IN 2018, THE PSPA FACULTY:

PUBLISHED
18 peer-reviewed journal articles
2 books and
5 book chapters

CONDUCTED
research and professional presentations on 5 continents

Our NASPAA accredited MPPA program is ranked in the TOP 100 PROGRAMS in the nation
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Dear Alumni, Students, Colleagues, and Friends:

I want to keep you apprised of all that has happened in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration this past year.

After many years of valuable service to the profession, the department, and the university, Professor Jerry Emison announced that he would retire at the end of the spring 2018 semester. At a celebration in April of 2018, students, faculty, staff, and alumni praised Jerry for his countless and gracious contributions over the years. During the fall 2018 semester, the PSPA department also welcomed the arrival of its newest member, Dr. Benjamin Tkach, who received his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. Dr. Tkach specializes in the privatization of security and non-state actors' involvement in conflict. As far as administrative matters are concerned, Caragh Boyles who has served as our internship and career services liaison since 2012 was recently promoted to her permanent position in the department as associate director of Assessment and Internships. Dr. Michael Potter was appointed as graduate coordinator, while Dr. Brian Shoup continues to serve as undergraduate coordinator and Dr. James Chamberlain continues to advise the Master of Arts in Political Science program.

The faculty’s productivity is at an all-time high. Faculty members have received honors and authored an impressive number of scholarly articles and books, and presented research at numerous conferences in the United States and around the world. Individual faculty achievements are detailed in the following pages.

Alumni and benefactors continue to provide significant financial support to our program as well as scholarships to our most qualified students. We have three new fully funded scholarships this year honoring Professor Emeritus Emison, Professor Emeritus Marty Wiseman, and alumnus Dr. Charles Menifield.

Our MPPA Advisory Board recently met to review the program. They are an impressive group of individuals who are focused on providing wise advice, time, and support to our overall efforts to prepare students in our NASPAA accredited program for service as public administrators at the national, state, and local levels of government.

Our undergraduate and graduate programs continue to thrive. In 2018, 53 undergraduate and 22 graduate students received their degrees.

At our annual graduation reception, the department honored the following students and faculty with awards for their achievements:

The outstanding undergraduate students were Heston Lollar, Nia Sims, Sumner Fortenberry, and Kennedy Moehrs.

The outstanding graduate students were Byran Mathison, Chris Bell, and Sean Conner.

Dr. Carolyn Holmes – PSPA’s Outstanding Undergraduate Professor Award
Dr. Julius Nukpezah – PSPA’s Outstanding Graduate Professor Award

As you look through the following pages, I am sure you will agree our PSPA family has been very active over the past year. If you are on campus or in the Starkville area, I invite you to come by Bowen Hall for a visit. You are also able to keep abreast of the department’s activities and direction at www.pspa.msstate.edu.
Welcoming Our New(ish) Faculty

Dr. Tamara Dimitrijevska-Markoski is an assistant professor and a core faculty member for the MPPA Program at Mississippi State University. She earned her Ph.D. in Public Affairs at the University of Central Florida where she was the recipient of the Graduate Dean’s Fellowship. Before coming to the United States, she earned her master’s degree in Human Rights at the Central European University in Hungary. She also holds undergraduate degrees in Political Science and International Relations, and European Studies from the prestigious American University in Bulgaria. Her research is focused on performance measurement and management issues, local governments and pay-for-performance contracting. Currently, Dr. Dimitrijevska-Markoski is collaborating with the Stennis Institute of Government on a project that focuses on the state of strategic planning and performance measurement as well as management among municipalities in Mississippi. It is a pleasure to have Dr. Dimitrijevksa-Markoski among our faculty, and we are happy to welcome her husband Zlatko and their daughter to Starkville.

Dr. Thessalia Merivaki is an assistant professor in American politics. Prior to joining the PSPA Department in the fall of 2017, she was visiting assistant professor at the University of South Florida. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Florida. She also holds an M.A. degree in International Studies at the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom, and a B.A. in Political Studies from the University of Macedonia in Greece. Her research focuses on the empirical assessment of election reforms on the administration of elections across the American states. Currently, Dr. Merivaki is working with the Center for Social Science Research Center (SSRC) at Mississippi State University on a project that aims to assess the influence of Twitter on the campaign information flow during in the 2016 Presidential election. She and her family, have been calling Starkville home for over a year now, and we are happy to welcome them to the Bulldog nation.

In the fall of 2018, we welcomed Dr. Ben Tkach to our growing PSPA faculty. Dr. Tkach is serving as an assistant professor in the department where he teaches courses in International Relations. Dr. Tkach earned his Ph.D. in Political Science at Texas A&M University and holds a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Whitworth University. Prior to Mississippi State, he worked at King University as well as Texas A&M University. His primary research focuses on privatization of security and non-state actors’ involvement in conflict. His additional research areas include U.S. foreign policy and nuclear security. We are excited to welcome Dr. Tkach and his family to Starkville and our department.
Welcoming Dr. Potter as the New Graduate Coordinator

The Department of Political Science and Public Administration is welcoming a new graduate coordinator. **Dr. Mike Potter** joined the department in 2017 as an assistant professor and assumed the role of graduate coordinator in the spring of 2018. Before joining MSU, he served as graduate director for the Masters of Public Administration Program at the University of Wyoming and as an assistant professor at Appalachian State University. He received his undergraduate degree at West Virginia University and his master’s and Ph.D. in Public Administration and Public Affairs from the Center for Public Administration and Policy at Virginia Tech. His research interests focus on ethics and regulatory policy. Dr. Potter enjoys working with graduate students and answering all questions they may have. If you would like to learn more about our graduate programs, or you have questions about enrollment, course offerings or availability of scholarships and assistantships, he can help. We are excited to welcome Dr. Potter, his wife Trisha, and their two children to Mississippi State.

Programs Offered

**Undergraduate:**
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
- Minor in Political Science
- Minor in International Relations
- Minor in Pre-Law

**Graduate:**
- Master of Arts in Political Science
- Master of Public Policy and Administration
- Ph.D in Public Policy and Administration

In 2018, our Master of Public Policy and Administration Programs completed the NASPAA reaccreditation process. A NASPAA accreditation recognizes that a master’s degree has undertaken a rigorous 18-month process of peer review conducted by the Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA) and meets the NASPAA Accreditation Standards for Professional Master’s Degree Program. Accreditation certifies that the program’s curriculum incorporates the newest ideas in the field, the faculty is well-qualified, and the program is well-managed. Among master’s degrees in Public Affairs, NASPAA accreditation is the “gold standard.” Accreditation is one of the many reasons U.S. News & World Report ranks MSU among the Best Public Affairs Schools.

During 2018, the Department of Political Science and Public Administration awarded 53 undergraduate degrees in Political Science and 22 graduate degrees.

Interested in online courses? Contact Dr. Mike Potter at mp2146@msstate.edu
We are happy to report that the PSPA Department had a robust presence at the Southeastern Conference for Public Administration (SECoPA). Since its establishment in 1969, SECoPA has served as a gathering place for scholars and practitioners to engage in scholarly discourse. The 2018 SECoPA conference was held in Birmingham, Alabama from September 20-23. Eight faculty members and seven graduate students presented 15 research presentations at the conference. Our faculty presented research in various fields, tackling pressing public administration issues such as economic development, strategic planning, performance measurement and management, leadership, accountability, privatization, and public procurement, emergency management and health disparities. Also, our faculty served as chairs and discussants at a number of other panels, and members of award committees. We are especially proud of our Ph.D. students Karen Clark-Hough, Sean C. Conner, Courtney R. Harris, Asya Cooley, Victor Flomo, and Mustafa Sen who conducted professional conference presentations. We are glad they enjoyed the experience and hoped that this is just the beginning of their professional careers. Also, at the conference, the department was happy to re-connect with numerous MSU alumni who attended as well. We are proud that our Ph.D. program in Public Policy and Administration provided them with a foundation for their careers in academia and they are up-to-par professionals. Lastly, we are also proud to announce that the PSPA Department Head Dr. P. Edward French, who has served on the SECoPA board, is now president-elect of the conference. We congratulate him on this recognition and we wish him all the best in this role.

**SECoPA Presentations 2018**

Investigating the Effects of Government of Ghana’s Rural Economic Development Policy that Incorporates Entrepreneurship and Market Orientation on Poverty and Quality of Life
*Dr. Charles Blankson, University of North Texas*

The Politics of Health Disparities: Political Culture Revisited
*Dr. Joseph “Dallas” Breen, Mississippi State University*

The Impact of Family Dynamics on Youth Educational Attainment
*Karen Clark-Hough, Mississippi State University*

Sesta-Fosta: The Legal and Enforcement Questions for Public Administration
*Courtney R. Harris, Mississippi State University*

Dr. Leslie Baker, Mississippi State University

Institutional Isomorphism and Cash Management Practices in Mississippi
*Dr. Julius A. Nukpezah, Mississippi State University*

Dr. Sawsan Abutabenjeh, Mississippi State University

Who Does It Best? Towards Understanding Virtual Accountability in Public, Nonprofit and Private Organizations
*Asya Cooley, Mississippi State University*

The Adoption of Multilingual Websites by State Emergency Management Agencies: A Test of Responsiveness and Risk Communication Theories
*Dr. Julius A. Nukpezah, Mississippi State University*

Ismail Soujaa, University of North Texas

Dr. Abraham David Benavides, University of North Texas

The Impact of Transformational and Transactional Leadership on Job Satisfaction of Federal Employees: The Mediating Effects of Demographic and Agency Factors
*Dr. Julius A. Nukpezah, Mississippi State University*

Victor Flomo, Mississippi State University

The Impact of Women in the Workforce on School Performance
*Karen E. Clark-Hough, Mississippi State University*
In the spring of 2018, we said farewell to Dr. Jerry Emison who retired after 15 years of service to the PSPA department. In his career at Mississippi State, Dr. Emison taught environmental policy, city planning, public management, organizational leadership, public policy and program evaluation. He was chosen by students to be the departmental Professor of the Year in 2006, 2008, 2012, 2015 and 2017. Throughout his academic career, he authored or served as co-editor of three books: Practical Program Evaluations: Getting from Ideas to Outcomes (2006), Speaking Green with a Southern Accent (2010) and True Green: Executive Effectiveness in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2012).

Moreover, he authored over 30 professional journal articles/book chapters and 60 academic conference papers.

Before joining MSU Dr. Emison served in a number of senior executive service positions with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency including serving as director of the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, deputy regional administrator in Seattle, and as the Director of the Program Evaluation Division in Washington, D.C. As a result of his work with the EPA, he received the presidential rank designation for meritorious senior executive service.

He received his Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He also holds additional graduate degrees in Political Science and Engineering Management. His undergraduate work was in Civil Engineering at Vanderbilt University, and was followed by service in the Seabees in Vietnam. He is a registered professional engineer, a board-certified environmental engineer of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

In 2018, the faculty in the PSPA department unanimously voted to award Dr. Emison a status of Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Public Administration at Mississippi State University.
Our faculty actively participated in the Southern Political Science Association 89th Annual Conference (SPSA), which was held in New Orleans, Louisiana from January 4-6, 2018. SPSA is one of the oldest professional associations within political science, and we are happy that eight of our faculty members chose this avenue to present their research, serve as panel chairs, discussants, and members of awards committees. Our faculty delivered nine presentations on topics dealing with voter registration, diplomatic relations, riots, sustainability, women’s role in political processes, and managers’ role and attitudes.

**SPSA Presentations 2018**

**Uncovering Implementation Problems in Voter Registration: The Case of Youth Pre-Registration in Florida**
Thessalia Merivaki, Mississippi State University

**Purity as Protection: Abstinence-Focused Discourses of Security and Contamination in the Revival of Umkhosi WomHlanga in South Africa**
Carolyn E Holmes, Mississippi State University

**Response and Recovery from Financial Emergencies in Michigan—Building Resilient and Sustainable Local Governments**
Julius A Nukpezah, Mississippi State University

**The Impact of Panama on Taiwan’s Diplomatic Recognition in Central America**
Timothy Rich, Western Kentucky University
Vasabjit Banerjee, Mississippi State University
Andi Dahmer, Western Kentucky University

**Who are the Provisional Voters? Evidence from North Carolina**
Thessalia Merivaki, Mississippi State University
Daniel A. Smith, University of Florida

**Riots and Repercussions: Vernacular Language Media and Coverage of the 2002 Violence in Gujarat**
Carolyn E Holmes, Mississippi State University
Vasabjit Banerjee, Mississippi State University

**Analyzing Manager Behavior and Attitudes in Partisan and Nonpartisan Local Governments**
Michael Potter, Mississippi State University
Robert Eskridge, Appalachian State University
Kathy Webb Farley, Appalachian State University

**The Lack of Women in State Legislatures: Evidence from Oklahoma and Louisiana**
Leslie Baker, Mississippi State University
Sawsan Abutabenjeh, Mississippi State University

**Unconditional Hospitality and the Case for No Borders**
James Chamberlain, Mississippi State University
PSPA FACULTY CONDUCT RESEARCH AND DELIVER PRESENTATIONS ON FIVE CONTINENTS

In 2018, our faculty conducted meetings, research and presentations on five continents. Although most of our efforts have been conducted at home here in North America, our faculty also visited South America, Africa, Australia, and Europe. These international experiences add value to the expertise of our faculty and help us to make Mississippi State University more visible to the world.

AUSTRALIA

In July 2018, Dr. James Chamberlain attended the World Congress of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) in Brisbane, Australia. Dr. Chamberlain used this opportunity to make new connections with mainly Australian scholars, explore Brisbane, and spend time at the Museum of Modern Art. At the World Congress, Dr. Chamberlain presented his paper titled Borders: The Individual and the Community in Analytic and Continental Philosophy. While he enjoyed this experience, he says something that was “particularly bizarre for me was the experience of leaving the U.S. in summer and getting off the plane in winter!” Since the conference, Dr. Chamberlain has been exploring opportunities to get more involved in the research activities of the IPSA.

EUROPE: Macedonia, Czech Republic and Switzerland

Dr. Tamara Dimitrijevska-Markoski, an assistant professor of Public Administration and Policy, delivered training for mid-career professionals at the School of Public Policy Mother Teresa in Macedonia. The school is part of a network of 21 political studies programs organized in cooperation with the Council of Europe. Most of the alumni of the school receive prominent government positions, serve as heads of units, and as ministers of members of the parliament. The training was held in the town of Ohrid, Macedonia during June and July in 2018. Dr. Dimitrijevska-Markoski delivered training on conducting program evaluation and policy analysis. She says that she was glad to visit her home country of Macedonia and be presented with an opportunity to contribute towards the development and professionalization of public administrators.

Dr. James Chamberlain is the recipient of the 2018 Stennis Summer Research Grant that enabled him to attend an International Colloquium on Critical Theory in Prague, Czech Republic. The colloquium lasted four and a half days and was organized by the Czech Academy of Sciences. During that time, Dr. Chamberlain attended several keynote addresses and panels, networked
with other critical theorists from around the world and presented a paper titled *Responding to the Contemporary Migration Crisis: J. Habermas, J-L. Nancy and Cosmopolitanism*. When asked about his experience, Dr. Chamberlain says: “The relatively small size of the colloquium meant that participants got to know each other quite well and that the engagement with the work presented was deeper than I have seen at any other conference I’ve attended. In all, the experience was more akin to a short course than a conference, and I returned from it intellectually inspired and reinvigorated. I also enjoyed the opportunity to sample the local cuisine, especially the cakes!”

Dr. Eddie French, PSPA department head, presented the paper “Determinants of Sustainability Adoption and Outcomes of Sustainability Management in U.S. Cities” at the 2018 European Group on Public Administration Conference (EGPA) Sept. 5-7, 2018 in Lausanne, Switzerland. This was the first trip to Switzerland for Dr. French and it was an enjoyable experience. While at the EGPA conference he met some old friends and made new ones along the way. Dr. French co-authored a paper with Dr. Doug Goodman, and met with Public Administration Review co-editors Paul Battaglio and Jeremy Hall for a PAR executive board meeting.

**SOUTH AMERICA: Ecuador**

Dr. Vasabjit Banerjee presented his research at the joint conference held by the International Studies Association and the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (ISA-FLACSO) in Quito, Ecuador in July 2018. The ISA-FLACSO conference was well attended by academics from Latin America, North America and Europe, which made for exciting panels with presentations of both insights on current events by regional specialists and novel general theories by those who focus on broader comparisons and contexts. At the conference, Dr. Banerjee presented two papers: “Taiwan’s Diplomatic Recognition in Central America: Translating Historical Success to the Challenges Ahead,” co-authored with Dr. Timothy Rich and Ms. Andi Dahmer from Western Kentucky University; and “From Rationales to Institutions: Explaining Taiwan’s Defense Ties with Central America,” written by him. Dr. Banerjee received great feedback on the papers and met several senior faculty members from other institutions who advised him and provided contacts to advance his research on ongoing projects. About the trip, Dr. Banerjee says that Quito is supremely picturesque and the old town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with its stunning medieval cathedrals, plazas and stately homes. The best Panama hats are also reportedly made in Ecuador, and Dr. Banerjee acquired one for himself.

**AFRICA: Ethiopia and Morocco**

In February and March of 2018, Dr. Brian Shoup was fortunate to visit Ethiopia as part of a research trip intended to study the provision and production of public goods in rural and urban areas. This field research trip was a continuation of his previous research focused on the ways that increased urbanization and increases in agricultural intensification has compelled governments to change the ways that they view rural and outlying peripheral areas of their respective countries. Essentially, Dr. Shoup and his colleagues argue that humans have become so effective at growing larger amounts of food with the same amount of land and
human capital that our species has made traditional rural-urban linkages weaker and less important to ensure domestic food security. This dynamic is perhaps familiar to those who come from rural parts of the U.S. who see the traditional family farm increasingly displaced by larger corporate models of agriculture.

To this end, Dr. Shoup was eager to visit Ethiopia as it is one of a few countries in the modern world that still retains a rather high level of rural population density. Throughout his trip, Dr. Shoup was fortunate to meet with the regional governor of the Amhara province and made several trips to villages in Amhara and Oromia to observe the provision of public goods intended to improve the quality of life for rural residents. This is especially significant as ethnic distinctions among the constituent communities of Ethiopia is often felt to be the determining variable that explains variation in the distribution of resources.

Beyond research, the trip was rewarding for other reasons. Dr. Shoup says that “Ethiopia is a beautiful country that is often misunderstood. This is unfortunate since Ethiopia is a country of remarkable history and cultural significance. Among the important contributions to our global culture are the beautiful rock-hewn Christian churches of Lalibela. Carved out of bare rock in the 12th and 13th centuries, these churches were intended to reflect the majesty of Jerusalem and these incredible testaments to the engineering acumen of middle-ages Ethiopia are now a UNESCO heritage site. And they are still in use today. I was able to celebrate Sunday services with hundreds of Ethiopian families who call these rock-hewn churches their own.”

Drs. Eddie French and Mike Potter traveled to Rabat, Morocco as part of an MSU delegation to explore dual degrees and research collaboration with the Universite Internationale de Rabat. While there, they met with the Minister of Culture and numerous university administrators to expand international exchange opportunities for PSPA students. When they returned, Dr. Potter commented on the friendliness and hospitality of Moroccans. He stated, “It really is a unique and beautiful country with kind and friendly people.”

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**PSPA AFFILIATED RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND CENTERS:**

The Stennis Institute of Government and Community Development

The Stennis Institute of Government and Community Development partners with the Department of Political Science and Public Administration to submit grant applications, conduct applied research, facilitate MPPA Capstone projects, and to introduce the students in the department to state and local government issues during their undergraduate and graduate careers. The Institute is led by an affiliated faculty member, Dr. Dallas Breen, who is responsible for teaching graduate classes in the department.

The mission of the Stennis Institute of Government and Community Development is to enhance the capacity of state and local leaders to address complex challenges and promote more desirable and competitive communities through public service, training, and applied research. Founded in 1976, the Stennis Institute has worked alongside local, regional, and state leaders to help build stronger, more resilient communities and streamline government operations through policy research and outreach.

For more information, please visit [sig.msstate.edu](http://sig.msstate.edu).
PSPA ANNUAL EVENTS: LAMAR CONERLY GOVERNANCE LECTURE AND CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION

Lamar Conerly Governance Lecture

The 2018 speaker at the Lamar Conerly Governance Lecture Series was Wall Street Journal legal affairs reporter Brent Kendall. Kendall's talk was titled “People Say It’s Different: Journalism, the Courts and the Capital in the Age of Trump” and took place at the Fowlkes Auditorium in the Colvard Student Union.

Based in Washington, D.C. since 2002, Kendall covers the Supreme Court and lower federal courts for the Wall Street Journal while leading the paper’s coverage of U.S. antitrust enforcement. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and American University, he previously worked for Dow Jones Newswires, the Los Angeles Daily Journal and the Washington Monthly. His work also has appeared in the Christian Science Monitor, Columbia Journalism Review and California Lawyer Magazine.

The Lamar Conerly Governance Lecture Series is made possible by significant support from Conerly, a 1971 MSU Accounting and Pre-Law graduate. The free event is organized by the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, and Pre-Law Society. Former speakers for this event have included Governor Haley Barbour, Attorney Tommie S. Cardin – Member and former Practice Group Leader at Butler Snow LLP, Ridgeland, MS and others.

Constitution Day Celebration

The annual Constitution Day celebration was held in September of 2018 in the Fowlkes Auditorium in the Union. This year’s speaker was Cliff Johnson, Assistant Professor of Law, and Director of the MacArthur Justice Center University - Mississippi School of Law. The topic was “The Role of the Constitution in Everyday Life: Criminal Justice Issues in Mississippi.” Mr. Johnson discussed Constitutional Amendments relevant to his work as Director of the MacArthur Center, notably the 14th Amendment guarantee of equal protection under the law and the 8th Amendment prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment and excessive fines. Under Johnson’s direction, the MacArthur Center has successfully litigated cases challenging practices such as the widespread use of illegal and excessive bail, the operation of “debtors’ prisons” throughout Mississippi, the denial of appointed counsel for indigent defendants, illegal sentencing of juvenile offenders, and the failure to provide inmates with decent prison conditions. He also is involved in a wide range of education and advocacy efforts addressing criminal justice reform in Mississippi.

Former speakers at the Constitution Day celebration have included John Boles, a nationally recognized scholar and critically acclaimed author from Rice University, as well as Mississippi Supreme Court Chief Justice William L. “Bill” Waller Jr.
PSPA FACULTY CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

**Dr. Tkach leads a discussion at the Coffee, Culture, and Conversation Series**

Dr. Ben Tkach led a student discussion hosted by the International Student Advisory Board as part of its Coffee, Culture, and Conversation (CCC) series. The event drew more than 40 students to discuss culture and politics related to three topics: U.S. immigration policy, the economic and political situation in Mexico and Venezuela, and U.S. disaster response (hurricanes Maria vs. Harvey). The topics were selected by student leadership and identified as areas of concern for many students. The discussion began with a brief introduction to American Foreign Policy and progressed to a more in-depth discussion about each topic. The conversations enabled students to share their experiences, feelings, and understanding of policies that impact them. The open environment enabled students to share and wrestle with the existing political climate surrounding each topic as well as how each topic interacts with the MSU community. Student concerns on current immigration policy transformed from introductory discussion on broad policies to the political climate on campus.

**Dr. Stanisevski speaks on Political Ideology in the Classroom at Brown Bag Luncheon**

Dr. Dragan Stanisevski was a speaker for the panel discussion on “Political Ideology in the Classroom.” The Brown Bag luncheon was held in September of 2018, and was organized by the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Office of Institutional Diversity & Inclusion. Dr. Stanisevski, Dr. Christa Haney and Dr. Jenna Altomonte discussed their experiences navigating political and sometimes polarizing discussions that occur in the classroom.

**Dr. Dimitrijevska-Markoski and Dr. Merivaki serve as judges to the 16th Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium**

Dr. Tamara Dimitrijevska-Markoski and Dr. Thessalia Merivaki served as judges at the 16th Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium. The symposium was held in February of 2018 in The Mill Conference Center in Starkville. This event is hosted by the Graduate Student Association and the Graduate School at Mississippi State and aims to highlight the outstanding quality of graduate students’ research. The GSRS is an interdisciplinary forum comprised of a series of oral and poster presentations by graduate students from across the MSU campus. Dr. Dimitrijevska Markoski and Dr. Merivaki served as judges to oral and poster presentations in the category of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the master’s and Ph.D. level.
POLITICAL SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATES SHOWCASE TALENTS IN D.C.

PSPA students study hard all year round, even in the summer months. The summer of 2018 was very productive for some Political Science undergraduates. Many of the students engaged in summer-long internships with various organizations. We are proud that Mississippi State had a very visible presence in D.C. over the summer, and that the students are among the best and brightest in the nation. The students had an internship in Congressman Gregg Harper’s Office, United States House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, House of Representatives for Congressman Steve Cohen, the Congressional Award Office on Capitol Hill and the National Cotton Council of America among others.

Walter Goss spent the summer interning for Congressman Gregg Harper’s Office. Walter spent the first half of his internship with the legal team of the Committee on House Administration, chaired by Congressman Harper. During this time, Walter helped research bills sent to the committee and prepared for hearings held by the committee. During the second half of the internship Walter worked in Congressman Harper’s personal office where he dealt with correspondence, attended hearings and conducted Capitol tours. Walter said that due to courses such as Legislative Processes and Constitutional Powers that he took at Mississippi State he felt prepared with knowledge that applies to real-life situations. He enjoyed his internship and especially liked the office environment where everyone was friendly and approachable.

Mary Evan Ivy completed her summer internship with the United States House of Representatives Committee on House Administration. She enjoyed helping out with the Intern Lecture Series, which is organized by the Committee on House Administration and the Senate Rules Committee. The Lecture Series hosted various speakers such as White House Chief of Staff John Kelly, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, and the Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. Mary Evan's responsibilities also included answering phones, maintaining an inventory of multiple offices, and working alongside the Republican Franking Commission.

Kyle Glynn was selected as a 2018 Demmer Scholar. As part of the Demmer Scholar program Kyle served as a legal intern with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Students in the Demmer Scholars Program annually take a senior-level class in natural resources policy with former USDA Undersecretary Mark Rey. During the internship, Kyle conducted legal research and wrote case briefs. He also attended the annual conference of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Eugene, Oregon. Kyle said that the Political Analysis class he took with Dr. Steve Shaffer enhanced his research skills and equipped him with the skills needed to excel during his internship.

Elizabeth Smith interned with Congressman Steve Cohen (TN-09). During her time on Capitol Hill, she attended committee hearings and receptions on various policy issues including foreign policy, transportation, and infrastructure. As a
legislative intern, she also interacted with constituents over the phone and conducted in-person tours of the U.S. Capitol. She enjoyed the experience and getting to go on the House floor was a special experience that she will never forget.

**Shannon Forshay** had a couple of internships throughout the year. In addition to interning for Cassidy and Associates, a government relations firm that specializes in defense and environmental legislation where she did a fair amount of memo writing and congressional hearing write-ups, she also had a spring internship in the Congressional Award Office on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The Congressional Award is a non-profit founded and authorized by Congress as a means of invigorating American youth to engage in their communities and better themselves. During the internship, she learned the importance of fundraising and event planning. Interestingly, she also got to experience first-hand how to balance being non-partisan within the federal government.

**Rebekah Barfield**, as one of the 2018 Demmer Scholars, interned with the National Cotton Council of America. Throughout her internship, Rebekah participated in meetings with the staff, called on congressional offices, and attended hearings on Capitol Hill. She also compiled information on upcoming fundraising events and helped run the events. In addition to her Capitol Hill work and fundraising events, Rebekah helped the Council track data on Congressional votes and staff. She says her internship experience helped her learn more about lobbying and agriculture policy. She is thankful to Dr. Brian Shoup who taught her to “see the person, not their political party” and this helped her to navigate the politics of D.C.

**Zachery Abunemeh** interned at the National Organization of Black County Officials (NOBCO). Zachery says his internship was a wonderful learning opportunity. He worked in a small team, and along with having common office duties, he attended various events and wrote blog posts for the NOBCO website. During his internship he was also fortunate to attend the National Association of County Officials annual conference that was held in Nashville, TN. Zachery said his time and course work at MSU prepared him to work effectively in a professional setting.
2018 POLITICAL SCIENCE SCHOLARS

The PSPA department offers six different undergraduate scholarships. The John C. Stennis Scholarship is a two- or four-year scholarship awarded annually to two or three graduating Mississippi high school or community college students. The John C. Stennis Scholars are named in memory of MSU alumnus John C. Stennis, who served in the United States Senate from 1947 to 1988, rising to the powerful position of President Pro Tempore of the Senate and fourth in line for the presidency. The Haley Barbour Scholarship is awarded annually to a rising junior majoring in political science. The Bill Collins Scholarship is awarded once every two or three years to an African-American student who is a rising sophomore or junior majoring in political science. The Tip Allen Scholarship is named after retired professor Tip H. Allen Jr., whose decades of teaching political science at MSU helped so many students that he was awarded the department’s outstanding teaching award on two occasions. The Charles Menifield Scholarship is named after former professor Charles Menifield, a Mississippi native who earned a B.A. in Political Science and an M.P.P.A. degree from MSU, and who currently serves as an academic dean at Rutgers University. The Dr. Marty Wiseman Scholarship is awarded to a political science major who has demonstrated achievement and a commitment to public service.

Zachery Abunemeh is a senior Tip Allen Scholar. A member of the Shackouls Honors College at MSU, Zachery is also a member of the Stennis Montgomery Association, Young Democrats, and the Muslim Student Association. He is an opinion writer for the student newspaper, The Reflector, and served as an interviewer for the survey research company ReconMR. This summer, he interned with the National Organization for Black County Officials (NOBCO).

Jonathan Bailey is a freshman Stennis Scholar from Brandon, MS. A Mississippi State Provost Scholar, Jonathan is a member of the Shackouls Honors College and the MSU College Republicans. At Brandon High School, Jonathan served as Student Body treasurer and chairman of the Mock Trial Team. He was selected as the Most Effective Attorney in the 2018 High School Mock Trial Competition by the Mississippi Bar. Jonathan worked as a field representative for the Michael Guest for Congress campaign and also interned with Cindy Hyde-Smith’s U.S. Senate campaign. After graduation, Jonathan plans to work for Mississippi’s Congressional Delegation.
Charles Allen Barbour is a senior John C. Stennis Scholar from Jackson Preparatory School. He was elected attorney general at Boys State, served as a U.S. Senate page and served as senior captain of his high school’s Debate Team. Allen is also an Eagle Scout, attended Youth Legislature, and campaigned for Senator Thad Cochran’s re-election. He served as executive director for the state Students for Rubio Presidential Campaign and also assisted the Perry Parker for Congress campaign as the director of the Northern part of the district. As a junior, Allen joined Mississippi State’s Army ROTC after completing two years as a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist with the Mississippi Army National Guard. He also joined the Mortar Board Senior National Honor Society and the Order of Omega Greek Honor Society. He found a passion for law when he joined the Pre-Law Society and was elected as the treasurer. Allen continued his education of law at the London School of Economics where he studied the English Legal System this past summer. Allen currently serves as the president of the Pre-Law Society, the director of communications for Mortar Board, and the assistant S-4 for Army ROTC while still maintaining membership within his fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon. He plans to attend law school after graduation in May 2019.

Rebekah Barfield is a Marty Wiseman Scholar and a Tip Allen Scholar from Brandon, MS. Her considerable community service activities include having served as the communications coordinator at MSU’s Baptist Student Union (BSU), serving as a teacher and group leader for the children’s ministry at Starkville’s First Baptist Church, and participating in relief efforts in Memphis and Louisiana. Rebekah was also selected as a 2018 Demmer Scholar.

Flannery Egner is a freshman Stennis Scholar. She is a graduate of Center Hill High School in Olive Branch, MS where she served as president of the Interact Club, was also active in projects raising autism awareness and fighting world hunger and poverty. A Mississippi Scholar and founding member of her school’s Youth and Government Club, she was also an active Student Council representative, member of National Honor Society, and served as Freshman and Sophomore Class secretary.

Sae Frey is a junior Stennis Scholar from Jackson Preparatory School in Jackson, MS. At MSU, Sae is a part of the Pi Sigma Alpha Honors Society, and is involved in the Shackouls Honors College, No Lost Generation, Tri Delta, the Wesley Foundation, and the Agronomy Club. In the summer of 2017, Sae studied political economy and demography in Italy with Cornell University, and in the summer of 2018, she studied with Kings College London.

Pennie Frith is a senior Bill Collins Scholar. Pennie is from McComb, MS, and graduated from Jones County Junior College. A Dean’s Scholar for all four of her semesters at MSU, she is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, Stennis Montgomery Association, Sigma Gamma Rho, was an appointed student senator in the College of Arts and Sciences, and committee chairman for Infrastructure and Capital Development. Pennie intends to seek a federal government internship, preferably with the Justice Department, and to obtain a law degree and eventually a Master’s Degree in Public Policy at State.

Kyle Glynn is a senior Tip Allen Scholar majoring in political science with minors in pre-law and economics. He is a graduate of St. John High School in Plaquemine, LA. At Mississippi State, Kyle participated in the Day One Leadership Program as a site leader for Service Dawgs Day, and was one of a small group of MSU students selected to attend the Georgia Collegiate Leadership Conference. He was elected to the Student Association Senate as a representative of Competitive Sports/Recreational Student Organizations and also chairs the Committee on Government Relations and External Affairs. An avid outdoorsman, Kyle is a member of the Mississippi State Bass Fishing Team. It was his passion for the outdoors and the political process that led him to intern with the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation in 2017 as a Bradrowse Policy Fellow. Kyle was then a legal intern with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies as a Demmer Scholar in 2018, where he completed legal research projects and wrote content for the Summer 2018 edition of the Wildlife Law Call newsletter. After graduation, Kyle plans on attending law school at Louisiana State University and pursuing a career in energy/natural resource law.

Walter Goss is a Charles Menifield Scholar and a Tip Allen Scholar. A senior from Tupelo, MS Walter has repeatedly been named an MSU President’s Scholar based on his high grade point average. He has been active as an MSU Student Association senator and as a Pre-Law Society member. As a Stennis
Montgomery Association member, he participated in a week-long Washington D.C. trip. Walter also served as Secretary for Sigma Chi Fraternity, and has interned with a law firm. This summer he interned with Congressman Gregg Harper in D.C.

**Mary Evan Ivy** is a senior Tip Allen Scholar from Clarksdale, MS. Active in MSU’s Student Association, she serves as a senator from the College of Arts and Sciences, and is a member of the Community and Governmental Relations Committee. She has also served as secretary of the MSU College Republicans and as co-chair of campaigning. Mary Evan is interning this year with the Mississippi Republican Party. She also participates in three intramural sports. In 2018, she interned with the House Administration Committee under Congressman Gregg Harper.

**Gillian Jinkins** is a junior Tip Allen Scholar who is majoring in Political Science and German with minors in Pre-Law and International Studies. She is a graduate of Mendenhall High School, where she reinstated their student government and served as Student Body president. At MSU, Gillian is a member of the Famous Maroon Band. She served as historian of the Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi International Band Fraternity and is in her second year as president, where she previously led the chapter to win awards for Outstanding Service in the Southeast. She recently started a new multilingual literary journal at MSU called Sojourn that highlights different cultures and experiences.

**Marisa Laudadio** is a junior Stennis Scholar and a Haley Barbour Scholar. She is from Walnut, MS and is double majoring in Political Science and Communication with minors in Spanish and International Studies. Her goal is to someday work with an international nonprofit in Latin America helping orphans and at-risk youth. At MSU, Marisa is involved in the Shackouls Honors College, Stennis Montgomery Association, No Lost Generation, Mississippi Votes, the Latino Student Association, Public Relations Student Society of America, and the College of Arts & Sciences Ambassadors. She also serves as head secretary-general for the MSU Model United Nations chapter. Additionally, Marisa works as a communication assistant for the Office of Agricultural Communication and previously worked as an undergraduate research assistant at the Social Science Research Center. Her areas of research include health communication and discovering new ways to measure and effectively convey public opinion about controversial issues.

**Emily Tingle** is a junior Stennis Scholar and a Haley Barbour Scholar. She graduated from Warren Central High School in Vicksburg, MS. Emily has served as president of the Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society, and as Quiz Bowl team captain. She is committed to improving public education in Mississippi, and campaigned for Initiative 42, among other political activities. Emily is the founder of “37 Books,” a foundation that promotes literacy among the state’s foster children by raising money and providing books to children’s homes and centers. At MSU she is involved in the Stennis-Montgomery Association, College Democrats, Pre-law Society, Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She is a member of Shackouls Honors College and serves on the Honors Recruitment Council. She is also a member of MSU’s Student Association, where she served as the director of Public Relations. Other noteworthy accolades include being selected as a Maroon Edition Essay winner, Homecoming Court freshman maid, and a member of Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity.

**Jacorius J’quon Williams** is a senior Bill Collins Scholar, who is from Biloxi, MS. He is majoring in political science with a minor in Pre-Law. Jacorius is involved in MSU Pre-Law Society, College Democrats, Stennis Montgomery Association, Model United Nations Chapter, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity. He also serves as vice president of Minority Outreach for MSU’s Pre-Law Society in hopes of diversifying the legal profession.

**Jacob Wubben** is a freshman Stennis Scholar from Starkville High School. A well-rounded person with diverse interests, Jacob is a National AP Scholar with perfect scores in four subjects. His commitment to multiculturalism in this age of globalization is reflected in his study of two foreign languages. The CEO of the award-winning Starkville High robotics team, Jacob also served as section leader of the school’s “superior” marching band. He plans to earn a Ph.D. and join the U.S. diplomatic corps.
**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Mississippi State is All-In: Facilitating voter registration**

“Mississippi State is All-In” constitutes a campus-wide effort on the university campus that worked to increase voter registration and turnout in the 2018 November Midterm elections. Mississippi State joined the All-In Campus Democracy Challenge, which recognizes and awards Higher-Ed institutions for tangible commitment to boosting civic engagement and participation on college campuses. As a member of the All-In Campus Democracy Challenge, Mississippi State had access to resources provided by partners such as the National Voter Registration Day, as well as Campus Vote Project. The project was led by Dr. Thessalia Merivaki in collaboration with MSU Student Affairs. The goal of this initiative was to facilitate voter registration and voter turnout.

Dr. Merivaki, in close collaboration with the Student Association, Student Affairs, student leaders (College Republicans, College Democrats, Young Americans for Liberty, Stennis-Montgomery Association) as well as outside partners, such as the nonpartisan advocacy group Mississippi Votes, and the Oktibbeha County Election Commission, coordinated campus-wide voter registration drives on National Voter Registration Day.

A total of 60 student volunteers assisted by two faculty members coordinated voter registration activities in 2018. Multiple voter registration drives were conducted on campus on National Voter Registration Day. The event helped successfully registered 340 students to vote.

**Mississippi Model Security Council (MMSC) and Southern Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN)**

The Mississippi Model Security Council (MMSC) was started in 1979 with the goal of exposing high school students from Mississippi and neighboring states to the world of international politics through stimulating debate centered on solving global security issues. These debates are facilitated through simulated United Nations Security Council sessions and provide students with an environment in which they can be competitive, while also receiving constructive critiques to strengthen their debating and negotiating skills.
College students at Mississippi State help organize and manage the conference. They serve as Security Council presidents and serve as Member State delegates in committees with the high school students. Their purpose is to help encourage productive dialogue and moderate the high school students’ behavior to ensure MMSC is a safe, beneficial learning environment that provides a hands-on learning experience.

In order to prepare to host the MMSC, the Mississippi State students attend the Southern Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN) competition held in Atlanta, each Fall semester. Approximately 16–20 students are selected to participate in the SRMUN. In Fall 2018, the Mississippi State team, photographed representing the West African nation of Senegal, top right, won a conference-wide award for outstanding position papers.

The Senegal delegation also met with the Consul General of Senegal in a special interaction during SRMUN.

One of the delegates, senior Political Science major Tyler Daniel, won an individual award of Outstanding Delegate. He is shown to the middle right receiving the award.

This is the second year running that a Mississippi State student has won this accolade: in the Fall 2017 SRMUN competition, Marisa Laudadio also won the Outstanding Delegate award. She is shown bottom right with the head of PSPA, Dr. P. Edward French.

Dr. Vasabjit Banerjee is the faculty advisor for SRMUN and MMSC. His role is to teach the Mississippi State student delegates about the political, economic and foreign policies of countries that they represent at the SRMUN. He also oversees the organization process of MMSC, including inviting the high-schools and the guest speaker for the prize distribution ceremony.

Students participating in SRMUN and MMSC find great opportunities to hone their negotiating skills in multi-cultural environments on critical issues, such as international health crises, conflicts, and trade. Both SRMUN and MMSC are offered as single credit courses in the Fall and Spring semesters respectively of every academic year. For further information, as an interested student or a potential benefactor keen on extending support, please, contact Dr. Banerjee at vb479@msstate.edu.
GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Brittney Perkins - MPPA Student

In 2014, Brittney graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication with a concentration in Communication Studies and a minor in Gender Studies. She enrolled in the MPPA program in 2016. She works at the John C. Stennis Institute of Government and Community Development as a graduate research assistant where she conducts research related to community and economic development within rural areas of Mississippi. She has also worked as a conference management leader for the National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES). At Mississippi State she enjoyed the Public Program Evaluation course which taught her the different types of program evaluations and the different purposes in which an evaluation can be conducted. One of the most important lessons that she learned from this course was to remain true to the findings regardless of the pressure received from the stakeholders and clients. She also appreciates the guidance she has received from Dr. Dallas Breen and the assistance of Dr. Julius Nukpezah in understanding the course material and expanding her knowledge. When asked about her experience in the MPPA program, Brittney said: The MPPA program allowed me to work with an exceptional group of people with a diverse skill set. My cohort was a great support system, and without them, the faculty, and the staff in this program I highly doubt I would have reached my graduation day.

Ogorchukwu Johnson - MPPA Student

Ogo holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Mississippi State and decided to enroll in the MPPA program as it is a degree that will provide plenty of opportunities for making career decisions. Ogo’s area of personal interest is in Human Resources. She liked that Dr. Tamara Dimitrijevska-Markoski’s Public Program Evaluation class, although very challenging at the beginning, gave her the opportunity to work on a real program evaluation proposal form the AEA (American Evaluation Association). She also likes that all faculty in the M.P.P.A. program show great enthusiasm for the courses they teach and that they work closely with the students every step of the way.

Sean Conner - Ph.D. Student

Sean Conner is in his first semester of the Ph.D program in Public Policy and Administration at Mississippi State. He received his MPPA at MSU and holds a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the University of Mississippi. He has conducted internships with the Mississippi Joint Legislative Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review Committee (PEER), an internship and a research assistantship with the Stennis Institute of Government, and he has been a teaching assistant for the Communication Department at MSU. Sean said that what he enjoys most is the mentorship from the faculty in the program and the opportunities to collaborate with faculty and hone his research skills. His research interests are policy diffusion, local government finance, and election reform. So far, he has presented at several academic conferences such as the State Politics and Policy Conference (SPPC) at Penn State University, the South Eastern Conference of Public Administration (SECoPA) in Birmingham, AL, and the Southern Demographic Association Conference (SDA) in Durham, NC. About his experience in the program Sean says: Dr. Dallas Breen has been a particularly impactful mentor for me personally. He has been a boon academically, personally, and professionally. Constantly, I find that he pushes me to justify and qualify my core assumptions which, in turn, causes me to be
more resilient to challenges while also being welcoming to feedback. I have become a more confident student and researcher because of his guidance.

**Karissa Bergene - Ph.D. Student**

Karissa earned her Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree and Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Appalachian State University in North Carolina. This is her first year in the Ph.D. Program at Mississippi State. She was attracted to the Ph.D. program by the diverse faculty. After having a campus visit where she met with PSPA faculty, staff and students she felt that the PPA program was the best fit. About her experience in the program Karissa says:

The aspect I enjoy the most so far is the people in the program. Everyone brings a unique perspective to the program that I find refreshing in an academic environment. The staff are effective in handling any administrative issue that arises. Also, with the faculty’s open-door policy, I feel encouraged to ask for clarification on course content and brainstorm ideas for research topics. Finally, due to the range of academic and professional backgrounds of my fellow students, I find the class more interesting because we can learn from each other and discuss a variety of viewpoints.

While Karissa has not honed her research focus yet, she is interested in various topics such as national security, crime and justice, innovations in science and technology, hazard mitigation and preparedness, international affairs, and higher education. So far, she has presented at the Southern Criminal Justice Association Annual Conference, in Pensacola Beach, FL and has one co-authored manuscript under review. She is thankful for the advising she has received from Dr. Mike Potter and Dr. Eddie French and appreciates the fact that faculty encourages student participation in conferences.

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**THE NEWEST STUDENT ORGANIZATION: The United Nations Association of the United States (UNA-USA)**

A new student organization is being established at Mississippi State. The United Nations Association of the United States (UNA-USA) is an organization that intends to support the goals and aspirations of the United Nations. UNA-USA is run through the United Nations Foundation in Washington, D.C., and provides students opportunities to learn about careers in international diplomacy, as well as to work within their communities to strengthen the United Nations system through advocacy, education, and engagement. The first meeting was held in October of 2018. At this meeting, Youth Engagement Coordinator for the United Nations Foundation in Washington, D.C., Marco Sanchez spoke with the students about the organization and careers in international diplomacy. Students who have questions about the organization or are interested in getting involved, please contact faculty advisor Dr. Carolyn Holmes at ceh679@msstate.edu.
PSPA PH.D. ALUMNI: Where are they now?

Asya Cooley, Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University
Asya is recent graduate of the Ph.D. program in Public Policy and Administration. She defended her doctoral dissertation in September of 2018. Prior to enrolling in the MSU Ph.D. program she obtained undergraduate and master’s degrees in mass communications from Alcorn State University and Louisiana State University, respectively. Her main research areas include nonprofit management and organizational accountability as well as the comparative e-governments, international communications, and implications on public opinion and public policy. While she was enrolled in the Ph.D. program at Mississippi State she loved the Research Design course with Dr. Dragan Stanisevski. She enjoyed the great discussions on the philosophical writings of Popper, Kuhn, Polanyi, and Feyerabend. At the PSPA department she found many professors who were knowledgeable, and served as a profound resource in her studies. While she acknowledges that the whole Ph.D. process requires a lot of time and sacrifice and many times she thought of quitting because it was too hard, too overwhelming, or too frustrating, she strongly believes that the work put into a degree is what you get out of it. To quote Aristotle, “The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.” Asya has accepted a position as an assistant professor at Oklahoma State University and she started this role in January 2019.

Patrick Exmeyer, Assistant Professor at the University of Louisiana Monroe
Patrick got his Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration at Mississippi State in 2017. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Southern Indiana and Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Criminology from Ball State University. Patrick says that the faculty and staff of the Ph.D. program are what drew him to Starkville and the reason why he holds his experience at Mississippi State close to his heart. He says that “the bond formed with faculty and staff at State remains a foundation of my professional approach to higher education, and prompts me to represent my alma mater pridefully.” The faculty was helpful in the refining of his critical thinking skills, enhancing his understanding of the methodological approaches and helping to develop a foundation for a career in academia. He says that taking the Advanced Quantitative Analysis with Dr. Rick Travis was one of the wisest decisions during my tenure in the PSPA Department at Mississippi State. “Not only was I able to gain a further understanding of nuanced quantitative approaches for scholarly research, but the course also enhanced my confidence in being able to engage in advanced empirical methods necessary for qualitative research.” He is also thankful for for his dissertation chair Dr. Christine Rush and his committee members. Patrick’s primary research focus is on public sector whistleblowing through examination of disclosure channels available to public employees and applicable laws protecting disclosures of unlawful, illegal, or immoral organizational action(s). His secondary research areas include public personnel management, organizational ethics, corruption, and administrative law. His advice to new Ph.D. students is to embrace the experience. “While pursuing a doctorate inevitably comes with highs and lows, the personal relationships I developed with both peers and mentors remain some of my most cherished memories.” Patrick is now an assistant professor of Public Administration in the Department of Political Science at the University of Louisiana Monroe. In his position, he teaches undergraduate and graduate classes, serves as an undergraduate academic advisor and is collaborating with the ULM Office of Career Connections towards developing Career Week events and activities focusing on careers in public service and non-profit engagement.

James Earl Orr, Assistant Provost for Academic Strategy and Policy at Virginia Tech
James graduated with his Ph.D. from Mississippi State in 2012.
He is also an alumnus of the M.P.P.A. program at MSU. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Tennessee at Martin. At Mississippi State he enjoyed the program's deep commitment to helping students develop research and analytical skills that could be applied to academia, industry, and the public sector. The faculty in the program were also committed to helping students gain knowledge that would allow them to go out and better the human condition. James is thankful for the professional guidance that he received from his dissertation chair Dr. Jerry Emison as well as the support of Dr. Eddie French and Dr. Steve Shaffer. He says that all the courses that he took at MSU were very stimulating, but currently he applies his research methods, policy making, and human resources courses the most. His research areas include higher education law and policy, predictive modeling to enhance student success, academic integrity, and organizational change. Currently, James is an assistant provost for Academic Strategy and Policy at Virginia Tech. In this role, he oversees all strategic planning, data analytics, and policy development for the Division of Undergraduate Academic Affairs. His primary role is to help develop predictive models and data-driven strategies designed to enhance the division's retention and graduation efforts. He also oversees the Office of Academic Integrity.

Tonya Neaves, Assistant Professor and Director for Extramural Projects and Director for the Centers on the Public Service, Coordinator for the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Certificate, and Director of the Virginia Certified Public Manager Program at George Mason University

Tonya received three degrees from Mississippi State. She completed a B.A. in Political Science, an M.P.P.A. degree as well as the Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration (2014). Tonya says that the program at Mississippi State is grounded in scholarship, yet connected with communities of practice. This is especially helpful when coordinating research activities in which you need to communicate impact driven results. The collegiate atmosphere at MSU also fostered a sense of place and meaningful collaboration among the faculty, staff, and students. The Ph.D. program helped her gain a strong planning and analysis background with an emphasis in project management (design and implementation). She also became familiar with grant writing, survey methodology, and program budgeting and evaluation. She was fortunate to co-author with some faculty from the program which had a lasting impact on her professional development. Her research areas include Communal Resiliency, Emergency Management, High Threats, and Critical Infrastructure. Currently, Tonya is director for Extramural Projects and director for the Centers on the Public Service with George Mason University’s Schar School of Policy and Government. She serves as an assistant professor in the Master of Public Administration program and is the coordinator for its Emergency Management and Homeland Security Certificate. Also, she is the director of the Virginia Certified Public Manager® Program.

Hok Roth, Ph.D. Alumnus

Hok completed his Ph.D. in Public Administration at Mississippi State in 2016. While at Mississippi State he really enjoyed the course offerings, especially Local Government Planning, Public Organization Theory, and Political Leadership. Dr. Jerry Emison, who taught these courses, and was also Hok’s dissertation chair, helped him grasp and carry out the technical, administrative, and political functions of his work. Since getting his Ph.D., Hok has held various government positions abroad. Specifically, he worked as a deputy chief of staff at the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC) in Cambodia, and was recently promoted to under secretary of state (two ranks below the Minister). His current job role includes drafting and translating speeches and letters for His Excellency CHEA Sophara, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of MLMUPC and assisting the Minister and Secretaries of State in such areas as strategic planning, international cooperation, public administrative reform, subnational democratic development, and implementation of the ministry’s plans and decisions. Hok’s previous work experience includes an appointment at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) serving as deputy director of the Institute of Foreign Languages (IFL) under the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport.
FACULTY AND STUDENT AWARDS - 2018

Dr. Carolyn Holmes, PSPA’s Outstanding Undergraduate Professor Award

Dr. Julius A. Nukpezah, PSPA’s Outstanding Graduate Professor Award


Dr. P. Edward French, 2017 Outstanding Scholarship Award from the American Society for Public Administration, Section on Personnel and Labor Relations, in recognition of outstanding scholarship in public human resource management throughout a career of research.

Marisa Gabriella Laudadio, Outstanding Delegate Award for superior skill in preparation and presentation of a Member State at the 2017 Southern Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN) conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Tyler Daniel, Outstanding Delegate Award at the 2018 Southern Regional Model United Nations (SRMUN) conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Outstanding Undergraduate Students: Heston Lollar, Nia Sims, Sumner Fortenberry, and Kennedy Moehrs

Outstanding Graduate Students: Byran Mathison, Chris Bell, and Sean Conner.

HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTIONS

Pi Alpha Alpha is the national honor society for the field of public affairs and public administration. The purpose of this society is to encourage and recognize outstanding scholarship and accomplishment in public affairs and administration. The society seeks to promote the advancement of quality in the education and practice of the art and science of public affairs and administration. PAA objectives foster integrity, professionalism and effective performance in the conduct of government and related public service activities. PAA membership identifies those with the highest performance levels in educational programs preparing them for public service careers. In the spring of 2018, MSU initiated six graduate students and gave one honorary membership to the mayor of the City of Starkville, Ms. Lynn Spruill.

Pi Sigma Alpha, established in the 1920's, is a national honor society for political science students. In order to become members students must meet the following criteria: have completed at least one-half the credits required by their institution for the baccalaureate degree; have completed at least 10 semester-credits of work in political science including at least one upper-division course, with an average grade of B or higher in those courses; have achieved an overall GPA placing them in the top one-third of their whole class. They need not be political science majors to qualify for membership. In the spring of 2018, Mississippi State induted 11 students.

#### Pi Sigma Alpha Inductees
- William A. Bondoris
- William C. Brundege
- Stephanie Durr
- Stephanie M. Flynt
- Issac S. Fox
- Sarah L. Frey
- Kyle M. Glynn
- Walter Goss
- Emily M. Morgan
- William Z. Sessions
- Kelsey Sweeney

#### Pi Alpha Alpha Inductees
- Christy Bischoff
- Kristen Deichert
- Brittany S. Hall
- Grant Nereen
- Lindsey C. Norman
- Arnelle Woods
- Lynn Spruill-Honorary
**BOOKS BY PSPA FACULTY**


How and why does full citizenship depend upon paid employment? Undoing Work, Rethinking Community argues that, in our current work society, paid work and the civic duty to perform it substantially undermines freedom and justice. Given this, what should we do to realize those values better? And can we effect meaningful change within the framework of capitalism, or might the enactment of a post-work community entail a more radical transformation? To answer these questions, this book traces the political significance of work to the belief that community and even civilization as a whole are the products of work. Having done so, it explores the openings and limitations for expanded freedom available within contemporary society, investigating in particular the regime of flexibility and the unconditional basic income (UBI). While both offer prospects for greater freedom and justice, they also incur the risk of shoring up the work society rather than challenging it. Flexibility and the UBI can help us transform the work society, but to do so we must also reconfigure the value and place of paid work in our lives. In addition, we need to rethink the meaning of community at a deeper level, and in particular, abandon the view that community is constructed by work, whether paid or not. This task raises significant political and theoretical challenges, but Jean-Luc Nancy’s pioneering work on the “inoperative community” provides key philosophical guidance. Moreover, since the relational ontology of this alternative view of community stands in stark tension with capitalism, a liberal-reformist approach to lessening the burden of paid work that fails to tackle the underlying economic and social structure offers only limited gains in terms of freedom and justice. Moving beyond the work society therefore entails nothing short of a new conception of community and the struggle against capitalism.


Centered on the broad question of why successful peasant rebellions empower elites and marginalize the poor, the book presents a comparative-historical analysis of events in revolutionary Mexico, late colonial India, and White-minority ruled Rhodesia to understand state-building after peasant rebellions. Besides a vast array of scholarly work from history, economics, political science, sociology and anthropology, Dr. Vasabjit Banerjee also introduces evidence from British, American, Mexican and Indian archives.

The book is divided into a segment on peasant alliances with elites and a following segment on the selection of state institutions after rebellions. In Chapters 2, 3 and 4, the author utilizes comparative-historical analysis to make bold, challenging comparisons of rebellions within the countries. Specifically, the studies show that to successfully rebel, peasants need elite allies to overcome collective action barriers. Moreover, the underlying causes for elite participation are both shared religious-ethnic identities and political-economic grievances. The final chapters 5, 6 and 7 are where the innovation of the book becomes especially apparent because it brings the reader back to the original question of how elite participation or co-optation created the specific outcomes in each case. These include, in Chapter 5, how agreements between Mexican economic elites and warlords, not revolutionary policies, undergirded post-revolutionary Mexico’s dominant party and closed economy; in Chapter 6, how Indian industrialists encouraged the introduction of socialism in post-colonial India, to protect themselves from mainly foreign British competitors; and, in Chapter 7, how Rhodesian Whites’ gambit for a gradual democratic transition to Black majority rule was undermined by British private investors in African countries, resulting in the imposition of majority rule sans democracy.


Holmes, C. E. (Forthcoming). The politics of “non-political” activism in democratic South Africa. Comparative Politics.


Potter, M., Eskridge, R. (2018). Do chief administrative officers believe they are more political or administrative? An analysis of survey data on administrative officer self-perception and ethical role. Public Integrity, 4 (20), 401-414.


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Department of Political Science & Public Administration

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