

BRIDGING THE GAP

Newsletter of the Section for Women in Public Administration December 2015



Message from the Chair

Happy Holidays to All SWPA Members and Friends of SWPA!

Whether you're in government, the non-profit world, academia or business, the pace of life seems to speed up once autumn arrives. Where did the fall go?

The SWPA Board began planning last summer for the ASPA National Meeting in Seattle, March 18-22, 2016. At this writing, we have terrific plans for our annual professional development workshop, a dynamite Breakfast speaker lined up, and numerous accepted proposals by SWPA members on the program. More on all of those later on! Meanwhile, please note that early bird registration applies until the end of January at <http://www.aspanet.org>

You should have received a SWPA Section email inviting you to submit nominations for our

In this issue...

- Member Spotlights
- ASPA Information
- 2016 ASPA National Conference Info

national awards, which recognize women's leadership in its many forms, and for our SWPA scholarships, which enable the newest generation of women scholars, leaders and entrepreneurs to participate in the national ASPA conference. We're also seeking applications and nominations for next year's SWPA board. Think creatively and generously about the amazing women whose example and promise deserve recognition. We look forward to being overwhelmed with nominations!

Board Nominations to Suzanne at discenzas@gmail.com by **December 21, 2015**.

National Awards Nominations to Hillary at hknepper@pace.edu by **January 11, 2016**.

Conference Scholarship Applications to Nicole at nelias@jjay.cuny.edu by **December 31, 2015**.

The SWPA Board is composed entirely of volunteers who work hard to make the section a useful and welcoming network for our members. We are looking for a few good women to fill some committee slots , so please check the last page of this newsletter for openings that speak to your passion or desire for service. You may volunteer yourself or nominate a colleague,

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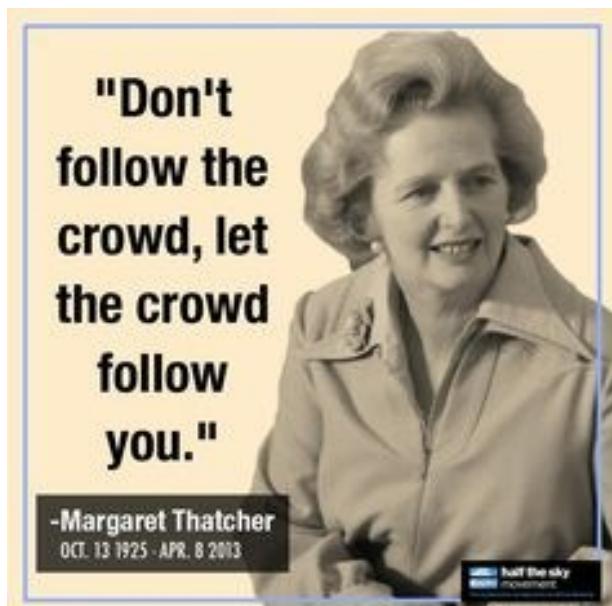
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student or friend. We particularly seek someone with experience in (or interest in learning) how to build and maintain a Weebly website — a format we are exploring for SWPA. We are also soliciting nominations for **student representatives on the board to represent East, Central, and Western regions of the US.** If you are interested or want to nominate someone else, please contact me!

We have close to 500 members in our section representing all sectors, ages, regions, and walks of life. One of the distinguishing features of SWPA is its multi-generational diversity, drawing on the expertise and energy of founding members as well as new members just getting started in school and careers.

Our section seeks to advance, empower, and support all of our members as they develop meaningful, successful careers and professional networks. We would like to share more regular news about what SWPA members are doing and help establish more informal exchange among members. .

Are you running a cool project? Publishing a book or article? Taking a new job? Looking for a new job? Maybe you've heard about a great job



search you want to share. Are you giving a webinar for ASPA or elsewhere? We also welcome occasional essays from our members . Raise issues and get conversation rolling. Please send your news and contributions to our newsletter editor, Linda Reece, or to me.

Because it's never too early to circle special days on your calendar, we're very pleased to let you know that our annual Professional Development workshop will be on Friday, March 18 – the first day of the National Conference. Stay tuned for more details, but save the date! This is the first year that we've been offered a standing spot on the schedule, and it is an exciting development. Our ever-popular SWPA Social will take place on Friday evening, so Day 1 is shaping up to be a great start to the conference!

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and healthy, happy New Year!

Elisa Graffy
SWPA Chair

Member Updates

Meghna Sabharwal was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure starting August 2015. She teaches and does research in the area of public human resources management at the University of Texas at Dallas in the Public and Nonprofit management program.

Corinne Coulson, a current MPA student and employee at Penn State University, recently earned a Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Human Resources Management from Penn State University.

Congratulations to SWPA member and former board member, **Nancy Rose Foye-Cox** on her recent appointment to the board of the National Women's History Project in Santa Rosa, CA. The National Women's History Project recognizes

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and celebrates the diverse and historic accomplishments of women by providing informational services and educational and promotional materials to the public.

Myrna Mandell, Professor Emeritus at California State University, Northridge, has continued teaching in the US and Australia, writing, and presenting papers at conferences. She says this year marks a new adventure in retirement. Living in Huntington Beach, CA, Myrna is now "devoting herself to volunteer work and generally having a good time."

Section Officers Spotlights

Meet Chair Elisa Graffy, PhD

Elisabeth (Elisa) Graffy is Professor of Practice in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society and Senior Sustainability Scientist at the Global Institute of Sustainability, both at Arizona State University.

She directs the Household Independent Power Project, which focuses on public decision-making and energy system governance. She teaches graduate courses in energy policy, politics and institutional change, some offered jointly by the schools of Public Affairs, Sustainability and Innovation. She's currently experimenting with deliberative methods related to energy-climate transitions. Along that line, her Energy Law Journal article, "Does Disruptive Competition Mean a Death Spiral for Electric Utilities?" with Steve Kihm reframed the controversy over solar adoption as a challenge of organizational strategy and institutional reinvention in quasi-public entities, not just of disruptive technology.



Elisa served for nearly two decades in the Federal government, analyzing, designing and leading policy innovations at the Department of the Interior, working across agencies and with the White House. She was among the last to serve in the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment and the first national policy advisor for the National Water Quality Assessment Program. Through publishing as a practitioner-scholar in PAR, she became acquainted with ASPA and Pat Shields. No other outcome was possible than getting involved in SWPA.

Elisa's checkered past also includes stints as an environmental law assistant, budget examiner for housing in New York City, mediator with the WI Department of Agriculture, and Executive Director of a refugee project in Somalia. She holds degrees in politics, economics and public policy from Princeton University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Meet Vice-Chair Hillary Knepper, MPA, PhD

Hillary Knepper, MPA, PhD holds a doctorate in Public Affairs from the University of Central Florida and is an assistant professor in the Department of Public Administration at Pace University in New York where she teaches health policy, public administration, and nonprofit management courses.



Dr. Knepper spent 20 years in the nonprofit and public sectors before returning to school for her PhD. She is currently conducting an interdisciplinary research project on health care that examines the current state of nurse practitioner regulatory policies and their impact on health care access. Her most recent refereed

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publications include, with A. Sonenberg, and H. Levine, "Cost-savings of nurse practitioner managed diabetes primary care: A preliminary study" in the International Journal of Services and Standards: Special Issue "Healthcare Management Quality and Standards in a Global World." 10:1/2 (2015) and "Volunteer management practices during challenging economic times" with M. D'Agostino and H. Levine in the Journal of Public Management and Social Policy. (20) 2 (2015).

Meet SWPA Secretary, Heather Wyatt-Nichol, and Treasurer, Agatha Caraballo, in the Spring newsletter.

Member Spotlight

*In this issue we highlight new member,
Dawnasia Freeman.*

Dawnasia Nichole Freeman is a Brooklyn, New York Native. She is currently a second year Masters of Public Administration Student at



Long Island University (LIU), Brooklyn Campus ; the Executive President of the Public Administration Society, a member of the American Society for Public Administration and a member of the Masters of Public Administration

Advisory Board at LIU. She also has a Bachelors Degree in Business Management from LIU, and was actively involved on campus and in many leadership roles during her undergraduate experience. Dawnasia has ten years of experience working in the non-profit sector in

the fields of Urban Education and Youth Development. She has worked at organizations in New York City such as Groundwork Inc., Good Shepherd Services, and the Go Project. She recently became a new College Success Program Coordinator at iMentor Inc. in New York City. She is also an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Through her sorority she participates in an ample amount of volunteer projects, and event planning to help support and serve the Brooklyn community. Upon graduation Dawnasia has plans to become a college professor, a director or manager at a non- profit organization, and work with the Deputy Mayor of Strategic Policy Initiatives in education policy and reform.

Publications

SWPA Members in Bold

The 3rd edition of the Nature of the Nonprofit Sector, edited by J. Steven Ott and **Lisa A. Dicke** and the 3rd edition of Understanding Nonprofit Organizations, edited by J. Steven Ott and **Lisa A. Dicke**, with cases by C. Kenneth Meyer have just been published by Westview Press.

Miller, Clark;; Jason O'Leary, **Elisabeth A. Graffy**, Ellen Stechel, and Gary Dirks, "Narrative futures and the governance of energy transitions," *Futures*, Volume 70, June 2015, Pages 65–74.

Sabharwal, Meghna. 2015 "From Glass Ceiling to Glass Cliff: Women in Senior Executive Service." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 25(2) 399-426.

Moghrabi, Imane-Hijal, **Meghna Sabharwal**, and Evan M. Berman. "The Importance of Ethics to Organizational Performance in Employment at Will States." *Administration and Society* (published online April 16, 2015) (IF: 1.263) doi: 10.1177/0095399715581043.

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Sabharwal, Meghna and Roli Varma.

"Transnational Research Collaboration: Expatriate Indian Scientists and Engineers Connecting with the Peers in India." *East Asian Science, Technology and Society: An International Journal*. Published online June 25, 2015, doi:10.1215/18752160-3141241.

Sabharwal, Meghna and Roli Varma. 2015 "Scientific Diaspora: Stay Plans of Indian Faculty in the United States." *Perspectives on Global Development and Technology* 14(3) 368-387.

2015 SWPA National Award Recipients

Pat Shields—Marcia P Crowley Service to SWPA Award

Mary Timney—Rita Mae Kelly Distinguished Research Award

Claire Mostel—Joan Fiss Bishop Leadership Award

Meghna Sabharwal—Julia Juanita Henderson International Award



2015 National Award recipients, left to right: (front) Pat Shields, Mary Timney; (back) Claire Mostel, Meghna Sabharwal

Visit the SWPA Website:
<http://www.aspaonline.org/swpa/index.html>
 or email swpasection@gmail.com

2016 SWPA National Award Nominations Sought!

Applications are currently being accepted for 2016 National Awards. For more information and a nominations form, visit the SWPA website or contact Hillary Knepper at hknepper@pace.edu. The deadline for nominations is **January 11, 2016**.

SWPA Board and Officer Positions Nominations

Are you interested in serving as a Board member for the Section for Women in Public Administration (SWPA)? Do you have a desire to fulfill your leadership goals as an officer? Please send a statement of interest, a short Bio, and the position (Board member or officer) for which you wish to be considered to the SWPA Nominating Committee in care of Suzanne Discenza, Nominations Committee Chair, to discenzas@gmail.com by **December 21, 2015**.

SWPA National Conference Scholarship

SWPA annually awards up to three \$500.00 scholarships to Practitioners and/or students (Master's and Ph.D.) to help defray the costs of attending the ASPA national conference. To apply, please complete and submit the SWPA Scholarship application form along with a cover letter, vita or resume, and two letters of nomination/recommendation (from faculty, supervisors/managers, or ASPA chapter or section officers).

Obtain application forms at the SWPA website or directly from Nicole Rishel Elias at nelias@jjay.cuny.edu. All applications must be received by **December 31, 2015**.

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"You should never let your fears prevent you from doing what you know is right."

~ Aung San Suu Kyi

ASPA webinars

If you've missed out on ASPA's new series of professional development webinars, take a look at the link below. The webinars are free to you as a member of ASPA and have been getting some great user ratings. All webinars are archived (link from the main page) so you can watch at your convenience.

<http://www.aspanet.org/public/ASPA/Events/Webinars/Webinars.aspx>

ASPA is looking for new ideas and presenters for future webinars. If you have ideas about issues you would like to see covered, let me know so I can pass them on. **If you would like to present a webinar on a topic of your own choosing, contact Elisa Graffy at egraffy@asu.edu.**

2016 ASPA Conference

Planning to attend ASPA's 2016 Annual Conference next year?

Join more than 1,100 of your colleagues, mentors and friends in Seattle on March 18-22, 2016. Gain insights from the latest research that you can put into practice in your daily work.

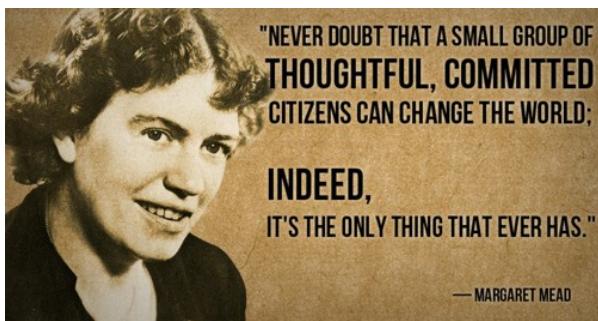
Network with leading experts. Learn best practices—through plenary session, workshops and special events—on the new traditions in public administration that are shaping the world of public and non-profit administration. How are public administrators managing these changes? Find out in Seattle.

Act before January 29 and save with Early Bird rates! Go to <http://www.aspanet.org>

ASPA Annual Report Available Online

ASPA has released its 2014 Annual Report. The report summarizes the major accomplishments of the Society including efforts to more actively engage members, expand the range of activities and services offered and increase the value that is offered to members.

Highlighted in the report are the new professional development offerings, the Annual Conference and ASPA's work advocating for excellence in public service. To read the report, go to: <http://www.aspanet.org/PUBLIC/ASPADocs/2014AnnualReportFINALFINAL.pdf>



SWPA Committees

National Conference Subcommittee Chairs

- SWPA Breakfast - Michelle Evans
- Speaker Search - Christine Springer
- Professional Development Workshop - Meghna Sabharwal
- Marketing (ads for the program) - Vacant
- SWPA Booth - Roslyn Alic-Batson, Agatha Carballo
- SWPA Social - Roslyn Alic-Batson, seeking an apprentice for succession
- Program Liaison - Elisa Graffy, Suzanne Discenza

Standing Committees

- Scholarships - Nicole Elias
- Leadership Awards - Hillary Knepper
- Membership - Gina Scutelnica
- Newsletter - Linda Reece
- Historian - Kathryn Hensley
- National Council Liaison - Suzanne Discenza
- By-laws and Policies - Dovie Dawson

To volunteer or share comments or questions, contact Elisa Graffy (egraffy@asu.edu) or Hillary Knepper (hknepper@pace.edu).

Bridging the Gap

The Newsletter of the Section for Women in Public Administration
Published in Winter, Spring, Fall and Summer

Send contributions electronically to
Linda F. Reece, MPA
ReeceL@uncw.edu

Deadlines:

Pre-Conference Issue: February 1st
Summer Issue: May 1st
Fall Issue: August 1st
Winter Issue: November 1st

Book reviews, summaries of original research, member news (both professional and personal) and other items of interest to SWPA members are welcome. Please consult editor about copy suitability and length.

2015-2016 SWPA Board

Chair - Elisa Graffy

Vice-Chair – Hillary Knepper

Immediate Past Chair - Suzanne Discenza

Secretary - Heather Wyatt-Nichol

Treasurer - Agatha Carballo

Student Representative - Rhucha Samudra

Historian - Kathy Hensley

SWPA Board members for 2013-2016

Roslyn Alic-Batson

Diane Benitez

Evgenia Gorina

SWPA Board of Directors for 2014-2017

Michelle Evans

Karen Michalski

Kimone Williams

SWPA Board of Directors 2015-2018

Lauren Brock Mullins

Meghna Sabharwal

Christine Springer

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