

IUPUI 2014-15 Highlights Report: School of Public and Environmental Affairs

The Success of our Students

- Victoria MacLain, a School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) senior, was one of two graduating students picked to [deliver remarks at the 2015 IUPUI Commencement ceremony](#). It marked the fifth time a SPEA student had been chosen to speak at the IUPUI commencement. MacLain, who majored in psychology and criminal justice, worked in the community through the Heminger House Domestic Violence Shelter, as well as participated in numerous IUPUI-sponsored community service events.
- SPEA student Kaley Davidson was honored as a Chancellor's Scholar at the 2015 Chancellor's Academic Honors Convocation.
- SPEA students Sydney Teal, Chad Montgomery, Alex Craft, Dana Yenko, Lauren Kenney and Victoria MacLain were chosen as [IUPUI Top 100 students](#). Montgomery was selected as a Top 10 male at the annual recognition dinner on April 10, 2015.
- SPEA students Heather Plummer, Sarah Barnhart, Raelynn Chastain and Dylan Sluder were selected for SPEA's Washington Leadership Program. The 2015 class will live, work and learn in the nation's capital – while gaining IU credit and valuable experience.
- SPEA hosted the 2015 NASPAA Student Simulation Competition in February. SPEA graduate students Zachary Smith and Sam Newlin-Haus each participated in the daylong competition, which called on students to analyze a current health policy issue and present their solutions to a panel of judges. Smith's team placed first and Newlin-Haus' team placed second.
- SPEA student Lexi Shriver placed second out of seven in the finals of the IUPUI Speech Night at the Old National Centre.
- SPEA student Katy English won the Bingham Greenebaum Doll Legislative Conference scholarship.

Advances in Health and Life Sciences

- SPEA Assistant Professor Cullen Merritt was awarded the 2014 Paul A. Volcker Junior Scholar Research Award of the American Political Science Association.

The award includes full funding of a grant proposal for a research project that will look at “publicness” in the context of behavioral health care facilities. Specifically, Merritt’s research aims to identify the primary organizational and environmental factors associated with a facility’s publicness, and will assess the impact of a facility’s publicness on the achievement of various publicly valuable outcomes. A more sophisticated conception of publicness, accounting for both organizational and environmental institutions, will better enable scholars and practitioners to evaluate the direct and indirect effects of an organization’s institutional structure on publicly valuable behaviors and performance outcomes.

- SPEA's Executive Education program awarded 71 Health Care Manager Certificates during the 2014-15 academic year. Forty-four of the certificates were awarded through the program’s partnership with the Indiana Hospital Association, while 27 were awarded off site to employees of Pulaski Memorial Hospital in Winamac, Indiana.

Contributions to the Well-being of the Citizens of Indianapolis, the State of Indiana, and Beyond

- SPEA Assistant Professors Jeremy Carter and Eric Grommon were awarded \$173,159 from Engility Corporation to expand a series of evaluations for the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center’s Communications Technology Center of Excellence (CoE). The CoE is a program of the National Institute of Justice, an agency of the U.S. Department of Justice, and provides NIJ with research, development, test, and evaluation support. Research projects include process evaluations to document procurement and implementation decisions associated with the deployment of innovative technologies. The projects are being conducted across the U.S. with varying criminal justice organizations.
- SPEA Professor Debra Mesch received \$375,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help answer questions about women’s giving, share knowledge with the broader sector to help fill a key gap, and inform how the foundation’s Philanthropic Partnerships team and Melinda’s Advocacy and Communications leads can better engage women. The project will address the accessibility of information by enabling a compressive dissemination strategy to provide the public with important information about women’s philanthropy.
- SPEA Professor Sheila Kennedy was selected as an IUPUI Inspirational Woman in the faculty category for the 2015 Women’s History Month Leadership Awards.

Each year, the selection committee selects a candidate whose story of dedication, service and generosity inspires others to reach for their best.

- SPEA advisor James Eckerty was awarded the NACADA Outstanding Advising Award in the Primary Advisory Role category. NACADA is the National Academic Advising Association and annually selects from a competitive applicant pool for national award recognition.
- SPEA professors Doug Noonan and Joanna Woronkovicz were [awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts](#) to study artist employment in the U.S.
- Former SPEA dean and Professor Emeritus Terry Baumer [won the Spirit of Philanthropy Award](#). Baumer served as a criminal justice professor at the school from 1984 to 2012 and retired as the school's executive associate dean. During his career, he taught more than 4,500 students, published 53 times and contributed an annual gift to SPEA.
- In celebration of Earth Day, the SPEA Student Council and the Student Sustainability Council of IUPUI organized the panel discussion, "Earth in Balance: Indy's Efforts for a Sustainable Future." The panelists included Carey Hamilton, executive director of Indiana Recycling Coalition; City-County Councilor John Barth; and Myles Cohen, president of Pratt Industries. The event encouraged discussion about the city's agreement with Covanta to combine its waste incinerator operation with a recycling program.
- SPEA IUPUI Assistant Professor Wen Wang and Executive Associate Dean Lilliard Richardson visited China to forge relationships with universities – Fudan University in Shanghai, Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, City University of Hong Kong and Sun Yat Sen University in Guangzhou. The two attended a conference on local government finance at Sun Yat Sen University, where Wen delivered a research presentation. Both Dean Richardson and professor Wen delivered research presentations at Zhejiang University.
- The Public Affairs Student Association at SPEA hosted three nights of holiday card-making for senior citizens and other groups who might be forgotten. Nearly a dozen students made 95 hand-made holiday cards that were distributed to seniors at Joy's House in Broad Ripple and children at Riley's Children's Hospital.
- Led by SPEA student Samuel Newlin-Haus, the 4th annual "Meat and Heat Drive" secured donations from IUPUI students, faculty, and staff that were distributed

to homeless veterans at the Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation (HVAF) Service Center.

- More than 40 public safety agencies showed up to talk to students about career opportunities during the 8th annual Public Safety Career Day.
- The SPEA Student Council organized the first campus-wide JagVote, aimed at driving IUPUI students to do their civic duty and register to vote. Marion County Clerk and former SPEA instructor Beth White talked to students about the importance of voting. More than 500 students registered to vote during the event.
- SPEA Assistant Professor Jerome Dumortier co-authored a [study that analyzed a variety of EPA fuel economic labels on hybrid and plug-in vehicles](#). Their study reports consumers are more likely to purchase a hybrid or plug-in vehicle when they see data that shows the total cost of ownership of owning hybrids and plug-in vehicles.