



CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

E-Bulletin

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Congratulations to the class of 2008!

CPPA News

CPPA Welcomes New Staff Member

Susan Newton will join the CPPA staff in July as Associate Director of Research, assisting with planning and fundraising for CPPA and STS research initiatives. Susan arrives at CPPA from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, MA, one of the nation's oldest public policy research centers. Prior to her time at the Academy, Susan was Associate Director of Foundation and Corporate Relations at Amherst College. Susan also worked at UMass Amherst from 1997-2002, serving as a project manager and evaluator for two different NSF-funded science education projects.

Susan is an urban and community sociologist by training, and has served in faculty positions at the College of Wooster in Ohio and the state's honors college in Louisiana. She also has taught and conducted research in women's and gender studies. Susan's doctorate is from Purdue University.

Congratulations to the class of 2008!



CPPA celebrated the accomplishments of the class of 2008 with a reception at the Lord Jeffrey Inn on May 22. With words from Lee Badgett, CPPA Director, SBS Dean Janet Rifkin, the presentation of the Philip Hertz Award, and introductions by the students, the largest MPPA class to date was officially sent on their way to change our world!

Faculty News

Badgett Plays Role in CA Decision on Gay Marriage

CPPA Director M.V. Lee Badgett (Economics and CPPA), an expert on the economic characteristics of same-sex couples, played a pivotal role in the California court's decision to allow same-sex marriage. Not only did she serve as an expert witness in the case, she also co-authored an amicus brief in support of gay marriage that was used numerous times in the California Supreme Court chief justice's oral arguments on the economic characteristics of same-sex couples. "When you compare same-sex couples with kids to different-sex married couples with kids, they look very similar in financial terms and in terms of having a stay-at-home parent. The court's decision picked up on this general point, noting that same-sex couples with kids have the same need for access to marriage that different-sex couples with kids would have."



To read more, please visit the [SBS website](#).

To read Prof. Badgett's comments in a story in the LA Times, please click [here](#).

"Toxic 100" List Released



The 'Toxic 100' database, created by Michael Ash (Economics and CPPA) and James Boyce (Economics), ranks the country's air-polluting corporations by the impact their waste products have on humans. According to Prof. Ash, the work seeks to give shareholders, activists, environmentalists and business owners a tool to measure how much pollution is getting into the air - and to make appropriate changes. While the hard data used to create the Toxic 100 is available to the public through the EPA's Toxics Release Inventory, Ash said the information can be overwhelming and hard to gauge. 'We turn the right-to-know laws into something much closer to useful information,' said Ash. 'Our aim is to draw attention to our release regulations and generate a consumer discussion.'

To read a recent article featured in the Daily Hampshire Gazette, please see: <http://www.masspolicy.org/pdf/toxic100.pdf>

To read the press release, please see: <http://www.peri.umass.edu/2008-Press-Relea.424.0.html>

Student News

Student Profile



Haley Keenan-Gray grew up in Amherst, MA and attended Syracuse University where she graduated in 2005 with a degree in Sociology and African American Studies. Following college, she spent two years with City Year, an Americorps program that unites 17-24 year olds in a commitment to service, with a focus on literacy tutoring and civic engagement. She served both of her corps years in Little Rock, Arkansas as the Service Leader for the Young Heroes program--a service-learning program for 6th, 7th and 8th graders. She has a particular interest in learning further about non-profit management and community development with her time at CPPA.

Upon completing her first year, Haley is looking forward to the summer as she returns to Little Rock to intern with the William J. Clinton Foundation. She will assist in the Healthier Generation Initiative, a national movement with the American Heart Association and Nickelodeon, striving to get kids healthier.

CPPA Awards Announced

Laura Pillsbury was awarded the 2008 Philip Hertz Scholarship Award. This award, which recognizes a graduating student pursuing a public service career, is given annually by MPA alumnus George Hertz in memory of his father, Philip Hertz, who committed his life to public service. Laura, the first student to participate in the Food Science Policy Specialization, graduated this year and will continue to work with Dr. Fergus Clydesdale, Head of Food Science, on the Food Science Policy Specialization initiative.



CPPA Alumni Association Public Service Award



Raija Vaisanen (left) and **Ludgarda Rehfisch** received the 2008 CPPA Alumni Association Public Service Award. This award is given to two MPPA students who have demonstrated a past commitment to and future potential for excellence and leadership in public service.

2008 Capstone Conference a Success

Graduating MPPA students presented their capstone projects during a two day conference in May. The projects included:

- **Tyler Boone:** "Evidence of the Importance of Aid and the Policy Environment on Growth in Developing Countries"
- **David Celata:** "The Alabama Tax Incentive Reform Act of 1992: Finding a Balance between Education Funding and Economic Development"

- **Natia Verulashvili:** "Frozen Ethnic Conflicts in Georgia: Policy Alternatives And Recommendation"
- **Mary Terry:** "Section Eight Voucher Program and SEVRA Reform in the State of Maine"
- **Allison Ackerman:** "How Can Massachusetts Support a Viable and Sustainable Agricultural Industry?"
- **Zach Mallavia:** "Live Free or Die? Policy Diffusion, Innovation, and Legislators' Perceptions in New Hampshire"
- **Amy Cookson:** "The Gendered Success of an Unsuccessfully Engendered Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper: Evidence from Malawi and Mozambique"
- **Amy Ferrer:** "Breaking the Silences: Best Practices for Implementation of LGBT-Inclusive Sexuality Education "
- **Catherine Sands:** "Living Schools Growing Minds: Political Strategies to Increase Farm to School Programs in the Connecticut River Valley of Western Massachusetts"
- **Laura Pillsbury:** "Food Cultures, Total Diet Studies And Risk Management: Implications For Global Food Policy And Public Health"
- **Arezo Kohistani:** "Microfinance and Social Empowerment of Women in Afghanistan: Best Practice Lessons from Bangladesh"
- **Christie Barcelos:** "Deep Cuts: Policy Strategies to Address the Cesarean Section Rate in Massachusetts"
- **Christopher Sullivan:** "The Labor Market Effect of Juvenile Incarceration on Offenders Who Stop Offending"
- **Nadima Sahar:** "Afghan Women in Federal Politics: Barriers and Policy Recommendations"
- **Michaella Morzuch:** "The Relationship between Income Distribution and Infant Mortality"
- **Stefanie Santaniello:** "Reward Preferences of Public Employees: Desire to Serve or Risk-Rate of Return Trade-off?"
- **Peter Monego:** "Transatlantic Money Laundering Regulations: The Case of the European Union, United States and the Financial Action Task Force"

Graduating Student News

Stefanie Santaniello is our first MPPA/MBA graduate. She will continue her work with the UMass Donahue Institute as a full-time policy analyst.

Allison Ackerman received a Presidential Management Fellowship and has accepted a position at the Veterans Administration.

Tyler Boone received a Presidential Management Fellowship and has accepted a position with the Social Security Administration.

Christopher Sullivan is moving to Guatemala to travel and improve his Spanish skills.

Amy Ferrer accepted a position with the Bill of Rights Defense Committee in Northampton, MA.

Enjoy the summer!

Questions or comments about the CPPA E-Bulletin?

Please contact **Colleen O'Shaughnessy** at colleen@pubpol.umass.edu or 413-577-0239.