



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
VIRGINIA TECH.

## SPIA Community May Update

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,  
Mehrzaad Boroujerdi  
Director, VT SPIA



[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:

- "[NGOS and Humanitarian Assistance](#)," for Regina A. List, Helmut K. Anheier and Stefan Toepler (eds.), International Encyclopedia of Civil Society, 2nd ed. New York: Springer Publishing Company.
- "[Corporatism](#)," in Regina A. List, Helmut K. Anheier and Stefan Toepler (eds.), International Encyclopedia of Civil Society, 2nd ed. New York: Springer Publishing Company.
- "Pondering Grassroots Development Initiatives: Evidence from Haiti and Jamaica," Forum for Development Studies, 47(1), April 2020, pp. 49-66. With Laura Zanotti.

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

**Kathlyn J. Hopkins (CPAP)**, earned her doctorate with a dissertation entitled "Interagency Working Groups: Allegiances Across Agency Borders."

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.

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### 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:

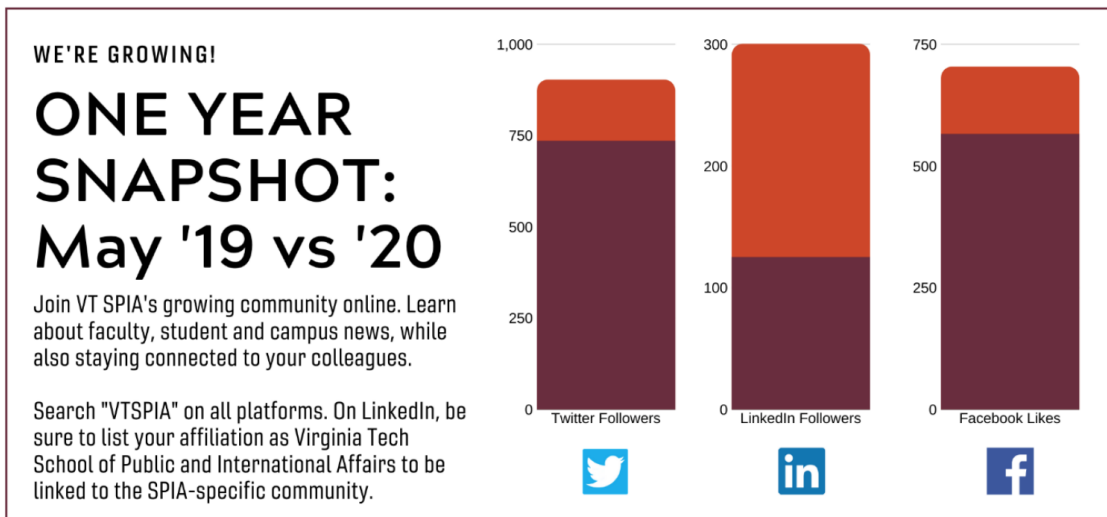
- **Urban Affairs & Planning:** [June 4th at 2 pm ET](#)
  - **Center for Public Administration and Policy:** [June 18th at 2 pm ET](#)
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## Program News

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



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

