

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER



Director's Welcome

BY DR. ERIC BOYER, MPA PROGRAM DIRECTOR

We have seen many exciting developments in the Public Administration program at UTEP this year. Dr. Hyunrang Han joined our faculty as Visiting Assistant Professor after completing her Ph.D. at Arizona State University. Along with contributing to a number of our core MPA courses, Dr. Han is also expanding MPA course offerings in nonprofit management, by developing new courses related to fundraising and resource development, and volunteer management.

We have seen great progress among our MPA student body in their studies, with 20 students graduating with their MPAs this year, as well as another 4 students completing their graduate certificates in Urban and Regional Planning. Our students continue to engage with public and nonprofit leaders through their coursework and through the Public Administration in Action series, led by Dr. Andonoska.

Our faculty were active in research on public and nonprofit organizations this year, with articles published in various academic journals, as well as presentations at national and internationally recognized conferences, including the annual conferences of the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA), and the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA), to name a few. Our team has also been developing a new fully online MPA, launching in Fall 2023.



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It's Official- We're Online! Master of Public Administration- Fall 2023

The Public Administration Program is enthusiastic to announce a newly launched, FULLY ONLINE, MPA. Same degree, same courses and classmates, now offered beyond the borderland. The degree is supported by UTEP Connect, and offers students a dynamic and easily accessible education.

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INFORMATION

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UTEP MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

ONLINE 

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Beginning Fall 2023

- 36 credit hours
- Easily accessible, 100% online format
- 8-week course structure
- No GRE Required
- Non-thesis Option available
- Suitable for working professionals, military personnel, and career changers/ enhancers
- Tuition: \$480.90/ credit hour (in-state); \$590.53/ credit hour (out-of-state)

**Fall 2023
Application
Deadline:
August 15**

Happy Retirement, Dr. Chilton!



Dr. Bradley Chilton
Professor

Congratulations, Dr. Bradley Chilton on retiring from the public administration program at UTEP. Dr. Chilton was appointed as a tenured full professor in public administration at UTEP, and he served in that capacity for ten years. He served as the chair of the public administration program for six years, leading numerous initiatives to advance the study of public administration in this community, including the development of the program's current partnership with the Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss.

Dr. Chilton holds a PhD from the University of Georgia, two master's degrees, and a JD from the University of Toledo. He has been a faculty member at six different universities before serving at UTEP, and his most recent book explores the public administration profession (with Drs. Stephen King, Viviane Foyou and Scott McDonald and published by Routledge). He has also published more than 40 articles and book chapters on topics in public administration and law, and he has taught thousands of aspiring professionals in public administration in his many faculty and leadership roles.

Recent Faculty Publications in Public and Nonprofit Administration



Dr. Ljubinka Andonoska

Alda, Erik, and Ljubinka Andonoska. 2023. "Doing more with less? Assessing the cost efficiency of US local police organizations." *Applied Economics Letters*:1-5.

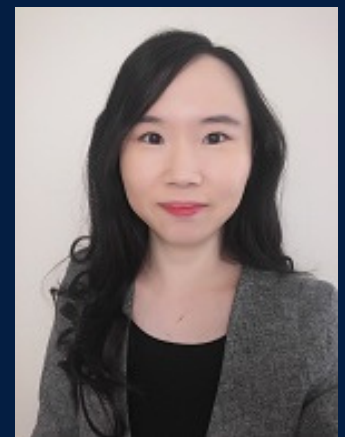
Andonoska, Ljubinka. 2022. "Pre-electoral fiscal policies and opportunistic spending: the case of the recently decentralised Macedonian local governments." *East European Politics*:1-22.



Dr. Eric Boyer

Boyer, Eric J., and Joao Faria. 2023. "Examining Contract Modifications in Purchasing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): A Bargaining Approach." *Journal of Strategic Contracting and Negotiation*.

Boyer, Eric J., Rebecca Reid, and Dana Patton. 2022. "Does Gender Influence Leadership Styles? A View from the U.S. Nonprofit Sector." *Public Organization Review*.



Dr. Hyunrang Han

No, Won, Hyunrang Han, and David Swindell. 2022. "The Immediate Effects of Changes in Life Circumstances on Volunteering Decisions in the USA." *VOLUNTAS*.33 (4):795-806.

Wang, Lili, and Hyunrang Han. 2022. "Gender, Social Role, and Social Capital: A Comparative Study of Volunteerism in East Asia." *VOLUNTAS*.

About Public Administration in Action

The PA in Action series is an initiative by the Master of Public Administration Program that seeks to connect our students with the broader professional and academic community in the realm of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

Aligned with the UTEP Edge pillar of Community Engagement, PA in Action brings professionals and academic experts to engage our students through presentations, discussions, and networking. This spring semester afforded students an opportunity to engage in discussions about the humanitarian crisis unique to El Paso, be inspired by our own university president on her journey throughout public service, and reflect on how today's workplace calls for adaptable communication styles.



"Do what you can, where you are, and with what you've got." - Dr. Wilson



PA in Action attendees with Jorge Rodriguez, EP County Emergency Management Coordinator and MPA alum.

PA in Action, coordinated by Dr. Ljubinka Andonoska, has continued to evolve since Fall 2021. Now held in UTEP's new Interdisciplinary Research Building, the events see attendance from students, alumni, UTEP faculty, and even public administration professionals from ASPA (American Society of Public Administration). The hybrid speaker series seeks to be accessible to all UTEP MPA community and friends. We hope you continue to join us for the 2023-2024 PA in Action Series.

Alumni- if you or someone you know would be a great speaker, please reach out to landonoska@utep.edu.

Spring 2023 PA in Action Speakers



Jorge Rodriguez

February 16, 2023
"El Paso's Response to the Humanitarian Crisis"



Dr. Heather Wilson

March 22, 2022
UTEP President



Dr. Patricia Witherspoon

April 25, 2023
"Generations at Work: Differences (and Similarities)"



Internship with El Paso County Community Services

A fundamental goal of the MPA curriculum is to equip students to put into practice what they learn in the classroom. Our PAD 5366 Internship course allows a student who has found an internship to use their experience for course credit.

For Spring 2023, Perfecto Zarate Zarate interned with the El Paso County Community Services Department. Perfecto's internship experience provided the opportunity for networking and furthered his professional development as a future public manager. What he valued most was the opportunity to learn information that provided him with the tools to make strategic and operational decisions during his time in El Paso County Community Services. "It is important to have a good relationship between public and private sectors to achieve results in public administration and improve the lives of citizens." Perfecto highly recommends others to intern at El Paso County Community Services, "It is enriching and will develop leadership skills and success in your professional career."



Perfecto Zarate Zarate (Far right) at a community outreach event.

Student-Alumni Mentoring Reflection

In early Spring 2023, the MPA program met with alumni who expressed a desire to be more active within the program and provide support. One area that both alumni and current students expressed a desire to engage in was mentoring. Alumni volunteered their time and expertise and an email was distributed to students to participate. Jacqueline Cue jumped at this opportunity and was immediately put in contact with Cassandra Hernandez, MPA class of 2013 and El Paso City Council Representative for District 3.

"I wasn't sure I would receive a response right away for mentoring, but to my surprise Cassandra was very accommodating and although she had a busy schedule, she made herself available to me in a matter of days," Cue said. The two discussed similarities in their upbringing and their motivation for public service. Cassandra describes Jacqueline as "professional, and her questions were pointed and driven." She shared about her own academic journey, specifically what courses assisted her and which skills she wishes she spent more time developing. Spoiler alert: they are statistics and Excel.

One major thing that stood out to Jacqueline was Cassandra's attentiveness. "She is a great listener, which allowed me to open up about the challenges I face and even though she had just met me, I felt as if she understood exactly what I was going through." Cue shared that she was participating in job and internship fairs, which presented an opportunity for Cue to meet Representative Hernandez's staff. Jacqueline was offered a position in her office and started on May 8, 2023. Both Jacqueline and Cassandra encourage students and alumni to participate in the mentorship opportunity.

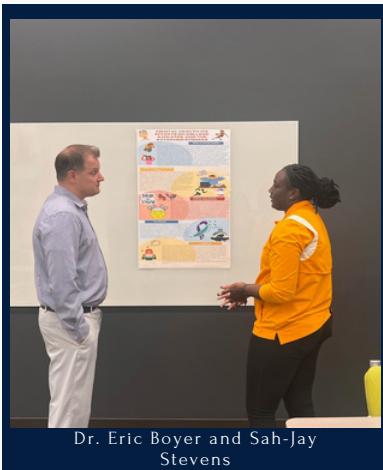
Students, alumni, and community members who want to learn more about internships and mentoring can reach out to Luci Rodriguez, larodriguez15@utep.edu for more information.



Rep. Cassandra Hernandez with Jacqueline Cue (MPA) and Jesse Moreno (UTEP student) at the Neighborhood USA Conference, May 2023



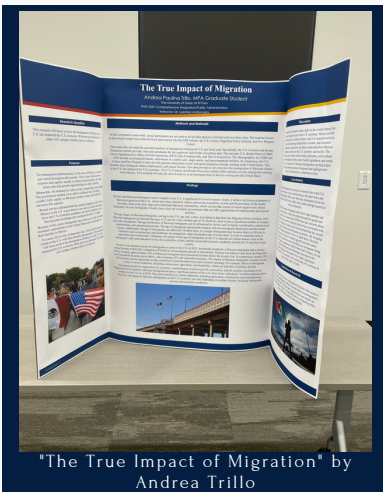
Spring 2023 Capstone Showcase



Dr. Eric Boyer and Sah-Jay Stevens

The culmination of the MPA curriculum is an intensive capstone project. PAD 5367: Comprehensive Integration of Public Administration allows students to select a research area, policy or program of their choice and utilize the skills of data collection/analysis, economic values, policy review, and other administrative skills to develop their own evaluations and findings. The course is rigorous, often including collaboration with organizations or government agencies; and allows students to fully integrate what they've learned in the classroom.

Students work diligently under the guidance of Dr. Andonoska or Dr McDonald as they formulate their research, evaluation instruments, and develop their own recommendations.



"The True Impact of Migration" by Andrea Trillo

On April 27th, students in Dr. Ljubinka Andonoska's capstone course were able to share their research projects with MPA faculty, staff, fellow students, and their families. The Capstone Showcase brought their semester to a close and we are proud of the work that they have done and are confident in their ability to lead as public servants.

When asked about the progress she's seen in her students, Dr. Andonoska could not be more proud of their growth. "I am so inspired by each of them."

Congratulations on this accomplishment!



Yaqoub Ashkenani, Andrea Macias, Dr. Ljubinka Andonoska, Sah-Jay Stevens, Andrea Trillo, Matthew Ibarra

MPA attends the Paso Del Norte Community Foundation's Reimagine Conference

On May 3, 2023, the Paso del Norte Community Foundation held its 3rd annual Nonprofit Conference: Reimagine! The Foundation serves as a vehicle for donors to support the region's nonprofit organizations and charitable causes and establishes a legacy of giving. The Foundation is near and dear to the MPA program, as MPA Alum Tracy Yellen serves as CEO and Andrea Macias, an MPA alum as of this Spring, serves as development coordinator.

In ongoing efforts to incorporate experiential learning, the MPA program was able to send faculty, staff, and students to this year's conference. Program Manager, Luci Rodriguez, describes the importance of experiences like this, "these opportunities allow students to experience first hand what goes into running a nonprofit, including how to fund our visions. This is helpful for all students as philanthropy and giving are not isolated to the nonprofit sector alone, but are pillars in private businesses and local agencies." Dual MBA/MPA student, Crystal Wong agrees and reflects on her experience, "attending this conference allowed me to understand how nonprofit organizations raise money for causes and how important it is to be creative to provide their services. I think anyone who wants to run a business or non-profit would benefit from this event."

We look forward to next year's conference!



Students and MPA faculty/staff take time for group photo in between sessions. Pictured (L-R): Crystal Wong, Dr. Hyunrang Han, Desiree Traver, Jacqueline Cue, Karina Soriano, Damien Speaker, and Luci Rodriguez



Students Damien Speaker (MBA/MPA), Desiree Traver (Certificate in Urban Planning), Faouziath Moustapha (MPA), Jacqueline Cue (MPA), and Crystal Wong (MBA/MPA)

ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD EXPANDS

The Alumni Advisory board has expanded and now consists of 16 enthusiastic and active MPA alum from multiple sectors, and from El Paso and beyond. The group exists to support the MPA program by keeping us informed of industry trends and needs, providing mentoring opportunities, and curriculum feedback. To learn more about our Advisory Board Members, click [here](#).

Aracelli Astorga, '15
Andrea Carrillo, '17
Alyssa Cervantes Benavides, '12
George Elsaesser, '20
Diana Hastings, '20
Cassandra Hernandez, '13
Frank Hernandez, '16
Paulina Lopez, '16

Fred Lopez, '11
Christian Lopez, '21
Alfonso Pacheco, '20
Teresa Quezada, '92
Jorge Reyes, '12
Jorge Rodriguez, '16
Sergio Venegas, '21
Tracy Yellen, '95

ALUMNI CALL TO ACTION: HELP FORM THE ALUMNI NETWORK!

Alumni Networks, supported by the UTEP Alumni Office, exist to help alumni keep in touch, coordinate social and volunteer opportunities, and maintain a link to their programs and interest groups.

This spring, a group of alumni have begun initial conversations with the Alumni Office to help establish an official MPA Alumni Network. We need your help! If you're interested in helping the group establish the network and bring it to fruition, please email mpa@utep.edu to be put in contact.



To browse existing networks, click [HERE!](#) To help form the MPA Network, email mpa@utep.edu.

PAA INDUCTS NEW HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS

Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA) Honor Society is the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. There are more than 160 chapters, located around the world, which recognize students who excel in their scholarship and commit to the values of integrity, professionalism and public service. In order to be eligible for PAA induction, students must have at least 50% of their MPA coursework completed and maintain a GPA of 3.7 and above. Congratulations to this year's inductees:

Khawand Canty
Guadalupe Chavez Diaz
Scott Cole
Matthew Ibarra
Andrea Macias
Cory Messingham
Damien Speaker
Sah-Jay Stevens
Daniel Bueno- Alumni Inductee
Omar Maldonado- Alumni Inductee



Dr. Eric Boyer leads new inductees in the recitation of the Pi Alpha Alpha Oath, May 2023. Pictured (L-R): Sah-Jay Stevens, Andrea Macias, Khawand Canty, Cory Messingham, Dr. Boyer

Celebrating our Spring and Summer 2023 Graduates

Spring 2023 Masters in Public Administration (MPA)

- Valerie Armendariz
- Ronald Awatt
- Khawand Canty
- Scott Cole
- Matthew Ibarra
- Sonia Andrea Macias
- Cory Messingham
- Sah-Jay Stevens
- Andrea Trillo

Spring 2023 Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning

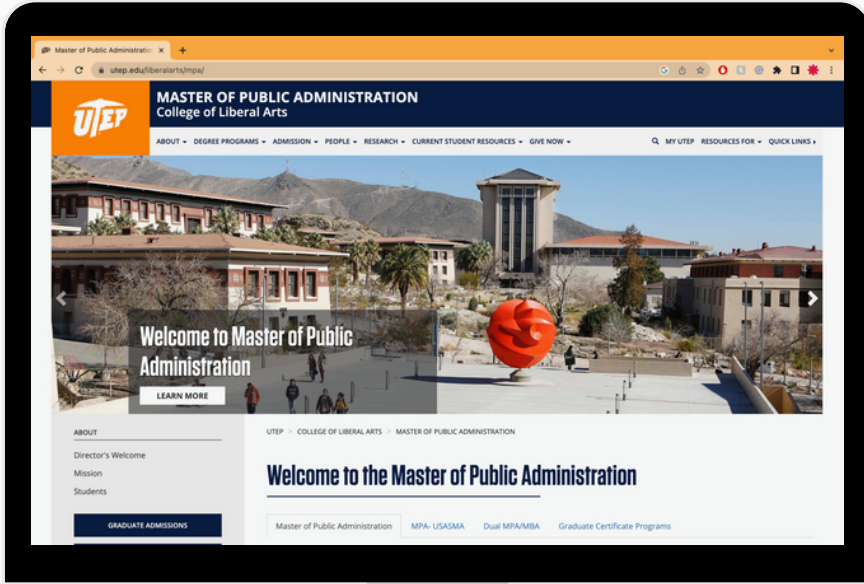
- Susan Raabe

Summer 2023 Masters in Public Administration (MPA)

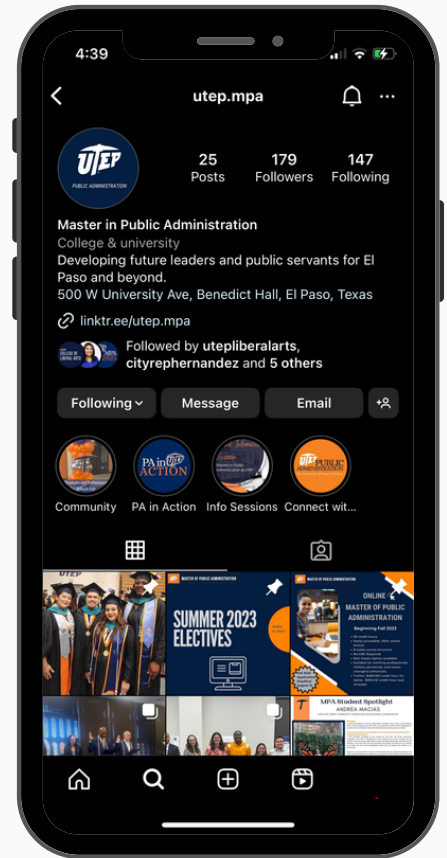
- Yaqoub Ashkenani



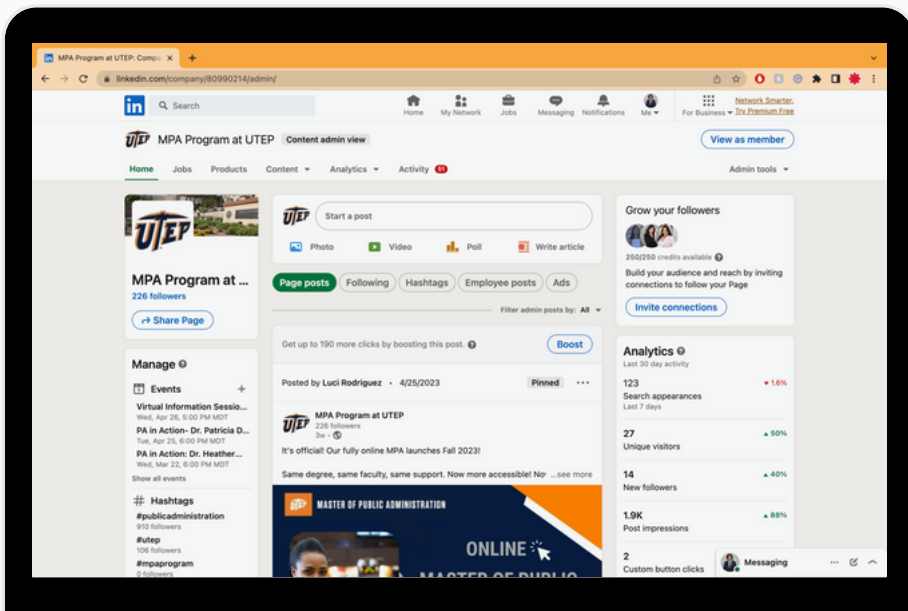
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