

Public Administration Program *Newsletter*

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VSU offers both the Master of Public Administration and the Doctor of Public Administration Programs and both can be completed on-line. An outstanding faculty serve the Public Administration program. In addition to holding a terminal degree in their field, many of the faculty members have practical management experience in public and non-governmental organizations.

Application Deadlines

DPA: April 15 for Fall Admission

MPA: July 15 for Fall Admission, November 15 for Spring Admission, April 15 for Summer Admission

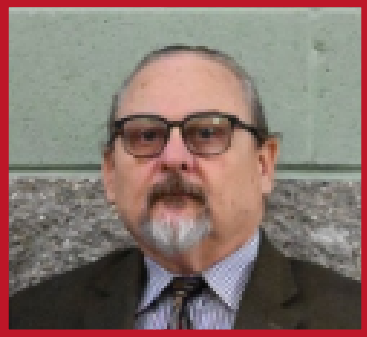
**To submit information to future newsletters,
Please click [here](#)**





Public Administration Faculty Highlights

Welcome New Faculty!!



Dr. Fred Knowles
New DPA Coordinator



Dr. Julie Lester
New MPA Coordinator



Dr. Huishan Yang
New Assistant Professor



Dr. Ju-Ying Yang
New Assistant Professor



Public Administration Faculty Highlights

Thank You!!

Dr. Keith Lee



Thank you Dr. Keith Lee for your good work leading our DPA and MPA Program over the past several years. Keith has been a tireless, passionate advocate for our students who has maintained the success of this program following Dr. Merwin's transition back to faculty a few years ago.



Public Administration Faculty Highlights



Dr. Minsun Song

Dr. Song published her latest publication, "[Collaboration risk, vulnerability, and resource sharing in disaster management networks](#)," in the Australian Journal of Public Administration.

Dr. Minsun Song recently published her article, "Local Social Capital: Revisiting the Measurement and Establishing Manageable Indicators," in Lex Localis: Journal of Local Self-Government. You can access the article [here](#)

Dr. Huiting Qi

Dr. Huiting Qi presented her research at the Conference of Minority Public Administrators 2024 in February.



Dr. Huiting Qi recently wrapped up her Blazer Summer Research Institute (BSRI) project where she mentored two students (Ben Elliott and Reagin Jones) on their study titled, "Volunteering of college students during crises: motivations, challenges, and solutions."



Public Administration Faculty Highlights

Dr. Zack Karazsia



Dr. Zack Karazsia recently completed MIT's inaugural Wargaming Lab. This program was extremely competitive, and Zack interacted with esteemed military leaders and prestigious faculty across the globe. You can learn more about this interesting program by visiting their [site](#)

Alumni Highlights



Dr. Patrice Kerner (DPA, 2023)

In spring 2024, Dr. Patrice Kerner was hired as an Adjunct Professor in the Master of Public Safety Program at University of Virginia where she is teaching Stewardship of Public Service and Human Resource Management. Dr.

Kerner continues to work full time at Georgia Southern University and is currently on loan to Columbus State University to provide guidance on process improvements within their Enrollment Management Division.

Dr. Patrice Kerner, has accepted the position of Tenured Track Assistant Professor in the School of Policy, Justice and Public Safety at Columbus State University starting the Fall 2024 semester

Dr. Bonnie Peterson (DPA, 2010)

Bonnie Peterson published her book, COVID-19, Public Management, and Survival of East European Democracies, co-authored with her husband and former head of the VSU Political Science Department, James W. Peterson, in April 2024. Here is a [link](#) to the book

COVID-19,
Public Management,
and Survival of
East European
Democracies



Alumni Highlights



Shaqwana Portalis **(MPA, 2022)**

Shaqwana Portalis has recently accepted a position as the first Transit Business Manager with the Fayetteville Area System of Transit.



Mykaeia Brown **(MPA, 2023)**

Mykaeia Brown began working for the Southern Georgia Regional Commission in July 2024 as a Planner.

Alumni Highlights



Sid Walker (MPA, 2022)



Sid Walker has recently transitioned from his role as Executive Assistant/County Planner for Lee County, GA, to Urban Planner for the [City of Americus](#).

Since this transition, Sid has accomplished:

- Creating the website for the [Americus-Sumter Land Bank Authority \(ASLBA\)](#) and collaborating with the Georgia Land Bank Authority (GALB) to ensure proper training and resource allocation for ASLBA.
- Drafting a handbook for refurbished the Planning Commission within the Americus Community Development Department
- Drafting a handbook on handling the surplus of blighted properties in the City of Americus
- Developed a 5 Point Interdepartmental Plan as a blueprint for the department's succession – pending mayor and council approval

In recognition of Sid's efforts, a column in the [Americus-Times Recorder](#) was written about him and nominated him for [Albany's Under 40](#) – an honor celebrating the region's emerging professionals who are successful in their professions and actively engaged in community strengthening.

Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) Scholar's Highlights



Daaiyah Salaam

Daaiyah Salaam has been named as a PA Times author for 2024.

Daaiyah's first [article](#) was published on February 26, 2024.

Daaiyah graduated from Emerge Georgia February 4, 2024. Emerge Georgia is an affiliate of Emerge America, dedicated to increasing the number of Democratic women leaders from diverse backgrounds in public office through recruitment, training, and providing a powerful network. To learn more about Emerge, visit

[here](#)

Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) Scholar's Highlights



Lucus Garcia-Myrick

Lucus Garcia-Myrick was elected as Secretary of the Georgia Community Action Association (GCAA).

Photo: Lucas giving opening remarks at the GCAA Annual Training and Technical Assistance Conference in Savannah, Georgia."

Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) Scholar's Highlights

Congratulations to our Spring 2024 DPA Graduates!!

Dr. Diana Marie Adams

A Place to Call Home: An Evaluation of Family Promise
of Brevard's Homeless Self-Sufficiency Program

Dr. Hanae Kanno, Human Services

Dr. Dominique Christina Brown-Nelson

Relationship Between Job Satisfaction and Turnover Intention
Among Nonprofit Employees

Dr. Hanae Kanno, Human Services

Master of Public Administration (MPA) Scholar's Highlights

Congratulations to our Spring 2024 MPA Graduates!!

EDWIN OBINA JOSEPH AMUNEKE

JENNELLE LYNN BAKER

DAVID BRETT BUCKRIDGE

KRISTY QUINN CLARK

MICHAEL DAVID CONGER

JESSICA CRUELL

MARCUS PAUL DOWNEY

SUHAYB HASONEH

INGA KIBROTSASHVILI

NIKOLAS FISHER LEE

KARLA MELENDEZ

LEOLA GLENICE SHARP

IMAGE HONOR STEWART

DUSTIN WAYNE STINNETT

DARBY JANINE THOMPSON

ESTEE WIDDERSHOVEN