



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 2 – October, 2003*

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

Total absence of humor renders life impossible.
-Colette

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

Member's Corner

Dear GWIPP Members:

After surviving the infamous policy exercise that is the official kickoff to our challenging and enlightening career as MSPA students, we have buried ourselves in readings, problem sets, and memo research. While at times feeling overwhelmed during the first month of this semester, we have found ourselves in good company—our colleagues are knowledgeable, friendly, helpful, and motivated individuals. Already, we have made good study partners and good friends.

Outside of the classroom, we have also found the best of what MSPA has to offer. As new members of GWIPP, we feel more included in what is going on with our academic program and our classmates. This student group shows the best characteristics of any newly formed organization: sharing responsibility for executing tasks, staying open to creative ideas and projects, and tapping into its great potential for membership growth and the fulfillment of its goals.

GWIPP and MSPA have a lot in store for us. We are planning many activities for the upcoming academic year—a speaker series and out-to-lunch program with female professionals, mentoring among students and with alumni, attendance at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) conference, and social gatherings (a tailgate party before next week's football game against Duke, potluck dinners, movie nights). The month has had its ups and downs, but overall it has been a truly positive experience. We have met new people and have begun to better appreciate our experiences as MSPA students. We look forward to a successful semester!

--Jocelyn Lewis, Kate Durant, Carolyn Chuhta
MPP students and GWIPP members, Class of '05

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Alumnae Interview

Interview with Carola Weil, Ph.D.

1985 MSPA graduate – Concentration: National Security

Carola Weil graduated from MSPA in 1985 after completing the two year program in what at the time was called the national security track. Under the tutelage of Catherine McArdle Kelleher, Carola focused on migration and refugee issues as well as burden-sharing among NATO members during her studies.

As she was a German citizen, Carola found it difficult to find a position with the US government and returned to Germany after completing her degree. However, she soon returned to Washington DC with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, a German political foundation. She worked in their DC and New York office, serving in various capacities over a period of eight years. In DC she tracked and analyzed US foreign and domestic policy for the German and foreign offices of the Foundation. In New York, she served as the Foundation's liaison with the United Nations.

When Carola decided to move on she turned to her "rolodex". Through working at the Foundation, she had created an extensive network which gave her access to many opportunities. She found her next position as Executive Director of Women in International Security (WIIS) through her former MSPA mentor. Kelleher was the founding president of the organization.

It was an exciting time for Carola and WIIS as the organization grew in leaps and bounds. Carola organized conferences, seminars, and initiated sister programs in other regions of the world. From her experience, Carola believes that there is still a need for organizations like WIIS and GWIPP. While women have made great progress, she believes that they are still "ghettoized" in policy areas that are lower on the political agenda and low priorities in the federal budget.

Carola shared a great story that points to the power of organizations such as WIIS. As Executive Director, she took a small group of women experts in small arms control (a low priority area in international security at the time, in which a number of women are experts) to a conference in Moscow with Russian experts in small arms control. At one point during the conference an older Russian male expert pulled her aside and asked, "Are only women small arms control experts in the United States?" WIIS certainly has had an impact and increased the visibility of women.

During an intensive four years as Executive Director of WIIS, doubled the size of the membership, diversified its programs and significantly expanded both its global reach and funding base. She was especially concerned with reaching out to women of color. After years of facilitating other people's research, she decided to get her own Ph.D. in international relations from the University of Maryland's Department of Government and Politics. While she intended to be a full-time student, she soon became involved with the Center for International Development and Conflict Resolution (CIDCR) working first as a grant writer and then becoming its Executive Director. As director, she had responsibility for day-to-day program and financial management, personnel, and fundraising, concerns for the Center.

In 2001, recognizing the need for fieldwork abroad and for more concentrated time on the dissertation, she resigned as Executive Director, although she still assisted the center as a consultant. Her dissertation focused on competing international norms of protecting "peoples vs. borders" in humanitarian crises. She investigated how the international community balances protecting sovereignty with the demands of human rights and humanitarian crises with a focus on the Great Lakes region of Africa from 1993 to 1999. Her research took her to the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

This September, Carola began a fellowship at the Kennedy School for Government. She is the ISP/WPF Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs there. She will spend the next year preparing her dissertation for publication and looking around for interesting new professional opportunities either in academe or the international non-profit world.

Carola has had an interesting, varied career thus far. She says she does not have an ultimate career goal. A traditional career path is less important to her than knowing that she is making a difference in the world in even a small way. She has gained many transferable skills through her MSPA degree and work experience but felt that a Ph.D. would open up many more opportunities for her. She finds that in any international field, it is best to remain open-minded and flexible.

When asked what the most important skills she gained from her MSPA degree were, she said the ability to acquire new knowledge was key. Her MSPA degree also helped her to do analysis, find answers to questions, and set priorities. Her Ph.D. has helped her to take a step back from the real world and examine the larger implications of policy.

As a woman, Carola faced two main challenges in her work experience: working in a male dominated field and juggling family/personal life with a professional life. She had the good fortune of being mentored by a woman who had been a path breaker in the field of security studies which helped but did not eliminate the problem of often being the only woman in a room full of men (even in graduate school) and having to assert herself in that context. She also had to fight against the natural inclination of colleagues and supervisors to consider her as a good administrator (i.e. secretary) and inevitably being the one who was asked to bring coffee to her male colleagues. While times have changed somewhat, she often still finds herself the only woman in the room and having to choose between being "one of the boys" or an outsider. It also continues to be a challenge to impress people that she has other knows something other than how to manage an efficient staff and run an organization.

The second challenge was how to both develop a career and have a family life at the same time—a uniquely female dilemma at least with regard to childbearing. The compromises one had to make to satisfy both professional and personal needs, in the end served neither aspect fully.

In response to the question is there anything about your graduate studies that you would have done differently, Carola replied that she probably should have thought more carefully about her choice of concentrations. Although she does not regret focusing on national security policy - it was somewhat frivolous to get a degree in a field in which she could not work because she was unable to get a security clearance as a non-citizen. Therefore, she had to be more creative about looking for jobs outside of government. She also feels she probably should have spent more time learning quantitative analytic skills. Although she can manage without, she believes her subsequent research would have been much stronger as a consequence. Lastly, in retrospect, she thinks she should not have waited as long as she did (12 years) to return to graduate school for her PhD. Unfortunately, she had lost the opportunity to transfer credits from her MPM degree and had to start all over again. On the other hand, the longer hiatus meant that she was truly ready to commit to the PhD when she did.

When asked for her recommendations for new entrants into the job market, Carola offered the following strategies: 1) Consider internships and voluntary work as a great way of gaining access to organizations that you find interesting and would like to work for. 2) Job searching can be a full-time job, but even if you don't have full-time, invest sufficient time upfront in researching a) the organizations you would like to apply to and b) finding out the kinds of opportunities that exist for someone with your particular background. There are several directories and list serves that list jobs or offer guides to Washington and jobs overseas. 3) Keep an open mind about how you might use your skills. The job you thought you were training for may in fact not be the one you enjoy or end up in. So, it is important to do a targeted but not too narrow a search. 4) Have confidence in yourself and others will too. She has found that if she convinces herself of her own competence, then it is even harder to sell it to others. 5) Career paths rarely follow a straight line, especially for women. This requires both short-term goals and longer-term goals that are reassessed periodically.

As for recommendations on balancing private and professional life, Carola had this to say. "I was single when I came to Public Affairs and got married within a year after my masters. Unfortunately my first job ended up being one with long hours and a great deal of intensity, which eventually destroyed my marriage. My biggest regret was not having children. At the time I opted for building the career first and having children later. Unfortunately, things turned out differently, and it is very unlikely that I will have children. So for now I am settling for adulthood. The family-professional life balance also cut the other way. Being in a relationship made me less mobile and willing to take jobs that would have meant a long separation or even a long distance relationship. This limited considerably my range of choices." However, unencumbered and with a mix of academic and practical experience in hand, Carola now has the greatest flexibility regarding her future professional and personal paths.

Denise Wales

MPM December, 2003

International Security and Economic Policy

GWIPP Events

GWIPP FUNDRAISING/NETWORKING EVENT

WHEN: Monday, November 3rd, 2003

WHERE: Franklin's

5121 Baltimore Avenue

Hyattsville, MD 20781

Help GWIPP raise money for the upcoming year! Franklin's will be donating 20% of its profits on tables that identify themselves with GWIPP! Come for a drink, come for dinner, bring friends, family, co-workers, and help spread the word! Details to follow with time and directions.

On Campus

FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD HUNGER - UMD, STAMP STUDENT UNION, GRAND BALLROOM

Sponsored by: The University of Maryland's Office of International Programs, Center for Sustainable Development, and Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2003

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Description: This is a one-day conference on world hunger taking place right on campus. Only \$20 for UMD students. Mac Destler is speaking! For more information, visit <http://www.intprog.umd.edu/hunger.html>

11TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Sponsored by: The Maryland Alumni Association

Date: Oct 31, 2003

Time: 8:30 am, registration; 9 am Conference

Location: University of Maryland Golf Course <<http://terpgolf.umd.edu/>> Banquet Room

Description: Kick off Homecoming weekend at the 11th Annual Alumni Association Leadership Conference. This year's conference will combine our love for the Terps with leadership skills that will take any kind of team to victory. Wear your favorite Terps logo attire and join us for an exciting day! This year's conference features: Dr. William Kirwan, Chancellor, University of Maryland Systems; Mark Levin, noted speaker in leadership training and strategic planning for business leaders around the world; luncheon speaker Dave Cottle, head coach of the University of Maryland men's lacrosse team; Gary Williams '68, men's head basketball coach.

Other exciting events include: Win exciting prizes and giveaways, as you rack your brain with the Terps Trivia contest; Clubs, chapters, alumni friends and staff battle it out in the Putting Contest; Join us at RJ Bentley's with owner John Brown, for complimentary cocktails and hors d'oeuvres following the conference.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Linda Roth at 301.403.2728 ext. 22, 800.336.8627 or lsroth@terpalum.umd.edu.

In and Around D.C.

CLASH OR CONSENSUS?

GENDER AND HUMAN SECURITY IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

Sponsored by: The School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University

Date: October 8-9, 2003

Time: 9 AM - 5 PM

Location: SAIS -Johns Hopkins University, Kenney Auditorium, 1740 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for women leaders and human security experts from the Global South, particularly from Muslim societies, to come together to discuss and strategize on ways to advance human security around the world. For more information visit <http://www.learningpartnership.org/events/2003/03clashorconsensus.phtml>.

MASTERING THE POLITICS OF DECEPTION – DAVID CORN, WASHINGTON EDITOR OF THE NATION

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Time: 7 pm

Location: Politics & Prose, 5015 Connecticut Avenue, N.W

David Corn, the Washington editor of The Nation, will be speaking on Tuesday, October 21 at Politics & Prose. His topic: Mastering the Politics of Deception.

For more information, please contact Catherine Howard at howardc@umd.edu. Catherine will be gathering a contingent of GWIPP members, and this would be a great opportunity for GWIPP students and alums alike to mix and mingle at an interesting event!

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/>.

(Note: Six (6) GWIPP members will be attending this year's APPAM conference (GWIPP is subsidizing some costs, along with an alumna donation.). Our GWIPP representatives will report on the conference, issues and what they learned, under the "Member's Corner" in November's newsletter.)

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MAYA ANGELOU ACADEMY (MAA) AND THE MAYA ANGELOU PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL (MAPCS)

(Note to GWIPP Members: Please check out the following announcement. I think that this is an excellent way to get involved in giving back to your community! As a former student of Maya Angelou's, I can tell you that working with anything she has sponsored or created would be a worthwhile experience. As of last week, they still needed 100 tutors!)

Description: MAYA ANGELOU PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL (1851 9th St NW, corner of 9th & T): MAPCS is a 3 year high school that works to create learning environments in lower income urban communities where teens, particularly those who have not succeeded in traditional schools, can reach their potential. The evening tutoring program takes place M-Th from 6:10-7:15pm. Volunteers select one (or more) days a week to come and tutor a student. These tutors help our students with the usual array of high school subjects -- math, English, social studies, science. There are currently 91 students enrolled this school year.

MAYA ANGELOU ACADEMY - 1901 9th St. NW (1/4 block from corner of 9th & T):

MAA is a one-year high school academy that opens September 15, 2003. MAA is intended to be a precursor (preparatory school) to MAPCS for students needing to build their literacy and numeracy skills. The tutoring program takes place M, T, & Th from 4:30-5:30pm. Volunteers select one (or more) days a week to come and tutor a student. There are currently 15 students enrolled this school year.

Although the new tutor orientations have already been held, if you are interested, please contact:

Aarti (r-thi) Shastry
Maya Angelou Public Charter School
1851 9th Street, NW

Washington, dc 20001
202.939.9080 x201
tutors@seeforever.org

PREVIEWING THE RACE FOR THE PRESIDENCY: GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNICATION IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY SYMPOSIA

Sponsored by: Johns Hopkins University

Dates:

October 8, "A Campaign Overview"

October 15 "How Politicians Get the Media to Do Their Work for Them"

October 22 "Electoral Alchemy: How the White House Turns Public Policy into Winning Politics"

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: Bernstein Office Building; 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, NW; Washington, DC. Room LL7

(Free to the public)

Description: Listen and talk to experts as they discuss hot topics related to the presidential election, the media's role in campaigning, and public policy at the Johns Hopkins Government and Communication in Contemporary Society Symposia. For more information: Call 1-800-847-3330, rsvp to 202-452-1280.

4TH HUMAN RIGHTS FILM SERIES

Sponsored by: American University's Washington College of Law & Center for Social Media, the Office of the University Chaplain, the Center for Global Peace & the Center for Democracy and Elections Management

Date: October 7 through November 12, 2003

Description: A variety of films will be screened over a six week period. All screenings are FREE and open to the public. Discussions with experts will follow each screening. Photographic exhibits accompany most Main Campus screenings. Free DVDs from the Media That Matters Film Festival will be given away at each showing. Light refreshments will be served. For more information or to request accommodations for persons with disabilities, please call WCL at 202-274-4180 or email humlaw@wcl.american.edu or the Center for Social Media at 202-885-3107 or socialmedia@american.edu.

WOMEN FOR HIRE CAREER EXPO

Sponsored by: Women for Hire

Date: Thursday, November 13, 2003, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Sheraton Crystal City, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202

Description: Free admission for jobseekers. Register today for a special morning seminar for early admittance. All details and a list of employers participating are available at www.womenforhire.com.

Items of Interest

Announcement - Student Research Day

The Mid-Atlantic Division of AAG is organizing "Student Research Day" conference. It will be a one-day event and will be held on **November 21** (Friday) at Frostburg State University (Frostburg campus). The main activities will include research paper and poster presentations by Undergraduate, Masters and Ph.D. students. Other activities might include Geography Bowl for the students. Faculty and other staff can be co-author of the paper and/or poster. However, only the student will make the presentation. Other program details will follow.

Though Mid-Atlantic Division of AAG is organizing this conference, all of the students from area schools, colleges and universities are most welcome to participate.

For further information, please contact Shivaji Prasad, (E-Mail: sprasad@frostburg.edu Phone: 301.687.4412) Department of Geography, Frostburg State University, Frostburg Maryland 21532

Guidelines for submitting an ABSTRACT FOR Paper and Poster

Please submit the abstract via email (as an attachment) in Microsoft Word. Include the author(s) name(s) and institutional affiliation, address(es), and the e-mail address for the lead author. The title should follow in BOLD CAPS and, on the line immediately following, the body of the abstract. **The due date for ABSTRACT submission is NOVEMBER 1, 2003. If you are late, please let me know for possible submission.**

The paper/poster abstract **should not exceed 250 words**, and should describe the presentations' purpose, methods, and conclusions. Submission of an abstract conveys the right to include it in the meeting abstract booklet/program and on the conference website (when available).

The body of the abstract must be single-spaced and without paragraph indentations. If the abstract contains more than one paragraph, an extra space should be left between paragraphs. Authors should carefully edit and proofread the abstracts they submit. They will be printed as submitted. Papers should conform to a 20-minute time limit, which ideally will include a 15-minute presentation and 5 minutes of discussion. Please be sure that illustrations are of high quality and, when projected on a screen, can be read from a distance of 25 feet.

Summer Internships for Graduate Students at the Center for Global Development

Summer Internships are open to both U.S. and non-U.S. citizens.

Term

Summer Internships are generally available from June through August.

Overview

Summer interns can expect to work with one or more researchers on a variety of ongoing projects, or assist in the development of new areas of research and policy analysis. Applicants should be trained in economics and possess strong quantitative and writing skills.

How to Apply

No application form is required. Students applying for the summer internships should send a cover letter describing their areas of interest and enclose a resume and a photocopy of a recent transcript. Applicants also should send a brief writing sample. The cover letter should be as specific as possible regarding research topics of interest. In addition, please provide name, address, phone and email information for two references.

All candidates must be able to provide documentation stating U.S. employment eligibility. All materials must be e-mailed to hrjobs@cgdev or postmarked between December 31 and March

31. All internships are paid unless otherwise indicated. Candidates selected for a position will be notified by mid-April. For more information, go to: <http://www.cgdev.org/acgd/employment.html>.

In the News

Veiled and Worried in Baghdad

By LAUREN SANDLER

BAGHDAD, Iraq

A single word is on the tight, pencil-lined lips of women here. You'll hear it spoken over lunch at a women's leadership conference in a restaurant off busy Al Nidal Street, in a shade-darkened beauty shop in upscale Mansour, in the ramshackle ghettos of Sadr City. The word is "himaya," or security. With an intensity reminiscent of how they feared Saddam Hussein, women now fear the abduction, rape, and murder that have become rampant here since his regime fell. Life for Iraqi women has been reduced to one need that must be met before anything else can happen.

"Under Saddam we could drive, we could walk down the street until two in the morning," a young designer told me as she bounced her 4-year-old daughter on her lap. "Who would have thought the Americans could have made it worse for women? This is liberation?"

In their palace surrounded by armed soldiers, officials from the occupying forces talk about democracy. But in the same cool marble rooms, when one mentions the fears of the majority of Iraq's population, one can hear a representative of the Ministry of the Interior, which oversees the police, say, "We don't do women." What they don't seem to realize is that you can't do democracy if you don't do women.

In Afghanistan, women threw off their burkas when American forces arrived. In Baghdad the veils have multiplied, and most women are hiding at home instead of working, studying or playing a role in reconstructing Iraq. Under Saddam Hussein, crimes against women - or at least ones his son Uday, Iraq's vicious Caligula, did not commit - were relatively rare (though solid statistics for such crimes don't exist). Last October, the regime opened the doors to the prisons. Kidnappers, rapists and murderers were allowed to blend back into society, but they were kept in check by the police state. When the Americans arrived and the police force disappeared, however, these old predators re-emerged alongside new ones. And in a country that essentially relies on rumor as its national news, word of sadistic abduction quickly began to spread.

A young Iraqi woman I met represents the reality of these rumors, sitting in her darkened living room surrounded by female relatives. She leans forward to show the sutures running the length of her scalp. She and her fiancé were carjacked by a gang of thieves in July, and when one tried to rape her she threw herself out of the speeding car. She says that was the last time she left the house. She hasn't heard a word from her fiancé since he went to the police station to file a report, not about the attempted rape, but about his missing Toyota RAV-4.

"What's important isn't a woman's life here, but a nice car," she said with a blade-sharp laugh.

Two sisters, 13 and 18, weren't as lucky. A neighbor - a kidnapper and murderer who had been released in the general amnesty - led a gang of heavily armed friends to their home one night a few weeks ago. The girls were beaten and raped. When the police finally arrived, the attackers fled with the 13-year-old. She was taken to an abandoned house and left there, blindfolded, for a couple of weeks before she was dropped at her door upon threat of death if anyone learned of what had happened. Now she hides out with her sister, young brother and mother in an abandoned office building in a seedy neighborhood. "What do you expect?" said the 18-year-old. "They let out the criminals. They got rid of the law. Here we are."

Even these brutalized sisters are luckier than many women in Iraq. They have no adult male relatives, and thus are not at risk for the honor killings that claim the lives of many Muslim women here. Tribal custom demands that a designated male kill a female relative who has been raped, and the law allows only a maximum of three years in prison for such a killing, which Iraqis call "washing the scandal."

"We never investigate these cases anyway - someone has to come and confess the killing, which they almost never do," said an investigator who looked into the case and then dismissed it because the sisters "knew one of the men, so it must not be kidnapping."

This violence has made postwar Iraq a prison of fear for women. "This issue of security is the immediate issue for women now - this horrible time that was triggered the very first day of the invasion," said Yanar Mohammed, the founder of the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq.

Ms. Mohammed organized a demonstration against the violence last month. She also sent a letter to the occupation administrator, Paul Bremer, demanding his attention. Weeks later, with no reply from Mr. Bremer, she shook her head in the shadowy light of her office, darkened by one of frequent blackouts here. "We want to be able to talk about other issues, like the separation of mosque and state and the development of a civil law based on equality between men and women, but when women can't even leave their homes to discuss such things, our work is quite hard," she said.

Baghdadi women were used to a cosmopolitan city in which doctorates, debating and dancing into the wee hours were ordinary parts of life. That Baghdad now seems as ancient as this country's Mesopotamian history. College students are staying home; lawyers are avoiding their offices. A formerly first-world capital has become a city where the women have largely vanished.

To support their basic liberties will no doubt require the deeply complicated task of disentangling the threads of tribal, Islamic and civil law that have made the misogyny in each systemic. This is a matter of culture, not just policy.

But to understand the culture of women in Iraq, coalition officials must venture beyond their razor-wired checkpoints and step down from their convoys of Land Cruisers so they can talk to the nation they occupy. On the streets and in the markets, they'll receive warm invitations to share enormous lunches in welcoming homes, as is the Iraqi custom. And there they'll hear this notion repeated frankly and frequently: without himaya for women, there will be no place for democracy to grow in Iraq.

Lauren Sandler, a journalist, is investigating issues of women and culture in Iraq for the Carr Foundation.