

Summer 2016

campus for a couple months, MPA faculty, staff and students remain very busy with classes, research, internships and jobs. This e-newsletter provides brief updates on some recent accomplishments and activities:

- our new Emergency Management certificate;
- MPA faculty publishing research on small-town revitalization and women leadership in the nonprofit sector;
- an MPA class involved with the awarding of \$500,000+ in grants to local organizations;
- our students engaging in internships with agencies like the National Park Service;
- and our alumni getting new jobs and promotions.

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colleagues, friends and family who may be interested. Also, we invite all of you to meet and catch up with MPA students, alumni and faculty at the Summer Potluck on Thursday, July 21.

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Emergency Management graduate certificate in the Northern Kentucky / Greater Cincinnati region.

This certificate program was developed for individuals currently employed or interested in emergency management in local, state or federal government or in universities, schools, hospitals, other nonprofits, or private businesses. It requires 18 credit hours that students can complete at their own pace, up to six years.

The three core courses - or 9 credit hours - are taught online, and they include Homeland Security Administration (PAD 681),

necessary; there will be plenty of food.) Please RSVP to Missy Gish at gishm@nku.edu so we know how many to expect.

Fall Reception

SAVE THE DATE! The MPA Fall reception will be on Tuesday, October 25 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Student Union 104. More details to come in the Fall MPA e-newsletter and on social media.

In the Classroom

Students develop fundraising proposals for new nonprofit

Students in our Resource Acquisition and Management class (PAD 621) in the Spring semester worked on several service learning projects with [Scrapnati](#). This organization is an emerging creative reuse center for art, craft and related materials in Greater

Shark Tank for nonprofits" was featured on [WVXU's Cincinnati Edition](#).

Research Methods students practice in the field (in the park, actually)

A group of MPA students in Research Methods (PAD 615) created and conducted a survey for Great Parks of Hamilton County this spring to find out what parkgoers would like to see at their parks. Students collected information on topics such as conservation, nature education and outdoor recreation during park clean up days this spring. The feedback received will help Hamilton County Parks with their long-term planning. Great job Chris, Elizabeth, Niki, Jenny, Joe, Zach, and Dr. Lambert!

Student philanthropy with ArtsWave and Duke Energy

Our Resource Acquisition and Management (PAD 621) class was fortunate to take part in NKU's Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project. The class partnered with two major funders in the region: ArtsWave and the Duke Energy Foundation. Half of the students worked on the "direct giving" model for which ArtsWave entrusted the students with \$2,000 to invest in nonprofits providing community-based arts programming in Northern Kentucky. These students searched for organizations, invited them to complete grant applications, and ultimately selected two of them for a \$1,000 grant each - the Augusta Art Guild and ROKCincy (Roundabout Opera for Kids).

The remaining students worked on the "indirect giving" model with the Duke Energy Foundation. They reviewed and assessed 35 grant applications submitted to Duke in the areas of STEM and early childhood literacy with funding requests ranging from \$10,000 to \$250,000 (over multiple years). The students presented their assessments to the foundation's Education Advisory Team at Duke's

offices in downtown Cincinnati (pictured here). In the end, the foundation made grants totaling more than \$500,000 to nonprofits such as the Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati, Cincinnati Observatory Center, and Teach for America.

Faculty Feature

As some of you know, Dr. Gary Mattson has been working on a book on small towns in the United States with a focus on their current economic challenges and strategies to overcome them. In July, Routledge will publish *American Hometown Renewal*, which has been a comprehensive, single-source text covering the



American Hometown Renewal features a blend of theory, applications and case studies of small towns in both rural and suburban areas. Topics include community visioning, demographics, housing policy, employment and workforce analysis, Main Streets, commercial hubs, municipal services, budgeting, taxes and revenue disparity, and debt financing.

Congratulations to Dr. Mattson! This book is a huge accomplishment and an important contribution to the field of community development and revitalization. We also want to congratulate Dr. Mattson on becoming a Chartered Life Member of the American Institute of Certified Planners for distinguished service to the profession for 40 years.

Dr. Ahmed studies women leaders in International NGOs

Dr. Shamima Ahmed is completing research on women leadership in International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs). While some research has been done on women leadership in nonprofit organizations in general, very little if any scholarship exists in regards to INGOs.



associated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO). In addition to doing extensive web research on these agencies, she has completed several in-depth skype interviews with a selected group of women leading these INGOs.

Dr. Ahmed has presented preliminary findings at the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Annual Conference. She also has submitted a book chapter, based on this research, for the *Routledge Handbook of Women in Public Administration: A Global Perspective*. The book is slated to be published end of this year.

Alumni and Student Spotlight

Work of MPA alum ranked nationally

David Johnston (MPA 2008) is Homicide Commander for the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD). Under his leadership, the CPD has been recognized as having one of the highest rates of closing or solving homicide cases in the country.

In 2015, the CPD's closure rate was 70 percent. In addition to being an alumnus of the NKU MPA program, Lieutenant Johnston currently serves as a member of our MPA Advisory Board. We are very proud of his outstanding and important work in the City of Cincinnati, and we are grateful for his continued involvement in our program.

MPA student honored by ASPA-GCC

Paula Brehm-Heeger was selected as the 2016 Outstanding Student by the American Society for Public Administration Greater Cincinnati Chapter. The ASPA-GCC presented this award to Paula along with other awards to outstanding individuals and organizations involved in public service at a special luncheon on Friday, April 22. In addition, Paula and other award winners were recognized at the Greater Cincinnati Public Service Recognition Celebration. This event took place on the afternoon of Thursday, April 14, 2016.

Paula has been an exceptional MPA student in the classroom and beyond. She recently participated in a NASPAA competition where

Jennifer Patrick (MPA 2013) started as Development Officer in March with the HealthSource Foundation.