FPA in Motion 2014
One year ago, I sent you an invitation.

It was called *Moving FPA Forward*, and it was an invitation to build on our reputation and success by imagining a path forward for our Faculty that would extend the reach and impact of our research and programs of study.

It also issued a challenge to all of us in the Faculty of Public Affairs:

- To improve the accessibility and effectiveness of our courses and programs through the application of online resources
- To create opportunities for our faculty and students to engage with issues affecting the public interest
- To transform FPA into a more effective platform for engaging broader publics in Public Affairs issues
- To foster FPA’s involvement in training and educating public officials and citizens in Canada and abroad
- To enhance our capacity to deliver our research and programs of study effectively

One year later, there’s been a notable change within our Faculty.

You, the faculty and staff of FPA, have responded with innovative work that is changing our image in the community and around the world.

Every day, I am inspired by your dedication to prepare graduates who will build better societies, strengthen democracy, and foster informed citizenship at home and abroad.

What follows are examples of initiatives that embody the achievements of FPA over the past year.

Thank you for all of your efforts and I look forward to watching our Faculty continue to flourish in 2015!

André Plourde
Dean, Faculty of Public Affairs
Carleton University
A. Improve the accessibility and effectiveness of our courses and programs through the application of online resources

FPA is dedicated to expanding our blended and online course offerings to ensure our courses and programs are accessible to more students in Canada and abroad.

With an office full of gadgets, SPPA Assistant Professor Paloma Raggo was a perfect candidate for her unit’s new slate of online courses. But while the technical portion didn’t intimidate her, the bigger adjustment came with an increase in one-on-one communication with her students.

“Rather than keeping office hours, I work with all of the students individually,” explains Raggo. “They watch the online classes at their own pace and on their own time.”

As the embodiment of Priority A, Raggo is now teaching only online, and is serving as a mentor for other online instructors. She is also currently working on an instructional book about online teaching. The School of Public Policy and Administration just launched its fourth online course in January 2015, taught by Amanda Clarke, an assistant professor in SPPA.

Other blended and online learning initiatives in 2014 included:

• The launch of a blended learning initiative in collaboration with the Educational Development Centre (EDC)

• The development of online courses for the new graduate programs in Indigenous Policy and Administration (IPA), encouraging the enrollment of students nationwide
B. Create opportunities for our faculty and students to engage with issues affecting the public interest

FPA is expanding opportunities for students, allowing them to work with faculty, community groups and organizations.

Following an intensive study of refugee and migration issues in the classroom, NPSIA student Katie Durvin will be spending her last semester at Carleton studying international affairs in the real world: conducting research into the sexual and reproductive health of refugees in the African country of Chad.

Durvin is the first student to benefit from an agreement between Carleton and CARE Canada in which graduate students can conduct fieldwork in countries where CARE manages refugee operations. Their task is to examine the implementation of global refugee policy.

“This is an incredible educational opportunity for me, to see the effects of refugee policy on the ground in Chad,” says Durvin. “At the same time, I hope we will make a positive difference with our findings.”

The agreement between Carleton, CARE Canada, and York University was negotiated by James Milner, an associate professor in Political Science. He’s developing the Global Refugee Policy Network to foster collaboration among researchers studying refugees. Milner says the work of graduate students is contributing to the Faculty’s mission.

“This will help us understand the current functioning of the global refugee regime, and to identify ways that it could more predictably ensure the protection of refugees and find solutions to their plight. It will also make the global response to refugees more timely and effective.”

Our new student engagement initiatives in 2014 included:

- Creation of a research course for undergraduate students, providing a way for students to work with faculty members on research projects
- Collaboration with the Student Experience Office to increase the number of undergraduate students participating in Alternative Spring Break
Sarah Todd received the call in December: Carleton’s School of Social Work had been named a mobilization hub for the new provincially-funded Youth Research and Evaluation Exchange (YouthREX).

As the freshly minted academic lead, she needed to find colleagues as well as youth support workers to create the grassroots research program envisioned in YouthREX. She sent out a call for interested parties through a story on the FPA website, with surprising results.

“I received a call from the executive director of a national network that represents youth centres,” explains Todd, an associate professor in the School of Social Work. She promptly recruited him to the YouthREX advisory board. “Someone had sent him the web article and he forwarded it to his members across the country. With that, we found exactly the person we were looking for to run the program in Lisa Barleben.”

Todd says she also received a call from the YouthREX coordinator at Laurentian University, who read the web story and was eager to network.

It’s an ideal example of the potential of the FPA communications strategy. With a revamped website and a new online publication, FPA Voices, FPA is reaching a larger, more diverse audience than ever before.

Our Faculty strives to “bring public affairs to the public and bring the public to Public Affairs”.

Our public outreach efforts in 2014 included:

- FPA Currents: a standing room-only crowd attended Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi’s lecture
- The Kesterton Lecture: CBC foreign correspondent Nahlah Ayed addressed a full house
- Author Meets Readers: FPA researchers presented their findings in a monthly discussion at a local pub
- FPA Research Month: the public was invited on campus to learn more about public affairs research
D. Foster FPA’s involvement in training and educating public officials and citizens in Canada and abroad

We are building better societies and stronger democracy through the education of professionals.

FPA launched its first two professional institutes in the summer of 2014: Strategic Communications Workshop for Nonprofits and the Data Journalism Boot Camp. Both drew on our expertise within the Faculty to create stronger bonds with the community at large.

For Gina Grosenick, an instructor in the School of Communication Studies, who created the strategic communications workshop, the intention was to provide a toolkit for communicators in small to medium-sized nonprofit organizations.

“Nonprofits are so strapped for resources and capacities, they rarely have dedicated communications staff,” says Grosenick, who helped nonprofit personnel set goals, identify target audiences, and optimize their media outreach. “These organizations were looking to initiate a communications plan for their organization and more proactively promote their organization to the public.”

For those in the journalism field, the Data Journalism Boot Camp offered an intensive two-day workshop on interpreting data for journalists, writers, journalism students and professors. Both workshops were highly successful, leading FPA to introduce additional professional institutes for Summer 2015.

Our new 2015 professional institutes will include:

- Doing Fieldwork in Africa
- Policy Advocacy and Social Change
- Health Risk Communication
- Compelling Content and Digital Media Communications
E. Enhance our capacity to deliver research and programs of study effectively

FPA colleagues with similar interests joined together in interdisciplinary collaborations.

The most striking example of FPA collaboration lies with the new Bachelor of Global and International Studies (BGInS) program, which draws on the knowledge of 80 faculty members in both the Faculty of Public Affairs and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

The result is a multi-disciplinary degree that offers students a comprehensive foundation for several career paths, including immigration and refugee work, positions in national and international justice institutions, and in human rights organizations.

BGInS Program’s Director Chris Brown says the multi-faceted approach to global and international studies is only possible because of the collaboration across the two faculties.

“We have many scholars doing international research, but to a certain extent they were hidden within existing disciplinary programs.” says Brown, who developed the program with Sukeshi Kamra, an associate dean in FASS and an associate professor of English. “What we are doing with this degree is foregrounding one of Carleton’s already existing strengths.”

In fact, the BGInS program was an explicit goal of Carleton’s Strategic Integrated Plan, which pledges “To have an internationalization strategy that provides our students with a variety of opportunities to be knowledgeable, active citizens in a global community.”

The program has been approved and will welcome its first students in Fall 2015.

Other initiatives to foster collaboration in 2014 included:

- Bagels and Banter: an informal monthly discussion of shared research themes
- A partnership between researchers in African Studies, Law and Legal Studies, and Partnership Africa Canada to examine small-scale artisanal mining in Africa
**FPA in Motion: Specific Initiatives**

In addition to our long-term goals, *Moving FPA Forward* included a number of areas where specific initiatives were proposed as “first steps” designed to move the Faculty forward in our five priority areas.

We also identified ten criteria grouped under three headings to help us choose which initiatives to undertake and measure.

Here’s a snapshot of my personal assessment of our accomplishments in those areas in 2014 in relation to our identified criteria:*  

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*In regards to the initiative to reinvigorate the Public Affairs Research Centres (PARCs), the Faculty Committee on Organized Research Units will be meeting to discuss this in 2015.*
Moving Forward:
Looking to FPA in Motion 2015

Perhaps the most exciting feature of the innovative activities begun in 2014 is that these represent just an indication of what we as a Faculty have accomplished and can accomplish.

Here’s some of what we’re planning for 2015:

• Launch a new initiative for targeted research support for faculty
• Pursue initiatives aimed at encouraging teaching innovation, in collaboration with EDC
• Renew the blended learning initiative, in collaboration with EDC
• Sustain expanded Alternative Spring Break participation, in collaboration with the Student Experience Office
• Expand marketing and recruitment efforts for FPA programs, in collaboration with the Admissions Office and FGPA
• Build an experimental economics laboratory as part of a recently obtained CFI grant
• Plan 2016 FPA Research Month
• Launch the BGInS and IPA programs
• Identify FPA initiatives to celebrate Carleton’s 75th anniversary

Thank you for all that you do for our students. And thank you for making FPA a more exciting environment in which to learn, research and work.

I look forward to continuing together on our path of collaboration and innovation.