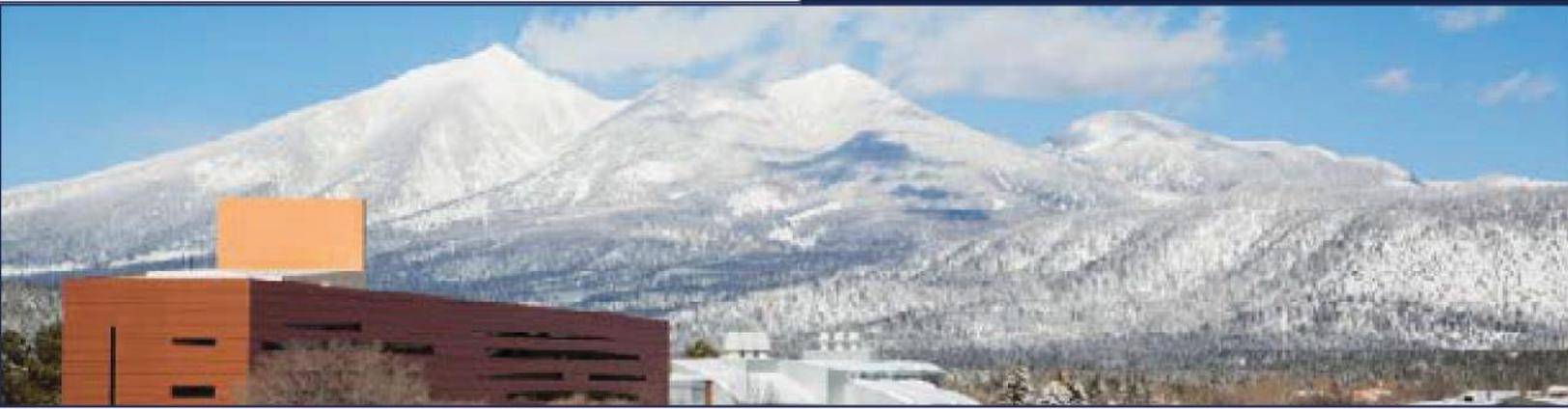


Master of Public Administration Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2023



Director's Update

It is my distinct pleasure to bring this fall edition of the MPA Alumni Newsletter as the director of the NAU MPA program. I would like to thank the former MPA director Dr. Sara Rinfret, who is now Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at the University, for her instrumental role in spearheading the program and setting us on a path to new heights in developing and providing public service education. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with distinguished colleagues and diverse students on our collective pursuit to improving the quality of public service locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. Public and nonprofit service plays a major role in addressing our common challenges, and it takes all of us together to make a positive impact through an innovative and flexible model of professional education, applied research, and effective service outreach critically needed in our discipline and profession today.

This edition of the Newsletter offers a glimpse into the news and updates on various aspects of the MPA program and our larger community. On the programmatic front, the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Program is now available to students majoring in Public Administration, allowing them to pursue the MPA degree in as little as 24 credit units by applying up to 12 units of coursework into both bachelor's and master's degrees simultaneously. While the Department of Politics and International Affairs has

been offering public administration degrees at both graduate and undergraduate levels, this addition provides a critical link between the two programs, incentivizing students to continue their career-focused professional education.

This fall semester, we are graduating seven students between the MPA and Graduate Certificate programs. MPA students and graduates continue to advance in their professional career and make positive impacts on a range of communities and public and nonprofit organizations.

The program welcomed three new colleagues (including myself) to the team of dedicated faculty with diverse backgrounds and expertise. The MPA community has also faced a sudden loss of Dr. Zachery Smith, who was a Regent's Professor, a longtime advocate and friend, and a dedicated role model for many of us. A student remembers Dr. Smith this way: "He told us whatever we did, do not get behind and he wanted everyone to pass the class with an A... I was able to catch up on my quizzes and was able to pass the class with an A." Another student states, "Professor Zachary Smith was one of the best instructors... He was an inspirational leader who inspired me through his teachings and his passion for public service."

Please check out the pages throughout this Newsletter for the many activities and accomplishments that have happened in the program in the recent past. I also welcome your thoughts and suggestions about the Newsletter and the MPA program as we strive to make improvements while moving forward.

Udaya R. Wagle, PhD
Professor and Director of the MPA Program



Alumni Corner

Karen Jarratt-Snider (MPA, '02; PhD, '06)



Dr. Jarratt-Snider published her co-edited (with Marianne Nielsen) book titled *Indigenous Justice and Gender* (2023, Arizona University Press). Employing a strength-based approach (as opposed to a deficit model applied historically), the book offers a broad overview of topics pertaining to gender-related health, violence, and healing, addressing the resiliency of Indigenous women and two-spirit people in the face of colonial violence and structural racism. Last spring, she was the recipient of the Cal Seciwa Award for Outstanding Faculty Serving the NAU Indigenous Community.

Princess Benally (MPA, '08)



Princess Benally started her new position in October as Director of Student Life Experience within NAU's Office of Economic Mobility and Social Impact. As Director, she has the overall responsibilities for the activities, programs, and operations of the Arizona College Excellence (ACE) program. ACE is a new program, partnering with community colleges to strengthen the opportunities for students to transfer and persist, with the ultimate goal of student degree attainment. She is also working on her EdD with Arizona State University's Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College.

Shannon Rose (MPA, '16)



Shannon has started her new position as Senior Campus Advisor at the ZED Foundation, where she works with colleges and universities across the country to help them strengthen their prevention and response systems to support student mental health, substance misuse, and suicide prevention through an assessment and strategic planning process. Her past positions include Campus Advisor at ZED and Senior Academic Advisor/Communications Coordinator at the University of Texas at Austin.

Israel Kiyogera (MPA, '21)



Israel started his new position as Policy Advisor in the Office of Phoenix City Councilwoman Kesha Hodge Washington. As Policy Advisor, he coordinates and carries out the policy priorities of the office by working with relevant city departments and stakeholders to advance reforms. Israel has previously served as a Legislative Liaison for Maricopa County, a Public Affairs specialist for First Things First, and a Legislative Research Assistant at Stateside Associates, a government relations firm in the Washington, D.C., area.

Fall 2023 Graduates

Congratulations to Fall 2023 Graduates!

Master of Public Administration	Graduate Certificate in Public Management
Troy Clevenger	Paloma Davidson
Mary Edwards	Bridget Davis
Joy Ide	
Ruby Ruiz	
Morgan Sarten	

Student Spotlight

Ramsay Shannon



As Senior Community Program Coordinator for the Center for Service and Volunteerism (CSV) at Northern Arizona University (NAU), MPA student Ramsay manages the AZ Teacher Residency, Environmental Literacy Corps/AZ Climate Resilience Corps, and The VISTA program. His team was recently awarded \$945,000 from the Governor's Office to launch Arizona Climate Resilience Corps, which will play foundational roles in mitigating climate crises, building resilience, and developing Arizona's workforce.

PAA Update



Pi Alpha Alpha at Northern Arizona University

We are delighted to announce significant developments within the Northern Arizona University (NAU) Chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha (PAA), your esteemed platform for excellence in Public Affairs and Administration. Since our inauguration in January 2023, our primary objective has been to recognize and celebrate exceptional talent in the fields of public administration, policy, and affairs.

Who We Are

Pi Alpha Alpha is dedicated to acknowledging and honoring both undergraduate and graduate students, as well as practitioners in public administration, public policy, and public affairs. Our programs are managed by local chapters and are overseen by NASPAA (the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration) that sets global standard in public service education. Membership is conferred annually by local chapters, and once inducted, individuals retain their membership for life.

Membership Benefits

As a member of Pi Alpha Alpha, you are entitled to the following key benefits:

- Acknowledgment of your academic accomplishments.
- Access to job-search and networking opportunities.
- A symbol of your commitment to public service.

We're Official! Our NAU Chapter is now an officially registered student-centered organization! Furthermore, we have had the honor of inducting our inaugural members into this distinguished society.

Be Part of an Exceptional Community: If you have a passion for public service, we invite you to join us in a leadership capacity. We have opportunities for individuals with skills in social media management, networking, and event planning.

This is an excellent opportunity to enhance your professional portfolio while making a meaningful contribution.

Upcoming Events: We are in the process of organizing a series of events aimed at fostering connections, inspiring action, and empowering our members. Your active participation and innovative ideas are crucial for the vibrancy of the NAU PAA community.

For more details or to get involved, reach out to our Academic Advisor, Dr. Minzi Su, at minzi.su@nau.edu.

Discover more at: nau.edu/mpa/pi-alpha-alpha

MPA Advisory Board

The MPA program has an active board of advisors composed of program alumni and other community members with a record of professional accomplishments and impact. The goal of the Advisory Board is to support the program through industry-specific insights on programmatic assessments, changes, and improvements, guidance for students on professional development and career, and establishing connections to the larger public, nonprofit, and tribal communities. The program recognizes the commitment and service of our current Advisory Board members:



**Joanne Keene, Deputy City Manager,
City of Flagstaff**



**Cynthia Nemeth, Director, Coconino
County Parks and Recreation**



**Jenn Reichelt, Deputy City
Administrator, City of Yuma**



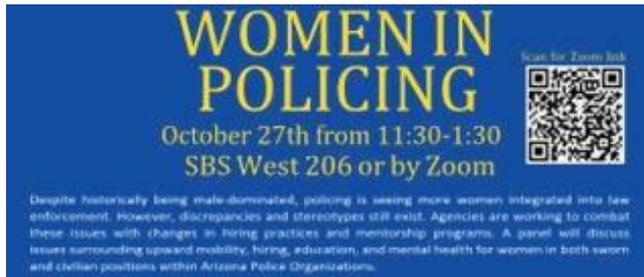
**James Apperson, Retired Public Service
Professional and Consultant**



**Stephanie Smith, Associate Vice President,
NAU Advancement | Foundation**

Public Presentation

Dr. Eric Otenyo, Dr. Stephen Meserve, and PhD student Ashley Beale coordinated a Brown Bag panel on Women in Policing on October 27, 2023. Offered in a question-and-answer format, the conversation covered a range of topics on the policies, practices, and cultures of policing and public safety in an increasingly dynamic environment locally and nationally. Moderated by Alena Gross, another PhD student, the panelists included Prescott Police Chief Amy Donney, NAU Police Chief and Associate Vice President of Public Safety Missy Freshour, Williams Police Department Police Dispatcher Ashley Beale, and Williams Police Department Animal Control Officer Leah Payne.



New Faculty for Fall 2023

Welcome to the three new public administration faculty members in the Department of Politics and International Affairs! Please check out who they are personally and professionally.

Dr. XI (Troy) Chen



Troy is an assistant professor in the Department of Politics & International Affairs. He graduated with his Ph.D. in public administration and policy from Auburn University. He received his Master of Public Administration from Illinois Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Human Resources Management from South China Normal University. Troy's research within the PA and policy discipline broadly focuses on environmental policy (especially water policy), and governmental practices related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). He has taught courses in the broader political science discipline such as

American Government and political science research methods. Currently he is teaching human resources management and applied research methods in the MPA program.

Dr. Aleksey Kolpakov



Dr. Aleksey Kolpakov holds a Master of Science degree in Organizational and Social Psychology from London School of Economics and Political Science and a Ph.D. in Public Affairs (Policy Analysis and Public Management) from Indiana University. His research has been published in academic journals such as *Public Performance & Management Review*, *American Review of Public Administration*, *Public Integrity*, *International Journal of Public Administration*, *Journal of Strategic Contracting and Negotiations*, and *Journal of Health Science*. He is the author of three books and numerous technical

and program evaluation reports at the federal, state, and international levels. His areas of research expertise and interests focusing on the public and nonprofit sector include networks and collaboration, managing diversity, leadership, and knowledge management. He has taught many undergraduate and graduate courses including public administration and management, American institutions, organizational behavior, human resource management, diversity and inclusion, collaboration management and governance, public policy process and analysis, research methods, and statistics.

Dr. Udaya Wagle



Udaya R. Wagle holds a Ph.D. in public policy, Master of Science in nonprofit management, and bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration. The author of *Multidimensional Poverty Measurement*, *The Heterogeneity Link of the Welfare State and Redistribution*, *Research Handbook on Poverty and Inequality* (edited), and dozens of academic and professional publications in major national and international outlets, Dr. Wagle is interested in researching social policies, underdevelopment, and comparative studies. He has served on the editorial

boards of *Global Social Policy*, *Poverty & Public Policy*, and *Social Indicators Research*. The intersection of his multicultural background, academic training in public policy, and experience and expertise in social policies and development have taken him to Myanmar, Nepal, and Uzbekistan for high-level consulting and research assignments. Before joining NAU, Dr. Wagle was Professor and Director of the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Western Michigan University. Previously, he taught at the University of Massachusetts Boston and Marist College (New York) and managed economic development programs at a premier nonprofit organization in Nepal. His areas of teaching include political economy, public finance, public policy, research methods, social entrepreneurship, social policy administration, statistics, and capstone portfolio and specialist projects.

Recent Faculty Publications

- Chen, X., Fisk, J. M., Mayer, M. K., McNamara, M. W., & Morris, J. C. 2023. Two's a company, three's a cloud: Explaining the effect of natural disasters on health-based violations in drinking water. *Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy*, 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1002/rhc3.12280>.
- Chen, X., Silvera, G. A., Fisk, J. M., & Haun, C. 2023. Signal fires: The use of diversity value signaling in local government job advertisements following the summer of racial reckoning. *Journal of Social Equity and Public Administration*, 1(2): 86-98. <https://doi.org/10.24926/jsepa.v1i2.4816>
- Agranoff, R. & Kolpakov, A. (2023) *The politics of collaborative public management: A primer*. Routledge.
- Otenyo, E. E. (2023). *Covid-19 and vaccine nationalism: Managing the politics of global pandemics*. Elsevier.
- Rinfret, S. R., & Pautz, M. C. (2023). *U.S. environmental policy in action* (3rd edition). Palgrave.
- Layzer, J., & Rinfret, S. R. (2023). *The environmental case: Translating values into policy* (6th edition). CQ Press.
- Rinfret, S. R. (2023). Advancing Ruckelhaus' citizen engagement framework. *Journal of Law and Public Affairs*.
- McCandless, S. McDonald, B., & Rinfret, S. R. (2023, August 21). (Magazine Oped) Walking faculty back from the cliff. *Inside Higher Ed*, <https://www.insidehighered.com/opinion/views/2023/08/21/institutions-must-take-faculty-burnout-seriously-opinion>.
- Wagle, U. (Ed.). (2023). *Research handbook on poverty and inequality*. Edward Elgar.
- Wagle, U. (2023). Poverty measurement: Evolving concepts and measurement frameworks. In U. Wagle (Ed.), *Research handbook on poverty and inequality* (p. 35-55). Edward Elgar.
- Wagle, U. (2023). Concepts and Measurements of Economic Inequality. In U. Wagle (Ed.), *Research handbook on poverty and inequality* (p. 68-87). Edward Elgar.

Wagle, U. (2023). Social protection, poverty, and inequality: Global patterns and changes. In U. Wagle (Ed.), *Research handbook on poverty and inequality* (p. 329-49). Edward Elgar.

Wagle, U. (2023, April 14). (Newspaper Oped) Outmigration, social change, and the elderly. *Republica*, <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/outmigration-social-change-and-the-elderly/?categoryId=opinion>.

Congratulations to Dr. Sara Rinfret, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Professor of Politics and International Affairs, for joining the *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, a public administration journal of NASPAA, as a co-editor!

SPRING 2024 SESSION CALENDAR

Particulars	16 Week M16	1st 5 Week M5A	2nd 5 Week M5B	3rd 5 Week M5C	1st 7.5 Week 75A	2nd 7.5 Week 75B
First Day of Session	1/16/24	1/16/24	2/19/24	4/1/24	1/16/24	3/7/24
Last Day for Refund (100%)	1/26/24	1/26/24	2/29/24	4/11/24	1/26/24	3/17/24
Last Day to Add to Wait List	1/24/24	1/17/24	2/20/24	4/2/24	1/19/24	3/17/24
Last Day for Admin Requests	1/24/24	1/17/24	2/20/24	4/2/24	1/19/24	3/17/24
Last Day to Add	1/25/24	1/18/24	2/21/24	4/3/24	1/20/24	3/18/24
Last Day to Drop/Delete (without "W")	1/25/24	1/18/24	2/21/24	4/3/24	1/20/24	3/18/24
Last Day to Withdraw	5/3/24	2/15/24	3/28/24	5/2/24	3/1/24	4/29/24
Last Day of Session	5/10/24	2/16/24	3/29/24	5/3/24	3/5/24	5/3/24



NAU
NORTHERN
ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY

Department of
Politics and
International Affairs

Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Program in Public Administration

The Program

The Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Program allows students to begin working toward the MPA program offered fully online while completing their bachelor's degree in Public Administration. Students can apply up to 12 units of undergraduate coursework to reduce the MPA coursework from 36 to 24 units. Requirements include a GPA 3.0 and being accepted into the MPA program prior to beginning the coursework applied toward both bachelor's and master's degrees.

MPA Program Highlights

The program provides a path to success in your professional career in public service. We provide personalized application assistance and feature compelling student testimonials to help you on your journey. Join us and become a leader in shaping the future of public service.

- Hear from current students and alumni about their experience and aspirations
- NASPAA-accreditation for continuing program excellence, relevance, and value.
- A variety of careers in the public (city, county, state, federal, and tribal) and nonprofit sector.
- Online offering and customizable program for utmost flexibility for working professionals.
- Caring and dedicated faculty with decades of interdisciplinary research and public-sector experience.

Contact us at udaya.wagle@nau.edu
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NAU NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Affordable | Comprehensive | Flexible

"The benefit of doing the Master of Public Administration program online is that I had tons of flexibility...it's about building the skills to elevate your career!"

— Shevonda Joyner, Master of Public Administration, '22

NAU

Politics and International Affairs, MPA Director **Udaya Wagle, PhD**
udaya.wagle@nau.edu | 928-523-1438
nau.edu/mpa

NAU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution. 12/2018, 12/22



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"The Master of Public Administration provides a foundation to be the best public servant that one can be."

– Cynthia Nemeth, Master of Public Administration, Parks and Recreation Director, Coconino County



What sets NAU apart

NAU's MPA program:

- helps you develop the knowledge and skills necessary for public service careers
- celebrates a low student-to-teacher ratio
- provides an opportunity to join an alumni mentorship program
- offers coursework year-round
- is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA)

Required courses

Enjoy the convenience and flexibility of our online, 39-unit* MPA:

POS 501 Applied Research Methods

POS 527 Ethics and Public Administration

POS 541 Public Administration

POS 543 Organization Behavior

POS 571 Policy Analysis

POS 642 Human Resource Management

POS 644 Government Budgeting

POS 596 Portfolio and Exit Interview

Electives**

*Courses are 3 units unless specified otherwise

**12 units

OUR MISSION

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) at Northern Arizona University prepares pre-service and mid-career professionals for leadership and management roles in public and not-for-profit sectors. As the preeminent public MPA program in northern Arizona, we play a unique role in serving the people and public institutions of this region at the municipal, county, state, tribal, and federal levels.

In addition to our regional focus, the program serves students from throughout the state, the nation, and even the world. You'll build a strong foundation in the practical and theoretical dimensions of public management, enjoying a program of study that facilitates intellectual development, promotes scholarship, and integrates public service values with the theory and practice of public administration.

APPLY TODAY at
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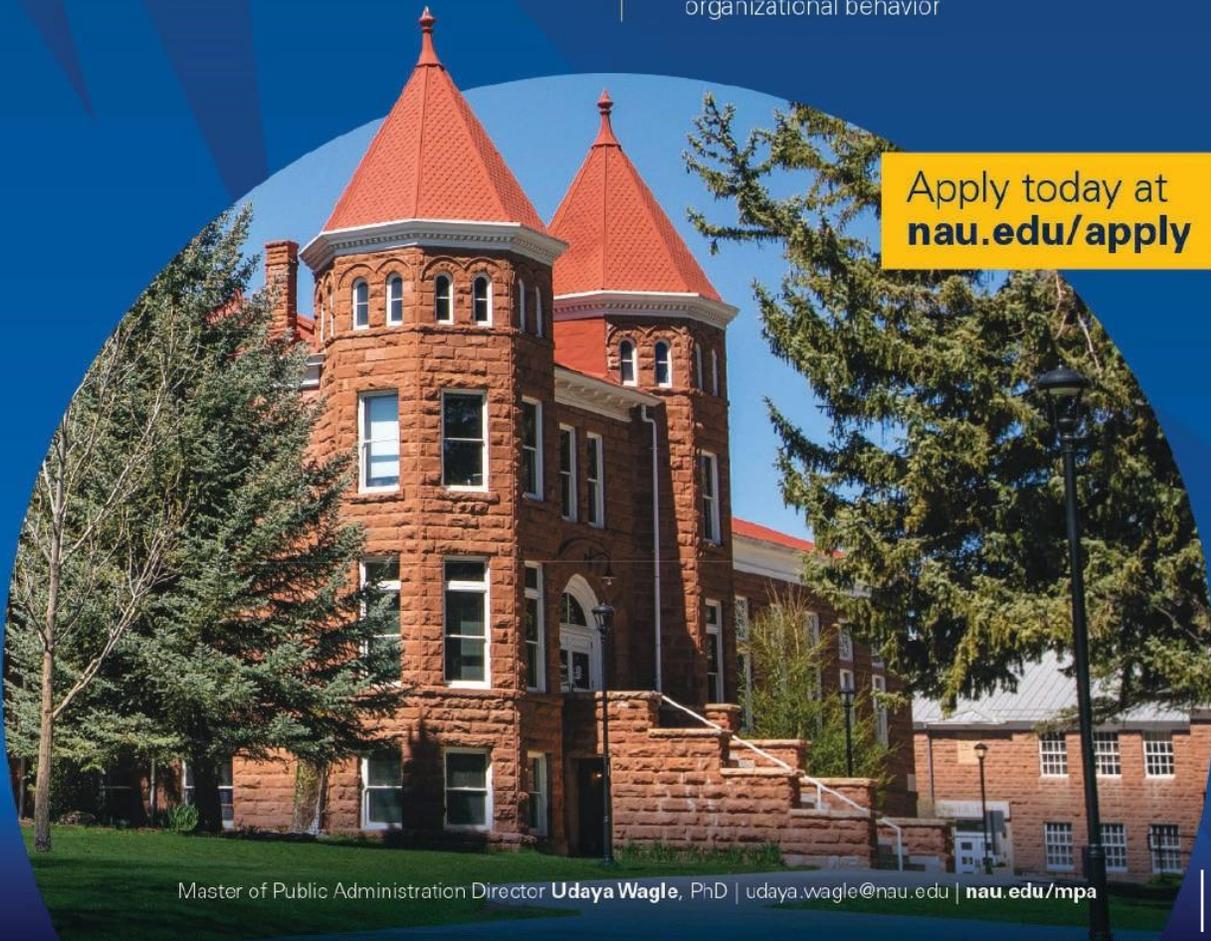
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Program details

- Rolling admission
- Affordable and flexible
- Complete online courses on your own time
- Full-time public administration faculty mentors
- 12 credits (four classes) in areas such as human resources, budgeting, policy, or organizational behavior



Apply today at
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Master of Public Administration Director **Udaya Wagle, PhD** | udaya.wagle@nau.edu | nau.edu/mpa

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE!

POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

GRADUATION EVENT!



DATE MAY 9

TIME 4:30PM

VENUE ASPEN ROOMS ABC
DUBOIS SOUTH
UNION

Family, Friends, and Alumni are encouraged to attend!

Politics and International Affairs Graduate Event

Please RSVP to piastudentworker@nau.edu for the 2023-2024 PIA graduation celebration event. We will celebrate the success of MPA graduates and recognize Public Service Award winners.

NOMINATE YOUR MPA ALUMNI

FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE ALUMNI AWARD

Email udaya.wagle@nau.edu by
January 15th to submit your
nomination!

Please include: Your nomination's name, the
year they graduated from the MPA program, and
a few sentences on how this person has made
an impact on the public service profession.

The award winner will be recognized at a
departmental celebration event on May 9, 2024.

