

Barbara Rua Wins Prestigious Award



Barbara Rua, a University of Connecticut, Master of Public Administration (MPA) recent graduate, is the recipient of the 2008 National Pi Alpha Alpha Masters Student Manuscript Award. She was given this award for her MPA capstone research project, which she completed this past spring.

Pi Alpha Alpha is the MPA national honor society and is intimately tied to the MPA national association and accreditation body, the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA). NASPAA's twofold mission is to ensure excellence in education and training for public service to promote the ideal of public service.

Barbara's paper was entitled: *Measuring the Financial Health of Connecticut's Cities and Towns*. In this study, Barbara sought to understand the financial health of Connecticut's cities and towns. Whether a town is financially healthy or not cannot be answered with a simple yes or no; rather, financial health is best considered on a continuum from not healthy to very healthy, with subtleties in between.

Barbara applied Ken Brown's 10-Point Test of Financial Condition to Connecticut cities and towns from 2003 through 2007. She used city and town audits collected by Connecticut Office of Policy Management to calculate the needed ratios. Those ratios yielded municipal rankings and in turn a picture of where the towns and cities fall on the fiscal health continuum.

The award will be presented at a luncheon during the NASPAA conference in Charleston, SC in October.