

## Mission and Values

The mission of the Department of Public Policy is to provide high quality policy analysis, program evaluation, and survey research for investigating important public problems facing Connecticut and the nation. DPP is committed to preparing students by education, outlook, and commitment for leadership positions in the areas of public policy, public management, and public opinion. DPP strives to be nationally and internationally known for the highest quality research, teaching, and public service in the areas of public policy, public administration, and public opinion. DPP is committed to having the highest standards of instruction, scholarship, and outreach through its academic programs.

## Rankings and Accreditation

MPA Program – *U.S. News & World Report*

- 49<sup>th</sup> out of 269 MPA and Public Policy programs—solidly in the top 20% of all programs
- 39<sup>th</sup> when compared to other MPA (or similar) programs
- 1<sup>st</sup> among similar MPA programs in New England
- #7 nationwide in Public Finance and Budgeting
- NASPAA Accredited

## Graduate Programs

### Master of Public Administration (MPA)

Provides students with a dynamic and integrated approach to the field of public policy and management. Practical experiences are combined with theory, analysis, and case studies to make our program challenging and job-relevant. The MPA program prepares students for leadership roles in the public and nonprofit sectors.

### Concentration in Survey Research

Provides a comprehensive understanding of the field of survey research and the skills necessary to become a successful survey researcher. The concentration is geared towards students interested in survey research application to public service and political polling.

### Graduate Certificates

Provides current UConn students and working professionals opportunities to build specialized expertise that prepares students for leadership positions. Two certificates are available:

- Public and Nonprofit Management
- Public Financial Management

### Joint and Simultaneous Degree Options

- MA in Economics
- Law
- Social Work
- International Studies
- Public Health

## Undergraduate Programs

- Minor in Public Policy
- “Fast-Track” program for current UConn undergraduates
- Opportunity to pursue an Individualized Major

## Faculty

**Eric Brunner**, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara; Economics, 1996.

**Thomas Craemer**, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Stony Brook University, Political Science, 2005.

**Kenneth Dautrich**, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Rutgers University, Political Science, 1994.

**Amy Donahue**, Associate Professor & Department Head, Ph.D., Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, 2000.

**Deneen Hatmaker**, Instructor, Ph.D. expected 2008, University at Albany, State University of New York, Public Administration and Policy.

**Mark Robbins**, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, 1998.

**Bill Simonsen**, Professor, Ph.D., New York University, Public Administration 1991.

### Examples of Faculty Research Interests:

- Race relations, gender, and diversity in organizations
- Education policy and school finance reform
- Research methods, including network analysis, survey methods, and evolutionary modeling
- Public opinion and voting behavior
- Public finance and debt management
- Public and nonprofit organization theory and management
- Disaster policy and emergency management

### Examples of Faculty Service:

- Thomas Craemer served for a second year as the faculty advisor to graduate students working for ten days rehabilitating homes in the 9th Ward of New Orleans.
- Ken Dautrich is a policy advisor to Governor M. Jodi Rell, and is working with State Commissioners to inform and develop her 2008 legislative agenda. He chairs the Governor’s Task Force on Accountability.
- Amy Donahue serves as technical advisor to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security helping to identify technology and capability requirements of emergency responders to develop national-level preparedness policy.
- Mark Robbins serves on the Advisory Committee of the Government Accounting Standards Board, the independent organization that establishes and improves standards of accounting and financial reporting for all U.S. state and local governments.
- Bill Simonsen was named to the Commission for Peer Review and Accreditation Standards committee and Chair of the NASPAA/COPRA Faculty Standards subcommittee. COPRA is the accrediting arm of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA).

## Major Research Projects

- \$1.26 million from the Department of Homeland Security's Regional Technology Integration Initiative to study citizens willingness to pay for security (9/03-7/08)
- \$1.1 million from the Knight Foundation to explore high school students' knowledge, attitudes, and opinions about their first amendment rights (1/03-12/08).
- \$1.15 million from ISI to survey college students about their civic literacy and views of civic engagement (11/04-8/09).
- \$566,000 from the Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence for the Study of Natural Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure and Emergency Management to study citizens perceptions of risk (7/08-7/13).

## Examples of Student Accomplishments

- Barbara Rua: 2008 National NASPAA Pi Alpha Alpha Best Masters Paper Award; 2008 Daniel B. Goldberg Scholarship from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).
- Lisa Carver and Chris Forster: 2008 CT Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) award.
- Barbara Rua and Lisa Carver: CT Chapter American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Public Service Award.
- Noelle Denny-Brown: 2007 National NASPAA Pi Alpha Alpha Best Masters Paper Award.
- Tara Spain and Jason Jakubowski: 2008 Top 40 Under 40 by the Hartford Business Journal.

## Myles Martel Lecture & DPP Speaker Series

The Myles Martel Lecture in Leadership and Public Opinion, a biennial endowed event, brings distinguished speakers and provides a chance for students, faculty, and community leaders to better understand the crucial relationship between communications and leadership. The DPP speaker series brings in prominent scholars and practitioners to discuss their work.

**2008 Martel Speaker:** Margot Morrell, Author, Shackleton's Way

### DPP Speaker Series Guests:

- Governor M. Jodi Rell
- Valerie Lewis, Commissioner, CT Dept. of Higher Education
- Marion Orr, Professor, Brown University
- Mark Lipscomb, Public Policy Institute of California
- Steve Chamberlin, Internal Revenue Service

## Internship Professional Practice (IPP) Program

The Internship Professional Practice (IPP) program is a unique 15 hour/week externally funded internship with a host organization for a full academic year. In 2008 100% of students who applied to the IPP program received an IPP.

### Examples of placements:

- CT Department of Motor Vehicles
- CT Dept of Mental Health & Addition Services
- CT Office of Policy & Management
- Town of West Hartford
- Town of Newington School Board
- Town of Mansfield
- Universal Health Care
- Federal Transportation Security Authority

## Admissions and Enrollment 2008

	<i>Ave. Verbal GRE</i>	<i>Ave. Quant GRE</i>	<i>Ave.UG GPA</i>
MPA	538	588	3.4
	<i>Full-time</i>	<i>Part-time</i>	<i>Total</i>
MPA	49	18	67
MSR*	5	5	10
Certificates (Non-UConn)	0	10	10

**Total current graduate students enrolled:** 87

### **Degrees conferred in AY 2007-2008:**

MPA = 24

MSR\*= 12

Certificates = 19

\*Master of Arts in Survey Research

## Examples of Alumni Placements

- Jennifer Dorn, President & CEO, National Academy of Public Administration
- John Destefano, Mayor, New Haven, CT
- David Crompton, Chief Financial Officer, CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Matt Hart, Town Manager, Mansfield, CT
- Maria Capriola, Assistant Town Manager, Mansfield, CT
- Bob Ross, First Selectman, Salem, CT
- Peter Gioia, Economist, CT Business Industry Association
- Patrick McMahon, Director of Economic Development, Town of Suffield, CT
- Barry Simon, Executive Dir. & CEO, Gilead Community Services
- Steven Parent, Deputy Dir., Exec. Office of U.S. Attorneys
- Brian Winseck, Office of National Drug Control Policy
- Doug Schwartz, Director of the Quinnipiac Poll
- James Kelman, Deputy Director, Office of Policy, Public Affairs and Congressional Relations, U.S. State Department
- David Valesky, New York State Senator
- Stephen Hudd, Sr. Vice President, CT First Union Bank
- Brian Baldrate, United States Army, JAG Unit
- Bradley Honan, VP, Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates
- Zenon Czepizak, Director, Naval Undersea Warfare Center