Dean’s message: March/April 2017

- André Plourde, Carleton University

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Around the world, the number of people displaced by violence, conflict, persecution and natural disasters is at an all-time high. I’m very proud that many of our researchers and students in the Faculty of Public Affairs are devoting their time and energy to this important issue.

This was reflected in the recent Visions for Canada 2042 conference (presented by the Faculty of Public Affairs in honour of Carleton University’s 75th anniversary) where human migration was one of the main themes considered. In particular, a panel hosted by the Migration and Diaspora Studies Initiative discussed the leadership role that Canada has adopted on this issue. We share their story in this edition of FPA Voices.

At the same time, dozens of undergraduate and graduate students and faculty members collaborate on the Mobility & Politics Research Collective within the Faculty of Public Affairs. We’ve included the story of two students who are contributing to the research in this area.

Lastly, our Career Paths profile features one of our 75 for the 75th alumni, named in honour of Carleton University’s 75th anniversary. Abdulqafar Abdullahi is a senior macro fiscal economist at the World Bank Group who is helping to rebuild the financial system in his home country of Somalia. His story of immigrating to Canada after the collapse of his country, and then thriving, is inspiring.

These are the people who make the Faculty of Public Affairs a flourishing learning and research environment, which is contributing to improved governance and public policy, informed citizenship, and ultimately, better democracy and better societies.

We are just wrapping up our flagship event series: FPA Research Month, which features five weeks of panel discussions, research symposiums and public lectures. It is the highlight of our academic year and even more so this year, with the inclusion of the Visions for Canada 2042 conference, which featured a keynote address by Climate Change and Environment Minister Catherine McKenna.
It was one of many events in 2017 in honour of Carleton University’s 75th anniversary. I hope you will have a chance to join in the celebration this year!

Sincerely,

André