



School of
Public Policy

ALUMNI CHAPTER

May 2008 Newsletter

In less than a week, our Alumni Chapter will have several hundred new members, as the School of Public Policy graduates another class. Congratulations to all and welcome! As always, current Chapter members will be on stage at SPP's convocation ceremony to "pin" new graduates. This year, [Adam Tabaka](#) and [Despina Panagoulas](#) will do the honors.

As the school year wraps up, the Chapter is reviewing its activities to evaluate what worked well and what didn't, and to plan ahead for the next academic year. **June 19 is the Chapter's Annual Meeting, where members will elect the Chapter officers for 2008-2009 and lay the groundwork for a successful year ahead.** We'd love to have you join us, not only at the meeting, but as a candidate for a Chapter office. Please see below for more details.

February/March/April Recap

The Chapter was extremely busy during the spring, with a number of important events and awards.

On February 12, we held our first **Faculty Book Sale**; faculty donated hundreds of used books which were sold at rock-bottom prices to students, alumni, and fellow faculty members. All proceeds were directed to the Chapter's Distinguished Student Awards (more on that later), and a great time was had by all.

During **Homecoming** on February 16, Chapter members staffed the SPP table. We consider it a great way to stimulate interest by Fairfax graduates in heading over to Arlington for their advanced degrees!

February 21, Professors [Michael Fauntroy](#) and [Jeremy Mayer](#) were the stars of our second **Meet the SPP Authors** event. The Chapter sponsors these celebrations (featuring food, mingling, speeches and book signings) for faculty members who've been recently published. Dr. Fauntroy discussed his timely book *Republicans and the Black Vote*, and Dr. Mayer, *American Media Politics in Transition*.

On March 5, due to popular demand, the Chapter held a second **Faculty Book Sale**, with even more books, and more proceeds for the Distinguished Student Awards.

April 4 was the date of our biggest annual effort, the **Signature Event**. This year, we had a festive and illuminating evening focused on "Cuba in Transition." We offered Cuban food, music and decorations,

and most importantly, a compelling and expert speaker, [Dr. Jorge Sangunietty](#). The event drew not only a large crowd, but an impressive list of sponsors, most notably [Booz Allen Hamilton](#). A full list of event sponsors appears below.

At the Signature Event, we presented this year's **Distinguished Student Awards**. From a field of extraordinary candidates, the Chapter selected [Emilia Istrate](#) and [Jill Rough](#). Both have wonderful academic credentials, a long history of service to others, and demonstrated leadership. Congratulations.

Also at the Signature Event, we presented the Chapter's first **Distinguished Faculty Award** to [Delio E. \("Dale"\) Gianturco](#). We were thrilled to honor Professor Gianturco for his commitment to students, his subject matter expertise, and his unfaltering service (as Faculty Liaison) to the Chapter, and to the school.

Finally, at the GMU Alumni Association Celebration of Distinction on April 16, we presented the **Distinguished Alumni Award** to [Ozge Koray](#). Last year's Chapter President, Ozge demonstrates excellence in her professional life, remains connected to key policy and business organizations in Northern Virginia, and continues to offer her enthusiasm and service to the Chapter and others.

All in all, a productive and successful season! In addition to Dale Gianturco and Ozge Koray, the officers would like to thank members [Kathy Emmons](#), [Despina Panagoulis](#), [Adam Tabaka](#) and [Kate Trygstad](#) for their contributions. A special thanks to SPP's Director of Career Development and Alumni Relations, [Duane Bradshaw](#), without whom our events would fall flat! He is the "man behind the curtain" for much of what we do. [Carol Swigart](#) of the GMU Alumni Association keeps us linked to "HQ" in Fairfax and gracefully handles much of our financial matters.

Upcoming Events and Activities

Nominations for Election to the Chapter Board

The Chapter is seeking SPP alumni who would like to step up their involvement and become Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. As you can see from our description of the last few months, this is a vibrant, engaged group of people, committed to the goals of the Chapter. These are:

- A. To unify the alumni and students of the School of Public Policy, in the interest of fellowship for personal and professional enhancement,
- B. To establish a medium through which the Chapter may support, advance, and strengthen the value of all SPP degree and certificate programs,
- C. To be a source of information and mentoring for all students in SPP programs, and
- D. To be an active chapter of the Alumni Association of George Mason University and to support the goals and mission of the University and the Alumni Association.

If you have any interest, please contact us immediately at sppalum@gmu.edu. We look forward to talking with you.

Proposed Changes to the Chapter By-Laws

In an effort to widen the field of potential candidates for office, Chapter members have proposed a change in the by-laws to Section V, Nominations and Election, Paragraph B, Eligibility.

Current language:

“Candidates for Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer must be General Members or current Board members.”

Proposed language:

“Candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer must be General Members or current Board members.”

Electronic Balloting

Alumni will have the opportunity to vote online for a slate of proposed officers, and for/against the proposed by-law change above. Look for an election e-mail in early June.

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

Thursday, June 19 ~ 7:00 pm

Arlington Original Building, Dean’s Conference Room

Please plan to join us for the important meeting. We will leave time for in-person voting as needed, and then confirm the election results. We will also discuss priorities for the new academic year. As always, wine and cheese will be served!

SINCERE THANKS TO OUR SIGNATURE EVENT SPONSORS

Diamond Level (\$500 or above):

Booz | Allen | Hamilton

delivering results that endure

Gold Level (\$100 or above):

- Dale Gianturco, Faculty
- Karl Hebenstreit, ODKM '05
- Ozge Koray, ICP '00
- Despina Panagoulas, ICP '07
- Creative Facilitating ~ Kate Trygstad, ODKM '05
- Alison M. White, MPP '05

Silver Level (\$50 or above):

- Albert G. Cook III
- Augustine Sharmin, Daughter of Dione Sharmin, TPOL '02
- Adam Tabaka, ICP '07

Current Officers and GMU/SPP Liaisons

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

Carol Swigart, GMU Alumni Association Liaison

Erin Elisabeth Anderson, Student 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.