

### Center for Public Policy & Administration

#### At a glance

##### Students

Read about the rich and varied backgrounds of some of CPPA's first year students

##### Academics

Several students spent their January break in DC with CPPA's professional development course

##### Faculty

CPPA faculty are traveling, presenting on, and researching a broad range of topics

##### Events

Talks from Prudence Carter and Free Press co-founders are right around the corner

#### Student profiles



**Shantel Palacio** is originally from New York City. She received her undergraduate degree in Communication from a business school, along with a minor in political science. She studied all aspects of communication - verbal, nonverbal, interpersonal, journalism, and broadcasting. She has been living and working in Amherst for two years now and finds the public policy program at CPPA to be a great way to combine all of her interests, such as education policy.

**Edward Harvey** joins CPPA from Durham, New Hampshire. He graduated from Dickinson College in 2005 with a BA in Religion and Archaeology. He then worked for a year at the middle school he attended as a special education aide. He returned to school and earned an MA in Medieval Studies from Fordham University. Following the MA program he began work at Fordham University as the assistant to the dean of freshmen. His interests include education policy and administration.



**Jordan Garner** was born in Northeastern Arkansas and moved to New Jersey at the age of 13. After attending three colleges she graduated from Tulane this past May with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and French. Her interest in public policy stems from studying economics, and her main area of interest is economic development. Jordan is also interested in traveling, learning languages, New Orleans culture and cuisine, and cooking/baking. She speaks French and has taken courses in Arabic and German.

#### News and Updates

##### Badgett Testifies at California's Proposition 8 Trial

CPPA Director Lee Badgett was an expert witness at California's Proposition 8, gay marriage trial in January. According to Badgett, 18,000 same-sex couples were married in California in 2008, but only 2,077 couples formed a domestic partnership while gay marriage was legal. "It shows that same sex couples prefer marriage by a wide margin over domestic partnerships," said Lee. Coverage of the entire trial, including Professor Badgett's testimony is available [here](#).

## News and Updates, continued

### Professional Development Students Travel to Washington D.C.

The Center for Public Policy and Administration held its first annual Professional Development Seminar in Washington D.C. this January. Students met with alumni and public sector professionals from the Department of Energy, World Bank, Congressional Budget Office, Department of Labor, Government Accountability Office, Pew Charitable Trusts, and Congressman John Olver's office over the course of two days. Throughout meetings, networking events, and luncheons, students learned more about the opportunities available to CPPA grads.



*CPPA students pose in front of the U.S. Capitol Building during their January professional development travels.*

## Alumni

Congratulations to **Frans Siahaan**, our most recent alum. Frans finished his degree in December and will receive his MPPA this February.

**Oryx Cohen '02** reports that he is applying the “holistic mental health and community-based alternatives that [he] discovered in CPPA to [his] daily work as Director of the Western Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community.” Oryx is currently an Adjunct Psychology Professor at Holyoke Community College and Westfield State College, and he and **Kristin Wood '02**, are expecting their 2<sup>nd</sup> child in August.

**John Ake '09** is now living and working in DC at the Department of Labor in Financial Management for Workforce Investment, Green Jobs, and Unemployment Compensation.

*Alumni: CPPA wants to hear from you! Please send alumni updates to Kathy Colon at [kcolon@pubpol.umass.edu](mailto:kcolon@pubpol.umass.edu) or use the [Alumni Update Form](#) on the CPPA Website.*

## Faculty

**Nancy Folbre** has published “Family Leave: Right or Privilege?” in the Economix blog on NYTimes.com. The article looks deep into the question of whether taking unpaid family leave from work is in fact a right or a privilege. Read this story and check out Nancy's other blogs [here](#).

**David Medicoff**, CPPA and legal studies, was interviewed by Al-Jazeera International about how migrant workers are treated in Persian Gulf countries. Medicoff is currently in Qatar conducting research on the role and treatment of migrant workers in the region.

## Mark your Calendar

**Prudence Carter** of Stanford University will speak on “The Paradox of Opportunity: Race, Class, Culture, and Boundaries in South African and U.S. Schools” on Tuesday, February 2 at 12:30 p.m. in Thompson 620.

**Andrea Kavanaugh**, Virginia Tech, will speak on "Participation on the Town Square in the Era of Web 2.0" on February 26<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in the National Center for Digital Government's brown bag series.

*Be sure to visit the [Events Calendar](#) for more CPPA events!*