



CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

E-Bulletin

March 2008

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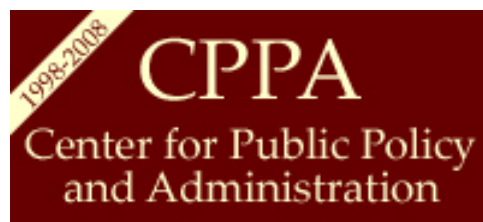


CPPA Director Lee Badgett and Agnes Mwang'ombe (University of Nairobi) at the CPPA Distinguished Lecture on March 26.

CPPA News

Save the Date!

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of CPPA, we will be hosting an alumni gathering event on October 3 – 4, 2008 at Umass Amherst. Mark your calendars for 2 days of speakers, networking events, professional development, and reminiscing with your former classmates!



If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity for this event, please contact Colleen O'Shaughnessy at colleen@pubpol.umass.edu.

STS Colloquium Series Announced



The Science, Technology and Society Initiative (www.umass.edu/sts) has announced their spring lineup of speakers for their colloquium series. The series, focusing on issues ranging from environmental ethics to digital storytelling to equality in internet access, runs from March 31 – May 6. For more information, please see the STS Colloquium Series flyer at: http://www.masspolicy.org/pdf/STS_08.pdf

Faculty News

Krista Harper Selected as Family Research Scholar



Professor Krista Harper has been selected for the 2008-2009 Family Research Scholar cohort, sponsored by the UMass **Center for Research on Families** (CRF). As part of her fellowship, Harper will participate in a year-long interdisciplinary seminar and prepare an external research grant proposal to fund her project, "Visualizing Environmental Justice and Healthy Households: Participatory Digital Ethnography in Hungarian Romani (Gypsy) Communities."

Professor Agnes Mwang'ombe to speak about Kenya's Rural Women

Professor Agnes Mwang'ombe (University of Nairobi, Kenya) spoke at the UMass campus center on Wednesday, March 26th. Her talk focused on the agriculture, sustainability and arid lands challenges facing rural women in Kenya.



Professor Agnes Mwang'ombe is Principal of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, University of Nairobi, Kenya. She is the Founder and Director of the Arid and Semi Arid Lands Foundation, a Kenya-based NGO. She has a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from the University of London and conducts research on plant resistance to diseases, pathogens specialization, seed borne pathogens and diseases. She is an expert in agricultural sustainability in arid lands and the impact on climate change. Her work also integrates gender issues in agricultural and education activities.

Professor Agnes Mwang'ombe's talk was part of the Center for Public Policy and Administration's Distinguished Lecture Series and is co-sponsored with the UMASS Dept. of Anthropology and the Political Economy Research Institute.

Student News

Michaela Morzuch (MPPA '08) accepted a position as a research analyst at Mathematica Policy Research at their Cambridge location. Mathematica is known for its high-quality, objective research to support decisions about our nation's most pressing social policy problems. Michaela will begin her work with Mathematica this summer, after her graduation and a trip to Europe.

Student Profile

Arezo Kohistani



Originally from Afghanistan, Arezo received a full scholarship to complete her undergraduate studies at Roger Williams University through the Initiative to Educate Afghan Women program. The Center for Public Policy and Administration provided her with the opportunity to further her studies and pursue her goals. She states, "I want to complete my master's degree and with the sword of my knowledge tear all the black curtains of hardship covering my countrymen. I want to serve as an active peacemaker in the government and help people to learn more about their rights and freedom."

She describes that growing up in a country where war and terror are the first two words a child learns causes everyone to hate and avoid politics. This was different for Arezo, however. She felt it was important to learn more about politics and different governments in order to get involved in the system and find a solution to the entire dispute. She strives to learn more about politics and policy-making so she can become an active member of her country's parliament one day. She is pursuing a graduate degree in administration, policy, and diplomacy to help empower her leadership skills and gain more knowledge. She intends to use her degree to become an ambassador or to pursue work with the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the United Nations.

As her second year comes to an end, she is currently researching job opportunities and has started to send her resume out. She is eager to use what she is learning at the Center for Public Policy and Administration.

Alumni Updates

Marcia Day, '02 – Marcia returned from China in the fall of 2007 with her new son, a pre-teen boy. He is happily adjusting to American life with his brother from Kazakhstan (age 10) and his sister from China (age 9).

Kristen Wood & Oryx Cohen, '02 – Kristen and Oryx are expecting their first baby in September.

Dina Khassenova, '04 – Dina recently moved to Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, where she continues to work as the UN Coordination Officer for the country.

Mike Hamel, '07 – Mike is the Business and Data Processing Systems Analyst for the City of Boston.

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

Spring 2008 STS Colloquium Series: Nanotechnology and Environmental Ethics

Ron Sandler, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Northeastern University

Monday, March 31, 2008

620 Thompson Hall

12:00 pm

Spring 2008 CPPA 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 STS Colloquium Series: Nanoethics

James Moor, Professor of Philosophy, Dartmouth College

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Hasbruck Laboratory

5:00 pm

Spring 2008 CPPA 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](#) at colleen@pubpol.umass.edu or 413-577-0239.