



## Spring 2016

Hi, MPA alumni and friends. The past few months have been very busy for MPA students and alumni in terms of graduation, new jobs and awards. (This photo features some of our newest alumni at the Fall commencement.) We are sharing what we know about alumni in this online newsletter because many have said they want to keep up with each other and stay connected. Please continue telling us good news and we'll continue sharing it.



The Spring semester is always busy, and this one is no different! The MPA program has started a few new and exciting programs, including a Diversity Scholarship and an Austria study abroad (more info below). Also, we have a number of events this semester including the MPA-ASPA Dinner (February 23), the MPA Spring Banquet (April 13), ASPA's Public Administrators of the Year luncheon (April 22), Spring Commencement (May 14), and the Graduation Celebration potluck (date TBA).

We hope to see you at an upcoming event!

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## What's Happening in the MPA Program?

### **New MPA Diversity Scholarship**

The NKU MPA program has a new Diversity Scholarship, which is designed for students with a demonstrated commitment to enhancing the understanding and appreciation of diverse populations. The program plans to award the first scholarship of \$1,000 in Fall 2016.

Applicants must be new MPA students who have been fully admitted (not conditionally or provisionally) and write an essay detailing activities in which they will engage to promote diversity on campus and/or in the broader community. Preference will be given to students from underrepresented populations in the MPA program.

For more information on applying for the scholarship or contributing to it, please contact Dr. Julie Olberding, MPA Director, at [olberdingj@nku.edu](mailto:olberdingj@nku.edu).

### **Summer Study Abroad in Austria**

MPA students have a new opportunity to study management and leadership in Austria during five weeks in the Summer. Based in the city of Bregenz, the program is led by Dr. Jeff Zimmerman, an organizational leadership professor at NKU.



This year, the Austria-Bregenz program will run from late May to late June, and the cost is about \$5,800, which includes tuition for 6 credit hours, airfare, lodging, two meals a day, and a 10-day Eurail Pass. Students may be eligible for a \$2,000 International Study Scholarship from NKU. [Click here](#) to learn more.

### **We moved to Landrum!**

In January, the MPA program moved to Landrum Academic Center (LA), along with the rest of our department. We will be here for 2+ years while Founders Hall undergoes a major renovation, connecting it to NKU's Health



Innovations Center (HIC), which is now under construction. Learn more about the new HIC here: <http://hicinfo.nku.edu/>.

Please note MPA staff and faculty are in the following offices in LA:

- Missy Gish, MPA Coordinator, 125
- Dr. Julie Olberding, MPA Director, 122
- Dr. Shamima Ahmed, 133
- Dr. Thomas Lambert, 217H
- Dr. Gary Mattson, 217J
- Dr. Marcos Misis, 217G
- Dr. Jan Hillard, 120
- Professor Bruce McClure, 208E

## Faculty Feature

### **Dr. Misis to teach online terrorism class this Summer**

Terrorist threats and actions by groups like the Islamic State continue to raise fear and concern in the United States and around the world. This Summer, Dr. Marcos Misis will teach Terrorism (PAD 683), which will focus on jihadist groups in the United States, in a completely online format from July 11 through August 13.



Current graduate students can register for PAD 683 without submitting a new application. Interested individuals who are not graduate students must apply as a non-degree-seeking student and submit official transcripts from any universities they have attended.

Dr. Misis, who regularly teaches in the MPA program, has conducted research on citizens' fears and police officers' views of terrorism. Here's an [interview](#) with him on local [public radio station WVXU](#).

## MPA Events

### **MPA Spring Banquet on April 13**

This year's MPA Spring Banquet and Awards Celebration will be held on Wednesday, April 13 at 5:30 p.m., in NKU's Student Union (Room 104). Please save the date, and consider making a nomination for

the Distinguished MPA Alumnus/nae Award by sending a message to Dr. Julie Olberding at [olberdingj@nku.edu](mailto:olberdingj@nku.edu).

As has been the tradition for the past few years, the alumni award winner will be the guest speaker at the Spring Banquet. Recent winners have included: Larry Klein, City Manager of Covington; Jane Keller, CEO of Cincinnati Youth Collaborative; and Wade Williams, Senior Vice President for Business Retention and Expansion at the Northern Kentucky Tri-County Economic Development Corporation (Tri-ED).

### **MPA/ASPA dinner featured People's Liberty CEO**

The annual MPA/ASPA dinner took place on Tuesday, February 23. Eric Avner, CEO of People's Liberty, talked about this five-year initiative that grants funding to individuals who have "big ideas" to transform the region. This approach of granting funds to individuals, or social entrepreneurs, is in contrast to the traditional approach by most foundations of granting funds to nonprofit organizations.



A flagship program of People's Liberty is the Haile Fellowship, which is a \$100,000 grant awarded to two individuals each year who have identified major challenges in the region and potential strategies for addressing them. The fellows also receive 12 months of space at People's Liberty, which is located in the historic Globe Furniture building near Findlay Market in Over-the-Rhine, as well as assistance with marketing and outreach.

The dinner was co-hosted by the NKU MPA program and the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), which is the largest professional association for managers in public and nonprofit organizations.

## **Fall Reception speaker focused on sexual orientation in public environments**

About 50 MPA students, alumni and faculty attended the MPA Fall Reception on October 22. They networked, socialized and heard from Bonnie Meyer, Director of NKU's LGBTQ Programs and Services.



NKU was the first university in Kentucky to create an LGBTQ office to increase awareness of and advocacy for students, staff and faculty. Bonnie shared her experiences as the first director in developing policies, programs and services. In addition, she discussed recent events related to sexual orientation in our broader society, particularly the U.S. Supreme Court decision to recognize same-sex marriages.

We'd like to thank Bonnie for sharing her experiences and insight and also students, alumni and faculty for taking part in this event.

## **Alumni and Student Spotlight**

### **Team Wade wins international award ... again!**

Wade Williams (MPA 2001) and his NKY Boost team at [Northern Kentucky Tri-ED](#) won an international economic development award for the second time! The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) selected NKY Boost for the Gold Excellence award in Business Retention and Expansion. The IEDC presented the award at its annual conference in October 2015 in Anchorage, Alaska.

### **Jane Keller recognized for successful "second act" in nonprofit sector**

[Jane Keller](#) (MPA 2009) was selected as the 2015 Second Act Award from the Cincinnati Business Courier which recognizes "local professionals who have forged new paths after achieving success in their first careers."

## **Cincinnati Enquirer focuses on Colerain Township and Frank Birkenhauer**

Frank Birkenhauer (MPA 1995) is Economic Development Director of Colerain Township in Ohio. A [recent story](#) in the Cincinnati Enquirer focused on exciting developments in the community in 2015, which totaled \$40 million. It also featured planned developments for 2016, including a Kroger Marketplace, three new restaurants, a number of new elementary schools, and a housing complex for low- and moderate-income seniors.

## **Local government scholarship awarded to Elizabeth Ruwe**

Congratulations to MPA student [Elizabeth Ruwe](#)! The Northern Kentucky City and County Management Association (NKCCMA) selected Elizabeth for this year's local government scholarship. Elizabeth currently serves as Community Engagement Manager with the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio. In this role, she leads about 100 volunteers and identifies opportunities for community partnerships. This is the second year that the NKCCMA has awarded this scholarship, which is designated for students in the NKU MPA program interested in local government management or public service. We want to thank the association again for their generous support of our students and program.



## **Lisa Watkins's Capstone project leads to \$40,000 grant ... and media attention**

For her Capstone project in Spring 2015, [Lisa Marie Watkins](#) (MPA 2015) researched best practices in grassroots public health programs and co-authored a grant application for the Healthy Homes program at Santa Maria Community Services. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – the largest public health foundation in the country – awarded a \$40,000 grant to the program this summer. Lisa's story has been featured in articles by WCPO-9, Soapbox Cincinnati, The River City News and other media outlets. [Click here](#) to link to the Soapbox story.

## **Tom Jacobs helps acquire \$10,000 grant for bicycle and pedestrian safety**

During the Fall 2015 semester, [Tom Jacobs](#) (MPA 2015) worked with Planning and Development Services (PDS) of Kenton County on a grant application to enhance citizen awareness and education related to bicycle and pedestrian safety. The Kentucky Bicycle and Bikeway Commission selected the PDS application for a \$10,000 award, which was the full amount requested.

## **New Jobs and Promotions**

[Lynne Ausman Riehle](#) (MPA 2010) accepted a position as Project Manager at the Partnership Center, Ltd.

[Susan Ellerhorst](#) (MPA 2012) was selected as the new Village Administrator in Williamsburg, Ohio.

[Michael Hoff](#) (MPA 2005) was promoted to Associate Vice President and Chief Planning Officer at East Tennessee State University.

[Becky Hopkins](#) (MPA 2006) has become the Village Manager of Lincoln Heights, Ohio.

[Kathleen Kennedy](#) (MPA student) was hired as Executive Assistant at Springfield Township.

[Andrew Lanser](#) (MPA student) is now Program Development Director at the Center for Local Government (CLG).

[Emily Lewis Hughes](#) (MPA 2012) was promoted to Grantmaking and Operations Manager at the Mathile Family Foundation in Dayton, Ohio.

[Marcus McGhee](#) (MPA 2012) is in his fourth and final year at Indiana University's law school. Marcus serves as editor-in-chief of the Indiana International and Comparative Law Review, and he was recently selected for a Public Interest Fellowship related to implementing a veterans' disability component into the law school clinic.

[Josh Neumeyer](#) (MPA 2012) was selected as Business Officer for the Haile/US Bank College of Business at NKU.

[Patty Poor](#) (MPA 2010) is now a Cancer Control Specialist for the Kentucky Cancer Program (KCP), which is managed by the Markey Cancer Center / University of Kentucky. Drew Tilow (MPA 2011) started as a Management Analyst in the City of Cincinnati's Office of Budget and Evaluation.

[Susanne Tulloss](#) (MPA 1996) is now Manager of the Customer Focus Center at the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber.

[Sean Wagner](#) (MPA 2009) was named the Chief Operating Officer of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity and Foundation.

### 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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