

BRIDGING THE GAP

Newsletter of the Section for Women in Public Administration

February 2013



Message from the Board President

Dear SWPA members:

I want to thank each of you for your support and kind words this past year. It is a pleasure to serve with such intelligent and dynamic women. My journey with SWPA began eight years ago as a scholarship recipient in the first semester after I returned to school at age 50 to get my Masters. The mentoring and encouragement from the women in SWPA was amazing. Later you all reached out with great empathy after my son suffered a brain injury in a random attack. You sustained me through the months of his rehabilitation and his triumph in recovery. My SWPA family is a great part of my life.

I have also shared your personal and professional challenges and achievements! We not only have similar interests and passions but we maintain friendships that are a great foundation for the success of the Section.

So for this column, I wanted to share a message about 5 opportunities we can take to improve ourselves and our relationships with others. January is long gone but it's never too late to pursue new resolutions. These are from marcandangel.com ENJOY!

1. Begin.

Remember the feeling you get from taking the first step is far better than the feeling you get from sitting around thinking about it. So get up and get moving. Take the first step this year – just one small step forward.

2. Work hard on the essential.

Don't be busy, be productive. Don't track your time, track your results. Put first things first and get them done.

And don't expect your goal to be easy; it's supposed to be hard. If it wasn't hard you would already have it completed, and so would everyone else. The hard part is what



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- Call for Proposals
- National Women's History Museum Coalition

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makes it worthwhile. In life there are no shortcuts to any place worth going.

3. Stay true to your path.

A successful life is one that is lived through understanding and pursuing one's own path, not chasing after the dreams of others.

You have to do what's right for you; no one else walks in your shoes. Keep moving forward, beyond the negative rhetoric echoing from the peanut gallery. Do what you have to do, for you. Live a life you are proud of. And the moment you realize you're not, find the strength to start over again on a new path.

4. Nurture your self-confidence.

You have everything you need within you to become the best possible version of YOU. Believe that you CAN. Believe that you're capable of pushing harder and farther than you have before. Believe that you're young enough, old enough, smart enough and strong enough to achieve your goals. Don't let false beliefs stop you from moving beyond yourself. And certainly don't get sidetracked by the people around you who are not on track.

5. Focus on solutions.

Life gets better when you choose to make it so. Negative people make lots of noise about how bad things are, while positive people quietly and steadily improve things.

There are always problems, there are always challenges, and there are always people willing to transform those problems and challenges into great opportunities. Those who have the courage, commitment and discipline to do so, create a better life for everyone. Be one of these people. Focus on solutions and work your way eagerly toward a brighter future.

Images from the 2012 ASPA Annual Conference

The 2013 Conference is Coming Up....Don't Miss Out!



ASPA Annual Conference
Hilton New Orleans Hotel
New Orleans, LA
March 15-19, 2013

This year, the conference website features real-time listings. Want to know what time and day has been assigned to your panel? Or maybe you're just looking for a preview of a session or a workshop. Then visit www.aspanet.org/2013conference.

The conference website now features a real time display of sessions, tracks and workshops. Meetings are also listed too. Find out specific times for panels by track or by session. There is also a full schedule listed.

Book your room today at the conference host hotel, Hilton Riverside New Orleans. In order to secure ASPA's room rate of \$239 per night (plus applicable taxes), you must book by February 19, pending space availability. All conference activities, except the Welcome Reception on Saturday night will take place at the hotel.

Rooms are going fast as the city will also be hosting two other conferences and extra visitors are expected in New Orleans for the St. Patrick's holiday. The discount rate is available up to three days before and three days after the conference.

To book under ASPA's room block, go to the ASPA Conference site or call 1-504-584-3959 or 1-800-Hiltons. Be sure to mention that you are with ASPA.

Call for Articles
PA Times

The February theme for PA TIMES online will discuss "Public Service and the Promotion of Social Justice."

Submit an article that discusses how public service promotes social justice and equity. What is the role of nonprofits versus government? What about gender and diversity initiatives?

We want to know how local, state and municipal agencies are addressing this topic. Are there models that can be replicated at a state or federal level? Or maybe social justice should be left to the nongovernmental sector? Share best practices and other information related to how your agency implemented programs that promote the common good or serve the public.

Consider writing an article for publication in PA TIMES online in February. Below are few guidelines. You may also review our style guide at

<http://www.aspanet.org/public/ASPADocs/PA20TIMES/2012PATStylebook.pdf>

- Article must be between 800-1,000 words
- Articles must be original and not previously published

PA TIMES online will consider all articles discussing elements of this issue. To submit an article, send your piece as a word document to patimes@aspanet.org.

2012 Scholarship and Award Winners



Public Voices Symposium

Women in Public Service

Manuscripts are sought from academics and practitioners that inform the journal's readers on the roles and contributions of women in public service. Topics include, but are not limited to, contemporary and historical studies of the dynamic role of women in public service, women as leaders, overcoming obstacles and barriers faced by women in public service, women as catalysts for organizational and institutional change, priorities and perspectives of women in the workplace, the contribution and challenge of diversity and difference in the public workplace, new and evolving scholarship on emotional labor and the care perspective in public organizations, and the future of women in public service. The editors wish to emphasize that they are casting a wide net; that no list could capture the range of exciting developments in this field; and that contributors are encouraged to submit manuscripts consistent with the broad mandate of Public Voices to advance unorthodox and controversial perspectives and eclectic research methods in the discipline.

Submission: To be considered for the symposium, manuscripts should be submitted electronically, with the author's name and affiliation provided separately, to Iryna Illiash, Managing Editor of Public Voices, at illiash@pegasus.rutgers.edu.

Submission Deadline: April 1, 2013.

Public Voices is a unique journal that focuses on historical, artistic, and reflective expression concerning public administrators and the public service. Unlike traditional social science journals, Public Voices publishes unorthodox, controversial perspectives on bureaucracy in particular and the public sector in general. The material is not limited to analytical articles but also includes original fiction, poetry, photographs, art, critiques of existing works, and insights based on experience, observation and research. Among the journal's contributors are public servants, writers, artists, and academics in all fields.

Public Voices is cosponsored by the Section on Historical, Artistic and Reflective Expression (SHARE) of ASPA and published by the National Center for Public Performance (NCPP) at the School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA), Rutgers University–Newark;

2013 SWPA Board Slate

**The Nomination Committee
submitted the following slate which
will be voted on at the SWPA Board
meeting Saturday March 16, 2013**

Executive 2013-2014

Chair	Suzanne Descenza
Vice-Chair	Sheila Johnson
Past Chair	Barbara Lewkowitz
Secretary	Diane Benitez
Treasurer	Phin Xaypangna
Student Rep	Nicki Fraser

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SWPA Board Term Ending 2016

Elisabeth Graffy
Laure McShine-Paul
Roslyn Alic-Batson

New Board Candidates

Diane Benitez has long been committed to community efforts and organizations. Her background is extensive and diverse as she has worked as both a police officer in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and has served in the U.S. Army .

Diane holds a Masters of Arts degree from Florida International University in Public Administration as well as an Associate of Science Degree from Broward College in Computer Programming. Diane



serves on the Miami-Dade Community Action Agency Board and has been assigned to serve on the Greater Miami Service Corps (GMSC) board as liaison for the Community Action Agency

Diane is currently working toward attaining her Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Public Affairs at Florida International University. □ While attending Florida International University, Diane has earned recognition in numerous honor societies and organizations.

Nicki Fraser is a multi-lingual Director/Trainer experienced in strategic planning, and market development. She spent twenty-one years in corporate America . Coaching, motivating, and training international teams produced an inspirational and well-traveled leader. Six



years of non-profit work as a volunteer and Board Chair inspired Nicki to challenge paradigms and transfer her skills from the private to the public sector. She returned to college

after a thirty year absence to pursue a degree in Public Administration. Graduating Magna Cum Laude Nicki was accepted in the F.I.U. Master of Public Administration program. She lives and works as a Resident Assistant at the F.I.U. MMC University Apartments, coaching and mentoring 50+undergrads and grads, while maintaining Dean's list, Women's center mentor, Pi Alpha Alpha presidency, and ASPA member. Nicki plans on entering the Public Administration PhD program in the future.

Laure McShine-Paul is a member of the NY Metro ASPA Chapter Board. Laure was a member of the John Jay College MPA Student Association from 2007 -2009 and secretary from 2008-



2009. In 2010, she served as Chapter first Intern. This year Laure was elected as the chapter's Newsletter and Community Affair Committee chair. She continues her work by chairing the Scholarship Committee and ensuring students can benefits from all that ASPA and NY Metro ASPA has to offer. Laure is currently a member of the American Society of Podiatric Medical Assistants and the American Academy of Podiatry Practice Management.

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**Call for Papers
Section on Public Administration
Education**

The Section on Public Administration Education (SPAEE) will host the Teaching Public Administration Conference (TPAC) on June 3-5, 2013 at the Kabuki Hotel (Japantown) in San Francisco. Conference site co-hosts are the University of San Francisco School of Management and Presidio Graduate School. The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2013.

The 2013 Teaching Public Administration Conference centers on widely observed changes in the 21st century workplace, workforce, and educational institutions. Faculty are asked to meet mandates to demonstrate and document success in developing professional competencies across student populations from diverse backgrounds, develop cutting-edge robust and pedagogically sound curriculum, incorporate new technologies and e-learning, and support junior/ untenured faculty who function in such a changing organizational climate.

The highlight of the post-conference program is the wine tour and picnic in the enchanting Sonoma county. We look forward to seeing you in San Francisco!

Please forward this call to your PA faculty colleagues.

**[http://www.aspaonline.org/spae/
events.html](http://www.aspaonline.org/spae/events.html)**

**[http://www.usfca.edu/management/
TPAC/](http://www.usfca.edu/management/TPAC/)**

**SWPA NATIONAL
CONFERENCE
SCHOLARSHIP
WINNERS**

The Section for Women in Public Administration annually awards up to three \$500 scholarships to help defray the costs associated with attending the ASPA national conference.

Scholarship recipients must attend ASPA's 2013 Conference, participate in the SWPA meeting and the Professional Development Workshop, work a shift at the SWPA booth and attend the SWPA breakfast.

**Congratulations to our 2013
Scholarship recipients**

**Imane Hijal Moghrabi -
Doctoral student, University
of Texas at Dallas**

**Lourdes Alers - Doctoral
student, Rutgers - Newark**

**Michelle D. Evans -
Doctoral student, Florida
Atlantic University**

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Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler!

You are invited to

3rd ANNUAL SWPA SOCIAL

WHEN: Friday, March 15, 2013

TIME: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

WHERE: Residence Inn, New Orleans
345 St. Joseph Street
New Orleans, LA

Bring a bottle or appetizer to share!

RSVP TO: Roslyn (754) 581-6242
Sheila (917) 442-0646
Barbara (602) 330-3403

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 28
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 2012-2013

Chair - Barbara Lewkowitz
Vice Chair/Chair-Elect – Suzanne Dis-
cenza
Immediate Past Chair - Roslyn Alic-
Batson
Secretary - Sheila Johnson
Treasurer - Phin Xaypangna
Student Representative - Lisa –Marie
Williams
Endowment Chair - Becky Schergens
Historian - Kathy Hensley

SWPA Board of Directors for 2010-2013

Elisabeth Graffy
Helisse Levine
Dorothy Norris-Tirrell

SWPA Board members for 2011-2014

Suzanne Discenza
Sherri Greenberg
Aziza Zemrani

SWPA Board of Directors for 2012-2015

Meghna Sabharwal
Emily Balanoff
Hilary Knepper

SWPA Committees

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

Visit the SWPA Website:
<http://aspaonline.org/swpa>