Dear SPIA Students, Faculty and Staff:

Congratulations to all of our undergraduate, master's and doctoral students who just reached the graduation milestone in their lives. **This year, we had nearly 100 students graduate from a SPIA program.** Check out the SPIA Class of 2020.

The SPIA community is vast and generous, and we encourage graduates to stay in touch as engaged alumni. We are proud to welcome you all to the ranks of SPIA alumni (3,300 and growing). You can read about the various awards received by these students and our faculty and staff here.

I wish everyone a healthy and happy summer.

Sincerely,
Mehrzad Boroujerdi
Director, VT SPIA

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**Check out** this special tribute to 2020 SPIA undergraduates produced and performed by Professor Ralph Hall, Undergraduate Programs Director and Associate Professor, Urban Affairs and Planning (UAP).
Faculty & Student News

Director Mehrzad Boroujerdi took part in a forum organized by Middle East Report on rethinking US policy toward Iran.

Professor Ralph Buehler, UAP Program Chair, commented on bicycling during COVID-19.

Mary Beth Dunkenberger, Associate Director of the Institute for Policy and Governance, was quoted on a story about the Connection 2 Care program, an innovative collaborative project aimed to address the opioid crisis in the Roanoke Valley.

Professor Elizabeth Morton, Associate Professor of Practice, was quoted on a WAMU story on how iconic local establishments in Northern Virginia are impacted by the pandemic.

Professor Max Stephenson published three essays in April 2020:


Jaimie Edwards (CPAP), successfully defended her dissertation entitled “Over the river and through the woods: Examining the relationship between network structure, collaboration and geography.”


Graduating senior Marco W. Viola (PUA Major) was inducted to Phi Beta Kappa (the nation’s oldest and most widely known honor society), and also won the Patricia K. & John N. Edwards Urban Affairs and Planning Fellowship. Marco will return to SPIA in the fall as a graduate student in MURP.

Help Spread the Word!

SPIA is hosting virtual info sessions through June. If you know anyone who may be interested in the program, please let them know of the upcoming info sessions below:

- Urban Affairs & Planning: June 4th at 2 pm ET
- Center for Public Administration and Policy: June 18th at 2 pm ET
Program News

The following courses will be offered by SPIA during Summer Session II:

- GIA 6124: Topics in Security Studies: Experts, Information, and US Politics (Chad Levinson)
- PAPA 6324: Personnel Processes and their Policy Implications (Leisha LaRiviere)
- UAP 4754/5554: Land Use Law (Thomas Skuzinski)
- UAP 5184: Planning Administration (Christopher Lawrence)

Get Social with SPIA

WE'RE GROWING!

ONE YEAR SNAPSHOT: May '19 vs '20

Join VT SPIA's growing community online. Learn about faculty, student and campus news, while also staying connected to your colleagues.

Search "VTSPIA" on all platforms. On LinkedIn, be sure to list your affiliation as Virginia Tech School of Public and International Affairs to be linked to the SPIA-specific community.

SPIA’s social media footprint continues to expand. Consider joining us if you have not already done so. 😊