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Dear Alums:

2019 has been an eventful year for the Policy Studies Program. Faculty members from the MPA degree program have begun teaching at the undergraduate level. These professors teach under the Public Administration and International Relations departments (PAI). Students can use these courses for their topical specialization.

The following courses will be offered this spring by these faculty:

- PAI 300.1: Education Policy- Professor Ying Shi
- PAI 300.2: Policy Implementation- Professor Zachary Huitink
- PAI 400.1: Grant Writing- Professor Julia Carboni
- PAI 400.3: Poverty Policy- Professor Collen Heflin

A curriculum revision has been submitted which adds the Policy Implementation course to the core. Instead of six courses in the core, there are now seven. The topical specialization part of the major will be eliminated and students can take three electives instead. Policy Studies will continue to be an undergraduate major under current leadership by me and our new faculty member, Austin Zwick.

The Policy Studies Program has improved, with the help of the Maxwell School, to assist with more explicit branding. So now, students can enter the major and the Maxwell School when they apply. The effect of this change is already apparent with better students in the freshman class and the growth of the major. Students can now get in the major but they cannot take PST 315 until they get above a B- in 101, take MAX 201 and complete PST 110.

The Bill Coplin Policy Studies Scholarship was established in 2019. It is an endowed scholarship created through the efforts of Elysa Wolfe ’93 just in case you haven’t heard. The first recipient of the Scholarship is Lujane Juburi who is a sophomore and very deserving even though none of us had anything to do with the selection.

These changes will make the major bigger and stronger over the long run. Since our Policy Studies Program is #1 in the world, we can’t move up on the mythical rankings. We can only get better. It is smart to always strive to be better even if we are already the best! Read about the wonderful work being done by our new teaching professor, Austin Zwick, who is as dedicated to experiential education as much as we all are, and Michelle Walker who continues to do a great job in advising and connecting our students to community experiences. Angela Ward tries to keep our students happy and productive. 2020 is here which means you are getting older. Like me, Policy Studies gets better as it gets older.

Have a good year.

-Bill
Greetings from Community Programs

The academic year 2019-2020 has started out busier than ever for our Policy Studies majors. I am definitely seeing an increase in the number of students that are really thinking of life after Syracuse University. Some students are looking for employment, others are exploring internships, graduate schools and different travel –while -learning, opportunities. There are so many different opportunities available that it can be confusing and sometimes hard to decide what is next in their journey. The Community Programs of Policy Studies is here to make suggestions, get students involved with what could be the next phase of their lives, and to help insure that students have access to all information that can help a student succeed.

Wilson Park Community Center (Syracuse Parks & Recreation) continues to be a hub for student volunteers to provide programs to help the youth living in the surrounding area. This is so important because I know there are many youth that think that Syracuse University is not for them and some have never stepped foot on our campus although they have lived in Syracuse all of their lives. By offering programs taught by SU students and interacting with the youth, the relationship between the youth and the SU student is reciprocal: the youth have fun while learning and the SU student learn that their volunteering has a positive effect for them and for the community. As the Maxwell Athenian Oath states “…we will transmit this city not only not less, but greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.”

Below lists some statistics regarding the service that our students perform. This is just a brief synopsis of the amount of time students provide service to the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County. You can see that our students are busy!

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<th>Community Service and Internship Hours, Students and Credits for Public Affairs Courses – 2018-2019</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>All PST Courses: PST 101, 110, 121, 270, 315, 400, All PST 410 sections, PST 470 &amp; PST 490 have a service component whether it be data and survey collection or actual community service</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Cumulative Totals for all classes</strong></td>
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Greetings from Community Programs

In other news, I am happy to announce that there were four students that participated in the 2019 Summer PPIA Institute, 3 of them being Policy Studies students. Our students went to Carnegie Melon (2), and University of Michigan (1). I am hoping that they all receive offers from the graduate schools within the consortium of participating graduate schools (which is over 50!). All participants are graduating and looking into law schools, schools that offer dual JD and MPA and Public Health programs. I am anticipating several students being accepted into the PPIA Junior Summer Institute (JSI) for summer 2020.

Last year I reported that we did not send any students to intern at the High School for Leadership & Public Service for the spring 2019 semester. I am now happy to report that we are going to send students for spring 2020. There are 2, possibly 3, students that are up to the challenge of working in an inner-city public school. Over 100 students from Syracuse University have interned at Leadership over the 25 years that the school has been existence. I would love to hear from some of the former interns to find out how you are doing and if you ended up working in the Education field. Email me at mawalker@maxwell.syr.edu to let me know how/where you are and what you are doing. As always, stay active, happy and volunteer your time and talent to a good cause,

Michelle
Syracuse is becoming Smart. Or rather technology is rapidly reshaping cities into Smart Cities, and Syracuse – both the city and the university – have made strategic investments to be on the cutting edge of this revolution. My teaching and research in Smart Cities have opened up new opportunities for Policy Studies students to gain crucial knowledge, skills, and experience in this growing field; one in which plenty of jobs will become available in the coming years.

First off, what are Smart Cities? As the world has rapidly urbanized over the past five decades, demand for scarce resources in urban centers has become incredibly intense. Public administrators have looked to telecommunications, automation, digitalization – under the moniker of “Smart Cities” – to help address a wide variety of policy goals, from online integration of municipal social services to data-driven traffic optimization to online posting of key performance indicators. New technologies, such as blockchain technology and autonomous vehicles, will be transformative in urban planning.

My course “PST410.5 Smart Cities” serves as a survey of topics on how technology is being used to improve the quality-of-life and governance of cities, but also discusses concerns over equity, privacy, and democracy that these changes bring. The course concludes with a team project, which each group researches, writes, and presents on a case study city. Last semester, the students focused on the finalists to the US Department of Transportation Smart City challenge and, this semester, they are focusing on the finalists in the parallel Infrastructure Canada’s Smart City Challenge. This gives students deep insight on how actual municipal governments are deploying technologies and their social and political ramifications.

Some students are so eager to learn more that they are taking my “PST 410.9 Advanced Policy Research” course. They are each engaging in independent research projects, which range from the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence to the Zoning Bylaws surrounding New York City Megaprojects. Recently, I took the whole class to the Regional Studies Association Conference in Montreal to hear from, and engage with, experts in their field. They learned how policy research is conducted and how to find jobs post-graduation.

The future of the Policy Studies program, like the future of cities, could not be brighter.
Alumni Feature

Katherine Frega '16

I was a 2016 PAF graduate, 101 TA, and Remembrance Scholar who went on to Upstate Medical University for medical school. I am now in my fourth year and applied to residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology with the hope to be a GYN surgical oncologist. During my time in medical school I was able to practice the skills I gained from the PAF major to work with the Alliance for Fertility Preservation. Over the last few years, I’ve worked with state legislators to pass a law that would mandate insurance coverage for cancer patients undergoing fertility preservation before they begin cancer treatment.

This past April our bill was passed, with the help of Governor Cuomo adding our bill to his budget. This bill extends coverage to five million New Yorkers who otherwise would have paid out of pocket for IVF and fertility preservation in order to build their families. Pursuing the Policy Studies Program at Syracuse University as a pre-med was critical for me to be able to understand legislation and policy making as a future medical provider. I’ve been asked to serve as a member of the board for the Alliance for Fertility Preservation as I will begin my time as a physician in a few short months. I am grateful for what the policy studies program did to prepare me to survive medical school and beyond. I will be in Syracuse until this upcoming May, and then will learn my destiny for residency in March.
Alumni Briefs

Emma Medina ’08
Research Analyst, New Zealand Ministry of Education

Dawn Staub ’12
Director, Monroe County, Purchasing

Lucie Hualiciston ’17
Development Assistant, Horton’s Kids

Rachel Frumin ’05
Director of Concessions and Franchises, Department of Transportation

Carrie Hamblin ’00
Kindergarten Teacher, Orange County Public Schools

Tracy Alan Saxe ’80
Lawyer, Saxe Doernberger & Vita, P.C.

Katie Wetterer ’15
Process Engineer, Wayfair

Margaret Britten ’14
USO of North Carolina

Katherine Jerome ’06
Marketing Manager, Critical Link

Deb Seltzer ’08
Program Director, Maryland Legal Services Corporation

Shaki Kar ’14
U.S. Foreign Service Specialist, U.S. Department of State

Patricia Russell ’05
Chief of Staff, U.S. Senate-Senator Cory A. Booker

Shawnna Bolick ’97
Vice Chairman, Ways and Means Committee

Emilie Scardilla ’17
Program Manager, Center for Strategic and International Studies

Darren Kermes ’88
Dakota Scott Workforce Development Board

Edward Palmer ’14
Associate, Global Banking Policy and Analysis, Federal Reserve bank of New York

Alicia Verdile ’14
Senior Underwriter Management Liability, Chubb

Neeraj Agrawal ’09
Director of Communications, Coin Center

Jennifer Safsel ’89
Chief Executive Officer, YMCA New Rochelle

Victoria Savage ’15
Compliance Analyst, Asset Management, Goldman Sachs

Jason Canfora ’96
Reporter on NFL Today, CBS Sports

Brian Burns ’85
Acting Supreme Court Justice, Ostego County Judge

Kyle Coleman ’10
Head of City Operations, Homevest.Co

Ashley Burke ’14
Financial Analyst, Google

Mahlet Makonnen ’15
Board of Veterans Appeal

Linda Ayala ’16
Bilingual Case Worker, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Sarah Walton ’13
Senior Associate, Third Sector Capital Partners, Inc.

Gwenyth Woolwine ’97
Professional Staff Member, United States Senate, Senate Committee on Armed Services (SASC)
Don’t forget to visit our website and update your alumni content information!

https://www.maxwell.syr.edu/policy-studies/alumni-update/