Institutions/Processes	71.0
Written Communication	67.2	Personnel/HR Mgmt	74.0
Econ/Social Institutions/Processes	60.0	Qualitative research techniques	71.0

2. How important have you found this area (from a list provided) to be in your career/your employees? Highest rated areas of knowledge—importance of area for career/employees (% of respondents rating item at 5 or 4, with 5 being high.)

Current Students	%	Graduates	%	Employers	%
Written Communication	100	Written Communication	90.0	Written Communication	100
Budgeting/Financial Mgmt	97.1	Organization Behavior/Mgmt	86.0	Budget/Financial Management	95.2
Personnel/HR Mgmt	91.3	Leadership	84.0	Ethics	95.2
Ethics	91	Ethics	83.0	Evaluation	89.0
Leadership	89.8	Budgeting/Financial Mgmt	79.0	Diversity	76.2

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These responses, with other survey responses, inform the faculty's M.P.A. program decisions. Want to know more? Watch for complete survey results and self-study data files at the www.wmich.edu/spaa website later in the summer.

2010 NASPAA /COPRA M.P.A. Self-Study Results, continued

3. How did your skills improve in this area (from a list provided) during the M.P.A.? Highest rated skill areas—change during program (% of respondents rating item at 5 or 4, with 5 being high).

Current Students	%	Graduates	%
Written Communication	70.3	Written Communication	76.0
Decision making/problem solving	66.6	Organization Behavior/Mgmt	75.0
Leadership	65.1	Decision Making/problem solving	71.0
Oral Communication	64.1	Personnel/HR Management	70.0
Organization Behavior/Mgmt	63.5	Leadership	69.0

4. How important have you found this area (from a list provided) to be in your career/employees? Highest rated skill areas—importance of area for career/employees (% of respondents rating item at 5 or 4, with 5 being high).

Graduates	%	Employers	%
Oral Communication	92.0	Written Communication	100
Decision making/problem solving	89.0	Ethics	95.2
Written Communication	89.0	Budgeting/Financial Mgmt	85.8
Leadership	84.0	Evaluation	80.9
Organization Behavior/Mgmt	79.0	Program Planning	76.2

5. Re: Employment—from M.P.A. Alums of 2005-2009—How would describe your CURRENT job situation?

- 83% Employed full-time
- 10% Employed full-time, but seeking a new position
- 1% Employed part-time by choice
- 2% Employed part-time, but seeking full-time employment
- 2% Unemployed, but not seeking employment
- 3% Unemployed, but seeking employment

6. Where do M.P.A. program graduates work? Of the those who completed the M.P.A. Summer I 2006 to Spring 2010, employment falls into the following categories:

Employment Sector	No.*	% of M.P.A. Grads	% Minority	% Female
County	13	7	23	46
Federal	4	2	50	25
Healthcare	28	14	18	93
Local/Municipal	21	11	29	52
Non-profit	27	14	7	74
Private	22	11	32	45
State	26	13	19	50
University	17	9	18	71
Unknown**	36	19	28	64
All Categories	194	100	22	63

*195 persons graduated in this period, 1 is deceased

**Unknown includes 5 persons who are known to be not currently employed

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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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