



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

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## **E-Bulletin**

### **February 2008**

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Martha Fuentes-Bautista (CPPA and Communication) and Satu Zoller, Associate Director, pose for a picture at the CPPA Holiday Party.

### **CPPA News**

#### **CPPA Awarded a Grant**

The Center for Public Policy and Administration was awarded a grant from the UMass Graduate School to assist in efforts to recruit, admit and retain U.S. graduate students, especially those with diverse experiences and goals, who come from different cultural, ethnic and racial, geographic, socioeconomic, and educational backgrounds. The \$10,000 grant will be used to support targeted graduate student recruitment efforts, professional development and education around diversity issues, and to employ a graduate student to assist with diversity efforts.

#### **CPPA Involved in a Collaboration to Create The Public Engagement Project**

A collaboration between the Center for Public Policy & Administration, the Center for Research on Families, the Peace & Violence Concentration in Psychology, and Sociology has led to the Public Engagement Project, which will support faculty members who want to take their research outside of the academy through engagement with the media, community groups, policy makers, and others. PEP will be holding a panel, focusing on writing and placing op-eds, will take place on March 13 (please see events below). Future panels will address topics such as providing congressional testimony, working with government officials, and working with community health groups.

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## Faculty News

### Platt Discusses Urbanization in Newspaper Article



A column by emeritus professor **Rutherford H. Platt** (Geosciences) appeared in the Hampshire Gazette on December 22, 2007. In the article, he discusses how urbanization is straining many societies around the world and how increased population growth will exacerbate the problems. Professor Platt will discuss this same topic, based on his edited book, *The Humane Metropolis: People and Nature in the 21st Century City* (University of Massachusetts Press and Lincoln Institute of Land Policy) on Monday, May 5 as part of the CPPA Colloquium Series.

### Badgett Named Among Top Lesbian Researchers and Featured in NH News



The March 2008 issue of [Curve Magazine](#) includes profiles of their selection of the top twenty most powerful lesbians in academics, including CPPA Director Lee Badgett. Says the author, Rachel Pepper, coordinator of LGBT studies at Yale, "Through some combination of teaching, writing, research and leadership, all these women are changing the face of academia, a world that, until recently, has been run exclusively by straight white men."

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

Two studies conducted by Lee are receiving media attention as New Hampshire looks to the economic impact of a newly enacted law legalizing civil unions. A 2005 study predicted that legalizing same-sex marriage in New Hampshire would bring in an additional \$630,000 a year in rooms and meals taxes in the first three years. The study, conducted by The Williams Project on Sexual Orientation and Public Policy at the UCLA School of Law, was funded by two national gay rights groups. It estimated that half the 2,703 same-sex couples counted in the 2000 census in New Hampshire would choose to marry within three years if marriage was offered to them. A subsequent study in 2006 calculated that 1,352 gay couples, each spending about \$7,600 — or one-quarter of the \$30,510 straight couples spend on weddings in New Hampshire — would spend more than \$10.3 million on weddings if they were allowed to marry.

To read an article in USA Today, please see: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/destinations/2008-01-07-nh-civil-unions\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/destinations/2008-01-07-nh-civil-unions_N.htm)

To read an article in The Citizen, please visit:  
[http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071230/GJNEWS\\_01/153698935](http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071230/GJNEWS_01/153698935)

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## Student News

### Students Participate in Client-Based Project for Policy Analysis Course

For their Policy Analysis Course led by Professor John Hird, first year MPPA students will participate in a client-based policy analysis project. Throughout the semester, students will work with the client on specific projects and through a presentation and written report, will make a public policy or management recommendation.

Projects include:

City of Springfield Office of Economic Development and Planning Springfield Cultural Council--  
*Students will complete a policy analysis on a potential program for the creation of an arts district that the City is considering.*

Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts—*Students will help to analyze data on grants previously awarded by the Fund. They will also help to design and carry out a survey aimed at previous grantees.*

Federal Reserve Bank of Boston—*Students will conduct research on mortgage access in rural Massachusetts. Further, the students will create a 'publication-quality report' summarizing the findings and policy recommendations.*

Joint Labor Management Committee: Springfield Public Schools and Springfield Educational Association—*Students will create a qualitative research apparatus to further analyze data received from a district-wide survey of teachers in Springfield. Further, students will give recommendations in relation to survey findings.*

North End Outreach Network—*Students will analyze a shuttle bus loop for the North End area of Springfield. If the analysis is favorable, the students will work on a plan for implementing the policy.*

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission—*Students will create surveys of a cross-section of the Community CEO's and Planning boards. They will compile the survey results and provide recommendations for the future.*

## Student Profile

### Till Bullman



Till Bullman is a first year foreign exchange student from Chemnitz, a city in eastern Germany. Before coming to UMass, he received his masters in Political Science with a second focus in Economics from the University of Heidelberg. His thesis focused on electricity and telecommunications regulation. He applied to CPPA to give his study of interest a new, unique framework. Till has begun the job search in Germany, focusing on policy analysis or consulting work. Before he heads home, however, he is eager to learn about the job field in America, by searching for a summer internship in the United States. According to Till, "My expectations have been fulfilled and I feel I can entirely realize my academic goals through this program."

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## Alumni Updates

**Melissa Peacor, '83** – Melissa is the Assistant County Executive for Prince William in Woodbridge, Virginia.

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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

### **Spring 2008 Colloquium Series: Candidate Emergence: Does public funding of elections encourage people to run for office?**

Ray La Raja, Political Science  
Monday, March 3, 2008  
620 Thompson Hall  
12:00 pm

### **The Public Engagement Project Panel**

A panel on writing and placing opinion editorials includes: Ralph Whitehead (Journalism), Patrick Callahan (News Office), Bob Pollin (Economics and PERI), and Nancy Folbre (Economics and CPPA).  
Thursday, March 13, 2008  
620 Thompson Hall  
2:00pm-4:00pm

### **Spring 2008 Colloquium Series: Climate Change Research and Development Policy**

Erin Baker, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering  
Monday, April 7, 2008  
620 Thompson Hall  
12:00 pm

### **Spring 2008 Colloquium Series: The Human Metropolis: People and Nature in the 21st Century City**

Rudd Platt, GeoSciences  
Monday, May 5, 2008  
620 Thompson Hall  
12:00 pm

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

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