The setting of this year’s Maxwell convocation was Setnor Auditorium in Syracuse University’s iconic Crouse College. EMPA, EMIR and CAS students as well as other graduates gathered to celebrate their hard work and achievements. These 59 Executive Education students first walked through Maxwell’s doors calling 11 different countries home. Now, the knowledge and experiences they gained at Syracuse University brought them together one last time.

The ceremony commenced with welcoming remarks from Maxwell Dean Jim Steinberg, who congratulated the students on their hard work. EMPA graduate Makedonka Trajkovska of the Republic of Macedonia was chosen to speak on behalf of the graduates. Her speech expanded on the definition of citizenship, touching on topics like quality, girls’ education, and becoming agents of change. This year’s keynote speaker was J. Brian Atwood, former public administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and dean of the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

Congratulations to the Class of 2015! Remember to keep in touch so we can include you in alumni updates in future editions.
We were so proud to see all our May 2015 graduates gathered in Setnor Auditorium. It was such an honor to have both Maxwell Dean Jim Steinberg (shown bottom left) and former public administrator of the United States Agency for International Development J. Brian Atwood (shown below) congratulate our graduates.
CANDIDLY MAXWELL...
GRADUATION EDITION
For students who recall this past winter’s icy grip, you may be surprised to know we are in the midst of a warm and sunny summer!

Most of our May graduates have since returned to their countries and professions but we are grateful to see those who are still in town taking advantage of Maymester and Summer Session courses.

Our Defense Comptroller Program students will complete their degree this August, with a combined MBA and EMPA degree in the 14-month program. Despite the demands of their program, many were regular supporters of our speaker series, Peer to Peer. More than one remarked on how valuable they found the global perspective of their Executive Education colleagues during these presentations.

We are diverse - in May 59 graduates from 11 countries received their EMPA, EMIR and CAS degrees. Makedonka Trajkovska was selected to represent all the Maxwell graduates as a speaker during May’s convocation.

There are a few Public Administration and International Affairs faculty updates:

Professor Stu Bretschneider, Maxwell Professor of Public Administration and International Affairs, will be retiring from Maxwell this summer to take a position as Foundation Professor of Organizational Design and Public Management at Arizona State University. He will continue an association with Maxwell as co-director (with Professor John McPeak) of the Mandela Washington. These young professionals are part of the U.S. State Department’s Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI). Maxwell is in its second year of hosting these Fellows. Professor Bretschneider is known to many Exec Ed alums for his Capstone and Forecasting courses.

Some of you may remember Professor David Van Slyke, Louis A. Bantle Chair in Business and Government Policy, from Capstone or Policy Implementation courses. As of July he takes the helm as Chair of Public Administration and International Affairs. He has also been named Associate Dean of the Maxwell School.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that Prof. Walter Broadnax was retiring and is now Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Public Administration and International Affairs. He recently delivered the keynote address for the MPA Convocation held at the end of June.

In August, we will welcome new Executive Education students to campus who will join their DCP and continuing student colleagues. It’s an exciting time as we look forward to adding to our Maxwell Executive Education family of which are a treasured member. You can help make their experience even more rewarding by sharing your experiences - in person, via Facebook and in future editions of our newsletter.

Keep up to date on all Executive Education happenings on our Facebook page — and let us know what you’ve been up to by emailing ExecEdAlumni@maxwell.syr.edu.

I wish you a magnificent summer.

All the best,

Margaret
Makedonka Trajkovska, a recent graduate from the Republic of Macedonia, offered the following reflection:

Time flies fast at Maxwell. I still feel like it was few weeks ago when I arrived in Syracuse overwhelmed by plenty of expectations. It was definitely one of the most exciting and challenging years of my life, both personally and professionally. This year at Maxwell brought me back in life in the most meaningful way – my inquisitiveness to learn and my curiosity was on high alert throughout the year during the class discussions, panels, and the presentations that I gave. I feel immensely lucky that the Executive Education Office has engaged my interests, goals, as well as my knowledge and experience and “used” me for good purposes at Maxwell. I was able to share my past endeavors, stories about my country Macedonia, and was challenged to achieve new goals. Being a Maxwell student as a Fulbright scholar, ensured me in the well-known thoughts of Senator William Fulbright. Namely, after his exchange program abroad, he believed that the educational exchange reconciled him to all the difficulties of political life as well as made him a citizen of the world who criticizes his own country as paying it an implied tribute.

Maxwell brought to me the perspective of citizenship as a value inherited from the past, from the Athenian Oath as a timeless code of civic responsibility, up to contemporary understanding of citizenship which is worth fighting for every single minute, as it is one of the greatest values and benefits of the humanity. My real Maxwell experience started at a front seat at Executive Leadership class with Prof. Catherine Gerard as I let her shape my leadership skills in the most profound, kindest, and generous way. I was motivated to learn more and read the literature that she puts on the website. I wondered how I was going to make it through the ninth circles of essays, through the semester and get the best grade. Fortunately, the process went smoother than I could ever imagined. As I didn’t know that at
the beginning and there was no one to share thoughts about it, I was in sweet trouble until I realized how much I enjoy that class.

Fall semester was a blessing during the first half, as in the second part all I could think of was how to achieve the impossible mission to meet all the deadlines. This time at Maxwell was sweet, just like falling in love, bringing tons of butterflies of positive excitement and anxiousness in my stomach. And let’s clear something here - there is no such thing as “spring semester” in Syracuse! I was just fooled by the name. Although I witnessed the most brutal winter ever in my life, a miracle happened: I’ve learn to love it at the end, although I have never ever liked winter. Luckily, this so called spring semester passed at the blink of an eye.

Part of my adventures at Maxwell was Peer-to-Peer debate as I discussed the name dispute between my country, Republic of Macedonia, and Greece that has lasted more than 20 years. It is one of the kind in the history of the United Nations. Many colleagues came to tell me that they have never heard of such a ridiculous conflict rooting from ancient history, and there is lack of interest in the U.S. for the always problematic Balkans. As much as I was glad to contribute to Macedonia-Greece debate, the pleasure will be complete if my generation contributes to the solution.

The beauty of the Executive Program is the opportunity to choose your courses and shape them accordingly to your interests and needs. I focused on the Women and Gender Studies program, as gender equality and women’s rights are my deep interest, passion and my driving, and an inseparable part of modern citizenship. The status of women globally brought me to a new friendship with the Girls Ambassador from Matilda Joslyn Gage Center for Social Justice and Dialogue, at first as their speaker and later on as their guest, on their Women Human Rights Tour in Washington, DC. It was a true honor as these young, smart, women had courage to change the world and make it a better place for future generations of boys and girls. Furthermore, as a part of commemoration of the 20 years of the United Nation’s Fourth Women’s Conference in Beijing, I was a panelist at the Bertini Panel at Maxwell, sharing my thoughts what it means to be woman in my home country.

In May, I was honored to give the commencement speech for the graduating Maxwell class 2015. I talked about Maxwell values focused on citizenship, education, scholarship, and engagement, as we are the lucky generation that is celebrating the 90th anniversary of Maxwell School. I also talked about my passion, equality, as it is the milestone of modern citizenship and this year is historical as the world is marking 20 years after Beijing, although this world is not an equal place yet. Half of the world population is not represented in decision-making positions. Does this mean that women are not able to lead companies, states, and universities? NO! It means that women transnationally do not have equal opportunities.

Two years ago, when I learned I got the Fulbright scholarship, I couldn’t imagine that I, a small town girl from tiny Macedonia, could pursue my dream to get the best possible education. But here I am after a year at Maxwell, interning for the Policy Planning Unit at UNICEF in New York and waiting my future work challenge to start. Dreams do come true if you dare to believe, and work hard to achieve them. The Maxwell School is the right step on that path.
END OF THE YEAR BBQ

The soon-to-be graduates and their families celebrated their hard work at the End of the Year BBQ!
The Peer to Peer Speaker series continued in the Spring 2015 semester with seven talks featuring both Executive Education students and Humphrey Fellows. The following is a list of speakers and topics:

**Public Financial Management Reform in Myanmar** (watch here)
Presenter: San Thida (Myanmar), Humphrey Fellow

**Cultural and Religious Impact on the Rights of Women in Pakistan**
Presenter: Qurrat-ul-Ain Rasheed (Pakistan), Humphrey Fellow

**What’s in a Name: Macedonia and Greece Name Deadlock** (watch here)
Presenter: Makedonka Trajkovska (Macedonia), EMPA candidate

**Struggling for Democracy: Color Revolutions and Youth Activism in Kyrgyzstan** (watch here)
Presenter: Kazbek Abraliev (Kyrgyzstan), Humphrey Fellow

**Accountable Governance and Home Grown Initiatives in Rwanda**
Presenter: Michelle Ntukanyagwe (Rwanda), Humphrey Fellow

The topics are based on the speakers’ professional or personal experience. The more informal format allows for both a talk, presentation and plenty of time for participant questions.

Want to see the Peer to Peer talks that have been uploaded on YouTube? Search “Maxwell Peer to Peer,” and then search by date.
Congratulations to Executive Education graduates Harmony Ayers-Friedlander, Ayodele Balogun and Janet Fletcher, whose project titled “The Key to Reviving the City of Detroit: Vibrancy,” was selected for the American Society for Public Administration’s annual conference in Chicago. The research project was created for Prof. Yilin Hou’s Capstone course this fall. The conference’s theme was “Building a Stronger More Equitable Society: The Role of Public Administration,” and all three participated in a panel discussion during the State and Local Administration: Political and Administrative session. Good job to our recent graduates!
EMPA graduate Makedonka Trajkovska from the Republic of Macedonia spoke to the Girl Ambassadors for Human Rights at the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation. Her talk focused on female leadership and the status of women in her country. The Ambassador program provides social justice training for 15-17 year-old girls from the Syracuse, New York region and explores human rights and gender issues.

One long-standing Executive Education tradition is dinner at Tokyo Seoul Restaurant to celebrate the Lunar New Year. Students were accompanied by the Humphrey Fellows and enjoyed each others’ company on a cold and snowy evening.
As part of the Maxwell School’s 90th Anniversary Celebration this year, the college undertook a social media campaign to reflect on the meaning of citizenship. Some Executive Education students offered their thoughts:

To Erika Osae from Ghana, citizenship is “is responsibility, equality and respect for humanity.

To Rose Ndong from Nigeria, citizenship is “humanity in its entirety. It’s all about people!”

Incoming Executive Education student Oleksiy Anokhin of Ukraine said, “#ToMeCitizenship is not a noun, it is VERB, and it is a process of DOING. Citizenship, or being a citizen, means an opportunity to give the answer on a famous John F. Kennedy question: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Citizenship means to change, to build, to develop, to achieve, to succeed for public benefit.”
In the last edition of News and Views, Gerald A. “Jerry” Fill ’74 MPA/Mid-Career PA offered a retrospective of his extensive career in the Federal government, primarily with the Office of Management and Budget. He adds a brief reflection about the impact of his Maxwell experience. In Maxwell’s 90th anniversary year, it is fitting to note that Jerry was a student during our 50th anniversary celebration.

“My time there was very valuable. Gave me time to reflect, read some interesting texts such as Exit Voice and Loyalty, benefit from very thoughtful Professors and interesting classmates, explore books I would never have been exposed to, and participate as an observer in the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Founding of the Maxwell School. While attending the Anniversary sessions, I met a speaker of the U.S. Office of Management & Budget (OMB). I eventually applied for a position in OMB on the management side of the agency and was selected.

However, Maxwell was transformational. The OMB assignment and work I was privileged to be assigned would not have happened without Maxwell. Make no mistakes about that. I am eternally grateful and when the time comes, I will find an appropriate way to thank the Maxwell program. Thank you to the Maxwell School for Citizenship & Public Affairs.

Elizabeth Cardona ‘10 EMPA is the Executive Director of Multicultural Affairs, International Student Life and Assistant to the Provost for Diversity and Inclusion at Bay Path University. She works to create and implement cultural and social programs that advance student success and personal development. She offered the following reflection:

“My MPA has given me the insight to understand how effective policies and strategies can positively transform communities. Working closely with first-generation and underrepresented college students allows me to impart valuable lessons I learned at the Maxwell School about conflict and resolution, leadership and civic engagement. I am extremely honored and proud of my education and certain my accomplishments are a result of my choosing the Maxwell School.”
I am the joyous recipient of so many great memories and stories from alumni and, invariably, they include a note of gratitude. Frequently I hear how a thoughtful few minutes of help from someone resulted in the redirection of an entire life. Years later, they remain grateful. Someone cared enough to encourage them, to point toward a different path, to pave the way for an interview, etc.

These notes span the entirety of the career trajectory. They come from those first starting out and those reflecting on a lifetime. Yet they all convey a sense of appreciation for a person who helped change their lives. Frequently the person who helped was a fellow Maxwellian.

Nitika Sethi '14 MPA/IR recently wrote to share her excitement over what she called another “win” for the Maxwell network. Classmate Kate Simma '14 MPA/IR had been instrumental in helping Sethi land a job offer with USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance as an information officer.

Dan Kelley ’08 EMPA told me just last week how pleased he was when fellow alumna Stacey Keefe '06 MPA answered Kelley’s Maxwell LinkedIn request seeking civic-minded individuals to serve on the Onondaga Case Management Services (OCMS) board.

Kimberlin Butler ’03 MPA wrote recently about using the network as she transitioned from one region to another. “This is why I love the Maxwell School,” she said, “and [am] so proud to have chosen this program over Harvard. You guys are an extended family.”

I’ve heard Sean O’Keefe ’78 MPA talk about being encouraged by Anne Stewart ’76 MA (PA) to apply for a Presidential Management Fellowship. It laid the groundwork for his entire career and would not have happened without her.

Gratitude like this lasts a lifetime. Dwight C. Smith Jr. ’52 MPA recently wrote that while he was in the Maryland Budget Division (in a job he had landed through a Maxwell referral) he was instrumental in arranging a job for the late Comer Coppie ’59 MPA, who went on from there to a distinguished career in the U.S. Postal Service and New York State comptroller’s office. Some 20 years later, Smith ran into Coppie at a meeting in Albany and Coppie told the group of his indebtedness to Smith. “So one way you can ‘pay it forward,’” Smith wrote to me, “is to acknowledge a boost later on. It reminds people of the meaning of networking.”

I think Dwight sums it up perfectly. It’s important to be both thankful and vocal, to help future generations understand the strength of this amazing network. So thank you to all who have taken the time to counsel a student, submit a job opportunity, volunteer to serve on a board, or otherwise encourage or help a fellow alum. Though these actions may seem small at the time, they could result in a lifetime of gratitude and service.

And, P.S., keep those stories coming! Send them to me at nshannon@syr.edu, or fill out the class-notes section of our update form.

Warm regards,

Norma Shannon
Director of Alumni Relations
The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University
Janet St Laurent ’78 EMPA is now Managing Director at U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Fellow alums and cousins, Robert Duffy ’98 MA PA and Michael Long ’92 MA PA, met up at the annual Syracuse University Alumni Club of Rochester’s 56th annual awards banquet. There, Duffy was honored with the club’s Distinguished Alumni Award for his service with the Rochester Police Department as Major of Rochester and as the 76th Lieutenant Governor of New York State. Long recently retired as City Manager of Oneonta, New York, after 34 years of local governmental service which also spanned Cayuga Cayuga County Planning Board, City of Auburn Office of Planning and Economic Development, Director of Capital Projects and Grants and interim City Manager, Auburn, NY and City Administrator of Poughkeepsie, NY. He recently returned to Auburn, NY and established a consulting firm “Fingerlakes Planning and Development” which offers comprehensive and administrative planning and grant writing and administration to local governments and not for profit organizations.

Marisela Canache ’01 MA PA, ’02 MAIR is now a Resource Planning and Administration Senior Specialist at the Caribbean Country Department at Inter-American Development Bank.

Mark Lichtenstein ’05 MA PA is now the Chief of Staff position in the President’s Office at State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. In this role, he will help the President with strategic initiatives.

Atul Deshpande ’05 MA PA is now a Senior Public Sector Specialist at the World Bank.

Joyce Placito ’06 MA PA is now an Adjunct Instructor at Keuka College.

Wayne Westervelt ’07 MA PA was appointed as Director of Communications to support Syracuse University’s Institute for Veteran Military Families (IVMF) and Office of Veteran and Military Affairs. In this role, Wayne will play a critical role in crafting strategic messaging and media outreach efforts of both the IVMF and the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs, in support of Syracuse University’s longstanding commitment to veterans and their families.

Sandeep Silas ’08 EMPA received the first Inter-Cultural Leadership Award by the British Council. The award was based on achievements of the scales of Self Awareness, Enrolling Across Boundaries, Break Through Initiative, Systems/Complexity, and Spreading Leadership/Mentoring.

Ashok Pal Singh ’08 EMPA is now the Joint Secretary Disinvestment at the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Shams Mustafayeya ’09 EMPA ‘10 MAIR attended a training in Ankara for Turkish civil servants, organized by United Nations Development Program Turkey. She has been
involved in Women’s Leadership Development initiatives in Azerbaijan. You can watch her latest TedX talk here.

**McBride Nkhalamba ’10 EMPA/MAIR** is head of Programs for the Southern Africa Trust, a non-government regional policy development organization that seeks to bring a pro-poor lens of regional integration in southern Africa. They work with women in informal cross-border trade, ex-minors who were not paid terminal benefits, smallholder farmers and youth. The overall aim is to support the South African Development Community, a regional body, to include the interests of small groups and the poor in regional integration policy.

**Sungyeol Shin ’11 EMPA** is now Director at the Policy and Communications Division of the Presidential Archives, South Korea.

**Jennifer Hyatt ’11 EMPA** recently accepted a new position with SUNY Upstate Medical University as the Environmental Health and Safety Specialist.

**Rajeev Kumar Mital ’12 EMPA** is now Chairman/Managing Director at Mahatransco State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

**Prabhat Kumar ’12 EMPA** was recently mentioned in Babus of India, a website dedicated to bureaucrats of India. The article is from an in-house publication, where he explains a case of fraud he worked on in his role as Chief Vigilance Officer for Pawan Hans, Ltd., a state-run helicopter company.

**Travis Glazier ’13 EMPA** was recently promoted to Director of the Office of Environment for Onondaga County.

**Ana Marcela Paredes ’14 EMPA** is now a National Counselor to the National Electoral Council in Ecuador.

**Shahin Ismayilov ’14 EMPA** is now Deputy Head of Department at the Ministry of Transport of Azerbaijan.

Until recently, **Givi Chanukvadze ’14 EMPA** served as a Head of Business Optimization Department at on the biggest Bank in Georgia, JSC Liberty Bank. In a ten-month period, his job was to help the bank’s top management team conduct front office management changes, reorganize branch management structure and make customer oriented optimization of the services delivered by Liberty Bank. Since July 1, Givi moved to Georgia’s CSO sector and serves as a Senior Programs Manager at Georgia’s leading think tank – Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRC). In the role of Senior Project Manager, he took end-to-end responsibilities for a portfolio of internationally funded projects currently being implemented by EPRC. Additionally, Givi is responsible for leading the projects from beginning to end, from the initial proposal through completion, and provide EPRC clients with innovative high quality solutions focused on their development needs. Givi provides technical and management support to thematic Program Managers in the overall implementation of the Economic Policy Research Center. His responsibilities also include providing EPRC intensive support in improving networking and maintaining positive relationships with Georgia’s government counterparts and key stakeholders at national, international and local level. In his role, Givi manages/supervises program staff, including of financial and operational responsibilities. He serves as primary manager of specialized programs currently being funded by several international donors, such as USAID, OSF, OXFAM and the World Bank.
In July 2014, Maxwell School’s Georgian alumni established a non-governmental organization named Public Policy and Administration Center (PPAC). PPAC has been established on the basis of collaborative initiative of Syracuse University’s Maxwell School alumni in Georgia, aiming to work with a wide range of government entities, nonprofits, and businesses to examine and solve real-world problems facing the public sector. PPAC seeks to seed and maintain innovative research collaborations, training innovations and practice-based partnerships in order to best serve the needs of mission-driven organizations and examine successful experience to endure on the field of nonprofit and public management. PPAC founders support public and non-profit organizations to effectively design, implement and measure the progress of development strategies to address key social and economic challenges. PPAC strives to convert best practices from around the world into a local setting in order to make those initiatives more efficient. They consultancy supports high-level policy makers in evidence-based and impact-oriented decision making. They transform the best of their public, private and academic expertise in development policies to achieve long-term changes and guarantee comprehensive harmony on goals and actions.
Incoming Students: By The Numbers

We’re already excited to meet a new group of students coming into Executive Education at Maxwell this fall!

These **80+** individuals come from **20** different countries including over **35** domestic students and **45** international students.

We can’t wait to meet you and see all you bring to the Syracuse University community.

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Stay in Touch!

Interested in keeping up to date with what’s happening in Executive Education at Maxwell? Connect with us on social media or send us an email!  
**ExecEdAlumni@maxwell.syr.edu**