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## CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

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### E-Bulletin

March 2007

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Lisa Hilt, a second year MPPA student uses new CPPA computers in Thompson Hall

### **CPPA News**

#### **CPPA Welcomes Exchange Student**



CPPA would like to welcome Lars Anderson, a one-year exchange student from Germany. Lars studies Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Konstanz, which is located at the "Lake Constance" in southwestern Germany.

"My major interests are the US-German Transatlantic relations and different facets of American politics. I volunteered for one year at the office of American Jewish Committee (AJC) in Berlin, where I got a first hand introduction to American lobbying, US-German relations and the workings of an NGO. I was actively involved in helping to adopt AJC's anti-bias education program to Berlin high schools."

"For me, it is always important to not only do research and analyze political systems, but also to get involved; that is why I am active for the Green Party in Germany. I served one year as the Speaker of the "Young Greens" in my hometown Bremen and campaigned for Green candidates on the state and national level. In the future I could very much imagine engaging in politics, as well as working in the nonprofit sector or for a political foundation."

"So far I love my experience at CPPA. The professors are extremely supportive and understanding. I felt immediately welcomed and accepted in the program. CPPA is giving me the opportunity to strengthen my analytical writing skills and to gain important knowledge about the US policy implementation process. A great asset of the program is the diversity of the students. For me it has been really fascinating to get to know students with so many different working and research

backgrounds. Everyone is really committed and there is an atmosphere of partnership and team spirit."

"At the end of my exchange year I will not only benefit academically from the program but also have a couple of new friends in the US."

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## Faculty News

### Bushouse Awarded Fellowship

Brenda Bushouse has been awarded a two year fellowship with ZERO TO THREE to study the impact of universal preschool on the childcare industry. ZERO TO THREE is a national nonprofit organization that works to support the healthy development and well-being of infants, toddlers and their families. Brenda will be researching the impacts of state funded education for four-year-olds on the affordability and accessibility of care for birth to three-year-olds. This project is a direct extension of her research on the passage of universal pre-kindergarten legislation in Georgia, New York, Oklahoma, and West Virginia.

### McDermott Article Published

The American Educational Research Journal will publish an article by Professor Kathryn McDermott in its Spring 2001 issue. The article, *"Expanding the Moral Community" or "Blaming the Victim"? The Politics of State Education Accountability Policy"*, analyzes the intent behind and results of educational accountability policies in four states, while focusing on issues of equity and the relationship between state and local control over public education.



### Schweik Article Available on *First Monday*

Charlie Schweik and Robert English's article "Tragedy of the FOSS Commons? Investigating the Institutional Designs of Free/Libre and Open Source Software Projects" is available in the online journal, *First Monday*. To read the article, click [here](#).

*First Monday* is one of the first openly accessible, peer-reviewed journals on the Internet, solely devoted to the Internet. For more information on *First Monday*, click [here](#).

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## Student News

**Katie Boggs** has accepted a position as an analyst at the Government Accountability Office in Boston. GAO is a non-partisan, independent agency that conducts research and analysis of federal government programs. Katie will enter GAO's two-year Professional Development Program where she will complete rotations with three of Boston's audit teams.

**Christie Barcelos**, a CPPA HUD Community Development Fellow, is working at Tapestry Health. She is developing outreach materials about emergency contraception and the new Commonwealth Care health insurance program, working on funding for family planning and HIV/AIDS services in the new state budget, and helping to organize a free Rapid HIV testing event at UMass.

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### Introducing Our Students

This month, the profiled student is Laura Pillsbury, a first year MPPA student and the first to participate in the recently formed food policy specialization. For more student bios, click [here](#).

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Toward the end of my undergraduate career I was endlessly doing that familiar search of what to do next in my life. I knew I wanted to continue on with graduate studies and I was especially driven to broaden my knowledge and challenge myself with a new line of study. Even still, I did not want to let go of what I gained from all the science courses that made up my B.S. in Food Science. When I found out about the new Food Science Policy specialization within the UMASS Amherst MPPA, I immediately picked up the phone to find out more details. I liken the program to a tree in that it has allowed me to keep my roots in Food Science through my interactions with the Food Science Department while simultaneously extending my branches in several other areas to learn more about the policy process. Although I have specifically chosen a specialization, I am still amazed by the flexibility of career options related to food and nutrition within the policy realm. By building both a food science and public policy foundation, I hope to help bridge the two communities.

Through CPPA I have been given the opportunity to work with a local grassroots community organization, Nuestras Raices, and helped them prepare a grant proposal aimed to combat food and fitness issues in the area. Since completing the proposal, I have taken on the role of the Holyoke Food and Fitness Policy Council Interim Coordinator.

Other research projects I am working on include a study of the linkages in social networks, specifically around the food system and avian flu, using an assortment of mapping tools including GIS maps, network analysis maps, text mining and categorical maps. I am also conducting an analysis of the policy options for the issue of acrylamide (a "probable carcinogen") in foods.

Through these research and client-based projects, I can apply the knowledge learned from courses while gaining the skills from the 'real-world' experience to help improve my training.

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## Alumni Updates

**Michael Hoyle '91** - Michael was recently been appointed President of McIntosh College. This career-oriented institution, located in Dover NH, provides associates degrees and certificates in such areas as criminal justice, graphic design, business management, and culinary arts.

**Oryx Cohen, '02** - Oryx has co-founded a volunteer, peer-run mental health organization called the Freedom Center, a support, activism, and advocacy community by and for people labeled with 'mental illness.' He participates and serves as the Director of the MindFreedom Oral History project.

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 located at <http://www.masspolicy.org/alumniupdate>.

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## Upcoming Events

**Fiscal Pressure at Build-out: Policy Responses to Declining Tax Revenues in the Phoenix Metropolitan Area**

Carol Heim, Economics

CPPA Colloquium Series

Place: 620 Thompson Hall

Date: Monday, April 2  
Time: 12:00 p.m.

**Motherhood: The Elephant in the Laboratory**

Dr. Emily Monosson

STS Speaker Series

Place: 620 Thompson Hall

Date: Wednesday, April 4

Time: 1:30 p.m.

**The Role of the CIO: Problems and Opportunities**

Norman J. Jacknis, Chief Information Officer of Westchester County

NCDG Speaker Series, Co-sponsored by CPPA and the IT Program

Date: Thursday, April 12

Time: 4:00 p.m.

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

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