



# Oregon State University

## College of Liberal Arts

### School of Public Policy Bexell Bulletin

Volume 9 | Winter 2024

## The Fight for Food Security

After years of success in reducing food insecurity levels in Oregon, post-COVID hikes have been difficult to roll back, and for some groups, [food insecurity has increased](#).

This is one conclusion from the recent [report on Oregon's food insecurity](#), produced by the OSU Policy Analysis Lab Director, Dr. Mark Edwards, and OPAL MPP student researcher Julian McElhaney. Of particular concern are persistent rates of very low food security households and relatively higher rates of food insecurity among single mothers, rural households, and those from ethnic or racial minority backgrounds, especially Native Americans.

In reflecting on the project, which state government officials have widely used, Dr. Edwards notes, "By using the best available data, and together analyzing and describing it clearly, Julian and I were able to inform policy decisions in our state. It doesn't get much better than that." As a student getting first-hand policy analysis experience Julian states, "The project provided an opportunity to practice pertinent data analysis skills and engage in a valuable report regarding Oregon's food insecurity during the pandemic."



Mark Edwards



Julian McElhaney

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**McCall Public Affairs Lecture:**  
**National Park Service**  
**Director Charles "Chuck"**  
**Sams**



Save the Date! 7 pm April 25th, 2024

In-person and live stream.

More details announced soon!

<https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/director.htm>

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## Learning from our Policy Leaders



Beaverton Mayor Lacey Beaty, '12, (left) and Commissioner of the Port of Portland Katy Coba (right) stopped by to talk to OSU's Women in Policy student club in fall 2023.

The Women in Policy Club is a forum for women and allies to engage in policy. They regularly host events. If you want to become involved, you can check out their [webpage](#) and follow them on various social media sites!

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## SPP Career Week

Thanks so much to our fantastic alumni, faculty members, students, and supporters who made our recent career week a success.

Students attended sessions on topics including career pathways with an SPP degree, working in special districts, attending graduate school, and meeting with various alumni in person and online.

If you want to get involved in next year's event, please get in touch!



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## Student Spotlight: Faisal Osman

**Faisal** is a senior majoring in Public Policy, specializing in Environmental Policy and with a Sustainability minor. He was recently awarded the **Oscar Humberto Montemayor Award**. This

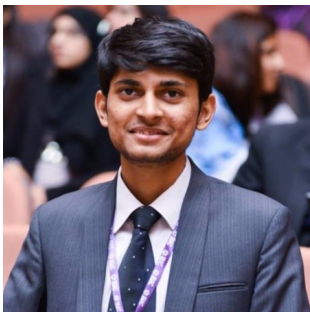


award honors Huberto Montemayor's "limitless dedication to student success." With this award, OSU recognizes Faisal's community building among underrepresented students, uplifting and celebrating them, going above and beyond to offer care and spark life, laughter, and resilience. Congratulations Faisal!

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## Catching up with SPP alumni

[Yung-Yi Diana Pan](#), Political Science '02, recently became the Interim Executive Director of the [Asian American/Asian Research Institute](#). Pan is an associate professor of sociology at the City University of New York. [Read more about Pan.](#)



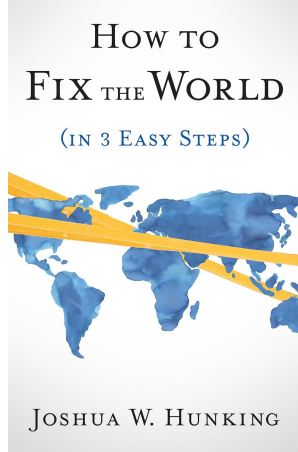
Dr. Muhammad Aatir Khan, Ph.D. '22, was selected as a [IIE Centennial Fellow](#) for the 2023-2024 cohort. Dr. Khan is beginning his one-year project to actively address climate change is *Raising Climate Change Awareness through Civic Clubs*, which aims to establish 50 school and community gardens in secondary schools in Karachi, Pakistan, promoting climate change education and sustainable practices through collaboration with schools, local government, and community stakeholders.

Dr. [Moriah Bostian](#), Economics Ph.D. '10, was named the Dr. Robert B. Pamplin Jr. Professor of Economics and Chair of Economics at Lewis & Clark University in Portland.



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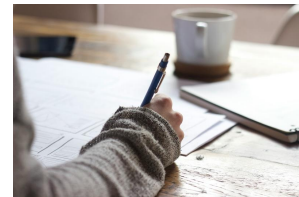
Joshua Hunking, '10, released his new book, [How To Fix the World \(In Three Easy Steps\)](#), in December 2023. Rooted in extensive research and data gathered in and around Corvallis, *How to Fix the World* offers practical steps to create positive change in communities and beyond.



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## The Latest in SPP Faculty Research

Economists **Todd Pugatch** and **Elizabeth Schroeder** published a new paper testing commitment devices on OSU students. The research titled, "Study More Tomorrow" in *Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis*. [Read more about their research.](#)



Sociologist **Shawn Hazboun** and her co-author's [recent case study](#) examines the "Gas Ban" in Bellingham, WA. From this, they propose a conceptual model that identifies factors likely to help or hinder electrification policymaking in local governments across the U.S.

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Sociologist **Allison Hurst** [co-authored a paper](#) that reveals the distinct challenge first-generation and working-class students face when pursuing graduate education.

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**Ed Ray**, Economist and OSU President Emeritus, recently published his edited volume "[A Handbook of Higher Education Leadership](#)" with OSU Open Educational Resources Press. It features essays by 35 different experienced and accomplished higher education leaders.

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Political Scientist **Erika Wolters** has a co-authored [paper](#) examining the potential motivations of Western legislators repeatedly attempting to nullify the majority's will on federal supremacy and management of public lands.

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### Craving More SPP News?

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) for the latest in research, awards, student work, and more.

Would you like to get more involved in what we're doing in SPP or support any of our student initiatives?

Reach out to us to learn more!



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