

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

A Note From Pat Piskulich, MPA Director

Happy 2019! Hope you had a wonderful holiday.

Welcome back, and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and productive year!

What's Happening in the Program?

Join us as we review a successful semester in the MPA program.

Nonprofit Management Certificate Graduation

Earlier this semester the Nonprofit Management Certificate Program had 10 participants successfully complete their studies. Graduates completed a rigorous seven-week course in one of six rotations; management best practices, entrepreneurship & development, financial analysis, performance metrics, leadership & human resource management, and communication & outreach. Graduates are now prepared to bring their new skills back to their nonprofit and excel!

Participants were honored at a ceremony in October; they were invited to bring family, friends, and mentors to witness the certificate awarding. The celebration does not end there. In November, the participants were invited by the City of Pontiac to be recognized by the City Council! We are so proud of our Nonprofit Management graduates! Congratulations again, and best of luck making a difference in the world!



MCACHE 2018 Case Competition

This year Oakland University's chapter of the Midwest Chapter of American College of Healthcare Executive hosted the Annual Student Case Competition. Students from Eastern Michigan, University of Detroit Mercy, University of Michigan, and Siena Heights University came to Oakland to compete. Brooke Brubaker and Megan Fisher represented OU.

This year's case charged administrators with improving their community health center. Teams took knowledge from their classes and were able to apply these things to their solutions. After lunch, teams presented the case and their solutions to a panel of healthcare executives.

At the end of the day University of Michigan was deemed the winner. Worry not, OU will be ready to take back the trophy in 2019. Congratulations to all who participated, keep up the great work!



ICMA Luncheon & Reception

It was with great honor that the ICMA collegiate chapter and the Oakland University Alumni Association were able to host a lunch and reception to welcome back MPA alumni Marc A. Ott and Karen Pinkos. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend one or both events!

Mr. Ott was appointed ICMA Executive Director in 2016. He oversees all aspects of ICMA, including membership, staff, and implementation of the Executive Board's strategic objectives. Ott earned his bachelor's degree in Management as well as his MPA from OU.

Mrs. Pinkos is the fourth woman to be president in ICMA's 105-year history — and the second female president from California. Ms. Pinkos earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Oakland University in 1998 and her Master of Public Administration from Oakland University in 2001.



OU Day of Service

This semester four student organizations in the MPA program consisting of AFP, ICMA, SAHL and PAA participated in the OU Day of Service on campus on November 14. This all day event aims at gathering student organizations with the goal of giving back to the community.

During OU Day of Service students are free to stop by the Oakland Center and work on different service projects ranging from card making for veterans to making PB&J sandwiches for the homeless. At the conclusion of the event all items are donated to various non-profits in the area.

Students created a total of 190 cards to be donated to the Veterans in the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit. We are excited to see that through collaboration this project was a complete success and our goal of 100 cards was exceeded. We hope to keep this going next year and surpass this year's number.



Sarah's Star Memorial Scholarship

MPA alumna and former OU employee Sarah Hasenmueller Weinberg moved to Washington, D.C. following her graduation to work for a nonprofit organization. Tragically, Sarah passed away following a car accident while driving home to see family for the Christmas holiday in 2016. Sarah was dedicated to public service and exemplified the values that the MPA program instills in its students. Subsequently, the Sarah's Star scholarship was set up in her memory.

The MPA program continues to support the Sarah Hasenmueller Weinberg Scholarship. The scholarship focuses on students enrolled in Oakland University's Master of Public Administration program who are experiencing a serious life transition or life-changing event.

If you are interested in donating or for more information about the Sarah Hasenmueller Weinberg Scholarship, please contact University Advancement at giving@oakland.edu or (248) 370-4504, or Suzanne Rossi at ssrossi@oakland.edu or (248) 370-4117.

Spotlights

Student Spotlight- Ben Olsen, MPA April '19.

Ben has just moved to California for a job with the U.S State Dept. Below is a mini testimonial on why he chose an MPA and advice he'd like to share.

"I chose to pursue a Master of Public Administration degree at Oakland University to enhance my understanding of the public sector while gaining valuable experience through a variety of unique opportunities. Direct connections to local leaders and the invaluable support of engaging mentors make the program unique in the region. My experience in the program, like that of so many others, has been thoroughly enriching. It has helped prepare me to enter public service by exposing me to a wide variety of situations, both historical and hypothetical. The emphasis on practical applications of public service principles is a concept I will carry with me moving forward.

I am fortunate to have been able to secure a position with the U.S. Department of State, where I hope to make a positive impact on the lives of community members, one neighbor at a time.

If I may, I would like to leave you with just a few words of imparted wisdom that have proven invaluable for me. Reach out, connect, network; just because we are in the public sector, that does not mean we cannot be entrepreneurial. Finally, do not hesitate; if you come across an opportunity, take it!"



Graduate Spotlight

Congratulations to our newest batch of MPA graduates! We are so proud of you and are excited to see you do great things with your degrees. Please join us in congratulating the Winter 2018 Graduates!



Congratulations

Terri Abbo

Andre Basin

Tyler Fox

Robert Morrison

Melissa Schneider

Not Pictured:

Nemar Jackson

Danielle Terrell Peters

Stacy Szymczak

Zack Thomas

Alumni Spotlight- Drew Benson, MPA April 18.



Drew recently graduated from the MPA program this last April and was kind enough to reflect on his time in the program and give some advice to students.

"I currently serve as the Assistant to the City Manager with the City of Troy, where I work directly with senior staff to help implement policies and programs for a community of more than 80,000 people. I couldn't be more thrilled about the opportunity to have a direct impact on my community, and the MPA program allowed me to not only find a career, but a passion. Prior to my time in Troy, I worked with the Village of Oxford and their Downtown Development Authority, and interned with the City of Rochester; all opportunities that wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for the connections

and knowledge I found at Oakland University.

The faculty and staff helped me not only learn the key concepts I needed to hit the ground running professionally, but also connected me to people and opportunities that will help shape my career for years to come. I was able to immediately apply my coursework to my professional career, while learning alongside a network of classmates and instructors who are also passionate about public service and making a difference in their communities. During and after my time in the program I've had the chance to work on City-wide projects and programs, design strategic plans, assist with the development of multi-million dollar budgets, and develop leadership skills that have opened new and fulfilling doors in my career.

My path through the MPA program here at Oakland has been one I never expected, and that I couldn't appreciate more. I would recommend the program to anyone who wants to better understand how public sector organizations function, and wants to expand their career while helping to solve the challenges of tomorrow. The learning only begins in the classroom though, and I would tell every new MPA student to get out in the field and get involved with professional associations to build relationships and hone their skills - it's never too early to make a life-long connection."

New Faculty and Staff

Instructor

Tim Colbeck joins our faculty this semester teaching our Economic Development course. Mr. Colbeck is the Associate Planner for Main Street Oakland County, and has previously served as Executive Director for multiple Downtown Development Authorities (DDA). His class is on Tuesdays at 6 if you're looking to pick up another class. Welcome to the Grizzly Family!



Graduate Assistants

Kimberly Vicente

Kimberly received her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Oakland University in the spring of 2017. She just completed her first semester in the program. She plans on pursuing a Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in court administration. Her goal is to work in a court and work her way towards an administrative role. In addition to her graduate assistant responsibilities, Kimberly is treasurer of Oakland's Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Collegiate Chapter and Secretary for International City/County Management Association (ICMA). She is looking forward to working with MPA faculty and students in the coming months in support of the program and student organizations. You can reach Kimberly at kvicente@oakland.edu or (248) 370-2364.

Megan Fisher

Megan graduated in April 2018 from Oakland University with a bachelor's degree in Public Administration & Public Policy. She is a 4 + 1 student, meaning she has just begun her last year in the MPA program. Her focuses in the MPA program are on Healthcare Administration and Nonprofit Organization. She hopes to start in the healthcare field and eventually end in nonprofit work. Megan is the President of Student Alliance of Healthcare Leaders (SAHL), and the treasurer of Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA). She is excited to work with students and faculty. She can be reached at mkfisher2@oakland.edu or (248)370-2674.

Student Organizations

Association of Fundraising Professionals

Formerly known as ANP, the AFP is an organization that promotes the profession of fundraising and the interests amongst AFP members. Nonprofit activities include but are not limited to, education, training, workshops, and publications. For more information email Laurel Schaaf at lschaaf@oakland.edu

Student Alliance of Healthcare Leaders

Student Alliance for Healthcare Leaders (SAHL) SAHL is an organization of students interested in healthcare. Members of SAHL participate in networking events, education events, and have the opportunity to be active in Midwest Chapter of American College of Healthcare Executives (MCACHE). For more information email Megan Fisher at mkfisher2@oakland.edu

International City/County Management Association

International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is an organization for students interested in local government management. ICMA provides opportunity for members to network, learn, and participate in webinars. Everyone is welcome in ICMA! For more information email Collin Mays at cmays@oakland.edu

Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society

Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA) PAA is a national honor society for Public Affairs and Administration. PAA hosts MPA events as well as social events, all events are open to all students regardless of membership status. These events are a great way to meet fellow students, faculty, and PAA members. For information email Stacy Syzmczak at stacyszymczak@oakland.edu