Public Management
at American University's School of Public Affairs
Faculty members at AU’s School of Public Affairs are leaders in the public management arena, setting the agenda in this field of research. SPA demonstrates strength in the areas of accountability, public management, representative bureaucracy, and constitutional administrative law.

From left: Symposium attendees capture ideas for survey instrument and nonprofit data collection strategy; SPA students heading to class; SPA’s 2015 Key Executive Leadership Conference.
We Know Success

96% of American University SPA graduates are working, going to grad school, or both, within one year.
**New Faculty Members**

**Khaldoun AbouAssi** joins SPA in Fall 2015 as an assistant professor in the Department of Public Administration and Policy. AbouAssi comes to SPA from the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. His research interests have included nonprofit theory and management, inter-organizational relations, development theory and management, governance, and civil society’s impact on public policies. AbouAssi holds a PhD in public administration from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University.

**Dave Marcotte** joined SPA in July 2015 as professor and new director of the Washington Institute for Public Affairs Research. Previously, Marcotte served on the faculty of the Department of Public Policy at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Additionally, he is a research fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor in Bonn, Germany, an independent economic research institute focused on global labor markets. His research is on a variety of topics in the areas of health and well-being, including the effect of mental illness and treatment on labor market outcomes, determinants of achievement in primary and secondary education, and the impact of post-secondary education on employment and earnings.

**Albert C. Hyde**, joining SPA as a visiting scholar, is considered one of the premier academic authorities on public administration. Hyde is best known for his work, *Classics of Public Administration* (now in its 7th edition), co-authored with Jay M. Shafritz. He previously advised the U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service on federal policy and strategy development and has been a senior consultant for the Brookings Institution. He also directed public administration programs at San Francisco State University and the University of Pittsburgh.
AU School of Public Affairs graduates thrive in all economic sectors.

22% Work in For-Profit after one year
35% Work in Nonprofit after one year
42% Work in Government after one year
Research Recognition

SPA faculty members are often recognized for the impact of their work. In honor of *Public Administration Review*’s 75th anniversary, articles by five SPA faculty members were included in PAR’s Top 75 most influential articles in the history of the journal.

- **Dean Barbara Romzek** and Melvin Dubnick: “Accountability in the Public Sector: Lessons from the Challenger Tragedy”

- **Professor Howard McCurdy** and **Professor Emeritus Robert Cleary**: “Why Can’t We Resolve the Research Issue in Public Administration?”

- **Distinguished Professor David Rosenbloom**: “Public Administrative Theory and the Separation of Powers”

- **Senior Associate Dean Vicky Wilkins** and Young-joo Lee: “More Similarities or More Differences? Comparing Public and Nonprofit Managers’ Job Motivations”

From left: David Rosenbloom; Barbara Romzek; Vicky Wilkins; Robert Cleary; Howard McCurdy.
Institutional Impact Rankings in the Field of Public Administration

The Journal of Public Affairs Education

5th Worldwide

3rd in the U.S.

1st in Washington, D.C.
Select PhD Placements

 › Susannah Bruns Ali, ’14  Assistant Professor, Florida International University
 › Amanda M. Girth, ’10  Assistant Professor, the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at the Ohio State University
 › Michael S. Hayes, ’14  Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Administration, Rutgers University-Camden
 › Jiaqi Liang, ’14  Assistant Professor of Public Administration, New Mexico State University
 › John Marvel, ’12  Assistant Professor of Politics and Government in the School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs at George Mason University
 › Sarah L. Pettijohn, ’14  Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
 › Jaclyn Piatak, ’13  Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
 › William G. Resh, ’11  Assistant Professor, Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California
 › Pablo Sanabria, ’12  Assistant Professor, Universidad de los Andes in Bogota, Columbia
 › Amanda Stewart, ’15  Assistant Professor, the School of Public and International Affairs at North Carolina State University
AU School of Public Affairs graduates earn competitive pay.

- 25% earning more than $60,000 after one year
- 29% earning $50,000 - $60,000 after one year
- 29% earning $40,000 - $50,000 after one year
Recent Research

“The Performance Puzzle: Understanding the Factors Influencing Alternative Dimensions of Performance” (Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory) by Anna Amirkhanyan et al., examined the performance of contracted child-care centers in Ohio. The study found that performance assessments of clients, leadership, staff, and government regulators varied significantly and were influenced by different organizational and environmental factors. Also, the strength of the government-contractor relationships improved these assessments, while the extent of red tape and formalization in contracts undermined them.

“Informal Accountability in Multisector Service Delivery Collaborations” (Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory) by Barbara Romzek et al., explored informal accountability among network actors. The study found that government agencies contracting out for service provision endorse collaboration as a way to accomplish complex tasks while minimizing investment in new administrative structures.

Memos to the President

The School of Public Affairs is partnering with the National Academy of Public Administration for a new initiative titled “Memos to the President.” Through the initiative, SPA will provide expertise and evidence-based strategies on key issues that the presidential transition teams will face in 2016.
Knowledge » Action » Impact