Director’s Welcome

Greetings Alumni, Students, and Friends of PAI,

I hope you are doing well. Our academic year is off to a great start. We recently welcomed an outstanding cohort of incoming MPA students. The 2017-18 academic year was filled with many accomplishments for the institute and its alumni. Most importantly for our students and faculty, the MPA program was reaccredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) this past summer after a year-long review process, which included the submission of a program self-study in the fall of 2017 and a formal visit by NASPAA program reviewers this past spring. The fact that our MPA program was reaccredited without any qualifications is a true testament to the outstanding commitment of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

As you will read in this newsletter, our faculty, students, and alumni continue to serve the public interest through scholarship and service to both our local, state, and national community. Our faculty have continued to publish their research in the field’s top scholarly outlets while also conducting grounded research that directly benefits the State of Louisiana. Our students have served as great ambassadors of the program by participating in national research and service events such as the NASPAA Case Study Competition and the American Society for Public Administration’s Founders Fellows Program. Lastly, our alumni continue to serve as the backbone of the program both by continuously giving back to the MPA program and serving as exemplars of public service.

Sincerely,

Jared J. Llorens, PhD
Director and Associate Professor
Public Administration Institute
Megan Bel Miller

Bel Miller currently serves as chief of staff for U.S. Representative Steve Scalise. She returned to Scalise’s staff in 2017 after spending more than three years as vice president for government relations and political affairs at the National Ocean Industries Association. She earned her bachelor’s in general business from LSU in 2003 and her MPA in 2004.

During her remarks, Bel Miller told students that the connections made during their degree program would serve them well throughout their careers. She also encouraged them to be confident that they were well prepared for the rigors of their future careers.

Two graduating students were honored at the luncheon. Erica D’Spain, an MPA student from Baton Rouge, received the David B. Johnson Student Achievement Award. The award recognizes a student who displays outstanding academic, community, and professional service in the MPA program.

Also, Christina Bastien, an MPA student from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, received the Astrid Merget Award. This award honors a student’s commitment to public service and citizenship, as well as the memory of Merget and her contributions to the LSU MPA program.
PAI welcomed 30 new students to the MPA program for the 2018-2019 year. This year, as part of their introduction to the program, students attended an orientation session followed by a reception.

Reaccreditation

The Public Administration Institute met the high standards for continued accreditation by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA). The program received full reaccreditation through 2024.

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<th>2017–2018 Graduates</th>
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<td>Adrienne Sheffie-Marts</td>
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<td>Kayla Stanley</td>
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The Public Administration Institute Student Association (PAISA) elected its 2018 officers in fall 2017. PAISA is the organization for students in the MPA program at LSU, which provides opportunities and activities throughout the academic year aimed to promote student success and collaboration, volunteerism, professional development, and networking. Additionally, PAISA provides a fun and valuable opportunity for students to network and connect with colleagues, PAI faculty, and public administration professionals outside the classroom setting.

Over the past two semesters, PAISA has hosted several events for MPA students including professional development workshops, student-led study sessions, and social events to kick off the semester. The organization plans to continue building strategic relationships throughout the LSU and Louisiana community to provide the best experience possible for MPA students.

For more information about PAISA, email lsu.paisa@gmail.com and follow the group on Facebook (@PAIStudentAssociation) to stay up to date!

2018 PAISA Officers

Garrett Miles
PAISA President
Hometown: Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Undergraduate Education: LSU

Aderonke Ibironke
PAISA Vice President
Hometown: Detroit, Michigan
Undergraduate Education: Western Michigan University

Spencer Majka
PAISA Treasurer
Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio
Undergraduate Education: Kansas State University

Peyton Wells
PAISA Secretary
Hometown: Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Undergraduate Education: LSU
Students participate in 2017 and 2018 SECoPA Conference

Three students participated in the 2017 Southeastern Conference for Public Administration (SECoPA). Students Cornelius Troy Hall ’18, Jordan Rubin ’18, and Quintin Taylor each presented their research for the conference in Hollywood, Florida.

Spencer Majka, Garrett Miles, Peyton Wells, Aderonke Ibironke, Emmy Hicks, Nicole Wesley, and Will Minton participated in the SECoPA conference in 2018. The students traveled to Birmingham, Alabama, to present their research. During the 2018 conference, LSU PAI announced that the 2019 SECoPA conference will be held in Baton Rouge, September 5-7, 2019.

Wesley Named 2018 ASPA Founders’ Fellow

Nicole Wesley was selected as a 2018 American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Founders’ Fellow.

The Founders’ Fellow program recognizes outstanding students and new professionals, within three years of graduation, in the fields of public service and public administration. Following a competitive review process, Founders’ Fellows present their scholarship during the ASPA Annual Conference, receive professional development and networking opportunities, and are paired with an experienced scholar or practitioner in a yearlong mentorship.

Bastien and Camarota represent LSU at NASPAA Case Study Competition

Christina Bastien and Devon Camarota represented the university at the 2018 NASPAA-Batten Student Competition held February 24, 2018, at Georgia State University in Atlanta. Students were tasked with fighting a pandemic using computer-based simulated game play.

The competition uses an elaborate simulation to place students in leadership roles within a time-sensitive, fast-paced environment where they must collaborate to minimize the impact of a widespread infectious disease. The event is a partnership between the University of Virginia Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy and the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA).
Student Internship Spotlights

Katie Janca
Internship/Position Title: Development Intern at Knock Knock Children’s Museum

What was your internship role?
I assisted the director of development and development coordinator in day-to-day operations, event planning, and donor relations. Each day was a little different than the last but always fun, exciting, and engaging!

How did your PAI coursework prepare you for this internship?
My summer at Knock Knock Children’s Museum gave me hands-on experience in a thriving, growing, nonprofit organization which was in its first year of operation. I am currently enrolled in Nonprofit Management (PADM 7925), and the internship was a great precursor to the class! Practical knowledge followed by a more in-depth, academic approach is a wonderful way to get a well-rounded experience in any field.

Spencer Majka
Internship/Position Title: Communications and Advisor to the Mayor of Parma, Ohio

What was your internship role?
My internship role was to run the social media accounts for the city, along with writing speeches for the mayor and covering events he attended.
How did your PAI coursework prepare you for this internship?
My PAI coursework helped with my internship tremendously. I was able to apply each first-year class on the job each day. I felt that the discussions in the classroom were applicable to many situations I faced on the job. I really felt the mayor valued my thoughts in relation to the public sector, which came from the PAI coursework.

Mellynn Baker
Internship/Position Title:
Volunteer Services Intern at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital:
Volunteen Program Lead

What was your internship role?
I led the Volunteer program at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. The Volunteer program is one of the summer volunteer programs for high school students. The goal of this program is to provide fun-filled activities for patients and families as well as an opportunity for Volunteers to explore health and research related careers. My role was to organize all of the programming for this program.

How did your PAI coursework prepare you for this internship?
My summer at St. Jude gave me firsthand experience working in a hospital setting and working with volunteers. I was able to apply my PAI coursework in practical ways such as fine-tuning my excel skills and presenting information to volunteers in a concise, easy-to-understand manner.

Aderonke Ibironke
Internship/Position Title:
Consulting Intern

What was your internship role?
I worked with Deloitte consultants to implement new technology for state departments. My main responsibilities were assisting project managers in assuring tasks were completed and projects were moving forward.

How did your PAI coursework prepare you for this internship?
The PAI coursework helped me to understand my workplace setting. I worked with a team, but most of my tasks were accomplished independently. The Organizational Behavior course helped me to understand how my role fits into the organization and how even though we work separately, all our efforts contributed to the same goal.
Kim Hunter Reed
Named Commissioner of Higher Education

Kim Hunter Reed ’98, 2004 Master of Public Administration Alumnus of the Year, was selected as the Commissioner of Higher Education by the Louisiana Board of Regents in April 2018.

Reed is returning to her home state after previously serving as the executive director of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. Reed also served in President Barack Obama’s administration as deputy undersecretary at the U.S. Department of Education.

Jake Credo Receives National Association of Police Organizations Award

Jake Credo ’11, a senior inspector with the U.S. Marshal Service’s Investigative Operations Division’s Technical Operations Group, received a 2017 Top Cop runner-up award from the National Association of Police Organizations.

Top Cop Awards are presented annually during National Police Week to law enforcement officers in recognition of their selfless acts of bravery and outstanding service to their communities during the preceding year. Top Cops are nominated by fellow officers and selected from hundreds of nominations. Thirty-four awards were presented in 2017.

Credo was selected for his efforts as leader of the Eastern District of Louisiana’s Gulf Coast Task Force with a team of more than 20 task force officers from local, state, and federal agencies that had an arrest rate of more than 800 fugitives annually in thirteen parishes and for the critical lifesaving efforts he provided to an officer shot in the line of duty in New Orleans.

Tara Haney Honored by Catholic Health Association

Tara Haney ’04, vice president of operations for Health Leaders Network (HLN), was recognized by the Catholic Health Association (CHA) as one of Tomorrow’s Leaders during the organization’s annual awards banquet at the 2018 Assembly in San Diego.

Haney began her career with the health system focusing on health and well-being within the organization’s team member wellness program, Healthy Lives, in 2012. Her leadership built a program that serves more than 14,000 team members within the health system and has expanded to more than 20 clients across the country.

In 2014, Haney helped launch another successful venture known as Health Leaders Network. With only four years since its formation, HLN encompasses more than 1,000 providers and a network that covers more than 100,000 lives across Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas in value-based contracts. Haney’s contributions to the network’s physician-led governance and overall population health strategy have enhanced care transitions and increased access for patients, as well as improved care coordination for physicians.

“Health care in the U.S. can’t continue on the same path without serious adjustments to costs and outcomes,” Haney says. “I’m not a clinician, but I still get to be a part of solving this huge problem, not only for Louisiana but on the national level. That’s what gets me going and keeps me going.”

PAI Diversity Inclusion Scholarship

Four PAI alumni recently donated to create the “PAI Diversity Inclusion Scholarship.” Kelsey Gibson ’15, Morgan Etienne ’15, James Moody ’15, and Kevin Hagan ’15 created this scholarship to promote diversity in MPA enrollment, with particular emphasis on students who are demographically underrepresented in the program and demonstrate financial need. Potential recipients must have at least a 3.5 grade point average in the MPA program and be recommended by a MPA faculty member.
Caleo Served as Southern Management Association Track Chair

In preparation for the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Southern Management Association, Assistant Professor Suzy Caleo served as chair of the public administration, health care, and hospitality management track. In this role, she garnered interest for conference submissions, managed the review process, made acceptance and award decisions, and organized paper sessions. With most of the planning behind her, Caleo looks forward to attending the conference, which will be held in Lexington, Kentucky, in November 2018.

Caleo continues to examine the processes and conditions that give rise to gender bias in organizations, publishing several articles in 2018. One of these papers, published in *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*, integrates theory and empirical evidence to uncover potential intervention strategies to combat gender discrimination.

Caleo teaches courses in organizational behavior, research methods, and human resource management at the Public Administration Institute.

Dragseth Presented at Nonprofit ARNOVA and MPSA Conferences

Assistant Professor Meghann Dragseth presented work on international giving and nongovernmental organizations in emergency management at the Association for Research on Nonprofit and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) and at the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA). These two papers have been revised and resubmitted for review for publication. Additionally, she is involved in forming a section focused on NGOs and transnational actors at ARNOVA.

Dragseth teaches courses in program evaluation, nonprofit management, and public policy. Last spring, her nonprofit class conducted a study on behalf of Of Moving Colors, a Baton Rouge arts nonprofit.

Heidelberg Reelected to the Board of Public Administration Theory Network

Assistant Professor Roy Heidelberg, who teaches courses on public administration history and theory as well as public policy, presented his ongoing research at several conferences this past year. The conferences included the Policy History Conference, Public Administration Theory Network Conference, and the European Consortium on Political Research. He published the article “Getting it Right: Public Administration Undergoing Epistemology” in *Administrative Theory and Praxis* in 2017.

Heidelberg was reelected to the board of the Public Administration Theory Network. He serves as the treasurer of the organization and chair of the Conference Committee. He is also organizing conferences in Denver in 2019 and in Malmö, Sweden, in 2020.

Heidelberg is the principal investigator on a $750,000 contract with the Louisiana Housing Corporation to conduct a Housing Needs Assessment and develop a Community Needs Assessment Guide. This contract will run through 2020.

Llorens Lead Author in Public Personnel Management Textbook

Associate Professor and PAI Director Jared Llorens teaches courses in human resource management and quantitative methods for public administrators. This past year, he became the lead author for the 7th edition of *Public Personnel Management: Contexts and Strategies* (2018), a longstanding textbook in the field of public personnel management published by Routledge Press.
Llorens was named an associate editor for the journal *Public Administration Review*, one of the most widely cited peer-reviewed journals in the field of public administration, and will conclude his editorship of the journal *Public Personnel Management* at the end of 2018. In addition, Llorens authored a book chapter on role of human resource management in cybersecurity and had a co-authored article on local government workplace flexibilities accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Organizational Theory and Behavior*.

In the summer of 2018, Llorens served as the academic coordinator for the Louisiana Governor’s Fellows Program, a summer internship program jointly hosted by the LSU Public Administration Institute, Southern University, and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

**Richardson Publishes Two Books**

James Richardson, former PAI director and current professor, and Tulane University faculty members Professor Steven M. Sheffrin and Professor James Alm have a forthcoming book titled, *Exploring Long-Term Solutions for Louisiana’s Tax System*. This book will be available in November 2018.

Additionally, in early 2019 Richardson will also co-author *Managing a Mega-Crisis: Lessons of Hurricane Katrina* with R.A. Boin at Leiden University and Christer Brown, Swedish National Defense College.

In spring 2018, Richardson conducted a study for the state on Medicaid Expansion in Louisiana releasing a report titled “Medicaid Expansion and the Louisiana Economy.”

**Su Presented Research on Public Budgeting**

Assistant Professor Min Su presented her ongoing research on public budgeting at several conferences in the 2017-18 academic year. These conferences included the Western Social Science Associations Conference, the Association for Budgeting & Financial Management Conference, the Applied Research in Public Finance Conference, and the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Conference.


Su teaches courses in public budgeting and research methods.
Current Full-Time PAI Faculty

**Suzette Caleo**  
Assistant Professor  
Texas Tiger Tournament/Greater Houston Alumni Association Developing Scholar Professorship  
PhD, New York University  
Teaching Interests: Organizational Behavior, Research Methods, Human Resource Management  
Research Interests: Organizational Justice, Workplace Diversity, Stereotyping and Discrimination

**James A. Richardson**  
Professor  
Harris J. and Marie P. Chustz College of Business Administration Endowed Professorship  
PhD, University of Michigan  
Teaching Interests: Public Finance, Economics of Taxation, Economic Analysis, Public Administration Colloquium  
Research Interests: Regional Economics, Energy Economics, State and Local Taxation, Forecasting, Public Policy

**Meghann Dragseth**  
Assistant Professor  
PhD, University of Oklahoma  
Teaching Interests: Nonprofit Management, Program Evaluation, Public Policy  
Research Interests: Nonprofit Management, Motivation, Nongovernmental Organizations

**Min Su**  
Assistant Professor  
PhD, Georgia State University & Georgia Institute of Technology  
Teaching Interests: Public Finance, Public Budgeting, Research Methods  
Research Interests: Budgeting, Finance, Nonprofit Financing

**Roy Lester Heidelberg**  
Assistant Professor  
Women’s Hospital Distinguished Professor  
PhD, The Ohio State University  
Teaching Interests: History of Public Administration, 20th Century Political Theory, Policy Design  
Research Interests: Accountability, Economic Development, Social Theory, Policy

**Richard D. White**  
Professor  
Ourso Distinguished Professor of Business and Dean  
PhD, Pennsylvania State University  
Research Interests: Ethics, Public Administration Theory, Human Resources Management

**Jared J. Llorens**  
Director, Associate Professor  
Russell B. Long Professorship in the Public Administration Institute  
Director of Graduate Studies — MPA Program, Department of Public Administration Institute  
PhD, University of Georgia  
Teaching Interests: Human Resource Management, Program Evaluation, Research Methods, Quantitative Methods  
Research Interests: Human Resources Management, Public Sector Compensation, Research Methods, Public Policy