



## Summer 2016

Happy Summer! While things are a little less hectic on NKU's campus for a couple months, MPA faculty, staff and students remain very busy with classes, research, internships and jobs. This e-newsletter provides brief updates on some recent accomplishments and activities:

- our new Emergency Management certificate;
- MPA faculty publishing research on small-town revitalization and women leadership in the nonprofit sector;
- an MPA class involved with the awarding of \$500,000+ in grants to local organizations;
- our students engaging in internships with agencies like the National Park Service;
- and our alumni getting new jobs and promotions.

We hope you'll take a few minutes to read the newsletter, learn what's happening with the MPA program, and share it with colleagues, friends and family who may be interested. Also, we invite all of you to meet and catch up with MPA students, alumni and faculty at the Summer Potluck on Thursday, July 21.

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## What's New in the MPA Program?

### **NEW Emergency Management graduate certificate!**

The NKU MPA program will offer a new Emergency Management graduate certificate, starting in Fall 2016. It will be the only

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## Connect



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## [MPA Program in the News](#)

Emergency Management graduate certificate in the Northern Kentucky / Greater Cincinnati region.

This certificate program was developed for individuals currently employed or interested in emergency management in local, state or federal government or in universities, schools, hospitals, other nonprofits, or private businesses. It requires 18 credit hours that students can complete at their own pace, up to six years.

The three core courses - or 9 credit hours - are taught online, and they include Homeland Security Administration (PAD 681), Emergency Management (PAD 682), and Terrorism (PAD 683). The elective courses are taught either online or on weekday evenings (6:15 to 9 p.m.), and they include a mix of lecture, seminar, small group, and service learning.

Students can choose the three elective courses - a minimum of 9 credit hours - that are most relevant and useful to them. Some electives for the certificate are: local government management, human resource management, ethics and decision making, leading in diverse environments, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

The NKU MPA program, which has been in existence for more than 25 years, has an extensive network of alumni who work in the emergency management field. They hold positions as managers in the FBI and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, directors of county emergency management offices, and fire chiefs and police chiefs.

Individuals interested in the Emergency Management certificate can apply now and, if accepted, start classes in the Fall, including Homeland Security (PAD 681). For more information, please contact Missy Gish at [gishm@nku.edu](mailto:gishm@nku.edu).

## MPA in the News

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A recent edition of the [NASPAA newsletter](#) includes a Q&A with Dr. Julie Olberding about NKU's MPA program. This edition focused on local and state government, so it was a great opportunity to highlight relevant activities by our program, students and alumni in these areas.



NASPAA is the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration, and it is an international association of public affairs schools based in Washington, D.C. NASPAA also oversees accreditation of master's degree programs, which is considered "the global standard in public service education."

As many of you know, NKU's program is only one of seven NASPAA-accredited programs in state of Kentucky, and it is the only MPA program in the Northern Kentucky / Greater Cincinnati region.

## MPA Events

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### Spring Awards Banquet

The annual Spring Awards Banquet was held on Wednesday, April 13. The guest speaker was Jeniece Jones (MPA 1996), Executive Director of Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME), who was also honored with the 2016 Distinguished MPA



Alumna award. In addition, Paula Brehm-Heeger (center) was presented with the Distinguished MPA Graduate award due to her exceptional classroom performance and significant professional contributions (see article below). Kelly Brockman (left) was selected for the Outstanding MPA Student award. In addition to being an excellent student, Kelly manages the Cincinnati Children's Hearing Aid Trust (CCHAT), which provides the first set of hearing aids, free of charge, to children from birth through age three with a permanent hearing loss. During a few years in this role, she tripled the number of children served by the program and shared the model with the Ohio Department of Health, which was developing a pilot program to serve older children across the state.

### MPA Summer Potluck

The annual summer potluck will be on Thursday, July 21, at Dr. Julie Olberding's house. Recent graduates, alumni, current students, faculty and significant others are invited. A main dish, beer, wine and alternative beverages will be provided. Attendees are welcome to bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share. (But it's not

necessary; there will be plenty of food.) Please RSVP to Missy Gish at [gishm@nku.edu](mailto:gishm@nku.edu) so we know how many to expect.

## Fall Reception

SAVE THE DATE! The MPA Fall reception will be on Tuesday, October 25 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Student Union 104. More details to come in the Fall MPA e-newsletter and on social media.

## In the Classroom

### Students develop fundraising proposals for new nonprofit

Students in our Resource Acquisition and Management class (PAD 621) in the Spring semester worked on several service learning projects with [Scrapnati](#). This organization is an emerging creative reuse center for art, craft and related materials in Greater Cincinnati.



Student teams developed fundraising strategies including a case for support, annual campaign, e-philanthropy, special events, and grant research and writing. Scrapnati representatives noted that the students were "very engaged, creative, and smart." In assessing their projects, they wrote, "the entire experience was extremely beneficial and a great learning experience all around."

### Students take part in "friendly Shark Tank for nonprofits"

A group of MPA students and faculty participated in the Fast Pitch 2016 on March 2 at The Phoenix in downtown Cincinnati. Fast Pitch is an exciting philanthropic event that brings together eight nonprofits to make three-minute presentations and then awards \$30,000 to them across several categories, including the Student Choice and Audience Choice categories. This "friendly



Shark Tank for nonprofits" was featured on [WVXU's Cincinnati Edition](#).

### **Research Methods students practice in the field (in the park, actually)**

A group of MPA students in Research Methods (PAD 615) created and conducted a survey for Great Parks of Hamilton County this spring to find out what park goers would like to see at their parks. Students collected information on topics such as conservation, nature education and outdoor recreation during park clean up days this spring. The feedback received will help Hamilton County Parks with their long-term planning. Great job Chris, Elizabeth, Niki, Jenny, Joe, Zach, and Dr. Lambert!



### **Student philanthropy with ArtsWave and Duke Energy**

Our Resource Acquisition and Management (PAD 621) class was fortunate to take part in NKU's Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project. The class partnered with two major funders in the region: ArtsWave and the Duke Energy Foundation. Half of the students worked on the "direct giving" model for which ArtsWave entrusted the students with \$2,000 to invest in nonprofits providing community-based arts programming in Northern Kentucky. These students searched for organizations, invited them to complete grant applications, and ultimately selected two of them for a \$1,000 grant each – the Augusta Art Guild and ROKCincy (Roundabout Opera for Kids).



The remaining students worked on the "indirect giving" model with the Duke Energy Foundation. They reviewed and assessed 35 grant applications submitted to Duke in the areas of STEM and early childhood literacy with funding requests ranging from \$10,000 to \$250,000 (over multiple years). The students presented their assessments to the foundation's Education Advisory Team at Duke's

offices in downtown Cincinnati (pictured here). In the end, the foundation made grants totaling more than \$500,000 to nonprofits such as the Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati, Cincinnati Observatory Center, and Teach for America.

## Faculty Feature

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### **Dr. Mattson's book on small towns coming out soon!**

As some of you know, Dr. Gary Mattson has been working on a book on small towns in the United States with a focus on their current economic challenges and strategies to overcome them. In July, Routledge will publish *American Hometown Renewal*, which has been called "a comprehensive, single-source text covering the key issues facing small town officials in today's uncertain economy."



*American Hometown Renewal* features a blend of theory, applications and case studies of small towns in both rural and suburban areas. Topics include community visioning, demographics, housing policy, employment and workforce analysis, Main Streets, commercial hubs, municipal services, budgeting, taxes and revenue disparity, and debt financing.

Congratulations to Dr. Mattson! This book is a huge accomplishment and an important contribution to the field of community development and revitalization. We also want to congratulate Dr. Mattson on becoming a Chartered Life Member of the American Institute of Certified Planners for distinguished service to the profession for 40 years.

### **Dr. Ahmed studies women leaders in International NGOs**

Dr. Shamima Ahmed is completing research on women leadership in International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs). While some research has been done on women leadership in nonprofit organizations in general, very little if any scholarship exists in regards to INGOs.



Dr. Ahmed's sample for the research includes the INGOs that are associated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO). In addition to doing extensive web research on these agencies, she has completed several in-depth skype interviews with a selected group of women leading these INGOs.

Dr. Ahmed has presented preliminary findings at the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Annual Conference. She also has submitted a book chapter, based on this research, for the *Routledge Handbook of Women in Public Administration: A Global Perspective*. The book is slated to be published end of this year.

## Alumni and Student Spotlight

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### Work of MPA alum ranked nationally

David Johnston (MPA 2008) is Homicide Commander for the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD). Under his leadership, the CPD has been recognized as having one of the highest rates of closing – or solving – homicide cases in the country.

In 2015, the CPD's closure rate was 70 percent. In addition to being an alumnus of the NKU MPA program, Lieutenant Johnston currently serves as a member of our MPA Advisory Board. We are very proud of his outstanding and important work in the City of Cincinnati, and we are grateful for his continued involvement in our program.



### MPA student honored by ASPA-GCC

Paula Brehm-Heeger was selected as the 2016 Outstanding Student by the American Society for Public Administration Greater Cincinnati Chapter. The ASPA-GCC presented this award to Paula – along with other awards to outstanding individuals and organizations involved in public service – at a special luncheon on Friday, April 22. In addition, Paula and other award winners were recognized at the Greater Cincinnati Public Service Recognition Celebration. This event took place on the afternoon of Thursday, May 5 on Fountain Square in downtown Cincinnati.



Paula has been an exceptional MPA student in the classroom and beyond. She recently participated in a NASPAA competition where MPA students from various universities worked in teams on a simulated project to minimize the negative impacts of climate change. Paula traveled to Indiana to take part in this event, and she participated on a team with MPA students from Indiana University, University of Kentucky, Ohio University, University of Nebraska and others. Her team won the award for that region!

In her "day job," Paula is the Service Operations Director for the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, which has been recognized as the busiest library system in the country in recent years. In this role, she manages an \$8.5 million budget, 515 FTEs, and a 500,000-square-foot main library and 40 branch facilities. Her efforts also helped create the 9,000-square-foot MakerSpace in the main library, which provides the public with access to 3D printers, laser cutters and engravers, cameras, audio/visual equipment, and hardware and software tools.

## New Jobs and Promotions

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Jonathan Arthur (MPA 2013) has been promoted to a supervisory officer in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security office in Cincinnati, where he now manages a team of immigration officers.

Charlsé Brown (MPA 2015) has been promoted to supervisor in the Hamilton County Jobs and Family Services Child Care Department.

Madison Carter (MPA Student) is working this summer as a National Park Service ranger at Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial in Put-in-Bay, Ohio on Lake Erie.

Ryan Doyle (MPA Student) recently started as a case manager with the workforce development program at the Brighton Center in Newport, Kentucky.

Christina Ingle (MPA student) has accepted an internship-to-hire position as assistant to the administrator of Clearcreek Township, Ohio.

Christopher Mackey (MPA 2014) is the new Engagement Associate for the United Way of Yellowstone County, Montana.

[Jennifer Patrick](#) (MPA 2013) started as Development Officer in March with the HealthSource Foundation.

[Anita Hurst Southwick](#) (MPA 2006) is the new Manager of Research Compliance at Northern Kentucky University.

[Jennifer Steele](#) (MPA 2009) is the new Executive Director of the Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana chapters of the Chron's and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA).

[Mary Ucci](#) (MPA 2008) is the new Director of Research, Grants and Contracts at NKU.

[Claire Willingham](#) (NPM Student) was hired as Development Assistant for the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA), which is a national nonprofit organization based in Cincinnati.

## Connect with us

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To stay connected the NKU MPA program, be sure to “like” us on [Facebook](#) and connect with us on [LinkedIn](#) to stay informed on what is happening with other alumni, the program and job opportunities!

[NKU Masters of Public Administration](#)

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