



CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

E-Bulletin

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Contents:

CPPA News
Faculty News
Student News
Alumni Updates
Events



NCDG Fellow Seok-Jin Eom and first year MPPA student Daryl LaFleur take a break and enjoy a piece of pie at the CPPA Pie Fest.

CPPA News

Sulzner Reception Photos

Photos from the retirement reception honoring Professor George Sulzner are now available online! You can view these photos at: <http://www.masspolicy.org/sulzner/index.html>.

Faculty News

Professor Medicoff Appears on Al-Jazeera International

Professor David Medicoff has appeared twice since November 30 on Al-Jazeera International, the recently launched English-language international cable news network. The first appearance, a 2-hour live segment, featured Professor Medicoff discussing and commenting on the meeting between President George W. Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki in Amman, Jordan. Professor Medicoff's second appearance involved a discussion with two other analysts on U.S. policy in Iraq on *Inside Story*, a program that provides analysis, background, and context on the day's top story "from some of the best minds in the Middle East and around the world."

Professor Medicoff is spending the 2006-07 academic year in Doha, Qatar on a research and teaching grant from the Fulbright Scholars program. He is conducting research for a book on links

between law and political change in the Arab world and lecturing on international politics, international law and U.S. foreign policy at Qatar University.

La Raja Awarded Grants to Study Clean Elections

Professor Ray La Raja has been awarded two grants totaling about \$200,000 by the Justice, Equality, Human Dignity and Tolerance (JEHT) Foundation to look at the potential impact of the Clean Elections Law in Connecticut. According to La Raja, "I'm taking advantage of a unique opportunity. This law will provide public funding for all candidates in legislative and statewide elections, starting in 2008. By starting our research in the 2006 election, we can compare to see if Clean Elections makes a difference in the next election."

Fountain Awarded 2006 Research Leadership in Action Grant

Jane Fountain, Director of the Science, Technology and Society (STS) Initiative, has been awarded a fall 2006 Research Leadership in Action Grant from the Office of the Vice Provost for Research at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The STS Initiative will organize, convene, and host the first in a series of three workshops to address issues of public policy associated with nanotechnology. The first "Societal Dimensions of Nanotechnology Workshop" will be part of a three-day "Nanotechnology: Beyond the Lab" event that is scheduled to take place in spring 2007 in conjunction with a meeting of the National Nanomanufacturing Network, which is coordinated by the Center for Hierarchical Manufacturing (CHM) at UMass Amherst. The STS Initiative shares in the NSF award that supports the CHM. The Workshop will feature College of Social and Behavior Sciences (SBS) faculty and other experts on the public perceptions of nanotechnology and public opinion formation about the risks and benefits of emergent technologies, visual perception of nanotechnology research and instrumentation, and resolving conflict in emerging technology policy and technology commercialization.

Badgett Quoted in Chicago Tribune Article

Lee Badgett, Associate Professor of Economics and CPPA, commented in a Chicago Tribune article entitled, "Is Gay Marriage a Threat to Marriage?" She cited her research on divorce rates, marriage rates, and out-of-wedlock birth rates in Scandinavia and the Netherlands since the passage of partnership laws.

Schweik Presents at 5 College GIS Day

Professor Charlie Schweik, Associate Director of NCDG; Maria Fernandez; Alexander Stepanov; Jim Peters; and Mike Hammel presented a poster at the 5 College GIS Day, held at Amherst College on November 8. The poster, "Introduction to GIS Using Free Software" introduced attendees to Schweik's online Public Policy course, FOSS GIS, and offer a demonstration of Quantum GIS. To see a copy of Professor Schweik's poster, [click here](#).

Fountain Gives Keynote Address at International Semantic Web Conference

Professor Jane Fountain gave a Keynote talk at the 5th International Semantic Web Conference in Athens, GA on Wednesday, November 8. An abstract of Fountain's talk, "The Semantic Web and Networked Governance: Promise and Challenges," is available at: http://www.masspolicy.org/pdf/pressrelease/fountain_abstract.pdf.

Alpert Appointed to Invasive Species Advisory Committee

Peter Alpert (Biology) was appointed in October 2006 by the Secretary of the Interior to serve a three-year term on the Invasive Species Advisory Committee. This committee provides technical

advice and stakeholder views to the National Invasive Species Council, a federal interagency body led by the Department of the Interior and charged with promoting and coordinating efforts to control the spread of invasive species.

Student News

Short bios are now available online of 11 current MPPA students. Click [here](#) to view these profiles.

Introducing Our Students

We will be highlighting a current MPPA student in each upcoming edition of the eBulletin. Our first student to be highlighted is Stefanie Santaniello, a second year MPPA/MBA dual degree student.



"I joined CPPA in Fall 2005 and am currently working on a dual MPPA/MBA through CPPA's new partnership with the Isenberg School of Management. Being able to simultaneously complete professional master's degrees with two nationally competitive programs has been a great opportunity for me, and one that I feel is preparing me well for a future career as a public administrator.

What I especially love about CPPA is that their program is customizable to a variety of interests. For me, the base of analytic and quantitative skills that you develop through the core curriculum has been invaluable. This past summer, as a research analyst intern for the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, I was part of a team that put together an economic analysis report for the City of Springfield. In doing this, I felt that my coursework at CPPA had given the tools that I needed to be an effective contributor to the team. As a result of the experience, I am anxious to work on other projects involving economic development and local finance in the future.

Another thing that is great about the program is the level of involvement of CPPA alumni in creating a superb atmosphere for learning. CPPA's graduates have found their way into all levels of the public sector throughout the world, and our alumni are incredibly generous with their time. They are constantly willing to talk to current students, whether on campus at Professional Development events or elsewhere. Their commitment to the program adds a level of depth and richness to the academic experience that mere classroom learning alone could not possibly provide."

Alumni Updates

Amy Ford '02 – Amy has recently accepted a position with Amherst College. She is the Academic Department Coordinator of the Women's and Gender Studies Department.

Kerry Mulcahy '04 – Kerry has been awarded the first Paul J. Westberg Leadership Award, which recognizes significant activism in the Democratic Party. A Doherty Memorial High School teacher and activist, Kerry has volunteered on many campaigns, including that of Lt. Gov-elect Timothy P. Murray, who will speak at the award event. The award is named after Paul J. Westberg, a noted Democratic political strategist and first assistant deputy superintendent at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction in West Boylston.

ALUMNI - We'd love to hear from you! Send your updates to info@pubpol.umass.edu or use the online alumni update form. <http://www.masspolicy.org/alumniupdate>

Upcoming Events

Vision for Next Generation Cyberinfrastructure: Blackstone River Model

Paula Rees and David Reckhow

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Science, Technology, and Society Partner Forums

Place: W.E.B. DuBois Library, Lower Level Event Space

Date: Thursday, December 7, 2006

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Networks and Political Attitudes: Structure, Influence, and Coevolution

David Lazer

Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Place: Thompson Hall, 6th floor conference room

Date: Friday, December 8, 2006

Time: 4:15 p.m.

CPPA Holiday Party

Place: UMass Amherst, Memorial Hall Lounge

Date: Thursday, December 14, 2005

Time: 5:00–6:30 PM

All are welcome - please contact [Kathy Colon](#) if you plan to attend.

Questions or comments about the CPPA E-Bulletin?

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