



President's Message

Dear Fellow Public Administrator:

This is an exciting time of year for DAPA. It is both a time of tradition and transition. We end each year by electing new Council members and recognizing outstanding public servants. We begin each year with a member retreat to renew our commitment to the chapter, refocus our energies, and set new goals. These annual traditions were established long before my involvement with DAPA and have been kept alive by many of you reading this message. I'm grateful for the professional and caring members of DAPA who have supported and led this organization over the past 40-plus years. Members who volunteer their time to manage the day-to-day business of the organization and coordinate events are the heart and soul of our chapter.

One such person is outgoing Council member "**BJ**" **DeCoursey**. BJ has been an invaluable member of our Council for the past two years. He has contributed to our events, newsletter, website, and meetings. BJ is an extremely talented planner in the Institute for Public Administration at the University of Delaware. He is also a gifted writer and presenter. He has been a very quiet but dependable member of our Council and someone who will be missed by many.

Our newest Council member is **Angie Kline**. Angie is a Public Administration Fellow working on a Ph.D. in Urban Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Delaware. Beside being a happy and energetic person, Angie is a knowledgeable and experienced professional. Angie graduated in 2012 with a Master of Public Administration and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Villanova University. Prior to her master's degree, Angie had received Bachelor of Arts degrees in both Spanish and Communications from the University of Pittsburgh in 2007. In the professional world, Angie has dedicated her time to working for various nonprofit organizations. Most recently, she worked for United Way of Lancaster County (Pa.) from 2010–2012. Before her time at United Way, Angie worked for Compass Mark. Her work at Compass Mark came fresh off of a year in the Peace Corps. Additionally, Angie worked for the Boy Scouts of America–Pennsylvania Dutch Council from 2007–2009.

On behalf of the DAPA Council, I want to thank BJ for his contributions and welcome Angie as our newest member. To all our members, thank you for your service to our state and your support of our chapter. Please stay tuned for more information about our 2015 member retreat and events.

Happy New Year to you and yours!

Respectfully yours,

Kathy Murphy
President



DAPA Annual Awards Dinner

DAPA members, friends, guests, and honorees gathered for the 2014 DAPA Annual Awards Dinner at the historic Buena Vista Conference Center in New Castle, Del., on December 11, 2014. The dinner recognizes individual dedication to and accomplishments in public service during the preceding year. This year's celebration began at 5:30 p.m. with an hors d'oeuvres reception and networking hour, which brought together students, faculty, and professionals before the dinner and awards ceremony.

DAPA President **Kathy Murphy**, the emcee for the event, began by welcoming attendees on behalf of DAPA and thanking event organizers—DAPA members **Julia O'Hanlon**, **Kelly Sherretz** and University of Delaware School of Public Policy & Administration graduate students **Katrina Cowart**, **Jessica Mitchell**, and **Saran Singh**. A wonderful buffet dinner, catered by Caff  Gelato, followed opening remarks.

After dinner, **Jonathan Justice**, DAPA's immediate past president, announced the results of this year's elections. The following officers have been elected for the 2015–2016 term:

- **Kathy Murphy**, President
- **David Bird**, Vice President
- **Julia O'Hanlon**, Council
- **Gene Dvornick**, Council
- **Angela Kline**, Council

Following the election results announcement, Murphy invited ASPA President-elect **Maria Aristigueta** to speak about the importance of DAPA and ASPA and encouraged attendees to join ASPA in order to promote the sharing of knowledge among public administration professionals. While



Flanking DAPA President Kathy Murphy and Vice President David Bird are (left to right) Kelly Sherretz, Martin Wollaston, Angela Kline, Albert Shields, Sarah Pragg, and Julia O'Hanlon.



Julia O'Hanlon and Kathy Murphy give a nod to Delaware Congressman John Carney for his support of the evening's event.

many local chapters ceased operations last year, DAPA remains active in fostering a strong organizational network for Delaware public administrators.

Murphy then asked Lori Sitler, assistant professor at Wilmington University, to present the 2014 Outstanding Student Public Service Award to this year's recipient, **Evan Horgan**. Horgan is a second-year graduate student pursuing a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree at the University of Delaware (UD), with a specialization in urban and regional planning. He was recognized for his work in local and state planning through multiple internships and his work with the UD Institute for Public Administration (IPA) on issues related to land-use and transportation planning and policy. Evan looks forward to

continuing his career in public service following his graduation in May.

After the student award was presented, Julia O'Hanlon gave a rousing introduction for the first public service awardee of the evening, **Tania M. Culley, Esq.** As the first Child Advocate of Delaware, Culley has led Delaware's Office of the Child Advocate since 2000. She manages an office of 11 employees, including four attorneys who primarily represent children in Family Court proceedings. Her office supervises a pool of more than 350 volunteer attorneys and also provides legislative, policy, and educational advocacy and training to Delaware's child-protection community. In addition to her work as Child Advocate, Culley also serves as Executive Director of the Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC); a Commissioner on Delaware's Child Death, Near Death and Stillbirth Commission; and serves on the Community Partnership



Public Service Award recipients Myrna Bair and Tania Culley join Outstanding Student Public Service Award winner Evan Horgan center stage.



Tania M. Culley, Esq.

Board of the Jim Casey Delaware Youth Opportunities Initiative. Culley expressed her gratitude for the award and thanked the many people who support the work of the Office of the Child Advocate, many of whom were present.

O'Hanlon then introduced the next public service awardee of the night, **Myrna L. Bair, Ph.D.**, who currently serves as Director of the Personal Leadership Development Program at IPA. This program began as the Women's Leadership Program in 1989 and was recently expanded to include men. In 1980 Bair was elected to the Delaware Senate and became involved with children's issues during her time in office. She was responsible for co-sponsoring legislation to create the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families—colloquially known as the “Kids Department.” Realizing

there were still gaps in service for children, Bair wrote and co-sponsored legislation to create the Office of the Child Advocate. The office, modeled after Vermont's example, has proven a valuable tool for better serving the state's children. During her tenure in the Delaware General Assembly, Bair served as Senate Minority Leader and advocated for issues concerning child welfare, economic development, and education. After accepting the award, Bair thanked her family, Culley, and the rest of the Office of the Child Advocate for their support and dedication to issues vastly important to the state of Delaware and beyond.



Myrna L. Bair, Ph.D.

Subsequent to the awardees receiving recognition, Vicky Kelly, Division of Family Services, Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families, offered several remarks about the impact of Myrna and Tania's commitment to public service in Delaware.

Kathy Murphy then gave closing remarks and thanked all for attending the event and for their support of DAPA. The evening concluded with dessert and fellowship among attendees.

—by Katrina Cowart and Saran Singh

photos by Mark Deshon

Celebrating 20 Years of Conflict Resolution

The Institute for Public Administration's Conflict Resolution Program (CRP) celebrates its 20th year of providing alternative dispute-resolution services to state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions—"20 years of peacemaking," a CRP representative said.



Under the direction of DAPA President **Kathy Murphy** and IPA Policy Scientist **Fran Fletcher**, the program has flourished, bringing facilitation and mediation skills to all sectors of Delaware's workforce.

In the Beginning

At the start, the CRP was focused on conflict resolution in schools. The program grew, teaching collaborative resolution skills to teachers, parents, and students throughout schools as an alternative to court proceedings.

Through its reputation of excellence in facilitation and mediation, CRP developed Delaware's first statewide special-education mediation program, the Special Education Partnership for Amicable Resolution of Conflict (SPARC). This partnership has led to 153 mediations, 119 of those having resulted in agreements since 1996.

"Delaware was at the forefront; here, special-ed mediation programs were offered to students and parents before the federal government required them," said Murphy.

CRP also began facilitating Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings. These meetings provide space for educators and parents to develop the best educational plans for their students with special needs. Since 2000, CRP has facilitated more than 179 IEP meetings.

For 11 years, CRP has been offering basic mediation training that teaches skills such as collaborative problem solving, meeting design, and facilitation. Basic mediation training boasts 187 graduates from nonprofit organizations, state agencies, and local and state government offices.

Program Expansion

When CRP became part of the Institute for Public Administration (IPA) in 1997, the program expanded into sectors beyond education. Now, CRP provides nonprofit organizations and state and local government offices

with services ranging from meeting design and facilitation to strategic planning and team-building.

“It was an ideal fit between CRP and IPA, because the work that we do really focuses on key concepts around democratic practices such as debate, dialogue, consensus building, and collaboration,” said Murphy. “As a member of the IPA team, we’ve had an opportunity to work with other people in that team and move into areas that IPA has a long tradition of working in.”

The move to IPA also provided an opportunity for greater student involvement. Undergraduate and graduate Public Administration Fellows contribute to the administration and development of CRP, through event planning and coordination and writing for the CRP newsletter, *Synergy*.

“One of the most rewarding parts has been being able to learn from Kathy and Fran and soak in their knowledge,” said graduate student and DAPA member **Katrina Cowart**.

“Before I started working with CRP, I really didn’t know what conflict resolution was,” Cowart said, “but now I have a better idea of what conflict resolution is and how that is really applicable to many settings, rather than just that as a field in itself.”

Celebration

This achievement was celebrated on October 16 with a luncheon in partnership with the Delaware Conflict Resolution Network.

The celebration coincided with Conflict Resolution Day, an international celebration to promote awareness of mediation, arbitration, conciliation, and other creative, peaceful means of resolving conflict. Delaware has been in the forefront of providing options for families and educators to address conflict early, respectfully, and collaboratively. “CRP plans to keep this tradition going,” a representative said.

—by Emily Floros

photo by Samantha Seiden

Student Member Working for Better Nutrition in Schools

Mark Rucci, a 2014 Plastino Scholar and DAPA member, is now in the 4-plus-1 accelerated program, through which he is earning a both B.A. in Public Policy and a Master of Public Administration degree in five years.

For his Plastino Scholarship, Mark created the School Nutritional Awareness Consortium (SNAC)—a group of faculty, staff, students, and parents that is strategizing policy initiatives to offer public school students free breakfast and lunch and healthier meal options in school. He spent his summer conducting research in four school districts throughout the country that are part of a program that funds two free meals for students. He collected data in Illinois, Georgia, West Virginia, and Massachusetts, talked to administrators, and interviewed families.

From his observations Mark noted, “Being fed does not make you a good student, but if your stomach aches, then it is hard to be a good student.”

He will use his research to create a similar program with the superintendent of the Wildwood, N.J., (his home) School District, where more than 46 percent of students are living in poverty. Mark hopes that through continuing efforts, he can persuade district officials to implement changes in the financial support allotted for school meal plans and ultimately abrogate the effects of poverty in New Jersey’s public schools.

Mark’s graduate research focuses on education policy in low-income communities. This year, Mark is serving as a Public Administration Fellow in the Institute for Public Administration and has been selected to be a 2015 Legislative Fellow with the Delaware General Assembly.



photo by Kathy Atkinson, courtesy of the University of Delaware

Calling for Submissions for the *New Visions for Public Affairs Journal*

“Research is to see what everybody else has seen and to think what nobody else has thought.”

—Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

New Visions for Public Affairs (NVPA) is a student-led policy journal within the University of Delaware’s School of Public Policy & Administration (SPPA). *NVPA*’s Editorial Board includes DAPA members **Katrina Cowart** (Executive Director), **Angie Kline** (Editor-In-Chief), and Associate Editors **David Karas**, **Jessica Mitchell**, **Samantha Seiden**, and **Abbey Scout**.

NVPA’s mission and vision revolve around informing and inspiring public policy makers and practitioners to advance policy scholarship in academia and beyond. In addition, by providing students with the opportunity to publish their research, students gain the advantage of learning the intricacies of the peer-review process. Graduate students at the University of Delaware’s SPPA benefit from the opportunity to participate in praxis as they prepare for future careers in public service. *NVPA* provides this opportunity for students to gain experience publishing their original work in order to further advance their personal scholarship as well as scholarship within the field of public affairs and policy.

The journal’s interdisciplinary nature allows students to publish articles from all realms of public policy. Volume 6 of the journal, published in the spring of 2014, included article topics such as civic hacking, climate change, aging out of the foster-care system, as well as an interview with Ashley Biden, Associate Executive Director of the Delaware Center for Justice (DCJ). Since its founding in 2008, *NVPA* has fostered a distinct collection of research, which can be viewed on its website.

Students get the opportunity to present their *NVPA*-published research at *NVPA*’s Annual Research Symposium, hosted every spring. The academic communities in SPPA and beyond gather to hear current research from students, ask questions and discuss ideas, and listen to a keynote speaker. At the last symposium in the spring of 2014, Wilmington City Councilmember and UD alumna Sherry Dorsey Walker (pictured at right with Professor Raheemah Jabbar-Bey and DAPA member **Dr. Daniel Rich**) spoke to the audience on her experience in public service and working in the community.



The *NVPA* is accepting submissions on a rolling basis until **January 9, 2014**. If you have original, unpublished, graduate-level work that is relevant to the field of public affairs, submit your piece immediately to nvpajournal@gmail.com.

For more information about the submission process, please visit *NVPA*’s [submission page](#), or contact Angie Kline (akiline@udel.edu) or Katrina Cowart (kcowart@udel.edu).

—by Katrina Cowart and Angela Kline

photo courtesy of the University of Delaware

Review of DAPA Third Thursdays

As another summer came to an end, so did a successful run of DAPA's **Third Thursdays on the Riverfront** in Wilmington, Del.

The second season of these events provided a casual environment for members to be updated on what is happening on the Riverfront in Wilmington and surrounding area,

mingle, network, and enjoy happy hour at the Iron Hill Brewery. The laid back atmosphere fostered a more personal connection among professional acquaintances and allowed for highly interactive presentations each month.



In June, DAPA members heard from Ray Petrucci of the Delaware Department of Transportation regarding the Christina River Bridge Project. In July, John Harrod presented “The DuPont Environmental Education Center on the Wilmington Waterfront, Current Activities and Future Plans.” In August, plans for the Riverfront and Downtown Wilmington were presented by Leonard Sophrin, Director of the Department of Planning & Development for the City of Wilmington. And finally, in September, DAPA members were provided a personal tour of the new Westin Hotel on the Riverfront.

Stay tuned for next summer's Third Thursdays events. If you have any suggestions, please contact David Bird at dbird@udel.edu.

—by David Bird and Samantha Seiden



Graduate Program Tuition Scholarships

The School of Public Policy & Administration (SPPA) at University of Delaware is proud to announce that it now offers a 50% tuition scholarship to any admitted graduate student who works 20+ hours per week in the public or nonprofit sectors. SPPA offers several masters- and doctoral-level programs, including the 36-credit Career Enhancement Option (CEO) for the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program, which allows part-time students to more easily earn an MPA degree. The MPA program at SPPA is highly respected and fully accredited by NASPAA—the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration.

Applications to begin the MPA CEO program in the spring semester will be accepted **through December 15th, 2014**. For more information on the SPPA graduate programs or the tuition scholarship, please email Crystal Nielsen (crystaln@udel.edu).

—by Crystal Nielsen

brochure cover design by DAPA member Sarah Pragg

Member Spotlight: Doug Tuttle



Doug Tuttle, recently retired instructor with the School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware and Policy Scientist at the Institute for Public Administration (IPA), is this edition's featured DAPA member in celebration of his long career in public service.

Tuttle received his MPA from the University of Delaware, specializing in Agency Management. His career experience includes climbing the ranks of the University of Delaware Department of Public Safety, for which he served as director for 12 years before taking a position with IPA. His professional interests and expertise included school safety, criminal-justice administration, municipal management, and public service–quality assessment.

Tuttle was introduced to DAPA almost immediately upon his arrival at IPA in 1997. While transitioning from his former position as public safety director, he quickly recognized the value of DAPA as a networking and advocacy organization for anyone interested in the field of public service. He was elected to serve as a member of the DAPA Council in 1997-98.

As DAPA president from 1998-2000, Tuttle carried on DAPA traditions while supporting new events and programs. In addition to the Annual Dinner and Public Service Award–recognition program, which continue today, initiatives during his tenure included a series of informal “DAPA After Hours” gatherings at various locations, including an economic development–focused walking tour of Newark’s Main Street; dinner programs at venues such as Wilmington’s Christina River Club and Waterworks Café; an innovative breakfast meeting at the Buena Vista Conference Center; and the very popular annual June crab feast in Smyrna, Del.

One of Doug’s favorite memories as DAPA president was presenting the DAPA Outstanding Student Award.

—by Samantha Seiden

photo by Kathy Atkinson, courtesy of the University of Delaware

Student Spotlight: Katrina Cowart



DAPA member **Katrina Cowart** is a second-year graduate student in the University of Delaware's Master of Arts in Urban Affairs and Public Policy program, specializing in health policy. She completed a graduate internship this summer with Westside Family Healthcare, a federally qualified health center with six locations throughout Delaware. She served as the Public Affairs and Fund Development intern, engaging in fundraising, event planning, and management with the annual 5K&10K The Westside Way and Growing Healthy Families, a community health-screening event that attracted nearly 400 residents in Kent County, Del.

Alongside Westside's Deputy Director, Cowart also conducted research on Medicaid and oral health in Delaware in order to create a fact sheet with key data about the impact of lacking dental insurance on low-income populations in the state and beyond. Her research will be used by Westside to advocate for access to dental coverage and care for Medicaid beneficiaries in the state of Delaware.

Currently, Cowart is a Public Administration Fellow in the Institute for Public Administration (IPA), assigned to the Conflict Resolution Program. In this role, she serves DAPA by tracking membership, designing and distributing marketing materials, and event planning and management. Katrina is also the Executive Director for the School of Public Policy and Administration's (SPPA) student journal, *New Visions for Public Affairs*. In the spring of 2015, she will participate in the Legislative Fellows Program through IPA, where she and other graduate and undergraduate students will staff the Delaware General Assembly for six months.

Upon graduation, Cowart hopes to pursue a career in advocacy or government, focusing on health policy. Her research interests include Medicaid policy and access-to-care issues.

photo by Kathy Atkinson, courtesy of the University of Delaware