



CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

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## E-Bulletin

### November 2007

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CPPA Alumni Melanie Cahill ('01), Bernie Kubiak ('05), and Rob O'Donnell ('98) share their career experiences and advice with current MPPA students through the professional development series.

### CPPA News

CPPA is currently seeking project proposals for its Spring 2008 graduate course, Policy Analysis. Through this course, small teams of students work on real-life problems affecting public and nonprofit organizations within the confines of actual constraints and opportunities that such organizations face. At the end of the semester, students prepare a final report and present the results of their project to the client. The deadline for proposal submissions is Friday, January 11, 2008.

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### Faculty News



**Peter Haas** (Political Science) is among four researchers affiliated with UMass Amherst that contributed to reports issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in recent years. The reports earned the panel the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, shared with Al Gore. Haas reviewed portions of the fourth report, dubbed the "synthesis report," which will be released at the 27th IPCC Convention this month in Valencia, Spain. His current research focuses on the management of global environmental threats, and is the co-author of the book [Global Environmental Governance: Foundations of Contemporary Environmental Studies](#).

To read more, please visit: <http://www.umass.edu/loop/talkingpoints/articles/68121.php>



**Ray La Raja** (Political Science) participated in a symposium at UMass Amherst entitled, "Beyond Outreach to Scholarly Engagement." The panel provided the UMass Amherst campus community to learn about how faculty are collaborating with individuals, communities and organizations outside the university and how this work is documented and disseminated. Ray discussed his work as principal investigator for projects that study the impact of Clean Elections legislation and as managing editor of *The Forum: A Journal of Applied Research in Contemporary Politics*.

A recent Oprah show gave a wide audience to results from a study conducted by **Lee Badgett** (CPPA Director & Economics) and Gary Gates at the Williams Institute. The report, entitled "Adoption and Foster Care by Gay and Lesbian Parents in the United States," provides new information on GLB adoption and foster care targeted to child welfare policymakers, social service agencies, and social workers.



To watch the clip, please go to:

<http://www.masspolicy.org/pdf/pressrelease/lbadgett.mov>

To read the report, please visit:

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



**Rutherford H. Platt** (Public Policy & Geography) gave a keynote talk on "Law and Landscape: Planning for a World of Cities" on November 13 at the EuroMAB conference in Antalya, Turkey. Man and Biosphere (MAB) is a UNESCO-based program that dates back to the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm.

The conference focused on how to enhance linkages between science and society, using the experience of the 248 biosphere reserves in the 32 countries making up the EuroMAB Network as learning and sharing sites for sustainable development.

For more information on the MAB conference, please visit: <http://unesco.org.tr/euromab2007/>.

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## Student News



MPPA second year student **Catherine Sands** was featured in a Daily Hampshire Gazette article entitled, *Tastes of home: School's garden becomes centerpiece for lessons on food*. Along with a former kindergarten teacher, Catherine started an after-school organic teaching garden project, which has since turned into Fertile Ground, an organization that connects urban and rural communities through the culture of agriculture. The organization collaborates with schools, school districts, local businesses, community groups, and local farmers. The primary partnership exists with Nuestras Raices, an economic and community development organization in Holyoke. To see the article, please visit:

<http://courses.umass.edu/plnt397c/SchoolGarden.htm>



**Michele DesAutels**, second year MPPA/MBA dual degree student, organized a conference entitled "Mind the Gap: Summit for Women and Technology" held last month at UMass Amherst. The summit sought to encourage female students to pursue careers in technology by showcasing women in various companies and careers related to technology or that require technology skills. A panel on technology trends focused on a wide variety of topics including business, healthcare, communication, arts, and social responsibility. The conference concluded with a career networking pavilion with various local and national companies, including Microsoft and Partners Healthcare.

Jane Fountain (CPPA and Political Science), Director of the Science, Technology and Society Initiative and the National Center for Digital Government (please see, <http://www.umass.edu/digitalcenter/index.html>), participated in the conference and spoke about gender differences in approaching careers in IT.

### Current Student Profile

**Michaella C. Morzuch** is currently a second year student in the CPPA program. She graduated from UMass in 2003 with a degree in political science and is currently a member of the UMass Alumni Association's Board of Directors. Following graduation, Michaella moved to Boston where she worked as a legislative staffer in the Massachusetts House of Representatives while completing a Master's certificate in Women in Politics and Public Policy at UMass Boston. Since returning to UMass, Michaella has been working as a research assistant for the UMass Donahue Institute's Research and Evaluation Group. This past summer, Michaella continued her work at the Donahue Institute where she was responsible for drafting sections of a report that addressed wages and benefits, training and professional development, and support for human service direct care workers (see <http://www.donahue.umassp.edu/docs/help-wanted-2>). Michaella also developed a summary document of recruitment and retention resources and case examples based on providers' workforce initiatives, analyzed Worcester Youth Risk Behavior (YRBS) results to assess the magnitude of substance use and issues related to safety, violence, depression, suicide, sexuality, and physical health among Worcester middle and high school students, and contributed to 11 middle and high school reports for the Worcester YRBS. She is currently assisting in a cost effectiveness evaluation of the Massachusetts Tenancy Preservation Program. As she looks to the future, Michaella is exploring career opportunities in the areas of policy research and evaluation.

Updated student profiles are now on the website! To see them, please visit:

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

## Alumni Updates

**Gillian Crippen, '05** – In June, Gillian completed her internship with Pinellas County (Florida) and was hired as an urban planner. She and her husband are also excited to announce that they are expecting their first baby.

**Nancy Haque, '07** – Nancy is the Director of the Civic Engagement program for a non-profit called the Western States Center.

**Chris Sun, '07** – Chris is working as a data manager/analyst for the alternative schools network in Chicago, IL. He works on two programs in particular that focus on foster care students who have dropped-out of school and helps them to graduate, get their GED, and find employment.

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

### **Bridging the Gaps Between Earnings and Basic Needs in Massachusetts**

Professor Randy Albelda, UMass Boston  
Place: Thompson Hall, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Date: Thursday, November 29, 2007  
Time: 4:00 p.m.

### **Rules of Law and Political Rule: Evidence from Opposite Sides of the Arab World**

David Mendicoff, Legal Studies and CPPA  
Place: Thompson Hall, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Date: Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007  
Time: 12:00PM

### **CPPA Holiday Party**

Place: Memorial Hall, UMass Campus  
Date: Thursday, December 13, 2007  
Please RSVP to Kathy Colon at [kcolon@pubpol.umass.edu](mailto:kcolon@pubpol.umass.edu) if you can join us!

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

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