

School of Public Policy and Administration

NEWSLETTER

December 2022 – Volume 10, Issue 30

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!!



Dear students, alumni, colleagues and SPPA partners:

After having served two terms as SPPA Director, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for making this role such a rewarding experience. I am also excited to announce that Professor Naomi Couto will start her term as the new School Director and Professor Ken Ogata will take on the role of Graduate Program Director on January 1, 2023.

I wish everyone success in all of your individual and collective endeavours as we continue to cultivate the SPPA community, rise to the new challenges and support a unique learning environment for our students through the exceptional dedication and engagement of all of our stakeholders.

Please note that the University and the SPPA Office will be closed as of Friday, December 23, 2022 and will re-open on Wednesday, January 4, 2023. The Winter 2023 academic term will commence on January 9th.

All the very best for the holidays and for the New Year!

Professor Alena Kimakova

2022 SPPA awards focus on the engagement and leadership of students and community partners



The annual School of Public Policy and Administration (SPPA) Student, Alumni and Community Recognition Awards ceremony took place in-person on Nov. 24. **John Riches (Deputy Chief, Operations for Durham Region, Paramedic Services, MPPAL Class of 2019)**, last year's recipient of the 2021 Foster-Greene Award for Excellence in Public Policy, Administration and Law, served as the 2022 Master of Ceremonies.

This year's event brought into focus the importance of leadership and resilience in the public service, while dealing with the still present and the aftereffects of the pandemic. **The keynote speaker of the event was Orelie Di Mavindi**, manager of the Legislation and Adjudication Policy unit under Canada Pension Plan - Disability Directorate at the Income Security and Social Development Branch of Employment and Social Development Canada, who spoke to **"Courage:**



The heart of transformational leadership" where she took the audience through her own courageous work to launch the Federal Court Centre for Access to Justice (CAJ) pilot project in 2020, in order to address needs from marginalized communities in accessing court services in a timely and meaningful manner.

Di Mavindi is a 2019 graduate of the Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law (MPPAL) program and was selected for the **Foster-Greene Award for Excellence in Public Policy, Administration and Law** in 2022 for her work and commitment

to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the public service. Her commitment to community and social justice, coupled with her continued support and advancement of the MPPAL program, has solidified her status as beyond exemplary and deserving of the Foster-Greene Award for 2022.

The School also recognized **Marc Rondeau**, Associate Deputy Minister of the Centre for Public Sector Labour Relations and Compensation (CPSLRC), with the **2022 Practicum Honouree Award**, for his commitment in providing practicum opportunities for our undergraduate students in public administration, and his dedication to helping students succeed in the public service.



2022 SPPA awards continued...



This year, two undergraduate students received the 2022 **Practicum Excellence Award**, signalling the excellence that both their placement supervisors and course instructors saw in their work and professionalism. We congratulate **BPA students, class of 2022, Rushell Dissanayake and Rean Pelayo!**

SPPA is proud to present **Udoka Achilike** with the inaugural **Lorne Foster Award in Public Policy**. Udoka joined our Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA) Specialized Honours program, Policy Analysis stream in Summer 2021 as a mature student with an engineering background from Lagos, Nigeria and a keen interest in public policy. The SPPA Awards Committee was impressed with Udoka's volunteer engagement with Advocacy



Peel. Service, social justice engagement and leadership are core values that we encourage in our students at the School of Public Policy and Administration. Udoka is currently completing a practicum placement with the Ontario Treasury Board Secretariat, Centre for Public Sector Labour Relations and Compensation, Policy and Fiscal Oversight Unit. **Many thanks to Professor Lorne Foster for his generosity** that made this award possible. Professor Foster holds the York Research Chair in Black Canadian Studies & Human Rights. He is the Director of the Institute for Social Research (ISR), which is the leading university-based survey research centre in Canada. He is a descendent of a Black indentured servant who is believed to have arrived in Accomack County, Virginia from Angola, Africa in the mid- 1600s.

The Undergraduate Student Award was presented to Roberto DiGiovanni, President of the Public Policy and Administration Student Association (PPASA) for 2021-22 and recent member on the Office of the University Registrar's Student Advisory Committee. DiGiovanni demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and commitment to service excellence both in SPPA and the York University community as a whole.



Paula Tablon Modica, is the recipient of the **Graduate Student Award** for her engagement and service to the Graduate Students' Association of Public Policy, Administration and Law (GSAPPAL). Tablon Modica was also invited to present her research paper at the Canadian Association of Programs in Public Administration (CAPPA) in Victoria B.C., in May 2022. She is currently a Policy Analyst at the Strategic Policy Division Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. Her ability to maintain engagement and her open leadership style was reflected on, in all her nomination letters.



2022 SPPA awards continued...



The **Best Major Research Paper Award** was presented to **Jennifer Holmes Weier** for her paper, [*“Bursting the Ottawa Bubble: Government dispersal and localization in the context of a diversity strategy.”*](#) which was completed under the supervision of **Professor Thomas Klassen**. Holmes Weier is an accomplished, value-driven non-profit executive who brings a diverse portfolio of strategy and leadership experiences gained navigating and influencing complex global charitable federations. In nominating her paper, Klassen wrote: “The central conclusion that decentralization of policy staff would not in and of itself increase diversity and inclusivity in the civil service is important and should inform the work of public administrators.”

Five outstanding MPPAL students, **Maggie de Barra, Gurkamal Dhahan, Gillian Wassmansdorf, Lauren**

Dranitsaris, and Arman Hamidian, proudly represented York, finishing tied for fourth among 14 other Policy & Administration Programs from across Canada at the **IPAC-CAPPA National Case Competition**. Their Coach, **Professor Zachary Spicer**, who could not be with us at the Awards presentation, had the **Graduate Program Director, Naomi Couto**, read his inspiring message to the team on his behalf. An excerpt reads: “They approached a complex policy problem in homelessness with compassion and presented innovative solutions that addressed the root administrative causes of the issue at hand but made great strides at also accounting for future challenges and policy consequences. Through the process, they demonstrated the clear strength of our program – policy making with heart, collaboration with humility and innovation throughout. I couldn’t be prouder of this team!”



The **Alumni Recognition Award** was given to **Asare Kester-Akrofi** (MPPAL 2020). Kester-Akrofi is currently Acting Manager, Program and Strategic Support to Deputy City Manager of Corporate Services, City of Toronto. Kester-Akrofi entered the public service only in 2015 after working in the private sector as a successful team lead with a strong track-record of customer service. These qualities and values are apparent in everything that he does. Balancing MPPAL studies with the supervision of a large number of staff and responsibility for major projects and modernization initiatives, he made it all possible. During the unfolding pandemic, he demonstrated leadership by re-focusing his work to provide administrative support to front-line workers and homeless shelters. At the same time, Kester-Akrofi has remained an excellent student in the MPPAL program with strong academic achievement and extensive volunteer engagement with our student and alumni associations. **He is also on the SPPA organizing committee for the Municipalities Symposium to be held on March 22, 2023.**

2022 SPPA awards continued...

SPPA Director, Professor Alena Kimakova, and John Riches presented **Kiersten Allore-Engel** (MPPAL 2020) with the **Emerging Leader Award**. Allore-Engel is the Manager of Community Safety and Well-being at the Region of Durham. She is a Registered Professional Planner with over 15 years of experience in policy development, project management and community engagement. Kiersten's nominator wrote: "Kiersten is an emerging leader who very much 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. She is extremely deserving of this recognition." She exemplifies all the pivotal qualities crucial to this Emerging Leader Award.



Upcoming Courses



SPPA Professor James Simeon is teaching the International Refugee Protection Regime II: Research Seminar course in the Winter 2023 Term

AP/PPAS 4112 3.0 M – Integrated with GS/PPAL 6040 3.0 M

This course considers and assesses specific reforms that have been offered to address the shortcomings and deficiencies of the present international refugee protection regime in order to advance the human rights of all those who seek asylum from persecution. In addition, students will conduct independent research on international asylum and refugee issues and concerns and will be offered an Experiential Education (EE), junior consultancy, opportunity with an organization working directly with refugees. **Past community partners have included:** YMCA; New Settlement Services; FCJ Refugee Centre; Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT); Sojourn House; COSTI, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI), and UNHCR. This course is also one of the pilot courses for the Globally Networked Learning (GNL) initiative at York University. It will provide students with an opportunity to meet and to work with students synchronously and asynchronously in two other countries. Students will have the opportunity to work together with other students from abroad and in the process acquire inter-cultural sensitivity skills and a facility to interact with others on international issues and concerns on a global basis.

For questions about the course, please contact Prof. Simeon at jcsimeon@yorku.ca



SPPA Professor Thomas Klassen is teaching a summer study abroad course in the Summer 2023 Term

GLBL 3581 - South Korea: The Politics of Youth and Old Age

The course is open to all undergraduate students at York University with an interest in Korea, and offers students an opportunity to become immersed in South Korean culture, while learning about the country's politics and policies. Students will participate in field trips within Seoul and take a trip to the demilitarized zone (DMZ) separating North and South Korea.

The course also provides students with the opportunity to interact with public administration students at Yonsei University, with which York University has a partnership agreement.

More details about the course are available at:

<https://www.yorku.ca/laps/study-abroad/summer-courses/glbl-3581/>

Summer Job Opportunities for Students

Eligibility: Please note that all students must apply online:

- Must be returning full-time to their program at their university/college following the completion of their work term or be full-time students requiring the work term or co-op placement to graduate;
- Must be eligible to work in Canada and must be able to meet our security clearance requirements.

Developmental Student – Engagement, South Bruce – Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Reporting to the Site Director – South Bruce, the Developmental Engagement Student will be responsible for organizing, supporting, and implementing initiatives geared specifically for local, regional, youth and community engagement. The Intern/student will assist in staffing the local Learn More Centre/NWMO Project Office as well as plan, prepare and participate in community events.

Developmental Student – Operational Safety – Nuclear Waste Management Organization

The student will be a self-motivated and organized student and will support the development of safety reports, with a particular focus on operational safety-related analyses. Responsibilities will include data manipulation, analysis of results, report writing and quality assurance activities.

Developmental Student – Engagement (Ignace) – Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Reporting to the Community Liaison Manager, the Developmental Engagement Student will be responsible for organizing, supporting and implementing initiatives geared specifically for local, regional, youth and community engagement. The student will assist in staffing the local Learn More Centre/NWMO Project Office as well as plan, prepare and participate in community events.

Developmental Student – Research and Engagement – Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Reporting to the Social Research Associate, the Developmental Student, Reporting and Engagement, will support the organization of the annual youth engagement report, researching youth engagement resources and initiatives, support local youth and other engagement activities in South Bruce and Ignace.

Developmental Student – Indigenous Engagement (SON) – Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Reporting to the Director, Indigenous Engagement, Site Engagement Associate and Sr. Engagement Advisor, the Developmental Engagement Student will be responsible for organizing, supporting and implementing initiatives geared specifically for Indigenous engagement. The student will assist in engagement as well as plan, prepare and participate in community events.

Technical Co-op Program – Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

As a co-op student you will be involved in activities such as participating on inspections, evaluations, audits and/or assessments, reviewing technical reports, licensee submissions and/or a variety of regulatory documents, conduct research and analysis of reports and participating in meetings with national and international stakeholders.

[Sr. Policy Advisor, International Relations - Ontario Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs, Cabinet Office](#)

As a Senior Policy Advisor, you will identify, research, analyze, and advise on international relations issues and events, Canadian foreign policy, and their potential impact on Ontario's international objectives in consultation with key stakeholders. You will also be responsible to liaise with ministries and stakeholders to determine and develop appropriate international policy objectives, responses, and programs and provide advice to senior government officials on international events, developments, trends and negotiations.

[Executive Director - Canadian Centre for Housing Rights](#)

The successful candidate will share the mission of CCHR, create and implement its strategic plan, and communicate its vision clearly and effectively to a wide range of audiences. The successful candidate will lead a national team of over 30 employees, creating a safe, equitable, and inclusive workplace while actively fostering diversity and leadership. The organization has five departments, Communications & Policy, Strategic Litigation, Client Services, Research, and Operations. The lead of each area reports to the Executive Director.

[Senior Policy Analyst - Infrastructure Canada](#)

Senior Policy Analysts will provide leadership within the team to support and participate in engagement and outreach activities across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, and support the team's operations in its main areas of activity, including engagement with local stakeholders and experts, as well as other levels of government on regional priorities for transit; building place-based insights into project priorities to inform federal funding decisions; delivering regional insights to the policy development process; and building linkages across Infrastructure Canada and other federal departments. Applicants should submit a cover letter and CV to carly.martin@infcc.gc.ca by **December 22, 2022**, with "INFC Opportunity" in the subject.

[Policy Advisor, Parks, Forestry and Recreation - City of Toronto](#)

Reporting to the Director, Parks Planning and Director, Capital Design and Delivery, the Policy & Project Advisor will effectively manage issues, policies, communication priorities and projects for the PFR Branches working collaboratively with all work units and the division. The advisor will be responsible for activities such as developing, reviewing and implementing internal communication and staff engagement plans including annualized communication plans, memos of direction, etc. and ensuring that all staff reports are appropriate and accurate before processed through to Committees of Council and the City.

[Senior Policy Advisor - Ontario Ministry of Long-Term Care](#)

The Senior Policy Advisor will play a role in designing and implementing integrated, person-centered policies and initiatives in the context of system-level planning through responsibilities such as undertaking all aspects of policy and program development and evaluation, developing a variety of policy, project management and communications materials that will inform senior decision making and creating materials and processes to support effective project management.

[Analyst, Municipal Law Enforcement Services - Town of Caledon](#)

Reporting directly to the Manager, Municipal Law Enforcement, this role is responsible for assigned projects through performing research, benchmarking, analyzing and making recommendations regarding Town By-laws, corporate Policy development and legislative requirements impacting the Town of Caledon. You will be responsible for providing By-law information and interpretations pursuant to municipal By-laws.



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[Policy Manager, Canada – Airbnb](#)

In this role, you will help to define policy goals and positions and implement them, working closely alongside other functional experts who support those goals through government relations, content, community engagement, partnerships, media relations and project management. This role will report to a Policy Lead by building trust and engaging with a variety of stakeholders, including local and state governments, academia, industry associations, the media, and community organizations, to help them understand our business and the contributions of our community in order to win hearts and minds in support of Airbnb’s growth and tourism as a whole.

[Public Policy Manager - Canadian Race Relations Foundation](#)

Working closely with and reporting to the Director of Public Policy, the Public Policy Manager will track emerging trends and issues in public policy in Canada and in other jurisdictions, develop public policy briefs, and provide advice and recommendations on policies affecting race relations in Canada. The Public Policy Manager will support the public policy department's work on researching and analyzing (innovative) policy solutions, specifically focused on eliminating systemic racism and discrimination; and combatting hate. The Manager will work closely with and support the Director of Public Policy, to successfully shape and deliver on the department’s business goals.

[Senior Data Methodologist - Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General](#)

As a Senior Data Methodologist, you will examine the impact of policy, legislative and external environmental changes, and design performance measurement frameworks and analytic plans for new and existing initiatives by applying a range of complex data science/machine learning/statistical science techniques to uncover patterns, trends and anomalies in large scale data. You will also apply advanced mathematical and statistical concepts and theories to query, manipulate and manage large data sets as well as automate processes to cleanse, integrate and evaluate large data sets from multiple disparate sources