

FPAVoices



***Graduates Who Are Making a Difference :
From Homeless Shelters to Parliament Hill***



Carleton
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FACULTY OF
Public Affairs

Message from our Dean



One of my main ambitions as Dean of the Faculty of Public Affairs is to help create opportunities for our students to obtain a well-rounded education that extends beyond the classroom.

Yet I am still surprised when I see just how much our students accomplish in their years with us, including, among many others:

- Conducting research and sharing it with the community

- Volunteering in communities with specific needs through Alternative Spring Break
- Excelling in co-op positions and internships in Canada's capital and beyond
- Immersing themselves in international cultures and learning

Experiences such as these build on the strong academic underpinnings our students receive in the classroom, as well

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Front Cover: Photos represent twelve FPA students profiled in this month's magazine.

as broaden their understanding of the world.

In this issue of *FPA Voices*, you'll meet a number of our 2017 graduates who are set to take on new challenges.

My colleagues and I are proud of all of our students' achievements. We wish them well as they launch their careers and invite them to stay in touch as alumni.

I would also like to extend a big thank you to our faculty and staff. They are

responsible for the incredible learning environments that we provide our students. I am very grateful for everything they do.

I wish all of you a happy and healthy summer. See you in September!

Sincerely,

FPA People

Halima Sogbesan

Master of Journalism, School of Journalism and Communication

As an international student from Abuja, Nigeria, Halima Sogbesan initially found it hard to adjust to Canada when she arrived in September 2015. She found the crisp fall weather intolerably cold and she missed familiar foods and her family.

But by the end of her first year, she returned to Nigeria with a scholarship and a mission: to find and report on a group of women whose stories are rarely heard—those who escape the Nigerian terrorist group Boko Haram. She tells their story in a multimedia web project entitled [Finding Home: The Long Road Back from Boko Haram Captivity](#).

What motivated you to tell the stories of these women?

I got into journalism because I wanted to tell the most important stories from my country, especially the stories of people whose voices aren't heard, and my master's research project provided the perfect opportunity for that.

In particular, I wanted to do something about Boko Haram and the women they've abducted. Most people have heard of the Chibok schoolgirls, who were kidnapped from their school in 2014. But there are many other victims, as well, and I wanted people to hear from them.

You sought out and interviewed women who had escaped their captors. Some were in Internally Displaced Persons Camps in their own country. What did you learn from them?

We think of the horror of being kidnapped, but I don't think people realize the horrors they face when they return home. Many are stigmatized; people are fearful of them. There is no trauma counseling or professional help most of the time, so they have to struggle to find life—find home—again.

Sadly, I think many will never find it.

Did anything surprise you?

I was surprised by how unemotional they were about their experiences. One woman, Fatima (not her real name), told me about how her husband was killed and I wasn't sure I understood her because she spoke so casually about it.

Another woman, Maryam, was just 17-years-old and had only escaped three weeks before I spoke with her. She talked about her harrowing experiences in a matter-of-fact tone. I couldn't understand how they could be so strong, but so many people in northeastern Nigeria have been affected in some way by Boko Haram, and so these women feel they shouldn't complain about their experiences.

How did your experience in the School of Journalism and Communication help prepare you for this?

There were so many things: I learned how to find sources, ask the right questions, use technology and especially how to tell the story in a way that did their stories justice. I hope I did that.

I was also fortunate to receive the Diane King Stuemmer Scholarship, which

provided \$10,000 for my travel and research. I couldn't have done this story without that support.

What did you learn about your own country in doing this project?

When I shared the project with my father, he said, "Our country failed these people."

It made me realize how much more work Nigerians have to do. We are dealing with a terrible crisis and our government hasn't been able to really help with the rehabilitation of people returning from captivity. It's also dealing with the killings and the Internally Displaced Persons Camps among many other things.

Most people know the basic story of Boko Haram, but the beauty of in-depth reporting is that you can dig deeper, can ask how and why, and tell stories that wouldn't make it into the news every day.

You've had the chance to work as an intern in a number of different newsrooms in Canada. Do you plan to return to Nigeria eventually?

I'm willing to go anywhere in the world to tell important stories. But at the end of the day, I am definitely going back. That's why I got into journalism in the first place.



Field Notes

Filip Szadurski

Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) School of Social Work

Most people believe that life experiences can contribute to success. In the case of Filip Szadurski, those experiences have included moving to a new country, dropping out of school, and then starting over.

“My parents left Communist Poland in 1988,” Filip explains. “We found ourselves frequently displaced while my parents searched for stable employment. My brother and I were the targets of prejudices in school due to our obvious lack of English language skills.”

Filip eventually dropped out of high school and pursued culinary training. He became a chef, but struggled with the unstable lifestyle common in the restaurant industry. He also wanted to pursue a career that was more fulfilling.

“I wanted to do more than cook amazing food for wealthy people,” he says. “So I started volunteering with marginalized populations. It gave me a sense of purpose and a feeling that I never had before.”

Filip turned his focus to education: earning a General Educational Development (GED) certificate and a college degree in social work before enrolling in Carleton’s [**BSW program**](#).

“I decided I had to treat my education like a job and put in the extra work needed to succeed,” he explains. “It hurt me to see students not taking their work seriously because I know what it’s like out there if you don’t strive. I’ve lived on the other side of the fence.”

Filip’s volunteer work with treatment and homeless centres influenced the research he did for his honours research essay in fourth

year. Entitled “Current Healthcare and Social Service Programs for Canada’s Absolute Homeless Population: Program Evaluations,” it primarily summarized dozens of research studies to assess whether the policy of “Housing First”—followed by treatment—works. His research also assessed Inner City Health Teams (ICHTs) in Ottawa and Toronto.

“The studies showed that the Housing First model and ICHTs are very effective at improving life outcomes, health, housing stability, and prescription adherence, but there is plenty of room for improvement in the programming,” says Filip, who won the Faculty of Public Affairs’ *180 HRE* competition for his presentation of his research.

While Filip is already making a difference in the field of social work, he decided to continue with his education. He plans to pursue a law degree at Toronto’s Osgoode Hall in the fall.

“I wanted to challenge the systemic and human rights issues I’ve witnessed, but in social work, you can’t go to court and fight for someone,” he says. “With both social work and law degrees, I will be able to tackle those issues more concretely.”



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5th annual Throwback!

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Convocation. Commencement. Valediction. Graduation.

There are mixed emotions at this time of year. While we will miss our graduates, we're also excited for them as they embark on a new adventure. Below, we introduce you to a few of our many notable graduates.

Amanda Chouinard, Bachelor of Communication and Media Studies (BCoMs), School of Journalism and Communication

Amanda Chouinard's favourite part of her [BCoMs](#) degree was the hands-on experience.

"The program blended theory with practice, giving me the chance to write press releases, speeches, advertisements and more," she says. "It gave me a foot in the door to paid work experiences, such as co-ops, which are invaluable on my resume."

Amanda always had an interest in the ways "business to consumer" companies reach their target audience. Now, she's putting her experience into practice at the Toronto public relations firm Strategic Objectives.

"Although there's a lot to learn at in my new position, my degree gave me the skills necessary to think critically, to write both professionally and creatively, and to thrive in a team environment," says Amanda, who served as the president of the Communication Undergraduate Student Society and a campus tour guide. "If my first weeks have been any indication, I'm excited to see where the world of PR takes me."



**Tanya Rose Dupuis, Bachelor of Arts,
European, Russian, and Eurasian
Studies, Institute of European, Russian
and Eurasian Studies (EURUS)**

After graduating from high school, Tanya Rose Dupuis was interested in learning more about Europe, but she wasn't sure which career path to follow. That made **EURUS** an ideal choice.

“EURUS allowed me to study many things, which helped me determine what interested me,” explains Tanya, who gravitated towards politics and history classes. “It was also fun to study one subject from so many different perspectives: economics, politics, history, and culture.”

One of the highlights of her undergraduate experience was spending a month in Austria studying the German language, European culture and history, and refugee law and policy at the University of Vienna summer school.

“It was so interesting to meet people from the countries I learned about in class,” she says. “I felt more connected to the world.”

While Tanya is still deciding on her future path, it's not for lack of opportunities. She says her Bachelor degree has given her many options—and a taste for living abroad.



**Chloe Halpenny, Bachelor of Public
Administration and Policy Management
(BPAPM), Arthur Kroeger College**

Even before she had chosen a major, Chloe Halpenny applied for her first job in university—as a parliamentary page in the House of Commons.

“I was always interested in government and politics, so I knew I wanted to be in Ottawa,” explains Chloe, a native of Sault Saint Marie, Ontario. “Then I heard about the BPAPM, which fit really well with the page program.”



Chloe was attracted to the interdisciplinary nature of the **BPAPM**, which included courses in journalism, public policy, research and political polling, among others. *(continued)*

“We had instructors coming from their jobs downtown to teach classes in the evenings,” she says. “We were so fortunate to benefit from their close ties to their profession.”

Chloe particularly enjoyed her course with BPAPM alumnus David Coletto, the CEO of polling firm Abacus Research. She ended up following the Strategic Public Opinion and Policy Analysis stream in BPAPM with David Coletto as her supervisor.

As with many BPAPM grads, Chloe appreciated the program’s tight-knit community within Arthur Kroeger College, as well as her study abroad opportunities in Peru and Malawi.

After working a summer job at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), a Crown corporation that funds research in developing countries, Chloe will be attending the London School of Economics for a Master’s in Social Policy and Development in the Fall.

**Julia Hamel, Master of Arts,
International Affairs, Norman Paterson
School of International Affairs (NPSIA)**

Julia Hamel’s first encounter with inequity and development work was in Nigeria, where her parents served as aid workers. Since then, she has been driven by a desire to help people actualize their potential and make the world a more equitable place.

Julia volunteered for local community development and refugee organizations during her undergraduate studies at Bishop’s University. Upon graduation, she interned at World University Service Canada, a nonprofit organization in international development, and for the EU Delegation in Sri Lanka. Those experiences led her to [NPSIA](#), where she specialized in international development policy.

“I was drawn to NPSIA because of its reputation and networks, but also because it offered the opportunity to engage with students who specialized in other fields, bringing different perspectives to the table, including conflict analysis, security, and economic considerations,” Julia explains.

One of the highlights of her experience was an independent study course she pursued in Ethiopia last summer, where she volunteered for Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT). *(continued)*





From the Foreign Service to foreign correspondents, FPA alumni lead fascinating and inspiring lives.

In honour of Carleton University's 75th anniversary in 2017, we're profiling 75 of the Faculty of Public Affairs' most inspiring alumni. This month we release the final five profiles.

carleton.ca/fpa/75-75



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Chief Economics Commentator,
Wall Street Journal

GREGORY IP



This year the lecture will be presented by Gregory Ip, an award-winning economics journalist for the *Wall Street Journal* and the author of *Foolproof: Why Safety Can Be Dangerous and How Danger Makes Us Safe*. Mr. Ip has built his career on the knowledge he gained while pursuing a double major in journalism and economics at Carleton. He was named one of FPA's *75 for the 75th*.

When: September 15, 2017
Time: 7:00 pm — 9:30 pm
Location: Richcraft Hall
Room: Singhal Family Theatre
(RB2200)



“I learned a lot from this organization, which provides leadership, entrepreneurship and digital skills development for youth,” Julia says. “It was so inspiring to watch the DOT interns ‘learn by doing’ and contribute to the development of their local communities.”

This year, Julia took advantage of NPSIA’s co-op option and worked for the Tanzania development division at Global Affairs Canada. She recently returned to Africa on her own, to visit the country in person.

“I wanted to see the reality on the ground and meet our development partners, as well as Tanzanian youths who are the key to the country’s future,” explains Julia, who plans to return to Global Affairs Canada in the fall. “I never expected so many opportunities. I am humbled and very grateful for these rich experiences.”

Will Kosiancic, Bachelor of Arts, Law, Department of Law and Legal Studies

In his third year, Will Kosiancic experienced Carleton’s capital advantage first hand. He was working at a local department store when he met Senator Pamela Wallin.

“She asked me about my degree and we ended up chatting,” he recalls. “She gave me her card when she left.”

Will stayed in touch and began volunteering in her office. This summer, he’s moving into a paid position as one of only three staff members.

“I do everything: from writing speeches to policy research,” says Will, who minored in Political Science. “My courses prepared me well for the policy and legal analysis I do, as well as understanding how law fits into the grand scheme of the political system.”

Will says the most gratifying part of his university experience was working closely with faculty members, such as Assistant Law Professor Alberto Salazar. Will helped him research and write a journal article as part of an [IPAF 4900](#) research assistantship. The paper has been submitted for publication.

For his Honours Research Essay, Will sought out the guidance of Law Professor Margaret Ogilvie, a senior professor who helped him apply to the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto.

“She was so knowledgeable, she had the answer to every question I had.”
(*continued*)



With a strong foundation under him, he'll be going to the Munk School in the fall and he plans to pursue a law degree as well, with an interest in corporate law.

Emma Kristensen, Master of Political Management (MPM), Arthur Kroeger College

As someone who loves politics, Emma Kristensen couldn't ask for a better summer job: she's working in Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office.

"I was selected for a summer internship in the PMO Operations Department, which plans the logistics for the Prime Minister's international and domestic travel," she explains. "It's a great opportunity to put my MPM skills into practice every day."



The internship came about through a relationship Emma developed in MPM's first-year mentorship program.

"I had a fantastic mentor who worked hard at putting me in touch with the right individuals," she recalls. "The mentorship program was essential to getting me this position."

Nurturing connections is an important part of the [MPM program](#). Many of the professors are former political advisors themselves who frequently invite guest speakers from Parliament Hill, the media and the public service to share their experiences.

"It's always helpful to hear from individuals with firsthand political experience. I think all of us benefited from that," she says.

The MPM program also features hands-on learning, with students participating in mock cabinet meetings and speech writing. However, Emma found the best part of the program were her fellow students.

"Everyone in the program was political, but students had different political backgrounds and partisan affiliations. So we were learning the true value of cooperating with people whose political values didn't always align with our own," she recalls. "We learned to respect each other and communicate our ideas. I formed a lot of close friendships that transcend partisan affiliation."

Christine MacIntosh, Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership (MPNL), School of Public Policy and Administration

As the director of the John Howard Society in Ottawa, Christine MacIntosh didn't need a degree to advance her career. What she was seeking, however, was the "macro view" of the charitable sector and long-term trends.

"Like many in the field, I had grown into a management role. I didn't have any formal training," explains Christine, who is also the chair of the Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa. "I had completed the certificate MBA program, but I realized I wanted to pursue a degree that specialized in non-profit leadership."

So, Christine enrolled in the Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership diploma course through the [***School of Public Policy and Administration***](#). After that, she applied for the MPNL program and was accepted on her second attempt.

"It was extremely demanding, but rewarding at the same time," says Christine, who pursued her Master's over a two-year period while working a full-time job. "I was able to apply it almost instantaneously in my day-to-day job."

As the director of an organization that advocates for just and humane responses to the consequences and causes of crime, Christine was especially interested in the legal components of the course. She also credits the assistance she received from the faculty and staff for her success.

"My professors were really supportive, especially Susan Phillips. She was fantastic," says Christine, in reference to the founder of the MPNL program. "It was the most amazing opportunity and I recommend it for anyone interested in nonprofit leadership."



**Scott McNeil, Master of Arts,
Economics, Department of Economics**

After earning a Bachelor of Journalism in 2011, Scott ending up working for a media analytics company, where he found himself more interested in the analytics than the media.

So when he heard Carleton's ***Department of Economics*** was introducing a master's specialization in data science, he decided to apply.

"It was an intense program, which was perfect for me because I had already been in the workforce," says Scott, who first completed the Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Economics as a transition into the Master's degree. "It gave me a really broad set of skills in mathematics and statistics."

Scott also served as a research assistant to Assistant Professor Matthew Webb, helping him run computational simulations for his research. That experience helped him get a job as a data analyst working on the data team at Shopify.

"It's the biggest data team in Ottawa. That's where I was hoping to end up," says Scott.



**Rumya Nithiananthan, Bachelor of
Arts, Political Science, Department of
Political Science**

Rumya's experience in ***Political Science*** earned her much more than a degree. She's graduating with a job in the public service and a letter of acceptance to the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA) Master's degree program.

"Political science gave me a good understanding of how to critically analyze information and how government processes work," says Rumya, who began working as a policy analyst at the Public Health Agency of Canada as part of a co-op experience. "I think a lot about the policy cycle and how different government institutions create policy."
(continued)



Rumya also participated in Alternative Spring Break in New Orleans and the Dominican Republic. She says those experiences motivated her to consider a Master's degree in international affairs, along with her volunteer work in the Tamil community.

This Spring, Rumya placed first in the Faculty of Public Affairs' Undergraduate Showcase for her research on the effectiveness of gender quotas in increasing the policy involvement of female politicians in national legislatures in Brazil and Costa Rica.

**Akshay Sharma, Bachelor of Arts,
Criminology, Institute of Criminology
and Criminal Justice**

Growing up, Akshay Sharma knew he wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement. But after earning a diploma in Community and Justice Services from Algonquin College in Ottawa, he realized he needed a better understanding of the criminal justice system itself.



“When I began studying [*criminology*](#), I realized there was so much more to it, and that policing was just one facet of the criminal justice system,” recalls Akshay. “The multi-disciplinary approach exposes you to many different aspects including law, psychology, sociology, and more.”

As he pursued his degree, Akshay worked as a front-line worker, working with youth and adults within various social service agencies. He found the discussions he was having in criminology were being put into practice.

“It put the front-line work into context. I began to understand what was happening behind the scenes and how policy was implemented,” says Akshay. He also found his field placement, working as a fraud investigator for a government agency, particularly valuable.

“I acquired various transferable skills which I can utilize both in an academic, professional and personal capacity,” he says.

As Akshay plans his future, he continues to work on the front lines with a plan to move into a more advisory role.

“I plan to work in a capacity where I can continue to make a difference in the community, primarily working with young persons in conflict with the law,” he says.

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