
Whether you just graduated or it has been many years, we want to extend a warm welcome to our alumni and friends of the College of Public Affairs and Administration (CPAA) at the University of Illinois Springfield. We’re proud to support a strong alumni network that extends across Illinois, the United States, and abroad. CPAA alumni work in government, nonprofits, international relations, and business. They are connected by a strong sense of civic engagement, a commitment to social responsibility, and an understanding of democratic values.

We view our alumni as strategic partners, and we want them to be active participants in the life of the college.

• We hope that you will choose to be an active member of the CPAA community. There are many ways to get involved:
  • Join the CPAA Professional Mentorship Network and invest personal time and energy in advising our students and helping them develop essential skills
  • Volunteer by giving guest lectures, hosting a networking event, or overseeing an internship experience
  • Attend and promote CPAA Events
  • Give to support our college

Your involvement strengthens the CPAA. It helps us maintain our commitment to training the next generation of public service professionals by inspiring them to lead, equipping them to serve, and connecting them to opportunities to make a difference. It also improves our ability to lead and advocate for change on a host of pressing social and public problems.

Please take the time to join us on our LinkedIn Showcase Pages and begin connecting with fellow alumni and current students.

• Criminology and Criminal Justice
• Public Administration
• Political Science
• Legal Studies
• Public Affairs Reporting
• Environmental Studies

To get involved, please contact: Travis Bland, Associate Dean, jblan7@uis.edu.

Call for Alumni Engagement

Please take the time to join us on LinkedIn and Facebook and begin connecting with your fellow alumni and our current students.

To get involved, please contact Travis Bland, Associate Dean, at jblan7@uis.edu.

 UIS College of Public Affairs and Administration

Spring 2021 Newsletter
March Greetings!

I can’t believe it’s actually March! Spring may be around the corner! We made it! Sort of!! The new spring semester has launched as planned! The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to be an issue for higher education, the University and the College. Our Spring 2021 Semester has started similar to our Fall 2020 Semester. Faculty, staff, students and stakeholders are holding up well and continuing to attend class, teach, stay engaged, research and participate in service or student activities as best they can. Most of that has been virtual of course.

Spring enrollments in the College are down a little from fall (around 800 students) but we still have more students this spring than last spring! All health and safety precautions are in place and everyone (including visitors) are required to practice social distancing, wear face coverings and submit to a COVID-19 saliva-based test as required.

For my Dean’s Message this semester, I’d like to look back over this past year as a way to look forward to next year for the College and University. As we look back on 2020, and 500,000 COVID-19 deaths in the United States, an insurrection that threatened our democracy, a fractured political world, conspiracy theories and ongoing charges about “Fake News,” we are all looking forward to a better 2021. Unfortunately the weather didn’t cooperate and a major winter storm devastated many parts of the country as the new year started. For the College (faculty and students) the academic year looked like no other. Remote and virtual learning, disruption of activities and programs, financial and other hardships and health and family issues for everyone to navigate as 2020 unfolded.

Ok…we all get the picture. What about the balance of 2021. The vaccines are out there and slowly being administered, a new President is in office, economic relief packages in one way shape or form are being advanced, some COVID-19 restrictions are loosening up, and students, faculty and staff at UIS have remarkably adjusted to online and “Zoom everything,” and summer weather will be here before you know it. At this point, no one really knows what will happen for the fall of 2021. The University and College would like to get back to normal and in-person classes but health and safety are priorities. Hence we are in a position to say Spring 2021 will be pretty much like Fall 2020 semester and we hope that the virus subsides and life and learning get back to normal by fall — but no promises.

With all the turmoil in 2020, I’d like to think that alumni, students, faculty and stakeholders and friends of the College can see the relevance of our College and our degrees now more than ever. Disciplines in the College be they environmental studies (climate issues), public administration (public services and finances), public health (pandemic care and service), or political science (policy and political response), public affairs reporting (free press issues), legal studies (role of the judiciary in upholding free and fair elections and immigration rights), and criminology and criminal justice (on CJ reform efforts), all matter as we enter 2021. We continue to attract students even in these difficult times, we have talented faculty we care about these issues, and we are part of a University and College that has and wants to make a positive difference in the community.

I want to assure you we are not losing sight of that imperative.

Best wishes for spring and please stay healthy and safe!

Dean Smith
Environmental Studies Student Dives into Mudpuppy Research

My name is Marissa Jones. I graduated with my bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies from UIS in May 2019 and am currently striving to earn a master’s degree in Environmental Science with a concentration on Environmental Planning and Management. I am also enrolled in the Graduate Public Service Internship (GPSI) program, which has allowed me the opportunity to gain two years of professional experience working at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) as Natural Heritage’s Endangered Species GIS Intern. In this position I use GIS skills to map locations and record occurrences of endangered and threatened species as they are found throughout the state of Illinois. In addition to gaining valuable office experience, I have also been able to take advantage of numerous field opportunities such as assisting with prescribed fires, herbicide application, invasive removal, species monitoring, and most recently animal research.

I am currently working to complete a mark and recapture study of the mudpuppy salamander (Necturus maculosus) within Robert Allerton Park and Retreat Center in Monticello, IL. Freshwater species across the globe are currently facing unparalleled declining population rates due to stressors such as urbanization, invasive species, point source pollutants, habitat destruction, and climate change. The conservation of the mudpuppy in its native range is of high concern, given that they are obligate hosts for the salamander mussel (Simpsonia abiglua), the only mussel in North America to use a non-fish host. Despite the mudpuppy’s wide distribution, information regarding the species’ populations and trends are lacking in most areas. Thus, more extensive monitoring efforts are needed to better understand the species’ population trends, conservation needs, and ecological relationships.

I have partnered with the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) to study known locations of the mudpuppy within the Sangamon River in an effort to gather baseline data about the species’ population size within Allerton Park. In 2016 and 2017, presence and absence surveys for the mudpuppy confirmed the species is present within this section of the river that runs through the park. The density estimates from this mark and recapture survey will support a future proposal for a State Wildlife Grant (SWG). The potential SWG will be used to fund statewide environmental DNA (eDNA) surveys for both the mudpuppy and the salamander mussel to better understand their population sizes and distributions across Illinois. The development and refinement of mudpuppy sampling protocols is an additional benefit of my regional sampling that will support the future SWG and overall conservation of the species.
February, the month of celebration and acknowledgement of black history has just ended. Often our focus and celebration in February is on the past, and rightfully celebrating the actions of historical black figures who paved the way with blood, sweat, and tears. It is also important to stop and reflect on history in progress. As we recognize that civil rights were not unilaterally achieved during the civil rights movement, and much work continues.

Research shows that black people in predominantly white spaces encounter social isolation (Tatum 1987; Terhune 2005; Terhune 2007). More directly, research indicates black faculty in predominantly white institutions encounter social isolation and face numerous challenges (Fry 2002; Cobham 2003; Weems 2003; Alexander 2008; Pittman 2012; Ross et. al 2016). UIS currently has five tenure track faculty members who identify as African American. Being one of five and understanding the importance of being given a seat at the table and having a voice, I found it important in Black History Month to develop an ECCE Speakers Series event that would showcase some black voices at UIS. Representation matters, and black faculty voices matter.

On February 8th, the ECCE Speakers Series event, “The Status of Black Lives Matter: A Shift in Policy, Culture, Justice & Reform” featuring myself, Ty Dooley (Public Administration), Tiffani Saunders (Sociology/Anthropology), and Justin Rose (Director Diversity & Inclusion) broadcast and kicked off the 2021 ECCE Speakers Series. The event encouraged students and the general audience to learn about the societal issues that inform and led to the formation and evolution of the Black Lives Matter Movement. The panel engaged in a lively discussion highlighting issues related to policing, healthcare, housing, and other economic disparities in the African American community, in twenty-first century America. The event remains available for viewing at https://www.uis.edu/informationtechnology/services/connect/webcasting/webcasting-ecce/#sp2021.


What’s In A Mask?

Dr. Brian Chen, Assistant Professor,
Department of Public Health

With vaccinations being rolled out around the globe, it seems like wearing a mask may be a thing of the past in the next several months. However, there are reasons why we will still need to wear masks for a while:

- Vaccines will not be available to everyone for months – maybe not even until 2022.
- Even if you are vaccinated, it takes two weeks after your second dose to reach peak effectiveness.
- Vaccines do not provide 100% effectiveness against the virus.
- Those who have been vaccinated might be asymptomatic spreaders.
- We still need to protect those with compromised immune systems and those who cannot be vaccinated.

There has been a lot of confusing information on which type of masks are effective. Here are a few pointers on what type of masks to look for (or not) and how to best wear a mask.

Effective:
- Surgical masks that have an American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) Level 3 (Masks rated Level 1 or 2 are still fairly effective).

ASTM Level 3 masks provide:
- 98% Bacterial Filtration Efficiency (BFE);
- 98% Particulate Filtration Efficiency (PFE); and
- Good Fluid Resistance (FR).

- Surgical N95 Masks - these have a greater than 99% BFE and PFE, and a good FR.

Not As Effective:
- Industrial N95 Masks – These are meant to filter out large particles, not smaller particulates.
- Carbon Charcoal Mask – These masks offer limited protection and have not been tested for Fluid Resistance.
- Cloth Masks – Offer limited protection and have not been tested for Fluid Resistance.

However, any mask is better than no mask!

Useful Notes:
- If social distancing is NOT possible, try to increase your level of protection by wearing a surgical mask or a cloth mask over a medical procedure mask or using a face shield with a procedural mask.
- More detailed labeling on the box of masks will provide BFE, PFE, and/or FR information. If you cannot identify BFE, buy another brand with such info.
- Remember the difference between medical-grade face masks and non-medical masks to ensure you’re grabbing the right one for your specific needs (it will be labelled on the box).
- Non-medical masks come in different layer options. You may want one that is at least two ply, but three ply is ideal.
- If you’re wearing the Surgical Mask, the Blue/Green color goes on the OUTSIDE!!
- Outer fluid-repellent layer: Typically, colored blue or green; this layer is for repelling fluid. High-efficiency filter middle layer: The middle layer is what does the hard work in capturing viruses and bacteria. Absorbent layer: The inner layer captures and absorbs moisture.
- If the outer fluid-repellent layer of a surgical mask is facing your mouth, this layer can not absorb the moisture as it is originally designed.

Sources & Useful Webpages:


Welcome to the CPAA Advisory Board!

Last March, CPAA called for nominations to our alumni to create a college Advisory Board. Although delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, a new advisory board has been formed with 10 alumni. Over the next several Journal editions, we will introduce you to the Advisory Board members.

**Dr. Erma Brooks Williams**

Dr. Erma Brooks Williams is a proud graduate of UIS, along with six of her family members, one of whom earned a DPA. She has over 40 years of experience working around the Illinois legislature. In 1979, she was the first Black female to be hired as a Supervisor of the Senate Democratic Pages. Later, she served on the Illinois House of Representatives Budget staff. She went on to serve on U.S. Congressmen Harold Washington and Charles A. Hayes congressional staffs, as an education specialist. She, later, was hired by the University of Illinois at Chicago on the governmental affairs staff. Dr. Williams went on to serve at Chicago State University as the Assistant Vice President for Board and Governmental Affairs. Dr. Williams currently serves as Vice President for Paul L. Williams and Associates, a governmental affairs consulting firm, founded by her husband, attorney Paul L. Williams, who is a UIS/SSU graduate and former member of the Illinois House of Representatives.

She credits earning a degree from UIS/SSU for the many opportunities that have been presented to her throughout her career. Dr. Williams earned her Doctorate of Education and Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Roosevelt University and Bachelor’s of Arts Degree from UIS and Associate of Arts Degree from Lincoln Land Community College.

**Justice Mathias W. Delort**

Justice Mathias W. Delort, MPA ’17 PAA, serves as Presiding Justice of the Fifth Division of the Illinois Appellate Court, First District, in Chicago. He began his judicial service as an associate judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County in 2007 and has served on the appellate court since 2012. He earned his B.S. in Mathematics cum laude from DePaul University and his J.D. from The John Marshall Law School. For over twenty years, he worked as a local government lawyer, serving as outside counsel for numerous cities, villages, townships, school districts, and community colleges throughout Illinois. He is the editor-in-chief of the leading treatise on Illinois election law and is the primary author of the Illinois court system’s official judicial bench book on mortgage foreclosure law. He has taught local government law and election/voting rights law at John Marshall as an adjunct professor, and teaches judicial ethics and other topics to Illinois judges by appointment of the Illinois supreme court’s education committee.

**Lynne Slightom, Nonprofit professional**

With a career spent entirely within the public sector, both nationally and internationally, Lynne has vast experience in varied industries including; NGOs, environment, animal welfare, social services, parks and recreation, membership organizations and higher education. Lynne specializes in proposal and grant writing, mid-level and annual campaign planning, fundraising trends and analysis, strategic planning, board development, public speaking, community outreach and special events. Lynne volunteers as a grant writer for the United Nations, serves on the African American History Museum Board of Directors, University of Illinois College of Public Affairs and Administration Advisory Board and President of the Springfield Zoological Society. She is active with Springfield Rotary South, Illinois Women in Leadership and is a Return Peace Corp Volunteer. Lynne holds her CFRE certification, has a Certificate in Non Profit Management and a Master’s degree in Public Administration.

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**Student Highlights**

**Undergraduate Student**

**Shelene Ford**

is a senior Legal Studies major with a Criminal Justice minor. She’s also a mom, grandmother, and Teacher’s Assistant in the Springfield Public Schools. Shelene began her higher education journey at Lincoln Land Community College in 2015. Since then, she’s taken night classes every semester with the goal of finishing her degree. At UIS, Shelene is a star student who always submits her best work. During the pandemic, she carefully rearranged her schedule to attend all remote class meetings, including meetings that were optional. After graduation, Shelene intends to go to law school. Her professors have no doubt that she’ll succeed and become an excellent lawyer someday!

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**Graduate Students**

**Natalie and Brianna Klein**

are two sisters pursuing Joint Masters degrees in Public Administration and Public Health. Natalie is a Graduate Public Service Intern at the Illinois Department of Revenue. Brianna recently accepted a full-time position as a Junior Planner at IEM. This is the third and final year of our journey through the program. Natalie and Brianna are grateful for their professors that encouraged them to grow as students and professionals.
Doctoral Students

**Rebecca Dieken**

has research interests in attitudes and behavior related to traffic safety; driver perception and cognition; program development, implementation, and evaluation; and methods to increase compliance for traffic safety laws. In her current role as Research Program Evaluation Manager in the Bureau of Safety Programs and Engineering at Illinois Department of Transportation, she works to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on roads in Illinois by designing and conducting research and analyses, evaluating highway safety programs, and identifying goals to increase traffic safety. She also serves on a national panel to oversee research to increase child safety in ridesharing environments and another panel to incorporate driver behavior into engineering statistical models for crash reduction. Rebecca is confident that receiving a DPA at UIS will equip her with the proper set of tools which consists of advanced skills in analytics, public policy development and implementation, and public management. With these newly gained skills, she will be more effective and efficient at increasing traffic safety statewide and throughout the nation.

**John Malone, DPA**

I was a member of the 2013 Doctor of Public Administration cohort at UIS. I enrolled in the UIS doctoral program immediately after I was promoted to Associate Professor at Lincoln College. I've worked at the College since 2004, teaching Mass Communication courses. I also serve as General Manager of College-owned WLNX-FM. While working on my doctorate at UIS, I also developed the baccalaureate program in Radio, Television, and New Media at Lincoln College and shepherded the program to its 2016 approval by the Higher Learning Commission. In 2016, I was also promoted to Division Chair of Fine Arts and Communication.

“When I entered the DPA program, I was quite intimidated and not sure of what to expect. My entire academic background was in Communication. Public Administration was an entirely new discipline for me, so I had to start from zero. I found a welcoming community of fellow learners who supported each other as a cohort sharing each individual course experiences together. What really mattered to me was the philosophy at UIS where I could pursue a doctorate in Public Administration from a multi-disciplinary approach. My true research passion has been broadcasting history and regulation, which intersected perfectly with both the Public Administration and Public Policy components of the doctoral program.

“Also, while I always considered myself a rather strong writer, the professors in the doctorate program were extremely influential in crafting me into a strong academic and scholarly writer. That, alone, has advanced my skill sets within my academic career.”

“I went to a small high school. I work at a small liberal arts college. I attended a small liberal arts college for my baccalaureate degree. And, I earned my Masters at UIS. When the time came to look into doctoral programs, I never seriously considered anywhere else except for UIS. I feel at home there. I love the small and welcoming, yet academically challenging, atmosphere.”

I defended by dissertation on June 5, 2020. In March of 2020, Lincoln College promoted me to the rank of Full Professor. That makes me the only active Full Professor at the College, and only the third Full Professor in the last 30 years.
Criminology & Criminal Justice

CCJ had three new inductees to UIS’s chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society.

- Madyson Blanton transferred to UIS to major in Criminology and Criminal Justice after getting her associates from Lincoln Land. She currently works as a full-time dispatcher for a local police department and plans to continue working in law enforcement after her graduation in May 2021.

- Samantha Martin received an associates from Lincoln Land, is a member of several campus organizations at UIS, and plans to graduate in December 2021. Her aspiration is to work in surveillance for the Federal government.

- Brooke Seacrist is in the CAP Scholars Honors Program, is a member of the audition-only Camerata group within UIS’s music program, and is secretary for UIS’s chapter of National Society of Leadership and Success. After her expected graduation in May 2022, she hopes to go to graduate school.

Environmental Studies

Dr. Megan Styles (ENS) & Dr. Junfeng Wang (PA) published an article in the December issue of the Illinois Municipal Policy Journal entitled “Adoption of Plastic Bag Ordinances in Illinois: Lessons for Municipalities Considering Legislation.” They conducted semi-structured interviews with community leaders, elected officials, and city employees in the five Illinois municipalities that have passed laws to reduce the use of plastic bags (e.g. bans or fees). They found that these laws have successfully reduced plastic bag use, and municipalities have not faced many issues with implementation. The results will be useful to communities considering similar laws.

In December 2020, Dr. Brandon Derman (ENS) taught a successful intercession course called “Understanding Struggles for Climate Justice.” The course examined the ways in which climate change is increasingly being understood as an issue of intergenerational, racial, and global justice, building on Derman’s longstanding research interests, explored in his new book. After examining the uneven impacts of climate change, and some pathbreaking institutional and popular mobilizations for “climate justice” at international, national, and region levels, each student prepared a paper, story map, or TED talk-style presentation analyzing an effort or theme related to climate (in)justice of their own choosing. Among other topics, students examined the legacy of racialized housing segregation in the US, climate impacts facing Midwest farmers, and sea level rise in populated areas around the globe.

On November 14, 2020, the GIS Lab, directed by Dr. Yun Zhao (ENS) joined by Dr. Junu Shrestha from the UIS Public Health Department, offered a virtual GIS workshop titled “Mapping COVID-19 Using GIS.” The workshop introduced the use of desktop and online GIS tools in visualizing COVID-19 to help in the decision-making process. This is the first time the GIS Lab offered an online workshop.

ENS faculty have also been busy partnering with faculty at UIS and other universities on exciting new interdisciplinary research projects. Dr. Anne-Marie Hanson (ENS) and Dr. Tom Rothfus (UIS Field Stations Director) have continued to develop the UIS Confluence Lab, which examines freshwater research debris on Lake Springfield. Dr. Hanson also worked with colleagues at UIUC to submit two large grants for external research funding. One project examines “American Plumbing: The Canals, Rivers, and Communities that Bridge North and South,” and the other uses a combination of natural and social science research techniques to examine material and waste management processes. Dr. Brandon Derman and Dr. Megan Styles have also partnered with Lead Principal Investigator Dr. Richard Funderburg (PAA) on a project examining, “Planning for the Closure of Coal-Fired Electric Power Plants in Host Communities” in Illinois. We look forward to working to further develop and fund these new projects.

Dr. Tih-Fen Ting (ENS) has continued her grant-funded research on threatened and endangered wildlife in Illinois. She welcomed four new MS ENS graduate students into her lab in Fall 2020 and another two in Spring 2021. She continues to provide first-rate, hands-on opportunities for ENS students to learn how to conduct field research and examine the factors impacting the survival of these vulnerable species.

Legal Studies

Prof. Deborah Anthony recently published an article in the Penn State Law Review entitled “The U.S. Border Patrol’s Constitutional Erosion in the ‘100-Mile Zone.’” This spring she has an article forthcoming in the University of Massachusetts Law Review, entitled “Perils of the Reverse Silver Platter under U.S. Border Patrol Operations.”

Prof. Amanda Hughett presented a paper, entitled “From Democracy to Bureaucracy: How State Officials Used Prison Grievance Procedures to Crush Prison Organizing,” at the Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting. She also presented a chapter of her book project, Silencing the Cell Block: The Making of Modern Prison Policy in North Carolina and the Nation, at the University of Michigan’s School of Law. She spoke as part of a workshop organized by NC CRED, a nonprofit organization in North Carolina devoted to reducing racial disparities in North Carolina’s criminal justice system. The panel, entitled “Reckoning with Racial Terror: Slavery, the Death Penalty, and
Mass Incarceration,” included both public interest lawyers and historians with expertise in the field of criminal justice reform.

Prof. Jessica Dooley was appointed to the UIS Merit Scholarship Committee and was appointed as the Pre-Law Center Director starting at the beginning of this Spring 2021 semester.

**Pre-Law Center**
The Pre-Law Center (PLC) assists students as well as members of the community with course planning, LSAT preparation, resume building, personal statements, and law school applications. This spring, the PLC has partnered with the UIS Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International and The Princeton Law Review to present webinars on several topics including corporate and in-house counsel work, learning about the University of Iowa Law School, an LSAT Strategy Session, and an upcoming practice LSAT session. The PLC will host the first annual UIS Law School Fair, to be held virtually on April 27th from 1-3 p.m. Law schools from all across the country will be on hand to meet UIS pre-law students and provide information. Also this spring, the PLC has hired Brett Hyink, UIS Undergraduate Student (LES and History double major), to assist Prof. Tess Dooley, the Pre-Law Center Director.

**Political Science**

Professor Jason Pierceon’s book, “Sexual Minorities and Politics” has recently been featured in the US Navy’s reading list for its Professional Reading Program. The list includes several notable authors and titles. (It is under “sailors” and “advanced”).

Professor Emeritus Kent Redfield, Professors Sibel Oktay and Matthew Geras attended an pre-election panel on the 2020 presidential election and discussed its domestic and foreign policy implications, moderated by CPAA Dean Robert Smith. Professors John Transue and Matthew Geras participated in a post-election panel on Reflection on the Inauguration with UIS Political Science/Public Policy student Mackenzi Matthews.

Professor Sibel Oktay won a Leadership Lived Experience Award for the 2020-2021 academic year to work on her research project, “Political Leadership and International Responses to COVID-19.” PSC Student Amanda Young has been working as her research assistant in this project.

Professor Ali Nizamuddin published an opinion piece in the CPAA Blog on protests, violence, and seeing from the lens of goodness. He also was honored with the Star Staff Award for his volunteer efforts in the community. He was nominated by Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County.

Professor Magic Wade’s most recent research study is accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed Journal of Prison Education and Reentry. PSC/PP Student Mackenzi Matthews will present her undergraduate capstone project at the Annual Pi Sigma Alpha National Undergraduate Research Conference in March 2021. This is the first time UIS will be represented at the conference of PSA, the national political science honor society.

**Global Studies**
Professor Adriana Crocker presented her research on gender quotas and gender parity laws in Argentina in a webinar at Eastern Illinois University and will present this research at a UIS webcast in March 2021. She also conducted a presentation for the University of Illinois System for the Illinois-Mexican and Mexican American students (IMAS) led by Dr. Elvira De Mejia (UIUC) in February.

**Public Affairs Reporting**
Professor Jason Piscia’s students hosted Governor J.B Pritzker for a press conference as part of their Advanced Public Affairs Reporting course in December 2020.

PAR students began six-month news reporting internships in January, covering the Illinois General Assembly and other functions of state government for newspapers, wire services and broadcast stations.

The placements include:
- Moyo Adeolu, *WCIA-TV*
- Madison Angell, *Illinois Times*
- Grace Barbic, *Capital News Illinois*
- JJ Bullock, *(Arlington Heights) Daily Herald*
- Derek Cantu, *NPR Illinois*
- Christine Hatfield, *WGLT/WCBU*
- Tim Kirsinikas, *Capital News Illinois*
- Ali Rasper, *Quincy Media TV*
- Zach Roth, *The State Journal-Register*
- Andrew Sullender, *Chicago Sun-Times*
- Ben Szalinski, *The State Journal-Register*

Visit [uis.edu/par](https://uis.edu/par) to find links to the students’ latest coverage.
Public Administration

Public Administration has submitted several proposals that are now advancing through the UIS Levels of Governance, including:

- A new School of Public Management and Policy Proposal that will include the existing Department of Public Administration and Department of Human Services, effective Fall 2021.

- A new Master of Public Policy degree to include in the offerings for the new School, effective Fall 2021.

- A series of joint graduate degrees:
  — Master of Public Administration-Master of Science in Human Resource Management
  — Master of Public Policy-Master of Environmental Studies, and
  — Master of Public Policy-Master of Business Administration

- Dr. Ken Kriz was awarded grant projects examining strategic planning and a study in partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers on Reservoirs; he is the Managing Editor of the Illinois Municipal Policy Journal, 5th Volume; just released a major report in conjunction with the Institute of Government and Public Affairs on the impact of COVID-19 on state revenue published on January 26, 2021.

- Dr. Beverly Bunch is currently working with the Volcker Alliance investigating State Budgets for Truth and Integrity, a grant funded project in Phase IV that incorporates undergraduate students in research; she is the Associate Editor of the Illinois Municipal Policy Journal, 5th Volume.


- Dr. Junfeng Wang produced an article highlighting municipal concerns for plastic bag ordinances in Illinois; she is serving as a curriculum reviewer for international colleagues at Nanjing University on their Public Management program.

- Dr. Bob Blankenberger has chaired dissertations for three DPA students to completion and has published an article with a former DPA student, Sophia Gehlhausen Anderson, on learning communities. He has also published works on higher education policy and COVID-19.

- Dr. Rick Funderburg is the lead on a project looking at the impact of coal-fired plant closures and on Illinois; he has released publications on tax competition and tax incentives with respect to businesses and communities; and is serving as Commissioner on the Village of Chatham Planning Commission.

- Dr. Adam Williams is the National academic representative of the Institute for Public Procurement (NIGP) on their Certification Commission; he has had a book published, Public Affairs Practicum, with co-editor Derek Slagle (UALR); and is the co-author (with Travis Bland) of the “Employee Viewpoint Report: Bloomington, Illinois”.

- Dr. Ty Dooley is working with the Springfield Chamber of Commerce in the impact analysis for the Master Plan for Downtown Springfield; he serves on the ASPA webinar series “Dismantling White Supremacy”; and wrote for the UIS Capitol Connection Blog on the intersection of race, housing, and equity.

- Dr. Betsy Goulet continues her work through grant-funded practitioner training for child welfare investigators through the Child Protection Training Academy; she has published an article on the importance of simulation training in child protection in the Journal of Public Child Welfare; her work in simulation training was recognized nationally by the Children’s Bureau within the US Department of Health and Human Services.

- Dr. Sean McCandless is part of the working group assisting as east coast state’s health and emergency management departments improve COVID-19 vaccine equity; he is finalizing a statistical study of emotional labor and social equity in the era of COVID-19 as well as editing a special issue of Public Integrity on empathy, engagement, equity, and ethics in Public Administration.

- Dr. Jose Irizarry defended his dissertation entitled “The Classical Dilemma and Probation Officer Training in Florida: Content Analysis of Rules, Routines, Roles, Rituals, and Relationships”. He was a speaker for ASPA webinar on social equity, diversity and inclusion.
March Greetings!

We are the University of Illinois System’s capital city connection for the study of public policy, affairs and administration. Department / Program Highlights (continued)

**Doctor of Public Administration Program**
The Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) program continues to enjoy a heightened level of success. We set successive records for the number of graduates in 2019 and 2020. This spring (2021), we admitted a new cohort of 15 students and, due to widespread demand, will begin seating cohorts on a yearly rather than biennial basis. We are attracting some of the most promising and accomplished social sector leaders in the region.

For example, Governor Pritzker recently appointed Keyria Rodgers (2015 Cohort) to the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission. Boone County, Illinois, hired Keven Catlin (2019 Cohort) as its County Administrator. Manuel Roman-Basora published an article in Public Integrity highlighting some of the disparities in how the five inhabited U.S. unincorporated territories are treated. Finally, Lincoln College promoted John Malone (2015 Cohort) to Full Professor of Communication.

Our faculty, staff, students, and alumni are part of a community making a difference here in Illinois and worldwide. There is much to celebrate about the collective impact of the DPA program.

**Public Health**
UIS Public Health programs are evaluated through Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) criteria that set standards for the program’s mission, goals, assessment, faculty, research, service, and diversity. The UIS MPH program will submit its final self-study document and other materials to CEPH in December 2021. The CEPH site visit team is scheduled to visit the UIS campus in January 2022.

Dr. Brian Chen and Lenore Killam, MPH Faculty, were invited to join the Sangamon County Public Health Committee’s work to maximize the county’s Covid-19 response since March 2020. Being the committee members, Dr. Chen and Lenore have been contributing their expertise, resources, and intellectual creativity to tackle the myriad of challenges presented by the pandemic. The committee represents a wide variety of disciplines, including members who evaluate the economic impact on our community and members who research how social determinants of health create inequitable impacts of the pandemic within vulnerable populations.

The Department of Public Health at the University of Illinois Springfield invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position at the assistant professor level. Candidates must hold a Ph.D. in the domain of Epidemiology and should demonstrate research productivity, teaching effectiveness, and experience in public health education and service.

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Dr. Brian Chen
Call for Alumni Engagement

Whether you just graduated or it has been many years, we want to extend a warm welcome to our alumni and friends of the College of Public Affairs and Administration (CPAA) at the University of Illinois Springfield. We’re proud to support a strong alumni network that extends across Illinois, the United States, and abroad. CPAA alumni work in government, nonprofits, international relations, and business. They are connected by a strong sense of civic engagement, a commitment to social responsibility, and an understanding of democratic values.

We view our alumni as strategic partners, and we want them to be active participants in the life of the college.

• We hope that you will choose to be an active member of the CPAA community. There are many ways to get involved:
  • Join the CPAA Professional Mentorship Network and invest personal time and energy in advising our students and helping them develop essential skills
  • Volunteer by giving guest lectures, hosting a networking event, or overseeing an internship experience
  • Attend and promote CPAA Events
  • Give to support our college

Your involvement strengthens the CPAA.

It helps us maintain our commitment to training the next generation of public service professionals by inspiring them to lead, equipping them to serve, and connecting them to opportunities to make a difference. It also improves our ability to lead and advocate for change on a host of pressing social and public problems.

Please take the time to join us on our LinkedIn Showcase Pages and begin connecting with fellow alumni and current students.

• Criminology and Criminal Justice
• Public Administration
• Political Science
• Legal Studies
• Public Affairs Reporting
• Environmental Studies

To get involved, please contact: Travis Bland, Associate Dean
jblan7@uis.edu

Be sure to check out the CPAA Blog at uis.edu/capitolconnection

Please take the time to join us on LinkedIn and Facebook and begin connecting with your fellow alumni and our current students.

To get involved, please contact

Travis Bland,
Associate Dean,
at jblan7@uis.edu.