



CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

E-Bulletin

October 2007

Contents:

CPPA News
Faculty News
Student News
Alumni Updates
Events



CPPA students Arezo Kohistani and Nadima Sahar host an Afghan lunch for the CPPA community.

CPPA News

CPPA has recently released the fall schedule for the professional development series for MPPA students. These events include two workshops on Microsoft Excel, an internship session, an alumni panel, an external speaker, and a grant writing workshop. We are always looking for alumni involvement as we increase our professional development offerings; if you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Colleen O'Shaughnessy at colleen@pubpol.umass.edu.

Faculty News



Joya Misra, Sociology and CPPA, is currently featured on the website of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. In the article, she cites the close-knit feel of CPPA: "our community [is] a tight-knit one, connected by intellectual interests as well as similar life stages. Led by John Hird, Jane Fountain, and now Lee Badgett, CPPA has grown into a program we're very proud of. Students won't find such a high-quality program with as much individualized attention anywhere else. They work on incredibly varied topics."

To read the profile, which includes information on Joya's research, please visit: <http://www.umass.edu/sbs/faculty/profiles/misra.htm>.



A paper by **David Mednicoff** (Legal Studies and CPPA) was recently published in the Victoria University Wellington Law Review. The paper, entitled "The Importance of Being Quasi-Democratic – The Domestication of International Human Rights in American and Arab Politics," builds on a comparative treatment of the politics of contestation and incorporation of human rights law in the United States, Morocco and Tunisia to highlight the salience of international law's democratic legitimacy

problems of popular representation and mobilization.

To read the paper, please click [here](#).



M.V. Lee Badgett, CPPA Director, was quoted in the October 2007 edition of HR Magazine. The article, entitled "Are You Too Family Friendly?" discusses current shifts in family-friendly policies in the workplace based on marriage trends across the country. Lee discusses differences in uninsurance rates among single-sex couples, married people, and unmarried heterosexuals with partners. Her statements are based on a 2006 study conducted with Michael Ash (Economics and CPPA) with the Williams Institute.

To read the article, please visit:

http://www.masspolicy.org/pdf/pressrelease/HR_cover.pdf

To read "New Study on Health Insurance Inequality and Domestic Partner Benefits" by M.V. Lee Badgett and Michael Ash, please visit:

<http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/HealthInsuranceInequality.pdf>



Jane Fountain, Professor of Political Science and Public Policy and director of the National Center for Digital Government, spoke at the opening plenary session of the 4th Ministerial eGovernment Conference held in Lisbon, Portugal on September 19-21, 2007. Fountain was invited to address the delegates on the relationship of e-government to growth and employment in the European Union as part of a live debate which included the deputy secretary-general of the OECD and European ministers.

While in Europe, Fountain was also the featured speaker at the Conference on e-Business in Alicante, Spain, held at the European Union's Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market, the EU's trademark and design agency. Fountain's presentation, "Building a Virtual State? Cross-Agency Initiatives in Government," discussed how government actors and agencies redesign information and decision making flows to create new processes capable of functioning across traditional bureaucratic boundaries.

For more information, please see the NCDG press release:

<http://masspolicy.org/pdf/pressrelease/fountainlisbon07.pdf>



Paula Chakravartty, associate professor of Communication, discussed “Exclusion and Citizenship in the ‘Global information Society’: Lessons from Feminist Transnational Activism” on Oct. 1 at the Five College Women’s Studies Research Center.

In 2000, the Millennium Development Goals outlined by the United Nations emphasized that access to information and communication technologies such as telephones, computers and the Internet, should be considered a basic socio-economic need alongside access to food, shelter, education and health care. However, the gender divide on this issue is sharp. Chakravartty traced the recent history of feminist activist mobilization through the UN around the inequalities and exclusions that are a central component of the neo-liberal model of a “global information society” that promises to flatten differences between North and South.



CPPA Director **M.V. Lee Badgett** participated in a panel presented by the Center for Research on Families at the University of Massachusetts Amherst on Wednesday, October 3, 2007. The panel, entitled “Taking Research on Families Outside of the Academy: How to Craft Effective Media Messages,” was the first in a series of panels that The Center for Research on Families is organizing to bring together researchers with interest in taking their research outside of the academy and in speaking about their research to the media.

Student News

Student Profile

Kevin Greer is a second year student in the CPPA/Isenberg School of Management [dual degree](#) program. He graduated from Wake Forest University in North Carolina with a degree in political science. Following graduation, Kevin moved to Washington D.C. where he lived for three years and worked as a consultant for The Corporate Executive Board, a mid-sized research and consulting firm. Since coming to the University of Massachusetts, Kevin has been actively involved in a number of on and off-campus activities; most notably, he co-founded the UMass-Amherst Chapter of Net Impact, a graduate student organization dedicated to using the power of business for social good. While he is still exploring various career options, he is particularly interested in non-profits and economic development.



HUD Fellows

CPPA is currently funding three students through a Community Development Fellowship grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Throughout their two-year period of study, HUD fellows are placed with community-based agencies and local government departments. Some of the diverse field placement sites include assignments in community development, economic revitalization, and neighborhood and community planning.



Christie Barcelos is working at the Holyoke Health Center providing grant writing and program development assistance. The Holyoke Health Center seeks to improve the health of its patients by providing quality health care and supporting comprehensive community-based programs. Christie will be working with health care providers and public health professionals at the Center on issues of pediatric health, transgender health and chronic disease management.

Tyler Boone is working with the Springfield Department of Economic Development and Planning. In addition to writing a grant to remediate one of the city's largest brownfields, he is developing guidelines for small business development loans through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and its Community Development Block Grants. As these projects end, Tyler will be working on communicating the results from these and other projects from the Department to the public through developing its website.



Chris Sullivan is working with the United Way of Pioneer Valley to assist in rolling out the UWPV Financial Stability Partnership. The Financial Stability Partnership is the United Way of America national campaign targeted at helping low-income families become financially stable and take the next steps to long-term independence through increasing household income, building savings and gaining and sustaining assets. Specifically, Chris is working with 2007 MPPA graduate Maura Geary who has recently accepted the position of Director of Public Policy and Community Planning at United Way of Pioneer Valley.

During the first year of his HUD Community Development Fellowship, Chris worked with Solutions Community Development Corporation in Holyoke and conducted a review of their YouthBridge AmeriCorps program.

Alumni Updates

Kathleen Hallissey, '90 – Kathleen accepted a position as a Program Officer for the Cleveland Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio.

Heddi Nieuwsma, '06 – Heddi and Nate are pleased to announce birth of their son, Augustus Berend Nieuwsma Moore, on September 15th, 2007.

Jen Neira, '07 – Jen recently started as an Accounting Manager for a nonprofit in Cambridge, MA called Root Capital (www.rootcapital.org). The organization provides loans to small and medium-sized businesses throughout Latin America, Africa, and Asia. The goal is to help address rural poverty and support fair trade and they work primarily with producers of organic and environmentally friendly goods.

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/index.php?section=alumni&page=alumniupdateform>

Events

Professional Development Series: Excel Workshop for CPPA students

David Tyler, Ph.D. Candidate, Sports Management

Place: 620 Thompson Hall

Dates: Thursday, October 25th 2007 and Thursday, November 1st 2007

Time: 4:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

Professional Development Series: Internship Information Session for 1st Year CPPA Students

2nd Year CPPA Students

Place: 620 Thompson Hall

Date: Monday, October 29th, 2007

Time: 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Gender, Care, and Public Policy: Developing New Agendas

Robert Drago, Penn State University

Economic Theory Workshop

Place: 9th Floor Conference Room, Thompson Hall

Date: Monday, November 5, 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.