MPA Alumni are scattered around the world in responsible positions, making a difference daily in the lives of their fellow citizens. If you would like to contribute a short article for the newsletter detailing what you feel are your major accomplishments, please contact the MPA office. Our graduates form a who’s who in the fields of city management; local, state, and federal government; museum administration; aviation management; non-profit administration; and private industry. We would like to hear from you. Please drop us a note at POLS, Mailcode 4501, SIUC, Carbondale, IL 62901, call (618) 453-3177 or email mpaprog@siu.edu. Please let us know if your contact information changes or if you have employment changes or promotions. We would also appreciate any information that you would like to pass along regarding employment or internship opportunities.

Greetings from the Director’s office! The past year in the MPA program can be characterized by a high degree of enthusiasm and significant progress. One of the biggest changes is my transition to the role of MPA Director. It is my pleasure to serve in this role. Dr. Stewart served as director for the past three years, and deserves a great deal of thanks for her hard work. She has certainly helped build the foundation to carry the MPA program forward.

In addition to introducing a new Director, we have also reimagined the MPA Advisory Board. The Advisory Board consists of practitioners from a wide range of professions, and the MPA program looks to the members for guidance and assistance in helping us achieve our public service mission. At the fall Advisory Board meeting we introduced over a dozen new members, all of whom offered valuable suggestions and advice. I am certain the MPA program will be able enhanced by collaborating with these members, both new and returning, as we continue to build our vision for the 21st century.

This year the MPA program welcomes an incoming class of 10 bright, energetic new students with a wide range of interests. Not only have these students excelled in the classroom, but they have also displayed an eagerness to engage in public service that is second to none. The current students on campus also continue to thrive academically and professionally. One of our MPA students, Kara Lawrence, has secured the prestigious Celia M. Howard Fellowship designed to introduce students to careers in government and public service. Two others serve the southern Illinois region through their internships: Eric Secrist serves as an intern with the City of Carbondale and Margaret McKenzie is completing her internship with Jackson County. These few examples serve as indicators for the significance of all our students. In addition to these valuable experiences, the MPA program continues to place students in a wide variety of internships to integrate students into public service.

I would also like to report that I believe the program has achieved an important level of stability for moving forward. Two faculty members, myself and Stephanie Pink-Harper, were awarded tenure and promotion in the past year. This means the MPA program is staffed with 5 tenured faculty members, which provides a very sound foundation for advancing the program. Moreover, this will help the MPA program maintain continued accredited status with the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. This is an important achievement, and serves to provide the MPA program with a valuable national reputation.

In a final comment, I would like to say I look forward to serving as the Director of the S.I.U. MPA Program. In my view this program has the foundations upon which we can collectively build a top tier MPA program. High quality students, a great alumni base, and valuable professional advice serve as necessary building blocks for nationally recognized programs. We have those building blocks, and we will continue to forge ties to strengthen that base further. Undoubtedly, our program will continue to thrive.

Want to reconnect?

Join us on Facebook at: http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=40272170747
Retired MPA Professor, Dr. Keith Snavely passed away on November 18th, 2016. Professor Snavely joined the faculty in 1984 and retired from SIU in 2010. Keith was my colleague and good friend from the time he joined the MPA faculty till he passed away.

Keith was a productive scholar throughout his academic career. His primary areas of scholarship were the role of the nonprofit sector in the delivery of social services, the development of civil society organizations both in the U.S. and in the former Soviet Union, and the intersection of the third sector and government. He studied differing models of relationships between the nonprofit sector and government in the U.S., the role and development of civil society organizations in Russia and in Bulgaria and institutional capacity development in post-soviet and developing countries. His work was published in highly ranked journals in the public administration and nonprofit fields.

Keith was committed to applying scholarly knowledge to real world issues and policies. He was actively engaged in consulting and training projects. For several years he was engaged in public management training programs for local and state officials, including mayors and governors in Bulgaria. He was also involved in multi-year training and consultancy projects designed to build institutional capacities of government and higher education organizations in Russia. Much of this work was funded by national and international agencies.

Keith’s students thought the world of him, as a professor and a mentor, but also as a caring and kind person. An example of his students’ high personal regard for Keith was their first organized participation in an annual walk on campus to raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, starting in 2009, in recognition of Keith’s advancing MS. This became a tradition that continues to date. He was a superb and dedicated teacher. Keith devoted much time and energy to his teaching, always keeping up to date on both the latest scholarly developments and real world policies and issues in the field. He had a knack for relating the two. Many of Keith’s students kept in touch with him, often decades after they had graduated from the MPA program and were already senior administrators and managers in government and nonprofit organizations.

Professor Snavely was Director of the MPA program for ten years, from 1995 till 2005. He was a highly effective academic administrator. Under his leadership the MPA program continued its tradition of excellence in training future leaders and managers for public service both here at home and internationally. Keith also formalized alumni engagement with the MPA program by creating an advisory board with largely alumni membership. Their active engagement continues to date, thanks to Keith’s initiative.

On a personal note, I worked very closely with Keith for over 15 years before I left the MPA program in 2007 for the University of New Mexico. Keith and I published a number of scholarly journal articles together during that time. We also co-directed training and consultancy projects in Russia, Bulgaria and the U.S. We travelled and worked together extensively in many countries in Europe and the former Soviet Union. In the last two years before I left SIU, Keith’s office was just a few doors down from mine. We had a ritual of having a cup of tea couple of times a week in Keith’s office. For an hour or so, we talked about many things, both professional and personal. Several research projects and resulting publications were born of these conversations over tea in Keith’s office.
I was privileged to get to know Keith well over his time in Carbondale. After I left, I saw him about once a year during visits to Carbondale. We would have lunch or a long afternoon coffee and long talks. Keith was always engaged with the contemporary public policy challenges and the role that we, as public administration scholars, had in informing the conversations about them. After one of these visits about a year before he passed away, I received a long email from him. He had been in the hospital during my visit with him, and in his email he regretted that we had not had our usual long chat over lunch or coffee. He then proceeded, in the next page and a half, to outline a revised model of nonprofit-government intersection, asking me to consider fully developing it and publishing it as a revised version of our earlier published model. Keith was an engaged scholar till the very end.

Prof. Snavely was an excellent scholar, extraordinary teacher and a wonderful person. He will be sorely missed by all who know him.

Uday Desai
Professor
School of Public Administration
University of New Mexico

Recent Alumni News: Elizabeth Moore

After obtaining my Bachelor’s Degree in Health Care Management, I immediately enrolled in the MPA program in the fall of 2014. My professional goals slightly differed from the majority of my classmates as I was focused on the field of healthcare, but the courses provided broadened my perspective on subjects in ways I did not expect. I not only gained essential technical skills through courses such as Budgeting and Finance, but also a new sense of thinking about today’s issues as thoroughly discussed in classes such as Ethics and Public Management, among others.

Following graduation, I soon secured employment as Administrative Manager with Queen of Peace Center in Saint Louis, MO. Queen of Peace Center is a nonprofit, family-centered behavioral healthcare provider serving women, children and their families. I am responsible for ensuring accuracy in accounts payable, ordering and maintaining inventories, supporting new employees through the hiring process, preparing various documents and presentations, and establishing and preserving accurate files and records for efficient operations. Courses in the MPA curriculum have alluded to each of these areas of accountability I consistently face.

The realm of nonprofit organizations never rests, and without the skills and knowledge learned in the MPA program, I would drastically fall behind. The coursework has truly touched on several of the issues I experience on a daily basis in my workplace and guides me to act with a servant mindset. I am confident the skills learned in the program have allowed me to thrive in my current role and will continue to help me succeed in the future.
Franchesca Alejo: Southern Illinois University is a special place. I served as a Saluki Ambassador and regularly told parents on tours that very few universities are able to bring together individuals from completely different upbringings, experiences, and interests and have them collaborate so fully and openly. These organic interactions in the classroom, at social gatherings, and even in chance encounters are highlighted by SIU’s staff and faculty who all have a genuine desire to see students achieve their goals.

I’ve grown more here than I have in any other place in my life because I came to Carbondale when I was eighteen. Even with the challenge of maturing and finding out what kind of adult I wanted to be, I’ve had help in making every second of my time here count. At SIU I was able to graduate with my bachelors in Aviation Management in two and a half years. I was also an Honor’s College student, volunteered heavily with a local non-profit, learned how to play lacrosse and had an internship at Veteran’s Airport of Southern Illinois. I owe a lot of my achievements to my awesome parents and some of the special people in Carbondale.

Knowing I always wanted to pursue a master’s degree, I naturally applied to SIU’s program after graduation. I can say that being a student in the Masters of Public Administration Program has been a wonderful experience and that my time here has further confirmed my previous assertions. I’ve always valued the pursuit of knowledge and I feel like I’m surrounded by people who feel the same. We are all striving to be the best public administrators and professionals we can be. That unifying motivation, alone, has lead to unbelievably inspiring collaborations in the classroom.

The MPA program has also prepared me with unique skills and knowledge that I know will help me launch the kind of career I hope to have as an aviation consultant. Skills like data analysis, forecast projections, aviation regulation familiarity, and an overall level of professionalism are going to be invaluable in my career.

Recent Alumni News: Todd Dugan

I completed my B.S. in Aviation Management in December 2014 and was fortunate enough to get a GA position with the Department of Aviation Management and Flight as the Enrollment Manager. I was blessed to be able to get my MPA at my Alma Mater.

Getting my MPA from SIU was one of the best decisions that I have made. I loved how the classes had projects that felt like projects that you would do in the work force (I have already done similar projects).

Upon graduating, I was fortunate enough to find the Airport Manager opening at Pekin Municipal Airport, which is only 20 minutes from where I grew up. I never expected to be able to get an Airport Manager job straight out of school. But with the help of Gary Shafer and the rest of the MPA staff I was able to make this my reality. Life as the Airport Manager at a small municipal airport is always busy, as there is no support staff. Not only do I get to do all of the budgetary work, but I also mow the 60 acres of grass and clean the bathrooms. This job is giving me a chance to dive head first into the industry and learn what makes an airport go. Being a one man shop will allow me to be that much better as a manager in the future. I look forward to my future and will continue to be grateful for everything SIU has given me!
Kara Lawrence: As an English as Second Language Lecturer here at SIU for over ten years, I always walked past the M.P.A. hallway and wondered what it was about. When I was an undergraduate, I majored in Psychology and had a minor in Political Science. Although, I pursued and completed a master’s degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages after my bachelor’s degree, my real passion and research interests have always been in political science and specifically on international governance and developing countries. The M.P.A. program has been a practical step for me to develop this desire to help into a more concrete possibility to be involved in an area that can change the quality of life for many people in developing countries. Through my position as Celia M. Howard Fellow at the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute for the 2017-2018 academic year, I am writing about water issues, policies, and governance by researching access to clean water and sanitation.

Paul Simon was an extraordinary statesman and leader in international issues ahead of his time. One of his largest contributions was his attention to and sense of urgency about water issues. In his book, *Tapped Out*, he discusses the increased need for global water strategies that address local regional scarcities. In my position as a Celia M. Howard Fellow, I am writing a research paper on the role Illinois plays as a global water provider through its exports of staple crops and its role as an advocate of clean water and sanitation through Paul Simon’s legislation of Water for the World Act. In future days, water policies and governance will only continue to grow more contested. As a fellow, I have had the privilege of being in contact with Patti Derge-Simon about the updates for the Water for the World Act, in contact with the Bureau of Land and Water Resources in Illinois about current water policies of our state and with Illinois State Water Survey scientists about water quality issues, and in contact with professors in Agricultural Sciences at SIU on watershed management and social ecological issues surrounding water governance. In the spring, I plan to use the opportunity afforded by the Simon Poll to investigate opinions of citizens in Illinois compared to national polls about concerns for water quality.

The M.P.A program with additional electives in Political Science has prepared me for work or extended study in public policy. From the background knowledge and information I have gained from our professors, as well as, the experiential understanding from working at the Public Policy Institute, the underlying motions which bring a societal problem from recognition to policy solutions has become clearer to me.
MPA Interns Gain Practical Experience and Provide Valuable Assistance

Each semester, the MPA Program places students in internship positions with various governmental, quasi-governmental, and non-profit agencies. These positions provide the interns with an opportunity to gain practical experience in the public sector and also prove to be advantageous for the host agencies in the completion of various projects and tasks. Here are some of the projects completed by our recent interns:

**Brett Bradley** interned with the Williamson County State’s Attorney Office in Marion, Illinois. He reviewed the legal and budgeting processes and assisted personnel at the Williamson County Courthouse.

**Sean Carter** interned with This Able Veteran in Carbondale, Illinois. In his position, he reviewed federal regulations pertaining to the certification of service dogs for the Veteran’s Administration and prepared a grant and line-item budget outline for the program.

**Jasmine Cave** worked in the SIU Office of Assessment and Program Review. Jasmine conducted a scholarly literature review on diversity and multiculturalism including how other universities define both concepts. She then researched how best to incorporate these concepts into the undergraduate curriculum at SIU.

**Derick Chick Wye Kynn** interned with the Metropolitan Airports Commission at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His job duties included inspections of terminal areas, jetbridges, and equipment, updating information manuals and databases, and assisting with the development of monthly operations reports, in addition to assisting stranded passengers.

**Hou U Lou** interned with Southern Illinois Airport Authority in Murphysboro, IL. She assisted with budget preparations and monitored fuel price trends and calculated retail fuel pricing. Additionally, she assisted with preparations for the 2017 solar eclipse event which took place at the airport.

**Ricky Lundquist** interned with the Jackson County Health Department. He assisted with several projects relating to workforce development, grant applications, and implementation of Cultural Competency Training.

**Isaac Mendoza** interned with General Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Isaac’s internship duties included general observation of Airside, Landside, and Security operations of MKE airport. He also assisted with basic tasks in the airport’s control center, participated in the airport’s self-inspection program, gave airport tours and instruction to ACE students visiting the Operations Department, provided security escorts to various contractors, attended meetings, and performed audits.

**Sarah Miranti** participated in the US Department of State Pathways Internship Program from June 2016-May 2017. Sarah examined and processed passport applications, inspected the evidence of citizenship submitted with the application to establish authenticity, and adjudicate applications in which documentary evidence appears to be complete and authentic to recommend passport issuance.

**Veronica Nkunde** interned with Southern Illinois Airport Authority in Murphysboro, Illinois. Veronica focused on updating and restructuring the airport personnel policy manual and preparing for the solar eclipse event.

**Patrick Riley** interned with Desert Jet Center in Thermal, California. Patrick conducted research on the top 50 airports utilized by Desert Jet charters and developed a new employee training manual while shadowing the General Manager and Vice President of Operations.

**Seth Russell** interned with the SIUC University Museum. Seth was tasked with digitizing donor records and operational tasks relating to the museum archive.

*The value of the internship cannot be understated, but the number of quality internships has diminished recently, as budgets have shrunk. We no longer require that they be paid, so if you are interested in hosting an intern at your organization, please send a proposal to the Field Representative at MPAProg@siu.edu.*
During the fall semester of 2016, I worked for Yangon International Airport in Myanmar as an intern. Having a background in Aviation Management during my Undergraduate Studies, I had a good idea of what to expect for my internship. I was assigned to the Commercial Department of the airport with the task of bringing in revenue into the airport. In addition, the airport manager was kind enough to provide me with the opportunity to get some experience in Airport Operations.

The airport has been going through a major change, adding two new terminals to the aerodrome. One of my tasks included recognizing potential new business tenants to occupy the empty space within the new terminals. To accomplish this, I performed a cost analysis using Excel and generated a list of potential renters to contact and to ensure that the airport is getting optimum revenue.

The internship was very helpful because it taught me to work with a diverse group of people. I was working in a culture completely different from where I come from. The Leadership course in the MPA really helped me recognize how important it is to be culturally competent.

In addition, the Budgeting course also taught me how important it is to be transparent with the stakeholders of the organization that we represent. Stakeholders may include owners, airline customers, airport users, as well as the employees themselves.

In addition, I also got the opportunity to work with the architects and engineers to design floor plans of the new terminal buildings for Yangon International Airport. One of the Aviation Courses in the MPA program enlightened me about a career path in airport consultancy. This course was very helpful because I had to deal with very technical documents such as AutoCAD drawings that I am not familiar with. In addition, I came back to SIU in the following semester and took classes in AutoCAD and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to learn more about making the best decisions in airport development such as airport redevelopment and runway expansions.

My superiors were satisfied with the work that I performed throughout the five months I had been working for them. They even offered to extend my internship with an option to convert me into a permanent employee at the airport. The offer was very tempting but I declined because I knew I had to finish my MPA Degree to achieve my long term goals of being an airport manager. Having said that, the Airport Manager has left the door open for me to return to Myanmar and work with them in the near future.

Thanks to recent program graduate and current Carbondale City Manager, Gary Williams, a Graduate Assistantship position with the City of Carbondale which doubles as an internship has been developed. The first Graduate Assistant in the position is Eric Secrist. If you are interested in creating a similar position, please contact Layla Murphy at mpaprog@siu.edu.

Over the summer I started my internship with the Carbondale City Manager, Gary Williams, MPA. Gary sent me to observe the department managers around the city to get a general sense of the different management and leadership styles that help to drive local government. I have since been given the opportunity to collect and analyze data in an effort to better develop my technical and program evaluation skills. This internship has helped to reassure my drive to become involved in local government as a way to directly improve the lives of everyone in my community.
As the outgoing Advisory Board Chair, I would like to thank all of our members who participated in our October meeting. It was a very productive, insightful, and even rejuvenating meeting. Let me explain. The MPA Advisory Board is purposed to advance the curriculum and experiences for our MPA students. This is done by encouraging collaboration between the MPA faculty and the public service practitioners serving on the Board.

These members bring to the table their first hand experiences in fields such as: health care management, airport management, city management, local, state, and federal department and agency management to name just a few. During our meeting I listened and learned about the education, skillsets, and character demanded of our MPA graduates from our field professionals. I listened to the expressed requirements for ethical decision making, sexual harassment awareness, and labor negotiations just to name a few. Our faculty responded enthusiastically to further incorporate and elaborate upon these skillsets and character.

In return, I watched our Board Members strategize on new training and internship possibilities for students and agreeing to visit campus for guest lectures and personalized one-on-one engagement with our students. In short, with such practitioner participation, interaction, passion, and commitment combined with exceptionally talented, accomplished and dedicated faculty and staff working together for our students, I’m beyond rejuvenated as I can see how our MPA program is second to none!

Thank you.
Dr. Brian C. Chapman

NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Steve Bohn: Finance Manager,
City and County of Denver
Steve Bohn has been with the Budget and Management Office for ten years. Steve and his team are responsible for developing the city’s annual budget and providing financial recommendations to the Mayor and his staff. Steve manages six analysts who supervise the budgets for all safety, technology, parks/recreation, and community development agencies across the city.

Steve lives with his wife and son in Denver and the three of them enjoy hiking, snowboarding, and camping.
NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

**Rex Budde**: President and Chief Executive Officer, Southern Illinois Healthcare

Since 2009, Mr. Budde has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer. He joined SIH in 2000 as the Chief Financial Officer.

Mr. Budde was employed as Vice President of Clinical Affairs with Memorial Health Systems, Springfield, Illinois (1997-July 2000). He has held senior leadership in several organizations in Illinois and Michigan with an interest in public accounting.

Mr. Budde received his B.A. degree in Accounting from Illinois State University in 1978 and his MBA from the University of Michigan in 1997. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Healthcare Financial Management Association (“HFMA”). He is a fellow with HFMA, former President and Officer of the McMahon/Illini Chapter and has received several service awards from the chapter. Mr. Budde serves on local and national health care boards.

**Delio Calzolari, Esq.**: Director of Legislative and Governmental Affairs, Forest Preserves of Cook County

Calzolari graduated cum laude from SIU’s School of Law and holds a BS in finance from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. He leads legislative initiatives and navigates governmental relations for all levels of government for the Forest Preserves of Cook County. These preserves are the oldest and largest in the nation spanning almost 70,000 acres, making it the largest land owner in the county.

He has a mix of experience in government and business. He is a former associate director at the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, senior advisor to an Illinois lieutenant governor, a Navy surface warfare officer, with Caterpillar, Inc. in a variety of management roles, and a senior campaign staffer for Obama for America.

**Jarrod Echols**: Senior Threat Intelligence Analyst, White House

The road to Echols current job began in 2012, when he accepted an internship with the United States Senate’s Cyber Security Department. Echols completed his MPA in 2013 and was offered a job with a contractor, which allowed him to remain with the Senate, working in its Cyber Security Operations Center. Echols was then promoted to a full-time federal employee, leading the Senate Cyber Threat Intelligence Team. In 2016, he was offered his current position in the White House.
NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Christine Gerencher: Senior Program Officer,
Aviation & Environment at Transportation Research Board

Christy joined the Transportation Research Board (TRB) staff in 2005 as a Senior Program Officer for Aviation and Environment in their Technical Activities Division. She manages the nine committees within the Aviation Group and the eight committees within the Environment and Energy Section within the organization as well as provides support for TRB's sponsors.

Prior to joining TRB, Christy worked in the corporate environmental department of American Airlines, where she was responsible for both domestic and international noise and air quality issues for the company. Previous to her time at American, she worked for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association as a manager of airport policy and also was a consultant in the environmental practice of Landrum Brown, Inc., an airport planning firm.

John Kiwala: Executive Director,
Parks and Recreation,
Kenilworth Park District

John Kiwala graduated from the MPA Program in 2013, following a city management internship with the City of Overland Park, Kansas. Upon graduation, he began working for the Village of Kenilworth as an analyst and then moved up to the Executive Director of the Parks and Recreation District.

Ben Koehn: Prison Lieutenant,
Menard Correctional Center

Ben Koehn graduated from the MPA Program in 2015, completing the program while working full time. Koehn has been with the Department of Corrections for 13 years and is presently a Lieutenant at Menard Prison where he manages the farm consisting of approximately 800 acres. He grew up and lives on the western edge of Jackson County, on his family farm, with his wife and three sons.

Kim Sanders: Director,
Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development

Kim Sanders has over 25 years professional experience in various health-related fields with special interest areas of mental health care delivery, rural health disparities and rural health care coordination. She has a Master’s in Public Health, as well as a Master’s in Business Administration and is a graduate of the 2012-2013 Delta Leadership Institute.

With Southern Illinois University Carbondale the last fifteen years, she has been involved in community needs assessments, program evaluation, entrepreneurship promotion, economic and health-related research, health workforce development issues, and community connectivity strategies. Additionally, Ms. Sanders has presented and co-presented at numerous regional, state and national conferences in the areas of rural health research, development, and collaborative projects. She is currently the Director at SIU School of Medicine’s Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development (CRHSSD). The CRHSSD’s mission is to strengthen rural health infrastructure and to promote opportunities for enhancing health primarily in rural communities.
NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

**Clayton Stambaugh: Aviation Facilities Specialist, Illinois Department of Transportation**

Clayton Stambaugh serves as an Aviation Facilities Specialist for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). In addition, he provides support to Department efforts relating to ports and waterways. He previously served four years as Airport Manager at Pekin Municipal Airport in Pekin, Illinois and sat on the executive committee for the Illinois Public Airports Association (IPAA) as First Vice Chairman.

Stambaugh participates on multiple projects and programs with the Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) – Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). In addition, Stambaugh is a standing member and committee communications coordinator for the Intergovernmental Relations in Aviation committee of TRB. Stambaugh also leads marketing and communication efforts for the upcoming 10th National Aviation System Planning Symposium.

**Gary Shafer: Airport/FBO Manager, Southern Illinois Airport Authority**

Ohio native Gary Shafer has 40 years’ experience in the aviation industry. He has held positions as Assistant Airport Manager, Fixed-Based Operator Manager, and Airport Manager of the Southern Illinois Airport.

Shafer also teaches for the Southern Illinois University Aviation Management & Flight Program where he is a part-time professor teaching aviation management courses at night and on weekends. Over the years, Gary has taught more than 1000 students.

Gary has previously served as Board Member for the Illinois Public Airport Association, Murphysboro Chamber of Commerce, Carbondale Chamber of Commerce, Greater Egypt Regional Development Corporation and the American Red Cross. Shafer currently serves as Board Member of Jackson Growth Alliance and the Illinois Air Transportation Association.

Gary has worked for the American Association of Airport Executives in Washington D.C., and remains active as a member of their Academic, General Aviation and Unmanned Vehicles committees. He is also a participant in the Transportation Research Board/Airport Cooperative Research Program where he helps select consultants for research studies and also conducts research on current day airport issues.

Gary holds a B.S. in Business Administration from The Ohio State University and an MPA from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Shafer also attended the Florida Institute of Technology in Air Commerce Studies and is a licensed pilot.
NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

**Wm Weston Stoerger: Curator, Stoerger Museum Consulting**

Wm Weston Stoerger graduated from the MPA Department in May of 2015 with a Museum Administration concentration. After graduation, he worked for the Cincinnati Museum as a Special Exhibition Coordinator. In this position he was responsible for the day to day operations of the exhibit The Art of the Brick.

In May of 2016 he transferred to the Museum Center's Exhibits team, where he was part of a group responsible for making sure any and all of the exhibits in the Museum Center are completed and ready for guests.

Recently, he left the museum center, and moved back to Illinois where he has started his own museum consulting company. In this new venture he has been able to use all of the skills he developed during his time in the MPA department and while working directly for various museums.

**Travis Taylor: Senior Planner, City of Carbondale**

Travis Taylor graduated from the MPA Program in 2011. He immediately began working for the Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission as a Regional Planner. In 2013, he moved on to the City of Carbondale as a Senior Planner. He has also worked as a Community Organizer for the Illinois Coalition for Community Services.

**Gary Williams: City Manager, City of Carbondale**

Gary was named City Manager in 2016 following several years of service as the city's Economic Development Coordinator and a brief stint as interim city manager. He was appointed to the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors by Mayor Mike Henry. Prior to his service as City Manager, Gary was Assistant City Manager for the city.

He holds a bachelor’s degree and MPA both from Southern Illinois University. He also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, Carbondale First Presbyterian Church, and other civic organizations.

Gary serves on the Chamber’s Economic Development Committee, the Southern Illinois Research Park Board, and serves as co-host of “Talk of the Town,” a weekly talk radio program produced by the City and Chamber on WDBX-FM.

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**Giving Back**

The MPA Program sincerely appreciates the generous contributions of our alumni and other friends, as each gift supports the academic progress of our bright and dedicated students. If you wish to make a contribution, please make a secure gift online at [http://cola.siu.edu/politicalscience/giving/](http://cola.siu.edu/politicalscience/giving/). The Jack Isakoff and MPA Development Fund are both program specific.

SIU Carbondale and the SIU Foundation retain six percent of all gifts to enhance philanthropic related initiatives.