



PA Newsletter

2020



MAY 2020

NEW UNIV. SENATE CHAIR

Dr. Craig Donovan, our program coordinator of public administration was elected as the university senate chair last May. Thank you for your service!

Big Congratulations!

FALL '20 & SPRING '21

GOING ONLINE CLASSES

Because of the COVID19, we switched to online classes after spring break in March. All MPA classes have been held virtually in Fall 2020 and again in the Spring.

<https://www.kean.edu/return-campus>

SEPTEMBER 2020

MOVE TO HYNES HALL

The College of Business and Public Management moved to our new building, Hynes Hall.

Check out the details on Hynes Hall here.

<https://www.kean.edu/hynes-hall>



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A MESSAGE FROM NEW SENATE CHAIR

This year has added another new wrinkle to my work here at Kean. This past May I was elected by the members of the University Senate to serve as Chair. This is one of the most important positions on campus as the Senate is the principal agency for the formulation of Kean University policy. The Senate and its committees communicate recommendations to the President on such matters as faculty affairs, curriculum, instruction, student affairs, finances and other matters relevant to the welfare of Kean University.

Already so far, we have begun looking at the future of our Learning Management System (now Blackboard) to see which will best meet our needs in the years to come. We are also looking at the recent changes to various programs around campus such as Art History and Economics; the University hiring process, and how we train and support out faculty and professional staff.



Congratulation! Dr. Donovan

CONGRATULATIONS! CLASS 2020

48 BA AND 34 MPA STUDENTS GRADUATED! THIS YEAR,

This year, 34 MPA students and 48 BA students (39 from Union campus & 9 students from Ocean campus) graduated. The commencement was held virtually in May 2020.

MPA CAPSTONE PROJECTS

SPRING 2020

- Engaging Community Through Art Initiative: Renovating Union Township Movie Theater (Amanda Galazzo, Chidi Ukaegbu, Adelano Adebó, Sadio Patterson, Bre'yanie Pearson, and Kusi Lescano)
- Examining the Incorporation of Diversity Values: Within Nonprofit Organizations in New Jersey (Ilesha Torres, Titilola Price, Sawab Shabazz, Patricia Oviatt, Deborah Rivera, and Cherisse Dew)
- Kean University Serving as a Partner to the Union County Office of Health Management in the Case of a Health Emergency Outbreak (Pankil Lal, Tavon Spearman, Sasmoya Hastings, Adriana Perez Negrete, Odunayo Otele, and Brian Volpe)
- The Human Papillomavirus and the Township of Union: Evidence-Based Analysis and HPV Toolkit (Kadeisha McClean, Darshan Bhatt, Luis Ulerio and Iheanyi Emenonye)

FALL2020

- Re-entry into the Workforce for Elderly Returning Citizens (Ursula Ascencio, Alexander Asinobi, Michael Crowley, Franklin Osuji, Tanya Gauthier)
- Global and Nationwide Benchmarks for Union County -Kean Covid-19 Consortium (Hamza Abuhassouna, Prince Adjei, Victoria Kayingo, Evelyn Mensah)
- The Impact of COVID-19 on New Jersey's Non-Essential Businesses: A Policy Analysis (Debbie-Ann Chin, Wonjun Han, Samantha Rodrigues, Immanuel Edobi)

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Ruthann Russo joined as a full-time lecturer this Fall 2020. She has been teaching healthcare administration courses for our MPA students and is serving as MPA Director. Faculty and students are glad to have her on board!

“You are studying public administration at one of the most opportune times in one of the most diverse and open-minded universities in the world. The US and the entire world are undergoing great transformation and your degree in public administration will prepare you to take that transformation to the next level in governmental, non-profit and healthcare organizations. We are here to support you, listen to you, and most of all guide you in creating a vision for how you will make a difference in the world using your Kean degree.”



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Dr. Moore retired this summer. At Kean, she served as MPA Director and taught both on the undergraduate and graduate levels. She has a Ph.D. from Rutgers University, specializing in Public Budgeting and Financial Management. She is a graduate of Shortwood Teachers College in Kingston, Jamaica, where she specialized in Secondary Education. Dr. Moore has long years of diversified administrative and technical experience working with school districts, municipalities, counties and private non-profit organizations. She has worked at the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Kean faculty, staff, and students in public administration appreciate her teaching and service. We will remember you, Dr. Moore!



“Congratulations to All MPA Graduates! You have run well, kept focused, and finished the race. I ask you to do two things as you enter a new phase (1) Knock on doors (2) Ask questions. I can guarantee many doors will open for you.” -Dr. Moore

PI ALPHA ALPHA - HIGHLIGHTS OF YEAR 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF PI ALPHA ALPHA, KEAN UNIVERSITY CHAPTER

We, the Executive Board of Pi Alpha Alpha’s Kean University Chapter, want to begin our update by acknowledging what an overwhelming, uncertain, and challenging year this has been. However, what has shone through as a silver lining during these times is the strength, solidarity, and resilience we see from people across the country. People largely respect social distancing guidelines and have been able to make things as normal as possible. We spoke out against police brutality and police-involved killings of black people and the broader racial inequities they face by the criminal justice system. And we turned out to vote in the Presidential Election with the highest numbers in 120 years - adapting our country's election systems to ensure accessibility and accountability, which has been the result of the election.

In the spirit of collaboration and learning how to work towards a better world, our chapter partnered with the Pi Alpha Alpha Chapter of Rutgers Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. Together, we organized four webinars about the challenges we all faced throughout the year. (This story continues on next page.)

Our first two webinars were related to job searching in a virtual job market and discussing how workplaces have changed after COVID-19. After the murder of George Floyd, we shifted the focus of our next two webinars to learning about anti-racism in public administration and problems of voting access for minorities. These conversations about addressing racism brought together scholars and thought leaders from the Brennan Center for Justice, New Jersey Policy Perspective, and from Rutgers University. These events attracted audiences of nearly 200 students and members of the public.

Our Chapter also revised its Induction Ceremony to be a virtual celebration, which included brief biographies about each Inductee and congratulations from Kean Faculty. The administration of this Virtual Induction Ceremony reflects the superb teamwork exhibited by our Chapter.

We are proud that we were able to provide timely and useful information to members of both chapters. We are thankful for the partnership of the Bloustein Chapter and are proud of another successful year. And we are proud to have successfully and efficiently adapted to meet these socially distanced circumstances. As we close out this year, we come together in hope of a new year of promise and progress. We do this in unity, together as students, fellow members, and colleagues. We are stronger together. Thank you all. Be well, you and your loved ones. Have happy and safe holidays and a new year!

<i>New Inductees 2020</i>			
Bridgette Martinez	James Brennan	Michael Crowley	Adelano Abedo
Samantha Rodriguez	Yolanda Mcleod	Bre-yanie Pearson	Deborah Rivera
Shontell McQueen	Iesha Torres	Maureen Lawshee	Heather Sloan
Tavon Spearman	Iesha Torres	Sawab Shabazz	Nicole Tiozon
James Brennan	Patricia Oviatt	Shaniqua Johnson	JulianaKorateng
	Kadeisha McClean	Josseani San Lucas	Victoria Kayingo

KEAN MPA STUDENTS RECEIVED 2020 ASPA CONFERENCE CAPSTONE PANEL AWARD!

CONGRATUATIONS! DR. JEONG AND MPA STUDENTS!

Kean's MPA Capstone Project team was one of the five awardees for the 2020 American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Conference's Capstone Panel Awards. ASPA's Capstone Panel showcases how schools of public administration effectively integrate theory and practice through the capstone pedagogy.

Although the actual panel session gathering did not happen due to the COVID-19, the team's research findings/contributions were shared and commended by the ASPA's Capstone Panel Committee.

PROJECT: "SIGNIFICANCE OF ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES OF STUDENTS IN NEW JERSEY"

Fall 2019 Kean MPA Capstone Team: Shanice Pierre, Greta Latvyte, Celeste Tugman, Trever Carpenter, and Milena Angela Ramos; Faculty advisor: Dr. Bok Jeong

INTERNSHIP HIGHLIGHT

PANKIL LAL, MPA CANDIDATE - NEW JERSEY HUDSON COUNTY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDERS

In July 2020, I started an internship with the New Jersey Hudson County Office of the Public Defenders, which ended in September 2020. I had a zoom interview with Sarah Seelig Walsh who is the First Assistant Deputy Public Defender. During the interview, Sarah mentioned that due to COVID-19 they were unable to let me do the internship in person, but they did offer me the option to work remotely from home and I accepted their offer. The first assignment was creating an excel spreadsheet that provided information on police officers that were convicted of criminal offenses throughout the cities in Hudson County. I used what I learned in Public Budgeting and Managing Information Systems (MIS) to create an excel spreadsheet recording the officers and their convictions. I submitted my spreadsheet to Sarah Seelig Walsh who informed me that the spreadsheets will be used by the Public Defenders and saved within their records.



Half-way through the internship I was assigned a new project to work on from home. The new project they issued me was a research assignment they wanted to work on for a while, but their staff did not have the time that was necessary to research the topic. I researched why the African American prison population in New Jersey is one of the highest in the nation and what caused their incarceration. I gathered research from multiple websites, created a peer-reviewed article and titled it "*New Jersey's African American Prison Population.*" My research assignment was submitted to Sarah Seelig Walsh, who then informed me that my research was terrific and it would be made available statewide. She mentioned that the NJOPD will keep my study on file for researchers, attorneys, and investigators that would like to reach out to me for future assistance on this matter.

In September 2020 I completed my internship. It was difficult for me to find an internship that would be approved for me to complete my master's program during this pandemic. However, with the counseling and guidance of Dr. Ruthann Russo, who walked me through my internship and assisted me in every way possible, I was able to complete the final requirement needed and still graduate with a Master's Degree in Public Administration.



NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

TANYA GAUTHIER, MPA CANDIDATE - TBINCREDIBLE

The year 2020 has been full of unexpected challenges, unpredictable changes, and unprecedented chaos. Like many, I enjoyed binge watching *The Office*, learned how to be a barista, and successfully make sourdough. However, the desire to do something with real meaning and impact kept gurgling up. After thinking about it for some time, I decided to create a nonprofit for brain injury survivors. According to Gandhi, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others". As a survivor of traumatic brain injury, I understand the importance of bringing awareness to the issue. I also realize the significance of giving back to the brain injury community. Like Gandhi's words of wisdom, I sought to reclaim myself in service of others.

As a pillar of hope through the pandemic, my nonprofit, TBIncredible was created on August 25, 2020. TBIncredible provides free recreational therapy through therapeutic photography. TBIncredible is a play on words from Traumatic Brain Injury and To Be Incredible. Because, down to the bone, all brain injury survivors are incredible!

TBIncredible provides a serene space to showcase the talents of amateur photographers who survived a traumatic brain injury or sustained other brain injury and are living with its effects. We create a no-stress, positive environment full of affirmation to reinforce self-esteem and increase confidence in one's own abilities. The sense of accomplishment and community support provide the essential elements to combat depression and reduce anxiety. TBIncredible is partially online. That's where photographers can post their photos and a short synopsis of how the photo makes them feel or a message of hope and encouragement to share with others. We also provide free photography workshops. Our goal is to help brain injury survivors become more resilient while strengthening their resolve to live and enjoy a fulfilling life through therapeutic photography.

On Saturday, November 7, 2020, TBIncredible hosted the first Fall Photography Workshop in Roosevelt Park, Edison, NJ. Fifteen members spent the day experiencing nature through the lenses. The exciting day started with a photography class lead by a certified professional photographer, then participants embarked on an adventurous picture scavenger hunt. This upcoming January, the Virtual Winter Photography Workshop is expected to take place.

Service of others can be considered as an ingrained philosophy of strong public administrators. Kean University's MPA program embodies this viewpoint through its teachings and guidance. Knowledge gained from comprehending business structure to the fundamentals of grant writing, all helped to construct the foundation of TBIncredible. Principals of strategy and adaptability also helped lay its cornerstones. Leaders of character are shaped by difficult circumstances. Losing yourself in the service of others not only bridges the gap between people, but heals the human soul. Wherever your passion lies, Kean University provides the tools to pursue and conquer it. During this pandemic, not only was I excited to see Michael Scott at Dwight's wedding, but I was able to bring together people with brain injuries and provide support needed through their recovery.



INTERNSHIP HIGHLIGHT

ALEXANDER ASHINOBI, MPA CANDIDATE

- ASA SOCIAL FUND FOR HIDDEN PEOPLES

Throughout most of my career as a sales representative, I have always been looking for new sales opportunities and the ability to grow and increase market share for the organization I was employed with. I was assigned an internship with a very important nonprofit organization called the ASA Social Fund for the Hidden Peoples, which I am very happy to be a part of. With that being said, in my opinion, in many ways, there is a correlation between sales and non-profit organizations. I believe this simply because, in both situations, you are contributing to the welfare of others. As a member of a firm's salesforce, I was a vital element in the firm's effort to market goods and services for profitability. In many ways, the volunteers and interns are a vital part of the success of a non-profit organization. They volunteer their time and help to contribute to the organization's success and sustainability. Through this internship, assisted ASA Social Fund's projects with some new ideas and concepts on how the organization can continue to grow and be successful for many years to come.

KEAN RESEARCH DAYS 2020

PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

- Inventing New Jersey Reentry Consortium: Certified Credit Model for Employment Competency, Faculty Research Seminar - Dr. Bok Gyo Jeong Dr. Kihwan Kim, Dr. Patrick McManimon, Dr. Deborah Mohammed-Spigner, and Mr. Leonard Grayson
- Experiential Philanthropy in the University Class - Learning by Giving - Student Oral Presentation - Deborah Rivera, Amanda Galazzo, Iesha Torres
- The Harmful Effects of Tobacco (Nicotine) on Young Adults in the U.S. - Hamza Abuhassouna
- Relationship of Financial Performance and Accountability of Nonprofit organizations: Focused on Human service Nonprofits in New Jersey - Omoshalewa Akanmu
- Special Improvement District in a College Town - M. Banner, D. Linares, G. Liriano, S. Parveen
- The Human Papillomavirus and Union County: Evidence-Based Analysis and HPV Toolkit - Darshan Bhatt, Kadeisha McClean, Luis Ulerio, and Iheanyichi Emnonye
- Effects of Mandatory Sex Education on STI Rates- Wonjun Han
- The Impact of The Universal Primary Education Program in Uganda - Victoria G. Kayingo
- How Can Kean University Serve as a Partner to Union County Office of Health Management in Case of a Health Emergency Outbreak? - Pankil Lal, Tavon Spearman, Sasmoya Hastings, Adriana Perez Negrete, Odunayo Otel, and Brian Volpe
- Addressing Pandemic Infectious Diseases: A Global Collaborative Public Policy Response - Kadeisha S. McClean
- Maternity Leave and Childcare Benefits in the Workplace - Paige O'Brien
- Gender Disparity in the Prevalence of Severe Depression Among American Adults Aged 18-95 years - Odunayo Otel
- Examining the Incorporation of Diversity Values within Nonprofit Organization in New Jersey - Titilola Price, Iesha Torres, Patricia Oviatt, Deborah Rivera, Cherisse Dew, Sawab Shabazz
- Women's Representation in New Jersey County Governments - Tavon A. Spearman
- The Effects of Single-Room Occupancy Housing on Closing the Housing Gap for Low-income Individuals in Camden, NJ -Luis Ulerio
- The Effects of Gender and Education Level on Nonprofits' Volunteer Recruitment - Megan Winnicker and Jessie Coronel

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATIONS

- "Experiential Philanthropy in the University Class - Learning by Giving" (Yun, J., Jeong, B., Galazzo, A., MPA)- NCoPA conference Nov. 2020
- "Nonprofit Organizations and Social Equity: Evidence from New Jersey Nonprofits' Managerial Practices" (Jeong, B., Spigner, D. & Yun, J. with Iesha Torres, MPA) - NCoPA conference Nov. 2020
- "Covid-19 and Transnational Actors: Concepts, Methodology and Policy Implications," A Lightning Research Roundtable Panel - ARNOVA's Annual Conference, (virtual). Nov. 2020. (Jeong, B. was organizer, moderator, and panelist).
- "Nonprofit Higher Education in East Asia," ARNOVA's Annual Conference, (virtual) Nov. 2020. (Jeong, B. co-authored with Sung-ju Kim, Roseanne Mirabella, Aya Okada, Yu Ishida, Helen Liu, Qihai Cai, Li Yang).
- "Civil Society Response to COVID-19 Pandemic: A Comparative Study of China, Japan, and South Korea," The European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), Virtual General Conference 2020, August 24, 2020 (Jeong, co-authored with Qihai Cai, Aya Okada, and Sung-Ju Kim).
- "Stakeholder Environment and Accountability of South Korean NPOs," Nonprofit Research Colloquium (online presentation), The Center on Philanthropy, Beautiful Foundation, South Korea, February 28, 2020. (Dr. Jeong's invited special lecture)
- "A Work-Life Programs and the Intersectionality of Gender and Race: Evidence from OPM's 2018 Federal Work-life Survey" (Yun, J, Viswanath, S. & Mullins, L.) - Public Administration Review Symposium on "Beyond Representative Bureaucracy: Race, Gender, and Social Equity in Governance" (Virtual) September 2020.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

PUBLICATIONS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

- Yun, J., Hamidullah, M. & McDougle, L. (2020). An Analysis of Gender Differences in Public Administration Doctoral Dissertation Research. *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, 26(1), 73-95.
- Mierzwa, S., RamaRao, S., Jeong, B & Yun, J (2020). Proposal for the Development and Addition of a Cybersecurity Assessment Section into Global Public Health Involving Technology, *International Journal of Cybersecurity Intelligence & Cyber Crime*.
- Faculty Seed Grant: Fall2020, "Cybersecurity Risk Assessment in Nonprofit and Nongovernmental Organizations under the COVID19 Crisis" - Dr. Claire Yun, Dr. Bok Jeong and Stanley Mierzwa (Managing Director of the Center for Cybersecurity at Kean)
- Untenured Faculty Research Initiatives: AY2020-21, "Women's Representation in Local governments: Evidences from Financial Disclosure Statements in New Jersey" - Dr. Claire Yun
- Dr. Yun started to serve as the Board of Advisor of the ASPA Section on Personnel Administration and Labor Relations (SPALR), starting from May 2020.

KEAN WELLNESS WEEK PRESENTATION

DR. RUTHANN RUSSO AND MPA STUDENTS PARTICIPATED

Akeela Whittington, MPA student and Dr. Ruthann Russo presented to the Kean University community during Kean's Wellness Week on December 3, 2020. Attendees at the session learned how to practice awareness and positive emotions to improve their health and wellness. They also learned about the research and benefits of practicing gratitude, awe and joy. Student Health Center staff Alice Colalillo and Tibian Hassan moderated the video which is available for viewing here: <https://vimeo.com/488565015>



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

PUBLICATIONS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

- Jeong, B. & Compion, S. (Accepted, forthcoming). "Characteristics of women's leadership in African social enterprises: The Heartfelt Project, Bright Kids Uganda, and Chikumbuso," *Social Entrepreneurship in Africa, Emerald Emerging Markets Case Studies*.
- Racki, E. & Jeong, B. (2020). "The Effect of Public Library Programs on Health Services Utilization: A Health Literacy Perspective," *Journal of Health and Human Services Administration*, Vol 43 (2).
- Porter, C. & Jeong, B. (2020). "Community Educational Attainments and their Effect on Local Government Recycling Collection Practices," *International Journal of Policy Studies*, Vol 11(1). pp. 63-87.
- Compion, S., Jeong, B., Cnaan, R., and Meijs, L. (2020), "Mobilising Episodic Volunteers for Mandela Day," *Voluntary Sector Review*.
- Dr. Jeong started to serve as the President of the Section on Nonprofit of American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), starting from March 2020.
- Dr. Jeong organized the Nonprofit Regional Scholars Meeting virtually hosted by Kean University on December 15th, 2020. The Nonprofit Regional Scholars Meeting brings scholars and practitioners who research nonprofit management, civil society, and community development.
- Dr. Jeong, as the representative of the Global Issues and Transnational Actors (GITA) Group of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA), organized and moderated 2020 GITA/ARNOVA Special Webinar Series: COVID-19 and Civil Society (Four sessions were held focused on respective continents, Asia (June), Africa (July), Americas (August), and Europe (October).