

# BRIDGING THE GAP

Newsletter of the Section for Women in Public Administration

Sept 2011



## Message from the Board

Hello Members,

It is my hope that each and every one of you has had an enjoyable summer recharging your batteries for the productive second half of our term. We have accomplished significant progress against great odds and we will not rest on our laurels but rather we will rededicate our efforts for even greater accomplishments as we go towards next year's national conference objectives.

In a couple of weeks we will begin that journey and I know that there are times when we ask ourselves why? Why do we give the time we do and pay the price we pay? I believe that we can answer that question very easily by saying that "Service is the price we pay for the space we occupy". That however will be the easy answer. We do what we do

because we want to make a difference. We want to create a professional world that is sensitive to change, that is responsive to the challenges of growth and committed to service "for the greater good".

We must in this time of economic stresses and global change utilize God's gifts to us, using those abilities to accomplish meaningful progress so that those that follow us will not have to recreate the wheel but keep the vehicle that is SWPA moving forward to even greater heights.

We are looking forward to midyear meeting in New Orleans, LA and national conference in Las Vegas in March 2012. Let's keep this train moving forward.

Yours in Service,  
Roslyn Alic-Batson  
Chair



### *In this issue...*

- Images from the National Conference
- Call for Proposals
- National Women's History Museum Coalition

## **ASPA Code of Ethics Being Reviewed**

ASPA leadership has created a working group co-chaired by Jim Nordin and James Svava to explore the current code and report back on whether changes should be considered. The committee is broadly representative of ASPA membership and includes practitioner, faculty, and student members.

We invite you to discuss the code of ethics in courses you are teaching this fall. Tony Molina on the working group had a good experience last spring semester with students writing a paper to reflect on the code and how it might be changed. Tony has developed the guidelines and supporting documents that you can use if you would like to give students the option of doing a similar exercise. Of course, you are free to choose your own materials. Tony is willing to review papers written by students to identify specific suggestions and themes in their comments. Papers received by October 15 will be included in the summary that Tony prepares for the working group. Contact Linda Reece at [reeceL@uncw.edu](mailto:reeceL@uncw.edu) for the relevant material.

We also invite your participation in the discussion. We welcome comments sent to us by email at [james.svava@asu.edu](mailto:james.svava@asu.edu). You can also respond to the ASPA blog and postings on the ASPA LinkedIn page that will be starting next week. If you are attending the SECOPA conference, there will

be a breakfast forum at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, September 23, to discuss the code. A panel on ethics and equity is also planned for the NASPAA meeting in October. We will communicate with the membership about how we are progressing and what changes are being considered.

Our plan is to have recommendations to present to a forum at the ASPA conference in March, 2012. We will then prepare a final report for the National Council.

We look forward to hearing from you and your students.

## **ABFM Invites Authors to Display at 23rd Annual Conference**

ASPA's Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM) will host its Annual Conference Oct 13-15 in Washington, DC. As part of the conference, ABFM will display books relevant to financial management. If you would like your book considered, please contact conference chair James Savage at [jds2y@virginia.edu](mailto:jds2y@virginia.edu).

The conference offers presentations on a variety of topics including donor behavior, financial and performance management, state social insurance programs and many more. To register for the conference, visit [www.abfm.org](http://www.abfm.org). Hotel reservations are also now available at a rate of \$219 per night (plus taxes and fees). Visit the above website for more information.

## **National Forum for Black Public Administrators Host Conference**

The NFBPA is hosting a conference in Austin, Texas Oct. 13-14 for public and private sector employees. The two-day conference is packed full of sessions for practitioners. General registration includes eight workshops covering a range of topics including improving productivity, transparency in government, leadership and sustainability as well as five major forums. There will also be a Jobs Expo and Health Fair. General CEU credits will also be available from Austin Community College for registrants that attend a certain number of sessions.

To learn more about the conference, visit <http://www.nfbpacentraltexas.org/>.

## **Founders' Forum Fellow Nominations Being Accepted**

ASPA is accepting nominations for the 2012 Founders' Forum Fellowship. Fellowships are awarded to full-time students studying in any field relevant to public administration. Fellows will have an opportunity to attend the ASPA 2012 Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada and expand their knowledge and skills needed to work in public service.

To download the application and to see the benefits afforded to students, go to <http://tinyurl.com/427hbmK>. This year's form can be completed electronically and submitted by email. A link is also on the ASPA website.

Please note that the deadline for applications is earlier this year - October 17, 2011- and there is a subject matter paper required.

## **Call for Proposals: 2012 BORDERS Awards for Research in Immigration**

The National Center for Border Security and Immigration (BORDERS), led by The University of Arizona, is pleased to invite faculty and young researchers to submit proposals for its summer research funding competition in Immigration Research. Applicants will submit proposals utilizing data from the New Immigrant Survey (NIS) to examine immigrants' integration and participation in American civic culture.

Awards will be given based on the innovativeness and quality of the proposed research for faculty (\$30,000/project) and young researchers – postdoctoral fellows or doctoral students (\$12,000/project). Teams are encouraged to apply. Project findings will be presented to academics and government policymakers at the conclusion of the award. This peer-reviewed competition is open to U.S. citizens researching in any social science-related field. Application deadline: October 28, 2011. The full RFP is available online at <http://www.borders.arizona.edu/>

For more information, contact Riley McIsaac at [rmcisaac@borders.arizona.edu](mailto:rmcisaac@borders.arizona.edu).

The National Center for Border Security and Immigration (BORDERS) is a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Center of Excellence (COE) led by The University of

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Arizona. As a consortium of 15 premier institutions, BORDERS is dedicated to the development of innovative technologies, proficient processes, and effective policies that will help protect our Nation's borders, foster international trade, and enhance long-term understanding of immigration dynamics.

### **ASPA Webinar Series**

ASPA's professional development webinar series continues with sessions on October 19 and November 16.

The topic of the October 19 session is *Integrating Diversity Strategies for Success*. Integrating diversity is a difficult process that requires a holistic system change. It is about being savvy about your organization and having knowledge of the internal and external environment. This webinar will provide a seven-step process that is critical to an organization to achieve its long term success. Understanding these steps can help your organization focus its energy in the critical area of implementation. It can also help build on its successes to integrate diversity more feasibly and with less resistance into all aspects of the organization. Ultimately, it will create a more diverse, inclusive, high performing organization.

The presenter is Phin Xaypangna, a diversity and organizational development consultant, currently working for Mecklenburg County Government and SWPA Board member. She has over 15 years of experience in managing and leading

the diversity efforts for local governments and nonprofit organizations. She is a community activist for social change. In addition to serving on our board, she serves on the boards of the Levine Museum of the New South, Mecklenburg Ministries, Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the Y Metro Charlotte and is the National Council District III Representative for the ASPA.

The topic of the November 16 session is *Building Community Resilience Through Emergency Management Initiatives*. How do disaster preparedness programs add value to state and local government operations? Learn how emergency management programs offer the opportunity to building community resilience, engage citizens and address the needs of underserved populations. The impact of disasters, the emergency management process, the elements of a successful emergency management program, all-hazards planning, and methods for involving key stakeholders will also be covered.

Mary J. Goepfert is the presenter and has worked for the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM) for over 23 years. She is the agency's liaison to people with special needs and organizations which serve people with special needs. In this position she is an instructor, instructional designer and coordinates the NJOEM special needs advisory panel. Additionally, she oversees numerous projects related to disaster preparedness for persons with disabilities

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and other non-typical functional needs. She also serves as a community relations officer for the NJOEM. Ms. Goepfert is a certified public manager and an active adjunct instructor for Fairleigh Dickinson University and the NJ Department of Human Resources Development Institute.

The cost for each webinar is \$25 for ASPA members. For non-members, the cost is \$50 or \$100 which includes membership. Registration can be done on the ASPA website: <http://www.aspanet.org>.



## SECoPA 2011

Our mid-year meeting will be taking place during SECoPA on September 24 @ 12:30pm. Look for more information on calling in closer to the date.

## Remembering Mary Grisco

*Submitted Becky L. Schergens*

As usual, Mary Grisco was at the American Society for Public Administration's National Conference in Baltimore, MD this year. I always looked forward to seeing her with her ready smile and flowing hair. The fact that she had lived in Alaska since 1984 made her somewhat exotic in my mind. I always marveled that each year she came to the "lower 48" for the ASPA meetings, demonstrating her keen interest in and devotion to public service.

We embraced warmly as always and I told her how good she looked and how I loved her new short hairdo. She smiled with not a clue that this time together was any different than in the past. It was only when her friend Anne Swafford, former ASPA President and SWPA Chair, told me that Mary had been very ill with uterine cancer that I realized her short hair was a really a very stylish wig. Mary carried on, no matter what!

There was absolutely no pretension in any facet of Mary's being. She was straightforward, kind and patient. She was among the first to arrive at any ASPA Conference and the first to volunteer for any role in SWPA that would be helpful. She was just plain fun to be around and one of the attractions at the SWPA booth was Mary's presence and good humor. She was well liked and well loved.

But make no mistake. Mary was passionate about many issues, particularly social justice for women, children and minorities. She felt

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strongly about what she considered injustice and she was not afraid to stand her ground. She was committed, both personally and professionally, to advocate for and minister to the underserved, the forgotten and the abandoned. It was her calling.

She was also devoted to the preservation of the environment and was a noble steward of the world in which we live. Even in her final days, Mary made a trip to Washington, DC with her Sierra Club to lobby members of Congress for increased wild lands protection. The titles Feminist and Environmentalist suited her and she was proud to be called both.

It is doubtful that we will see the likes of Mary Grisco again. She was steady as the North Star guiding all of us to use our lives wisely. Thank you, Mary, for the joy of knowing you and learning from you. You are with us still.

Mary Grisco passed from this life on June 19, 2011 in Anchorage, Alaska. We send our deepest sympathies to Paul Laverty, her partner of 20 years, and to her family. Contributions in her memory and to help defray the cost of her care, can be made to the Estate of Mary Grisco, PO Box 202045, Anchorage, AK 99520



### **New Executive Committee Members**

Recently two of our Executive Committee members resigned for various personal reasons. Thank you to Student Representative Brandi Blesset and Secretary Dovie Dawson for their service to SWPA since March.

The following individuals were approved by the SWPA Board to serve out the rest of the terms for Secretary and Student Representative. Current board member and Professional Development committee Co-Chair Suzanne Discenza, Ph.D. has agreed to serve as Secretary.

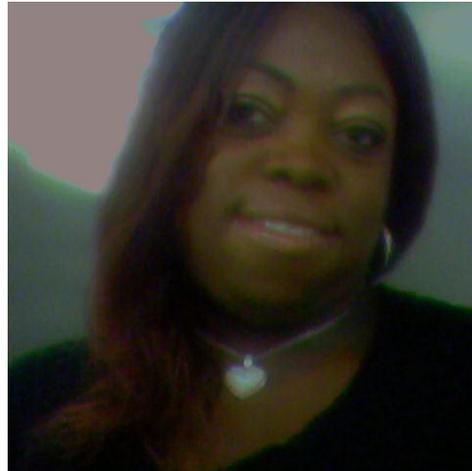
Sheila Johnson, who has been serving as our Membership Chair, has also agreed to serve as the Student Representative.

Please contact SWPA chair Ros Alic-Batson (alibatson@aol.com) or SWPA Vice-Chair Barbara Lewkowitz (barbaralewkowitz@gmail.com) if you are interested in serving on a committee for the remainder of the term ending March 2012. We could use more help planning for Las Vegas and our famous SWPA breakfast!

## **Meet Our Members**

### *Member Updates and Introductions*

**Sheila Johnson** recently agreed to step in for the remainder of the current term as student representative on the SWPA Board. Her work experience lies in both the governmental and financial industries respectfully. Sheila's expertise lies in business process management and in training and development.



Sheila describes herself as a visionary who hopes to make a difference by creating avenues that will accomplish the goals of social justice, peace, prosperity and equal rights for all. Sheila's belief is that success can only be fueled by faith in God, determination, ability to glide over the road blocks, intuition and a sense of humor. Her affirmation lies in Marianne Williamson words, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate but that we are powerful beyond measure. Service is the rent we pay for living."

The greatest joys that Sheila has experienced to date are tied to her various active educational and non-profit activities in her NY Metropolitan community.

The subject areas that Sheila remains passionate and actively advocates for are Equal rights for women, Access and Acceleration in Education for the underprivileged community and Wealth building/retirement planning.

Sheila's leadership and membership in the non profit industry include: American

Society for Public Administration - Metro NY Chapter – President-Elect (2011 - 2012); Secretary (2010 - 2011); The Section for Women in Public Administration – Membership Committee Co-Chair; National Coalition of 100 Black Women – Manhattan Chapter – Governing Board Member; Bergen -Passaic Chapter - Member; Presbyterian Senior Services – Board Member; Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis High School Mentoring Program – Program Director; American Cancer Society – Legislative Ambassador; Coalition for Debtor Education.

She holds an MPA with a concentration in Human Resource Management and undergraduate degree in Public Administration from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Sheila will be graduating with is a MA - Business Management and Leadership from the CUNY School of Professional Studies in June 2012. Sheila hopes to begin her PhD program in the fall of 2012.

**Myrna Mandell** was on the board for many years and also won an award for service.

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She has not been able to come to the ASPA Conferences in the past few years as it usually conflicts with the IRSPM (International Research Society for Public Management) Conference, where she has been a member of their board for several years. However, there doesn't appear to be a conflict in 2012 so we may get to see her again soon. Here is Myrna's update in her own words.

I am a "Professor Emeritus" from California State University, Northridge. This is supposed to mean that I am retired, but that is far from the reality! I still do research and present papers at conferences on the topic of networks (collaborations among the public, private, non-profit sectors and community groups). I have written several articles and chapters for books on a variety of topics about networks. I am now working on putting together a book on building theories of networks. This will be done with two colleagues: Dr. Robyn Keast (Australia) and Dr. Robert Agranoff (Indiana University).

In addition, I have been working as an Adjunct Faculty member at Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia and now as an Adjunct Faculty at Southern Cross University, the Gold Coast, Australia. This means I spend approximately one month each year in Australia (It's a tough job but someone has to do it!). Although I don't teach there, I give seminars and supervise PhD students and continue to work on my research with my friends and colleagues "down under"..

Since I "retired" i have moved to Huntington Beach, CA and enjoy very long walks at the beach in the mornings.

Finally I am attaching a picture to show you how "hard I am working". Life is good!

I look forward to coming to ASPA and meeting all the new women (and men) from SWAPA. I think it is an extraordinary section (I knew the original founders) and if I don't get a chance to do so in person at next year's conference, I wish you all much continued success in all of your endeavors.

Cheers!  
Myrna



***Submit your own member  
update to Linda Reece at  
ReeceL@uncw.edu***

## SWPA Committees

ASPA National Conference  
 ASPA National Conference Program Liaison  
 SWPA National Awards Breakfast  
 By-laws and Policies  
 Chapter Outreach  
 Collaborative Initiatives  
 Communications-BTG & Website  
 Membership & Recruitment  
 National Awards Program  
 National Council Liaison  
 Nominations  
 Professional Development  
 Public Relations & Marketing  
 Scholarship Program

For more information, please

Visit the SWPA Website:

<http://www.swpanet.org/>



*Advancing excellence  
 in public service . . .*

### ***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.

## SWPA Board

**Chair - Roslyn Alic-Batson**  
**Vice Chair and Chair-Elect – Barbara**  
**Lewkowitz, MPA**  
**Immediate Past Chair - Patricia Shields,**  
**Ph.D.**  
**Secretary - Suzanne Discenza, PhD**  
**Treasurer - Phin Xaypangna, MPA**  
**Student Representative - Sheila Johnson**  
**Endowment Chair - Becky Schergens**

### SWPA Board members for 2011-2014

**Suzanne Discenza, PhD**  
**Sherri Greenberg**  
**Aziza Zemrani**

### SWPA Board of Directors for 2010-2013

**Elisabeth A. Graffy, PhD**  
**Helisse Levine, Ph.D.**  
**Dorothy Norris-Tirrell, PhD**

### SWPA Board of Directors 2009-2012

**Bonnie Mani, PhD**  
**Maria J. D'Agostino, PhD**  
**Emily Jones**

**ASPA 2012 Annual Conference**  
**Las Vegas, NV**  
**March 2-6, 2012**  
**Call for Proposals**

<http://www.aspanet.org/>

