

# University of Texas at El Paso

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER



## WELCOME STUDENTS, ALUMNI, & FRIENDS!

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Another semester in the books here at UTEP! The Public Administration program is honored to share our latest updates. This semester has seen a few faculty changes, a reinvigorated MPASA student organization, and a handful of students entering and graduating our program. We have also had informative and engaging speakers for our PA in Action series, and tried out a new way of sharing Capstone presentations. Around campus, you will hear many people say that Fall 2022 was the real semester that campus life started to feel normal since the pandemic. Our goal remains the same- to recruit, educate, and prepare future public servants.

We hope that this edition of our newsletter provides an insight to our program. Please feel free to share with others and reach out to us if you would like to get involved!

Luci Rodriguez, M.P.S.A,  
MPA Program Manager

# FACULTY NEWS

## Welcome, Dr. Han!



**Dr. Hyunrang Han**  
Visiting Assistant Professor

Dr. Han joins UTEP from Arizona State University (ASU) with a research focus in nonprofit management from a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) perspective. Her work has led her to collaborate with practitioners and scholars across sectors and find governance-based solutions to societal issues for social innovation. She earned a doctoral degree in nonprofit leadership and management from Arizona State University, a master's in NGO policy and management from Kyung Hee University in South Korea (KHU), and a double bachelor's in sociology and mass communication from KHU.

Dr. Han began in Fall 2022 and we're excited to have her knowledge and expertise in statistics and nonprofit organizations.

## Happy Retirement, Dr. Bretting!

Congratulations to Dr. John Bretting on his retirement! Dr. Bretting has taught at UTEP since 2004 when he joined the Liberal Arts Department.

Dr. Bretting has had a passion for urban planning and parks and has a breadth of experience working for city parks and recreation department, various civic organizations, and has taught at various campuses including University of New Mexico, UT San Antonio, and The College of Charleston in North Carolina.

Our department, alumni, and current students are appreciative of all the insight he's provided over the years and wish him a well deserved retirement!



# FACULTY NEWS

## Read All About Them: Published Professors

Congratulations to Dr. Cigdem Sirin and Dr. Jose Villalobos on multiple best book awards for their book, *Seeing Us in Them: Social Divisions and the Politics of Group Empathy*.

- 2022 APSA Best Book Award
- 2022 Robert E. Lane Best Book in Political Psychology Award
- 2022 Best Book in Experimental Research Award
- 2022 David O. Sears Best Book on Mass Politics Award



Dr. Cigdem V. Sirin



Dr. Jose D. Villalobos

Their book examines outgroup empathy as a powerful predisposition in politics that pushes individuals to see past social divisions and work together in complex, multicultural societies.

Both are professors in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration.

[Seeing Us in Them](#)

[How to Not Kill Your Business](#)



**Erika Andresen**  
Lecturer

Erika Andresen teaches Emergency Management for our masters and certificate students who are pursuing Urban and Regional Planning concentrations. Her book "*How to Not Kill Your Business*" is a guide to business continuity and disaster preparedness. When a business practices business continuity, it becomes resilient since business continuity picks up where risk management fails. The principles of business continuity are easily applied to government and non-profit management. Business continuity faces the same challenges that government administration does: leadership buy-in and budget allocation. Every facet of a community needs to be continuous in the face of disasters. Every facet of a community needs to be resilient so they can show up and provide services so the whole (not just individual parts) can recover more quickly and with less pain.



# PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN ACTION

## "Policy in the Making: Current Policy Formation, Development, and Implementation"

Cassandra Hernandez, District 3  
City Representative  
September 26, 2022



## "Organizational Transformation: A Closer Look at Our Plan, People, and Process"

Tommy Gonzalez, El Paso City  
Manager  
October 26, 2022



## "Women and Leadership in the Public Sector: What is Holding Them Back?"

Dr. Meghna Sabharwal, UT Dallas  
December 6, 2022

\*\*Part of the Dean's Lecture Series,  
in partnership with the Department  
of Women and Gender Studies



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

## CAPSTONE STUDENT PRESENTATIONS



### **PAD 5367: Capstone**

Thursday, December 1, 2022

IDRB 2.204

At the end of the Fall 2022 semester, students in Dr. Andonoska's PAD 5367 Capstone course presented their semester-long research to family, friends, and the MPA community. Capstone provides students an opportunity to take everything they've learned in their MPA journey and apply it to a real-world program, department, or policy that needs action. Congratulations to our students!

Joana Alferez, Daniel Bueno, Diana Gloria- Guardado, Noah Ward, Ruben Soto, Ronald Awatt, Damien Speaker, Alvaro Jaloma, and Valerie Armendariez. Not pictured: Emmanuel De La Riva, Paola Villanueva



# CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES!

## Fall 2022 MPA Graduates

Joan Alferez

*MPA- Public Policy*

Daniel Bueno

*MPA- Urban & Regional Planning*

Isela de Anda

*MPA- Public Policy*

Diana Gloria-Guardado

*MPA- Public Policy*

Alvaro Jaloma

*MPA- Public Policy*

Omar Maldonado

*MPA- Public Policy*

Ruben Soto

*MPA- Public Policy*

Noah Ward

*MPA- Public Policy*

Nusrat Jahan Nishat

*MPA- Public Policy*

## Fall 2022 Graduate Certificates

Lupe Macias

*Urban and Regional Planning*

Jonathan Moy

*Urban and Regional Planning*

Trey Reinhardt

*Urban and Regional Planning*

# GET INVOLVED!

## STUDENTS: DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN JOIN THE MPA STUDENT ASSOCIATION?

The purpose of the Master of Public Administration Student Association (MPA SA) is to support the educational advancement and professional endeavors of MPA students. The MPA SA will facilitate partnerships among graduate students, faculty, alumni/ae and professionals in the field of public administration.

### Membership Requirements

- Must be enrolled in MPA Program or Graduate Certificates
- Maintain a minimum of 3.0 GPA
- \$20 annual membership fee
- Student should not be on any disciplinary or scholastic probation

[Click HERE](#) or Scan to learn to submit your interest:



## ALUMNI: ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO REMAIN CONNECTED TO OUR DEPARTMENT?

The Alumni Advisory Board exists to serve the MPA program through continued input about program improvements and provides insight on possible internship and job opportunities for students and alumni.

In the coming year, we are hoping to help the Advisory Board establish an official Alumni Network through UTEP's Alumni Office.

### Advisory Board Commitment

- Semester meetings- either in-person lunches or virtual.
- Members do not need to be based in El Paso.
- As the board grows and takes on service projects, committees, etc., future time commitments will be set by the board.

[Click HERE](#) or Scan to learn to submit your interest:





# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## SGM Anderson Jarvis

### Incoming Army Congressional Fellow

#### What is the Army Congressional Fellowship Program?

The Army Congressional Fellowship is a 44-month program that includes pursuit of a Master of Professional Studies (MPS) Degree in Legislative Affairs at George Washington University starting on 3 APR 23, then service as a Fellow for a Member of Congress on 3 JAN 2024, and utilization on the Army Staff in a congressional-related duty position. I will be serving as a Member of Congress personal staff on Capitol Hill. My duties will include drafting legislation, preparing and staffing the Member for congressional hearings, writing speeches, drafting floor statements, handling defense-related constituent issues, and briefing Members of Congress prior to committee meetings and floor debate.

#### What is your job title?

Currently, I am the Chief Medical Non-commissioned Officer at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Fort Gordon, GA, which has three outlying health clinics--Camp Shelby, MS, SOUTHCOM Clinic, Miami FL, and Rodriguez Army Health Clinic, Ft. Buchanan, PR-- providing 5-star healthcare to more than 64,000 beneficiaries.

#### What is your favorite thing about the MPA Program?

My favorite thing about the MPA program is that it is designed for those who are committed to leadership development in the public and nonprofit sectors. It will provide the business and financial expertise as well as the understanding of policy and power dynamics to serve in a high-level position on Capitol Hill.

#### What inspired you to pursue your MPA degree?

I was inspired to pursue my MPA degree by my passion to serve in public service and leadership in future public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

#### How has your MPA degree helped you in your career?

My MPA degree helped me in my career by increasing the value I give to my team and the beneficiaries I serve in my current position. It also helped me prepare for future government work on Capitol Hill.

#### What advice would you give to incoming students?

My advice to incoming students is to stay focused, resilient, and fulfil your goals. The MPA program enabled me to develop my leadership skills, collaborate with talented people, study a wide range of topics, spearhead work on important issues, and provide many career opportunities as evident by my selection for the Army Congressional Fellowship.



UTEP Graduate  
Spring 2021

Congratulations on  
earning the Army  
Congressional Fellowship!