



Welcome back, Bennington.

We know you've missed us— we've certainly missed you!

We had a wonderful time with Volume 1 of the Center for the Advancement of Public Action Newsletter. It was inspiring to talk with so many of you about the way you see CAPA and your ideas for how you'd like to see it grow. We look forward to continuing our work with Volume 2 this Fall, and we hope to facilitate an even stronger, more connected CAPA community.

If you have ideas for how this newsletter can better serve our community, or if you have a story you'd like to share please [let us know!](#)



Don't hesitate to reach out to the Student Educational Policies Committee (SEPC)!

Your CAPA representatives are [Claire Webb](#) and [Z Winters-Derevjanik](#)

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

For more events, visit the [CAPA Website](#)

Ongoing | Kitchen Cupboard | [121 Depot Street, Bennington VT](#)

Volunteer opportunity! Collaborate with GBICS through the Kitchen Cupboard, Bennington's free food pantry. This is a wonderful ground-up moment to take part in, developing programs to build community through access to and education about healthy food. Contact Carol Adinolfi: caroladinolfi1@gmail.com, [802-430-8068](tel:802-430-8068)

Sept. 28 | [The Healthcare Debate: Current Issues](#) | CAPA Symposium | 7 PM

Virginia Lyons, a Vermont State Senator; Tom Dee, CEO of Southwestern VT Healthcare; Peter Sterling, former Director of VT Leads; and Kevin Mullin, Chair of the Green Mountain Care Board meet to talk about healthcare in the current political tumult.

Oct. 2 | [Immigration: Policy and Practice](#) | CAPA Symposium | 7 PM

Speakers, Robert Carey, former director of the US Office of Refugee Resettlement, and Armina Medic, former refugee and refugee advocate, will discuss issues of immigration.

Oct. 5 | [International Affairs in the Era of Trump](#) | CAPA Symposium | 7 PM

Join Mansour Farhang, former Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations; Peter Galbraith,

former US Ambassador to Croatia; and Nicholas Rostow, Visiting Chair of Government and Jurisprudence at Colgate University to discuss foreign affairs in the Trump presidency.

Oct. 9 | [Theater and Protest: Tahrir Tales](#) | CAPA Symposium | 6:30-9 PM

Rebekah Maggor is an artist and scholar whose work focuses on political theatre and theatre of protest. She engages with theatre that questions entrenched power structures and pushes the boundaries of our contemporary political conversation. Her recent work centers on theatre from the Middle East, specifically drama that has emerged over the last several years from the “Arab Spring.”

Oct. 10 | [Incarceration in America](#) | CAPA Symposium | 7 PM

This Public Policy Forum will discuss prison education and reform in Vermont with guest speakers, Daniel Karpowitz; author of *College in Prison: Reading in an Age of Mass Incarceration*; Richard Sears, Vermont State Senator; Maxine Grad, Vermont State Representative, and Lisa Menard, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Corrections.

Oct. 12 | [Media and Democracy](#) | CAPA Symposium | 7PM

This Public Policy Forum addresses the rights and responsibilities of a free press, featuring Jesse Holcomb, former Associate Director at Pew Research Center; Ann Galloway, Editor and Founder of Vermont Digger; David Goodman, journalist and author.

Faculty Feature:

Robert Ransick

Robert Ransick’s creative passion for social justice and local economies has taken the form of classes in digital arts, social practices, and creative entrepreneurship at Bennington. This term his class, Future Studio, aims to



incorporate socially engaged artistic practice with enterprise development. He is motivated

by the ways in which artists engage in interdisciplinary work, and how this intersection can spur meaningful social and community initiatives. Integral to this mission is asking students, as creators, to “move outside the white box and into the public sphere.” In effect, how we can think and work as 21st century artists. In his [recent publication in CREATIVZ](#), Ransick expresses, “We are seeing a system-wide failure of the status quo that begs for a radical reinvention of how we relate to each other and the world.” In order to “generate wholly new possibilities” that reimagine systems instead of perpetuating them, he advocates for beginning from a vision of potential instead of being weighed down by the frame of problem solving. He asks, as artists and community members, how we can be generative and creative instead of simply reactive.



Student Spotlight: Bibek Basnet

Q. What was the most rewarding part of working in Bosnia?

A. The opportunity to learn about the conflict in Bosnia through conversations with the local people who lived through the conflict was very rewarding. It was very interesting to see how the experiences and events of the war shaped people’s life and their interactions with each other at the present.

Q. What inspires you to be active in peace building work?

A. My biggest inspiration is my desire to contribute to the betterment of humankind through peaceful and positive relationships among humans. I am empathetic towards people’s problems, the epitome of which is present in war conditions, and I like the problem solving aspect of mediation and conflict resolution. Peace building is where the two meet and thus my deep engagement with the field.

Q. How did this experience shape your studies or you future plans?

A. Working with the Center for Peacebuilding has shown me both the possibilities and the limitations of peace building work in the local level through means of dialogue. It has also provided me with some great lessons and a reference point as I am working towards finding solutions for the ethnic conflict in Nepal for my senior work. Overall, I feel more positive about

making a career in this field.



The CAPA Newsletter is a student-run project with the mission of developing the CAPA community.

We want to share the amazing work that our friends and coworkers are producing. Each issue will include features on students and faculty members with inspiring projects, CAPA classes tackling important issues, and upcoming events and opportunities.

We want your feedback! If you have any suggestions to make this newsletter something that's truly beneficial to you [let us know](#).

EM '20 and KN '20
