

Public Policy Bulletin



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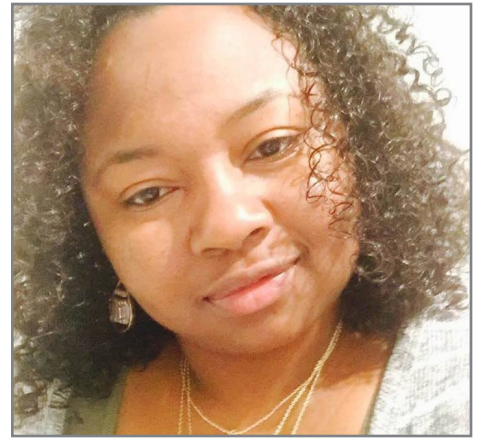
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Paisley Boston

Public Policy Management

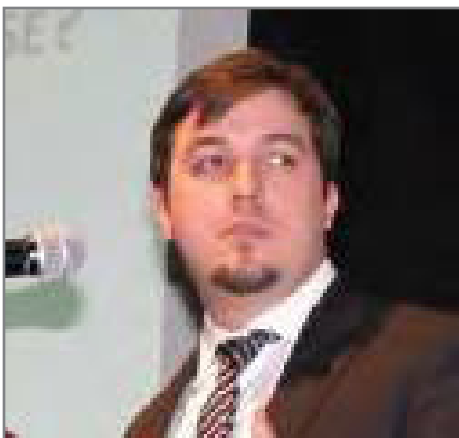
After receiving her Master's degree in Rural Public Policy and Planning at Mississippi Valley State University, first-year student Paisley Boston decided to pursue a Ph.D. in Public Policy to improve her knowledge of community development within rural communities.

A resident of a small town since birth, Boston (along with other members of her family) has served on its community development board over the past few years.

During her time in the PUBP program, Boston hopes to become more knowledgeable about existing and potential resources available to support her continued work in her community.

With a specific interest in studying rural development and cyber security, Boston selected the UA Public Policy Ph.D. program based on a previous professor's recommendation. After researching the program herself, Boston stated, "I knew it would be a perfect fit for me."

Once she completes the program, Boston hopes to continue serving on her community's development board and to find a career that enables her to offer her expertise in the field of public policy.



Frederick Clerson

Agriculture Policy

Holding a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics from the Université Laval in Quebec City, Canada, Clerson chose to start his Ph.D. in this program based on its emphasis on analyzing the social and political biases inherent in policy evaluation assessments (and within assessments of agricultural policies in particular).

Working as an agricultural economist for multiple years, Clerson also wanted to continue his research on agricultural policies. With his entrance into the PUBP program, he sought to shift his focus from economics more strictly to incorporate the theoretical foundations

"I selected the UA program because one of my former professors spoke so highly of the University, and after doing a little research, I knew it would be a perfect fit for me."

of the public policy discipline.

Clerson, however, is not completely new to public policy. While working on his previous degree, he analyzed the policy change process in the Swiss dairy market, conducting in-person interviews and empirical analyses.

Clerson's other research interests include the analysis of the evolution of Quebec's contemporary interventions in agriculture, especially in regards to its lack of incorporation of public consultations and whether the power of the Union des Producteurs Agricoles played a key role.

Once completing his degree, Clerson hopes to secure a faculty position to focus on his teaching.



Briana Kordsmeier

Public Policy Management

A native of Arkansas, Kordsmeier returned to the state from North Carolina to complete her Master’s in Public Administration and Nonprofit Studies (MPA) at the UA. While in this program, she continued her work with (and research surrounding) community and arts-based organizations, gaining the skills necessary to become an effective nonprofit manager.

While in the MPA program, however, Kordsmeier took a variety of policy courses that sparked her interest in the subject, especially in regard to how social and welfare-based issues (and the contexts that create and reinforce them) translate into policies at the national level.

She entered the PUBP program to continue her research on the means by which perceptions of minority groups affect the successful implementation of equality-based policies, as well as how these perceptions are potentially mediated by other factors.

After graduating, Kordsmeier hopes to obtain a faculty position at a major research university where she can continue her research while teaching courses on policy, public administration, and research methods, or work as a policy evaluator of Arkansas state government social and social welfare policies.

“My three daughters’ Osage lineage stems from this region, and I want to honor their culture and heritage as I work to translate research in the field to improving the area’s tribal practices.”



Electa Hare-RedCorn

Health Policy

After earning her Master’s degree of Social Work in Children, Youth, and Family Community Wellness from Washington University in St. Louis, Hare-RedCorn decided to enter the program based on the University’s affiliation with the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative; her relationships with its Native American leaders, including Dean Stacy Leeds and Dr. Janie Hipp; and her desire to honor her three daughters’ culture and heritage as part of the region’s Osage Nation.

Hare-RedCorn’s previous work with regional tribes and tribal colleges, as well as her experience as a tobacco control liaison, helped her identify capacity building opportunities in the fields of agriculture and health policy. She will specialize in Community Development and Recreational Policy, focusing her research on community-based participatory research, ecological perspec-

tives of public policy, and the means by which to create a culture of health, food sovereignty - all in the hopes of regaining the strength of policy and health equity for Native Americans.

Once she completes the Ph.D. program, Hare-RedCorn plans to teach, publish, and strengthen tribal communities through challenging the current and historical infrastructures that still determine federal policies toward tribal nations.

“I truly believe in health and equity where we live, work, and play. Policy meets these needs where the rubber meets the road.”

Research & Professional Development Series Calendar

November 10th

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Old Main 523

Dr. Margaret Reid: “Pursuing Careers Outside Academia”

Dr. Reid will conduct a professional development session for PUBP students on how to find a non-academic job post-graduation.

Lunch will be served!

Research & Professional Development Series Calendar

December 1st

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Old Main 523

Dr. Brinck Kerr: "Strategies for the Successful Academic Job Search"

Dr. Kerr will conduct a professional development session for PUBP students on how to find an academic job post-graduation.

Lunch will be served!

Coming Soon!

"Applied Machine Learning in Social Science Research"

As part of a continuing series, this public workshop will explore the emerging topic of big data in social science research.

Hosts:

Dr. Geoboo Song
Rachael Moyer
Creed Tumilson
Briana Kordsmeier

If interested, email rmoyer@uark.edu.

Alumni Spotlight



Dr. Katy Washington

After graduating from the Ph.D. program in the fall of 2016, Dr. Washington served in many roles that allowed her to further pursue her passion within the field of disability policy.

Specializing in education policy, Dr. Washington built from her previously earned M.S. in Counseling Psychology (from the University of Central Arkansas) and J.D. (from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock) to continue her research on disability programming within the university setting.

Dr. Washington's dissertation, "Discretion and the Implementation of Federal Disability Policy in Postsecondary Education," explored factors that affect the discretion exhibited among Disability Services Providers (DSPs) as they implement the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments (ADAAA) on their respective campuses.

Once completing her degree, Dr. Washington was hired as the UA Director for the Center for Educational Access.

In this role, she was responsible for the administration, planning, and direction of the programs and services offered to students with disabilities, which involved managing relationships with UA faculty as well as other campus and community partners.

In a more recent career move, Dr. Washington accepted an offer to become the Director of the Office of Disability Accommodation at the University of North Texas (UNT). In this capacity, she provides leadership, strategic vision, and overall supervision for a comprehensive program that ensures academic access and assistance for UNT students with disabilities.

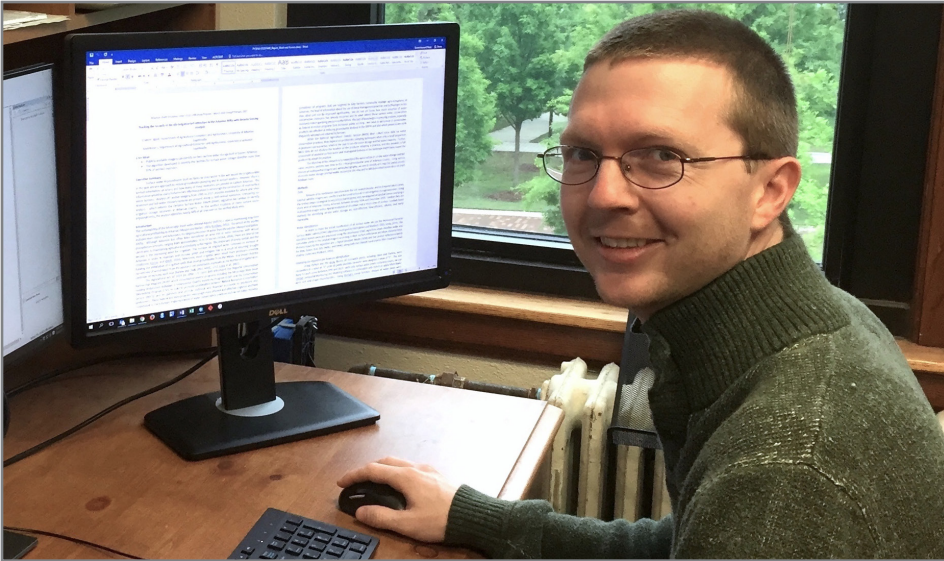
When asked about how her experiences in the PUBP program shaped her, Dr. Washington stated, "The subject matter I was exposed to while matriculating through the PUBP program has helped to make me a better professional."

Further, arguing that higher education (and the field of disability services in particular) is inundated with requests for policy interpretation and revision, Dr. Washington states that, "the PUBP program has been instrumental in helping me meet the challenges and opportunities of my career field."

After spending thirteen years working with students with disabilities in two-year college, liberal arts, and university settings, Dr. Washington hopes to continue facilitating an inclusive and accessible campus environment where students can thrive.

"The UA Public Policy program has been instrumental in helping me meet the challenges and opportunities of my career field."

Summer 2017: Student Experiences



Student Achievement

This summer, third-year student, David Tolliver's coauthored book, *Student Activism as a Vehicle for Change on College Campuses*, officially hit the shelves.

Written with Dr. Michael Miller, Dean of the College of Education and Health Professions, the book summarizes student campus activism during the 21st century while also analyzing various case studies to determine the factors that lead students to use this means to voice their policy concerns.

Deemed "a critical source of academic perspectives on contemporary activism and protests from the college student population," the range of topics covered in this text include discrimination, school...

**Continued on page 5*



Grant West, Research and Conference Travels

Grant West, a third-year student, spent the summer dividing his time between his role in the Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Department, his dedicated research projects, and various conference and workshop travels.

On May 1st of this year, West was promoted to Supervisor of his department's research support staff, where he now manages himself and three other Program Associates to support the program's production of high-quality faculty research.

Outside of his departmental responsibilities, West also presented his research at two conferences over the course of the summer. At the Western Agricultural Economics Association's annual meeting in Nevada, he presented his coauthored work on the avian influenza outbreak in Arkansas. He then discussed his piece on water policy perceptions and preferences (co-authored with fellow PUBP student, Rachael Moyer) at the Arkansas Water

Resources Center Annual Water Research Conference.

During the month of July, West attended an advanced methods course at Michigan State University's Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) summer program to learn about modeling discrete choice experiments through the use of case studies.

Among other ongoing projects, West is currently collaborating with researchers in the PUBP and CSCE programs to analyze the role of policy argumentation and discourse on the development of policy preferences and policy learning.

As this semester progresses, he will also continue his research with Rachael Moyer to expand upon a previous study of water policy perceptions among agro-ecological elites. By December, he will complete his capstone project and begin preparing for his qualifying exams.

Student Activism as a Vehicle for Change on College Campuses

Emerging Research and Opportunities



administration, and technology-based activism (IGI Global).

Although geared most specifically toward educators, professionals, researchers, academics, and students interested in current practices of activism at higher education institutions, the book is an insightful source for anyone interested in the relationships between students and college/university administration policy.

Want a Copy?

(Just click on the provider for a link to purchasing options)

[IGI Global](#)

[Amazon](#)



Azaliah Israel, Research and Conference Travels

Second-year student, Azaliah Israel, in addition to taking a summer course in her specialization area and preparing for her qualifying exams, received a number of travel and research grants to continue her studies and build valuable professional connections within the family policy community.

Israel was awarded a graduate assistantship in African and African American Studies (AAST) beginning this semester, which has allowed her to continue her research on the incorporation of multicultural perspectives and diversity-related content in elementary education. As part of this project, she will lead a 2-day pilot for elementary teachers to learn about pedagogical approaches that are grounded in multicultural perspectives.

Outside of her research, Israel was also awarded a travel grant by the AAST Program to attend the Sisters of the Academy Institute's (SOTA) summer conference as well as a grant to attend the biannual meeting of the Research Committee on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28) at Columbia University.

Created as a professional network ded-

icated to fostering the success of black women in the Academy (and the field of higher education more specifically), SOTA provided an opportunity for Israel to take part in exercises that required her to produce a "5-minute" dissertation pitch, to create her dissertation completion timeline, and to participate in various intensive writing workshops.

The RC28 Conference, on the other hand, allowed Israel to further explore her specialization topic as it relates to social inequality. Interested primarily in the intersectional experiences of low-income Black fathers in federally funded Responsible Fatherhood programs, the conference offered her a means to further hone her research focus on how Black fatherhood is socially constructed at the institutional and organizational levels, and how stereotypes of Black fatherhood are embedded in public policy discourse.

As the fall semester continues, Israel will be moving ever-closer to completing her degree, expecting to both take her qualifying exams and begin her dissertation process before the spring.

In Focus: Faculty-Student Collaboration



(From left to right: Dr. Brett Fitzgerald, Dr. Valerie Hunt-Whiteside, PUBBP student Melissa Taylor, and Dr. Brinck Kerr)

Melissa Taylor, Dr. Valerie Hunt-Whiteside, Dr. Brett Fitzgerald, & Dr. Brinck Kerr

Second year PUBP student, Melissa Taylor has joined Dr. Valerie Hunt-Whiteside and Dr. Brinck Kerr as well as Northeastern State University professor, Dr. Brett Fitzgerald, to analyze in-school and out-of-school factors that perpetuate or abate the school-to-prison pipeline.

As part of his 2015 dissertation for the UA PUBP program, Dr. Fitzgerald found evidence contrary to the current literature surrounding the presence of School Resource Officers (SRO).

Finding that rural Oklahoma schools referred students to the state's juvenile justice agency at *lower* rates than expected, Dr. Fitzgerald decided that further research in this area was needed.

As chair and member of Dr. Fitzgerald's dissertation committee, respectively, Dr. Kerr and Dr. Hunt-Whiteside have continued working with Dr. Fitz-

gerald on this project. Taylor joined the project in the fall of 2016 as a graduate research assistant.

Using Oklahoma SRO surveys, referral-specific material from the Oklahoma Department of Justice and the Oklahoma Juvenile Justice Agency, and data from the Oklahoma Department of Education, the new study will determine whether (and *which*) variables outside of the mere presence of an SRO contribute to the preservation of the school-to-prison pipeline.

The team theorizes that other community and school variables, such as community culture, community capital, SRO background and experience, and school-level policies, among others, may play an important role in limiting the pipeline.

As a tiered project, this research will take place over the course of several

years. The group hopes to gain a better understanding of the causes for this pipeline and its ability to persist over time. Through this means, the factors that contribute to the harsher disciplinary practices for minority and low-income students in particular (who are disproportionately excluded from learning through consequences that range from out-of-school suspension to expulsion to incarceration) can be determined.

SPARK News

**We need your
help!**

Our new SPARK officers have started the planning process for activities and programming for the fall and spring semesters.

To ensure SPARK creates programming and activities that are useful to PUBP students, a short Qualtrics survey has been created.

**Please fill out the
survey [HERE](#)**