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We promote the ideal of public service globally

The NASPAA staff and I have been privileged to work with so many of you during the past year. We try to create a stimulating community of public affairs schools to serve you, and we look forward to sharing another year with you as a member.

Thank you!

Laurel McFarland
NASPAA Executive Director
Welcome new members

- California Baptist University, Masters of Public Administration
- California Lutheran University, Master of Public Policy and Administration
- Ghent University, Department of Public Governance and Management
- Huaihua University, School of Law and Public Management
- Indian School of Public Policy
- Nanjing University of Finance and Economics, School of Public Administration
- National Law School of India University, Institute of Public Policy
- Nazarbayev University, Graduate School of Public Policy
- North South University, South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance
- Northcentral University, Master of Public Administration
- Penn State, University Park, School of Public Policy
- Sun Yat-sen University, School of Government
- University of Cincinnati, Department of Political Science
- University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, Department of Public Policy
NASPAA values the hard work that public service education faculty, administrators, and students put into teaching, researching, and practicing public service. Annually, NASPAA recognizes outstanding achievement in these fields through awards presented at the NASPAA Annual Conference.

Congratulations to 2019 Award Recipients for Outstanding Achievement in Public Service
NASPAA and African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) sign Memorandum of Understanding

Recognizing the "...need for the development of competent practitioners and academics for the social and economic development of the African continent and effective public administration around the world," and "promoting the study, practice and status of the profession of public administrative practices," the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) and NASPAA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding pledging both organizations to closer consultation and cooperation. Signed by NASPAA then-president Palmira Rios at the 2019 October NASPAA Executive Council meeting.

The MoU represents a major step forward for NASPAA in establishing good working relationships in Africa to help advance public service education globally.
NASPAA Vice President attended the 2019 UIBE International Conference on MPA Programs in Beijing, 23-24 November

Dr. Laura Bloomberg, NASPAA Vice President and President-elect, attended the 2019 UIBE International Conference on MPA Programs.

The conference, organized and hosted by the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE), was attended by representatives of MPA programs from all over China, including NASPAA Accredited programs at Tsinghua University, Renmin University, and Zhejiang University.

Dr. Bloomberg served as a keynote speaker, noting that, for the field of public service education, being “global is no longer an option,” but rather the only way forward. She emphasized the need for building a strong network of interconnected collaborators and move away from the “chessboard” model of winners against losers, resonating with the message of globalization delivered by panelists throughout the event.
ACCREDITATION

NASPAA accreditation is the global standard for graduate-level public service education. NASPAA accreditation is an expression of a program’s commitment to the field – to public service education as a discipline.

The NASPAA Standards and accreditation process serve to maintain and enhance the recognition and reputation of graduate public service degrees, globally. We look forward to welcoming more programs in 2020!

To learn more, visit naspaa.org/accreditation

NASPAA Accreditation: The Value Around the Globe

Verna Smith
Director of Master’s Programmes
School of Government
Victoria University of Wellington
On October 18, 2019, representatives of accredited programs approved the 2019 NASPAA Accreditation Standards. The Standards culminate a two-year conversation about the scope of the accreditation standards and their impact on public service education. They celebrate the growth in our field over the last 10 years, sharpening our expectations for student learning and renewing our commitment to what makes us unique -- public service values. The 2019 Standards reflect several trends in public service education such as nonprofit management as fundamental to public service education, global accreditation which highlights critical public service values such as transparency, accountability, participation, and equity. Cultural competency is also reflected in the new Standards incorporating equity, support, retention, and responsiveness, retaining the flexibility necessary to accredit in different contexts, while emphasizing the role diversity, equity, and inclusion must play in public service education. Lastly, new developments trends are demonstrated in the new Standards through the universal required competencies to ensure they are as multisectoral as the field of public service, rigorous with regard to critical analysis and decision-making, and adaptable to the rapidly changing needs and environments of the field, be they technological, geographic, or otherwise.

Newly Accredited Programs

- Fulbright University of Vietnam, Master of Public Policy
- University of International Business and Economics, Master of Public Administration
- University of Montana, Master of Public Administration
- The University of Oklahoma, Master of Public Administration
- Zhejiang University, Master of Public Administration
The Diversity of our Volunteers and the Growth of our Network

NASPAA continues to strive to diversify our volunteer pool. We hope to mirror the diversity of our programs and communities, while simultaneously growing our volunteer network. Of the 103 site visitors recruited to serve as site visitors for Spring 2020 50% are female, 43% are persons of diversity, and 27% serving as first time volunteers. We are excited to see the growth of our volunteer pool and to continue this growth. We strongly encourage all faculty from accredited programs to join us as a NASPAA site visitor!

Year after year, after the site visits have concluded our site visitors report high rates of being willing to participate in another site visit. Serving as a NASPAA site visitor gives volunteers the opportunity to use their expertise to support the development of public service education programs and the field. For more information on how to become a NASPAA Site Visitor, please visit our website!
NASPAA Accredited Programs Annual Data Report 2017-2018

Students and Faculty
- NASPAA accredited programs have a median faculty nucleus size of 7. (n=207)
- Programs have an average total enrollment of 57 students. (n=200)
- 83% of required competency courses are taught by full-time faculty.
- Women make up 59% of all students enrolled in accredited programs. (n=150)
- 36% of students are persons of diversity. (n=141)
- 29,240 Applications
- 18,758 Admitted
- 11,406 Enrolled (n=199)
- The median NASPAA program awarded 45 degrees. (n=149)

Graduate Employment
- Government: 49%
- Private Sector: 17%
- Nonprofit Sector: 23%
- Military: 4%
- *5% of graduates are unemployed, n=199

Government Breakdown
- National/Central: 9%
- State/Regional: 15%
- City/Local: 19%
- Foreign: 5%

Student Completion
- 85% of students graduated in 4 years or persist to graduation. (n=206 programs, 9,784 students)

The Global Standard in Public Service Education

Source: NASPAA Data Center
NASPAA-Batten Student Simulation Competition

This year, nearly 350 students from 114 universities in 52 countries took part in the competition. Developed by experts at the University of Virginia’s Center for Leadership Simulation and Gaming, this year’s simulation, Metropolitan: A Sustainable Transit Simulation was built using real-world data and challenged students to collaborate on transportation policies in order to improve the sustainability of their virtual city.

Learn more at nbsims.org!
Congratulations to the Global Winners of the 2020 NASPAA-Batten Simulation:

**FIRST PLACE** competed at Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University Site

- Dontavious Waller: Georgia Southern University
- Elizabeth Carter: University of Georgia
- Kathryn Charpin: The George Washington University
- Leah Roach: Regent University
- Rudolf-Victor de Leon Dinglas: University of Maryland Baltimore County

**SECOND PLACE** competed at Central European University in Partnership with the United Nations University – MERIT Site

- Natia Mikelbaia: Georgian Institute of Public Affairs
- Lodewijk Sebastiaan Beschoor Plug: Delft University of Technology
- Benedek Farkas: Central European University
- Sofia af Hällström: United Nations University – MERIT
- Rezaeva Anastasia: Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration

**THIRD PLACE** competed at Pepperdine University School of Public Policy Site

- Bridger Langfur: University of California San Diego
- Victoria Williams: Oregon State University
- Kevan Mellendick: Naval Postgraduate School
- Georgina Perez: University of La Verne
PPIA Public Service Weekends

For 40 years, the Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Fellowship Program has been the single largest diversity initiative in the U.S. focused on professional public service and to support students pursuing master’s degrees in public policy and international affairs. The guiding vision of PPIA has been to increase the participation and inclusion of traditionally underrepresented groups at the highest level of public sector leadership.

NASPAA is proud to provide financial and outreach support to PPIA’s newest initiative – Public Service Weekends. PPIA’s Public Service Weekend (PSW) is a two to three-day long program for rising undergraduate sophomores and juniors. The goal for this program is to introduce students to topics in the field of public service through expertise provided by university faculty, graduate student and alumni panels, and skill workshops.

During 2019, NASPAA was proud to have partnered with the PPIA for the following Public Service Weekends:

Virginia Commonwealth University – L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, June 14-16

Seton Hall University – School of Diplomacy and International Relations, June 21-23

Carnegie Mellon University – Heinz College (Washington, DC), July 12-14

University of Southern California – Sol Price School of Public Policy, July 19-21

George Washington University – Elliott School & Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Public Administration, July 25-28

The New School – Milano School of Policy, Management, and Environment, Sept. 27-28

University of California, Los Angeles – Luskin School of Public Affairs, Oct. 4-6

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities – Humphrey School of Public Affairs, Oct. 11-13

University of California, San Diego – School of Global Policy and Strategy Oct. 11-13

University at Albany – SUNY Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, Oct. 25-27

Georgetown University – McCourt School of Public Policy & Walsh School of Foreign Service, Nov. 22-24
Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society

Pi Alpha Alpha had another successful year of recognizing outstanding students, alumni, faculty, and staff of public policy and public affairs schools. Approximately 2600 students were inducted in over 180 chapters.

This past year we welcomed three new chapters:

1. The Master of Public Administration Program at Northern Kentucky University

2. The Master of Science in Public Leadership Program at the University of North Texas at Dallas

3. The Master of Public Administration Program at West Virginia State University

Pi Alpha Alpha Presence with ASPA and Other Sister Organizations

Because NASPAA has institutional members as opposed to individual memberships, our conferences and events tend to have mostly faculty and administrators and not students. Our sister organizations the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) and the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) have more interaction with our students, especially those in PAA. Over the past few years our chapters have held joint events with our sister organizations, including induction ceremonies and networking/professional development workshops. Most recently PAA chapter advisors and student spoke at two different panels at the ASPA Annual Conference in March 2019 in Washington, DC. The Pi Alpha Alpha Committee would like to help more students attend conferences like ours or those of our sister organizations.
Rolling Pi Alpha Alpha Grants

Pi Alpha Alpha Committee is now exploring the possibility of administering Pi Alpha Alpha grants on a rolling basis instead of including them with the other Pi Alpha Alpha and NASPAA awards awarded at the annual conference each October. This will allow grants to be distributed in a timelier basis, more in line with when the funds are actually needed. This applies to PAA Mini-Grants for voter registration, Public Service Loan Forgiveness, professional development conferences, as well as Chapter Grants.

The Pi Alpha Alpha Committee was proud to award a Pi Alpha Alpha Chapter Grant in the amount of $2,000 to:

School of Public Administration, University of Central Florida

For more information, visit https://pialphaalpha.org.
Student Loan Debt and NASPAA Advocacy

In 2019-20, the rising levels of student loan debt in the United States exploded into a national political issue, with some presidential candidates clamoring for free undergraduate tuition and student loan debt forgiveness. However, the political debate largely ignored the issue of graduate education and debt, which is often heavier, and at higher interest rates, than the undergraduate debt getting the candidates’ attention.

Then in April, student loan debt again hit the headlines: the financial fall-out from the coronavirus public health emergency led the US Congress to provide student loan repayers with forbearance on their loans. Forbearance is not forgiveness, however; and in a few months’ time, graduates will still owe the same amount of money, but many will have even less means to pay it back.

Over the past year, NASPAA’s Policy Issues Committee has brought attention to the worsening situation for graduate students, especially those students wanting to enter public service. Graduate debt is a rapidly rising proportion of total $1.6 trillion student loan debt: 40% of all student loan debt is now for graduate education, and 51% of households with advanced degrees hold graduate debt. Not surprisingly then, in the last 10 years, students, and especially graduate students, have shifted to income-driven repayment (IDR), where the borrower repays a percentage of their disposable income each month rather than a fixed percentage of the amount borrowed. However, for many public service graduate students this is a problem. If the public servant has $60,000 in debt or more, and spends the first 10 years of their public service career in a job that pays less than $90,000, they will be in “negative amortization” trouble if they elect the current IDR plan. Some of those MPA and MPP graduates who found they did not qualify for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (and with a 99% turn-down rate, most have been turned down), have had another rude shock: after 10 years of monthly payments, they owe more than they borrowed!
NASPAA schools and our alumni may not be large enough to be politically influential, but we can contribute to honest and sharp analysis of different ideas and platforms regarding student loan debt. NASPAA has been playing a role in debunking the bad, and highlighting evidence-informed policy recommendations.

>> NASPAA’s Policy Issues Committee has been overseeing a White Paper competition, to surface policy ideas and analysis regarding student loan debt from our faculty and graduate students.

>> NASPAA advocates for graduate loan programs that do not immiserate our graduates during repayment, and opposes IDR changes that harm diversity, social equity, and access. NASPAA supports graduate loan reform, including lower interest rates and practices to encourage prudent borrowing.

>> NASPAA has pressed for more transparency in data on student loan debt, IDR, and Public Service Loan Forgiveness from the government. We also collect and disseminate our own data on MPA/MPP indebtedness from alumni three years out.

>> NASPAA continues to advocate for public service loan forgiveness reform (particularly to increase the percentage of our graduates who receive forgiveness above the current 1% rate).
In celebration of NASPAA’s 50th Anniversary-- and 50 years of advancing quality in public affairs teaching and learning, NASPAA launched an Institute for Innovative Teaching and Learning for Public Service (IITLPS) at the 2019 Annual Conference in Los Angeles this October. As NASPAA embarks on this process you will be hearing from us about what your needs are and how we can best tailor the Institute to meet those needs.
Today’s students in public affairs programs are tomorrow’s government and nonprofit leaders. By participating in experiential learning opportunities while in graduate school, students learn the critical thinking and data analysis skills they will need to succeed as public sector professionals in the real-world and contribute to effective governance.

As part of a comprehensive effort to advance experiential education, the Institute will provide an online marketplace connecting students and faculty in public affairs schools around the world with simulations, case studies, data, and service-learning opportunities—at the lowest possible cost and highest possible quality.

NASPAA will combine the global electronic platform with outstanding training for case and simulation developers, and for classroom teachers. NASPAA will also strive to connect our students and faculty with nonpartisan nonprofit organizations and government agencies who can use their skills and expertise. NASPAA will target development in the Executive Council’s key policy areas: Civic Engagement, Sustainability, Inclusivity and Globalization.

https://www.naspaa.org/innovative-teaching
Managing Director for Strategic Issues at the US General Accountability Office (GAO), Chris Mihm discusses the general roles of the GAO, important lessons learned from past stimulus acts, and projects how that knowledge will help government confront

Admiral Thad Allen on the Implications of Leadership for the Covid19 Virus.

Using cases as a learning tool is an amazing way to get your students engaged in the practical applications of their studies. If they have ever wondered how to take what they have learned to use outside the classroom, this is your answer! Thanks to our incredible presenters at the 2019 NASPAA Conference in LA, we have some amazing modules on how you can introduce case studies to your class.
Learn About Using Simulations in the Classroom

Simulations are an exceptional tool in public affairs studies for innovative teaching and learning. The Center for Leadership, Simulation and Gaming of the Frank Batten School at the University of Virginia has developed incredible simulations that have been used in classrooms as a tool to teach system dynamics, complex international relations, and more!
NASPAA is the authoritative source of data in the field of graduate public affairs education. The NASPAA Data Center collects important information from our member schools about the field annually, including information on enrollments, employment rates, and faculty salaries. Participating members can request benchmarking data from the Data Center and will appear in NASPAA’s School Search and have a School Profile on the NASPAA website. You can also download past data presentations or access raw data files. To learn more about what data is available or how to provide your school’s data go to: naspaa.org/data-center or contact our Director of Innovative Teaching and Learning, Stacy Drudy at drudy@naspaa.org.
NASPAA offers the authoritative directory of MPA and MPP programs on the NASPAA website at naspaa.org/schools-search.

NASPAA’s School Search and School Profile are a benefit to members who abide by the code of good practice and provide enrollment and faculty data. Data provided by schools who complete an Annual Data Report (ADR) populate the School Search and School Profile. Members who do not wish to complete an ADR will not show up in the School Search.
Post Graduation Employment Trends (N=123 programs)

Salary Range in Current Job
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- 5.7K followers
- 1.2K followers
- 4.1K fans

@NBSimulation
@PiAlphaAlpha
@naspaa
Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affair…
NB Student Simulation Competition
Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affair…
Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society
The 2019 NASPAA’s NEXT Leadership Workshop hosted its largest group ever - over 30 faculty from across the globe participated to learn how to be a NEXT Generation Scholar. The theme for this year’s workshop was “How to Prepare for the NEXT 50 Years of Public Affairs Education.” The four-hour workshop, provided emerging leaders in their departments or programs practical tools that enabled them to become more engaged and dynamic members of their campuses and communities.

Participants shared professional experiences in break-out sessions dedicated to mapping their professional career through research, teaching, and service; how to mentor students and how to find and engage a mentor for themselves as they navigate evolving expectations in academia; and strategies to become involved in NASPAA through valuable professional service. NASPAA thanks the facilitators: Nicole Elias of John Jay College, Amanda Olejarski of West Chester University, and Jeffery Osgood of West Chester University.
On July 11, 2019, NASPAA thanks the The George Washington University, Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration for hosting the 2019 NASPAA Admissions Professionals Meeting. Topic discussed includes marketing "best practices" and how programs are using social media to reach students. NASPAA also shared highlighting trends in Admissions as well. Special thanks to Lindsey Duble-Dice, The George Washington University for acting as chair of the Planing Committee and to all Planning Committee Members.

NASPAA thanks the UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS) San Diego, California for hosting its 2019 NASPAA Career Professionals Conference, December 4-6th in San Diego, CA. Attendees discussed: Careers in Environmental Policy & Sustainability, Careers in Federal Government & Government Consulting, Careers in Public-Private Partnerships, and Best Practices. Special thanks to Stephanie Boomhower, UC San Diego, and to all Planing Committee Members.
Remembering the Last 50 Years and Looking Forward to the Next 50 Years: The 2019 NASPAA Annual Conference

Over 700 leaders in public affairs education from over 200 different universities from 25 countries attended the 2019 Annual Conference in Los Angeles, CA, October 16 - 19th, making it the largest conference in NASPAA history. NASPAA celebrated its 50th anniversary, and panels and speakers discussed reconstructing governance for the next 50 years.

Opening plenary keynote, Mark Suzman, CSO and President of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, shared important insights with NASPAA schools on addressing global issues stating that we cannot draw a neat line between domestic and international affairs as well as stressing the importance of first and foremost being a coalition builder.

Conference tracks centered on innovation in public affairs teaching and learning, the path from diversity to inclusion to power, future challenges involved in training students to collect, analyze, and communicate data, and the relation between NASPAA’s public service values and the Global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. In total there were 95 panel sessions on Thursday and Friday, 6 Wednesday workshops, and 22 committee/section meetings, totaling over 400 unique presenters.
Gathering of NASPAA Past Presidents


In celebration of NASPAA’s 50th Anniversary, our past presidents are being recognized at our anniversary luncheon. They have contributed much to NASPAA, and to our field.