Stephanie Dene, CMP Program Co-Coordinator
Stephanie manages the student certification in local government management and public and nonprofit financial management offered by the Center for Public Administration and Policy. She previously served as a project manager for “Minding the Gap,” a-funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, for the Commonwealth of Virginia to develop a state-level program for new local government employees. She also serves as a subject-matter expert on local government administration and has worked extensively in the field of public management and policy. She has earned a B.S. in political science from Virginia Tech and a M.P.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University, and is currently a doctoral candidate in public policy at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her research interests include organizational theory, and collaboration theory in the context of local government.

Adrienne Eakin, CMP Program Co-Coordinator
Adrienne conducts research on the impact of federal and state government policies and programs on localities. She served as a 2017-17 Department of Labor, Justice & Safety; Adrienne teaches policy, strategy, and research methods courses. She previously worked on a private sector development project in the state of Arizona and the Commonwealth’s role in the Workforce Development Reauthorization of the Global Age program for rural elected and career officials of George Washington University. She received her M.P.A. in public policy from George Washington University in 2017 and holds an M.P.P. from Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

Leislah LaRiviere, Director, CMP Richmond Program
Leislah is the director of the program for the Virginia Tech Richmond campus and faculty for SPDA and CMP. She teaches courses on public administration and local-level program development and research efforts in partnership with Richmond, National Capital Region, and Ohio Valley communities. Prior to her public sector career, she served in the U.S. Army in the Role of Communications and personnel management. She also develops curricula, leads professional development programs, and directs graduate mentoring and internship programs. She holds a Ph.D. and M.P.A. in Public Administration and Public Affairs from Virginia Tech and a B.S from University of North Carolina.

Les Duffield, Visiting Instructor
This faculty member teaches and advises students in the area of landscape architecture and community design. Nick has degrees in landscape architecture from Virginia Tech with an emphasis on the added value of community engagement in public design. He has over 15 years of professional experience in parks and recreation, including project development, and grant management. His efforts have been recognized by numerous awards and honors, including a 2016-17 Department of Labor Scholar. He serves on the board of the Virginia Parks and Recreation Association, and is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Zachary Duer, Assistant Professor
Zach is an educator, artist, musician, and performer who specializes in immersive environments. He previously taught as an instructor in the School of Landscape Architecture at Virginia Tech. His research focuses on the role of narrative in immersive environments, and he has worked extensively in the field of international development.

Phat Nguyen, Visiting Instructor
Phat makes conceptual work that combines both traditional medium and various forms of digital technology, multimedia instrument creation, and all forms of music. His work has been exhibited nationally, and he has received residencies at the Santa Fe Art Institute, The Taft Nicholson Center for International Environments, and the South by Southwest Music Festival. Phat holds an MFA in digital media from the University of Technology Sydney, and is currently a faculty member at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Travis Head, Business Manager
Travis has over 20 years of experience in administration, human resources, and finance management roles. He joined SPDA from the Virginia Tech Department of Interdisciplinary Studies where he served as associate director for technology and program development. Prior to this, he was part of the CAUS team as a liaison to the director of program development.

Sergey Shalay, Business Manager
Sergey has over 15 years of experience in administration, human resources, and finance management roles. He joined SPDA from the Virginia Tech Department of Interdisciplinary Studies where he served as associate director for technology and program development. Prior to this, he was part of the CAUS team as a liaison to the director of program development.

New Faculty and Senior Staff
The College of Architecture and Urban Studies warmly welcomes our newest faculty and staff and celebrates our recently promoted employees. For Fiscal Year 2017-18, CAUS had 26 new full-time new hires and 12 promotions.
Richard Byrnes, Dean
Richard Byrnes, Dean, is incoming dean of 30 years of leadership in higher education and architectural practice. Previously, he led the College of Architecture at the University of Miami and the College of Architecture and Urban Design at Kansas State University. Prior to that, he directed the School of Architecture and Design at the University of Houston. He is a fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a member of the American Institute of Architectural Architects. Dr. Byrnes holds a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Notre Dame and master’s degrees in architecture and urban planning from the University of Houston.

Jenny Humphreys, Assistant Professor, Industrial Design
Jenny Humphreys is an assistant professor of industrial design at Virginia Tech. Since joining the Department of Industrial Design in 2017, she has written numerous scholarly articles on product design and design research. Prior to joining Virginia Tech, she served as director of the graduate program in product design at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. She works at the intersection of design, technology, and social impact to design experiences that improve the lives of people with disabilities. Her research interests include computing, robotics, and design methods for inclusive technology development.

Kathleen MacLeod, Associate Professor, Architecture
Kathleen MacLeod is an associate professor in the School of Architecture at Kansas State University. Previously, she served as assistant director of United Way of Montgomery, Radford and Giles, where she was responsible for the agency’s marketing, public relations, and fundraising efforts. Prior to that, she was director of communications and events and director of the Kansas State University Foundation. Dr. MacLeod holds a bachelor’s degree in public relations from the University of Notre Dame and a master’s degree in communications from the University of Kansas.

Elena Marcheschi, Associate Professor, Industrial Design
Elena Marcheschi is an associate professor of industrial design at Virginia Tech. She is currently a principal investigator in the interdisciplinary Design and Generator (DiG) Lab, a research team focused on the intersection of design and human experience. She has been awarded a Fulbright Research Fellowship, a Virginia Tech Graduate Research Fellowship, and a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Her research focuses on understanding how design can be used to improve the quality of human life, with a particular interest in the integration of technology into everyday life.

Steven G. Winter, Visiting Instructor, Architecture
Steven G. Winter is a visiting instructor in the School of Architecture at Virginia Tech. He previously taught in the School of Architecture at Pennsylvania State University. He is an architect, designer, and critic with over 25 years of experience in the design of buildings and urban spaces. He has published extensively on the role of architecture in shaping social and cultural change. His work has been exhibited in galleries and museums around the world, and he has received numerous awards for his contributions to the field of architecture.

Abdul-Malik Alzubaidi, Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering
Abdul-Malik Alzubaidi is an assistant professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at Virginia Tech. His research focuses on the development of innovative solutions to civil engineering problems, with a particular emphasis on the application of machine learning and artificial intelligence. He has published numerous papers in these areas, and his work has been presented at several conferences. He is also involved in the development of educational materials to help students learn the principles of these technologies.

Robert Bassett, Associate Professor, Architecture
Robert Bassett is an associate professor in the School of Architecture at Virginia Tech. He is currently the director of the School of Architecture and the director of the College of Architecture and Urban Design at Virginia Tech. He has received numerous awards for his research and teaching, including the 2013 AIA Henry M. Proctor Award for Excellence in Architecture and the 2013 AIA National Award for Excellence in Education. He is also a fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Berna Genc, Assistant Professor, Architecture
Berna Genc is an assistant professor in the School of Architecture at Virginia Tech. She is currently the director of the School of Architecture and the director of the College of Architecture and Urban Design at Virginia Tech. She has received numerous awards for her research and teaching, including the 2013 AIA Henry M. Proctor Award for Excellence in Architecture and the 2013 AIA National Award for Excellence in Education. She is also a fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Annie Lee, Assistant Professor, Architecture
Annie Lee is an assistant professor in the School of Architecture at Virginia Tech. She has received numerous awards for her research and teaching, including the 2013 AIA Henry M. Proctor Award for Excellence in Architecture and the 2013 AIA National Award for Excellence in Education. She is also a fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Sharon Min, Visiting Instructor, Architecture
Sharon Min is a visiting instructor in the School of Architecture at Virginia Tech. She has received numerous awards for her research and teaching, including the 2013 AIA Henry M. Proctor Award for Excellence in Architecture and the 2013 AIA National Award for Excellence in Education. She is also a fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Christopher B. Lewis, Assistant Professor, Architecture
Christopher B. Lewis is an assistant professor in the School of Architecture at Virginia Tech. He has received numerous awards for his research and teaching, including the 2013 AIA Henry M. Proctor Award for Excellence in Architecture and the 2013 AIA National Award for Excellence in Education. He is also a fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Katlyn E. Alexander, Assistant Professor, Architecture
Katlyn E. Alexander is an assistant professor in the School of Architecture at Virginia Tech. She has received numerous awards for her research and teaching, including the 2013 AIA Henry M. Proctor Award for Excellence in Architecture and the 2013 AIA National Award for Excellence in Education. She is also a fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.