

## ***Notes from the Annual SWPA Awards Breakfast and Membership Meeting***

The Annual Breakfast the morning of March 30 topped off a wonderful series of celebrations in honor of our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – from the exhibit hall table, replete with balloons and flowers, to the “Conversations” among past ASPA presidents Mary Ellen Guy, Naomi Lynn, Christine Gibbs Springer, and Anne Swafford, to less formal toasts among our members. Kudos to the many who assisted under the able leadership of Marcy Crowley, Carol Gandy, Kathy Hensley, and especially the Herculean efforts of Becky Schergens for a job well done!

Outgoing Chair Wendy Haynes welcomed Kathy Hensley in as the new Chair, as well as incoming Board Members Alexandra L. Jones, Jerri Killian, Anne Osborne Kilpatrick, Rosemary O’Leary, and Zazioux Zadora. Many thanks to outgoing members Kelly Campbell, Janet Mills, Genie Stowers, and Janat Yousof for their years of service on the Board.

Meredith Newman and David Rosenbloom presented the ***Rita Mae Kelly Distinguished Research Award to Julie A. Dolan***. Having just given birth to her first child, Julie was unable to attend but sent a warm message of thanks to all of us, including her special mentors, Janet R. Hutchinson and David.

Past award recipient Marcy Crowley presented the ***Joan Fiss Bishop Award to Rear Admiral Kathleen L. Martin***, for innovative leadership, professionalism and outstanding contributions to public administration. Kathy traveled all the way from Washington, D.C. – during a week when she was Acting Surgeon General for the U.S. Navy and invited to testify before Congress – and inspired the audience with her words about the powerful presence of women as leaders in the Navy and throughout the public service.

Incoming Chair and last year’s award recipient Kathy Hensley presented ***Janet R. Hutchinson with the Julia B. Henderson Award*** for her dedicated service to our section in many capacities, most recently as *BTG* managing editor. Janet was there in spirit, although a tight university travel budget prevented her from appearing in person.

Much revered and long-time ASPA leader Enid Beaumont gave the keynote speech. Her provocative words – laced with stories, insight, and humor – spoke to the challenges still facing women in our society and called upon the audience. Dr. Beaumont’s presentation more than lived up to our Chair’s introduction, which is recreated (in part) below:

*It is now my pleasure to introduce our keynote speaker, Dr. Enid Beaumont, past ASPA president, now a Senior Associate and Representative in Washington for the Institute of Public Administration. Enid is also an active Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and a member of its Board. Her accomplishments and contributions are legion – ranging from serving two years as a Senior Public Management Advisory and Chief of Party for the Central Government Project of the Republic of Macedonia to holding a variety of human resources leadership positions at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.*

*But what other’s say about Enid is perhaps even more telling about the richness and depth of our keynote speaker. I had the honor of talking by phone with Nesta Gallas, our first woman to serve as ASPA president, about some of the history of the Society. Nesta has great affection and respect for Enid and cherishes their long friendship and*

*collaboration. She also told me – and I hope this was not confidential – that Enid is a gifted actress in addition to her other talents.*

*Enid has many admirers, and I chose another – our ASPA Executive Director, Mary Hamilton. Those of you who've had the pleasure of working with Mary know that these words speak as eloquently of who Mary is as they do of Enid:*

*Enid Beaumont is my role model. Watching her leadership in ASPA and NAPA (Vice Chair of the International Committee and part of the Executive Committee of the Social Equity Panel) has provided me with numerous examples of how to lead firmly, very graciously and with impressive command of the substance at hand. Enid gets things done and makes people feel good about working with her to do so. She invariably cuts to the essence of an issue, but does so with such elegance and praise for others working with her that she not only moves the issue along, she energizes the people involved. Enid makes wonderful suggestions and is more than willing to work to make them reality. For example she has been a prime mover in making certain that ASPA's past presidents are involved in meaningful ways in the ASPA national conferences. Enid is an amazing, delightful, insightful woman whom I admire, respect, and enjoy very much.*

Much else transpired, but space here doesn't allow a full rendition. Please be sure to read the companion article elsewhere in this issue about the Conference Scholarship recipients. Expect an article on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Biographies Project in the fall BTG!

### ***More notes on the Breakfast: Biosketches of the Conference Scholarship Recipients***

Because of a very full breakfast agenda, we were not able to spend the amount of time we would have liked introducing the SWPA Conference Scholarship recipients. I promised that we would include their biosketches in BTG for your reading pleasure.

In honor of SWPA's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Board decided to increase the usual number of scholarship from two to three. The process was highly competitive this year, with seventeen candidates vying for the three \$500 scholarships. Many thanks to Research Committee Chair Carole Jurkiewicz and her team for undertaking the delightfully difficult job of selecting the three 2004 scholarship winners from an impressive pool of applicants:

***Leah Davis*** is a fourth year Ph.D. student in the Public Affairs Program in the School of Public & Environmental Affairs at Indiana University, Bloomington, with a major in Public Management and Public Policy Analysis and a minor in Organization Information and Technology in the School of Library and Information Science. Leah is a co-author of the chapter "ICTs and Political Life," which appears in the 2004 edition of the *Annual Review of Information Science & Technology*. She has also served as a guest editor of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action's ARNOVA Abstracts edition of the *Dark Side of Nonprofits*.

Leah was one of 50 national graduate students who participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Young Web Scholars Program at the University of Maryland where she showcased her research on information technology and nonprofit organizations. Leah was also one of the first two recipients of the Rutledge Fellowship (2000-2003) from the School of Public & Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. Among other honors, she was chosen, along with 25 other students, to participate in an extension of the Young Web Scholars Program at the University of California, Berkeley. At the end

of May 2004, Leah participated as a delegate in the Colloquium and Consultation on E-governance with the Public Services Commission in Ghana.

***Maria Ernita “Ernie” T. Joaquin*** is a third-year doctoral student in Political Science, major in Public Administration, at Northern Illinois University. She took her previous degrees in Political Science and PA, and Diploma in Human Resource Studies in the Philippines and U.K. Her junior career at home was devoted to serving municipal executives and administrators at the Center for Local and Regional Governance, where she was able to observe and join local policy making on women. Ernita has also taught at the University’s residential and distance learning programs.

Ernie is especially delighted to highlight the influence of mentors on the path she has taken. During her undergraduate years she was a student help at the University of the Philippines’ Center for Women’s Studies. Upon graduation, the Director of the Center, one of the foremost gender voices in the country mentored Ernie in municipal administration and gender and development. Since then, Ernie has co-authored monographs on Philippine local government and has never looked at policymaking in the same way. While doing coursework at NIU, Ernie garnered best student paper awards from the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and ASPA’s Ethics Section. Her mentor at NIU has been Dr. Irene Rubin and Ernie credits her mentor’s steady guidance as a big factor in her achievements, including winning one of SWPA’s scholarships.

***Tina Simcich*** started out as a cooperative education student at Antioch College in the 1970s, working for a Community Action Project in North Carolina and a Welfare Rights Organization in West Virginia. She left behind the rural scene for New York City after graduating with a B.A. in Economics, to work for the Count on Economic Priorities on several studies. Her first book, *Shortchanged: Minorities and Women in Banking*, was published then and reprinted by Praeger Special Studies.

After several forays into other sectors, Tina took a slight detour. She moved to the Pacific Northwest, had two daughters, home-schooled them for many years, and operated a small organic farm and farmer’s market business. When Tina went back to (paid) work, she spent two years doing resource and referral work for a non-profit that supports families with children with disabilities. She then entered the MPA program at Evergreen State College, and was hired as a research assistant in the program. Tina spent that year conducting the first community assessment project in Thurston County in collaboration with the United Way of Thurston County. She now continues that work (on a volunteer basis) by helping to prepare a grant application for the Early Childhood Coalition of Thurston County under the federal Early Learning Opportunities Act.

***Congratulations, All!***