On October 10, 2013 the School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) announced the 2013 SPAA Outstanding Alumna and the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Achievement Award Recipient, Dr. Susanne F. Homant. A 2006 DPA Alumna, Dr. Homant serves as the President and CEO of The Able Trust, a Florida foundation dedicated to creating successful employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

The Able Trust (www.abletrust.com) was created in 1990 by the Florida State Legislature and has provided numerous grants to all 67 Florida counties, totaling more than $30 million. The organization supports a diverse range of projects including, job coaching, job skills training, job development, employer outreach, as well as many other vocational rehabilitation programs.

Having over 25 years of experience with statewide organizations that deal directly with health care, public policy, fundraising, education, and public awareness, Dr. Homant has a proven track record consisting of passion, dedication, and success. Her experience includes appointment as Chair of the Governor’s Commission on Jobs for Floridians with Disabilities, member of the Board of Trustees of the Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Florida, Executive Director of the Florida Hospices and Palliative Care Organization, and the Michigan Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

Dr. Homant earned her B.A. Degree in Economics and Business as well as her M.B.A. Degree in Marketing and Finance at Northern Michigan University before completing her DPA in Public Administration at Western Michigan University.

At the October 10 SPAA Community Forum, Dr. Homant presented Being Disproportionately Influential: The Urge to Make A Difference. She cited her passion for catalytic philanthropy and challenged the audience to be collaborators, risk takers, recognize that money alone is not enough to create strong communities, and to take on mega causes. In the introduction at the Forum and at the CAS Alumni Achievement Award Celebration, Dr. Liggett noted “Dr. Susanne Homant is one who has, and still is making a difference - improving the lives of others. She has walked a path of creating systems where others would not go and working for and with those who for too many years, were (and still are) ignored by society. We applaud her leadership, risk-taking, her collaborative spirit, and her community building. She is working to make a better society for all. We are pleased to honor her.”
MPA Student Awards

- Margaret and Leo Stine Endowed Memorial Scholarship - **Mary Fortney**, Battle Creek
- MPA Scholar Award for Best Project Paper – **Christopher Bolt**, Plainwell; **Joseph Donnelly**, Allen Park; **Alyssa Reed**, Kalamazoo; and **Jennifer Williams**, Kalamazoo
- MPA Scholar Award for Best Research Proposal – **Julie Dupuis**, Haslett; and **Eric Lipinski**, Lansing
- MPA Scholar Award for Concept Mapping - **Tomoyuki Eguchi**, Tokyo
- MPA Scholar Award for Emerging Students - **Tiffany Eichorst**, Battle Creek; **Mohamed Gibril**, Mason; and **Esther Sharra**, Okemos
- MPA Scholar Award for Nonprofit Governance – **Jennifer Williams**, Kalamazoo
- MPA Scholar Award for Organizational Theory and Behavior – **Jeffrey Carroll**, Kalamazoo; and **Haylee Knowles**, Three Rivers
- SPAA MPA Scholarship - **Kelli Rosenbaum**, Lansing

CAHEN Award Winner

The SPAA congratulates **Julie DuPuis** of Haslett for being selected as the 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.

More information about SPAA scholarships can be found on our website: [http://www.wmich.edu/spaa/scholarships-awards.html](http://www.wmich.edu/spaa/scholarships-awards.html)

PhD Student Publications


Islam, K. (2013, October). *A study on generic prescription substitution policy as a cost containment approach for Michigan's Medicaid system*. Presented at WMU at the International Conference on Health Information Technology Advancement. He also published the same piece in *Transactions, 2*(1).
The Project Paper (PADM 6800) serves as the capstone requirement for the MPA program. This opportunity provides students a chance to demonstrate their understanding of the concepts, theories, and application of public administration through an original research project and analysis. The following students completed their project paper in Fall 2012 through Summer 2013.

- **Bolt, Christopher**, Plainwell, Revenue Challenges, Options, and Strategies for Michigan’s County Road Commissions: An Examination of Policy Effectiveness as Administered by Two Agencies *Best Project Paper*
- **Braddock, Candice**, Lansing, An Examination of Federal Cabinet-Level Department’s E-Recruitment Practices for Women and Racial/Ethnic Minorities
- **Chavez, Elise**, Lansing, Public Policy Administration: Drug-Related Crimes, Incarceration, and Public Policy
- **Cheng, May**, Clarksville, Exploring Diversity Initiatives on Predominantly White College Campuses: Calvin College’s Strive for Diversity
- **Collins, Jason**, Coloma, The Impact of Western Michigan University School of Medicine on Health Services in Southwest Michigan
- **De Los Santos, Yocibel**, Dominican Republic, Citizen Participation in the City of Kalamazoo
- **Dipre, Rafael**, Dominican Republic, Public Funding of Baseball Stadiums: An Analysis of the Financial Viability of Using Municipal Bonds for Construction of New MLB Stadiums
- **Donnelly, Joseph**, Allen Park, An Examination of the Impact of the 2008 Amendment to the Americans with Disabilities Act on the Number of Employment Charge Resolutions *Best Project Paper*
- **Eguchi, Tomoyuki**, Tokyo, Japan, The Examination of the Effectiveness of P.A. 198 Tax Abatement Policy in the City of Kalamazoo
- **Ergang, Bryan**, Galesburg, The Implementation and Administration of A Standardized In-House Training Curriculum for Police Officers at a Small Police Agency
- **Flores Usero, Rafael**, Dominican Republic, What Effects do Performance Dashboards have on Local Policy?
- **Galardi, Joseph**, Lansing, Return on Investment for the TPL Electronic Database
- **Giob, Daniel**, Saint Johns, Analyzing In-Home Care Funding Component of Michigan’s Child Care Fund
- **Grinnell, Jonathan**, Kalamazoo, Lights On After School: A Meta-Analysis of Academic Achievement and Pro-Social Behavior in After-School Programs
- **Hall, Nicole**, Battle Creek, Programs Available in Calhoun County that Support Pregnant and Parenting Teens Continue their Education
- **Harper, Donald**, Okemos, Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity Acquittees: Recidivism Rates and Trends in Wayne County
- **Hastings, Michelle**, Portage, Membership Recruitment and Retention - Administrative Professionals Association and the Professional Support Staff Organization at WMU
- **Hodgkinson, Michael**, Kalamazoo, Programs to Assist United States Military Veteran Education at Western Michigan University and Their Impact on Enrollment
- **Hollis, James**, South Haven, Unemployment Rates of the Male Population are Influenced Beyond Economic Shortfalls; Geographical Regions Play an Integral Role in the System
- **Hubbard, Kimberly**, Galesburg, The Impact of Radiation Safety Education and Other Factors on the Over Utilization of High Ionizing Advanced Medical Imaging Procedure
- **Hutt, Mallory**, Grass Lake, Diversity at the University of Michigan: 2000-2010
- **Jayanthi, Meenakshi**, Kalamazoo, Do Provider Efforts to Increase Trust Levels Aid in Decreasing Privacy Concerns Among Students

Completed Project Papers


- **Joshi, Sarah**, Oshtemo, *The Effect of Training on Poll Worker Error Rates in the City of Kalamazoo*


- **Lopez Castillo, Evelyn**, Dominican Republic, *Defensive Medicine: Are Doctors Indicating so Many Diagnostic Studies out of Necessity or Just to Avoid Lawsuits?*


- **Menser II, Peter**, Haslett, *Assessing Attitudes and Perspectives of the Meridian Township Business Community*

- **Middleton, Rose**, Dowagiac, *Of Value or No Value: Community Perceptions of Value on the Cassopolis Family Clinic*

- **Miller, Tracy**, Lawton, *Combating Alarm Fatigue in Critical Care Areas*

- **Nair, Seena**, Kalamazoo, *Comparison Between Junior and Senior Faculty Members’ Job Satisfaction at Western Michigan University*


- **Reed, Alyssa**, Kalamazoo, *Adult Basic Education And GED Credential Attainment in Welfare Recipients: A Federal Waiver Request for a Michigan Adult Basic Education Demonstration Project* *Best Project Paper*

- **Rice, Melissa**, Battle Creek, *State Rental Housing Subsidy Resources Available in Calhoun County, MI vs. Expended 2005-2010*


- **Skillings, Carol**, Lansing, *The Effects of Act 152 on the Cost of Health Care Coverage for Michigan School Districts*

- **Smith, Virgil**, Detroit, *Michigan’s Auto No-Fault Law: And the Effects it has on Detroit’s Residents*

- **Staggs, Joshua**, Paw Paw, City of Parchment, Michigan: *A Study of Cost and Service When Contracting Police Services*

- **Stay, Andrea**, Lansing, *Strategies of Land Conservation Millage Campaigns in Michigan*

- **Stephens, David**, Dimondale, *Predicting Health Inequalities and Crime Using a Biopsychosocial Model*

- **Sullivan, Joseph**, Jackson, *The Impact of Term Limits in the Michigan Legislature*

- **Tan, Burak**, Grand Rapids, *Warning! Foreign Student Alert: International Student Recruitment at Western Michigan University*

- **Trevino, Malissa**, Lansing, *Making the Transition: Reviewing Vocational and Educational Programs for Michigan Veterans*

- **Unangst, Timothy**, Portage, *Portage, An Analysis of the Western Michigan University Police Department Police Officer Performance Evaluation*

- **Voytal, Drew**, Kalamazoo, *The Repeal of the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Act: A Case Study*

- **Walls, Naidra**, Detroit, *Assessment of the Adequacy and Consistency of Education Requirements of Police Officers in Michigan*

- **Wayne, Trish**, Portage, *Evaluation of the Women, Infant, Children Food Subsidy Programs and Their Availability in Kalamazoo County*


- **Williams, Jennifer**, Kalamazoo, *A Comparison of Retention and Graduation Rates Between On-Line and Traditional Higher Education Institutions* *Best Project Paper*

- **Winfield, Lyndsey**, Portage, *Level of Awareness Among Family Caregivers of Persons with Alzheimer’s and Dementia*

- **Wordelman, Kevin**, Kalamazoo, *Fiscal Distress Signals: Michigan’s Emergency Manager Law, Social Capital and the Characteristics of Distressed Communities*

For a complete list of project papers visit:  
http://www.wmich.edu/spaa/mpa/index.html
MPA PROGRAM DATA AS REPORTED TO THE NETWORK OF SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC POLICY, AFFAIRS, AND ADMINISTRATION (NASPAA)
SEPTEMBER 2013

WHO TEACHES MPA COURSES? (DATA FOR SUMMER 2013 THROUGH SPRING 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Taught by Full Time Faculty</th>
<th>% Taught by Part Time Faculty</th>
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<tr>
<td>All Courses</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courses delivering required competencies</td>
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MPA STUDENTS (DATA FOR SUMMER 2012-SPRING 2013)

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<th>Number of Students</th>
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<tr>
<td>Applicants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admitted Students</td>
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<td>Enrolled Students</td>
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MPA GRADUATES (SUMMER I 2011 – SPRING 2013)

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<th>Graduates</th>
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<td>Fall 2011</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2012</td>
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<table>
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<th>Graduates</th>
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<td>Spring 2013</td>
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EMPLOYMENT OF MPA GRADUATES (SUMMER 2011 THROUGH SPRING 2012)

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<th>Employment Category</th>
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<td>State, provincial, or regional government</td>
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<td>City, County, or other local government</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign government (all levels) or international quasi-governmental</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonprofit domestic-oriented</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonprofit/NGOs internationally-oriented</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Sector but not research/consulting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obtaining further education</td>
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<td>Unemployment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Status Unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(NASPAA Cont.)

**GRADUATION RATES OF 2007-2008 (ARY-5) MPA COHORTS**

Of the students beginning the program in 2007-2008, 68% completed the MPA program in 16 semesters or less. Note that the numbers in each successive column are cumulative, meaning that the number of students in the column for 200% of degree length includes the number of students from the 150% column, plus those that graduated within 150-200% of program length. The program design length for Full-Time Students (6 or more credit hours per semester as defined by the university) with continuous enrollment = 8 semesters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Initially Enrolled</th>
<th>Graduated in 100% of Degree Program Length</th>
<th>Graduated in 150% of Degree Program Length</th>
<th>Graduated in 200% of Degree Program Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Full-Time Students in the ARY-5 Cohort</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Part-Time Students in the ARY-5 Cohort</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Number of Students in the ARY-5 Cohort</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>42</td>
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</tbody>
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**Alumni News**

- **Warren C. Gregory**, DPA, passed away on January 9, 2013. He was awarded the Certificate of Merit for his work as a sergeant in the U.S. Army. He received his BA and MA from the University of Detroit and his doctorate from Western Michigan University (WMU) in 1999. He served as an adjunct professor at WMU and Central Michigan University and was a former chief economist and director of public policy for the Michigan Legislature. Having written more than 50 publications, he also received many statewide and national awards, including the Public Servant of the Year Award. He is survived by his wife Mary Elizabeth Homes.

- **Odis Jones**, MPA 1999, was named Executive Director of the City of Detroit’s new Public Lighting Authority on June 26, 2013.

- **Mike Meister**, MPA 1999, accepted a position at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor as the OIT-Senior Project Manager. Mr. Meister previously worked 21 years at Western Michigan University.

- **Geoffrey Kaituko**, MPA 2006, was elected Speaker of the County Assembly of Turkana, Kenya on March 22, 2013. As Speaker, Mr. Kaituko will be responsible for guiding and directing the legislative process within the county.

- **Manuel Soque**, MPA 2012, a former Fulbright Scholar, recently accepted a position working as an independent contractor for Bloomberg in the southern African country of Angola. Mr. Soque conducts interviews, translates, and interprets communication materials between ranking government officials and businesses on behalf of Bloomberg.

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**Let us know what is new with you! Send your updates to cpa_spaa@wmich.edu**
• **Dr. Barbara S. Liggett**, director of SPAA and associate professor, authored Chapter 10 (pp. 242-271) “Ethical Competence in Nonprofit Organizations: A Human Resources Perspective” in *Achieving Ethical Competence for Public Service Leadership*, Terry L. Cooper and Donald C. Menzel (Eds.), 2013, Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe. Dr. Liggett also presented and served as a panel discussant on “Setting a Research Agenda for the Study of Ethical Competence in Public Administration” at the ASPA Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA on March 18, 2013. Recently she was appointed to the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) Executive Council.

• **Dr. Raymond Higbea**, assistant professor, and **Dr. Robert Peters**, director of the MPA program and associate professor, published “Maximizing reflexivity and praxis by recognizing and counteracting the constraints imposed by stimulus-response learning” in *Teaching Public Administration, 30*(2), 133-148.

• **Ms. Janice Maatman**, master faculty specialist, presented the “Ethics Workshop” for the ONEplace Nonprofit Leadership Academy on Friday, January 18, 2013.

• **Dr. Matthew Mingus**, professor, co-authored “The Struggle between Traditional and Adopted Public Service Values in China” with Di Hu, in *Public Administration Quarterly, 37*(1). Dr. Mingus also assisted MPA student Larry Lloyd, staff sergeant with the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion based in Portage, MI, in organizing various elements of cultural awareness training for his troops as they prepared to deploy to the Horn of Africa. Dr. Mingus was elected as the 2013 President of the WMU-AAUP, WMU’s faculty union; however, he resigned this position to be on sabbatical 2013-2014.

• **Dr. Robert Peters**, director of the MPA program and associate professor, served as a guest commentator for WMUK Radio. On March 12, he discussed Governor Snyder’s decision to appoint an emergency financial manager to the City of Detroit.


Do you want to view pictures featuring faculty presentations and events? Check out www.wmich.edu/spaa/photogallery.html
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_________________________________Signature (required)

_____Electronic Funds Transfer (instructions will follow)

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Name: _______________________________

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