



MPA Newsletter

Summer 2016

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Dr. Daniel Boden Appointed as New MPA Director

Dr. Daniel Boden was appointed as MPA Director effective August 1, 2016. Dr. Victoria Gordon said: "When I assumed the duties of MPA Director in January 2013 it was meant to be a short term solution for the program after Dr. James Chappell's retirement. I have confidence that Dr. Boden will do an ex-

cellent job of managing the day-to-day aspects of the MPA program. I anticipate a seamless transition for the MPA students. I will be available, but it is time to pass the torch." Dr. Boden stated: "I am excited to take my turn as director of the MPA program. I look forward to seeing the program continue

on the course the MPA faculty have outlined. It is important to the faculty that students see the principles of good administration reflected in the MPA program."



MPA Program Picnic held May 22, 2016, in celebration of National Public Service Recognition Week.



MPA Students Joanna Bailey and Kennedy Prather, and incoming MPA student Elise Swift share why they love public service.

Alumni News

Chad Phillips has been appointed as Registrar for the Henderson Community College. Chad also serves as an adjunct instructor at Ivy Tech-Evansville.

Both Chad Phillips and Abdul Samad will begin the West Chester University Doctor of Public Administration program in Pennsylvania this fall.



METRO LOUISVILLE CHAPTER OF ASPA MEETS IN ELIZABETHTOWN

Thanks to the City of Elizabethtown and the hard work of Melissa Harrell-Nepi (MPA student) and Ed Poppe, the Metro Louisville Chapter of ASPA had a wonderful and informative meeting, program and tour on 3/18/16. Sixteen members and guests were in attendance. The program was delivered by Planning

and Development Director Ed Poppe. Following our luncheon and program, we toured the city and saw a neighborhood area under redevelopment in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, including a community garden, highlights of the downtown, the industrial park, and the sports park area.



Elizabeth Griffith Honored at Potter College of Arts and Letters as Outstanding Graduate Student of the MPA Program.



Elizabeth Griffith, a summer 2016 graduate of the MPA program, was awarded the honor of outstanding graduate student for the MPA program at the 2016 Potter College of Arts and Letters Student Awards Ceremony in April 2016. Griffith's father, Dan, is also a former graduate of the Master of Public Administration program (1984) and is currently serving as the Chief Executive Officer for the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra in Owensboro, Kentucky.

After graduating from Kentucky Wesleyan College with a Bachelor degree in Communications, Griffith decided to follow in her father's footsteps and pursue a career in public service. During her second year in the MPA program, she was awarded the opportunity to serve as an intern for the Wendell H. Ford Government Education Center in Owensboro. The Wendell H. Ford Government Education Center was established by former U.S. Senator Wendell Ford upon his retirement from the Senate in 1998. Senator Ford believed that students needed a better understanding of how our government operates, and that the principles by which he conducted his work: civil discourse, cooperation, and the willingness to compromise, are vital to our future. During her internship, Griffith learned of the importance of the Ford Center mission and how vital it is that our youth of today understand the importance of civil discourse and public service. Upon completion of her internship, Griffith was offered a position with the Ford Center and is now serving as their Executive Director.

Elizabeth and her father, Dan Griffith are pictured with Dr. Victoria Gordon at the PCAL Awards Ceremony on April 15, 2016.

MPA Program Achieves Reaccreditation



The Master of Public Administration Program has earned reaccreditation by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) for an additional seven years, 2016 through 2023. The accreditation involved the preparation of a self-study report which included a complete review of the MPA program and occurred over the academic year 2014/2015, and an on-campus peer review of two days that occurred on February 29th and March 1st of this year. Accreditation is based on the overall quality of the program, its performance of its mission, consideration of substantial conformance with the standards, and its assessment of overall program quality given the unique mission of the program. The peer review team said that: "It is clear that the faculty have an emphasis on diversity and the students enthusiastically reflect

this commitment and see the connection of cultural competence to their careers in the public service. The program is to be commended for strong relationships with the advisory board and internship sponsors and their incorporation of feedback from these stakeholders into program improvement."

NASPAA accreditation is the global standard of excellence in public affairs education. NASPAA's mission is to ensure excellence in education and training for public service and to promote the ideal of public service. NASPAA is the membership association of graduate programs in public administration, public policy and public affairs. NASPAA's Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation is the specialized accreditor of these master degrees. WKU is one of almost 300 NASPAA member institutions within the United States and in foreign countries. Out of that membership, 190 schools have programs that have earned accreditation.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE NASPAA REACCREDITATION PROCESS AND SITE VISIT

Thank you to current students, alumni, MPA advisory committee members, faculty and staff who took time to participate in and contribute to the reaccreditation process and site visit. Special thanks to Shannon Vaughan for her work on the Self-Study Report. Thank you also to our WKU administration members—past and present—who supported this endeavor since 2009 when the program first became accredited—Dr. Gary Ransdell, Dr. Barbara Burch, Dr. Gordon Emslie, Dr. David Lee, Dr. Larry Snyder, and Dr. Saundra Ardrey.



MPA Student News

In April, *Elizabeth Griffith* was recognized at the Political Science Department Awards Banquet as Outstanding MPA student; *Dajana Crockett* was recognized as the recipient of the Spirit Makes the Master award; and *Bo Martin* was recognized as recipient of the Outstanding MPA Paper award.

—Tim Sweatman, a summer 2016 graduate of the MPA program, will begin law school at Belmont University in Nashville, TN. Tim has received a full scholarship (i.e. \$40,000 package) for this next step in his education.

Master of Public Administration Students at Graduation Ceremony 5/13/2016



RECENT INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS

Both **Shelby Miles** and **Joanna Bailey** served as summer interns at the Barren River Area Development District.

Jacob Brennenstuhl served as an intern for the United Way of Southern Kentucky.

Ashleigh Barker served as summer intern in the County Clerk's office in Nashville, TN.

Kennedy Prather Attends NASPAA Student Simulation Competition—Places Second!

I attended the NASPAA Student Simulation Competition on February 27, 2016 at the Midwest Region host site, Indianapolis University--Purdue University Indianapolis and participated in the climate change simulation—representing the WKU MPA program. Students were greeted at a networking event at the IUPUI campus pub where we were able to meet our competitors and teammates.



There were three teams of approximately 14 students, and within the teams we were further divided into partners to represent certain interest groups. My partner and I were tasked with representing "Population and Consumption" which focused on the public interest, controlling population and the GDP. The global temperature is projected to be 4-6 degrees higher by the year 2100. We were tasked with proposing policy changes that kept the temperature from rising 2 degrees or less. We were also provided a list of our teammates to contact and collaborate prior to the competition. My partner and I disagreed on many things, however, being able to talk to her beforehand was helpful. Attending the networking event was also key to feeling more at ease with the process and getting to know my team. Having no experience in climate change, this was a fun and challenging experience that I highly recommend to any students wishing to have a hand in the policy making process. Our team placed second! *(Kennedy is on the far right in the photo with the participants.)*

MPA Student Kamla Jones Recognized by The Alive Center at the Serve. Learn. Impact. Recognition Reception on May 5th, 2016

The Serve. Learn. Impact. Recognition Reception highlighted accomplishments of ALIVE Center students and support staff. The event is an opportunity to share accomplishments of the students in learning and serving. Kamla serves as GA at the Alive Center, and as an intern with the City of Bowling Green.



Photos Courtesy Karen Foley



WKU MPA Program Mission Statement

The MPA program prepares graduate students from diverse backgrounds to be productive leaders and managers in public service by sharing knowledge, encouraging excellence in research and practice, and fostering an environment of professionalism within the communities we serve.

The MPA Program would like to hear from you. Please email Dr. Boden and tell him your news—both personal and professional.



Mark Your Calendars!

August 27, 2016 New Student Orientation in Bowling Green

Oct 13-16th SECOPA conference in Raleigh, NC

Oct 19-21st NASPAA conference in Columbus, Ohio

Saturday, December 3, 2016 Comp Exam in Bowling Green

March 17-21, 2017 ASPA conference in Atlanta, Georgia



Spring 2016 Graduates

Dajana Crockett
Nate Dalrymple
Zahra Doostmehraban
Kathy Garrett
Bernadette Hale
Kelsey Luttrell
Krista Steenbergen
Beth Wells
Le Yang



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