



CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

E-Bulletin

February 2007

Contents:

CPPA News
Faculty News
Student News
Alumni Updates
Events



A group of MPPA students take a break from their studies and enjoy an ice skating session at the Mullins Center.

CPPA News

A New Homepage for CPPA

CPPA is pleased to bring your attention to the latest version of the website. Go to www.masspolicy.org to check out the latest faculty and student news and upcoming events! As always, the website is a work in progress and your comments and suggestions are welcome!

Faculty News

Chakravartty Examines Media Policy and Globalization in New Book

A book written by Paula Chakravartty and Katharine Sarikakis, *Media Policy and Globalization*, has been published by Edinburgh University Press as part of the Media Topics series, which critically examines the core subject areas within Media Studies. *Media Policy and Globalization* covers the institutional changes in the communications policy arena by examining the changing role of the state, technology and the market and the role of civil society. It discusses actual policy areas in broadcasting, telecommunications and the information society, and examines the often-overlooked normative dimensions of communications policy.



Wild Capitalism Published

Columbia University Press has recently published a book by Krista Harper (Anthropology and CPPA). The book, *Wild Capitalism: Environmental Activists and Post-Socialist Ecology in Hungary*, examines environmental issues in the “New Europe” of the twenty-first century. Specifically, it looks at how the meanings of “civil society” and “environment” have changed as environmentalists encounter the political and ecological realities of life after state socialism. Although environmentalism is a global social movement, environmental politics is a grassroots process in which activists creatively translate environmental issues into cultural idioms and political processes.

Professor Medicoff Discusses His Time in Qatar



Professor David Medicoff is featured in “Calling Qatar,” a feature article in the February 2007 edition of the UMass Alumni magazine. In the article, Professor Medicoff describes his cultural, teaching, and research experiences as he spends the academic year in the Middle East as a Fulbright Scholar.

Among the topics covered in the interview (including McDonald’s, religion, and the driving practices in Qatar), Medicoff states that he needs to be “constantly aware of the complexity, particularly given my ambitions as a scholar and a teacher, to mediate between the post-9/11 United States and the Muslim-dominated Middle East.”

Read the full article [here](#).

Haas Participates in International Environmental Conference

Professor Peter Haas (Political Science) traveled to France early in February to participate in the “Citizens of the Earth” Paris Conference for Global Ecological Governance. The Conference provided a forum for reviewing major threats to our planet that jeopardize the harmony of societies. It also aimed to determine priorities for action, including the strengthening of international environmental governance. Actively engaged in the practice of global governance, Haas is co-author of the recently published *Global Environmental Governance*, part of the Foundations of Contemporary Environmental Studies series by Island Press. He is also the coauthor of *Emerging Forces in Environmental Governance* (United Nations University Press, 2006).



Schweik Contributes to Book on Open Source

Professor Charlie Schweik (Natural Resources Conservation and CPPA) contributed a chapter entitled “Free/Open-Source Software as a Framework for Establishing Commons in Science” to the recently published book *Understanding Knowledge as a Commons* (MIT Press). The book examines information as a shared resource through contributions that discuss the knowledge commons in the digital area – how to conceptualize it, protect it, and build it.

Student News

CPPA Students Undertake Holyoke Project

This semester, three MPPA students are working on a community project to improve the transportation opportunities for low-income residents in the City of Holyoke. Chris Sullivan, Michele DesAutels, and Kevin Greer, in conjunction with Mt. Holyoke College Professor John Fox and two students, are conducting a feasibility study of a para-transport service that would provide new transportation services to low income residents. The team is investigating the need for a

point-to-point, on-demand van service to provide residents with transportation to/from work and to provide their children with safe, affordable, and reliable transportation to/from childcare. Throughout the semester, the students will be working with a number of public, private, and non-profit organizations in the area to build awareness and support for the initiative, including the offices of Rep. John Olver (D-MA) and Michael Sullivan (Mayor of Holyoke).

Student Team Assists Local Nonprofit



First year MPPA student Daryl LaFleur was one of six UMass graduate students to volunteer as part of *Net Impact* with a local community service organization, *ServiceNet Inc.*, over the winter break. The student team developed and conducted a series of surveys and interview sessions with *ServiceNet* staff members to solicit feedback on the integration of a new electronic medical records system. "The *Net Impact* team went all out in order to assist *ServiceNet* in improving both client services and the working environment for employees" said Daryl. "We were met appreciatively by staff and administrators alike and are pleased to have served as a bridge towards improved system implementations in *ServiceNet's* future." *Net Impact* is a global network of graduate students and professionals striving to "change the world through business" by achieving positive social, environmental and economic goals. The UMass Chapter was cofounded by first year MPPA student Kevin Greer, who also acts as Treasurer. Several CPPA students are members of the organization.

MPPA/MBA Student to Speak at Bentley College

Michele DesAutels, a first year MPPA/MBA dual degree student, will be speaking at the Women's Leadership Institute at Bentley College on March 29. She will be discussing her recent research, a pilot qualitative study on women's small business development in the Pioneer Valley. The project focuses on understanding motivation and success factors for women in order to identify necessary public policy to improve the pipeline and success rate of women-owned businesses. Michele came to CPPA after working as an enterprise marketing manager for Microsoft and a Women's Small Business Development Volunteer with the U.S. Peace Corps in Uzbekistan.

Introducing Our Students

This month, the profiled student is Fida Touma, a second year MPPA student. She won the Alumni Association Award in 2006, and is on a Fulbright Scholarship to study at CPPA.



My background is in Architecture and for five years I worked with a non-profit non-governmental organization in Ramallah-Palestine called RIWAQ. Under the broad goal of cultural heritage protection, RIWAQ implements a multitude of projects. These range from community awareness media programs to the preparation of master plans of historic centers to be adopted by village and municipal councils. The highlight of my work with RIWAQ was the renovation and rehabilitation of six historic buildings in six underprivileged villages in the West Bank.

Our job was to locate abandoned historic buildings, provide the financial and technical support for their physical restoration, and create partnerships between local public institutions and the building owners so that these historic marvels would be maintained through their use as work spaces for locally needed public services.

As I see it, architecture is more about community service than construction. This is why I decided to enroll at CPPA. The CPPA public policy program offers me the skills and knowledge I need to compliment and expand my previous experience. The diversity and quality of the courses offered at CPPA provide me with a broad range of tools I can utilize in many different situations. For example, my main interest is in non-profit management, a sector that is rapidly developing in my country. However, now I am supplementing that interest by taking classes that focus on international

relations and international policy. The flexible but rigorous program offered here is what makes CPPA distinct.

CPPA has also offered me the opportunity to be exposed to other people's experiences and interests. The friendly environment in the center has helped me, as an international student, make friends and feel at home. The effect of such an issue is beyond description; for those who are away from their families and loved ones, having a friendly environment is something that is most invaluable.

Alumni Updates

Larry Kocot '86 – As the Senior Advisor to the Administrator with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Larry recently provided testimony to the United States Senate Special Committee on Aging. The hearing, which took place on January 31, 2007, addressed the effectiveness of Medicare Part D for low income seniors. For more information, please click here.

Kirsten Kowalski-Lane '00 – In October 2006, Kirsten Kowalski-Lane traveled to San Ignacio, Belize where she spent one month working in a rural maternity clinic. While there, Kirsten completed the clinical requirements to become a Certified Professional Midwife. She also worked to create better basic systems to improve the overall delivery of services to expectant and new mothers.

Christine Barber '03 – Christine recently accepted a position as a Senior Policy Analyst at Community Catalyst, a nonprofit consumer health organization based in Boston that conducts policy research and consulting around the country.

Gillian Crippen '05 – Gillian is living in St. Petersburg, Florida and working for Pinellas County through the Management Associate Program (MAP). The MAP is a one-year intensive management trainee program for graduates of master's programs.

Peter Abair '05 – In addition to his work as Director of Economic Development for the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, Peter is an ex-officio partner for the Berkshire Atlantic Group, which provides economic development consultant services to municipalities and businesses. He is also serving as a Trustee at Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield. Last February, Peter and his wife Linda had their second child, Peter Francis Abair.

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

Upcoming Events

Exploring the Limits of Legalization in the WTO: The Case of Basic Telecom Agreement
Meelis Kitsing, NCDG Doctoral Fellow

Place: 620 Thompson Hall

Date: Wednesday, February 21

Time: 12:00 p.m.

For more information on this talk, please log on to ncdg.org.

Digital Land: Integrating Digital Technology into the Land Planning Process

Mark Lindhlt, Professor of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning

NCDG Speaker Series

Place: WEB DuBois Library Learning Commons

Date: February 22, 2007

Time: 4:00 p.m.

For more information on this talk, please log on to ncdg.org.

Law in a Digital World: New Processes for an Age of Conflict and Change

Ethan Katsh, Legal Studies

CPPA Colloquium Speaker Series

Place: 620 Thompson Hall

Date: Monday, March 5, 2007

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Policy Options for Renewable Energy Incentives: The View from Europe

James Manwell, Professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

STS Partners Speaker Series

Place: 620 Thompson Hall

Date: Thursday, March 8, 2007

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Questions or comments about the CPPA E-Bulletin?

Please contact Colleen O'Shaughnessy at colleen@pubpol.umass.edu or 413-577-0239.