



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
VIRGINIA TECH.

September 2021 Newsletter

Dear Students, Staff, and Faculty,

The first full month of the Fall semester went rather smoothly as students returned to campus after a long hiatus. We will stay vigilant as long as the pandemic continues, while also ensuring that we continue to offer a quality education. SPIA is hosting several virtual [information sessions](#) this semester, and we ask you to share the details with appropriate students.

I invite you to read this month's newsletter to learn more about various members of the SPIA community and their latest accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Mehrzad Boroujerdi
SPIA Director

Alumni and Student News

[Edgar Hollandsworth](#) (CPAP PhD Candidate) has started a new position as the DIA Chair at the Joint Forces Staff College, part of National Defense University, in Norfolk, VA.

Dr. [Raj K. GC](#) (PGG alumnus), Professor [Ralph Hall](#), and co-author **A. L. Hammett** [published](#) "Thinking beyond domestic water supply: approaches to advance multiple-use water systems (MUS) in the rural hills of Nepal," in *Water International*.

[Denis Teoman](#) (PhD candidate, PGG) presented a poster entitled "Public Transport for All? Migrants' Views on One of Europe's Top Public Transport Cities" at the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Equity [Conference](#) (Virtual) on September 13.

Faculty and Staff News

[Ariel Ahram](#) (GIA Professor) presented a paper on September 23 entitled “Comparative Styles of Proxy Warfare” at the conference Conflict Delegation and Proxy Wars in International Security, hosted virtually by the University of Reading (UK) and Höhere Kaderausbildung der Armee (Switzerland).

[Mehrzad Boroujerdi](#) (SPIA Director) was [interviewed](#) by WSLs 10 in Roanoke on the 9/11 anniversary and [quoted](#) in an article on the Taliban cabinet published by Sinclair Broadcast Group. The Turkish [translation](#) of his 2013 edited volume, [Mirror for the Muslim Prince: Islam and Theory of Statecraft](#), was recently published in Turkey.

[Ralph Buehler](#) (UAP Professor), PhD Candidate [Denis Teoman](#), and MURP student [Brian Shelton](#) co-authored a new peer-reviewed [paper](#) about bicycling in Washington, DC and Frankfurt, Germany. Buehler also collaborated with two large international research teams on two peer-reviewed international comparative papers on design standards for [walking](#) and [cycling](#). He also gave three invited presentations about his edited book [Cycling for Sustainable Cities](#) (MIT Press 2021) at the [London Cycling Campaign](#) in the UK, the University of Minnesota, and Georgetown University. Buehler served as an outside examiner on dissertation committees at Rutgers University and the University of Toronto, Canada. Finally, he was quoted about cycling on [Boston public radio](#) and [National Geographic](#) and about sustainable transportation by [Vox](#).

[Natalia Gutierrez-Smith](#) (SPIA’s Administrative Operations Coordinator) gave birth to **Evelyn Indigo Smith** on September 25. Congratulations to **Natalia** and her husband. **Natalia** will be on maternity leave until December.

[Karen Hult](#) (CPAP Professor) was [interviewed](#) about President **Biden**’s announcement about federal COVID-19 vaccination plan.

[Todd Schenk](#) (Associate Professor, UAP) is a co-PI on a new \$3 million National Science Foundation Research Traineeship (NRT) grant focused on Convergence at the Interfaces of Policy, Data Science, Environmental Science and Engineering to Combat the Spread of Antibiotic Resistance (CIP-CAR). The Science, Technology, and Engineering in Policy (STEP) program, which **Schenk** directs, is at the core of the CIP-CAR NRT’s curriculum. The NRT, which is being led by CEE professor **Amy Pruden**, involves a highly interdisciplinary team from Civil & Environmental Engineering, Agricultural Leadership & Community Education, Biological Systems Engineering, Computer Science, and Plant and Environmental Sciences, in addition to SPIA. Trainees—i.e., future researchers and other policy-influencers—will be equipped to address the wicked problem of antibiotic residence by employing new ways of thinking across traditional disciplinary and stakeholder silos as they advance truly convergent solutions.

[Gerard Toal](#) (GIA Professor) was quoted in [“Biden-Backed Aukus Deal Could Spell ‘Disaster’ for Climate Cooperation With China.”](#)

[Kris Wernstedt](#) (UAP Professor) and [Shalini Misra](#) (UAP Associate Professor), along with collaborators from Computer Science and Forest and Natural Resources, were awarded an NSF Strengthening American Infrastructure grant for their research entitled “SmarTrail: An Infrastructure Services Framework for Sustainable Trail Management.” This project will develop a fundamental understanding of the socio-technological world of Appalachian Trail hikers and resource managers to inform development of a cyber-based information system that supports sustainable trail infrastructure services.

Faculty Spotlight



Dr. **Sheryl Bailey** has nearly 30 years of experience in administration and finance as a senior executive in state and local government and the private sector, including gubernatorial cabinet and state authority director experience in Virginia, as well as extensive higher education experience. She currently serves as Visiting Professor of Practice and Adjunct Faculty in the School of Public and International Affairs at Virginia Tech and as Principal of Forward Strategies Consulting, LLC. Dr. **Bailey** has overseen enterprise-wide administrative services for complex statewide functions and consolidated county government and public school operations, including directing several landmark initiatives that transformed operations and significantly enhanced outcomes, efficiency, and effectiveness. She has a proven record of directing broad-based strategic planning as the foundation for substantial growth and operational advancement. Dr. **Bailey** also has leading-edge experience at the forefront of public policy initiatives with national, state, and local government and has presented a policy briefing on Capitol Hill on the federal tax policy of municipal securities and financing infrastructure.

Dr. **Bailey** has a state and local record of successfully leading financial turnarounds and enhancing performance. Her extensive finance experience also includes directing Virginia's municipal bond bank, overseeing \$2.6 billion in total bond transactions and funding for multiple, diverse state bond pools in just over four years, and directing a public finance division for a national municipal advisory firm as a licensed Series 50 Municipal Advisor. She has directed complex municipal debt and capital management programs and the financial policy and planning of several regional authorities and major jurisdictions, as well as overseen the development and financing of large economic development initiatives and public-private partnerships. Throughout her career, Dr. **Bailey** has successfully restructured numerous bond programs and debt portfolios, achieved multiple credit rating upgrades and enhancements, increased statutory authority for infrastructure options, and secured hundreds of millions in refunding savings.

Dr. **Bailey** formerly served on the Board of Directors of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, with approval by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. She has been active for many years in the International City/County Management Association and the Government Finance Officers Association and their state affiliates, having held leadership positions and served on several national and state task forces and committees. Dr. **Bailey** achieved her Bachelor's degree summa cum laude in Economics from Norfolk State University and her Master's and Doctorate degrees in Economics from Harvard University. She has served as a Visiting Economist at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and on the faculties of Harvard, Virginia Commonwealth, Old Dominion and Hampton Universities; the College of William and Mary; and Virginia Tech. Dr. **Bailey** has so far taught the following courses for SPIA:

- SPIA 5024: Introduction to Public and Nonprofit Financial Management
- SPIA 5544: Public and Nonprofit Financial Management
- SPIA 5674: Financial Health of Public and Nonprofit Organizations
- PAPA 5316: Government Administration (II): Systems Skills for Managers
- PAPA 6214: Public Policy Processes and Analytical Approaches
- PAPA 6314: Public Budgeting Processes and Their Policy Implications (team-taught)

Student Spotlight

Lauren K. McKeague is a PhD candidate in the Center for Public Administration and Policy (CPAP) in SPIA. Her research focuses on intergovernmental collaboration and networks, particularly in the applied areas of disaster management and drug control policy. Growing up in southern Florida, Lauren experienced firsthand the devastating effects of numerous tropical storms and hurricanes. This experience instilled in her the power of post-disaster community-building and the importance of community preparedness. Her dissertation is a mixed-methods study focusing on the role of embedded community-based networks during the COVID-19 pandemic and the potential for local networks to increase community disaster resilience. **Lauren** currently works as a graduate assistant in the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost and has previously taught courses in CPAP and the Department of Political Science.

Prior to pursuing a doctorate, **Lauren** worked in several capacities for the state of Florida, including as Executive Director of the Florida Gubernatorial Fellows Program in the Executive Office of the Governor, External Affairs Deputy at the Division of Emergency Management, and as a Fellow in the Governor's Office of Drug Control. She also spent a summer working in a native bird preserve for the New Zealand Department of Conservation. She holds an MPA from Florida State University and dual bachelor's degrees in political science and anthropology from the University of Florida. In her spare time, she enjoys outdoor adventures with her family and her smooth collie, **Tui**.



Worth Pondering

- [How The Rise Of Post-9/11 Defense Contracting Helped Reshape Local Neighborhoods](#)
- [Exhausted but Optimistic: a Portrait of This Year's Incoming Freshmen](#)
- [FBI: Killings soared nearly 30 percent in 2020](#)
- [Mapping America's hospitalization and vaccination divide](#)
- [Why America has 8.4 million unemployed when there are 10 million job openings](#)
- [Why nations that fail women fail](#)
- [Why San Francisco's city government is so dysfunctional](#)
- [The new economics of global cities](#)
- [Young People's Voices on Climate Anxiety, Government Betrayal and Moral Injury: A Global Phenomenon](#)

- [The China Initiative aims to stop economic espionage. Is targeting academics over grant fraud 'overkill'?](#)

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