



School of Public Policy

**Alumni Chapter**

**December 2007 Newsletter**

*The Alumni Chapter extends holiday greetings to all!*

December is a time to connect with people and places that are meaningful to us, and for GMU alumni, December 2007 is no exception.

Look below for an end-of-the-semester celebration, a chance to visit the ancestral home of George Mason himself, and an opportunity to ice skate with other alumni and their families.

It's also the season of giving, and we will soon be asking alumni to support financial awards for deserving SPP students. Helping students to meet their academic goals is one of the most important endeavors of the Chapter, and we know you'll want to participate.

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## **November Recap**

The Chapter met on November 13; two newcomers joined our active Chapter members – Adam Tabaka and George Koduah. Welcome! We discussed upcoming events, as well as the formalized use of LinkedIn by SPP alumni. The group also selected Friday, April 4, 2008 for our Signature Event, so mark your calendars.

On November 16, alumni joined students for a Happy Hour at the Clarendon Grill. Alumni enjoyed a number of SPP career events, including a visit from Rand Corporation.

The highlight of the month was the premiere of Meet the SPP Authors, featuring ICP's Susan Tolchin and ODKM's Tojo Thatchenkery, on November 29. We hosted between 45 and 50 students, faculty and alumni at the event, which included short presentations by our authors, questions and answers, great food, and even door prizes. Barnes & Noble set up a table, and did a brisk business for attendees who wanted signed books. A special thanks to the Giant Food store near campus, which provided vegetables and flowers for the event; we are also grateful to alumnus Kathy Emmons for her help with the shopping, set up and cleanup.

Some SPP alumni were lucky enough to see a GMU basketball game this month; the Patriots are having a terrific season already, and if you're watching ANY college basketball, you're bound to hear the announcers mention Mason. Every time that happens, your degree gets a tiny bit more valuable! Go, Patriots.

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## Upcoming Events

### GMU Men's Basketball

Wednesday, December 5 ~ 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 30 ~ 7:00 pm

What an entertainment bargain! Low-cost tickets, and special pre-game alumni discounts at Brion's Grille in Fairfax. If you can't get out to a game remember that almost every game, home or away, is televised. Go to <http://gomason.cstv.com/sports/m-baskbl/sched/gema-m-baskbl-sched.html> for schedule, ticket and TV information.

### SPP End-of-the-Semester Celebration

Saturday, December 8 ~ 12:30 – 3:00 pm

Mei's Asian Bistro

3434 Washington Blvd. Arlington, VA 22201

It may be the end of the semester, but it's also the beginning of the party season! Nosh, drink and connect with fellow alumni, students and faculty.



### 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).

**GMU Alumni Association Family Event:  
Ice Skating at Skatequest-Prince William  
Saturday, December 8 ~ 12:30 – 3:00 pm**

Looking for a daytime GMU event that your whole family can enjoy? Join the Alumni Association on Saturday, December 8 for winter fun at Skatequest – Prince William. Skating is open from 12:30 to 2:00 and pizza and games from 2:00 to 3:00pm. The event is \$6 per skater and includes cost of skates.

RSVP required by December 5. Go to [http://www.gmu.edu/alumni/RSVP\\_120807d.htm](http://www.gmu.edu/alumni/RSVP_120807d.htm).

**Mason Day at the Washington Capitals  
Saturday, December 8 ~ 7:00 pm**

Join the Alumni Association at the Verizon Center as the Washington Capitals take on the Atlanta Thrashers. Mason alumni can purchase up to four discounted tickets (\$45 each) for themselves and guests from the Office of Alumni Affairs and enjoy a great Capitals home game. For more information, go to <http://www.gmu.edu/alumni/activities/120807b.htm>.

**CHAPTER EVENT: SPP Alumni Chapter Meeting  
Thursday, December 13 ~ 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 annual Student and Faculty Awards, as well as topics and speakers for our Signature Event, scheduled for April 4, 2008. We rely on YOUR input!

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## **Alumni Benefits**

- When you join us at an SPP Chapter event, you'll receive a GMU Alumni Member Card, which entitles you to discounts at local and national businesses. See <http://www.gmu.edu/alumni/discounts.html> for more information.
- Remember that alumni are welcome to join SPP's study abroad trips. If you

took one of these learning excursions while a student, you know how wonderful they are. If you didn't have the chance, now's the time! Go to [http://policy.gmu.edu/programs/programs\\_abroad.html](http://policy.gmu.edu/programs/programs_abroad.html) for more information.

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## Volunteering and Other Contributions

- We have Chapter committees that need short-term assistance: Fundraising, Events, Membership/Recruitment and Awards. We especially need assistance with the Signature Event in April. Please write to [sppalum@gmu.edu](mailto:sppalum@gmu.edu).
- 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).
- 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 inspiring 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).