

BRIDGING THE GAP

Newsletter of the Section for Women in Public Administration

Summer 2009



This Edition Features a the First in a Series of Articles on Outstanding Women in Public Administration



Letter from the Chair...

The 2009 ASPA Conference in Miami was one of the best yet. SWPA and SWPA members were

well represented. At the very top of the organization, [Meredith Newman](#) ascended to President-elect and of course [Antoinette \(Toney\) Samuel](#) is ASPA's very capable and always professional Executive Director. SWPA members



were also featured prominently in the program. The former Secretary of Health and Human Services and current president of the University of Miami was the Honorary Conference Chair. [Claudia Stravato](#), Chief Executive Offi-



cer for Planned Parenthood of Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle won the Gloria Hobson Nordin Social Equity Award. [Mary Ellen Guy](#), Distinguished Professor in the School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado, Denver won the Donald C. Stone Service to ASPA award



and delivered an inspiring Donald Stone lecture "When Diversity Makes a Difference."

[Elizabeth Graffy](#), an analyst for the US Geological Survey, won two *Public Administration Review* awards. Her article, "Meeting the Challenges of Policy Relevant Science: Bridging Theory and Practice" (Nov/Dec 2008) won both the Marshall Dimock Award for the best lead article and the Louis Brownlow Award for the best paper by a practitioner. According to [Richard Stillman](#), no one has ever won both of these awards for a single article.

We were thrilled to have [Patricia Ireland](#), former president of the National Association of Women, social activist and author as the key-

note speaker for the SWPA awards breakfast. She gave a stirring speech that explored public policy making through the lenses of women's issues.

[Barbara Lewkowitz](#) has a separate article on Patricia Ireland's presentation.

At the breakfast we presented awards to four outstanding women who are contributing to public service. [Laurel McFarland](#), Executive Director of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration won the Julia B. Henderson Award for her commitment to international public administration. SWPA's own [Becky Schergens](#) won the Joan Fiss Bishop award for the many ways she has promoted increased participation of women in the public service profession. She currently works for the National Woman's History Museum. [Dianna Noli Hill](#) dedicated, former SWPA secretary, and court administrator for the



city of Phoenix/Municipal Court won the Marcia P. Crowley award for service to SWPA. [Kathe Callahan](#), Assistant Professor in the School of Public Affairs and

Administration at Rutgers University Newark and Assistant Professor of Urban Health Administration at the UMDNJ School of Public Health won the Rita Mae Kelly Award for outstanding research on gender related issues. Finally, we honored [Claire Felbinger's](#) memory with an award, which was presented to her husband [Richard Bingham](#). We also honored our scholarship winners, [Wendy Xinfang Gao](#), [Kim Moloney](#) and [Rhucha Samudra](#). Thanks to [Sherri Greenberg](#) for chairing the awards committee and [Roslyn Alic Batson](#) for her work organizing the breakfast. SWPA was well represented among the panels or discussion circles too. Members like [Cheryl Broom](#), [Larking Dudley](#), [Dorothy Norris-Tirrel](#), [Kendra Stewart](#), [Patricia Patterson](#), [Jeanne-Marie](#)

[Col](#), [Dianne Rahm](#), [Pat Alt](#), [Pamela Ransom](#), [Renee Nank](#), [Susan MacManus](#), [Wendy Haynes](#) and [Jennifer Alexander](#) contributed on panels. SWPA board members [Dara Baldwin](#), [Roslyn Alic-Batson](#) and [Sherri Greenberg](#) organized a successful SWPA sponsored workshop on Women Elected Officials. They plan to have another one next year. [Suzanne Discenza](#) and [Phin Xaypangna](#) conducted another stimulating Transitions Workshop. I was lucky enough to be the discussant on a panel entitled, "Women in Public Administration: Building Bridges in Theory and Practice. Papers by [Maria D'Agostiono](#) and [Helisse Levine](#) were particularly interesting. I hope we can have more panels that specifically deal with women's issues in PA next year in San Jose.

Both the board meeting and general meeting were well attended. We were able to take care of SWPA business and get to know one another too. The new officers, [Dara Baldwin](#) – Vice Chair; [Barbara Lewkowitz](#) – Secretary; [Phin Xaypangna](#) – Treasurer) board members [Bonnie Mani](#), [Jasmin Manipud-Elepano](#), [Shinika McKiever](#) and our student representative, [Dovie Dawson](#), were officially elected. Many thanks to [Becky Schergens](#) for all her work as chair of the nominating committee. We have a great team. [Barbara Lewkowitz](#) took a triple role as secretary, photographer and as computer technician. She also gave informative presentations on SWPA's presence on Facebook.

As usual, the SWPA booth was filled by enthusiastic SWPA volunteers and was a welcoming place for women to drop by and chat. We were able to get names, emails and cards of over 60 members and women interested in joining SWPA. [Nancy Foye-Cox](#) was gracious enough to sign copies of her chapter on *Outstanding Women in Public Administration*.

[Roslyn Alic-Batson](#) not only served SWPA, she was an integral part of the host committee. The conference was just a lot of fun. She helped to organize some of the best dancing venues ASPA has ever had. The Monday evening dance party on the Riverwalk Terrace was one of the most beautiful settings for dancing I have ever experienced. And above all it showed how much fun SWPA members have at these meetings.

**BREAKING NEW GROUND:
AN ASPA FOUNDER**
Nancy Foye-Cox

As I sat through various SWPA events at ASPA's 70th National Conference in Miami recently, I felt ASPA was on the verge of losing both SWPA's history and that of female public administration leaders. I offered to write a column for BTG. So let's start at ASPA's beginning ...

JULIA J. HENDERSON, PhD (1915 -). A distinguished academic and public servant, Julia Henderson was a charter member and the first female board member, when ASPA was chartered in December 1939.

Dr. Henderson received her Bachelor's degree with honors in 1936 and a Master's degree in Political Science in 1937 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In 1943, Wellesley College reported that Miss Henderson, who was an instructor in the Department of Political Science, had been appointed personnel officer to deal with employment problems. The *Harvard Crimson* announced in September 1944 that Julia J. Henderson would be the first woman student at the Harvard Graduate School of Public Administration on a Littauer Fellowship. Littauer fellows were students with distinguished records of advanced university graduate study in the social sciences, combined usually with actual experience in government service. Formerly on the staffs of the Social Security Board and the U.S. Employment Service, she was then conducting a study for the International Labor Office on population shifts resulting from the war. Having obtained a Doctorate in Political Science from the University of Minnesota in 1945, she started her career at the United Nations (UN) as a Preparatory Commission staff member, working in London prior to the first session of the UN General Assembly in 1946. She subsequently served as director of the UN Division of Social Welfare

(1950-1954), the UN Bureau of Social Affairs (1955-67), and UN Technical Operations (1967-70). Much of this time, she was the most senior female staff member at the UN. She was probably the first female elected as a National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) fellow in 1968; NAPA was founded in 1967. After retiring from the UN, she was secretary general of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (1971-78) and then a consultant to the UN Fund for Population Activities and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (1978 - 1990). Retiring again in 1990, she served as an active member of the UN Association, the Southwest Florida Peace Education Coalition, and Population Action International. Having received honorary degrees from Smith and Rider Colleges, she received the UN's Population Award in 1991. Dr. Henderson established endowments for graduate political science education and research at her *alma mater*, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she is a member of the Hall of Fame, and at Springfield.

An annual SWPA Julia Henderson award was created in 1991 to recognize a SWPA member's outstanding service to the section. (The award was renamed for Marcy Crowley in 2006.) In 2007, a new SWPA award in Henderson's name was created to recognize demonstrated lifetime commitment to international public administration or public service or to careers in international public administration and public service. She published *Around the World in 80 Years: My Memoirs* in 1998 with Nancy Dole; it is out of print. She resides in Florida.

Sources: University of Illinois at Champagne-Urbana Hall of Fame and the United Nations Intellectual History Project.

Congratulations! SWPA Scholarship Winners, 2009



Wendy Xinfan Gao is a Ph.D. candidate at Askew School of Public Administration and Policy, Florida State University. She has served as senior project officer at the British Embassy, Beijing. One of her coauthored papers was published by the

Public Administration Review in 2004. Ms. Gao is currently working on her dissertation, "Community Networks and Service Performance: Examining Community-Based Care in Florida," which investigates how different collaborative management practices of network level managers and the structural properties of the different community-based care networks affect the performance of the child welfare service in Florida. Her career goal is to be a university faculty member and teach future public administrators a sense of integrity and responsibility.

Kim Moloney is a Ph.D. Candidate in Public Administration at American University. She received her MA from the School of Ad-



vanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University and her MPA from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. Ms. Moloney's dissertation is on the World Bank and its history of public sector management projects. Her study examines why public sector management project approvals increased between 1983 and 2007 and why project outputs have diversified over time. Ms. Moloney will begin a two-year contract as a Lecturer at the University of West Indies in Kingston,

Jamaica in September 2009. She has worked in seven countries; Jamaica will be her fourth developing country in which she has worked.

Rhucha Samudra is an MPA student at the School of Public Affairs, Arizona State University. She received her M.A. in Economics from Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University



and another M.A. in Economics from University of Pune, India. Ms. Samudra has served for ICMA as a summer intern, and is currently working with the Alliance for Innovation at Arizona State University as a graduate research assistant. Her research interests include public sector human resources management and performance management. Ms. Samudra wishes a professional career in an international, diverse setting that helps her understand different viewpoints and non-traditional solutions.



ASPA Conference Workshop On Women Elected Officials

“The absence of women from political life and leadership positions undermine democracy and women’s empowerment.” The opening remarks to the UN Economic Social Council in 2007. As always, ASPA/SWPA is on the forefront with topics for discussion. ASPA’s 70th Conference theme was “Governance in the Midst of Diversity: Bridging Opportunity & Challenge.” One of SWPA’s goals is to encourage the professional development of public administrators.

This year the first Women Elected Officials Workshop was held at the ASPA Conference. The workshop was conceived by [L. Dara Baldwin](#) and created through the team work of many SWPA members. SWPA Board Member [Roslyn Alic-Batson](#)’s tireless work resulted in invitations to three Floridian women officials to attend the workshop and discuss with us the opportunities of running for public office.

The workshop was held in two parts. Dara introduced the challenges through the theory of Representative Bureaucracy; presented United States Women’s Economic Opportunities (WEO) statistics comparing them to the World WEO statistics and ended with by noting the lack of training and education provided to women to pursue such careers.

Ros conducted the second part of the workshop: a discussion with the panelists based on the opportunities women have in this country. Ros invited three phenomenal women for the panel – [Rep. Hazelle P. Rogers](#) of the Florida House of Representatives, [Katy Sorenson](#) Commissioner Miami-Dade County and Mayor [Shirley Gibson](#) of the City of Miami Gardens.

“No group can safely be entrusted with power who do not themselves mirror the dominant forces in society.” This is Meier’s basis for the public administration theory of representative bureaucracy. In the 2000 US Census women made up 50.9% of the population. According to the US Conference of Mayors, women make up



17% of the 111th Congress, 16% of US governorships, 23.7% of state legislatures and eleven are mayors of the country’s 100 largest cities. The challenges according to many studies for women are that they are less likely to be recruited to run for office, view themselves to be less qualified to be candidates, view political activities as unpleasant and they are more concerned than men about losing their privacy. One solution is that women elected officials reach out and mentor the next generation of women who aspire to public office.

Representative Rogers, Commissioner Sorenson and Mayor Gibson were instrumental in their discussion about the opportunities. They gave advice on our core questions about making the decision to run, creating campaign platforms, fundraising, networking with other women, handling losses and succession planning. Their real life stories were educational, intriguing and most of inspirational.

Please go to the SWPA website <http://www.aspaonline.org/swpa/> to view the Power Point presentation of this panel.

The next Women Elected Officials workshop is in the early planning stages for San Jose, CA in April 2010. Please contact L. Dara Baldwin – Vice Chair of SWPA Board if you would like to be a part of this work. She can be reached at: daraldb18@gmail.com

Pictures from the 2009 ASPA Conference and SWPA Events.



...More SWPA Pics



Member News....

ASPA South Florida Chapter recognized [Roslyn Alic-Batson](#) with an "Outstanding Leadership Award" at its annual Awards Luncheon on May 27, 2009. Roslyn is also a member of the SWPA board and a member of the Nominations Committee. Also recognized at the luncheon were Dr. Jonathan West with the Public Administrator of the Year Award, Miami-Dade Park & Recreation Department as the Outstanding Public Organization of the Year and Mary Lou Bobes as Outstanding Chapter Member of the Year.

[Wendy E. Ekern](#), Evergreen Chapter Board member for over ten years and SWPA member, completed a Master of Public Administration at Seattle University on Sunday, June 15, 2008. At that time she was also inducted into the Phi Alpha Alpha Honor Society. She plans an active future in the government sector."

The South Carolina Democratic Women's Council awarded *The South Carolina Women's Council Hall of Fame Awards* at the annual State Democratic Convention to [Kathy Hensley](#) of Lexington. This award recognizes Democratic women of South Carolina who have attained outstanding levels of achievement and whose contributions have made a significant impact upon the lives of our citizens.

[Kim Hoffman](#) was just been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Central Arkansas.

[Janet Hutchinson](#) has been promoted to Professor and will become the Chair of Women's Studies at VCU on July 1st.

[Claire Connolly Knox](#) won the Collins Award for Best Ph.D. Paper at the SECOPA Conference (Southeast Conference of Public Administrators) in Orlando on September 25, 2008. The name of Claire's paper was "Passing the Northern Everglades Bill: A Case Study Applying Theories of Policy Change".

[Bonnie G. Mani](#), Ph.D., Professor, Department of Political Science was honored with the 2009

Women of Distinction Award from East Carolina State University.

[Shinikia M. McKiever](#) was recently appointed to serve on the board of directors for Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods, a local community development organization in Winston-Salem, NC.

[Linda Reece](#) graduated from Walden University with an MPA in August 2008 and then in October 2008 began working at the University of North Carolina –Wilmington as an Enrollment Research Analyst. I research and analyze university recruitment and retention, among other things. If you need more information, let me know.

[Meghna Sabharwal](#) will be joining as a tenure track Assistant Professor faculty in the School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Dallas from fall 2009. She recently had an article accepted for publication in *The Social Science* journal titled: "Faculty Job Satisfaction across Gender and Discipline," which she co-authored with Elizabeth A. Corley, Associate Professor at Arizona State University

In April, Dr. [Judith Saidel](#) was named a recipient of the 2009 Women of Excellence Award in honor of her distinguished career and dedication to community service. Dr. Saidel will receive her award from the Women's Business Council, Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, June 17.

[Connie Walsh](#) recently completed the requirements for the Doctor of Public Administration (D.P.A.) program from the University of Illinois at Springfield and participated in the graduation ceremonies on May 16th. I plan on enjoying the summer!

Dr. [Roberta Walsh](#) was honored at commencement exercises on May 3 at FGCU with recognition on achieving emeritus status for (according to the citation) "exemplary support of public affairs education...[and] a distinguished record of accomplishment both as an academic and...public servant." I am grateful to a United Faculty of Florida collective bargaining provision whereby I am able to continue teaching on a part-time basis.

Professor [Lynne Weikart](#), Ph.D. of Baruch College School of Public Affairs at the City University of New York has retired and moved to Charlottesville, Virginia to enjoy her grandchildren. She has just published her latest book, *Follow the Money: Who Controls New York City Mayors?*, and is now writing a textbook on financial management for nonprofits. She teaches one course on financial management at Virginia Commonwealth U. and a course on budgeting at James Madison U. You can keep in touch with Lynne through her website, www.followthemoneyus.com or her email, lweikart@gmail.com.

ASPA CONFERENCE REMINDER

The **2010 ASPA conference** will be held in San Jose (April 9-13). The conference theme is "Invigorating Public Service for Change."

The deadline for panel, individual papers, discussion circles and poster session submissions is **July 15**. Please consider participating in the conference.

This year track one is well suited for submissions that deal with Women in Public Administration. Also, ASPA Sections will be having more input into the selection process. These are all good signs for people with a research interest in women in public administration (and related topics). See the list of program tracks below.

If anyone has questions or concerns about a topic or which venue to choose (panel, paper, discussion circle, poster session) please contact me. I know the submission process can be daunting. I have been a conference program co-chair and can share my insights.

For more information on the conference program see this web site

<http://www.aspanet.org/scriptcontent/2010conference.cfm#Program%20Theme>

Program Tracks

Proposals must be directly related to a specific track to be considered for acceptance

Positive Change for all: Achieving Social Equity in the Public Service for Minorities, Women and Youth

1. The American Higher Education Agenda: Promoting Education that Makes a Difference
2. Fiscal Stewardship: How Federal, State and Local Governments Develop, Implement, and Enforce Tough Decisions
3. Future Challenges for Public Leadership: Professionalism and Ethics
4. Transparency: Managing eGovernment to Engage the Public
5. Managing Emergencies: Balancing Support with Accountability
6. Does "Going Green" Require a Kansas Tornado?: Policy Possibilities Versus Fiscal Realities of Implementing "Green" Policies
7. The Domestic Reform Agenda: Improving Outcomes for Our Health Care, Criminal Justice and Education Systems
8. The Nonprofit Sector: Joining Forces in Networks to Solve Community Concerns
9. Accountability of Outcomes: Managing Performance and Measuring Results
10. Managing Human Capital: Securing the Future of Public Service
11. Public Investment: Growing the Economy for the 21st century
12. Taking Stock of the Stimulus - Intergovernmental Management on the Firing Line
13. Going Global: Learning from Other Nations on Public Sector Governance Issues
Founders' Forum – Theory to Practice



CALL FOR PAPERS

The journal, *Administrative Theory & Praxis* is doing a Forum (December 2009 issue) on a topic very relevant to women in public administration.

They are seeking short submissions (2000 words or less) that reflect on the impact of Camilla Stivers's book *Bureau Men and Settlement Women*.

The deadline is July 1. If you are working on a related topic, please consider submitting something to ATP.

Call for Submissions: Reflections on Camilla Stivers's *Bureau Men, Settlement Women: Constructing Public Administration in the Progressive Era*

To appear in the December 2009 issue, Volume 31, Number 4

In *Bureau Men, Settlement Women: Constructing Public Administration in the Progressive Era*, Camilla Stivers (2000) seeks a "usable past" that can help broaden public administration theory beyond the bounds of scientific rationality and traditional administrative models. Influenced by Dwight Waldo, Stivers argues that the masculine trend towards administrative proceduralism dominated the field of public administration to the exclusion of the more substantive social concerns of women reformers of the Progressive era, though both the philosophies of bureau men and settlement women contributed significantly to governmental reform.

As Stivers writes about the Progressive era:

Both men and women, whether they worked together or separately, explained their efforts in terms that variably blended "feminine" concern for social betterment with

"masculine" commitment to efficiency. But as party politicians heaped scorn on reform men (particularly in reaction to their early successes) and wealthy supporters demanded less controversial activity more consistent with business interests, reformers turned away from concern for the conditions of people's lives, which was tainted with femininity, and towards ideas and rhetoric derived from indisputably male realms: science, business, and executive command and control. As the impetus toward professionalism strengthened, men and women who shared a commitment to public service found themselves organizing into separate professions—the men in public administration, the women in social work.

(pp. 10-11)

This forum seeks to explore the contributions of Camilla Stivers' work on the gendered roles and philosophies that shaped both the Progressive era and the field of public administration. Has the field responded to Stivers's gendered history of governmental reform and sought to include substantive concerns in public administrative practice? What implications do Stivers's insights have for social science and political history more broadly? How has the history of the bureau men and settlement women continued to play out? If we are in a new era of government reform, who are the bureau men and settlement women of today? Which philosophy is holding sway now, and where?

Please send manuscripts of 2,000 words or less to Jennifer Eagan, Forum Editor, at jennifer.eagan@csueastbay.edu by July 1, 2009.

References

Stivers, C. (2000). *Bureau men, settlement women: Constructing public administration in the Progressive era*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas.

SWPA Officers, 2008-2009

Section Chair,	Patricia Shields
Vice Chair,	Leslie Dara Baldwin
Past Chair,	Becky Schergens
Secretary,	Barbara Lewkowitz
Treasurer,	Phin Xaypangna
Student Representative	Dovie Dawson

SWPA Board Members

Term Ending 2010	Patricia Alt Suzanne Discenza Donna Handley
Term Ending 2011	Sherri Greenberg Yahong Zhang Roslyn Alic-Batson
Term Ending 2012	Bonnie Mani Shinika M. McKiever Jasmin Manipud-Elepano

Bridging the Gap

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

Send contributions electronically to
Managing Editor, Janet R. Hutchinson
jhutch@vcu.edu

Mail contributions to:
Janet R. Hutchinson
2221 Park Avenue
Richmond, VA 23220

Deadlines: Fall Issue: October 1st
Pre-Conference Issue: February 1st
Summer Issue: June 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 length.

SWPA Committees

ASPA National Conference	Dovie Dawson
ASPA National Conference Program Liaison	Jasmin Manipud-Elepano
SWPA National Awards Breakfast	Open
By-Laws and Policies	Marcy Crowley
Chapter Outreach	Open
Collaborative Initiatives.	Leslie Dara Baldwin
Communications - BTG amd Web Site	Janet Hutchinson
Membership and Recruitment	Donna Handley
National Awards Program	Marcy Crowley
National Council Liaison.	Ann Ludwick
Nominations	Patricia Shields
Professional Development	Suzanne Discenza
Public Relations and Marketing	Barbara Lewkowitz
Scholarship Program	Yahong Zang

For more information about SWPA including events not covered in BTG,
please visit our website: <http://www.aspaonline.org/swpa/>