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IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb. 18th—Winter recess begins
- Feb. 27th—Winter recess ends
- April 17th—Classes end
- April 19th—Exams begin
- April 25th—Exams end
- April 28th—Commencement



Diane Hartmus,
MPA Director

Court Administration Concentration

I am delighted to announce that the MPA program at Oakland University is adding a new concentration in Court Administration. A group of judges, court administrators, and faculty have been working for over a year on creating this new curriculum. Court administration is a growing profession that is needed to meet the administrative demands of modern courts. We will be the only academic court administration program in Michigan and one of a very few in the United States. As a responsive educational program, we are proud to see our community needs and meet them in a timely manner.

Court administration is a relatively new profession. Historically, judges presided over their cases while additionally holding the responsibility for the function, building and staff of the court itself. As

courts grew larger and became more administratively complex, administrative expertise in the form of specialized public administrators who could effectively manage the business of the judicial system were needed. Today, court administrators are involved at every level of judicial management—from building new courthouses to case management and security concerns. Simply put, court administrators are responsible for most of what goes on in a courthouse besides deciding cases.

Similar to the other four concentrations in our program, the concentration in court administration requires the six core courses of the basic MPA program, 12 credits in court administration and a capstone of either a master's project or an internship. The required elective in this concentration is PA 540 Introduction to Court Administration. Issues in Court Administration, PA 640, an advanced class in court administration, was created specifically for this concentration.

For a complete list of additional electives in this concentration, please see our MPA

website at:

www.oakland.edu/mpa/description

(Scroll down to the court administration concentration.)

Courts today are becoming increasingly complex as they specialize and seek out new ways of handling the growing numbers of cases in our country. The need for highly trained court administrators is certain. The OU MPA program is very excited to offer this specialization to our students and to provide the courts with well-trained, innovative individuals able to help lead our courts into the future.

In other exciting news, we are going to start offering MPA classes at the Anton/Frankel Center in Mt. Clemens. More information on this will be forthcoming, but we think it will be an exciting outreach and growth opportunity for the program.

**MAKING LEADERS. MAKING DECISIONS. MAKING A DIFFERENCE.
MPA AT OAKLAND UNIVERSITY**

Student and Alumni News

After completing the MPA program at OU, alum **Candice Thomas ('11)** moved to Washington DC to work for a government aerospace company in the Human Resources department. She also helps organize community activities such as Heart Health Day and the Salvation Army gift outreach.

Dan Martin ('13) was elected to Ferndale City Council for a 4 year term in November, 2011. He used the presentation topic from his PA 601 Public Administration Theory class on increased public involvement in decision making as a campaign platform!

Paul Matthews ('12) accepted his new role as the Public Works Manager for the City of Birmingham in December 2011.

Chris Benedict ('10) was elected Board President of the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy in February 2012.

MPA program member **Julie Juncaj ('12)** is now the Account Clerk II at the Macomb County Sheriff's Department.

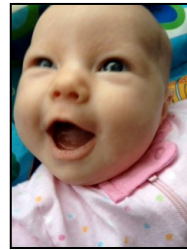
Alum and former Grad Assistant **Joan Bautti-Roche ('07)** is the current Assistant Director of the Women's Center and Sexual Assault Free Environment Coordinator (S.A.F.E) at Old Dominion University. She is responsible for bringing "The Vagina Monologues" back to Old Dominion after a seven year absence. The production was able to attract 50 women to audition, including faculty and students, many of whom was their first time on stage.

Alum & former Grad Assistant **Leanne DeVreugd ('11)** will be the Program Assistant for the OU College of Arts and Sciences. She will provide data, web site and administrative support and coordinate all activities relative to the University's NSF Partnership for Adaptation, Implementation, and Dissemination (PAID) grant.

Alum **Robert Vautaw ('10)** with wife Jeanne and son Willy (3 years old) welcomed newborn Madeline Jean Vautaw on December 2, 2011, born 6lbs, 3oz., 19 inches.



MPA Graduate Assistant **Pam Holtz ('12)** (formerly Hester) married Tim Holtz on October 28th, 2012.



Alumni Spotlight—Rebecca Ridky

After graduating from OU with her MPA, **Rebecca Ridky ('10)** received a position as the Health & Wellness Coordinator of the Older Person's Commission (OPC). The OPC is an activity center in Rochester, MI, offering programs and services to the community for those who are 50 years and older. These include transportation, programs and events, adult day care services, travel, performing arts, and health and wellness.

After working at the OPC for a year, a position for the Michigan Senior Olympics (MSO) became available. Founded in 1979, the MSO promotes healthy lifestyles by organizing state games, sports competitions, and health, fitness, and wellness programs for active individuals who are 50 and over. The MSO Summer Games have been held all over Michigan, including Pontiac, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Battle Creek,

Holland, Warren, Frankenmuth, and Midland.

Becky applied for the position with the MSO, and is now the Office Manager / Marketing and Sponsorship Coordinator. She is in charge of organizing the Senior Olympic Games for the entire State of Michigan. This includes securing event sites and coordinators, overseeing approximately 400 volunteers, marketing, sponsorship, and fundraising.

Becky credits her success to her classes at OU and her MPA degree. During her time at OU she says she learned the necessary skills needed to successfully run a non-profit organization. "By combining what I learned through my sports education classes and my MPA classes I will be able to continue to advance in my career." She even interviewed the past Marketing and Sponsorship Director for her non-profit class and was still remem-

bered when she interviewed for her current position. Her words of wisdom for anyone pursuing an MPA degree are: "Get involved! There are a lot of great volunteer opportunities out there. You never know who you might meet."

To learn more about the Michigan Senior Olympics, please visit:

www.michiganseniorolympics.org

If you are interested in volunteering or being an intern for the Michigan Senior Olympics, contact Becky Ridky at:

info@michiganseniorolympics.org

-OR-

(248) 608-0252

Alumni Spotlight—Matt Baumgarten

Matt Baumgarten ('08) is currently the Assistant to the City Administrator for the City of Lathrup Village. He handles Community and Economic Development, Building and Code Enforcement, and special projects as they arise. He also works with the Planning Commission and contractual city planners.

Matt has been a member of the Michigan Local Government Management Association (MLGMA) both as a student and as a professional since 2007. The MLGMA is the statewide professional organization for municipal managers. Within MLGMA, a recently created committee of young and aspiring managers called NextGen is a group looking for networking and professional development. The group has grown from a small collection of people gathering socially to an MLGMA supported

committee that hosts quarterly events and frequent regional gatherings. Currently, Matt sits on the NextGen Committee, as well as on the Community Education Committee.

"I have my career because of my MPA," says Matt. "Without the foundation of what I learned at OU, I would never have been able to build upon the opportunity that came after I entered the municipal management profession."

Matt highly recommends joining professional and networking groups in order to meet your future peers. Furthermore, he firmly believes that internships are the foot in the door to municipalities. "Even though they don't always pay a wage, they will pay off in ways that will eventually become more important to you." Lastly, "don't expect to stop learning after you leave your

classes. One of the best and most frustrating things about my job is it always changes, and I spend a lot of time researching new ways to tackle challenges."

Matt Baumgarten will be speaking at our upcoming PAA induction and MPA mixer.

Please join us in supporting the newest inductees! Dinner will be provided!

Contact Pam Holtz for more information at pjhester@oakland.edu

The MLGMA Winter Institute



Michigan Local Government Management Association

The Michigan Local Government Management Association (MLGMA) recently started a tradition of providing an opportunity for city officials of all different levels to gather together for a few days of professional development, best-practice sharing, networking, and fellowship. This has become known as the "Winter Institute," a conference that has drawn much attention from local government managers across the state. This year's Winter Institute took place from January 31st to February 3rd in East Lansing.

Three of Oakland's MPA program members attended the Winter Institute in February—Stephanie Davis, Justin Breyer, and Pam Holtz. The conference turned out to be an incredible opportunity for all three individuals.

"Everyone I spoke with was unbelievably helpful," says Pam. "It went beyond average networking—people genuinely wanted to give you the best advice possible to help you move from the academic realm to the working world."

The morning of the conference began with a general session and keynote speaker. There were both morning and afternoon break-out sessions in which participants could choose the subject most appealing to their interests or their specific municipality's needs. These sessions included topics on city branding, shared services, the importance of utilizing social networking, and more. Furthermore, there was a session specifically for students in public administration, allowing individuals the opportunity to ask a panel of experienced local government managers questions about any aspect of the field.

"I have not had many opportunities to network on a professional level

with local government leaders, especially from all over Michigan," says Stephanie. "There was a great turnout for the student session, and it gave positive, insightful feedback that not only inspired but also motivated myself and others."

"I met a great deal of highly experienced and knowledgeable professionals from all around the state," says Justin. "I was filled with the sense that no matter what questions or problems I experience in the future, my new colleagues and friends will provide a strong network of support."

To learn more about MLGMA, including professional development opportunities and membership information, please visit:

www.mlgma.org

Interested in Donating to the MPA Program?

If you would like to donate to the Master of Public Administration program, simply go to our secure online giving site <https://www.applyweb.com/public/contribute?s=oaklandd> and fill out the form. Under "Gift Information," scroll past the 3 drop-down designations to "Other Designation" and type in MPA Gift Fund.

Thank you in advance for your generous donation. Your support will greatly benefit both faculty and students, allowing the MPA program to continue to provide an exemplary education. For questions concerning this process or to make a gift by phone, please contact the Office of Annual Giving at (248) 364-6160.



The MPA Program Gives Back to the Community!

Join Oakland University's chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha on March 24th to help with a Habitat for Humanity build!
You do NOT need to be an inductee of PAA to participate—all are welcome!
Please contact Pam Holtz at pjhester@oakland.edu if you would like to be a part of this event.

Share Your News!

Our next issue will be in the Fall semester and we need your help to fill it. Please e-mail Suzanne Rossi (ssrossi@oakland.edu) if you have recent news that you would like to have included in the newsletter.

A special thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter. Your help is greatly appreciated.

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