



## Fall 2015

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Hi, alumni and friends. We are excited to share the second edition of the NKU MPA online newsletter with information about upcoming events and news about alumni, students and the program. Please take a few minutes to read it and forward it to other alumni and/or colleagues and friends who may be interested in the MPA degree.

Let us know if you have any info or ideas for this newsletter. We're hoping that it's a good way to keep alumni and friends informed and connected, along with Facebook, LinkedIn and other outlets.

Hope to see you at the MPA Fall Reception on October 22!

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## Transitions

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### **Farewell, Beth! Welcome, Missy!**

As many of you may know by now, Beth Devantier decided to retire from NKU, and her last day was August 31. We want to thank Beth again for her many years of service to the MPA program and NKU and to wish her the best in her "new life."

## Contact Us

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## Connect



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## [MPA Program in the News](#)

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Thankfully, Missy Gish has come onboard as the new MPA Coordinator, starting September 1. Missy has 10 years of experience at NKU, and she is already advising current and prospective students, doing classroom and campus visits, working on flyers and other materials, and organizing events. If you have an MPA-related question, feel free to contact Missy at [gishm@nku.edu](mailto:gishm@nku.edu) or (859) 572-5326.

## Upcoming Events

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### **Please join us at the MPA Fall Reception on October 22...**

This year's Fall Reception will take place on Thursday, October 22, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom.\* The guest speaker will be Bonnie Meyer, the first Director of LGBTQ Programs and Services at NKU, and she will address the successes, challenges and lessons learned in establishing such an office in a public organization. In addition, she'll discuss recent legal, political and social developments that have impacts and implications for leaders and managers operating in diverse public environments.



MPA students, alumni, and faculty are welcome to attend. Feel free to bring a colleague or friend who may be interested in the MPA degree. This event is FREE, but please RSVP to [gishm@nku.edu](mailto:gishm@nku.edu) or (859) 572-5326 so we have an idea of how much food to order.

\* The University Center is the building that houses the University Bookstore, not the Student Union with Starbuck's and food venues.

### **... and then Happy Hour at Hofbrauhaus!**

After the MPA Fall Reception, most MPA students will head to the second half of their classes (remember those days?). But some MPA alumni will gather at the Hofbrauhaus Newport to re-connect and socialize. Look for the group in outdoor beer garden, weather permitting. You're welcome to attend the happy hour even if you can't make it to the reception, and feel free to bring a colleague, friend, spouse or significant other.

## Alumni Happenings

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### **Greg Preece: New MPA alumni president**

Greg Preece (2012) has agreed to serve as president of the NKU MPA Alumni Association. Greg is taking over the role from James Flick (2010), who did a great job the past couple years. Many thanks to both of them!



For those of you who don't know Greg, he has 15 years of professional experience in the public sector, including as a city administrator and a firefighter, and he's a part-time instructor in the MPA program. Greg recently accepted the position of Assistant City Manager in Fairfield, Ohio, which you can [learn more about here](#).

### **MPA alumni co-author journal articles and book chapters**

During the past few years, MPA students have worked with faculty on research, and some of their work is (finally!) getting published. The academic publishing process can take 1 to 3 years – from submitting a manuscript to revising it (sometimes multiple times) to reviewing the proof. Here are highlights of recent successes:

Dr. Tom Lambert, James Catchen and Tori Vogelgesang's article in the *Journal of Economic Issues* examines the impacts of "urban sprawl" – or newer development beyond older city boundaries – on disaster relief assistance from the federal government. [Click here to read the article](#).

Dr. Julie Olberding and Jennifer Millisor published a chapter on [student philanthropy](#) at U.S. colleges and universities in a new book called *Learning with and from Students: Twenty Examples*.

Dr. Olberding and Whitney Hacker worked on a study of the [longer-term impacts of service learning on community partners](#), which will be published in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Nonprofit Education and Leadership*.

### **Alumni in the news**

[Don Martin](#) (1988) retires from local government.

[Jeniece Jones](#) (1996) takes over as Executive Director of Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME).

[Three MPA alums selected for Leadership Kentucky](#) – Kim Serra (1999), Chris Schutte (2008), and Drew Tilow (2011).

[Wade Williams](#) (2001) promoted to Senior VP at NKY Tri-Ed.

[Scott Smith](#) (2012) takes over as Police Chief in Ludlow (KY).

[David Plummer](#) (2012) hired as Village Administrator of Moscow (OH).

[David Solomon](#) (2013) promoted to Director of Operations at the JCC.

[Nick Coorey](#) (2014) hired as Director of Operations at Commonwealth Orthopaedic Centers.

[Michelle McMullen](#) (2015) becomes NKU's Director of Alumni Programs and Councils.

## In the Classroom

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### **MPA class takes student philanthropy in new direction**

For nearly 10 years, MPA classes have been involved with the Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project at NKU. Some classes have been given \$2,000 to \$4,000 to invest in nonprofit organizations, while others worked in partnership with Toyota or Citi to review grant applications from nonprofits and advise their charitable boards on grant making. This year, students in the Resource Acquisition and Management class (PAD 621) participated in [Fast Pitch](#), which has been called “a friendly Shark Tank for nonprofits.”

The MPA class worked with two local organizations, Charitable Words and Social Venture Partners, to be a part of the Fast Pitch event. Eight nonprofit organizations gave three-minute pitches to an audience at Memorial Hall in Over-the-Rhine on February 11. A total of \$30,000 was awarded that night, and the MPA students played a role in granting \$6,000 to Lawn Life, based on this pitch. [Click here to preview.](#)

## What's New at NKU?

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### **“Extreme Makeover”:** Founders Hall edition

Founders Hall – home of the MPA program for the past 10 years or so – is undergoing a major renovation. It began with construction of a [rooftop observatory](#) with eight permanent telescopes and a retractable roof.

The renovation is expected to be completed in two years, resulting in state-of-the-art classrooms and new offices, meeting rooms, and gathering spaces. Also, the “new” Founders Hall will be connected to the new [Health Innovations Center](#), which will be constructed during the same time.

In December 2015, all MPA faculty and staff will be moving to temporary offices in Landrum Academic Center during the renovation. Our email addresses and phone numbers should remain the same.

## Connect with us

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Don't forget to like us on [Facebook](#) and connect with us on [LinkedIn](#) to stay informed on what is happening with other alumni, the program and job opportunities!

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