It is that time of year to renew your PAA Membership! Be sure to renew to receive PAA updates, and continue PAA’s contribution to the MPA Community. For renewal, please check your email for the PAA Renewal Form.

Recap: Spring Networking Event

On March 20th, Pi Alpha Alpha hosted its annual Spring Networking Event. The event invites former MPA alumni to speak about their careers and how networking has played a role in their current personal lives and professional achievements. This year’s panel included: Matthew von der Hayden (MPA 2013), Hannah Klein (MPA 2013), and Alain Doroseau (MPA 2013). The panelists provided the members of the audience with insights into how the panelists obtained their current positions as well as tools they found useful for advancing their careers. Matthew, Hannah, and Alain stressed the crucial role that networking played in their job searches.

Following the panelists’ presentations, the members of the audience participated in a networking activity. They were divided into groups based on area of interest and were provided the opportunity to discuss their interests in a particular sector as well as how they can best pursue a potential career in that particular area. Dr. Wilson led a discussion concerning non-profit employment, Matt led the discussion about local government, Alain worked with those who are interested in the for-profit sector, and Hannah talked with those who are transitioning from an internship to full-time employment.

The PAA officers would like to thank the panelists—for their phenomenal job in providing the members of the audience with guidance and great advice—and all of those who attended the event for making it such a successful and worthwhile experience. A live recording of the video is available on the Pi Alpha Alpha Webpage:

http://vumslx.vuad.villanova.edu/Mediasite/

2014 Spring Networking Event Panelists

Matthew Von der Hayden (MPA’13)
Project Analyst for Atlantic County Utilities Authority

Hannah Klein (MPA’13)
Grant and Research Coordinator for the City of Philadelphia

Alain Doroseau (MPA’13)
Management Consultant for GAP International

2014-2015 Elections

Soon after the 2014-2015 Pi Alpha Alpha class is inducted on May 15, Fr. Jacobs will begin the election process for next year’s officers. All current members—both on campus and online members—are eligible to nominate qualified student candidates. In turn, those accepting nomination are required to write a brief paragraph of introduction, a brief discussion about why they are seeking office, and provide a couple of reasons identifying why PAA members should elect them to office. This information will be collated and emailed along with the nomination ballots, normally before June 1st.

Once the election ballot is finalized, it will be emailed to all current members, normally around June 15th.
PAA Member Interview: Dave Mrochko

Since its inception in 2010, five classes of MPA students have been inducted into Villanova’s Pi Alpha Alpha Chapter. To bridge the gap between alumni and students, the Chapter’s officers decided to include an interview in the PAA newsletter. Dave Mrochko—the Assistant Township Manager of Whitpain Township and one of the founding members of PAA—is featured in this edition.

**Question:** What is the most important thing you learned from your time at Villanova?

Without a doubt, Villanova’s focus on ethical public management is a core value that I carry with me and think about frequently as I carry out my duties. Students can receive an education in public administration from any number of schools, but one of the things that separates Villanova from the pack is its commitment to Augustinian values.

**Question:** What advice would you give current students going through the program?

I would encourage students to take some classes outside of their comfort zone. For example, if your focus is on local government management it might be good to take a class or two that focuses on non-profit management. I think there is both academic and professional value in being exposed to different perspectives.

**Question:** What is your favorite memory from the MPA program?

Some of my fondest memories come from the second semester of statistics. Although the assignments and tests were challenging, I really enjoyed working in study groups with other students. However, I would have to say a close runner-up to memories from stats would be when Father Jacobs deducted points from a paper in Organizational Theory because I used a split infinitive!

**Question:** How has the MPA program prepared you for your current position?

The MPA program has helped prepare me for my current position in enumerable ways. As I mentioned earlier, lessons learned in ethical public administration have played an important part in my career. The rigorous demands of the MPA programs research and writing requirements have also helped me tremendously in my day-to-day activities.

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Pi Alpha Alpha Graduating Class

The following current members of Pi Alpha Alpha will be graduating this year. We wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

- Allison Bittner
- Rebecca Geiser
- Matthew Gwin
- Matthew Harris
- Vincent Reitano
- Steve Rochette
- Kathleen Von Euw
- Evan Zaletel

Congratulations to all MPA graduates including those new PAA members who will be inducted on May 15!!!

Spring Induction Ceremony

The annual Pi Alpha Alpha Spring Induction ceremony will be held on May 15th at 5:00pm in the West Lounge of Dougherty. Following the induction, there will be a reception at 7:00pm at the Great American Pub in Wayne, PA. All inductees, alumni, friends and family are invited to attend the induction ceremony and reception. Inductees to the 2014-2015 class will be invited in May to join Pi Alpha Alpha if they meet all requirements.

Current members should email their RSVP to:

richard.jacobs@villanova.edu

We hope you all can come join us, and congratulate the newest class on their induction!

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Upcoming Event:
May 15th – PAA Induction
May 16th-17th – Commencement Weekend