



An organization for women and women's interest in the public policy arena, based at the University of Maryland School of Public Affairs

GWIPP – Graduate Women In Public Policy Newsletter *Volume 3, Number 1 – September, 2003*

www.nuaf.umd.edu/students/GWIPPWEB/index.htm

Chance is always powerful. Let your hook be always cast; in the pool where you least expect it, there will be a fish.

[Ovid](#), (43 BC-17 AD)

Success is a journey, not a destination.

[Ben Sweetland](#)

In this edition... Member's Corner, Alumnae Interview, Member Updates, Upcoming GWIPP Events, Events on Campus, In and around D.C., In the News

Member's Corner

Dear GWIPP Members:

Greetings to everyone, and welcome to a new school year and semester! I can't tell you how thrilled (yet humbled) I am that I can write this Member's Corner, as GWIPP rolls into its **second year as an organization!** I have a lot of respect, gratitude and appreciation for the new officers this year, and I wanted to say to all of you (officers), as well as student members and alumnae: HATS OFF TO US! I hope we can continue this new tradition, and only get stronger and bigger with time.

After a not-so-summer-like summer, I know it must be tough to get back into the swing of things, for the students, especially when we didn't see enough hot and hazy lazy summer days, but hopefully, GWIPP's growing list of events will add to the highlights of the semester for you!

As for the newsletter, there are a couple of changes. First, the newsletter will be coming out once a month, instead of every other week. We hope that by decreasing the frequency, we don't crowd your inboxes quite as much, as we continue to keep it chock-full of interesting events and articles. (If anything comes your way that you think would be good newsletter fodder, please pass it along!) Second, every now and again, we'll be adding a section in for "advice" and

updates from current students and alums about what they are doing, how things are going, and the ups and downs of finding, getting, keeping, and working at a job and career in the public policy field (or beyond.) Look for that in this newsletter!

I hope you all get a jump-start on the new year – and welcome to the new 1st years (I hope that the Policy Exercise was not too painful of an initiation!) Welcome to our returning second years and officers, and best of luck to us all!

Best,

Tonnye Conner-White

Alumnae Relations Coordinator, GWIPP

M.P.M. 2002

Political Participation & Leadership

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Alumnae Interview

In April, I had an opportunity to interview MSPA alumna Perri Leviss, who completed her MPM in 1993. Leviss came to the school immediately after she completed her undergraduate work at Tufts University and planned to have a concentration in Health and Social Policy. After taking several courses, however, she decided to switch to the Public Finance track because she thought its skills-focused curriculum would prove more relevant in her career.

While at MSPA, Leviss interned for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and for Montgomery County's Department of Educational Facilities Planning and Capital Programming. She also had a research assistantship with Allen Schick, where she worked in the Bureau of Governmental Research. In her final semester, Leviss earned a slot in the Presidential Management Internship program, but she turned down the opportunity so she could move to be with her husband, who was in medical school in New York City.

Leviss knew she wanted to work in the health care policy arena, so when she arrived in New York, she conducted informational interviews with every contact she had in the field. Ultimately, she landed an entry-level position working in the Office of Management and Budget overseeing the budget for the city's public hospital system. Working in a budget office might not be the sexiest job one could take when leaving graduate school, but Leviss found it an invaluable experience because it gave her insight into one of the most essential parts of the policy-making process: paying for policies.

After working in the budget office for just over a year, Leviss moved to the New York City Department of Health first to be the Director of the Office of Management Analysis and Planning and then to be the Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Policy. In 1998, after the birth of her first child, Leviss left the public sector to take a position with a private health care consulting firm. About a year ago, Leviss left the consulting practice to become a freelance consultant. Currently, she does consulting work for nonprofit health care providers.

Leviss said that she uses all of the analytical skills she developed at MSPA in her work, but she finds the management and financial skills she learned in courses with Jacqueline Rogers, Susan Slater, and Allen Schick to be the most valuable. She highlighted the importance of being able to manage other people and work effectively in groups.

While Leviss enjoys the benefits of self-employment – a flexible schedule and the ability to pick and choose her clients – she says it requires a substantial amount of behind-the-scenes effort, such as marketing herself to potential clients. She would not recommend it to someone who is just completing graduate school; she thinks it is important to obtain hands-on experience first.

Ten years after her graduation, Leviss says she has obtained her ultimate career goal: she is doing something she loves in the field of her choice. Her satisfaction with her career, however, does not preclude the possibility of moving to new things. She is planning to teach a few courses at Columbia's School of Public Health, and she eventually might like to pursue a doctoral degree so she could teach at the graduate level. For now, however, she is enjoying being an active part of her daughters' lives.

A self-described "workaholic," Leviss says before she became a mother, she worked long hours and had a reputation for being highly work-oriented. After her daughter was born, however, she cut back her hours and made her family more of a priority. When Leviss returned from her first maternity leave, she sensed that some of her co-workers were unable to reconcile her work styles pre- and post-pregnancy.

By the time Leviss's second daughter was born, she was working at the consulting firm. She found it frustrating that her work was valued quantitatively instead of qualitatively. Based on her experience and those of her friends, she says that many employers interpret long hours – not the quality of work or efficiency with which it is produced – as the mark of a good worker. Leviss laughed, saying she thinks working mothers are capable of doing a full day's worth of work in half the time it would take another worker. They have so much going on in their lives that they must do everything as efficiently as possible, she said.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, Leviss found herself reevaluating her priorities. She says the attacks led her to value her family and friends even more. That process of reflection contributed to her decision to become self-employed.

While her career success is due in part to her graduate education at MSPA, she also attributes her ability to juggle work and family to having a supportive partner. In effect, she and her husband have taken turns focusing on their careers so their children would always have at least one parent available to them. She also emphasized the importance of having a personal network of female friends who can act as sounding boards for one another.

Jessica Gowen
GWIPP Secretary
MPM December, 2003
Social Policy

Member Updates

These updates include both current students and recent graduates, and include some helpful tips and advice, as well as windows on the not-so-great aspects of job-searching. If you have any questions about their experiences and/or jobs, please let me know, so that I can try to put you in touch with these ladies!

Catherine Howard, M.P.P., May, 2005, *International Security and Economic Policy*

Summer was hot and busy in Boston. I wrapped up several projects for a HUD Empowerment Zone non-profit organization, Boston Connects, Inc., including: the development of a new online community resource (www.ezinfo.org), the migration of client data from Chicago to Boston; and the development of a comprehensive marketing brochure.

"Leaf-ing" into fall [sorry, I love puns! :)], I am very excited about starting this new chapter in life. Fall activities include coursework at PUAf, an internship with Senator Kennedy's Economic Policy Office, involvement with GWIPP, and hiking around the glorious parks of the region.

Joanna Patterson, M.P.P., May, 2003, *International Security and Economic Policy*

(Joanna, a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF), is a Financial Management Analyst with AFPEO/SP – The Air Force Program Executive Office for Space. She provides Headquarters support for program offices.)

Knowing your workplace is important. I did my usual sight-unseen acceptance-never saw where I was to work, etc., but I am lucky. I work with wonderful, helpful people, in a great location, etc. However, I've been having to exercise patience and become fast friends with the HR people, especially working in as big a bureaucracy as the DoD! It's a lot to navigate, especially when you have no experience with anything like it (like I don't).

At least in my situation, and I imagine in everyone's, I've had to have some patience with the people around me as they feel me out, what my skills are, if they can count on me to follow through, etc. My advice is to not take it personally, just go with the flow; they'll figure it out in time.

Amanda Reyes, M.P.P., May, 2003, *Social Policy*

This past July, I officially started the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Emerging Leaders Program. This two-year program provides great opportunities to explore DHHS programs, enhance your skill set, and expand your professional network. A DHHS Operating Division, such as NIH or CDC, at a GS-9 level, initially hires you. They hire you within one of five career paths: Scientific, Public Health, Administrative, Social Sciences, and Information Technology. During the first 60 days of your first year, you are working in your home operating division. For the remainder of the year, you pick 60-90 day rotations to do throughout different agencies in DHHS. Every two months, your Emerging Leaders class gets together for weeklong trainings on core SES competencies. In addition, there are mentorship programs on the peer level, and a more senior level, to help you along the way. During the second year, you work full-time at a GS-11, back at your home Operating Division. After this second year, you can be converted to competitive civil service status without further competition at a GS-12. Beyond this official description, the people in the program come from a wide variety of backgrounds and interests, which makes for a great peer network. DHHS and all the operating divisions are very supportive of this program, and are excited to have Emerging Leaders in their agencies.

As with anything, the program does have some downsides. Because there is so much choice, you need to be very proactive. Some of your training and travel opportunities may be limited by the budget of your home Operating Division. In addition, this is only the second year of the program's existence. Because of this, there are still a few things that need to be ironed out. Overall, I think that the program is well worth these hassles, especially if you are interested in any of the issues that DHHS deals with. If you want more information, you can check out the DHHS website, <http://www.dhhs.gov/jobs/elp/index.html>, or feel free to email me at amanda.reyes@hhs.gov.

Maha Angelina Armush, M.P.P., May 2003

So they told me that the economy was bad. They said it would be hard to find a job. But despite all the warnings and the stories, I really didn't believe them. But the tales of woe and desperation were true. Here I am back in Washington DC, having completed my Master's Degree over three months ago, and I am unemployed. That is not to say that I am sitting around waiting for a job to fall in my lap. On the contrary, I am working more than I remember ever doing in my life. From temping at corporations and NGOs during the day, to teaching a GMAT-Prep course in the evenings, to seeking out about three informational interviews per week at local organizations (which fall during my lunch breaks), ... time is flying. I feel like a bolt of lightning on speed.

The good news is that this strategy of meeting as many people in DC as I can, networking with potential employers/colleagues, and staying as busy as possible has really worked. I have met masses of interesting people. I have also learned how to compile expense reports, work a switchboard, and send mass faxes. But more importantly, I have had the chance to experience different corporate and organizational cultures, each one unique in its own way. And the reassuring conversations with the managers have really worked wonders.

As for informational interviews, each one requires hours of research about the organization in order to be totally prepared. Honestly, no one wants to be having lunch with the Director of Development for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and not know what to say other than "thank you for inviting me." These interviews are ways to build relationships in a city where networking - and who you know - is everything.

As for sending in resumes, I have found that this is the least effective strategy for finding a job. You slave away to perfect yourself on paper, add a spectacular cover letter with bullets and even a personal letterhead, and all you get in response is an email acknowledging that your information was received. And that's if you're lucky. So definitely try to get some face-to-face action into the equation if you can.

In summary, I am unemployed, but having an adventure. Wow - looking for a job is a full-time job. I think I need a vacation!

Many thanks to the graduates and students who contributed to this section of our Newsletter! Thank you!

Upcoming GWIPP Events

MEET AND GREET

Date: Tuesday, September 9th
Time: 10:15-11:00 am.
Location: Community Lounge

Description: Come meet returning students and learn more about GWIPP and MSPA. Then at noon, GWIPP will hold its first meeting of the semester in the Dean's conference room. Come help plan events for the year!

LAUNCH OF GWIPP'S 2003-04 SPEAKER SERIES

Date: Wednesday, September 17th
Time: 12:00-1:30 pm
Location: Dean's Conference Room, Second Floor

Description: Charito Kruvant, President and Co-founder of Creative Associates International, Inc., will discuss her company's educational assistance efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq and her experience as a businesswoman in the field of international development.

GWIPP-SGA TAILGATE

Date: September 20th

Description: Join us to cheer on the Terps when they take on the University of West Virginia. We'll provide the condiments, sides, and dessert; you bring something for the grill and beverage of your choice. Time and place to be announced.

What's going on, On Campus

PUAF STUDENT PICNIC!

Sponsored by: University of Maryland School of Public Affairs Student Government Association
Date: Friday, September 5, 2003, 3pm
Location: Paint Branch Park, College Park (1/2 a mile past the metro on the left on Paint Branch Road)

Come join the students for fun in the park this Friday, for the SGA-sponsored student picnic to ring in the new semester! For more details, contact GWIPP President Madelyn Carpenter at Madelyn@umd.edu.

THE FIRST LOOK FAIR

The First Look Fair is a university tradition, provided to promote student groups and organizations, campus offices and departments, local vendors. Utilize this opportunity to get your name out there, raise awareness for your cause, promote a new program, etc!

Date: September 24th, 10 am-4 pm and September 25th, 10 am-2 pm
Location: McKeldin Mall, University of Maryland Main Campus

Rain Date (only if rain on BOTH the 24th and 25th) is September 26, 2003 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Location: McKeldin Mall, University of Maryland Main Campus

In and Around D.C.

ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT 25TH ANNUAL FALL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Sponsored by: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)
Date: November 6-8, 2003
Location: Washington Court Hotel, Washington DC

Description: The theme of the conference is *The "M in APPAM": Taking a Special Look at the Capacity of Government to Implement Public Policies*. Session topics include gender and policy, child policy, housing and community development, education, environment, public finance, public

management, and much more! For more information, including a preliminary program, conference fees, and session times visit <http://www.appam.org/conferences/fall/dc03/>.

THIRD ANNUAL WOMEN INVOLVED IN LIVING AND LEARNING REPLICATION WORKSHOP

Sponsored by: University of Richmond, Women's Studies, Leadership and Activism
Date: November 6-8, 2003
Location: University of Richmond, Richmond, VA

Description: Learn how to implement an innovative Women's Studies program that bridges academic and student affairs at the third Women Involved in Living and Learning (WILL) Replication Workshop, November 6-8, 2003, at the University of Richmond.

The WILL model integrates a Women's Studies minor, internships, gender-related programming, and leadership development. An assessment by the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women confirms that WILL "is an extremely effective vehicle for empowering and transforming female students."

For more information, including a tentative agenda and the registration form, see <http://oncampus.richmond.edu/WILL> or contact (804) 289-8578 or WILL@richmond.edu.

In the News

Religious Leader Who Recommended Wife Beating Sued

Spanish women's groups, concerned about violence against immigrant women, press charges against a Saudi-born imam who wrote a book that they charge condones violence against women. To view the entire article, go to <http://www.womensenews.com/article.cfm/dyn/aid/1510>.

Lower Male Income Causes Tightest Wage Gap

This Labor Day, women can look back on the second quarter of the year as the boasting the narrowest wage gap in history. The statistic, however, was caused by lower male wages and is not expected to end the earnings-discrepancy debate. To view this entire article, go to <http://www.womensenews.com/article.cfm/dyn/aid/1508>.

Women Must Rewrite Rules of Business

"... Women comprise only 12.5 percent of corporate officers and only 12.4 percent of the board seats, in 500 of America's largest companies...."

... Unfortunately, change hasn't happened. We need to know the male rules of business. But we must create and play by our own rules. We should be talking to each other; we should be planning with each other; we should be working to improve the situation for every one of us, not for just one of us. We should launch a new strategy to advance our careers as a whole, rather than advance our own careers at the expense of other women..."

Excerpt from Gail Evans

Gail Evans is the author of "Play Like A Man, Win Like A Woman," a New York Times Business Bestseller. She was a former White House aide and CNN's first female executive vice president. She currently lectures around the country, mentoring and teaching women on how to get ahead in today's corporate world. To check out more on the article, go to <http://www.womensenews.org/article.cfm/dyn/aid/1444/context/ourdailylives>.

Ask a Working Woman Survey 2002

Two in three working mothers—66 percent—work 40 or more hours every week, compared with 60 percent of women without children, according to the AFL-CIO's [Ask a Working Woman Survey 2002](#).

The survey, released May 7, shows that 28 percent of working mothers work nights or weekends and 40 percent work different schedules than their spouse or partner. Women of color are more likely than white women to work a schedule that is different from their spouse.

Among all women, 63 percent work more than 40 hours per week.

The survey also shows that working women strongly support a working families legislative agenda that emphasizes affordable health care, equal pay and retirement benefits.

Concern about health care has surged since the last survey in 2000, with 91 percent of women rating affordable health care an "important" legislative priority, including 69 percent who say it is "very important," 12 percentage points higher than in 2000.

Working women and men are strongly committed to the goal of equal pay. Some 92 percent of women say better pay is an important legislative priority, as do 86 percent of men. Pension benefits and Social Security are on their minds as well, with 90 percent of women and 92 percent of men calling the issue important.

The report is based on a telephone survey by Lake Snell Perry & Associates. This is the third in a series of surveys and, for the first time, this survey includes a look at the priorities of working men. The survey was part of a yearlong national effort that included a field survey of 20,000 [working women](#).

For more information, visit <http://www.aflcio.org/yourjobeconomy/women/report/index.cfm>.