

## MPA and Economics Launch Dual Degree



*Steve Ross, UConn Economics Department is affiliated with the Department of Public Policy.*

The MPA program and the Economics Department are teaming up to offer a dual MPA and M.A. in Economics that can be completed in two calendar years of full time study. The dual degree is of particular interest to students with an undergraduate background in economics, strong mathematical abilities, and a desire to work in the public policy arena with government; “think tanks;” or policy/program evaluation organizations.

The M.A. in Economics and the MPA share a common orientation toward methodological rigor and skill development. Students completing both degrees will be highly skilled in economic analysis as it applies to public policy and management problems. Also, they will have a substantial amount of practice applying these skills to policy problems through their coursework, internship, and their capstone and Masters paper research.

“We feel this dual degree provides students with the best possible program of study in the areas of public policy analysis and program evaluation.” said MPA Director Bill Simonsen. Simonsen added: “We already have strong ties with Economics. Steve Ross of the Economics Department is affiliated with us and one of our faculty, Bob Bifulco, is affiliated with them.”

Contact Valerie Rogers at [valerie.rogers@uconn.edu](mailto:valerie.rogers@uconn.edu) for further information about the MPA/M.A. in Economics dual degree option. Implementation of the dual degree is pending UConn Graduate School approval, which is expected prior to the Fall Semester, 2007.