

School of Public Policy and Administration

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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SPPA NEWS

School of Public Policy & Administration hosts annual Students, Alumni and Community Recognition Awards dinner

On November 23, 2017 nearly one hundred alumni, students, faculty and friends of the School of Public Policy & Administration (SPPA) gathered for the annual celebration of service to the School. As part of the annual tradition, last year's Alumni Award recipient Kevin Giddings (MPPAL 2015) took on the role of Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Several merit awards were also introduced this year, resulting in our longest-yet list of inspiring award winners.

The event started with the acknowledgement of several alumni receiving this year the prestigious Amethyst Awards for Service Excellence in the Ontario Public Service, including Mathew Gordon (BA Spec. Honours PPA 2007), Team Lead with the Ministry of Economic Growth and Development in the individual service category; and in the group service category Claudio De Rose (BA Spec. Honours PPA 1998) as Director of the Safety Policy and Education Branch at the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and Fausto Natarelli (BA Spec. Honours PPA 1984) as part of the Windsor Border Initiatives Implementation Group (WinBIIG), MTO where he previously served as Manager. Fausto received his first Amethyst Award in the individual category in 2014.



The keynote address of the event was delivered by alumnus **Caspar Hall (BA Spec. Honours PPA 1997), Policy Director with the Anti-Racism Directorate – Cabinet Office**, who shared with the audience his **Insights from a Public Policy Apprentice**. Caspar emphasized the importance of integrity and leadership at every level of public service along with evidence-based decision making and keeping the focus on the intended policy outcomes. Caspar has been with the Anti-Racism Directorate since its inception in March 2016 and is currently leading a number of high-profile initiatives to support the implementation of Ontario's 3-Year Anti-Racism Strategic Plan, including the Anti-Black Racism Strategy (ABRS), the Ontario Public Service Anti-Racism Strategy, and the development of a Race Data Standard and Anti-Racism Impact Assessment (ARIA) framework. Prior to this role, Caspar held policy and management roles in Cabinet Office's Policy and Delivery Division, the Ministry of Finance's Secretariat supporting the Commission on Reform of Ontario's Public Services (CROPS) and at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Caspar was recognized with the Silver Medal – IPAC/Deloitte Public Sector Leadership Award in 2012.

Following the keynote address, service awards were presented in the undergraduate and graduate student category:

Undergraduate Student Award to Munisha Basiram, Bachelor of Public Administration Spec. Honours, Management Stream (Class of 2017)

Munisha has served our Public Policy and Administration Student Association (PPASA) in a variety of roles for several years, including as President. As an enthusiastic peer mentor, she guided many students through their transition to university and inspired them to be engaged. Her tireless work and dedication led to the PPASA being named the McLaughlin College Club of the Year in 2017 as well as her personally receiving the university-wide Robert Tiffin Student Leadership Award. As a BPA student, Munisha held several summer positions with the Ontario Ministry of



Munisha Basiram in the centre with alumnus and neighbour Deepak Soni, who encouraged her to pursue the BPA at York, along with Munisha's parents on each side of the picture

Tourism, Culture and Sport, completed a placement with the York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and worked as a Human Resources Coordinator Intern with Free the Children, an Interviewer with York University's Institute for Social Research, and a Program Evaluation Student Consultant with Service Canada. She currently holds the position of Program Officer with the Program Evaluation and Transfer Payment Unit in the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Graduate Student Award to Shireen Salti, Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law and Graduate Diploma in Justice System Administration (Class of 2017)

Shireen was the Social Convener of the 2016/17 Graduate Students' Association of Public Policy, Administration and Law (GSAPPAL). Her responsibilities included planning and facilitation of GSAPPAL events including socials, conferences and networking opportunities for MPPAL students. Shireen also represented York University at the 2015-16 Institute of Public Administration Canada (IPAC) National Case Study Competition. She has worked in a number of roles in the Ontario Ministry of Education, Inclusive Education Branch and at the Education Quality and Accountability Office. Currently, she is one of the ten Legislative Interns in the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme.

Shireen Salti also received the inaugural Major Research Paper (MRP) Award in the MPPAL program. Her MRP focused on the integration of privately sponsored versus government assisted Syrian refugees in Toronto and was presented at the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Programs in Public Administration (CAPPA) at the University of Manitoba in May.

Other MPPAL students - **Shovan Chakraborty, Salvatore D'Agostino, Rathsara Illangasinghe, Eric Lothman and Hannah Ross** were recognized with the **Best Team Award** for their participation in the 2017 IPAC-CAPPA National Case Competition with John Wilkins, adjunct faculty at SPPA and Executive in Residence at the Schulich School of Business, as the team's dedicated coach.



Shireen Salti on the right with Professor Naomi Couto who served as her MRP supervisor



From left to right: Shovan Chakraborty, Eric Lothman, Professor Dagmar Soennecken, MPPAL Director with Rathsara Illangasinghe, Hannah Ross and coach John Wilkins



Concluding the student section of the awards, **three high school students were recognized for outstanding essays** on their *Vision of Canada for the Next 150 Years*:

First Prize: "Canadian Policies from Sea to Sea" by **Leo Xu**, Grade 12, Bayview Secondary School, Richmond Hill

Second Prize: "Breaking Barriers: Canada's Paramount Public Policy Priorities for 150 Years of Prosperity" by **William Dunstan**, Grade 12, St. Matthew High School, Ottawa

Third Prize: "The Effect of Privatization on Citizens" by **Edward Chang**, Grade 12, Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School, Mississauga



Leo Xu in the centre with Justin Tan, PPASA President (right) and Professor Joanne Magee, Undergraduate Program Director

Undergraduate Program Director Professor Joanne Magee with William Dunstan (left) and Edward Chang (right)

2017 also marks the launch of our new **Emerging Leader Award**, which recognizes a current student or recent alumnus/alumna of the School who is an emerging leader within the broader public sector and represents the ideals, values and abilities of sound, responsible and engaging public policy and administration in congruence with the School's vision to promote *Good Governance*. The Award recipient will normally have 5-8 years of work experience in the broader public sector and in this inaugural year, two MPPAL students – Ashley Cabral and Najva Mohammad Amin - were recognized as Emerging Leaders:



Ashley Cabral, Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law and Graduate Diploma in Justice System Administration (Class of 2017)

Ashley started to work in the Ontario Public Service in 2013 as a case worker with the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Ontario Disability Support Program and has progressed through the ranks in a number of roles including Business Lead Expert, Program Analyst and Executive Assistant with the Ministry in the Social Assistance Service Modernization Branch. Ashley is also an enthusiastic volunteer: she currently serves a Co-Lead, Tomorrow's Public Service (TOPS) Executive Regional Development Committee and was Director of Communication for GSAPPAL in 2016-2017 and a member of the 2015-16 IPAC National Case Study Competition team while she was an MPPAL student.

Ashley Cabral (right) with Professor Dagmar Soennecken, MPPAL Director

Najva Mohammad Amin, Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law (Class of 2017)

Najva is supporting the Ontario Minister of Transportation as Senior Advisor – Strategic Initiatives, previously as Senior Advisor – Stakeholder Relations and Operations. Najva also has political experience as a federal campaign manager and as President of Ontario Young Liberals. Her commitment to student engagement has also translated into creating practicum opportunities for our undergraduate students at SPPA, and doing so in a most enthusiastic way, supervising as many as four students in a given year! Despite the incredibly busy nature of her work in the fast-paced Office of the Ontario Minister of Transportation, she finds time to set work plans, arrange for the practicum students to accompany the Minister to meetings and events, and coaches them on the work they do in support of the Minister's stakeholder engagement and policy work. For her outstanding dedication, Najva is also



Najva Amin with Professor Peter Constantinou, the School's practicum coordinator

the School's Practicum Honouree this year.

Last, but certainly not least, the coveted **Alumni Award** was awarded to **Tanya Waugh, Bachelor of Public Administration Specialized Honours, Policy Analysis Stream (Class of 2013) and Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law (Class of 2015)**.



As a graduate of both our BPA and MPPAL programs, Tanya has remained engaged with SPPA, our students and alumni in a variety of informal and formal ways as an avid volunteer, including most recently serving on the Executive Committee of our York University School of Public Policy and Administration Alumni Network (YUSPPAAN). Tanya started to work in the OPS as a Business Analyst just before graduating with the BPA and has since then worked in a range of roles, including relationship management, strategic planning and policy development. She has held positions with Service Ontario, the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, Cabinet Office - Strategy and Results Branch and is currently with the Ministry of Transportation as Senior Safety Policy Advisor.

Adriano Mena (BA Spec. Honours PPA 2001), the Chair of YUSPPAAN also received honourable mention for receiving this year the **Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies Alumni Award**.

Heartfelt congratulations to all the award recipients for their outstanding dedication and accomplishments, and for being such inspirational role models for our students and the entire SPPA community.

Nominations for the SPPA Awards will open again in January 2018 and the call will be included in the newsletter.

Congratulations

[Click for more pictures from the SPPA Awards Dinner](#)

February 5th & 6th, 2018 | Chelsea Hotel Toronto



An Army of Problem Solvers: Reconciliation and the Solution Economy



What are social enterprises? How are they emerging to solve some of Canada's most stubborn problems: changing the role of government and re-shaping the paradigm of problem solving? [Shaun Loney](#) will draw on his experience as one of Canada's leading social enterprise developers and his time as a senior civil servant to offer up a new and practical vision.

To take advantage of our Early Bird rates, [click here for more information and to register today!](#)

[Chelsea Hotel - Toronto](#)

33 Gerrard Street West

Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5G 1Z4

A preferential rate of \$121 CDN (single/double room) (\$151 Triple; \$181 Quad) has been reserved at the Chelsea Hotel, Toronto for conference participants.

Be sure to state that you're with "IPAC - Leadership Conference" to receive our special group rate by January 19, 2018.



Welcome to the first edition of the **Public Sector Shift**, a bi-monthly bulletin bringing you industry insights and information on key digital trends to help make your organization's transformation a reality.

Seven trends in digital government



Citizens' expectations are being shaped by their experiences across the spectrum, from luxury retail to technology. Becoming a truly digital government will help meet their expectations. Learn how to give citizens the digital government they want with these seven trends. [Read more.](#)



Rethinking the citizen experience: Healthcare in the public sector

The healthcare space is the perfect example of how the public sector continues to push towards a transformation driven by innovation to give citizens what they want, while providing better value. [Read more.](#)



Vision to Reality Awards: The accelerator

Applications are closing in less than one month for our Vision to Reality Awards! Are you creating solutions that are impacting society and making Canada a better place? We want to hear from you. Don't miss the opportunity to share your story and become the first Vision to Reality accelerator award winner. [Apply here.](#)

And more! [Subscribe here.](#)

Spend this Summer abroad through the **York International Global Internships**

Looking for a way to gain international experience?

Want to spend your summer doing something meaningful?



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Positions range from working in one of Canada's foreign offices, to mentoring kids in Kenya, to turtle monitoring in Costa Rica, to human rights work in Uganda, to teaching English in El Salvador. Find out more about these **funded** opportunities that are unique in Canada and exclusive to York students.

55 placements available - Duration of 3 months beginning in May 2018 - Open to all York students who meet eligibility criteria
Includes a \$3000 York International Internship Award to offset expenses - Deadline to Apply: **December 13 at 11:59pm**

Questions: yiintern@yorku.ca

<http://yorkinternational.yorku.ca/go-global/intern-abroad/>

Analyst Health Services Research & Policy **FULL Closing date:** December 13, 2017

Lead policy, research and advocacy work related to the health system. Develop policy options and prepare reports, briefings and presentations for members of the Region's Health Services Leadership team, other leaders throughout the organization and Regional Council using an evidence-based approach.

[More information >>](#)

Communications Transformation Analyst Ontario Treasury Board Secretariat

TEMP Salary: \$65,401-94,239 per year **Closing date:** December 15, 2017

Do you get excited when you think about the possibilities of transforming communications services? Would you be proud to play a key role in an ambitious project to make a communications branch a best-in-class organization? Have you ever wondered if there are ways to maximize data analytics to make communications as much a science as an art? Do you hear

[More information >>](#)

Senior Policy Advisor Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change **FULL Salary:** \$70,538—103,944 per year **Closing date:** December 15, 2017

Are you a results-driven professional seeking a challenging policy role?

If so, consider this rewarding position with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC)-Corporate Management Division, where you will lead a variety of challenging strategic policy and program development initiatives and provide leadership and expert advice to senior management.

[More information >>](#)