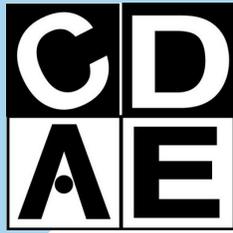


DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND APPLIED ECONOMICS



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

FROM THE CHAIR, DR. JANE KOLODINSKY



It has been another productive year for CDAE. Our alumni are thriving, as you will see by the updates in this Newsletter. Our faculty is growing, with the addition of two tenure track assistant professors and two lecturers. These new faculty members add expertise in teaching and research to all our majors—Community and International Development, Community Entrepreneurship and Public Communication. Our students are engaged in meaningful scholarship, as evidenced by their being published in the book “Censored:2018: Press Freedoms in a Post Truth Society.” Our classes are engaged in service learning at home and abroad. Make sure to read about our newest international course which engaged in service learning in Kenya the past January. And we continue to grow and evolve, with input from our students, faculty, and alumni. Our second annual CDAE town meeting attracted almost 150 students, who eagerly and thoughtfully shared their impressions of our department and majors, and provided input on future initiatives. Our faculty

continue to be scholars, publishing widely in our areas of expertise. But, we remain grounded in our humanity, as we mourn the loss of long time faculty member Bob Parsons, whom we remembered fondly on a Friday afternoon in April.

SIX CDAE STUDENTS IN BEST OF UNDERGRADUATE INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

SIX UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT STUDENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND APPLIED ECONOMICS PROGRAM ARE FEATURED IN THE NEW BOOK CENSORED 2018: PRESS FREEDOMS IN A “POST TRUTH” SOCIETY.

An annual anthology published by California-based media watchdog organization Project Censored, Censored 2018 compiles the top 25 student-written investigative news stories from the past year. The six UVM students -- Clare Charlesworth, Audrey Tuck, Bridgette McShea, Olivia Jones, Emily von Weise and Kätchen McElwain -- developed and submitted their stories as part of their spring 2017 class Journalism 2.0 with Community Development and Applied Economics (CDAE) professor Rob Williams.

Each year, a national panel of judges chooses 25 student written news stories to be included in the annual censored book. This year, students' articles were selected from a pool of 350 entries from 12 different colleges. Stories written by University of Vermont CDAE students comprise nearly 25 percent of this year's top 25 stories, a significant increase from the two UVM student written stories included in last year's book.

The six stories are McElwain's “The Real Fraud of the 2016 Election: GOP Voter Suppression”; Jones' “Big Data and Dark Money behind the 2016 Election”;



Six University of Vermont students are featured in the new book “Censored 2018: Press Freedoms in a ‘Post Truth’ Society.” Pictured (from left) are Audrey Tuck, junior Community and International Development major; Emily von Weise, junior Public Communication major; Professor Rob Williams; Kätchen McElwain, senior Public Communication major; Bridgette McShea, senior Public Communication major; and Olivia Jones, senior Political Science major and Public Communication minor. A sixth student, Clare Charlesworth, was a visiting student from England on an exchange semester at UVM. (Photo: Brian Jenkins)

(continued on page 9)

Contributors: Rob Williams, Will Hersey, Katie Ettman, Tim Cece, Isora Lithgow, James McGuffey, Carolyn Shapiro, Jeff Betzler, Amanda Falkner, Natalie DiBlasio

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The
UNIVERSITY
of VERMONT

ALUMNI IN THE COMMUNITY

Morgan Dewey (PCOM 2015) completed internships and honor's research with domestic violence agencies before launching her professional career working to end domestic violence. Morgan is currently the Communication and Development Coordinator at the National Network to End Domestic Violence in Washington D.C. She is a member of the team behind the #31n31 social media campaign that raises awareness of myths surrounding domestic violence.



Morgan Dewey, PCOM '15



Will Hersey CENT '14

Will Hersey (CENT, 2014) says, "As a graduate, fresh out of my regalia, I was motivated to apply the principles learned through CDAE to join a cause aiding the socially and economically disenfranchised. In the fall, I began working for the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health in the fundraising office. I grew into a Development Coordinator role leading efforts to cultivate the School's external relationships with the objective to secure philanthropic commitments for core needs and research priorities of the School. Meanwhile, I began as an MBA candidate studying finance and energy & environmental sustainability at the Boston University Questrom School of Business. I was primarily interested in exploring effective methods to source financing for growing, increasingly important sectors; namely the clean technology space.

In 2017, I went full-time at the Questrom School and took a 5-month hiatus traveling down the east coast of Australia. Over the trip, I interned remotely for the University's Institute for Sustainable Energy analyzing financial mechanisms employed by green banks and government agencies designed to improve the access and affordabil-

ity of residential rooftop solar via loan programs. I prepared an extensive report to highlight loan programs and their financial strategies to secure below-market rates and to determine their effectiveness in market penetration. After graduation (May, 2018), I plan to continue my work in the clean energy space and help the fight against global climate change.

There are an infinite number of paths one can take after college. I am incredibly thankful for my CDAE education, because it framed my approach to life after UVM. It helped answer the questions, *what are the intrinsic needs of our planet and people*, and *what role can a UVM grad play to bring about progressive change?* I would implore students to take advantage of opportunities, such as travel studies, that enable a valuable and worldly experience."

Katie Ettman (PCOM + CID, 2014) shares, "After graduating in 2014 with a degree in Public Communication and Community and International Development I moved to Southern California. In my three months there I worked with Campfire Inland Southern California providing summer snacks to students while they weren't receiving school meals. This opportunity aligned perfectly with my experience in food systems that I had gained while working on farm-to-institution research with Professor Conner while at UVM.

After this brief interlude I began my Masters of Public Administration at the University of Colorado at Denver and graduated in May of 2016. Since completing my masters I have been working at the Food Bank of the Rockies, the largest hunger relief nonprofit in Colorado. In my role as the Food Sourcing Coordinator I work with farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers to procure high quality food with an emphasis on fresh produce.

Prior to UVM I had no idea I would find my passion in food justice. Through classes, research, and internships I learned about the complexity of our food system. Vermont is a hub for progressive food systems and I am still proud to say I spent four years learning from some of the best professionals in the field. For example, Vermont had one of the first food systems plans in the country and it was used as a inspiration for the Denver Food Vision which I had the pleasure of working on while pursuing my masters. The experience I gained while studying at UVM has been invaluable in my career."



Katie Ettman PCOM + CID '14

ALUMNI IN THE COMMUNITY

Tim Cece (PCOM, 2016), who stayed in Burlington after graduation, shares "I always bragged to my friends during undergrad that my classes were far more interesting than simple lectures - CDAE got me out of the lecture hall and into the community. I spent 4 years building a network of Burlington's business owners, Vermont's strongest entrepreneurial minds, and professors that cared about the community that they live in. Being able to stick around and turn that network of local connections into - what I hope will become - a successful career, has been amazing.

I currently work at Higher Ground, the music venue in town that hosts touring acts from all over the world both in the venue itself, and in countless outdoor venues throughout the state. Higher Ground also collaborates with UVM Program Board to put on Springfest! I started at Higher Ground no more than two years ago as the guy who checks IDs at the door. Now I'm finding myself interacting with agents, managers, and artists every day to make sure that their show is everything they could have imagined while they're here in Vermont. I'm well aware of how lucky I am to be able to work for Higher Ground, but because of my ever-present entrepreneurial spirit,

I also began my own company! I partnered with one of the original founders of Higher Ground, Kevin Statesir, to start a music services company that does everything from managing a few local bands to booking the music calendar of The Rusty Nail in Stowe, VT, and Bolton Valley Ski Resort as well.

To me, CDAE was about getting involved and seeing the theories that drive most Public Communication classes being put to the test. Live music demands that you see your customers as more than just dollar signs - they're a community who thrive off of the social and cultural capital of a music scene. CDAE prepared me to see the environments I work in as more than just a place of employment. Enabling music means enabling an evening of excitement, and even though I've never stepped foot on stage with an instrument in my hands,, seeing a sea of people with smiles on their faces is still what keeps me clocking in every morning."



Tim Cece PCOM '16

Isora Lithgow (PCOM, 2016) transitioned into my current role as the Peer Advising Coordinator for UVM's Advising Center which opened fall 2016 and shares "I also spent a year as the House Director for Alpha Chi Omega. In my current role as the Peer Advising Coordinator I supervise a group of about 28 student leaders who serve as Peer Advisor interns and our front desk employees. I am in charge of the hiring, training and supervision of these students. I serve as the administrator for our peer mentoring program as well which has been established in the math/stats department, CEMS engineering and Grossman School of Business. My role and this program were both new when I was first hired so a lot of what I have had to do in the past few years is envision and develop.

CDAE and my PCOM major have helped me with my current role in so many aspects. As a student affairs professional being able to create, implement, and assess have all been part of my job. Classes like Intro to Community Entrepreneurship, Social Media: Theory to Practice, Visual Communication/Applied Design and Capstone gave me incredible transferrable skills I was able to bring to my job and continue to grow and improv. CDAE gave me a great foundation of knowledge that I have brought with me and applied in so many parts of my life. I have also recently started developing my photography/videography business (www.isoralithgowcreations.com) and am excited about expanding that. It can be difficult balancing all of my work and passions but it's worth it, being able to do what I love is incredibly rewarding.

Faculty and Advisors in CDAE like Sarah Heiss, Rob Williams and Kate Finley Woodruff were among some of the most impactful in my CDAE experience, they challenged me to think deeper, reminded me that I was valuable to the classroom and have continued to support me as I continue my education. I will be starting the Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration program at UVM in the fall, part-time, while still working full-time and I am excited to continue my education in a field I am so passionate about."



Isora Lithgow PCOM '16

CDAE HOSTS SECOND STUDENT TOWN MEETING DAY

CDAE VALUES STUDENT INPUT; OVER 150 MAJORS AND MINORS GATHERED FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, 2018

In the tradition of Vermont towns' hallmark participatory democracies, CDAE held its second annual Town Meeting for students to voice their opinions, ideas, support, and hopes for the future of the CDAE department. CDAE seeks to evolve with the desires and changes students want to make in the world and their voices are invaluable to departmental curriculum planning and foresight.



Moderator Carrie Williams-Howe begins CDAE's annual Town Meeting to 150+ students.



Martin Sakansong responds to a question posed to the CDAE community.

Moderated by Carrie Williams-Howe, the questions posed aimed at students' skills in CDAE courses, their connections of the theories and practices learned in class to the outside world, and how we build community within the department.

Attendance numbered over 150 with standing-room-only space in the Frank Livak Ballroom.

CDAE values the voices of the student and faculty and the now-annual Town Meeting provides a safe and open forum for the community to address needs, hopes, and visions.

The tradition will continue in 2019.



A standing-room-only crowd in the Frank Livak Ballroom for CDAE's annual Town Meeting.

FACULTY PROFILES: NEW PROFS IN CDAE

RASHEDA WEAVER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, CENT

Rasheda Weaver's path to UVM seems to be a bit of fate. Through meeting with former instructors by chance over conversations of positive energy and making a positive impact.

As someone who grew up in a tight-knit community within the not-very-community oriented New York City, Dr. Weaver found Burlington and CDAE to be the perfect fit. "Walking around Burlington, you see so many businesses and organizations focused on community. That's what made this place so attractive to me and I am getting to do everything I love: I love my research, I love my students, I love my courses."

Dr. Weaver's work centers around social enterprise. Most of the existing research in the field focuses on simply defining 'social enterprise' or 'social entrepreneurship' so her research exists at the large-scale setting of asking how to put the tools in the toolbox of social entrepreneurs. She follows practice—that is, businesses in the field—to inform her approach. By following practitioners, she is publishing based on results of a survey from a large database she compiled, titled Weaver's Social Enterprise Directory, which is set to be released in a dynamic web-based platform on Social Enterprise Day on April 26th.

"You can do great work anywhere, but you can't always have a great quality of life everywhere" she notes of Vermont and CDAE.



STEVE KOSTELL, LECTURER, PCOM & DESIGN

Steve Kostell joins CDAE with expertise in design, overall, but the term 'design' does little justice to the breadth of his work. He has experience in IT, automotive technical design and color balancing, graphic design, the music industry, product design, fiber and textile production, agricultural waste reuse, and rural development.

Hailing from the midwest, he experienced real-time decline of the American auto industry near to his hometown. Realizing there were other opportunities outside the 'natural pathway' of his town (e.g. working in the local steel mill or auto production) and noticing strength in his art and design courses, he focused his academic path in the design field.

His myriad experiences in practice provided the applied skill building to complement his academic training and this intersection of theory and application sparked his gravitation to CDAE. His latest project before moving to Vermont involved transforming agricultural waste into fiber and then to paper. The model Kostell developed allowed for a joint enterprise with agricultural education and provided fundraising opportunities to complete a wash-pack pavilion for a student farm that also served as a fiber processing facility for paper production. The idea is to use this process to hopefully stimulate economic rural development in areas with abundant agricultural plant waste. Taking up a project like this in CDAE would be a great fit, and a boon to both Steve and CDAE students to further research in this area.

JAMES MCGUFFEY, LECTURER, PCOM & CALS

James McGuffey was attracted to UVM for two reasons: The first, he could feel a vibrant energy at every stage of the faculty search process. "A few minutes in, I could tell something special was taking place here." The second is the opportunity matches what he hopes to accomplish through teaching, which is to bring communication studies into dialogue with other disciplines. "What better way to do so than to work in a communication department housed in an agricultural college!?" he poses.

His area of expertise intersects a few fields: Rhetoric, Cultural Studies, Landscape Studies, and Environmental Communication (particularly concerning issues of Water and Climate Change). His dissertation is an exploration of initiatives that try to bridge the knowledge gap between science and everyday citizens, not by the simple dissemination of more science, but rather, thinking through art/science partnerships to develop a space for science in our everyday lives.

In the future, he would like to develop a course in Environmental Communication, something that speaks to his dissertation research. He is also looking at developing a course on Propaganda in digital society.



DAN TOBIN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, CID

Broadly, Dan Tobin's research focuses on external forces and how they converge in local spaces to affect small holders like farmers or ranchers. Within this area, he studies how people respond to these forces and how those decisions then restructure the forces themselves in an ongoing reaction. Most of his work is in the Andean region of South America in market development and moving into decisions around crop diversity maintenance in the midst of climate change and neoliberal economic policies. "Much of my work questions the assumptions we make about development," Tobin points out, "I try to go in and provide empirical evidence that investigates the assumption that markets will fix everything; I want to show where they *are* helping and here's where they're making things worse." His sociological

background brings new theories, methods, and perspectives to the department.

"I'm really into alternative structures, as well. Where are the opportunities to resist or move toward change?" he continues. When thinking about progress, "I'm always telling my students: if we can't imagine an alternative, then we're in trouble."

CDAE TRAVEL COURSE SPOTLIGHT: KENYA



JEFF BETZLER // CENT '18

"We worked in small teams with the collective goal of women's empowerment, entrepreneurship, and a water project. I was apart of the entrepreneurship group who, after the community expressed interest in the idea of selling smoothies, designed a bicycle stand to not only charge a cell phone but also blend a smoothie. We hoped that our project would provide an entrepreneurship idea to the community. At the end of our time in Kenya, the community had plans to input a farm stand to sell their produce from the farm. In conclusion, I realized since it was UVM's first time working with the communities the relationships we formed were the ultimate success of the trip. I hope UVM returns in order to foster a growing relationship and continue to make a sustainable change.

"This was my first time doing hands-on community development work, and I learned I really love what I study!"

"While in Kenya, I was a part of the "bike group" that worked to build a bike stand that would allow a bike to be used for either phone charging or powering a blender to make smoothies with local fruits without electricity. While we eventually found out the one of the communities would have access to electricity soon, I still believe that the community learned about their entrepreneurial possibilities and of ways they could use the project in the area. As a CID major with minors in Food Systems and NFS, I could see the intersection of development and food systems in various aspects of the communities we visited as well. This trip was incredibly valuable and helped me to apply my studies in the real world to make a difference."



AMANDA FALKNER // CID '18

This year's **CDAE 224 PCOM Capstone** course profiled over 70 PCOM alums to showcase how their work in communication makes a difference in our world.

Visit us to learn more:

youtube.com/CDAEatUVM

The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for CDAEatUVM. The channel name is CDAEatUVM, and it has a 'SUBSCRIBE' button. The page displays a grid of video uploads, each with a thumbnail, title, and view count. The videos are categorized under 'PCOM Works' and include titles such as 'Communications Makes A Difference', 'Sales Makes A Difference', 'Public Relations Make A Difference', 'Consultants Make A Difference', 'Peer Advising Makes A Difference', 'Marketing Makes A Difference', 'Academic Affairs and Student Services', 'Sales Makes A Difference', 'Sales And Marketing Make A Difference', 'Social Media Makes A Difference', and 'Sales Makes A Difference'.

BANKING FOR CHANGE: CDAE + GUND ALUM JOINS WORLD BANK



By Carolyn Shapiro

Phoebe Spencer (CDAE MS 2014) always wanted to go beyond the hallowed halls of academia to apply her expertise in economic inequality and environmental issues to real-world problems.

And that's exactly what the University of Vermont grad is doing. Two months after completing her PhD in natural resources, Spencer landed a job at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. The 28-year-old is working to address the impacts of poverty and natural resource depletion, from air pollution to deforestation.

After a prized internship at the United Nations, 2017 grad Phoebe Spencer was hired by the World Bank within two months of completing her MS in CDAE and her PhD in Economics for the Anthropocene.

Spencer is the first PhD graduate of Economics for the Anthropocene, an interdisciplinary graduate research and training program creating the next generation of environmental leaders. E4A, as it's called, is a \$5-million international partnership between UVM, McGill University and York University, launched in 2015.

Atmosphere of collaboration

Spencer grew up in Essex Junction, Vermont, getting her undergraduate degree in anthropology and geography at McGill. She came to UVM for her master's degree, studying barriers to transportation access in Community Development and Applied Economics. She did her PhD through the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, joined the Gund Institute for Environment as a Graduate Fellow, and did UVM's Graduate Certificate in Ecological Economics.

Improving real-world decisions

Spencer's background in the field of ecological economics – which will remain an enduring area of strength in the newly expanded Gund Institute – is an asset at the World Bank, says Harun Dogo, her supervisor and an environmental economist there.

"It is helpful to have somebody trained in ecological economics to ground and improve our findings," Dogo says of Spencer. "Phoebe's strength, fundamentally, is her ability to look across all these things and see a common set of patterns."

Spencer says she hopes her World Bank work ultimately influences policy change that supports "thoughtful development."

"I want to make change in a thoughtful way. That's not always just saying more development of any kind is good," she says.

"It needs to be thoughtful development."

Game-changing semester at UN

Unlike most doctoral programs, E4A students benefit from internships in global and local organizations. In 2014, Spencer landed a prized internship with the United Nations, examining gender inequality around the globe and contributing to The World's Women 2015 Report.

"The UN experience was a total game-changer," says Spencer, who credits a fall semester at their New York headquarters for inspiring her dissertation on gender inequality in the face of environmental instability. "Getting the chance to learn from top experts, apply my training and make real contributions, it gave me a huge amount of confidence, and validation, that this is the right path for me."

"Being exposed to so many perspectives, interests and experts gave us the big picture view you need to find actual solutions," says Spencer, who helped present the group's findings to stakeholders and E4A partners.

UVM Prof. Jon Erickson, a leading ecological economist who co-directs the E4A program, was Spencer's faculty advisor. He sees her as a "social change agent" who can stir things up on the world stage.

"We're trying to create a whole new generation of thought leaders who question the status quo," says Erickson, a Gund Fellow and the David Blittersdorf Professor of Sustainability Science and Policy at the Rubenstein School. "We want to produce citizens, rather than consumers, with the skills to help build a more sustainable future."

ALUMNA CHOSEN FOR COMPETITIVE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



DiBlasio, center with her class at the Poynter Leadership Academy

Natalie DiBlasio (PCOM 2010) director of social media at WIRED Magazine, spent a week at the Poynter Leadership Academy for Women in Digital Media in St. Petersburg, Florida this March. DiBlasio was one of 28 participants chosen out of a pool of more than 600 applicants to participate in the week-long intensive training that focused on management, journalism and personal career development.

"It was completely life-changing. I wish every woman could have the opportunity to spend a week learning more about herself from other amazing women with all different types of experiences. For me, the timing was perfect. Journalism as an industry is going through a tremendous amount of change, and everything we do as leaders in our newsrooms feels like blazing trails through completely new territory. Poynter put on an incredible academy and I'll be in touch with the staff and my fellow students for the rest of my life."

CDAE BY THE NUMBERS

The **Community Development and Applied Economics Department (CDAE)** is part of the **College of Agriculture and Life Sciences** at the **University of Vermont**. CDAE supports sustainable local, regional, and international communities through transdisciplinary research, education, and outreach that serve the public interest.

Community Development and Applied Economics 2018 Graduate Student Enrollment

MS in CDAE and MPA: 42

Community Development and Applied Economics 2018 Undergraduate Student Enrollment

Majors: 510

Public Communication: 259

Community Entrepreneurship: 133

Community International Development: 118

Minors: 503

Fiscal Year 2017:

\$1.3 million

REMEMBERING BOB: PARSONS LEAVES LASTING MARK ON STUDENTS, CDAE, UVM, AND THE VERMONT DAIRY AND AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY

Perhaps shy to the shutter of a still camera, Bob Parsons was a man of many words—and videos, producing dozens of informative pieces for farm families throughout Vermont—never (ever) hesitating to share knowledge of John Deere tractor models, milk prices, growing up on the farm, how sugar beets led to the rise of high fructose corn syrup... the list goes on.

Parsons was born and raised on a Pennsylvania dairy farm, helping his parents with farm work throughout his childhood. If you met Bob, you knew that already, though.

His work in academia bridged knowledge from researchers in universities to practitioners in the barns, fields, and milking parlors throughout the state. His focus on milk prices made sense: after all, he was raised on a dairy farm. Monthly reports on prices of organic milk populated the CDAE Faculty listserv by the stroke of his keyboard; his practical nature bled through these all-you-need-to-know-down-to-the-cent emails.

Bob had a niche in the classroom, too. Students who studied in his Agricultural Policy and Ethics courses would often report that the class challenged their views so constructively and so thoroughly that they left with a whole new critical thinking skillset and mindset. That's what made Bob tick. A healthy skeptic, Bob would sometimes lean into intellectual—and always practical—debates on issues like GMOs which often have a polarizing dividing line between proponents and opponents.

Some may call him a big of a curmudgeon. He pined for the days when dairy farms thrived and sometimes lamented the direction the industry was heading. However, his nature was always that he sought to educate, inform, and offer assistance.

Terry Bradshaw, one of Bob's UVM Extension colleagues remembers toward the end of his life, and "despite being quite sick (and sicker than he'd led on to those of us who work with him), he was commenting on Vermont Public Radio on the current state of milk prices and helping one of our undergrad students do his taxes. The man was dedicated right to the end."

SIX CDAE STUDENTS PUBLISHED IN INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM ANTHOLOGY, CONT.

McShea's "Antibiotic Resistant 'Superbugs' Threaten Health and Foundations of Modern Medicine"; Tuck's "DNC Claims Right to Select Presidential Candidate"; von Weise's "Right-Wing Money Promotes Model Legislation to Restrict Free Speech on University Campuses"; and Charlesworth's "Shell Understood Climate Change as Early as 1991 -- and Ignored It."

Founded in 1976 by Dr. Carl Jensen at Sonoma State University, Project Censored "educates students and the public about the importance of a truly free press for democratic self-government ... exposing and opposing news censorship and promoting independent investigative journalism, media literacy, and critical thinking." Students in participating classes at universities across North America research and write "validated independent news stories (VINS)" that have "gone missing" from corporate news media coverage.

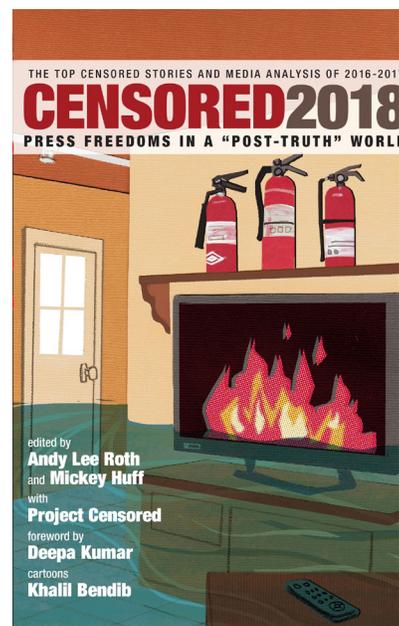
Student stories are submitted to Project Censored and most are posted on the Project Censored website. A national panel of judges chooses the top 25 stories to be published in the annual Censored book. Noam Chomsky calls the project "a crucial contribution to the hope for a more just and democratic society."

Williams developed his class Journalism 2.0 around news, censorship, independent civic journalism and the "propaganda model of news," developed by Edward Hermann and Noam Chomsky in the 1980s, a conceptual model often referred to in Censored books. "I'm incredibly proud of our hard-working CDAE students," said Williams. "We will continue our CDAE partnership with Project Censored this coming spring in our Journalism 2.0 class."

Censored 2018 is available through Amazon and at independent bookstores.



Parsons (Right) lecturing with his wife, Grace Matiru in



The cover of Censored 2018

MPA STUDENTS ELECTED TO ROLES IN PUBLIC SERVICE

BARBRA MARDEN TO SERVE AS SHELBURNE REP FOR CHAMPLAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

What is your elected position?

Shelburne representative of the Board for the Champlain Valley School District, which represents Charlotte, Hinesburg, Shelburne, St. George, Williston, and CVU.

How long is your term?

3 Years

How has your time in CDAE and the MPA program contributed to your decision to run?

The classes and structure of the MPA program has inspired me to work for and give back to the community. I sit on a few boards outside of my town and wanted to serve my direct town community.

Where there any other inspirations that encouraged your decision outside the program?

We have had a couple of issues concerning race for my kids in the schools and I wanted to bring this up; my platform was based on diversity awareness.

What skills from the MPA program will you bring to the job?

The leadership skills, for sure. We learn the importance of input and buy-in from your constituents. The emphasis on communication in the MPA department and the way we relate to people are so important in this type of work. By focusing on these skills in the classroom, it has prepared me and made me feel ready and able to take on this role in my community. I also nurtured the belief that as a citizen looking to be involved in our governance, we have that power. There have been other issues regarding race in our schools and I wanted to connect with other parents to learn of their experiences. Now, the administration sees me as a Board Member, but I am a parent too, so I want to fill both of those roles effectively as a citizen and as a representative.

What do you like to do outside of MPA and your new position?

I love to cook! I love to run as well. I am very social; I love to meet new people, which is helpful in this area of work.



CURRY GALLOWAY, ELECTED AS ST. ALBANS CITY CLERK/TREASURER

What is your elected position?

Clerk/Treasurer for the City of Saint Albans. Some of the responsibilities include the management of land and vital records, running elections, issuing licenses, tax abatement, involvement with the city's finances, and adhering to open meeting and public records laws.

How long is your term?

2 Years

How has your time in CDAE and the MPA program contributed to your decision to run?

I think the biggest influence on me is emphasis on leadership and administrative ethics. The program also really seems to promote the individual's ability to draw from modern policy theories and encourages innovation not only in the classroom but for the state of Vermont.

Where there any other inspirations that encouraged your decision outside the program?

I thought it would be a challenging and exciting opportunity to join the company of women in political and leadership positions. I'm looking forward to taking the Women in Leadership course offered by the university this summer taught by a former Secretary of State which happens to be the umbrella under which municipal clerks work. Civic engagement is also something that motivates me. Figuring out as Vermont moves toward regionalization in many areas, how communities will continue to remain active in the democratic process.

What skills from the MPA program will you bring to the job?

There are so many elements of the MPA program that are directly applicable to work in local government. There are several members of the city staff that have an MPA one of which earned theirs in this program. Local government is aging and looking to attract a new body of individuals that will continue to do the work at the ground level but also bring in contemporary ideas. Understanding of policy frameworks, budget applications for the public sector, and the opportunity to take a local government administration course with an actual town manager really allow me dexterity to perform the functions of my position well.

What do you like to do outside of MPA and your new position?

I like to get outside. As I work through the degree and acclimate to my new position I want to continue to explore Vermont's diverse natural areas and see how I can become more involved with preservation efforts.



HONORS DAY 2018



Scholastic Recognition

Recognition of the top ten percent of all seniors with a major in Community Development & Applied Economics based on cumulative grade point average.

Recipients:

Miranda Baker
Amanda Falkner
Shea Mahoney
Chandler Brandes
Claire Ferguson
Bridgett McShea

Michael Brewer
Hannah Goetz
Valeria Pinzon-Mendez
Zoe Christensen-Goodfellow
Timothy Jordan
Audrey Plant

Gemma Del Ross
Erika Lewy
Julia Quackenbush
Frank Lyon
Meghan Vogel

Faculty Award

These awards are presented to the graduating senior(s) as nominated by and chosen by the CDAE faculty.

Community Entrepreneurship

Recipient: Timothy Jordan & Elizabeth Schumacher

Community & International Development

Recipient: Greer Sargeant

Public Communication

Recipient: Audrey Plante

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