



## Alasdair Roberts Named SPP Inaugural Director

Following a national search, Dean John Hird (College of Social and Behavioral Sciences) announced that Alasdair Roberts will become the UMass School of Public Policy's inaugural director. Roberts is an internationally renowned scholar in the fields of governance, law, and policy. Roberts will officially step into the role on September 1, 2017. Learn [more](#).



## MPP Application Deadline Extended to April 30

Five College juniors may apply this year until April 30th for admission to SPP's accelerated Master's program in public policy. MPP students save time and money while earning a professional degree and skills to help them become effective leaders and advocates for social change. Learn [more](#).



## SPP Students Represent UMass at NASPAA-Batten Competition

Danielle Corrado, Palista Kharel, Derek Krevat, and Estefania Marti Malvido were selected from policy programs around the world to take part in a competition designed to address global hunger. The team traveled to Columbia University in New York for the February 25 competition, where students simulated the policy analysis and decision-making that occurs in NGOs working on issues of national import. Learn [more](#).



## Dutta (MPPA '17) Named to University Task Force

Pamela Dutta, associate director of the UMass Student Legal Services Office, has been selected by Chancellor Subbaswamy to serve on a campus action task force to coordinate institutional responses to presidential executive orders and related federal policies, such as those on immigration. Dutta joins 12 other members of the UMass community on the task force. Dutta will receive her MPPA degree this May. Learn [more](#).



## SPP 2017 Annual Capstone Conference Set for May 8-9

This year's annual Capstone Conference, which features research by students completing *PPA 610: Capstone Seminar in Public Policy and Administration*, will be held on Monday and Tuesday, May 8 & 9, in the Lincoln Campus Center (Room 805-09). A full conference schedule will be available on the SPP website later this month. The conference is free and open to the public.



## SPP Faculty Team Awarded Center for Racial Justice and Urban Affairs Planning Grant

SPP lecturer Fred Rose is leading a team of SPP faculty helping to lay foundational work for a proposed center for racial justice and urban affairs at the UMass Center at Springfield. SPP's team is among 14 at UMass Amherst engaged in the planning process funded by a line item in the MA state budget. Learn [more](#).



## Fountain Keynote Speaker at E-Governance Conference in India

Jane Fountain (political science and public policy) presented the keynote address, "Political Priorities and Administrative Performance: Building Cross-Agency Capacity," at the 10th International Conference on the Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance. Fountain, a Distinguished University Professor and director of the National Center for Digital Government, is a renowned expert on e-governance. Learn [more](#).



## Award Takes Badgett to Hong Kong

As part of an award from the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Lee Badgett (economics, former CPPA/SPP director) visited the campus for two weeks in March 2017 and gave talks to faculty, students, business owners, policymakers, and the general public. Badgett worked with Prof. Suen Yiu Tung to analyze data on 19,000 LGBT citizens in China, and to create collaborations between UMass and CUHK around issues related to sexuality.



## SPP Co-Sponsors Visit by Immigration Expert Susan Martin on April 25

Organized by David Mednicoff (public policy and Middle Eastern Studies), the April 25 event will feature well-known scholar Susan Martin, an emerita professor at Georgetown University. Martin will draw on her book, *A Nation of Immigrants*, to place the Trump administration's actions and proposed plans into historical perspective. The talk, co-sponsored by SBS as part of its annual "Social Science Matters" series, will take place at 4 p.m. in the Bernie Dallas Room. Learn [more](#).



## MA State Auditor Suzanne Bump Featured at March Event Co-Sponsored by SPP

With the UMass Women into Leadership (UWiL) program and the Department of Political Science, SPP co-sponsored a March 3 visit to the UMass Amherst campus by MA State Auditor Suzanne Bump. Bump discussed recent reports released by her office on cybersecurity, water infrastructure, and climate change, and gave the keynote address at a dinner attended by UWiL students. Learn [more](#).



## Mednicoff Discusses U.S. Airstrike in Syria

David Mednicoff (public policy and Middle Eastern Studies) published a piece in *The Conversation* about next steps for U.S. foreign policy following the April 6, 2017, airstrike on Syria. Learn [more](#).

## **Alumni News:**

**Katie Boggs '07** is now the Risk Assessment and Reporting Compliance Officer at PrivateBank in Chicago.

**Zhimin Ma '06** is now a licensed CPA working for the City and County of San Francisco.

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