

SPP 2014 NEWSLETTER

International Experiences

This was another exciting year for the School of Public Policy including the hiring of five new faculty members who will be joining us this fall. Read more about them on the last page of the newsletter. And, we received notice from our accrediting body – the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) – that our Master of Public Policy (MPP) has been accredited. This accreditation is the quality benchmark used by graduate public service programs around the world and reflects the high standards of education, faculty, students, and impact of our program.

Once again this year, the School of Public Policy supported the development of students who are ready for a globalized world. The School is committed to sustaining existing and creating new initiatives that provide opportunities for our students to study and do research abroad. A few examples: two long-running efforts bring graduate students together with faculty and students from Europe and the Americas (United States, Canada, and Mexico) to complete comparative policy projects. Last year, six graduate students attended the program in Bologna, Italy to compare the changing roles of agri-food systems; and this year four students traveled to Mexico to conduct comparative research about rural tourism. And, for the past two years, two faculty members have taken 15 undergraduate students from OSU, University of Oregon, and Portland State University to Cuba to examine changing social, cultural and governance practices. We also sponsored five undergraduate students for the first-ever CLA study abroad experience in London. All of these students – and faculty – come back to campus ready to apply what they've learned to their classroom teaching, studies, research projects, and careers.



Many faculty and graduate students are doing international research on some of the most pressing policy issues today. Two MPP students received prestigious Boren Scholarships, funded by the National Security Education Program (NSEP) to do research in geographic areas, languages, and fields of study deemed critical to US National Security. And, once again, we partnered with OSU's Nuclear Engineering program and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) to provide students an opportunity to study nuclear nonproliferation with Ambassador Thomas Graham, Jr. who negotiated the international SALT, START, and ABM treaties under presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Sr., and Clinton.

The School of Public Policy is committed to creating many opportunities for a wide range of students to experience international education. We subsidize study abroad, create our own short-term initiatives, and mentor students to apply for research support. Our goal is to make it possible for every student who wants to study or conduct research abroad to have the opportunity and means to do so. To that end, we are setting up a scholarship for international education and research in the School of Public Policy. If you would like to contribute to this new fund or any other SPP initiative, please contact Tom McLennan (Tom.McLennan@oregonstate.edu).

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the School of Public Policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise Lach". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Denise Lach
Director, School of Public Policy

Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

Women in Syria



Spending the last two decades studying the effects of economic stagnation, political marginalization and deep cultural norms around gender and family in Damascus, Syria, Dr. Sally Gallagher (pictured above on left) continues her research on gender and society. Sally's work has explored how women of Damascus with conservative Sunni Muslim households develop personal identities and draw on cultural ideals around gender, religion, and family.

Roma Inclusion

MPP graduate student, Rebecca Arce, examined the migrant experience and integration process in the US and UK, comparing Latino and Roma migrants.



Arce and Son in Manchester awaiting a participant

SPP Goes to Cuba



"We believe these short term study abroad hybrid classes allow for a more diverse student population to attend."
- Dr. Dwaine Plaza

Children from La Marina community



Beginning in spring 2013 and again in spring 2014, Dr. Below and Dr. Plaza taught Cuban Society, Culture and Politics. Students from Portland State University and the University of Oregon joined the OSU students online. This spring course prepped students to travel to Cuba on a twelve day short study abroad trip. Approximately fifteen students from the three universities arrived in Cuba ready to hit the ground running after taking the pre-departure society, culture and politics course.

Boren Fellows

Zachary Dunn

Zachary Dunn arrived for a nine month fellowship in Kenya in September 2013. His goals included learning Swahili, conducting research for his final MPP essay and launching an initiative known as TAHMO- Trans-African Hydro-Meteorological Observatory. More information about the project can be found at www.TAHMO.org



Zachary completing installation of TAHMO weather station in Lela, Kenya.

SPP Sponsors International Institutes



10th International Comparative Rural Policy Summer Institute 2013: Agri-Food Systems and Rural Development: Tradition, Innovation, and Green Governance

The Comparative Rural Policy Summer Institute in Bertinoro, Italy, hosted by the University of Bologna, investigated issues related to Italian rural and regional policy; food systems and food networks; food waste; rural tourism; renewable energy; cooperatives; social farming; diversity and migrations. OSU sent a delegation of 6 MPP students, 1 PhD student and 4 faculty.

The Transatlantic Students Symposium addressed questions of the malleability and durability of borders, and their potential to exclude and include, and function for national identity formation. A group of 27 students and 6 faculty from 3 participating Universities (Oregon State University, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, and the University of Warsaw) travelled to Poland and Germany to conduct a joint field trip during spring break 2013.



11th Transatlantic Student Symposium 2013: Borders in Transit: Rural and Urban Liminalities in the US and Europe



Jaynie Whinnery

Jaynie spent nine months in Siem Reap, Cambodia researching how NGO strategies influence the sustainability of water filters. Jaynie partnered with two NGOs to research the implementation of Biosand water filters in households, which remove disease causing organisms that contaminate water. Jaynie's research evaluates the long-term continued use of these filters once implemented.

Demonstration of Biosand water filters in use by a family in Siem Reap.

Education Quality in The Gambia



Dr. Todd Pugatch and Dr. Liz Schroeder traveled to Gambia to examine the effectiveness of hardship allowances offered to teachers in rural primary schools. Findings suggest that the hardship allowance was successful in recruiting certified teachers to rural schools.

Combating Violence Against Women



Mariana Amorim, 2014 MPP graduate, partnered with the Brazilian state of Pernambuco's Office for the Combat of Violence Against Women. Mariana's research analyzed the presence of procedural justice in the specialized domestic violence courts of its capital city, Recife. Mariana's research provides both short- and long-term recommendations to the courts for establishing a strong infrastructure for women to bring domestic violence cases to court.

Meet our New Faculty



Dr. Keith Baker joins us from Northumbria University Newcastle (United Kingdom). Dr. Baker has a PhD. in Local Government from the University of Birmingham (UK) and has held positions at the University of Manchester and the University of Southampton, where he was part of a three-year project examining the governance of nuclear power. His current research interests include public-private partnerships, public management, comparative politics, and energy policy. Dr. Baker will be teaching policy theory for both master's and PhD students as well as courses in energy policy and public management. He is looking forward to working with OSU students who are interested in energy policy, public-private partnering, and accountability in the public sector.



Dr. Allison Hurst joins us from Furman College in South Carolina where she has been teaching Sociology for the past several years. Dr. Hurst's research interests and passion include understanding what makes society work and how social divisions and inequalities keep occurring. She received a JD from Pepperdine University but decided that the law was not her pathway to "saving the world" so she switched to Sociology, earning her PhD from the University of Oregon in 2006. Dr. Hurst organized and now leads the Association of Working-Class Academics, a group that strives to implement programs and reforms designed to assure greater class equity within higher education. In addition to teaching Sociological Theory, she will be working with graduate students interested in education policy.



Dr. Michael Jones joins us from Virginia Tech where he was an Assistant Professor at the Center for Public Administration and Policy. He is also a research fellow at the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics in Policy at Harvard University. Dr. Jones received his PhD in Political Science in 2010 from the University of Oklahoma, and holds an MS and BA in Political Science, both granted by Idaho State University. His research focuses on the role and influence of narrative in public policy processes, outcomes, and science communication. Dr. Jones will be teaching public policy theory for Master's and PhD students as well as political science courses for undergraduates.



Dr. Jenny Lin joins us from the University of Michigan with a PhD. in Economics. Her research field is international economics and has focused on the effects of intellectual property rights on the export behavior of firms. During her graduate program she was a visiting scholar at the London School of Economics, the University of Oxford, and Universität Tübingen in Germany, as well as an intern at the International Monetary Fund. Dr. Lin will be teaching international trade in the Economics program and working with graduate students interested in international development as well as social policy.



Dr. Paul Thompson joins us from Michigan State University with a PhD in Economics. His research field is public economics and he has focused his work on state policies that target fiscally troubled school districts and local governments. While a graduate student, Dr. Thompson completed an internship with the Michigan State Department of Education where he did analysis of state financing for K-12 education. Dr. Thompson will be teaching public economics and related classes for both undergraduates and Public Policy graduate students.