

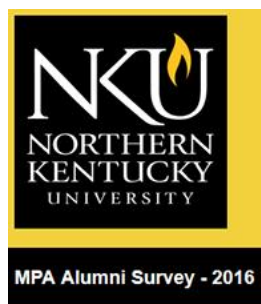


Fall 2016

Greetings, NKU MPA alumni and friends. I want to highlight a few important items in this newsletter ... and ask a favor of you. First, we are excited to report that this Fall brought **one of the largest groups of new MPA students** to our program. We know that many of them are here because our alumni are doing great things and “spreading the word.” Thank you so much, and please keep it up!

Secondly, I want to invite you to the **MPA Fall Reception on November 3**, which will feature a conversation about the challenges and successes of young, diverse professionals working in an “old boy” network which, of course, can exist in local government. The reception is free, and it’s always a good way to catch up with old friends, meet new ones, and hopefully learn something along the way.

Now the favor ... I ask that you take a few minutes to complete [our online alumni survey by November 22](#). As you may know, we conduct an alumni survey once every few years and use the results in various ways, including in the ongoing assessment and reporting for our NASPAA accreditation.



Please forward this e-newsletter to colleagues, friends and family who may be interested in the MPA program. This is one way – a free and easy way – to continue spreading the word.

Thanks again!

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MPA Alumni Survey: Please participate by Nov. 22!

Every few years, the NKU MPA program reaches out to our alumni to get feedback, which we use for assessment, accreditation and continuous improvement. And 2016 is one of those years! We are asking all alumni – recent and not-so-recent – to take 10 or 15 minutes to complete the following online survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NKUMPA2016>. In advance, thank you for your time, insight and ideas!

MPA Events

Fall Reception on Nov. 3

The MPA Fall Reception will take place on Thursday, November 3 from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. This year's reception will feature a lively discussion with the theme of "Surviving and Thriving as Young Public-Service Professionals in an 'Old Boy' Government Network." Leading the discussion will be: Elishia Chamberlain (NKU MPA 2008), City Administrator of Ludlow; Drew Tilow (NKU MPA 2011), Budget Analyst for the City of Cincinnati; and Sharmili Reddy, City Administrator of Fort Mitchell. There will be appetizers and socializing among current students, prospective students, faculty, alumni and Advisory Board members. The event is free but please RSVP to Missy Gish at gishm@nku.edu.

Save the Date for MPA/ASPA Dinner!

The MPA/ASPA Dinner will be held at NKU on Tuesday, February 21 at 5:30 p.m. Kevin Wright and Joe Nickol will co-present information and ideas from their new *Neighborhood Playbook*, which is "a step-by-step guide to public space activation and real estate development." Kevin is Executive Director of the Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation, and Joe is Senior Associate at MKSK, a community planning and urban design firm.

What's New in the MPA Program?

This Fall, the MPA program welcomed one of the biggest groups of new students ... more than 20 of them! Most of these new students participated in the MPA orientation on the first day of classes (pictured



here). Please introduce yourself and welcome them if/when you get a chance.

MPA Diversity Scholarship awarded

Mayra F. Guzman Orozco has been selected as the first recipient of the MPA Diversity Scholarship. This \$1,000 scholarship will be offered each fall to new MPA students with a demonstrated commitment to enhancing the understanding and appreciation of diverse populations.



Mayra currently serves as the Community Liaison and Interpreter for Covington Independent Public Schools (CIPS). In this role, she enhances communication among Latino families, CIPS administration, and the Covington community.

Beyond her "day job," Mayra volunteers as a professional mentor for NKU's Latino Mentor Program. In addition, she has decided to help establish a nonprofit that will serve as a resource bank for Latino families and organizations in Northern Kentucky. Toward this goal, Mayra is working with Amanda Donelan, who is an MPA student and a Covington Police Captain.

MPA in the News

Emergency Management Certificate

Our new Emergency Management graduate certificate has been featured in a number of media outlets including *The River City News*, WCPO and *The Lane Report*. Thanks to MPA alumni Greg Preece and Dave Moore and MPA student Emily Lakamp for providing insight on the field of emergency management in these stories.



In the Classroom

Service Learning

This Summer, Professor Elizabeth Fricke engaged her Volunteer Management (PAD 622) students in service learning projects that helped nonprofit and government organizations including the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative (CYC), Welcome House, Kenton County Conservancy Board, and



City of Park Hills. And it sounds as if the students responded with great passion, professionalism, knowledge, and skills.

The following is an excerpt from a message written by the CYC's Donor and Volunteer Relations Manager, who worked with one of the four student groups (pictured above): "Thank you. I want to say it a million times to you, thank you! You all went above and beyond my expectations. We struck gold when you all signed on to help us with our volunteer recruitment. ... Your passion for helping our youth was inspiring. What incredible insights and recommendations you presented. ... Know that we are very excited to implement them!"

Student Highlights

W.D. Heisel Memorial Scholarship

Christina Ingle was selected for the prestigious W.D. Heisel Memorial Scholarship from the Center for Local Government. This \$2,500 scholarship is designed for MPA students in the Greater Cincinnati area who plan to pursue a career in local government management. Christina follows a line of NKU MPA students who have been honored with this scholarship including Susan Ellerhorst, Dustin Lester, Christine Thompson, Trina Porter, and Sara Imhulse.



MPA Student Co-authors Case Study

[Erin Owen](#) has co-authored an article that appears in the most recent issue of [Opflow](#). [Opflow](#) is a monthly publication that provides articles, information and ideas related to water treatment and distribution. The article is a case study of Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) and its efforts to remove lead service lines from the region's water distribution system. This study is particularly timely and important in light of the public health crisis in Flint, Michigan caused by lead seepage into the city's drinking water. Erin is an assistant manager in the GCWW's Contact Center.



Faculty Features

Dr. Olberding Publishes New Book

Dr. Julie Olberding has finished a book called *Social Enterprise and Special Events*, which will be published in November by Routledge. She co-authored some chapters with NKU MPA alumni and students, including Liz Englehardt, Katie Dillon and Kyle Dorriere.



The book focuses on modern events – or “social gatherings with a purpose” – which are often organized across the nonprofit, public and private sectors. Nonprofit organizations tend to create and manage events, and private businesses often contribute financial support and technical expertise. Depending on the event type and size, a local government may provide the venue and public safety services, including police and fire.

The book examines these mission-driven events through the lens of social enterprise, which has been defined as a venture that advances a social mission using business methods or market-based approaches. For special events, these approaches can include market research, brand development, cause marketing, gamification, liquidity, cash management, and clustering. The book also incorporates concepts important in the nonprofit and public sectors such as collaborative governance, social capital, political capital, community development, placemaking, and diversity.

Faculty Changes

Dr. Gary Mattson retired from NKU after serving as a core MPA faculty member since 2004. Dr. Mattson has made important contributions to the profession of community planning, earning the distinction of Chartered Life Member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Most recently, he completed a book entitled *American Hometown Revival*, which examines the current economic challenges of small towns in the United States and provides strategies to overcome them.



Dr. Tom Lambert resigned from NKU to serve as Chair and Professor of Business Administration at [Simmons College of Kentucky](#), which is a small faith-based college in Louisville. Dr. Lambert is also teaching classes in the University of Louisville's College of Business for the coming year. We wish him the best with these endeavors.



A few outstanding public and nonprofit professionals – who happen to be NKU MPA alumni – have joined our part-time faculty, bringing their unique sets of knowledge and expertise to the classroom. They include:

- Thomas Lankford, Associate Director, Warren County Common Pleas Court (PAD 623 Grants Writing);
- Rina Saperstein, Program Coordinator, United Way of Greater Cincinnati (PAD 621 Resource Acquisition and Management); and
- Stacie Strotman, Executive Director, Covington Partners (PAD 626 Nonprofit Program Evaluation).

New Jobs and Promotions

[Frank Birkenhauer](#) (MPA 1995) was selected as the Administrator of Green Township. With more than 58,000 residents, Green is one of the largest townships in the state of Ohio, just behind West Chester and Colerain.

[Abbie Cain](#) (MPA 2012) is now serving as Coordinator for the Master in Environmental Studies program at the College of Charleston in South Carolina.

[Elizabeth Del Toro](#) (MPA 2011) is the Senior Manager of Corporate Social Responsibility for Kimberly-Clark in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

[Emily Lakamp](#) did an internship with the Hamilton County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (EMHSA), where she discovered a "passion for public service." In late April, the position of Training and Exercise Specialist opened up in the agency, and she applied and was hired.

[James McManus](#) (MPA student) was hired by the [Greater Cincinnati World Affairs Council](#) (GCWAC) as Program Associate.

[Ruth Nduta Ellis](#) (MPA 2011) has worked for TriHealth, an integrated health-care system in Cincinnati, for a number of years. A few months ago, Ruth became a Clinical Operations Support Consultant.

[Elhadji Niang](#) (MPA 2016) is now a Technical Analyst with CDK Global, which provides information technology and digital marketing services to automotive retailers.

[Wiley Ross](#) (MPA 2014) has become a Contract Compliance Specialist in the City of Cincinnati's Department of Economic

Inclusion.

[Kay Vonderschmidt](#) (MPA 2006) is the new Corporate Emergency Management Consultant at TriHealth. Kay continues to serve as a part-time faculty member in the MPA program, teaching our Emergency Management class (PAD 682).

Connect with us

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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