



School of Public Policy

**Alumni Chapter**

## **November 2007 Newsletter**

It's spooky how time flies in autumn! We hope you're invigorated by the cool weather and by all the stimulating events at GMU.

November looks like another great month of opportunities for GMU alumni. Not only does basketball season begin on November 9, but we've got our first "Meet the SPP Authors" event, featuring ICP's Susan Tolchin and ODKM's Tojo Thatchenkerry, on November 29. ICP grads will note a Fairfax lecture on the laws governing enemy combatants, and those interested in energy policy are invited to a demonstration of two new energy technologies.

Don't forget, the Chapter runs on YOUR energy. Join your former classmates and faculty at our great events and at Chapter meetings.

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### **October Recap**

The Chapter met on October 4; we finalized committees and Board liaisons, zeroed in on SPP faculty who can appear in our "Meet the SPP Authors" events, and determined that our Signature Event will be held in April of 2008.

SPP's Dr. Susan Tolchin was a featured speaker in the GMU Vision Series on the Fairfax campus on October 22. A special thanks to alumnus **David Pilch**. He represented SPP at the event. Note that Susan Tolchin will join Tojo Thatchenkerry for the Chapter's first "Meet the SPP Authors" event on November 29. See below for more information.

Alumni also enjoyed four Arlington events sponsored by SPP's Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center, a presentation by renowned Ambassador William Hill, and information sessions from two federal agencies.

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### **Upcoming SPP Events**

**NY/NJ Port Authority "Leadership Fellows" Information Session**  
**Monday, November 5 ~ 5:30 – 7:00pm**  
**Room 335, Arlington Original Building**

Would you jump at the chance to learn how to run a major NY airport, rebuild Ground Zero, operate the Lincoln Tunnel or expand capacity at the Port Authority

Bus Terminal? It's possible to do all that and more as a Leadership Fellow for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. This highly competitive, two-year, fast-track, rotation program is now accepting applications for the 2008 Fellows Class. Four to five assignments in the business units, field facilities and corporate offices are complemented by classroom training, coaching by senior management and site visits to key assets. Applicants must have a Master's Degree, a clear interest in public service and one to three years of work experience and/or internships in public service, transportation or related fields. More information can be found at [www.JoinThePortAuthority.com](http://www.JoinThePortAuthority.com). Application deadline is November 30, 2007. Please RSVP to Aubrey Cote at [acote@gmu.edu](mailto:acote@gmu.edu).

### **Alfa Fellowship Program Information Session**

**Wednesday, November 7 ~ 6:00 – 7:30pm**

**Room 302, Arlington Original Building**

The Alfa Fellowship Program is a high-level professional development exchange program placing 10 qualified American citizens per year in work assignments at leading Russian organizations in the fields of business, economics, journalism, law, public policy, and government. Key goals of the Alfa Fellowship Program are expanding networks of American and Russian professionals, developing greater intercultural understanding, and advancing U.S./Russian relations. The program includes language training, seminar programs, and extended professional experience. Fellows receive travel, free housing, monthly stipends, and insurance. Russian language proficiency is preferred though not required at the time of application. For more information please go to:

<http://www.cdsintl.org/fromusa/alfa.htm>. Please RSVP to Aubrey Cote at [acote@gmu.edu](mailto:acote@gmu.edu).

### **CHAPTER EVENT: SPP Alumni Chapter Meeting**

**Thursday, November 8 ~ 7:00 pm**

**Arlington Original Building, Dean's Conference Room**

Join the Board and friends of the Chapter for wine, cheese, planning and socializing. We'll be discussing our upcoming Meet the SPP Authors Event, annual Student and Faculty Awards, and our Signature Event, scheduled for Spring 2008.

### **GMU Men's Basketball Season Opener (against Vermont)**

**Friday, November 9 ~ 7:00 pm**

**Patriot Center, Fairfax Campus**

They...could...go...all...the...way! Don't miss the best sports show in the DC area – Patriots on the court. For tickets, see <http://gomason.cstv.com/tickets/ticket-prices.html>.

In the meantime, impress friends, family and fellow alumni with your encyclopedic knowledge of the team – pick up the full prospectus at

[http://www.cstv.com/auto\\_pdf/p\\_hotos/s\\_chools/gema/sports/m-baskbl/auto\\_pdf/0708-prospectus](http://www.cstv.com/auto_pdf/p_hotos/s_chools/gema/sports/m-baskbl/auto_pdf/0708-prospectus).

## **EnergyLab: Clean Energy Futures**

### **MIT Enterprise Forum**

**Tuesday, November 13 ~ 6:30 – 9:00 pm**

**National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
4301 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington**

In a time of crushing oil prices and changing energy policies, GMU alumni are invited to attend a panel discussion featuring two companies that have created innovative, clean, renewable energy products. Zymetis, Inc. is a start-up that has discovered natural bacteria from the Chesapeake Bay that digests cellulose and makes sugar from which ethanol can be made. UNI-SOLAR manufactures a flexible solar panel that will glue on over any new or existing roofing material.

The Forum's panel will be led by keynote speaker Scott Sklar who is President of Stella Group and Chair of the Steering Committee of the Sustainable Energy Coalition. The event is \$25 for non-members. For more information, contact GMU alum Ed Ablard at 703-980-4654 or go to <http://mitef.org/>.

## **PhD in Public Policy Information Session**

**Wednesday, November 14 ~ 7:00 pm**

**Room 329, Arlington Original Building**

If you're interested in pursuing a PhD at SPP, join program directors, faculty and admissions staff for this open house. Register here:

<http://gunston.gmu.edu/policy/admissions/openhouse/>.

## **GMU Vision Series**

### **The Development of the Law Governing Detention of Enemy Combatants: Past, Present, and To Come**

**Presented by GMU School of Law Professor Ronald D. Rotunda**

**Monday, November 12 ~ 8:00 pm**

**Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, Fairfax Campus**

The War on Terror, more than other wars, involves lawyers. Indeed, detained enemy combatants are now using the U.S. courts to seek release. While there are relevant cases going back to the Civil War, the U.S. Supreme Court has issued major rulings in the last few years, which some suggest have dealt severe blows to the Administration's claims. However, a closer look at the case law indicates that the Court has only imposed fairly minor and reasonable restrictions on the military. For the most part, the Court has relied on interpreting statutes, not the Constitution, so Congress can change those statutes (and has done so). The Court has rejected some overly broad Administration claims, but those claims were not necessary to the Administration's arguments although they served to weaken its position.

Tickets are free, but reservations are required. Go to [http://www.gmu.edu/cfa/vision/ticket\\_form.php](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa/vision/ticket_form.php).

## American Society of Public Administrators Series on Regional Governance Collaboration: Emergency Management

Tuesday, November 27

Fairfax County Government Center

The events of "9/11" made it clear that regional agencies must collaborate effectively! This first panel discussion tackles emergency management coordination. The event is sponsored by our brethren in the GMU Public Administration Alumni Chapter. Contact Patricia Innocenti for more information at [Patricia.Innocenti@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Patricia.Innocenti@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### CHAPTER EVENT: Meet the SPP Authors

Thursday, November 29 ~ 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Arlington Original Building

Join us for this first-of-a-kind celebration of newly-published SPP faculty members: ICP's **Susan Tolchin**, author of *A World Ignited: The Origins and Effects of Global Anger on America*, and ODKM's **Tojo Thatchenkerry**, author, with Carol Metzker, of *Appreciative Intelligence: Seeing the Mighty Oak in the Acorn*.

The authors will share insights on their topics, sign books and mingle with with the crowd. Food and door prizes will be part of the mix.

### George Mason Birthday Celebration at Gunston Hall

Saturday, December 8 ~ 4:30 - 8:00 pm

Gunston Hall, Mason Neck, VA

Public policy grads, gather 'round! The GMU Alumni Association will celebrate our namesake's 282nd birthday and the holiday season, by sponsoring a visit to Mason's plantation home at Gunston Hall.

Stroll the lantern-lit pathway leading to George Mason's mansion and its candlelit rooms. Ride in a horse-drawn carriage and speak with costumed characters in the house and on the grounds as they go about their seasonal activities of plantation life. In addition, a delicious holiday buffet will be prepared. Tickets are \$35 each.

Questions about the event can be directed to Andy Ackley at [aackley@gmu.edu](mailto:aackley@gmu.edu) or (703) 993-8739. To register, go to [http://www.gmu.edu/alumni/rsvp\\_120807.htm](http://www.gmu.edu/alumni/rsvp_120807.htm).

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## Volunteering and Other Contributions

- Would you like to sponsor a **Brown Bag Lunch** at your agency, non-profit or other corporation? All you need is a speaker, a simple presentation about what your organization is/does, and a meeting room. Students and alumni will provide their own lunches and lots of questions. It's a great chance to flatter a colleague or superior, and to help SPP at the same time! Please e-mail us at

[sppalum@gmu.edu](mailto:sppalum@gmu.edu).

- We have Chapter committees that need short-term assistance: Fundraising, Signature Event, Ad Hoc Events, Membership/Recruitment and Awards. Write to [sppalum@gmu.edu](mailto:sppalum@gmu.edu).
- SPP Career Services has worked with the Chapter to develop an **Alumni Ambassador** program. Alumni volunteers will attend Master's program Open Houses and other recruitment events, and will speak directly with prospective, incoming and current students about career opportunities related to their SPP program. Watch this space for more details.
- As always, alumni contributions of cash, goods and services are greatly appreciated, and help to make the Chapter's activities (especially our Distinguished Student Awards) successful.

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## Alumni News

- Have you moved or changed jobs? Don't forget to update your information in the GMU Alumni Directory, at <http://www.gmu.edu/alumni/alumnidir.html>.
- SPP's Director of Communications Jocelyn Rappaport ([jrappapo@gmu.edu](mailto:jrappapo@gmu.edu)) is in search of rousing alumni stories for SPP publications, and, the Chapter wants to know about alumni who are excelling in life and career for our annual Alumni of Distinction award. If you're that fascinating person, or a friend is, please let us know.

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## SPP Alumni Chapter Who's Who

**Alison M. White**, MPP '05, President

**Marko Frigelj**, MPP '06, Vice President

**Karl Hebenstreit, Jr.**, ODKM '05, Secretary

**Deborah Bogan**, ICP '06, Treasurer

**Delio Gianturco**, Faculty Advisor

**Duane Bradshaw**, Director, Career Development and Alumni Relations, SPP

**Jocelyn Rappaport**, Director, Communications, SPP

**We welcome ideas, comments or questions about the Chapter and its activities as well as information about the good works of SPP alumni. Please write to [sppalum@gmu.edu](mailto:sppalum@gmu.edu).**