



MILITARY TRAINING: Much Better than Boot Camp

Joanna Patterson (MPM '03)

I finally feel like an adult now. I've been gone from MSPP for two and a half years and have a "real" job. "No more school," I thought upon starting my new career. Wrong. I found myself back in classes quicker than I could say diploma!

I work for the US Air Force in the Space and Missile Systems Center at the Los Angeles Air Force Base. Seemingly from day one, I've been in some training or another, be it job-related or otherwise. I have learned that one of the many things the military does very well is train its people. In the two and a half years I've been with the Air Force, I've racked up three certifications related to my career field in acquisitions, program management and business, as well as cost estimating and finance.

The most significant education I

am pursuing now is a correspondence program called Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) via the internet. Known as an intermediate professional military education (PME), this is a two semester program that military personnel complete to progress in their military career. Civilians are encouraged to participate in PME as well, and at the recommendation of my supervisor, I enrolled in the program.

The most obvious difference between ACSC from MSPP is the online nature of the courses. I am studying in a virtual vacuum. One must be very self-disciplined to maintain a schedule (I certainly have not). This school is also, first and foremost, a military school and focuses on many things I studied at MSPP – leadership, management, strategic thinking – but almost entirely in a military context. Lastly, when I have been pursuing classroom education,

Continued on page 4

LETTER FROM THE GUEST EDITOR

Laura Hogan (MPP '04)

Dear fellow GWIPP alumnae, students, and friends,

Happy New Year 2006! While January brings short days, extra holiday pounds, and grey weather, it ushers in the guarantee of a new calendar year. Many of us use the spirit of renewal to make resolutions of actions we will take over the course of 2006. But we need not follow the dictates of a calendar to have the feeling of renewal and fresh starts. More often, the

"new years" of our lives are determined by the start of a new job, moving into a new home, or beginning a new education.

Our decision to attend MSPP began a new phase of our lives and placed us on a new path. For more than a few students, it was not the first graduate degree completed. And for other students, it is not the last foray in higher education. Many of us have found after graduation that we engage in lifelong learning with on-the-job training classes, certificate programs, and even pursuing additional formal degree programs. We keep our minds fresh by taking cooking classes, travel writing seminars, and dance classes. This month, we dedicate this space and share personal stories about our lifelong learning – may you always find paths to continue to pursue your intellectual curiosity.

Best wishes to all,
Laura Hogan (MPP '04)

Inside this issue:

Boot Camp	1
Letter from the Editor	1
Educational Road	2
UMD Family Friendly	2
Take a Cloud	3
Ageism in the Workforce	4
Events	5

THE LONG AND WINDING (EDUCATIONAL) ROAD

Paula Harrison (MPM '05)

In early 2003, I found myself deeply unsatisfied with my career as a litigation attorney. I made a few half-hearted attempts to transition to other fields, without any luck. This is why, six years after graduating from law school, I enrolled in the University of Maryland's public management program. Returning to school was a shock because I had never dreamed that I would pursue another degree.

I have successfully transitioned to "analyst" work, which I find much more satisfying, but the transition would have been easier if I would have understood the value of lifelong learning. So, here are my tips for the uninitiated:

- Regardless of the amount of your student loan debt, never assume that you are "done" with school. You cannot predict where your career will lead. You could find yourself at a "dead-end" because of lack of opportunities or boredom. Or the market for your skills could

change or decline.

- Include future educational needs in your financial plan. So, maybe you don't have a financial plan – well you should have one, so get movin'!

- Keep your eyes and ears open for educational and career opportunities. Even if you are settled in your career, continue to "network" so that you will always know what's out there.

- Even if you never need to make any career changes, educational opportunities can keep you sharp and connected to others who share your interests. There is no downside to lifelong learning.

UMD FAMILY FRIENDLY TASK FORCE

The University of Maryland Family Friendly Task Force resides under the President's Commission for Women's Issues at The University of Maryland, College Park. The task force was initiated in response to two graduate students who voiced concerns about the lack of resources for students who are parents at Maryland. These two students started the group *Students As Parents* and had success in networking with administrators, staff, and faculty to begin work on making changes. When these students finished their programs at Maryland they turned to the President's Commission for Women's Issues to carry on their work.

The Family Friendly Task Force started a little more than a year ago and continues the commitment to addressing the issues of parenting students. Currently the task force consists of approximately 10 administrators, faculty, staff, and graduate students. The task force has thus far compiled information on resources available for students, faculty, and staff at sister institutions, and task force members have been networking with other members of campus to establish a centralized web location where information for student parents at Maryland can be accessed. Progress is slow but will continue steadily. The committee is working on achieving short term goals for the task force, such as acquiring high chairs in the union, greater availability of changing tables, and establishing family restrooms on campus.

For more information, please contact: Marta McClintock-Comeaux; Family Studies Department, University of Maryland at martamc@earthlink.net

WOMEN IN THE AFTERMATH OF KATRINA

The devastating affects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the City of New Orleans and the surrounding Gulf Coast have affected us all. The Institute for Women & Policy Research is responding to the aftermath of Hurricanes with relevant research that explores the economic and social consequences for women and their families.

Part I of *Women of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast: Multiple Disadvantages and Key Aspects for Recovery* provides detailed data on age, race, and the economic status of women in the region, and makes policy recommendations including promoting access to living wage jobs and health care. This insightful report is available for downloading at <http://www.iwpr.org/pdf/D464.pdf>.

TAKE A CLOUD AND PIN IT DOWN

Laura Hogan (MPP '04)

A degree in Public Policy has set the context for the intersection of government with every facet of public life. It has taught us how the impact of minor legislation to major, worldwide events are more far reaching than we can begin to diagram on a piece of paper or chalkboard. All levels of government begin to control or steer the direction of the impact but various limitations work against these efforts. We understand these often abstract concepts and apply them to our careers in one format or another. We can plan strategies for financing third-world debt, lessening the low-income housing shortage, or restructuring the federal service program. But I still feel a longing to do the reverse – I want to study the positive and apply it in a normative fashion.



Laura Hogan (MPP '04)

The study of law is the study of what dictates different types of human behavior (with heavy subject to interpretation). Its application is towards a desired future state. A lawyer applies existing law towards making a successful argument. The study of business is understanding the practices of commerce. Its application is towards a desired future state. A businessperson applies business acumen to increase revenue. Both

studies provide specific skills which are then transferred to visions and goals. What if we could protect the freedom of speech? The answer uses decisional precedents and existing law. What if we can increase our sales for the quarter by 20%? Again, the answer uses proven approaches to marketing, accounting, and other business areas to achieve the lofty goal.

A degree in law or business is a very natural step following Public Policy. Thanks to our time at the School of Public Policy, we see the clouds that others cannot quite define. They know they are in the fog of terrorism, disaster response, and high gas prices. We characterize and scope the clouds into homeland security, emergency management, and international trade policies. Still, these clouds have widely different application and resolutions. Law and business build on policy practices and provide practices that implement solutions; they pin the cloud down.

Laura is currently a Senior Consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton. She eagerly awaits a future law degree.

Former FDA Women's Health Official, Susan Wood, Ph.D., to Keynote Women's Legislative Briefing on January 29

Key issues of interest to women and families to be introduced in the upcoming session of the Maryland General Assembly and the U.S. Congress will highlight the 2006 Women's Legislative Briefing to be held on January 29, from 12:30 to 5 p.m., at the National 4-H Conference Center, 7100 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase.

This year's briefing will feature Susan Wood, Ph.D., former Assistant Commissioner for Women's Health and Director of the FDA's Office of Women's Health. She recently resigned her post to protest the politicization of science when the FDA ignored scientific and clinical evidence, overruling its own staff recommendations regarding the "morning after pill."

Panel discussions will be held on a variety of topics including paid family leave legislation, health care reform, domestic violence, and effective lobbying. There will also be a session on immigrant women that will address issues such as human trafficking and domestic servitude.

The event will conclude with a reception with County and State elected officials at 4 p.m. The event is co-sponsored by more than 70 local and national women's and community organizations, including the Commissions for Women from 10 counties.

Although the event is free, registration is required. Online registration is available at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw. Onsite registration will be held the day of the event from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

For more information, call 240-777-8330; TDD 301-279-1034.

AGEISM IN THE WORKFORCE

Marisa London (MPP '07)

Recently, I had the misfortune of picking up Bait and Switch by Barbara Ehrenreich. I loved Nickel and Dimed, but I have come to realize that I liked it probably because the subject matter presented no threat to me. I felt sympathy for the plight of the unskilled worker and wanted to change the system, but the book did not haunt me as Bait and Switch did, which hits much closer to home.

Bait and Switch is Ehrenreich's undercover investigation of life as an unemployed professional. In the book, she concludes that for a growing percentage of white collar workers, no matter how hard you work, how qualified you are, or the decency of your moral character, you may still end up unemployed and living in a ditch (or maybe that's just what I took away from it). Jokes aside, Ehrenreich picks up on a real phenomenon - the discouraged unemployed worker who has poured blood, sweat and tears into a job and sacrificed family and personal life for a company, only to find themselves "downsized". But the kicker is that you can't just pick up and find a new job at a different corporation. This is the story of that worker who could not find another job, despite a long and dedicated search.

Right about now, I'm sure you're asking yourself what this has to do with lifelong learning. My message is that in this country, we have a paradoxical approach to lifelong learning. While we like to celebrate it in well-intentioned newsletters, in practice, we rarely attach any meaning to learning in old age. Reference the axiom, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks". Today, this is manifested in the rampant ageism we find in the workplace. Last year, the Equal Opportunity Employment

Commission registered 17,837 claims of age discrimination, though this is probably just a small fraction of the total occurrences. Ehrenreich also cites age discrimination as one of the major causes of long-term unemployment, saying that corporations are hesitant (probably irrationally so) to hire older workers because they think it will be impossible for them to assimilate, innovate, or learn to use new technology. Workers who lose their job after the age of 45 or 50 face an uphill battle. Ehrenreich reports that she was actually told to remove pre-1980s job experiences, even those that were relevant, from her resume because it would reveal her age. In October, when she spoke at the MSPP Brody Forum, she revealed her concern about the strength of our industry when corporations hire younger workers over those more experienced and knowledgeable.

We need to give more than trite lip service to the concept of lifelong learning. I do not want to work for a government agency (or God forbid, a corporation) run by 30 year olds. I also do not want to find myself being fired by one at the age of 50. More than anything, I don't think these backward notions can persist in this age of global competition, but recognize that we currently stand at a fork in the road. What will lifelong learning mean to us? Will it mean that we train older workers to combine their invaluable experience with the new skills demanded by the marketplace or will we learn that old age means a return to the low skill, low wage jobs that we held in our golden (teenage) years?

Marisa London is an environmental concentration

MILITARY TRAINING (Cont'd from page 1)

I have always had that pursuit as my first priority. I was always a student first and worked part time. This is my first experience trying to balance a formal education program and a career where my day-to-day job duties take precedent over education. I always said I had nothing but respect for those students I ran across that were trying to balance full time careers/jobs and school at the same time - that has, if nothing else, grown!

Bottom line, I love learning and the entire academic "environment." While I am not on a campus, I am very happy to be back in a formal education program, studying leadership, management, strategy, history, and more. This education will also help me demonstrate my capacity for learning and growing in my career, especially if I stay in the Defense community, which I have no plans of leaving any time soon.

Finally, I would like to share advice, if I may. Even if your workplace does not have these opportunities for formal education, reach out! Look into opportunities at local colleges and universities. In the past couple of years, I have attended a Women's Conference hosted by the Anderson School of Business at UCLA, and I am taking various seminars at the UCLA extension school just for kicks...next up, a one-day seminar on travel writing! Bon Voyage...

GWIPP proposes a regular column with Joanna's travel writings. In the meantime, Joanna resides in sunny Southern California and recently graduated from the Presidential Management Fellowship program.

The New Normal? What Girls Say About Healthy Living Luncheon

Girl Scouts of the USA & Women's Policy, Inc

Due to limited seating, space is reserved for one person per organization. Key congressional staff will be given preference. This event is free. Lunch will be served.

Date/Time: Thursday, January 26, 2006 (12:00 to 1:30 pm)

Location: Cannon Caucus Room; Cannon Office Bldg in the Capitol Complex

Welcome remarks from:

Kathy Cloninger, CEO, Girl Scouts of the USA & Cindy Hall, President, Women's Policy, Inc.

Speakers include:

Judy Schoenberg, Ed.M., Senior Researcher, Girl Scout Research Institute

Lilian Cheung, D.Sc. R.D., Department of Nutrition, Harvard School of Public Health

Susan Finn, Ph.D., R.D., Chair, American Council for Fitness and Nutrition Girl Scouts from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area

Please RSVP by January 23, by calling (202) 554-2323, or e-mailing suelwomenspolicy.org.

Leading Through Change Tomorrow's Leaders Today

PLEASE NOTE! Through a strong working relationship, GWIPP Members receive free admission to TLT events. You must register through GWIPP President, Dana Coelho to attend. Please email Dana at dcoelho1@umd.edu

Join **Tomorrow's Leaders Today** for an evening's conversation with business leaders who have lead small and large organizations through significant organizational change. They will share their experiences and provide guidance for how to effectively move

Date/Time: Wednesday, January 25th (6:30 pm to 9:00 pm)

Location: The Four Seasons Hotel; 2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

yourself, your staff and/or your organization forward during

Bureau of Labor Statistics to Continue Collecting Data on Women Workers

An amendment attached to the Labor, Health, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill requires the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to resume its Women Worker Series, a 40-year-old program providing monthly data on women's employment. The appropriations bill has been passed by both houses of Congress and was sent to the president for his signature on December 28. Amendment co-sponsors Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) worked with US Representatives Rosa DeLauro (D-NY) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) to preserve the amendment in the final

If we are going to put an end to long-standing economic discrimination against women, we need to have comprehensive and accurate gender employment information.

—Sen. Harkin (D-IA)

version of the appropriations bill.

BLS discontinued the program in August 2005 citing a "reporting burden" on employer survey respondents as one of its reasons for ending the series. Women's rights organizations, including the Feminist Majority, labor unions, and several members of Congress voiced strong opposition, arguing that the BLS data provides crucial information about women's employment patterns and job loss in the US. The Women Worker Series provides detailed data, by gender, on employment, hours, and wages of over 300,000 non-farm workers on a monthly basis.

times of uncertainty and communicate the desired message, remove the inherent fears, and make change inclusive. The second part of the event will feature an interactive dialogue designed to help you become a more effective change agent and take specific action steps. Learn how to be an adaptive leader and how to thrive, not merely survive. Gain courage. This program will feature the following speakers:

Robyn DeWees, Deputy Program Manager,
Northrop Grumman Mission Systems

Lisa Landsman, Director, Compensation Operations,
Fannie Mae

Jennifer Tokar, Change Management Consultant



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We're on the Web!

<http://www.puaf.umd.edu/GWIPPWEB/index.html>

MEMBER UPDATES

Madelyn Carpenter (MPP '04) is finishing up her first Presidential Management Fellowship rotation at Mesa Verde National Park in southwestern Colorado. Madelyn's home office is at the Park Service's Washington DC office, where she works on environmental impact statement policies and projects. She heads next to work with the Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management for a month or so beginning in January at their joint office in Durango, Colorado. She'll then head back to DC to finish up her fellowship (unless something else opens up out west!).

*For more information, articles, and
tips specific to women pursuing
higher education, please visit:*

*Women in Higher Education at
<http://www.wihe.com>*

GWIPP ALUMNAE COMMITTEE!

CALLING ALL ALUMNAE!

JOIN THE GWIPP ALUMNAE COMMITTEE TO RECONNECT WITH STUDENTS, ALUMNAE, AND FRIENDS AND TO CONTRIBUTE YOUR IDEAS AND TALENTS TO GWIPP.

- Write articles for the GWIPP Newsletter
- Plan one social or informational event for students and alumnae
- Help brainstorm new events
- Provide ongoing feedback to the Alumnae Relations Coordinator
- Keep an ongoing list of other GWIPP alumnae

This committee will work as needed through phone and email with members taking responsibility for carrying out 1-2 individual projects a year. Not a lot of time—but much appreciated help! **Contact Courtney Workman at cworkman@acf.hhs.gov**