



President's Message

Dear Fellow Public Administrator:

As this year winds down, it seems the perfect time to pause and reflect on our accomplishments. We had a very active year, thanks to a few new leaders, some steadfast veterans, and our enthusiastic members.

This summer, we piloted our very successful "Third Thursday on the Riverfront" series, thanks to DAPA members **David Bird** and **Caitlin Del Collo**. Heading into the fall, DelCollo ordered our very first DAPA t-shirts and convinced several DAPA members to wear them while running in two 5K races. In November, DAPA co-sponsored the Northeast Conference of Public Administration, which was held at the University of Delaware and hosted by the School of Public Policy & Administration (SPPA). DAPA members Dr. **Maria Aristigueta**, Director of SPPA and Vice President of ASPA, and Dr. **John McNutt**, SPPA faculty member, took the lead in organizing this successful event. During opening ceremonies, I was honored to have been given a few minutes to welcome the participants on behalf of DAPA and to say a few words about our organization. When I asked all ASPA and local chapter members to stand, I was amazed to see half of those in the room rise. It was an excellent opportunity to speak to members from various local chapters and learn about their interests and research in public administration.



DAPA just held its Annual Awards Dinner. I want to congratulate this year's winners. Ms. Lolita Lopez, President and CEO of Westside Family Healthcare received our Public Service Award and Ms. **Jenna Bucsak**, second-year Master of Public Administration student, received the Outstanding Student Public Service Award.

Behind the scenes, we have been very fortunate to have had dedicated members who volunteer their time and expertise to maintain the infrastructure of our organization. **Mark Deshon** maintains our website, assists in the development of marketing material, and designs/edits this semi-annual newsletter, the *DAPA Public Service Reader*, which is regularly published by **Martha Narvaez**, with the help of "**BJ**" **DeCoursey**. DelCollo and first-year graduate student **Katrina Cowart** work tirelessly to maintain our membership list and meeting documents, when they are not organizing or running our events. **Albert Shields** connected us to social media and regularly updates our Facebook and Twitter accounts. And, last but not least, Dr. **Jerome Lewis** has reinvigorated our organization more than once. He has certainly earned the title "The Godfather of DAPA" by playing a crucial role in its evolution through his commitment of time, money, and talent.

As we head into 2014, I look forward to building on the synergy we have created among the Council and our members. In January, we will turn our attention to a new year, with new goals and new members. We will strive to maintain a balance that honors the past, lives in the moment, and is prepared for the future. Please consider this your invitation to be a part of this exciting organization and help shape our 2014 initiatives. If you have ideas you would like to share or would like to take a more active role in DAPA, please contact me at 302-831-2927 or kmmurphy@udel.edu.

Respectfully yours,
Kathy Murphy
President

NECoPA 2013 Held at the University of Delaware

The Northeast Conference on Public Administration (NECoPA) convened at the Trabant University Center on main campus of the University of Delaware (UD) on November 1-2, 2013. The theme for the Conference was “Public Administration in an Information Society: Opportunities, Threats and Intriguing Possibilities.” DAPA member Dr. **John G. McNutt** of UD’s School of Public Policy & Administration (SPPA) was the Conference Chair, and DAPA provided funds for the printing of the Program.



John McNutt facilitates the opening session and welcome, which was delivered by Maria Aristigueta.

The Honorable John Carney, Delaware’s lone U.S. Congressman and a UD graduate, was the keynote speaker at Friday’s General Plenary Session. In addition, 19 posters prepared by students, professors and practitioners were on display in the main hall throughout the conference. Poster themes varied widely. Examples were “Assessing the predictive capability of educational indicators on national growth,” “Patient-centered accountable care



SPPA staff and students register conference attendees and welcome them to the conference.

—by David Bird

Along with McNutt, DAPA President **Kathy Murphy** and DAPA member Dr. **Maria Aristigueta**, Director of SPPA and ASPA President-Elect, welcomed the approximate 250 participants to the two-day program, which included 34 panel discussions. Panel discussions by practitioners and faculty members from a number of academic institutions and government agencies ranged from “International comparative administration: prospects for future research” to “Creating an inclusive information society: ideas from social policy” to “Shared services at the municipal, state, and federal level.”



Jerome Lewis chairs a session.

saves money without withdrawal of care,” and “Obstacles of e-government application and implementation results in a strict bureaucratic organization: A case of Emirate of Northern Borders Province.” A number of SPPA faculty facilitated the panel discussions, and UD Student Association of Policy and Administration members were present to assist conference participants.

Next year’s NECoPA will be held at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, N.H.

photos courtesy of John McNutt

On December 4, 2013, Timothy's Riverfront Grille in Wilmington, Del., served as a fantastic venue for the DAPA's 2013 Awards Dinner. The evening began at 5:30 p.m. with an hors d'oeuvres reception, during which professionals and students in the field of public administration networked with one another.

DAPA President **Kathy Murphy** was the emcee for the event, and she welcomed the group on behalf of DAPA. Murphy thanked everyone for coming and thanked the event organizers—DAPA members **Julia O'Hanlon**, **Kelly Sherretz** and University of Delaware School of Public Policy & Administration students **Caitlin Del Collo** and **Katrina Cowart**. Her opening remarks were followed by a delectable dinner.

After dinner, Murphy conducted the organizational business. She announced the results of this year's elections. The following officers have been re-elected for the 2014-2015 term:

- **Albert Shields**, Second Vice President
- **Martin Wollaston**, Treasurer
- **David Bird**, Council at Large
- **Kelly Sherretz**, Council at Large

Murphy then invited current ASPA Vice President and Director of the School of Public Policy & Administration **Maria Aristigueta** to comment on the state of local ASPA chapters. Aristigueta noted that while 27 local chapters have ceased organizing this past year, DAPA has remained active and visible, garnering praise from public administrators who attended the NECoPA conference that was hosted at the University of Delaware on November 1-2, 2013.



Council members Albert Shields, Kathy Murphy, Martha Narvaez, Martin Wollaston, Jonathan Kirch, David Bird, Kelly Sherretz, and "BJ" DeCoursey enjoy another successful Awards Dinner event.

Following Aristigueta's remarks, Murphy invited Council member **David Bird** to the podium, who recognized the presenters of the Third Thursday on the Riverfront series, which took place this past summer. Two of the four presenters—Susan Love of DNREC and Sam Heed of the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation—were in attendance and accepted certificates of appreciation.

Murphy then called Second Vice President **Albert Shields** to the podium, who presented **Jenna Bucsak** with the 2013 Outstanding Student Public Service Award.

Bucsak is a second-year graduate student pursuing a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree. She was recognized for her work in state government and education. Bucsak served as a Legislative Fellow with the House Majority Caucus in 2012, and staffed the Education, Labor, and Telecommunications, Internet and Technology Committees. Bucsak has also provided research support to Governor Markell's Charter School Working Group and to Policy Scientist Ed Freel, with whom she collected data and authored a report on governance and funding options for the proposed Duck Creek Regional Library to be located in Smyrna, Del. After receiving the award, Bucsak thanked the many people in the audience who had given her so many beneficial opportunities in the field. She looks forward to continuing her work in Delaware following her graduation in May.

After the student award was presented, Murphy introduced the honorable State Senator **Bethany Hall-Long**, who provided a special introduction to this year's DAPA Public Service Award Recipient—**Lolita Lopez**, President and CEO of Westside Family Healthcare. Sen. Hall-Long set the stage for a surprise video tribute by Delaware's **Congressman John Carney**, who was unable to attend the dinner but who wanted to congratulate and thank Lopez for her tireless work on behalf of underserved constituents. Sen. Hall-Long followed Rep. Carney's remarks with her own praise for Lopez, highlighting how Westside Family Healthcare has grown from an organization with a few employees to one that employs more than 200 people and serves nearly 30,000 low-income residents. She then asked Lopez to join her at the podium to accept the award.

In addition to her role as President and CEO of Westside Family Healthcare, Lopez is a member of the Christiana Care Health System Board of Directors, the Visiting Nurses Association Board of Directors, the Delaware Cancer Consortium Health Disparities Committee, the Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium, the ACHE Delaware Regent's Advisory Council, the Todmorden Foundation Board, and is the National Association of Community Health Centers Board of Directors Region III Representative. Lopez has received numerous awards over the years for her trailblazing achievements in healthcare; most recently, Lopez was honored by the Delaware Horseman's Assistance Fund, Inc. (DHAF), for Westside Family Healthcare's eight-year partnership to provide DHAF workers with access to dental and medical care.

Lopez graciously accepted the award and reflected on her career in public service. She offered wonderful words of encouragement to current and rising public servants, noting that although the path ahead is difficult, it has rich rewards. She concluded her remarks with a poem by Mary Anderson, which underscored the leadership that is needed to accomplish the great works of public service.

The evening concluded with a dessert buffet and more fellowship.

—by Caitlin Del Collo



Outstanding Student Public Service Award recipient Jenna Bucsak poses with DAPA President Kathy Murphy, Sen. Bethany Hall-Long, and School Director Maria Aristigueta.



Delaware Congressman John Carney provided a surprise video tribute to Lolita Lopez.



2013 Public Service Award recipient Lolita Lopez poses with her husband, Don Jesse (far right), Sen. Bethany Hall-Long, and DAPA's Second VP Albert Shields and President Kathy Murphy.

photos by Mark Deshon and Sarah Pragg

Delaware College Application Month

This November, more than 5,500 students in 20 schools across the state of Delaware received hands-on assistance from school staff and volunteers during school hours to complete college applications. Delaware's College Application Month (CAM) is part of the American Council on Education's national American College Application Campaign (ACAC). The goal of the initiative is to increase the number of first-generation and low-income students pursuing a college degree. The Delaware Department of Education (DOE) partnered with the University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration (IPA) to work directly with school counselors to provide technical assistance and resources for their events.



The scope and reach of this year's program was expanded, building upon the success of last year's pilot program, which was conducted in two schools—Lake Forest and Smyrna High Schools. Students participating in last year's pilot program reported that they appreciated being given the time to work on their applications during class—time they weren't taking away from their homework, extracurricular activities, or part-time jobs. In fact, several students acknowledged that they would not have applied to college without the support and resources provided by College Application Week. This year in Delaware, the month of November was designated as Delaware College Application Month. The program's reach expanded from two schools to 20 within the state's three counties.

Volunteers also played an integral role in the success of Delaware College Application Month, providing much-needed, hands-on assistance to students. More than 200 volunteers participated. These volunteers represented 42 organizational units, which included state agencies, institutions of higher education, businesses, and nonprofits. From assisting students with completing applications to greeting and signing in students, volunteers worked to ensure that each student was given the individual support needed to complete his or her application.

On October 31, Governor Jack Markell visited Newark High School, his alma mater, directly assisted students in computer labs with completing their applications, and thanked volunteers for their support. U.S. Congressman John Carney and Delaware Secretary of Education Mark Murphy visited John Dickinson High School on November 6. In a press release about his visit, Congressman Carney noted, "At a time when education beyond high school is more important than ever, we have too many students who limit their options for the future by not applying to college. A lot of students, particularly those who could be the first in their family to go to college, need an extra push to find the school or training opportunity that's best for them. That's what College Application Month is all about. I hope it continues to grow in Delaware and that every high school will participate in the near future." U.S. Senator Chris Coons visited Mount Pleasant High School on November 15.

In another demonstration of support, several colleges and universities, including Delaware Technical and Community College, Wilmington University, and University of Maryland Eastern Shore, did not charge application fees to students in participating Delaware CAM schools.

Building on the success of College Application Month, IPA will continue to provide assistance to DOE as it partners with the U.S. Department of Education to host a series of financial aid workshops to help students tackle the sometimes daunting challenge of paying for college once they're accepted.

During an event earlier this year, Secretary of Education Murphy said, "Our goal is that all of our children are prepared for college when they're finished with high school and can make that step into college successfully. It is frustrating to see children who are prepared and not taking that step. College Application Month will focus on providing the assistance necessary to be sure college applications are submitted. We will continue to offer support to help students complete the process, including providing guidance on paying for a college education in early 2014."

With economic forecasts predicting that 55 percent of all jobs in Delaware will require educational training beyond high school by 2020, there is urgency to better prepare our students by equipping them with the tools they need to realize their college and career aspirations. Delaware College Application Month is one of the key components in a larger state strategy to set Delaware students up for success in the future. Plans are underway to expand Delaware College Application Month next year to include all of the public and charter schools in the state, providing each student the opportunity to realize his/her full potential.

—by Taylor Hawk and Lisa Moreland

Third Thursdays

The Delaware Association of Public Administration began a new membership/networking campaign this past summer—"Third Thursday on the Riverfront."

The series was held at the Iron Hill Brewery on the Wilmington Riverfront. Stretching from June through September during the traditional "happy hour," and with a complimentary drink ticket for attendees, the sessions quickly earned the unofficial moniker of "Thirsty Third Thursdays."

All told, the events drew more than 80 attendees and netted DAPA five new members. As importantly, the informal, festive atmosphere allowed for a much more personal style of professional networking and much more interactive, question-and-answer presentations from the invited speakers.

"We basically told them they're presenting in a bar with a football flat-screen as the monitor," joked DAPA Council member and event organizer **David Bird** at the Dec. 4, 2013, DAPA Awards Dinner.

In June Michael Purzycki of the Riverfront Development Corporation gave the group an overview of the ongoing redevelopment activities and the corporation's future aspirations. In July Sam Heed of the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation gave a spirited presentation on his organization's work sailing, maintaining, and educating the public on early American maritime history. The organization's ship is a painstaking replica of the original Kalmar Nyckel, an early seventeenth century Dutch armed merchant cruiser. Andrea Trabelsi of Delaware Greenways spoke in August on regional trails, greenways, and an ongoing Health Impact Assessment initiative in Delaware City. Finally, in September, DNREC's Susan Love gave a place-appropriate talk on sea-level rise.

"I'd particularly like to thank Council member David Bird for championing the concept and doing such a great job organizing the events, as well as student member **Caitlin DelCollo**," said DAPA President **Kathy Murphy**. "She attended every one, ran the sign-in sheets, sold the 50/50s, set up the displays, you name it. We couldn't have done it without either of them."

—by "BJ" DeCoursey



Running for Public Service

This fall DAPA members exercised their commitment to public service in two charitable 5K events.

DAPA members **Martha Narvaez**, **Kim Gomes**, **Ed Freel**, **Mark Deshon**, **Russ Morris**, **Julia O'Hanlon**, and **George Walueff** (not pictured) participated in the Cindy Foundation for Ovarian Cancer Research Run, which was held on September 4, 2013, on the Wilmington Riverfront. The run benefited the Cindy Foundation for Ovarian Cancer Research, which was established in honor of Cindy DiPinto, a longtime public servant in Delaware who died from ovarian cancer in 2009. Several of DAPA's runners had known DiPinto personally, and, as such, the race provided an opportunity to both support cancer research and commemorate their friend.



DAPA was also represented in the 5th Annual Turkey Roundup on October 26, 2013, which benefited the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware. Members **Caitlin Del Collo** and **David Karas** both finished the race in less than 30 minutes.

In the spring DAPA plans to continue participating in charitable events that benefit the community. If you're interested in becoming a DAPA 5K team member or have suggestions for 5K events to attend, please email delcollo@udel.edu.

—by Caitlin Del Collo

Cindy Run photo by Kevin O'Hanlon

DAPA's Fall Student Social

Following the success of the “Third Thursday on the Riverfront” series, DAPA hosted a Fall Student Social to bring public administration professionals and students together for networking and refreshments.

The event, which was held at the Deer Park Tavern on November 11, 2013, attracted numerous longtime members, several current student members, and several potential student members. Appetizers were served, and DAPA raffled off a free drink and DAPA t-shirt.

DAPA President **Kathy Murphy** used the social as an opportunity to recruit new members as well as to publicize the Annual Awards Dinner.

We hope to host similar events in the future to increase membership, particularly among up-and-coming public administration professionals. If you have suggestions for future events, please email delcollo@udel.edu.

—by Caitlin Del Collo



photo by Caitlin Del Collo

New Visions for Public Affairs Prepares for Sixth Volume, Annual Symposium



The editorial board of *New Visions for Public Affairs* (NVPA), the student-run academic journal of the University of Delaware's School of Public Policy & Administration, is making preparations for its sixth volume of scholarly works, to be published in the spring.

Each year, students from the University of Delaware and beyond are encouraged to submit academic papers to NVPA for consideration in the print and online publication, which comes out late in the spring semester. Articles that are selected represent a variety of disciplines, broach topics related to the fields of public policy and administration, and are geared toward the journal's interdisciplinary audience of academics and practitioners.

The sixth volume of NVPA will include a selection of these works, as well as a special section devoted to recognizing some of the best student papers submitted to the Northeast Conference on Public Administration (NECoPA), which was hosted at the University of Delaware this fall.

The editorial board welcomes students to submit papers they have written for course assignments, academic projects or professional appointments, for consideration for the journal's sixth volume. Papers undergo a blind peer-review process by members of the editorial board, which comprises graduate students from across the University of Delaware campus. Typical submissions include journal articles, interviews with policymakers, literature reviews, book reviews, and policy briefs.

This year's submission deadline is Jan. 6.

Authors of selected papers also have the opportunity to present their research during NVPA's annual symposium, which will take place in April 2014. The scholarly forum provides the chance for student authors to make a formal presentation and engage with an audience of students, professors, and members of the community.

For more information on NVPA and for our call for papers, please visit www.sppa.udel.edu/nvpa/home. If you have questions about submissions or the peer-review process, contact editor-in-chief David Karas at nvpajournal@gmail.com.

—by David Karas

Member Spotlight: Andrew Wilson

This year DAPA is pleased to welcome new member **Andrew Wilson**, who joined the organization after attending the July “Third Thursday on the Riverfront” event. Andrew is the External Affairs Coordinator for the Medical Society of Delaware and serves on the board of the Delaware Young Democrats. His career path and volunteerism are a testament to his dedication to public service.

Wilson received his B.A. in English Writing with a minor in Philosophy from St. Lawrence University in 2006, graduating *magna cum laude*. He then went on to receive his Juris Doctor degree from Albany Law School in 2010, graduating *cum laude*. After law school, he became a Legislative Fellow in the New York State Senate, working under Deputy Majority Leader Jeffrey Klein. Later that year, Wilson was brought on staff as counsel and policy analyst to the Independent Democratic Conference, the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Committee, and the Task Force on Government Efficiency.



Once the legislative session ended, Wilson moved to Delaware and immediately began working as the New Castle County Regional Field Director for the Democratic Party. His experience working with volunteers and elected officials in Delaware motivated him to take up residence in our state, and he soon found himself in his current position with the Medical Society of Delaware.

Wilson volunteers extensively, most recently donating his time to Kind to Kids, the Delaware Food Bank, Planned Parenthood, and the Sierra Club. Additionally, he is a member of Delaware Greenways and an associate member of the Delaware State Bar Association.

Wilson is quick to share his thoughts on public service and stresses the importance of “inspiring students to enter public service professionally and activating people to go outside their routine and help causes they care about.” He values DAPA’s capacity to accomplish these goals, as well as to forge connections with other organizations dedicated to public service. He encourages fellow DAPA members and community residents to volunteer even if only for a few hours. As he rightly points out, “Many organizations rely heavily on volunteerism, and, whenever possible, we need to lead by example.” So far, Andrew Wilson is doing just that.

—by Caitin Del Collo

photo courtesy of Andrew Wilson

Student Spotlight: Jessica Mitchell

DAPA member **Jessica Mitchell** is a first-year Master of Public Administration student concentrating in Non-Profit Management in the University of Delaware's (UD) School of Public Policy & Administration. Jessica graduated from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo., with a B.S. in Biological Sciences and minors in Spanish and Women's Studies. She is also a graduate of the President's Leadership Program. Jessica has been involved with many public service and volunteering activities, such as alternative breaks, mentoring for at-risk youth, and volunteering at senior centers. Through her various involvements as an undergraduate, Jessica was named Colorado Student Leader of the Year for her campus in 2012.



Currently, Jessica is the Chair of the Fundraising Committee for the Student Association of Policy and Administration (SAPA) at UD. So far this year she has organized an ice cream social and a bake sale in order to raise money for SAPA. Her passion for baking also led her to create Tender Loving Confections—an at-home bakery. She contracted with a local coffee shop to sell some of her bakery items and donate baked goods to various organizations in the area.

Another project Jessica is involved with this year is College Application Month in Delaware. This project is funded by the College Access Challenge Grant, and its mission is to give every Delaware high school senior an opportunity to apply to college. Jessica dedicates many hours to organizing this project and attending schools throughout Delaware to aid students with their applications.

Jessica is new to both the field of public administration and the state of Delaware and joined DAPA because she hopes to connect to people within the field and explore opportunities in public administration upon graduation.

—by Katrina Cowart

photo courtesy of Jessica Mitchell