



School of  
Public Policy

## ALUMNI CHAPTER February 2008 Newsletter

What an exciting time of year for policy-lovers, with the presidential campaigns heating up and a debate or primary election on TV every other night! We hope that you are showing your GMU-stuff out there, helping friends, family and colleagues analyze the issues, and that you're participating in the electoral process.

Below you'll see a chance to hear two SPP professors discuss books they have recently published, that are pertinent to the times: Professor Michael Fauntroy's *Republicans and the Black Vote* and Jeremy Mayer's *American Media Politics in Transition*.

Our Signature Event in early April will resonate with students and alumni interested in both politics *and* international affairs. Watch for details in next month's newsletter, and plan to take part.

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### December/January Recap

The Chapter met on December 13 and January 10. At these meetings, committees were formed for the Chapter's Awards and for the Signature Event. Thanks to Kate Trygstad, Ozge Koray, Adam Tabaka and Vice President Marko Frigelj for volunteering extra time and effort. We were able to develop some preliminary topic and speaker lists for the Signature Event, and to finalize the award criteria and process. We also released information to current students regarding applying for our Distinguished Student Awards. See below.

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### Upcoming Events

#### Faculty Book Sale

**TODAY!** February 12 ~ 5:30-8:00 pm  
Arlington Original Building, Room 244

Are you a book lover without the cash to feed your habit? We've got a deal for you. Hundreds of used books for sale, including non-fiction and fiction, on topics ranging from international economics to history to philosophy. They will be priced at \$1 or \$3 each; proceeds will be directed to the Chapter's Distinguished Student Awards. Come on out, help yourself and help a deserving student at the same time!

## **Technology, Science and Innovation Policy Research Seminar**

**"Getting Globalization Back on Track"**

**By Robert Atkinson, Information Technology and Information Foundation**

**Thursday, February 14 ~ 12:15-1:15 pm**

**Arlington Original Building, Room 268**

This seminar has numerous events over the next several months, and is sponsored by the SPP Center for Science and Technology, GWU Center for International Science and Technology Policy, and Georgetown university Walsh School of Foreign Service. Contact David Hart, [dhart@gmu.edu](mailto:dhart@gmu.edu) to RSVP.

## **SPP Doctoral Research Workshops**

**Thursday, February 14 ~ 2:30-4:20 pm**

**Arlington Original Building, Room 369**

We know you **love** public policy. What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than to listen while Mason Ph.D. students present their research? Contact Elizabeth Eck at 703-993-8225 if you'd like to attend.

## **Homecoming 2008**

Sadly, the basketball game is already sold out, but there are still lots of ways to share the Mason spirit!

### **Alumni Association Beer Tasting**

**Friday, February 15, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

**George's Restaurant, Johnson Center, 3rd Floor, Fairfax Campus**

Alumni are invited to the 2nd annual beer tasting. This year features a tasting where a local brew master will teach about styles and history of beer. Cost for event is \$20 per person and includes tasting, refreshments and a commemorative tasting glass. Guests must be 21 years of age or older to attend.

### **Pre-game Block Party**

**Saturday, February 16, 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm**

**Parking Lot A, Fairfax Campus**

Activities will include Mason pep rally with appearances by the Masonettes, Mason cheerleaders, Gunston, and more. Wander through the heated tent to visit with friends, meet alumni, faculty, staff and students, listen to live music, and much more. An event great for any Patriot fan, the tent will include Mason's family friendly area which will have interactive games, crafts, and face painting for our Little Patriots, as well as academic unit hospitality tables, and refreshments. Patriot fans are encouraged to have fun and be responsible.

**Watch the game at Brion's Grille**, just off the Fairfax campus, at 10621 Braddock Road. Brion's usually offers great discounts, specials for alumni.

For a full listing of official events, go to <http://www.gmu.edu/homecoming/>.

### **Series on Regional Governance Issues: *Transportation***

**Wednesday, February 20 ~ 6:30 p.m.**

**Arlington Original Building**

Join alumni from the GMU's MPA and International Politics BA programs for appetizers and a panel discussion of transportation issues facing Northern Virginia. Co-sponsored by the American Society for Public Administrators. RSVP online at <http://www.gmu.edu/alumni/activities/112707.htm>.

### **SPP Ph.D. Information Session**

**Tuesday, February 19 ~ 7:00 p.m.**

**Arlington Original Building, Room 329**

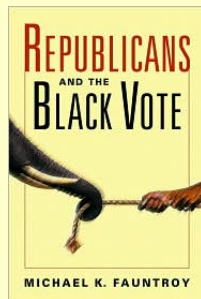
If you're contemplating an even deeper dive into public policy, find out more at this session. Contact Rachel Dudek at 703-993-8099.

### **Meet the SPP Authors featuring Drs. Fauntroy and Mayer**

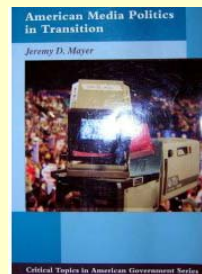
**Thursday, February 21 ~ 6:00 – 7:30 pm**

**Arlington Original Building, Room 244**

Join fellow alumni, students and faculty as we celebrate new publications by two SPP professors. Enjoy great conversation, food and door prizes. Barnes and Noble will be on hand, if you'd like to have the authors sign their books. Our first event in November was a smash hit, so don't miss this!



Dr. Michael Fauntroy will discuss *Republicans and the Black Vote*.



Dr. Jeremy Mayer will discuss *American Media Politics in Transition*.

### **SPP/ICAR Graduate Career and Internship Fair**

**Tuesday, March 4 ~ 2:00 – 5:00 pm**

**Arlington Original Building, Room 329**

Employers are registering now for this annual event, sponsored by SPP and the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Watch for announcements from Career Services. Contact Duane Bradshaw at [dbradsha@gmu.edu](mailto:dbradsha@gmu.edu).

**CHAPTER EVENT: SPP Alumni Chapter Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 6 ~ 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 finalizing plans for the Signature Event, scheduled for April 4, 2008. We rely on YOUR input!

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## Special Requests - Chapter Awards

- The SPP Alumni Chapter is giving out its first **Distinguished Faculty Award**, and we'd like receive nominations from the alumni community. The criteria are:
  - Is a current faculty member of School of Public Policy.
  - Demonstrates considerable subject matter expertise.
  - Motivates students to excel as scholars and global citizens.
  - Contributes significantly to SPP and/or Alumni Chapter events and activities.

If you'd like to send a nomination, please send a name and your reasons to [sppalum@gmu.edu](mailto:sppalum@gmu.edu).

- Don't forget to encourage any current students you know to apply for a **Distinguished Student Award** from the Chapter. Applications are due February 28.

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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://gmu.edu/alumni/discounts.html> for more information.
  - Did you know that GMU has a **Faculty Speaker's Bureau**? What a way to impress your colleagues or local community group. Go to <http://communityrelations.gmu.edu/speakersbureau/> to find out about free presentations by our esteemed faculty members. Or better yet, volunteer to speak yourself. Alumni are welcome to join the ranks of speakers.
  - Remember that alumni are also welcome to participate in **SPP's Study Abroad** trips. If you took one of these learning excursions while a student, you know how enriching the experience it. Or, if you didn't have the chance, now's the time. You probably have more money now! 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

- Thoughtful succession planning is the sign of a well-run organization. The Alumni Chapter election process for the 2008-2009 year will begin soon and end with a vote at the June Annual Meeting. If you are interested in running for the Chapter Board, please contact us at [sppalum@gmu.edu](mailto:sppalum@gmu.edu).
- In the meantime, we are in need of volunteers to help with fundraising and with our Signature Event on April 4, 2008. Please write to [sppalum@gmu.edu](mailto:sppalum@gmu.edu).
- Don't forget that 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

- SPP is always interested in learning about alumni achievers. If you know of an alum who has just reached an important career or personal goal, let us know. Contact SPP Director of Communications Jocelyn Rappaport at [jrappapo@gmu.edu](mailto:jrappapo@gmu.edu).
- 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>.

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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 Liaison

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

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

**Carol Swigart**, GMU Alumni Association Liaison

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).