



CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

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## E-Bulletin

September 2006

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Arezo Kohistani and Nadima Sahar,  
CPPA first year students from  
Afghanistan, join CPPA.

## CPPA News

### CPPA Welcomes Afghan Students

CPPA extends a warm welcome to Arezo Kohistani and Nadima Sahar, incoming students from Afghanistan. After completing the MPPA program, these women will return to Afghanistan as part of a rare group: Afghan women who hold graduate degrees and aim to assume leadership roles in their country's government.

Kohistani and Sahar, along with their families, have endured severe hardships for the sake of education. Both women were taught outside of Afghanistan, either in refugee camps or in Afghan schools in Pakistan, to avoid the current prohibition of education for females. Then, supported by Roger Williams University and the Initiative to Educate Afghan Women (IEAW), Kohistani and Sahar moved to Bristol, RI, to move forward with their college education. IEAW, a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the next generation of Afghan women, was founded in 2002 by Paula Nirschel.

According to Sahar, "We want to make sure that the next generation won't face the same problems, like lack of education and not feeling secure enough." She insists that she will go home to influence policy and go on to become the first female president of Afghanistan. Kohistani, who wants to be an ambassador, is also excited about the opportunities presented through studying at CPPA. "It's a dream come true," she says. "Not only our dream, but our families' dream, our country's dream."

## **Staff Changes at CPPA**

CPPA welcomes Karen Pelto as the Associate Director for Research. A 1988 graduate of Hampshire College, Karen spent over 15 years in the nonprofit and public sectors before enrolling in the MPPA program with CPPA in 2005. As a staff member of the Massachusetts Riverways Program from 1992 through 2005, she cultivated and supported municipal and volunteer-led efforts to monitor, protect, and restore rivers and the aquatic species they sustain. In 1999, she created the first interagency program in the country to restore rivers through the selective removal of dams. Recognized for this work, she was invited by The Aspen Institute to participate in a national "Dialogue on Dams and Rivers" that developed policy recommendations for integrating dam removal into local, state, and national decision-making processes. She is looking forward to working with UMass Amherst faculty and staff to develop research initiatives and funding proposals, form and sustain on-campus collaborations, and develop linkages with policymakers and other public leaders.

Colleen O'Shaughnessy, MPPA '05, has joined CPPA as the Special Projects Manager. Since graduating, Colleen has traveled throughout Australia, and spent five months working for the government of South Australia on program development and strategic planning in the health care sector.

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## **Faculty News**

### **CPPA Welcomes Bill Gibson**

Bill Gibson joins CPPA this fall to teach two courses, Advanced Quantitative Methods and Globalization and Poverty. He was also the first speaker in the Colloquium Speaker series, presenting *A Virtual Life: Simulation of the Argentine Labor Market* on September 11.

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## **Student News**

### **Welcome to CPPA's largest incoming class!**

#### **Allison Ackerman**

Allison grew up in the Washington, DC area and attended James Madison University where she studied Integrated Science and Technology, with a concentration in Energy. For the past six years, she has been working in Boston for an engineering firm that audits and retrofits buildings for energy efficiency. Her academic and long term career goals include the promotion of environmental protection and energy conservation. Her hobbies include all kinds of dance, independent films, cross country skiing, Gay Jewish activism, and anything that incorporates the outdoors.

#### **Lars Andersen**

Lars is from Bremen, Germany, and is studying Politics and Management in Constance. He will be here for a one year exchange, and is interested in Nonprofit Management and Politics. Lars has interned in Brussels, Belgium at the Heinrich Böll Foundation, a political Foundation linked to the Green Party in Germany. He has also worked for the American Jewish Committee in Berlin. After spending a year in Illinois, Lars is now looking forward to spending time in New England. Outside of the classroom, he enjoys going seeing movies and going to the theater, cooking with friends, jogging and inline skating.

**Christie Barcelos**

Christie comes to CPPA from Vermont, where she works in youth development, volunteers as a doula, and writes about the intersection of motherhood and politics. She holds a degree in Political Science and Women's Studies from Marlboro College in Marlboro, VT. Christie's previous research in public policy has focused on welfare reform, though now she is primarily interested in health policy, specifically as it pertains to reproductive health care.

**Tyler Boone**

A recent graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, OH, Tyler comes to CPPA with a background in Political Science. He has been involved with the Ralph Nader campaigns in 2000 and 2004, and various local nonprofits in Cleveland ranging from environmental issues to modern dance. Tyler traveled to El Salvador in March to observe elections, and would like to pursue a career in developing world politics and elections. He enjoys playing racquetball, cross country skiing, and watching Open-wheel and sports car racing.

**David Celata**

David was born and raised in New England, although he hasn't lived in the area full-time since high school. He attended George Washington University in Washington, DC, where he studied Philosophy with a concentration in Public Affairs and a minor in Sociology. Since graduating in 2004, David has worked with AmeriCorps – one year as a VISTA working with a Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Baltimore, MD, and the second year as a Team Leader in NCCC, assisting in the response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. David plans to focus on environmental policy while at CPPA, and enjoys reading and playing and watching sports.

**Amy Cookson**

Amy comes to CPPA with a BA in Political Science and a minor in Women's Studies from Muhlenberg College, a liberal arts college in Allentown, PA. As part of her undergraduate studies, Amy completed an internship with Ms. Magazine in Washington, DC. She is interested in international policy and gender policy, and is considering the certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies in addition to her MPPA here at UMass. Amy is a self-professed pop culture junkie and loves to read.

**Michele DesAutels**

Michele comes to CPPA with over 12 years of experience, starting with the US Peace Corps in Uzbekistan in 1994 as a Women's Small Business Development Volunteer. Since then, she has worked with MIT, start ups, and five years at Microsoft. Michele is interested in expanding the current efforts of local nonprofits in assisting women from all socio-economic backgrounds to start and maintain businesses. She is a recent winner of an American Association of University Women Career Development Grant to assist her in pursuing her interests. Michele loves to participate in most sports and is a regular runner.

**Amy Ferrer**

Amy graduated from UMass Amherst in December 2003 with a B.A. in Women's Studies. Since then, she has been working in nonprofit administration at Tapestry Health, a reproductive health organization in western MA. Amy is passionate about reproductive rights and women's health issues, and plans to focus on health policy and complete the Advanced Feminist Studies certificate. Originally from New Jersey, Amy has lived in the Pioneer Valley since 2000 and loves it!

**Frank Fisher**

Frank grew up in Springfield and graduated from Westfield State College with a B.A. in Criminal Justice. He is currently employed in the human services field, and is excited to explore various career options through CPPA.

**Kevin Greer**

Kevin comes to CPPA after graduating from Wake Forest University in 2003 with a degree in Political Science. He has been working in Washington, DC as a consultant for a mid-sized research

and consulting firm for the past three years. Kevin is interested in education policy and nonprofit management, and is looking forward to being back in Massachusetts.

### **Arezo Kohistani**

Arezo is from Afghanistan, and studied with a full scholarship at Roger Williams University. She finished sum cum laude, and was a member of several international and national honor societies. Arezo is interested in the policy process and public management, and aims to work in the international arena as an ambassador or through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the United Nations.

### **Daryl LaFleur**

Daryl graduated from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams in 1988 with a B.S. in Business Administration, Major in Management, Minor in Art. After working in many capacities, including Coordinator of Operations for Roadway Package System, running a home-based stationary company, and being the primary caretaker of his daughter, Daryl is excited to return to study public policy. His activities include serving on the steering committees for two citizen-initiated ballot initiatives, running for public office in 2005, serving as a convention delegate alternate, serving 2 terms on the city's Trust Fund Committee, serving as Co-Chair of the PTO. In 2001,

### **Zachary Mallavia**

Originally from Idaho, Zachary graduated in 2003 from Boise State University with a B.S. in Political Science and a B.A. in French. The following year he successfully managed the campaign of Nicole LeFavour for Idaho State Representative, and then spent a year teaching English at a lycée in the alpine city of Grenoble, France. Zach is currently the Director of Community Involvement at ServiceNet, a local human services agency, focusing much of his energy on major gift solicitation and building the volunteer program.

### **Claire McGinnis**

Claire comes to CPPA as a part time student, while she works for the Town of Amherst in the Finance Department. She graduated from RPI, and has worked in the fields of computer manufacturing, furniture customer service, and preschool autism therapy. Her interests outside of work and school include two active sons, hiking, biking, and gardening.

### **Wesley Montgomery**

After graduating from the University of California Berkeley in 1992, Wesley has been working in the world of performing arts, specifically producing and presenting theater. Currently, he is on staff at UMass, serving as the Managing Director for New WORLD Theater, a company committed to commissioning, producing and presenting work by artists of color. Wesley's civic activities include serving on cultural arts panels, boards and leading workshops related to the field of performing arts. Through CPPA, Wesley plans on deepening and strengthening his understanding of the ways in which the arts are connected to public life, and how that connection translates into resources, collaboration opportunities, and, as multi-media work emerges, legal challenges around copyrights and information in the public domain.

### **Michaella Morzuch**

Michaella graduated from UMass in 2003 with a degree in Political Science. Since then, she has worked as a legislative staffer for Jim Marzilli, the Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. During her time in Boston, she completed a graduate certificate in the Women in Politics and Public Policy Program at UMass Boston, where she conducted research on increasing women's political participation through women's political organizations. At CPPA, Michaella plans to focus on the dynamics health care policy, particularly in regard to insurance products, improving health care access, health disparities, and disease prevention. Michaella enjoys running and reading, and is hoping to convince her family to adopt another boxer.

**Kristin Neville**

Kristin comes to CPPA with a personal interest in rebuilding communities while focusing attention on cultural renewal, after living in New Orleans and witnessing the devastation from Hurricane Katrina from a distance. She graduated from UMass with a self-designed degree B.A. in Third World Development, and is interested in many areas of public policy, including social, environmental, and international issues, and plans to work in the nonprofit sector. Kristin's interests include gardening, music, herbal medicine, and weaving.

**Paul Newlin**

Paul comes to CPPA with a variety of work experiences, including carpentry, teaching at the high school and college levels, mechanical engineering, researching. He has been engaged in policy issues at the federal, state, and local levels, and is currently serving on his town's select board. Paul is pursuing a degree in public policy to expand his policy consulting and teaching potential.

**Laura Pillsbury**

Laura graduated in May 2006 from UMass with a B.S. in Food Science, and will be specializing in Food Science Policy with CPPA. Laura is especially interested in food security issues domestically and internationally, as well as the politics surrounding the corporate food industry. During her undergraduate studies, she interned with two major food companies, and looks forward to a career with a humanitarian-driven agency, such as the UN's World Food Program. Laura keeps herself busy outside of school with live music, backpacking, canoeing, biking, sewing, cooking, and gardening.

**Nadima Sahar**

Nadima comes to CPPA from Kabul, Afghanistan. She came to the U.S. in 2002, after receiving a full four-year scholarship with Roger Williams University. Nadima studied Political Science, with a minor in Business and a core concentration in Philosophy. She is interested in international policy, concentrating on cultural issues, peace, and human rights.

**Vannoch Sin**

Originally from Cambodia, Vannoch graduated from UMass Amherst with a degree in Business Administration. She has worked in Human Resources in the health care industry as well as higher education, and is currently working in the Development Office at UMass.

**Carol Stewart**

Carol joins CPPA as a part time student with a background in community-based mediation programs as a mediator, trainer, and administrator. She received her B.A. from Sony Brook University and currently works with the School of Education as a project manager.

**Christopher Sullivan**

Although a Delaware native, Chris has called many places home since graduating from Milligan College in 2003. After studying Business Administration, he moved to Delaware to work as an AmeriCorps member with a small housing repair organization for low income, rural homeowners. After completing the contract, Chris moved to Boston to serve another term as an AmeriCorps member with a homeless shelter. He then moved to London, volunteering as a live-in with a homeless shelter. Chris is interested in local community building, alternative forms of economy, youth development, and social policy. Outside of academics, Chris is interested in music, and the outdoors.

**Mary Terry**

Mary comes to CPPA after living in the Valley for over 20 years, when she moved from Maine to complete her undergraduate degree in English at UMass. Her work experience is varied, yet has focused primarily around education and conference, meeting, and event planning. Most recently, she was the Director of Conference Services at UMass, until this spring when she left for Vieques, Puerto Rico for four months. Mary is planning to use the skills she develops at CPPA to change her career path, and is interested in nonprofit management.

## **Natia Verulashvli**

Natia is from Georgia, where she has worked in a variety of capacities, including local NGOs, international organizations, and public service. Before coming to CPPA, Natia was working as a senior adviser for the State Minister of Georgia on reforms coordination. She holds a B.A. and M.A. in Public Administration, and is interested in education policy, with a career goal of becoming the Minister of Education in her home country.

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## **Alumni Updates**

**Greg Humora '88** – Greg and his wife welcomed the birth of their daughter, Mallory, in January.

**Erin Reedy '95** - Erin has recently begun working in the Boston area for Commongood Careers, a search firm specializing in the nonprofit sector.

**Robyn Sinuefeld '00** - Robyn recently moved to the D.C. area where she continues to work as a Transit Planner for Carter & Burgess. She is currently working on the Dulles Metrorail Project, a new extension of the DC metro system to Dulles Airport.

**Vivian Saravelas '01** - Vivian recently moved to Hawaii where she is the Director of Finance for Child and Family Services.

**Carolyn Lee Davis '02** – Carolyn recently accepted a position as a Policy Analyst, researching children's policy issues in Rochester, New York.

**Peter Abair '05** – Peter is the Director of Economic Development for the City of Newburyport, MA.

**David Roth '05** – David has accepted a position as a Senior Administrative Analyst with the New York State Department of Transportation.

**Zosia Wadoski '06** – Zosia is the Senior Neighborhood Development Specialist with the City of Norfolk (VA), Planning and Community Development Office.

ALUMNI - We'd love to hear from you! Send your updates to [info@pubpol.umass.edu](mailto:info@pubpol.umass.edu) or use the online alumni update form.

<http://www.masspolicy.org/index.php?section=alumni&page=alumniupdateform>

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## **Events**

### **Nanotechnology and Regulation: The Question of Government Capacity**

Christopher J. Bosso, Associate Dean, School of Social Science, Urban Affairs and Public Policy (Northwestern University), and Director, Nanotechnology and Society Research Group

Science, Technology, and Society Partners Speaker Series

Place: Room A110, The Silvio O Conte National Center for Polymer Research

Date: Thursday, September 21, 2006

Time: 4:30 p.m.

**Great Expectations? Hungarian Romani Activism and European Union Association**

Krista Harper, Assistant Professor, Anthropology and Center for Public Policy and Administration  
CPPA Colloquium Speaker Series  
Place: 620 Thompson Hall  
Date: Monday, October 16, 2006  
Time: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

**Funding Opportunities for Social Scientists at the National Institutes of Health**

Jeffery Evans, Director of Intergenerational Research at the National Institutes of Health and Human Development (NICHD)  
Science, Technology, and Society Partners Speaker Series  
Place: 620 Thompson Hall  
Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2006  
Time: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

**George Sulzner Retirement Party**

Place: Massachusetts Room, UMass Mullins Center  
Date: Friday, October 6th 2006  
Time: 4:00 PM

Professor George Sulzner, who retired in May 2006, was instrumental in establishing a Master's Program in Public Administration at UMass. Please join us for drinks and hors d'oeuvres while we honor George, beloved professor, mentor and colleague. Proceeds from this event will support the George T. Sulzner Scholarship Endowment Fund.

For more information, please contact Jackie Brousseau-Pereira at 413-545-1933 or [jackie@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:jackie@sbs.umass.edu).

**Questions or comments about the CPPA E-Bulletin?**

Please contact [Colleen O'Shaughnessy](mailto:Colleen O'Shaughnessy) at [colleen@pubpol.umass.edu](mailto:colleen@pubpol.umass.edu) or 413-577-0239.