

MPASA TIMES

Spring 2022 Issue

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LETTER FROM CHAIR

Dr. Gina Scutelnicu Todoran



Congratulations to all of you for successfully completing the Spring 2022 semester! I want to re-iterate how relevant an MPA degree is, especially during these times, and to encourage you to continue to stay focused and complete your degree in a timely manner. This way, you will be prepared for the next step in your career during a time when ample opportunities for public service careers are unveiling.

Remember to register for summer and fall classes. Our summer and winter term classes will help you complete your degree faster if you can commit to taking them. I would also like to remind you of our three graduate certificates: Healthcare Policy and Management, Nonprofit Management, and Long-term Care. You can complete one of them at no additional cost as part of your MPA degree by carefully selecting your

Communicate with us about your future plans. If you need to take a semester or a year off please let us know so we could help you complete the right paperwork. When returning from a leave of absence you need to fill out another form so you can resume your studies. It is important for you to know the process so you can stay the course.

Finally, I would like to express my wholehearted congratulations to our graduating class of 2022! I am extremely proud of you and please remember to stay in touch with us. You can connect with us via Facebook (@pacempasa), LinkedIn (Pace University MPA), Twitter (@Pace_MPA).

We are here to help you so please do not hesitate to reach out. Stay well and healthy.

My warmest regards,
Dr. Gina Scutelnicu
Chair, Public Administration Department



LETTER FROM MPASA ADVISOR DR. RIC KOLENDA

What does a post-pandemic MPASA look like?

Well, as you know, it's been a rough couple of years for everyone, especially here in the New York City area. As we reflect on the physical, psychological, and social toll the COVID-19 pandemic has inflicted, I hope we can also look forward with hope for better times ahead.

MPASA was especially hard hit, because so much of it has been based around students making connections in person, and that just hasn't been able to happen. But thanks to our wonderful new team assembled under President Monette Moradi and VP Sydney Moraitis, we're hoping that is changing as we complete our second pandemic full academic year (keep your eyes open for more soon on an upcoming event).

And in spite of it all, our wonderful MPA students continued to exceed expectations. Our recent Pi Alpha Alpha awards ceremony demonstrated that, with so many high-achieving students being awarded for their academic and professional accomplishments. I feel truly fortunate to work with each and every one of you! Finally, I want to both congratulate those who will be graduating this spring, and to encourage the rest to consider getting more involved in MPASA. To those receiving their MPA degrees and moving on to bigger and better things, I want you to know that you always have my faculty colleagues and me to continue to help you in any way we can. We really love our alumni, and we're always rooting for you! Please keep in touch, and let us know when you have professional accomplishments to share, or just need a refresher on how to do a linear regression model. And to those continuing their work here at Pace, I hope we'll see you at MPASA events, or better yet, taking on officer roles that will help both build that resume, and more importantly, your leadership skills!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ric".

The MPASA Executive Board



Monette Moradi
MPASA President

Track: Government
Management

In Five Years: I hope to be
working in research for local
policymakers

Sydney Moraitis
MPASA Vice President

Track: Nonprofit
Management

In Five Years: I hope to be
working at a Not-for-Profit
that focuses on serving
disadvantaged youth



The MPASA Executive Board



Winfield Jai
Secretary

Track: Government Management and Healthcare

In Five Years: Start an election of my own in local municipality, to further strengthen local government community services.

Sameer Yousef Ameer
Marketing Coordinator

Track: Government Management

In Five Years:, I see myself working for a local government in the Greater New York area to build and improve the community in ways that would make a difference.



Rohma Tariq

Social media Coordinator

Track: Healthcare

In Five Years: I am hoping to play my part for the improvement of the health sector. I hope to work in a hospital setting as an administrator.



Master of Public Administration

Student Association : Membership & Activities



The MPASA creates new opportunities for students to strengthen their leadership, enhance their current professional networks, build civic engagement, and create community with each other, faculty, staff, and senior public managers and officials.

The MPASA provides career-related information, tools, and events in NYC, Westchester, and surrounding areas for students, recent graduates, and new and mid-career professionals.

Members have a “Common Hour” meeting every month; which serves as an informal gathering place. This “Common Hour” provides opportunities to discuss many of the activities available to members, to share scholastic and professional issues, as well as to share industry news and concerns.

Every MPA graduate student, active part-time and/or full-time matriculated, is automatically a member and invited to all of our activities. Eligible students are required to submit a membership application, on a continuous basis, during the academic school year, preferably at the beginning of the Fall or Spring semesters

THE ASSOCIATION ORGANIZES A VARIETY OF EVENTS TO HELP STUDENTS CONNECT AND UNITE WITH FELLOW MPA STUDENTS AS WELL AS ENJOY HELPING ENLIGHTEN THEIR EXPERIENCE AT PACE. SOME EXAMPLES ARE:

- MPASA “Common Hour” (at least once a month)
- Orientation social event—MPASA plans and attends a social gathering for all of the new MPA graduate students at the beginning of every semester
- Faculty informal forum – few students are invited to meet with some professors for informal discussions about the program
- Meetings with faculty, staff, and the Dean
- Promotion of the “Capstone Week” every end of the semester
- MPA Awareness Day every end of the semester

INTERVIEW WITH ADJUNCT PROFESSOR RIC SWIERAT



Tell us about your journey that led you to work in the Not-for-Profit sector

My educational background is as a special education teacher and school administrator. Early in my teaching career, I worked in a number of public school districts creating innovative "resource room programs" to support students with a variety of disabilities who were mainstreamed in typical classrooms. This led to an interest and opportunities to have greater responsibilities in supervising teachers and clinicians in programs supporting children and adults with developmental disabilities. I left the public school system and joined the not-for-profit sector to do this.

I supervised a number of programs funded through NYS Education funding and Medicaid which led to becoming an Executive Director, first in a small NFP and later at Westchester Arc. During this time (1970 through 2018) I was fortunate to be involved with the growth of the field of developmental disabilities for children and adults in New York State. This was also during the time that the New York State institutions for people with disabilities closed down and returned the patients to community programs and residences.

You had a long career as the Executive Director at the Arc of Westchester. What are some lessons you learned for effective leadership throughout your career?

These times were confusing, challenging, and exciting. The values and skills that served me best during this time included always understanding that I needed to be a continuing student....learning new skills every day. I believe in using educational principles in working with staff and boards so that we all approach the challenges with common understandings and information.

So, listening to the families and individuals we serve, the board, and the staff provided me with clear directions to be most effective in using the available resources and skills to build effective programs. I also taught clear information and facts to our board and staff so that we could use the resources and skills to be effective in our work. This means listening to others, translating what I am hearing into needs and objectives, aligning with the resources available through government, and understanding that at times we need to turn to private resources to fully meet the expectations of our constituencies.

INTERVIEW WITH RIC SWIERAT CONT.

How do you see the Not-for-Profit sector evolving? Are there specific opportunities or challenges you believe are present amid the Covid-19 pandemic?

The COVID pandemic has provided the nonprofit sector the opportunity to shine and advance its talents and services. The pandemic exposed the vulnerability of many people and our communities economically, socially, in mental health, housing, food, information, etc... The nonprofit sector had to continue to provide services, and often expand services, despite challenges in resources, technology, and staffing. We have seen significant innovations in program delivery during this time.

The use of technology, in particular, was missing in the nonprofit sector prior to the pandemic. However, the nonprofit sector quickly responded by adopting technology to support the work of the organizations.

There is still a significant lack of staff and a need to address the poor pay levels in the nonprofit sector. However, the pandemic has clearly placed this issue at the forefront of our state and federal representatives. We will see legislation and funding to address these issues the next few years.

What qualities do you believe are most relevant for public administrators?

Listen first before responding to an issue.....often the initial problem issue is not clear and we need to explore further before creating solutions.

Treat your work with boards, staff, volunteers, and the community as a teacher. The issues that face us are complicated. We need to learn, explore and examine these issues as a classroom activity. The best way to find common solutions is to approach them with common knowledge and understanding.

Management and administration is a team sport that requires respect and appreciation for using all our skills in a cooperative manner.

Try to learn more about those things you do not understand. I spent a great deal of time studying the funding systems in a detailed manner so that when a budget was presented, I could confirm that the funding was properly used.

Seek ethical people around you and opportunities to have outside confirmation of the quality of your work

”

I viewed all organizations I served as learning organizations

INTERVIEW WITH ALUMNUS GREGORY RIVERA



Tell us about your journey that led you to a full-time position at the Village of Rye Brook.

I have Heather Novak to thank the most for pushing and inspiring me to pursue an MPA. I had originally planned on only doing a BA in Political Science and then seeking employment post-graduation. Eventually, I gave in and enrolled in the 5-year BA/MPA program. At times, I found the program challenging, especially when working on my Capstone.

Thankfully, Dr. Scutelnicu talked me out of giving up and convinced me to see the program through. She selected me as one of two students to work on the Village of Port Chester police reform study mandated by former Governor Cuomo in the wake of George Floyd's death. I helped to analyze the qualitative open-ended portion of the study, which focused on what Port Chester residents viewed as the greatest issues/needs facing the Port Chester Police Department. Through this experience, I had my first interaction with the Village of Port Chester leading to an internship with their Village Manager, Stuart Rabin. His mentorship was instrumental in helping me land my current position with the Village of Rye Brook.

What are your day-to-day responsibilities?

One of the best aspects of my position is the opportunity to learn new things every day. Each day is different, and that makes the job exciting. Some of my day-to-day responsibilities include, but are not limited to helping prepare the bi-monthly Village Board of Trustees agenda, acting as the Safety Coordinator for the Village, serving as the Staff Liaison to the Village of Rye Brook Sustainability Committee, and handling insurance-related matters. Above all, I aim to help the Village of Rye Brook residents to the best of my ability, including helping them with constituent-related inquiries. I may not always be able to provide a resident with the results they seek, but I do my very best to explore all avenues to achieve the most desired outcome.

INTERVIEW WITH GREGORY RIVERA CONT.

What aspects of the Pace MPA program prepared you for your career?

The entire program helped me in some way, shape, or form to prepare me for where I am now. As part of my internship, I worked on the police reform study with the Village of Port Chester and learned how to analyze survey data. Acquiring data analysis skills came in handy when working on my Capstone, taught me how to collaborate with local government, and introduce me to the Village of Port Chester. The study was presented to both the Village of Port Chester Board of Trustees and the appointed Police Reform Board.

Though I have prior internship experience with elected officials and political campaigns, the post-graduation Village of Port Chester internship provided my first experience of government civil service, which I knew much less about.

Lastly, my Capstone project journey with Dr. Scutelnicu as my advisor was a fulfilling experience. We collaborated with the Westchester Children's Association (WCA), a non-profit based out of White Plains that deals with youth issues such as housing insecurity, poverty, criminal justice, etc. WCA conducted a survey about remote learning in May 2020 that was distributed to parents and guardians throughout Westchester. We extracted data points from the survey that allowed us to determine what demographic groups struggled with or coped with remote learning the best. It was a challenging, yet rewarding experience in which I analyzed and interpreted survey data and allowed me to practice presenting research findings to important stakeholders.

I have had the privilege to present both studies I worked on at different conferences, giving me the opportunity to practice public speaking with different audiences.



"I FEEL COURSES I TOOK HELPED ME LEARN ABOUT LOCAL GOVERNMENT/PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES. THESE COURSES INCLUDE, ORGANIZATION THEORY AND MANAGEMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, POLICY STUDIES, MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND ITS ENVIRONMENT AMONG OTHERS."



INTERVIEW WITH GREGORY RIVERA CONT.

What advice would you give to current MPA students?

Many factors have helped me to get where I am today. I strongly encourage current and future MPA students to network extensively, not limited to internships and work connections.

It is critical to develop relationships with fellow MPA students and share life experiences with each other. Some students were traditional college-aged students like myself. Other students currently working in their perspective fields were able to share more in-depth professional experience, which helped make class lessons more applicable to real-life scenarios. I advise students to get to know the professors well.

While at Pace, including as an undergrad, several of my professors mentored me. I believe students should get to know the faculty as individuals, not just as teachers. I also think it's very important for students to not fear adjusting original academic plans. I speak from experience because I did not originally plan on pursuing an MPA. I also had planned on taking the exam rather than working on a Capstone project.

It's okay if you have uncertainty about your potential career path, what matters is a willingness to keep trying and putting in your best effort. Students should take stock of their strengths and weaknesses so they can build on the strengths and improve their weaknesses. I can't stress enough that excelling at everything is virtually impossible, but it should not stop one from trying.

It is critical to avoid comparing yourself to others, especially those with more experience because everyone has their own strengths and weaknesses, and everybody learns at a different pace. I think it is important to learn to work well with others and I speak from experience, things go more smoothly and effectively when everyone works as a team.

My final message would be to have the utmost humility in whatever career path you choose. Even if you are knowledgeable in your field, I guarantee there is always a learning curve. I consider myself knowledgeable about government, but in my new role as Assistant to the Village of Rye Brook Administrator, I have come to realize, that the more I learn the more I'm still new at this.

The Northeast Conference of Public Administration

BY PROFESSOR STEPHEN R. ROLANDI, MPA

ONE OF THE MANY ADVANTAGES OF JOINING A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION WHILE PURSUING A GRADUATE DEGREE IS THAT IT HELPS YOU GET MORE INVOLVED IN ONE'S CHOSEN PROFESSION AND BEGIN NETWORKING. PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS SUCH AS THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SPONSOR SEVERAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCES EVERY YEAR. HISTORICALLY, ASPA HELD A FALL CONFERENCE FOR PRACTITIONERS, ACADEMICS, AND STUDENTS IN THE STATES COMPRISING THE NEW ENGLAND REGION AS WELL AS NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY.

IN 2010, THIS WAS RE-ORGANIZED AS THE NORTHEAST CONFERENCE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (NECOPA), WHICH INCLUDES THE AFOREMENTIONED STATES AS WELL AS: PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE, MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, OHIO, INDIANA, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. CONFERENCES HAVE BEEN HELD IN NEW YORK CITY, BOSTON, NEWARK (NJ), HARRISBURG, ALBANY, BURLINGTON, AND OTHER LOCALES. EVERY YEAR, A PLANNING COMMITTEE FORMULATES THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE THEME AND PROGRAM AND WORKS WITH A LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE ON LOGISTICS. THESE EFFORTS ARE VOLUNTARY IN NATURE AND SUPPORTED IN KIND BY THE CONFERENCE VENUE, USUALLY A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.

IF YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR RESEARCH INTEREST, PARTICIPATING IN A NECOPA CONFERENCE AFFORDS YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE YOUR COMPETENCY IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. IN ADDITION, IF YOUR INTERESTS ARE MORE RESEARCH/ACADEMIC IN NATURE, PARTICIPATING AS A CONFERENCE PANELIST CAN POTENTIALLY HELP YOU WHEN APPLYING TO A PH.D. PROGRAM IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY.

DR. GINA SCUTELNICU OF PACE'S MPA PROGRAM IS CURRENTLY CHAIR-ELECT OF NECOPA AND WILL ASSUME CHAIRMANSHIP IN 2024. I AM A LONG-STANDING MEMBER OF THE NECOPA BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT NECOPA, PLEASE VISIT ITS WEBSITE AT: [HTTPS://NORTHEASTPUBLICADMIN.WORDPRESS.COM/](https://northeastpublicadmin.wordpress.com/) THERE YOU WILL FIND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION, INCLUDING DETAILS ON THE FORTHCOMING 2022 CONFERENCE. FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME AT 914.536.5942 OR E-MAIL ME AT [SROLANDI@PACE.EDU](mailto:srolandi@pace.edu)

STEPHEN R. ROLANDI RETIRED IN 2015 AFTER SERVING WITH THE STATE AND CITY OF NEW YORK. HE HOLDS A BA AND MPA DEGREES FROM NEW YORK UNIVERSITY AND STUDIED LAW AT BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL. HE TEACHES PUBLIC FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT AS AN ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AT JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE (CUNY) AND PACE UNIVERSITY. HE IS A TRUSTEE OF NECOPA; PAST PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK METROPOLITAN CHAPTER AND SENIOR NATIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE.



The Northeast Conference of Public Administration 2022

THE NORTHEAST CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (NECOPA) IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE 13TH ANNUAL NECOPA WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 4-5, 2022. THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HOSTED BY THE NECOPA, INC. OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND WILL BE DELIVERED IN A TO-BE-DETERMINED VIRTUAL FORMAT. THIS YEAR'S THEME, PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT ADMINISTRATION IN A HYBRID-CONNECTED 21ST CENTURY, RECOGNIZES THAT THE EVENTS OF THE LAST TWO YEARS ACCELERATED THE PACE AT WHICH BOTH OUR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL LIVES HAVE BECOME INTRICATELY INTERTWINED WITH TECHNOLOGY, AS WE LIVE AND WORK IN A HYBRID - VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON - WORLD.

THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS HAS BEEN RELEASED AND CAN BE FOUND ON THE NECOPA WEBSITE BY CLICKING HERE. SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL BY JULY 31, 2022! ANY QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO DR. HUITING QI (NECOPA SECRETARY/TREASURER) AT NORTHEASTCONFERENCEPA@GMAIL.COM

THE 2022 HOSTS ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING THE CONFERENCE ACCESSIBLE BY OFFERING LOW REGISTRATION RATES OF \$25 FOR STUDENTS AND \$50 FOR OTHER ATTENDEES. REGISTRATION WILL BE OPEN IN THE COMING MONTHS AND ACCESSIBLE VIA THE NECOPA WEBSITE.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SPONSORING THE 2022 CONFERENCE, PLEASE CONTACT DR. GINA SCUTELNICU, NECOPA CHAIR-ELECT, AT GSCUTELNICU@PACE.EDU. FURTHER INFORMATION ON CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE FORTHCOMING AND WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE NECOPA WEBSITE.

SINCERELY,

HUITING QI, PH.D.
NECOPA SECRETARY/TREASURER
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY HARRISBURG, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS





Summer 2022 Class Offerings

PAA 632: POLICY STUDIES

This course will examine the theories and concepts used in the study of public policy. It describes the development and use of models for policy formulation, analysis and evaluation. Policies of special, professional interest to the student are examined in detail with emphasis on the development of analytic skills. Faculty guidance is provided in the assignment of special readings as the student develops policy research papers. Required of all students in the government track.

PAA 614: STRATEGIC PLANNING & MARKETING

This course examines basic concepts in strategic planning and marketing with special emphasis on the organization and management of the strategic planning process, marketing decision models, and techniques for the promotion of services to the public. Discussion of the ethical issues surrounding marketing is included. Required of all students with a specialization in planning and evaluation or nonprofit financial management.

PAA 605: ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP

This course is designed to make students aware of their responsibility as professionals in leadership and administrative positions in our complex society. Individual values and normative choices associated with the implementation of public policy will be discussed. Social, legal, and economic realities will be examined in light of philosophical arguments. Case studies and current examples relevant to government, health care, and nonprofit organizations will be used as practical applications of ethical precepts and conduct.

PAA 651: COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Concepts relevant to understanding patterns of health and illness in the community are explored. Factors which influence the use of health services are discussed. Materials are drawn from various disciplines including epidemiology, vital statistics, demography, sociology, psychology and anthropology. Required of all students in the health administration track.

PAA 670: THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR

This course examines the history of nonprofit organizations in the United States to develop a social perspective and a sense of the magnitude, scope and functions of the nonprofit sector. The course also looks at the relationship of the nonprofit sector to government and business. The course explores the theoretical basis on which social scientists have sought to understand the nonprofit sector in our economic, political and social environment. Issues shaping the future role of the nonprofit sector will be discussed. Required of all students in the nonprofit management track.

PAA 616: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND GRANT WRITING

This course explores the historical and conceptual background of private foundation grants in the United States. The student will learn to identify appropriate sources of funding and to write grant proposals. Intersections of the grant writing process with the project development, program and strategic planning, and external partnerships and collaborative enterprises will be stressed. Emphasis will be placed on grants measurement in the government, health care and nonprofit sectors.

The Student Experience with ASPA American Society for Public Administration



TODAY'S STUDENTS, REPRESENT THE NEXT GENERATION OF
SCHOLARS,
PRACTITIONERS AND RESEARCHERS ENTERING INTO PUBLIC
SERVICE
AND ADMINISTRATION.

THE GOAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION (ASPA) IS TO HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP THEIR
SKILLS, CONNECT WITH TODAY'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST AND
LEARN HOW
TO ADVANCE THEIR CAREER, SO THEY CAN CONTINUE
ADVANCING
EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE FOR DECADES TO COME.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO [HTTPS://ASPANY.ORG/](https://aspany.org/)
AND CONTACT RIC KOLENDA, PRESIDENT-ELECT, NY METRO
CHAPTER AT RKOLENDA@PACE.EDU

PUBLIC SERVICE CAREERS AMID COVID-19: HOW TO EXERCISE EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

April 29th 2022 @6pm

MPASA
Master of Public Administration
Student Association
Pace University

SPEAKERS

ICMA

Ariana Anderson-

Administrative
Officer/Business Manager at
Mental Health PCC



Patricia Dwyer-

Founder and CEO of
Sourced Municipal
Solutions llc



Join us on Zoom for the panelist discussion!

<https://pace.zoom.us/j/95323421333>

Meeting ID: 953 2342 1333

Password: MPASA-ICMA

Faculty Message to Pi Alpha Alpha Recipients



WELCOME TO PI ALPHA ALPHA! YOUR HARD WORK ON YOUR STUDIES HAS GRANTED YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE RECOGNIZED IN THIS SOCIETY AMONGST THE BEST OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS.

I'M ESPECIALLY HAPPY TO SEE THE AWARDS IN HONOR OF SOME OF THE GREAT FORMER PACE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROFESSORS.

YOU ARE ENTERING THIS WORLD OF PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATORS AT A VERY INTERESTING TIME. THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A PANDEMIC TO SET THE WORLD ON EDGE AND CHALLENGE EVERY PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR TO DEAL WITH ISSUES THEY HAVE NEVER HAD TO DEAL WITH BEFORE.

WHEN COVID 19 HIT THE US - WE TRULY HAD NO IDEA WHAT WE WERE DEALING WITH. SEVERAL MONTHS IN, ITS IMPACT HAS TRULY CHALLENGED EVERY PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATOR TO TACKLE ISSUES THEY HAVE NEVER DEALT WITH BEFORE. IT HAS FOSTERED NETWORKS AND CONVERSATIONS THAT SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED BEFORE, BUT HADN'T.

AND IT HAS CREATED A WHOLE SET OF NEW ELEMENTS TO OUR INDUSTRY'S LANGUAGE AND CONVERSATION - THINGS LIKE - SUPPLY CHAIN SHORTAGES, SOCIAL DISTANCING, CONTACT TRACING, AND WORDS LIKE "VAXED" AND "BOOSTED". EVEN HOW WE CONDUCT OUR PUBLIC MEETINGS HAS CHANGED - THE WORLD HAS COME TO KNOW HOW TO TALK TO EACH OTHER ON ALL FORMS OF TECHNOLOGY - WEBEX, ZOOM, AND TEAMS.

BUT ADMINISTRATORS ALL OVER HAVE RISEN TO TAKE ON THIS CHALLENGE. SOME OF THE VERY REAL EXAMPLES OF COVID-RELATED ISSUES WE'VE DEALT WITH IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY INCLUDE:
-PURCHASING AND DISTRIBUTING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PIECES OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT TO HELP OUR EMPLOYEES AND WORKERS ON THE FRONT LINES TO STAY AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE;

-THINNING OUT OUR HOMELESS SHELTERS AND PRISON POPULATIONS TO REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE VIRUS SPREADING IN THESE FACILITIES;

-DEFINING "ESSENTIAL SERVICES" AT MANY LEVELS - FROM OUR OWN EMPLOYEES, TO BUSINESSES THAT ABSOLUTELY NEEDED TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF THE PANDEMIC;

-DEALING WITH THE ISSUES OF GETTING FOOD TO PEOPLE WHO NEEDED IT:
OFROM THE SENIOR CITIZENS WHO COULD NO LONGER GET TO THEIR SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS;

OTO THOSE THAT HAD BEEN INFECTED AND WERE FORCED TO ISOLATE;

OTO THE THOUSANDS OF LOWER INCOME WORKERS WHO HAD BEEN LIVING ON THE EDGE AND FOR A TIME WERE TOLD THEY COULDN'T GO TO WORK AND HAD NEVER ASKED FOR FOOD SERVICES BEFORE;

OTO THE SCHOOL CHILDREN WHOSE SCHOOL LUNCH AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS WERE FORCED TO CLOSE;

-WE HAD TO REDEFINE VERY QUICKLY HOW WE COULD WORK AND MEET REMOTELY AND GET ENOUGH EQUIPMENT IN PLACE TO ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN;

-WE RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR AND PUT IN PLACE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR A WHOLE NEW POPULATION THAT NEEDED THIS HELP FROM DEALING WITH ISOLATION OR THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE;

-WE HAD TO WALK THE FINE LINE BETWEEN PREVENTING EVICTIONS AND RECOGNIZING THE NEEDS OF THE LANDLORDS WHO HAD MORTGAGES TO PAY;

-WE PUT IN PLACE 24-HOUR DAY CARE FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS;

-WE HAD TO HELP KEEP THE MAIN STREET BUSINESSES - IN BUSINESS;

-WE HAD TO DEAL WITH THE SHEER QUANTITY OF THE DECEASED AND THOSE STORAGE NEEDS;

-AND ONE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT SETTING UP ACCESSIBLE AND SAFE VACCINATION SITES AND GETTING ENOUGH VACCINES TO MEET THE NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH OF A CHALLENGE, BUT THEN WE HAD TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF ENCOURAGING ALL SORTS OF POPULATIONS TO ACTUALLY GET VACCINATED.

IMAGINE DEALING WITH ALL THESE CHALLENGES WITHOUT HAVING THE ABILITY TO READ THE END OF THE BOOK AND SEE HOW AND WHEN THIS WILL END - THIS IS THE EVERYDAY WORLD OF A PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR!

BUT THE BEST ADMINISTRATORS USE THESE CHALLENGES TO CREATE REAL CHANGE. FOR EXAMPLE - SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND MUNICIPALITIES ARE NOW TALKING REGIONALLY AND TO EACH OTHER LIKE THEY NEVER HAVE BEFORE;

USING TECHNOLOGY LIKE ZOOM AND WEBEX HAS ALLOWED MANY MORE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC MEETINGS;

OUR STAFF WITHIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT STEPPED UP AND USED THEIR VOLUNTEER CONNECTIONS TO HELP US BETTER UNDERSTAND THE WORKINGS OF OUR NONPROFITS AND HOW BEST WE COULD HELP THEM TO GROW AND SCALE THEIR OPERATIONS TO MEET THE MUCH GREATER NEEDS CAUSED BY THE PANDEMIC;

WE NOW HAVE BETTER COMMUNICATION WITH THE COURTS ON EVICTION PROCEEDINGS AND TENANTS HAVE MUCH BETTER ACCESS TO LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE THEIR CASE;

ISSUES LIKE EQUITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND AFFORDABILITY ARE BEING INCORPORATED INTO MOST EVERY TOPIC AND POLICY THAT WE ARE WORKING ON;

THESE ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES. BUT AS WE ALL KNOW, WE'RE NOT YET DONE WITH COVID, SO I'M SURE THERE ARE EVEN MORE LESSONS WE WILL LEARN BEFORE WE'RE DONE.

AND NOW, AS YOU FINISH UP YOUR STUDIES AND JOIN US IN THIS PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION WORLD, YOU WILL BRING A WHOLE NEW VISION AND BACKGROUND TO THE ISSUES THAT WE DEAL WITH. I CAN TELL YOU FROM EXPERIENCE THAT YOUR INVESTMENT IN YOUR PACE MPA WAS WORTH IT! WELCOME TO OUR WORLD!

I LEAVE YOU WITH TWO QUOTES - ONE FROM FORMER US SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZZA RICE AND THE SECOND, WHICH I ACTUALLY HAVE ON A PLAQUE IN MY OFFICE, FROM GANDHI - FIRST - "THERE'S NO GREATER CHALLENGE AND NO GREATER HONOR THAN TO BE IN PUBLIC SERVICE."

AND SECOND - "BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD."
CONGRATULATIONS!

Norma Drummond

Awards and Adknowledgments



Highest GPA Award (all 4.0 GPA Students)

JESSICA DRENNAN

OCEANA HOYTE

FLORENCE LUBASH

JUSTIN MCMANUS

OCEANA HOYTE

NOVLETTE GOODEN-CASTILLO

SAMEER AMEER

NINO MAZANASHVILI

CARMELA PERONE

MONETTE MORADI

SYDNEY MORAITIS

Tony Cupaiuolo Award

**Excellence in Scholarship &
Professional Service)**

RYAN BROCK

Sal Prezioso Award

**(Outstanding Service to the
Department)**

Excellence in the Social
Science Discipline

**Dyson Society of
Fellows Conference**

JUSTIN MC MANUS

Margret Walsh



Faculty Accomplishments



Dr. Hillary Knepper is the recipient of the 2022 Rita Mae Kelly Distinguished Research Award offered by the Section for Women in Public Administration of the American Society for Public Administration. This award recognizes an honoree for research contributions to gender-related issues in public administration.



Dr. Gina Scutelnicu Todoran is the recipient of the 2022 Donald C. Stone national award presented by the American Society for Public Administration in recognition of her sustained commitment, dedicated service and exemplary contributions to the Society.

She is also the recipient of the 2022 Jefferson Award for Public Service presented by the Center for Community Action and Research at Pace University. This award recognizes individuals for their public and volunteer service, and dedication to improving the quality of life in their communities.



Faculty Message to the Graduates



I AM EXTREMELY PROUD OF ALL OF YOU FOR REACHING THIS IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN YOUR LIFE. I WILL MISS EACH ONE OF YOU AND I WILL FOREVER CHERISH OUR LIFE EXPERIENCES. I WILL REMEMBER THE HIGHS AND LOWS, THE STORIES WE SHARED DURING CLASS TIME (ESPECIALLY DURING THE PANDEMIC!), OFFICE HOURS, YOUR PAPER PRESENTATIONS, AND HOW MUCH YOU HAVE GROWN SINCE YOU STARTED YOUR MPA DEGREE.

YOU ARE AN INSPIRATION TO ME AND I LEARNED A GREAT DEAL FROM YOU. WHILE THIS IS A BITTERSWEET MOMENT FOR MYSELF, IT IS ALSO A TIME WHEN I CAN QUANTIFY MY ACHIEVEMENTS AS A PROFESSOR. YOUR GRADUATION TODAY REPRESENTS A SUCCESS FOR MYSELF AND MY COLLEAGUES. THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY IS THE PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK SO, I WOULD LIKE TO WHOLEHEARTEDLY RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE ALL OF YOU FOR CHOOSING TO PURSUE A PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER. PLEASE REMEMBER TO STAY IN TOUCH AND

GOOD LUCK IN YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS!

DR. GINA SCUTELNICU TORDAN



Fall 2021 & Spring 2022 Graduates



LAKETHA A. BOBISH

Jacqueline A.Chu

RYAN E. BROCK

Christina Cox

ANTWAN I. CLARK

Stephanie Ferrer

NANCY GUTIERREZ

Diana Nieto

OCEANA HOYTE

Brais Sampedro

KARINA A. HURTADO

Maurisa Yhap

LORNA G. KIRWAN

Kimberly Alonso

FLORENCE J. LUBASH

Angela Brito

DALIA A. MENDOZA

Jessica Drennan

EMMANUEL K. MILLER

Justin R. McManus

MARK A. MINNIG

Jonathan Merceus

KHANH VY. BUI

Nashany Rodriguez

Fatumata. Tunkara

Spring 2022 Newsletter

Editors

Monette Moradi
Sydney Moraitis

Contributors

Dr. Gina Scutelnicu
Dr. Ric Kolenda
Dr. Tiffany Henley
Professor Stephen R. Rolandi
Professor Ric Swierat
Gregory Rivera
Winfield Jai
Sameer Yousef Ameer
Rohma Tariq

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Laura Fung-Ross