Hello MPA Community!

Have you ever been on a plane and found that the person sitting next to you was a Brockport alum? Have you met with a former classmate for lunch or coffee or sent a former classmate an email to check in? Often when we reach out we hear of opportunities or of uplifting stories of success!

My story occurred in New York City last May where I met a former MPA student for lunch in downtown Manhattan. Lindsey Baumler, class of ’16, is now employed at a successful law firm in the alumni relations department. Not only does she have a great job, but an interesting one at that. The law firm maintains relationships and connections with lawyers who formerly worked for the firm—the alumni of the firm! Her department coordinates a range of unique opportunities for their current and future alumni, from planning celebrations, to helping departing employees reassess their interview skills. Although Lindsey resides in New York City, she visits Rochester occasionally, and has agreed to become a member of our MPA executive board because she really wants to support our program.

Another great story, encapsulates the love and dedication that MPA alumni encounter inside and outside of the program. An MPA wedding took place on September 27th between Kevin Montano, class of ’18 and Hailey Cammilleri, class of ’17. Kevin and Hailey actually met in the MPA program and—I believe it or not—they are not the first MPA couple.

Stay connected with former and current classmates! You never know what opportunities a lunch, an email, or a plane ride may hold for you. If you have an MPA story to share please let me know!

Best,
Dr. Wendy Wright
Interim Chair
Department of Public Administration

“Like us” on Facebook  Connect with us on LinkedIn
Support the MPA program. Make your gift today!
New MPA Students

This semester we admitted 19 new students. Below are pictures and a brief biography of some students. If you see them walking around or at one of our social events, please welcome our new students.

Jon Sanfratello is looking forward to the people he will meet throughout the program.

Chelsea Appong hopes to develop strong leadership skills.

Ian Reynolds looks forward to advancing himself academically.

Karris Manning is motivated to use the program as a means to understand her role as a public manager.

Aaron Wilkinson is looking forward to the lectures taught by some of the finest administrative professionals in the public sector.

Alexandra Agostinelli is looking forward to learning about the inner workings of communities and policies.

Abiel Payano

Michaelina McGee

Ray Otto
Micheal Hattery, PhD

Q: What is your teaching history?
I have taught several different versions of statistical methods for decision-making. I team taught a course on Local Governance and Governments for master’s students in Applied Economics at Cornell University. More recently I taught courses in Local Intergovernmental Management and Financial Management in the MPA Program at Binghamton University. In addition, because my applied research and project work with local, state and regional organizations I have offered project based courses for credit with both graduate and undergraduate students. This semester I am offering two online courses in the MPA program for students interested in local government.

Q: How will your past experiences help you as a professor?
For all of my professional career I have worked in training, technical assistance and applied research with local, regional and state governments in New York and the Northeastern United States. In addition, I served for over 20 years as a local government elected governing board member with stints in village, town, and county governments in New York. This experience has given me a broad understanding of local government operations, problems and needs.

Q: What actor would you want to play you if they ever made a movie about your life?
Kevin Costner. He is still keeping a job and getting parts as he grows older. Probably more importantly, the viewing public seems to embrace his frequent, long pauses in delivering his lines.

Steve Hanmer, MPA

Q: What is your teaching history?
I have been mentoring and training individuals to design and implement projects in collaboration with government, non-profit and private sector partners for the last 20 years. My theory is that if you can say to a future employer that you applied your MPA skills in a project with a client and list a reference that can speak to your future employer about your accomplishments, we should both be happy. This clinical model style of teaching was the basis of my MPA degree program, and it has helped me stand out in every job I’ve had. You should take one of my courses in the spring and feel free to stop by my office to chat when you get a minute.

Q: How will your past experiences help you as a professor?
My professional experiences working for multiple city managers across the country and nearly a decade working on policy formulation, research and public partnerships under the Bush and Obama administrations, has given me a diversity of experiences that I believe will benefit students looking to understand the complexities of our society and put their hands on effective models for designing and funding programs that have an impact.

Q: You accidentally ate some radioactive pizza and it’s given you one superpower of your choice. What do you choose?
My two sons have exposed me to all kinds of animated movies, so I’m going with Incredibles 2 character Jack Jack and his Shape Shifting power to move through bureaucratic systems with ease.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Amber Hainey

Hometown: Mt. Morris, NY, recently moved to Geneseo, NY

Program: MPA, Public Management emphasis

Undergraduate College and Major: Finger Lakes Community College where I majored in Criminal Justice. I also attended SUNY Brockport where I majored in Criminal Justice and Political Science

Expected Graduation Date: Spring, 2020

Current Occupation: Probation Based Preventive Caseworker

How and why did you decide to apply for The College at Brockport MPA program?
I decided to go back to school after getting into activism and political campaigns. I chose The College at Brockport because that is where I completed my undergraduate degree.

What have you enjoyed most about the program so far?
I enjoy the flexibility of the program. I was in a car accident my first semester and had some other health issues during my second semester, but I was able to complete classes from home that semester.

What does your job entail?
As a probation based case worker, I work with all of the children who are on probation because of juvenile delinquency and persons in need of supervision (PINS) proceedings.

What are your future goals?
I am currently running for Geneseo Town Council. I am looking forward to seeing how that plays out. My long-term goals are to work in upper level government administration or for policymakers/government officials.

Alumni News

Congratulations to Ted “Tank” Halpin. He is a 1993 graduate of the Brockport MPA program and is currently Director of Emergency Management and Communications in Madison County (NY).

Frank Allkofer, 1997 MPA alumnus, is a Monroe County Legislator, 4 District, for the Towns of Gates and Ogden. “The MPA program prepared me to address issues and problems impacting our community as well as problem solving, budgeting and finance.”

If you have news you would like featured here (birth announcements, weddings, professional accolades) please click here to submit your news.
Get Involved

ICMA Student Chapter

The International City/County Management Association aims to create excellence in local governments by developing and fostering professional management to build better communities. The College at Brockport ICMA Student Chapter is committed to ensuring that students are prepared with the skills and qualifications to enter a diverse and competitive workforce. For more information go to my.brockport.edu/organization/icma or contact ICMA President Shaniece Blair at sblair1@brockport.edu.

MPA Speaker Series

Each semester the department invites members of the professional community to come and share their journeys with us. Often these individuals are alumni who have been exactly where our students are now. Many of our students have expressed that they feel inspired after hearing these talks of shared knowledge and experience.

The first speaker series on 10/8 featured Simeon Banister of the Rochester Community Foundation. Our next speaker series on Community Impact Assessment: Measuring Outcomes and Tracking Performance will be held on 11/19.

Connect with the MPA Community

Pub Nights

Periodically, throughout the semester students will get a chance to network with one another in a relaxed environment. Our first Pub Night was on September 13th. Thank you to those students and faculty who attended, it was a huge success. For information on upcoming Pub Nights watch for email announcements. Graduate Assistant, Patrick Coyle is the Pub Night coordinator, pcoyl1@brockport.edu

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What is Pi Alpha Alpha

The Pi Alpha Alpha Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration (PAA) recognizes outstanding students in public administration, public policy, and public affairs. PAA has over 160 chapters at NASPAA member schools, and is growing every year. The College at Brockport PAA Chapter has more than 200 members throughout the Greater Rochester Area and beyond. Enrolled Brockport MPA students are eligible for membership upon earning at least 21 graduate level credit hours and a 3.70 cumulative GPA. Eligible students will receive an email inviting you to join from the Department of Public.

Your local Brockport Chapter offers these benefits:

- Professional networking opportunities in the Greater Rochester Area
- Opportunities to enrich the MPA program at Brockport through civic engagement, volunteering, educational programs, and involvement in MPA events and activities
- The ability to hold a PAA Brockport Chapter Executive Office position

Pi Alpha Alpha®

For more information go to: pialphaalpha.org

Pi Alpha Alpha Member Feature

Shayna Jennings

I started my MPA adventure in the Spring of 2018. Having been in the non-profit field for nearly a decade, I was constantly contemplating what path would be best for me. One of the things I learned from my experience in the field was management and leadership often determined how overall operations were carried out, what direct services were provided, and the way in which they were provided. As a result, I decided to seek the professional growth that would allow me to be a part of those conversations at the management level and a part of the change I had hoped to see.

What drew me specifically to Brockport’s MPA program was the emphasis on community and networking. The MPA program offers numerous ways to get involved, encourages student input, and offers events for networking. In the Spring of 2019, I joined the Pi Alpha Alpha Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. Through this organization I hope to expand my involvement in the MPA community, grow my network, and strengthen the relationships I have developed through the program.

I have consistently been able to apply the academic knowledge obtained throughout the MPA program to my current position as Program Manager for Volunteers of America, but perhaps even more significant than the academic takeaways, I have learned the importance and power of connection. As students preparing to become community leaders and managers, connection is necessary. I urge you all to consider the ways in which you’re connected, and ways in which you can strengthen or enhance your connections. Take advantage of the opportunities before you and make the most out of your overall experience. Cheers to a wonderful year of growth and connections friends, I hope to see you at an upcoming event!
Aaliyah Johnson
I graduated from SUNY Brockport with a BS in Criminal Justice, and African/African American studies. I decided to continue my education at Brockport because of the opportunities and resources that the institution provided me with. I am currently a second year MPA student with an emphasis in Poverty Studies. Ultimately my career goal is to obtain a position as a Chief Diversity Officer at a higher education institution so that I can effectively implement policies and programs which display cultural awareness and competency towards marginalized groups and their respective causes.

Kim Ross
This is my last semester in the MPA program. Prior to returning to school for a masters degree, my professional experiences included business ownership in graphic communications, a leadership role in the non-profit sector, and various roles in higher education. I know the MPA program has helped me develop stronger, sharper leadership skills and a clearer professional outlook. I especially appreciate the networking opportunities that abound in our program, the personal interest my professors and coworkers have shown in me, and the flexibility the program offers for experiential learning opportunities such as my internship at the Lyric Theatre.

Patrick Coyle
I graduated from SUNY Brockport with a BS in Marketing in 2015 and spent 3 years working in business-to-business telecom sales before deciding to go back to school. I am very passionate about the social safety net and would like to devote my career to trying to help people escape generational, cyclical poverty. I am currently in the State and Municipal Management emphasis and am really looking forward to working with all the incredibly accomplished faculty members we have in the department.

Katie Kreutter
IPSED Graduate Assistant
I am a lifelong Rochesterian with a background in the non-profit sector. I graduated from St. John Fisher College with a B.A. in Communications / Journalism and Religious Studies and from Rochester Colgate Crozer Divinity School with a Master of Divinity. Currently, I am pursuing a graduate degree in the Public Administration program at SUNY Brockport’s downtown campus with the career goal of service in the public or municipal sector with an emphasis on public policy formation. I’m appreciating the opportunities to learn and grow toward this diverse career field as a MPA student and Graduate Assistant with the Institute for Poverty Studies & Economic Development (IPSED).
Advisor Corner

Advising of students in the Department of Public Administration is divided among the program faculty members. Students in the MPA program are encouraged to check who their assigned advisor is on Banner.

Library Support

Margaret Pierce, the new librarian for Brockport Downtown is here to help with research questions, from 3pm to 7pm, Monday through Thursday and Margaret is available by appointment on Fridays, during flexible hours. Library support is located in room 517. The book return is now located in 5th floor Faculty/Staff Mail room #547.

For more information contact mpierce@brockport.edu 585-395-8476

The Public Management Program (PMP) Gives Students Applied Research Experience

In 2019 we completed two municipal service delivery assessments (1) evaluating cost saving opportunities for increased sharing in highway and related public works services for the Town and Village of Rhinebeck New York and (2) an evaluation of code enforcement options for the Village of Johnson City. Also this year we conducted a statewide survey of local government leaders on three key topics: priority local policy issues, governing board training needs, and capital planning and risk management practices. PMP reports and profiles on these projects are – or soon will be - available on SUNY Brockport’s Digital Commons here. Looking to the future, we will be working to create an electronic resource of high value municipal cases and applied research reports in New York State for use by students, researchers and state and local officials.