Spring and summer is more than baseball, warm weather, and barbeques. For M.P.A. students, spring and summer is graduation. Although this is an exciting time for students, it can also be stressful as it means that they are likely busy putting the final touches on their Project Papers.

Dr. Robert Peters and Dr. L. Robert McConnell, the instructors for the two sections of the spring semester of Project Paper (PADM 6800), were asked to recommend several students to be featured in this edition of Public SPAAce. These students took some time out of their busy schedules in order to answer questions regarding their Project Papers and to reflect on their time within the M.P.A. program and their futures.

We hope you enjoy reading about these MPA students’ perspectives.

Sarah Anthony

EXAMINING POST-AFFIRMATIVE ACTION DIVERSITY EFFORTS AT MICHIGAN’S FLAGSHIP UNIVERSITIES

Sarah’s project examines the effects the 2006 affirmative action ban passed by Michigan voters had on minority enrollment at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. By examining ten years of enrollment data, administrative records, media accounts, and key informant interviews, Sarah’s study found that each university saw slight decreases in African American and Hispanic student enrollment in the years following the ban. However, both universities have continued to strengthen, repurpose, and/or implement new, targeted strategies to maintain diversity on the campuses.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS NOW THAT YOU WILL BE GRADUATING?
I will continue to work for the Michigan College Access Network as the Director of Finance & Strategic Partnerships. Additionally, I am currently running for Ingham County Commission.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE CHANGED REGARDING THE PROGRAM?
I would not change anything about the MPA program. The course work was relevant, the classes were accommodating to my full-time work schedule, and the faculty were knowledgeable and approachable. I would recommend this program to current and future administrators.
Jonathan Arneberg  M.P.A.

A CONTENT ANALYSIS OF PRIVACY AND SECURITY POLICIES ON LOCAL E-GOVERNMENT WEBSITES IN MICHIGAN

Jonathan’s project examines whether e-government websites of Michigan local governments provide adequate assurance to citizens that their personal information is kept private and secure through the posting of online privacy and security policies. Through a content analysis procedure comparing 50 e-government websites with criteria developed by the Federal Trade Commission, Jonathan found that the majority of websites fail to post these policies, and those that do are often lacking much of the necessary content.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR NEW M.P.A. STUDENTS?

When close to the end of the program, all students worry about Project Paper. You can lessen your stress by making sure to begin thinking about a topic from your very first class. Save articles, speak with professors, and decide on your topic before you begin PADM 6060. With a little preparation, Project Paper is not nearly as intimidating as it may seem.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS NOW THAT YOU WILL BE GRADUATING?

Although I’m sad to be leaving WMU and all the great students I get to interact with on a daily basis, I am excited to continue on to the next step in my professional life. I hope to use my education in a career of civil service with the federal government or higher education.

WMU

Paul Colligan  M.P.A.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND HEALTHCARE ADOPTION IN A MEDICAL OFFICE

Paul’s project explores social media networks and their adoption in the healthcare setting by evaluating the current use, attitudes, and perceptions of two medical practices through the use of a 22-question web-based survey. Although several barriers were identified, Paul’s study found medical provider respondents were very positive regarding the impact that social media could have for patients.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR NEW M.P.A. STUDENTS?

Get ready for a great experience. I was very impressed with the faculty, staff and students in this program. A couple key takeaways that I believe will help you on this journey:

1. **Get to know your classmates.** Not only will you make new friends, you will also create a great support network that will enhance your experience.
2. **Get to know your teachers.** They have a wonderful group of professors at WMU. They are accessible, encouraging and supportive.
3. **Get to know your local support staff.** My program was at WMU-Lansing branch and Adam provided great assistance with anything I needed. Great job Adam!
4. **Study and Have Fun!** The time goes fast, but the memories and experience will last a lifetime……
Amanda Masters  M.P.A.

THE FORMATION OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN THE GREATER LANSING AREA: A CASE STUDY OF COMMON WEALTH ENTERPRISES

Amanda's project reviews Common Wealth Enterprises (CWE) in Lansing to determine the extent to which CWE has been successful in accomplishing their mission of strengthening communities through the creation of social enterprises. Through the use of interviews, observations and organizational documents, Amanda found a significant positive correlation between the data collected and CWE's three core mission activities.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS NOW THAT YOU WILL BE GRADUATING?
Upon graduation I will continue my work with Capital Area United Way developing increased capacity for the organization through volunteers, interns, grants and special initiatives. I will also serve as a volunteer strategic planning consultant for Treasures to Grow On in DeWitt, MI.

HOW WILL YOU PUT THE KNOWLEDGE YOU HAVE GAINED IN THIS PROGRAM TO USE IN YOUR CURRENT OR EXPECTED FUTURE PROFESSION?
By using research obtained during my project paper process. I will continue to expand my understanding and experience with social enterprises in order to be in the position to encourage smart nonprofit and business models for new or struggling entities.

Cortney Schaffer  M.P.A.

FUTURE MANAGERS’ PERCEPTIONS OF RESULTS-ONLY WORK ENVIRONMENTS

Cortney’s project is centered on future manager perceptions of Results-Only Work Environments (ROWE), which allow employees to control their own work schedules and environment, as a possible solution for the generational, technological, and gender shift occurring in the American workforce. Cortney surveyed 290 Haworth College of Business and M.P.A. graduate students at WMU. She found the perceptions of ROWE’s benefits are closely tied to support for ROWE’s program of full scheduling control for employees.

HOW WILL YOU PUT THE KNOWLEDGE YOU HAVE GAINED IN THIS PROGRAM TO USE IN YOUR CURRENT OR EXPECTED FUTURE PROFESSION?
It is my hope to combine both my legal and public administration knowledge to contribute to my community in whatever way possible.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE CHANGED REGARDING THE PROGRAM?
Nothing. I greatly enjoyed my time as an MPA student at Western Michigan University. I was lucky enough to be a graduate assistant and work with my fellow GA, Jonathan, the wonderful faculty and all the students. Most of all, I was lucky to have the opportunity to study a topic I love. No regrets here. Oh wait, I do regret that one paper I turned in – sorry, Dr. Higbea, I could have done better.
Alumni News

1978 MPA graduate David Maturen was re-elected as the Chairman of the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners at its January 3, 2012 meeting. Maturen is in his 5th term on the Commission. He owns the Portage, Michigan appraisal firm Maturen & Assoc. Inc. which specializes in right of way and eminent domain appraisals.

PROPOSAL FOR MASTER PLAN UPDATE:
VILLAGE OF STEVENSVILLE, MICHIGAN

Joe’s project reviews the Stevensville Comprehensive Land Use Plan to determine if a Master Plan update is needed. His determination is based upon reviews of best practices and comparisons of Master Plans from other communities across Michigan. Based on his study, Joe recommends the Village of Stevensville begin updating the Master Plan due to legal findings, financial irregularities, and outdated information found within the current Master Plan.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT PAPER EXPERIENCE?
The Project Paper is not as daunting of a task as previously perceived; it’s actually a very rewarding project. The M.P.A. program at Western Michigan University has some great instructors who really help to facilitate the process of the Project Paper.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR NEW M.P.A. STUDENTS?
Learn how to use the online library data-bases early; it will make life much easier as you progress through the M.P.A. program. Also, start thinking about a Project Paper topic early and make sure it’s something you have an interest in researching.

Pi Alpha Alpha Inductees

In October 2011 and April 2012, 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!

October 2011
• Mariam A. Alrebeh, Kalamazoo, Mich.
• Lauren E. Branneman, Holt, Mich.
• Melodia C. Crump, Kalamazoo, Mich.
• Joseph M. Donnelly, Kalamazoo, Mich.
• Michael E. Hodgkinson, Kalamazoo, Mich.
• Sara L. Olsen, Menominee, Mich.
• Manuel Antonio Soque, Kalamazoo, Mich.
• Kelly A. Trusty, Angola, Ind.

April 2012
• Christopher J. Bolt, Plainwell, Mich.
• Rachael A. Grover, Kalamazoo, Mich.
• Carol L. Skillings, Lansing, Mich.
• Andrea M. Stay, Lansing, Mich.
• Burak O. Tan, Muskegon, Mich.

Let us know what is new with you!
Send your updates to cpa_spaa@wmich.edu
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 December 2011:

- **Mariam Alrebe**, Kalamazoo, “Comparison Between Health Information Technology in New Zealand and the United States”
- **Alicia Ball**, Kalamazoo, “Growth of E-Government in Local Government Units: An Analysis of Tools Available to Develop and Maintain Kalamazoo County Government’s Web Services”
- **Vita Benson**, Coloma, “Funding Effects on Local Health Departments’ Staffing, Programming, and Functioning”
- **Lauren Branneman**, Holt, “Responsiveness and Partisan Bias in Electoral Systems: A Comparative Analysis of Legislative and Bipartisan Redistricting Commissions”
- **Geoffrey Collard**, Byron Center, “Consolidating Police and Fire Operations: Comparative Case Study of Kalamazoo, MI and Grand Rapids, MI”
- **Ihab Hassan**, Okemos, “Obesity in Ingham County: The Determining Factor and Proposed Solutions”
- **Holly Lacina**, Williamston, “Effect of Youth Participation in the Michigan State University Extension 4-H Exploration Days Pre-College Program on the Development of Life Skills”
- **Pearl Msibi**, Kalamazoo, “Evaluation of a Case Management Project: Emergency Department, Bronson Battle Creek, in Michigan”
- **Mfedoo Mou**, Kalamazoo, “The Impact of Population on Federal Funding in Michigan State, United States”
- **Dallas Oberlee**, Kalamazoo, “The Functionality of a Local Workforce Development Board”
- **Marie Ring**, Kalamazoo, “Medical Residents and Organizational Safety Culture: An Assessment of Safety Climate Perception”
- **Elizabeth Semaan**, Kalamazoo, “Health Literacy Tools: Understanding the Challenges to Utilizing These Tools Within the Inpatient Hospital Setting”

**M.P.A. Scholar & Emerging Student 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 their 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. Spring and Summer 2012 award recipients will be announced in Fall 2012. The SPAA faculty congratulates the following award winners for Fall 2011:

- **M.P.A. Emerging Student Award** – **Anne Moenke**, Kalamazoo, Mich.
- **M.P.A. Scholar Award for Best Project Paper** – **Melodia Crump**, Kalamazoo, Mich.
- **M.P.A. Scholar Award for Best Research Proposal** – **Sarah Davis**, East Lansing, Mich.
- **M.P.A. Scholar Award for Concept Mapping** – **Sarah Brindley**, Portage, Mich.
- **M.P.A. Scholar Award for Organizational Theory and Behavior** – **Carol Skillings**, Lansing, Mich.

**Ph.D. Student Publications**

On April 12th, $10,000 in grants was awarded to five Kalamazoo area organizations by the students enrolled in PADM 4000, Seminar in Nonprofit Leadership.

- **Catholic Family Services** received a grant of $820 for their Poetry Slams project. Working with Urban Blend, a newly-established, youth-focused coffee house located on the north side of Kalamazoo, the Youth Advisory Board and their mentors will create, publicize, and host monthly Poetry Slams at the coffee house.

- **Community Homeworks** received a grant of $2,000. This grant will fund materials and infrastructure to start the Helping Neighbors program in partnership with Consumers Energy, which will install energy saving measures and provide education to low-income homeowners to reduce their energy consumption and utility bills.

- **Communities in Schools** received a grant totaling $2,180. This grant will enable Communities in Schools to enhance an initiative at El Sol Elementary, Kalamazoo Public Schools’ Spanish-English dual language elementary, to greatly improve in-coming kindergartners’ preparation for school and their long-term educational and life prospects.

- **Girls on the Run** received a grant totaling $3,000. This grant will purchase running shoes for participants who require 100% financial assistance to participate in their spring 2012 program, a character development program for girls in 3rd through 8th grades with a mission to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running.

- **Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra** received a grant of $2,000. This grant will underwrite the purchase and maintenance of stringed instruments for the Kalamazoo Kids in Tune afterschool program, a partnership between the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, Communities in Schools, and the Kalamazoo Public Schools.
• **Dr. Barbara S. Liggett**, Director of SPAA, presented “Ethical Competencies for Nonprofit Organizations” at the ASPA Annual Conference in Las Vegas on March 5, 2012.

• In March 2012, **Dr. Raymond Higbea** presented “A First Year Evaluation of Calhoun County Nursing Clinic Mobile Clinic” at the Second International Conference on Health, Wellness & Society in Chicago, Illinois.


• **Dr. Matthew Mingus** presented “The Bridge to Somewhere: Will Billionaire Protect His Historic Monopoly or Will the Public Interest Prevail?” at the ACSI VXIth Biennial Conference in Dublin, Ireland in May 2012. Along with Dr. Catherine Horiuchi of the University of San Francisco, Dr. Mingus also co-edits a new essay series called “Resilient Governance: A Series on Public Sector Values” for Public Administration Quarterly. They coauthored the first essay in the series, “On Civility and Resilient Governance,” which appeared in the Volume 36, Number 1 issue.


**New Ph.D. and M.P.A. Directors**

• Effective 2012-13, **Dr. Matthew Mingus** is the Director of the Ph.D program and **Dr. Robert Peters** is the Director of the M.P.A. program. Both have served in these roles before and are known as valuable and supportive advisors for our students.

• Our thanks to **Dr. Udaya Wagle** for his prior service as Ph.D Director. He will be on sabbatical leave 2012-2013. Also, our thanks to **Dr. James Visser**, who served as M.P.A. Director since 2009. His guidance in curriculum development, admissions decisions, collaboration with Fulbright and the Diether Haenicke Institute, and ongoing support to M.P.A. students is well known. Dr. Visser will return to teaching, advising, and research.

**External Review**

The SPAA extends special thanks to **Dr. John Daly** from the University of South Florida-Tampa and **Dr. Pier Rogers** from North Park University for serving as external reviewers as a part of our ongoing program planning process.

We also thank the undergraduate, MPA, and PhD students who met with our guests and provided valuable perceptions for improving the programs offered within the SPAA.
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.

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