The Trachtenberg School (TSPPPA) hosted on March 1, 2012 its second annual Policy Forum, which focused this year on the upcoming renewal of the Farm Bill. The evening featured a keynote address by Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan and a panel of leaders in food policy moderated by former Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman. Founding Farmers, an upscale “green” restaurant based in DC, provided sustainable snacks at a reception following the forum. A student-led committee co-chaired by Kabir Green (MPA ’12) and Simon McNorton (MPP ’13) organized the event in a partnership with the Trachtenberg Student Organization (TSO) and GW’s Office of Sustainability.

“We chose the Farm Bill as the lens through which we can talk about sustainability because it presents an excellent opportunity to change the agricultural status quo in this country—including a multitude of sustainability issues,” committee co-chair Green said. “While no one expects to transform the food system into a sustainable enterprise overnight, we hoped to participate in this public debate by fostering dialogue on these issues in the Policy Forum.”

The Policy Forum brought together government and nonprofit perspectives about the economic, environmental, and social implications of the Farm Bill, an important and highly debated piece of legislation. In her keynote address, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan provided unique insight into the history of the Farm Bill and the programs it funds. Former Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman moderated a panel that included Merrigan and four other leaders in this growing field: Ken Cook, President and Co-founder of Environmental Working Group; Margaret Krome, Program Director of Public Policy at Michael Fields
From the Director

March 2012

Looking back on my letter from last semester, I am surprised at how much the Trachtenberg School community has accomplished in a few short months. First of all, we went up to 12th in the latest U.S. News and World Report rankings for MPA/MPP programs. We have been consistently within the top 15 in the nation since rankings were started. We are once again tied with American University, but are both ranked significantly higher than the other schools in the region.

I can’t help but be very impressed with all the accomplishments of our students. Here’s an abridged list of just some of the things they’ve done:

- For the second year in a row, the prestigious Herbert Roberts Award bestowed by the National Academy of Public Administration went to a TSPPPA student. This year, Vanessa Forsberg (MPA ’12), a Master of Public Policy student graduating this spring, received the award.

- Two of our graduating Master of Public Administration students, Brooke Bohnet (MPA ’12) and Nicole Stein (MPA ’12) were honored by the Center of Accountability in the American Society for Public Administration for their research paper on performance management in a Pollution Prevention Grant Program run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

- A group of our masters students, lead by Kabir Green (MPA ’12) and Simon McNorton (MPP ’13), organized a fantastic event on “Sustainability and the Farm Bill” that brought students, alumni and representatives of the many interest groups involved in reauthorization of the Farm Bill to campus. (See the article on page 1.)

- This spring, Policy Perspectives, our student-edited and student-written journal, celebrates its 21st year with an extremely impressive volume—its longest ever put together by its largest editing team ever.

- Our doctoral students have stepped up their game as well. They are presenting papers at more academic conferences than ever before, and they have been very successful on the academic job market. In fact, as of this writing, one has just taken an academic job at the University of Missouri.

Of course, I have to mention the spectacular accomplishments of our alumni too. Among the many in the last few months, a few stand out. First, Frank DiGiammarino (MPA ’95), who received the TSPPA Distinguished Alumni Award in February, recently moved to Amazon’s web services after directing the Recovery Act under Vice President Joe Biden. And, Demetra Nightingale (PhD ’98) was just named the chief evaluator for the U.S. Department of Labor, on top of teaching Program Evaluation for TSPPPA.

We are excited about the two new faculty members we hired in December and who will start in the fall – Jasmine McGinnis coming from Georgia State and Chris Carrigan from Harvard. These two young scholars are fantastic additions to our community. (See article about them starting on page 10) In addition, we are delighted to welcome Patricia McGinnis to our faculty. She previously served as the CEO of the Council for Excellence in Government. Pat is teaching a course on Innovation in Government and organizing a conference on the same topic for May 2nd.

This winter we started a new series of monthly luncheon speakers on “Improving Government Performance,” and have brought in scholars from within and outside government to address issues such as using data to support Immigration Reform. We are also extremely proud of the many events that Susan Dudley has brought to our community through our Regulatory Studies Center, which she directs. Our students continue to benefit greatly from lunching with the many “notables” that the Center has brought to our suite, including Amy Farrell, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, America’s Natural Gas Alliance.

Finally, career services has been very busy as well. Along with his job and writing a dissertation, Paul Binkley co-authored a book on finding, applying to, and successfully landing a federal position for students and recent graduates. You can find more information on his book later in the newsletter. Unfortunately, Paul is leaving the Trachtenberg School at the end of this school year to be with his wife in Liberia. Any of you who have been fortunate to get to know Paul will appreciate that we are very, very sorry to lose him—he has been a wonderful colleague and friend. But Paul has established a wonderful platform and career services system for us, so his successor is fortunate. We will miss him terribly!

Thank you very much to the many alumni who support us and give us the ability to support our very active students in many ways. We are very grateful, and we hope to welcome more alumni to campus to enjoy our events and/or work with our students.

Warmest regards,

Kathy
Director
TSPPPA student wins prestigious Roback Award

Congratulations to Vanessa Forsberg (MPP '12) for winning the Herbert Roback Scholarship. The Scholarship is administered by the National Academy of Public Administration, and awarded to exemplary master’s students in public administration, public and international affairs, and political science.

Vanessa Forsberg (MPP ’12) poses with her Roback Award at TSPPPA.

New scholarship fund for students in nonprofits

Grantmakers for Effective Organizations provided a gift this year to establish a scholarship fund honoring TSPPPA alumna Kathleen P. Enright (MPA ’96). The Scholarship will help reduce loan burdens for TSPPPA students working in nonprofits.

continuation of 2012 Policy Forum story from cover

Agricultural Institute; Susan Prolman, Executive Director of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, and Jim Weill, President of Food Research and Action Center.

The more than 150 students, TSPPPA faculty, and food-policy insiders who attended the event were treated to a lively panel discussion about the ins-and-outs of the Farm Bill. Glickman initiated the discussion with a general question to all panelists asking them to describe how they would change the Farm Bill. Among many points that were addressed, the discussion highlighted the perceived need for more demanding conservation requirements, increased support for small farmers and local food initiatives, and continued provisions under food assistance programs despite foreseen budget reductions. Attendees posed diverse and thought-provoking questions to the panel, including those about concerns regarding preserving the meaning of sustainability, improving the working conditions and wages for farm workers, and preventing flooding of international markets with surpluses from domestic production.

Founding Farmers, a DC-based restaurant dedicated to sustainable foods, provided delicious hors d’oeuvres following the forum. During the reception, Dan Simons (BBA ’92) the Concept Developer and Managing Partner of Founding Farmers, spoke about the importance of sustainability and what it means for his business and for other growing restaurants.

The event coordinators and TSPPPA administration were very pleased with the success of this year’s forum. “I was extremely proud of our students for their superb planning and then hosting of the event. The speakers were all impressive and offered much for us to consider. They also all told to me how impressed they were with our students who produced such an outstanding and educational event for all who attended,” said Kathy Newcomer, TSPPPA Director. TSPPPA looks forward to continuing to host the Policy Forum as an annual event on a diverse array of important policy topics.

Founding Farmers Co-Chairs Simon McNorton (MPP ’13), on left, and Kabir Green (MPP ’12), on right, enjoy the Founding Farmers reception with guests Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan, and former Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman.
TSPPPA’s Professor James Edwin (Jed) Kee to retire after 27 years at GW

By Lydia Vollmann (MPA ’13)

In May 2012, after 27 years at GW, Professor James Edwin (Jed) Kee will retire from regular faculty and will be appointed Professor Emeritus of Public Policy and Public Administration. Professor Kee joined GW in 1985 after a career as a legal counsel and executive for the states of New York and Utah. During his tenure at GW, he has taught more than 20 different courses in the MPA/MPP program and has also served administratively as chair of the Department of Public Administration and as senior associate dean and interim dean for the former School of Business and Public Management.

Professor Kee’s current interests are in leadership and management across sectors, including networks and partnerships. He will have two refereed journal articles published this year: one in Public Administration Review (with TSPPPA Director Kathy Newcomer) examining the current “state of the public enterprise” related to our Founders’ views in The Federalist Papers; a second article will be published in the spring issue of Public Integrity (with TSPPPA Professor John Forrer) that deals with public-private partnerships. Professor Kee is currently working on a new book (also with Professor Forrer) entitled Governing Networks and Partnerships: Engaging Public Enterprise Organizations.

Professor Kee has valued his deep friendships with the faculty at TSPPPA and his association with both master and doctoral students. He is in the process of establishing the “Kee Doctoral Fund for Leadership” with his wife, Suzanne Erlon. The endowment is being funded through their $100,000 contribution, half of which will be contributed by the end of this year and the remaining pledge will be made through their estate planning. The fund should be available in 2013-2014 to provide assistance for summer support, travel, or data collection to doctoral students whose dissertations involve leadership—related issues.

Professor Kee hopes to continue to stay involved with GW though summer teaching or short courses. He and his wife are retiring to their home in Tucson, Arizona, and will be spending time in Germany, where their son, a professional opera singer, is currently living.

Trachtenberg Student Organization update

By Simon McNorton (MPP ’13) and Jay Sher (MPA ’13)

The newly formed Trachtenberg Student Organization – an umbrella board representing all student groups in the Trachtenberg School – has built a solid benchmark of work this year. The priority given by our predecessors to a streamlined restructuring of student groups allowed the incoming board to pool resources and student time more efficiently. We owe a debt of gratitude for their work to strengthen the Trachtenberg experience.

Before the incoming board took office at the beginning of February, we joined other university volunteer groups led by TSPPPA’s own Anacostia Public Service Program to run a Martin Luther King Day of Service. On a mild January morning, over 20 Trachtenberg students, and students from the GW School of...
Business and the School of Engineering and Applied Science, joined forces with Anacostia High School to clean up community spaces in the MLK Ave. area in southeast Washington, DC.

In keeping with the Trachtenberg tradition of public service, the Trachtenberg Student Organization spearheaded a campaign to collect mobile phones in solidarity with the university-wide ‘Phones for Hope’ appeal, which was part of a commitment to the Clinton Global Initiative. After collecting 102 devices over four weeks, the organization was recognized as one of four top student organizations across the university, winning a cash prize towards our programming – which we plan to invest toward public service opportunities for current students.

The Trachtenberg Student Organization has been bolstered by the creation of a Diversity & Inclusion Committee in 2011, which has grown to become one of the largest and most engaged groups within the school. Meeting weekly, the group has organized “policy & pint” events and film nights to discuss themes of diversity within public service and has engaged faculty to bring diversity to the curriculum.

Professional development has been identified as a primary goal for the year and is especially important with the coming transition in career services. Our weekly Group Think sessions have allowed students to pool career experiences to offer guidance and advice to their peers. We are also implementing new programs to expand alumni connections, facilitate interview workshops, and reach out to potential employers.

In March the Trachtenberg Policy Forum – organized by a student committee – examined an alternative vision for a more sustainable Farm Bill, coinciding with the beginning of congressional hearings on the 2012 Farm Bill (see story on page 1). The forum and reception allowed current students to network with expert policymakers and practitioners in the sustainability movement. Of course, we’re continuing our tradition of social events, with regularly organized happy hours and our annual ‘Spring Fling’ formal ball – a resounding success – giving students the chance to unwind and socialize with friends.

Our student body in fall 2012 promises to be more engaged than ever, and we can’t wait to welcome the incoming class later this year!

TRACHTENBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Trachtenberg Student Organization:
Jay Sher, MPA President
Simon McNorton, MPP President
Sarina Rosenberg, MPA Vice President
Leslie Finnman, MPP Vice President
Sarah Lynn Geiger, MPA Treasurer
Kyle Bergman, MPP Treasurer

Trachtenberg School Orientation and Welcoming Organization:
Charlotte Fallon, MPA Chair
Lauren Deutsch, MPP Chair

Community Engagement Committee:
Mike Fucci, MPA Social Chair
Ashley Cheung, MPP Social Chair
Nancy Lagomarcino, MPA Volunteer Chair
Morgan Taylor, MPP Volunteer Chair

Professional Development Committee:
Sadie Thimsen, MPA Chair
Stephen Tu, MPP Chair
Debbie Kobrin, GPAC Representative

Diversity and Inclusion Association:
Anamita Gall, MPA Chair
Ana Jara, MPP Chair

Anacostia Public Service Program:
Meghan McHugh, Program Director

Policy Perspectives:
Joshua Nadas, Editor-in-Chief
Rachel Brody, Managing Editor

PhD Liaisons:
Kate Johnson, PhD
Kari Nelson, PhD
Ashley Palmer, PhD
Eric Stokan, PhD
Courses provide work experience for students and services for local community

STUDENT PROJECTS HONORED
The Center for Accountability and Performance selected a paper written by TSPPPA students Brooke Bohnet (MPA ’12) and Nicole Stein (MPA ’12) as one of two case studies to be presented at the American Society for Public Administration conference in May, 2012. The paper is called “A Case Study on the Use of Performance Measurement: Pollution Prevention Information Network Grant Program.”

CAPSTONE PROJECT PUBLISHED
As part of their capstone project for the GW Solar Institute, Julia Kalloz (MPP ’11), Matt Robinson (MPP ’11), and Alim Bayaliyev (MPA ’12) authored the report, “China’s Solar Policy: Subsidies, Manufacturing Overcapacity & Opportunities” which has been featured on the institute’s website. The GW Solar Institute conducts research on economic, technical, and public policy issues associated with the development and deployment of solar energy. The students received guidance from GW Solar Institute Director Ken Zweibel. After analyzing the eight largest Chinese PV manufacturers and four non-Chinese manufacturers, the authors conclude that China was able to expand manufacturing from near zero output to more than double the global solar PV market in under a decade through easy access to large amounts of capital. Among the subsidies identified for the solar companies analyzed, are real interest rates on loans for Chinese companies of -1.6%, significantly lower than those for non-Chinese at over 2%.

FALL 2011 MPA/MPP CAPSTONE PROJECT CLIENTS
Capital Area Asset Builders
Public Leadership Education Network (PLEN)
Break The Chain Campaign (BTCC)
B’More for Healthy Babies
George Washington University Solar Institute

FALL 2011 PROGRAM EVALUATION CLIENTS
US Environmental Protection Agency
Life Pieces To Masterpieces
Martha’s Table (2 projects)
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Tiny Findings @GAO
ZINN
GW’s Cancer Institute

Regulatory Studies Center update
Now in its third year at the Trachtenberg School (TSPPPA), the George Washington University Regulatory Studies Center (RSC) continues to educate students, scholars, and policy makers about the regulatory process and how to create more effective policy outcomes. The RSC has hosted and co-hosted several workshops and conferences over the last six months, exploring a number of important policy areas. In October, the RSC co-hosted a two-day conference with the Ad-Hoc Industry Natural Resource Damage Group to evaluate industry policies and practices in the wake of the BP oil spill, that attracted over 100 scholars, industry representatives, and domestic and international government officials. In January, the RSC and the GW Center for Risk Science and Public Health brought together regulatory scholars for a workshop on improving science-based regulation. Other recent events include an international workshop on improving trans-Atlantic regulatory impact analysis, and a panel discussion, co-sponsored with the Society for Risk Analysis, on managing nuclear risk in the aftermath of the Fukushima Disaster.

RSC scholars have written on topics ranging from regulatory oversight, analysis, consequences, and reform, and published their insights in the popular press as well as academic journals. A special symposium issue of the Administrative Law Review, based on the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs’
Science-based regulations suffer both from “politicized science” and “scientized policy.” Institutional change to clarify the basis for policy decisions would improve scientific analysis, regulatory analysis, and the policies themselves. That was the broad theme of a workshop on Improving Science-Based Regulation hosted by the GW Regulatory Studies Center and Center for Risk Science and Public Health on January 13, 2012. The workshop brought together participants with a wide range of experience and expertise to examine the relationship between science and policy as they are used in developing regulations. Four working papers, authored by experts in risk assessment, regulatory economics, medicine, and biotechnology, helped shape the discussion.

The expert panel included Art Fraas and Randall Lutter, both visiting scholars at Resources for the Future and the GW Regulatory Studies Center. Their working paper applied quantitative uncertainty analysis to estimate the benefits of reducing fine particulate matter concentrations. Together Fraas and Lutter led a discussion on the merits of alternative assumptions and agreed on the importance of identifying the most influential uncertainties and making the full range of possible outcomes more transparent to policy makers. The EPA does not take such steps now.

Another expert panelist, George Gray, Director of the Center for Risk Science & Public Health, authored a paper that examined differences in acceptable daily levels of exposure to pesticides set by the EPA and the World Health Organization (WHO). Based on Gray’s findings, participants engaged in a wide-ranging discussion of what factors might be influencing the difference in judgments between the EPA and WHO, and how to make more transparent judgments that are not purely scientific.

Henry Miller, Robert Wesson Fellow in Scientific Philosophy & Public Policy at the Hoover Institution, focused his paper on the consequences of the unscientific approach to agricultural biotechnology regulation. Miller led a discussion on the incentives behind the increased scrutiny of products of biotechnology.

The final expert panelist, Adam Finkel, Senior Fellow and Executive Director of the Penn Program on Regulation at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, proposed a hierarchy of decision criteria, with each level requiring additional information and analysis with which to examine consequences. In his paper, he argued that if policy makers asked better questions, they would get more robust and useful information from analysts regarding the distribution of risks, benefits, and costs of alternative actions. Participants agreed that more rigorous decision criteria and a better understanding of probability distributions would aid decision makers. They explored why policy makers often rely on simplified criteria, lower on Finkel’s ladder, when more comprehensive criteria would lead to better policy.
TSPPPA’s Marcus Raskin donates papers to GW Library

By Lauren Rutledge (MPA ’13)

Activist, scholar, and Trachtenberg School adjunct professor Marcus Raskin has been an intellectual pillar of the movement for progressive social change for nearly a half-century. After resigning from his post at the National Security Council in 1962, Raskin founded the Institute for Policy Studies with fellow Kennedy administration official Richard Barnet in 1963 and built the organization into the premier progressive think tank in Washington, DC.

After a distinguished career that redefined the study of national security and saw him publish over 20 books, Raskin decided to donate his papers to The George Washington University Library Special Collections Research Center. In an event held at the Gelman Library on February 9, 2012, students, family, and notables gathered to honor Raskin for his work and the generous donation of his papers. The papers include his research files, materials used for his lectures at GW and international conferences, and his correspondence.

Speakers at the event honoring Raskin included University Librarian Jack Siggins, Raskin’s son and Maryland State Senator Jamin Raskin, Institute for Policy Studies Board Member Robert Borosage, Institute for Policy Studies Director John Cavanaugh, Chairman of the Board of the Institute for Policy Studies Ethelbert Miller, TSPPPA Director Kathryn Newcomer, and GW Professor of Sociology and Public Policy and Administration Gregory Squires. Also in attendance were Raskin’s wife and one of his nine grandchildren.

The Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration rises in the rankings

U.S. News & World Report Graduate Schools guide, a popular resource for students pursuing graduate-level education, ranked GW’s Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration 12th in the nation. The Trachtenberg School shares the number 12 spot with American University, as well as the designation as highest-ranking public affairs school in the Washington, D.C. area.

The report also highlighted strong fields within the Trachtenberg School, including Public Administration/Management and Health Policy and Management, which were each ranked 10th in the country.

“Our high overall ranking confirms the growing national stature of the Trachtenberg School in a highly competitive field of graduate public affairs programs. It is a tribute to the quality and many accomplishments of the school’s faculty, students and alumni,” said Professor Joseph Cordes, associate director of the Trachtenberg School.

To develop this year’s rankings, U.S. News analyzed more than 12,000 graduate programs including more than 260 public policy programs. Highlights will be published in U.S. News & World Report’s 2013 edition of the Best Graduate Schools.
Trachtenberg faculty and staff publish books

By Dana Hecht (MPP ‘13)

The Trachtenberg School is proud to recognize a number of newly published books written by faculty, professors, and our director of career services, Paul Binkley.

STUDENT’S FEDERAL CAREER GUIDE (Second Edition)
By Kathryn Troutman and Paul Binkley

Paul Binkley, TSPPPA’s Career Services Director, revised, updated, and published the second edition of Student’s Federal Career Guide with Kathryn Troutman in January 2012. Recent reforms have aimed to increase student opportunities in the federal government and make the application process simpler. This book explains these initiatives and offers a ten-step guide for students, student veterans, and recent graduates to secure a federal job. Additionally, it offers excellent advice for federal resume building and navigating the job search process, and is an invaluable resource for students who intend to begin a career in public service.

NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE (Second Edition)
By Michael J. Worth

The second edition of Nonprofit Management: Principles and Practice, published by Sage in Fall 2011, is a textbook for upper-level undergraduate and graduate-level courses on nonprofit management. The book provides an overview of nonprofit management, with insights from both theory and practice. This updated edition offers additional case studies, updated data, changes in nonprofit management law, a new chapter on social entrepreneurship, and new guidelines for best practices.

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE: THE FUNDRAISING ROLE OF FOUNDATION BOARDS AT PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
By Michael J. Worth

Professor Worth’s latest book was published by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) in January, 2012. Based on research conducted in collaboration with AGB, the book is intended for foundation board officers at universities and colleges. Because funding for public higher education has been greatly reduced since the recession, this book seeks to answer the questions: What are boards doing with regards to raising funds? What are the boards’ policies related to this? What can we learn about the relationships between foundation boards, institutions’ presidents, and governing boards?

IN THE POT STILL OF THE NIGHT
By Gerald Kauvar

Gerald Kauvar, Special Assistant to President Emeritus Trachtenberg and Research Professor at the Trachtenberg School, published this book in February, 2012. A spirited and humorous piece, it reveals what it is like to be a university president on a day-to-day basis, including the challenges they brood over after a tough day on the job. This book will be used in an annual course taught by President Emeritus Trachtenberg and Professor Kauvar for undergraduate students on leadership. They also hope it is read by students in higher education administration courses across universities.

The Trachtenberg School is proud to recognize a number of newly published books written by faculty, professors, and our director of career services, Paul Binkley.
New Faculty

Chris Carrigan

Chris Carrigan joins the Trachtenberg School from the University of Pennsylvania, where he is the Regulation Fellow at the Penn Program on Regulation; and the Harvard Kennedy School, where he is a PhD candidate in Public Policy.

Prior to entering the doctoral program at Harvard, Chris was a manager at several firms. He worked at The Vanguard Group, managing a team responsible for overseeing the firm’s relationships with several large institutional clients who housed their retirement plan assets at and outsourced their recordkeeping functions to Vanguard. In addition, after attending business school at the University of Chicago, he worked as a director for two economic consulting firms where he helped provide litigation support in antitrust cases and business disputes.

His research is focused on how political influences, social forces, and organizational characteristics interact to shape outcomes at government agencies. In his dissertation, Chris examines the extent to which locating non-regulatory functions with regulators affects both behavior at and performance of these organizations. His work is forthcoming in the Annual Review of Political Science, as well as in edited volumes assessing regulatory capture and investigating disasters in regulated industries. He holds an MBA from the University of Chicago, and a BA in economics from Davidson College.

Jasmine McGinnis

Jasmine McGinnis is joining us from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University and the Ivan Allen College of Public Policy at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Before entering the PhD program, she served as a Senior Development Manager for Special Olympics Georgia. This position included grant writing, contract management, evaluation, and corporate sponsorship/cause marketing. While pursuing her degree, she has continued to consult with grassroots nonprofits in the area in developing strategic and development plans.

Jasmine works on a number of topics related to grant making, civic engagement and its implications for policy. Her research interests also include cross sector comparisons of human resource issues and challenges. Her academic accomplishments include forthcoming publications in Public Administration Quarterly (PAQ), Nonprofit & Voluntary Sector Quarterly (NVSQ), and The Foundation Review.

Jasmine has also received a number of awards, including the Outstanding Doctoral Student in Public Policy, 2011 Georgia State University; Italian Research in Philanthropy Awards Grant; the Morris W.H. Collins Jr. Award; Most Outstanding Doctoral Student Paper Award (2009 SECOPA Conference); and in 2009, McGinnis was selected as an RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service fellow. As an RGK Center fellow, she spent the summer at the University of Texas-Austin under the direction of Dr. Peter Frumkin.

Patricia McGinnis

Patricia McGinnis joined TSPPA this year. She previously served as the CEO of the Council for Excellence in Government and is teaching a course on Innovation in Government.
Faculty updates
Compiled by Melanie Zuckerman (MPA ’13)

Bill Adams

Professor Bill Adams snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef in December.

Professor Adams had articles published in three of the four 2011 issues of the quarterly Journal of Public Affairs Education. His most recent article was a review and assessment of his experiences teaching in Kuala Lumpur at the University of Malaya: “Teaching Public Management as a Fulbright Scholar in Malaysia.” Professor Adams and Professor Dona Infeld co-authored the front-page story in the October issue of PA Times reporting the results of their third annual analysis of nationwide attitudes toward federal workers and careers in government.

In November, Professor Adams spoke at length in an unplanned and informal setting in Mexico with California Governor Jerry Brown about the dilemma of the left-right gridlock on tax and spending policy. Over the December and January break, he toured Australia and New Zealand, heretofore conspicuously missing from his travel map. Also overseas, Professor Adams initiated and recruited a team of GW instructors who conducted training workshops in campaign management at the American University of Cairo in January as part of increasing capacity for democratic governance in Egypt.

Steven Balla


Professor Balla was also a guest blogger at the website RegBlog, a leading site for analysis and commentary on regulation that is run at the UPenn Law School. The post is about online regulatory consultation in China. He served as a discussant for an AP-PAM panel on “Redistribution and Social Policy in Contemporary China.” He also spoke at the Canadian Embassy on “The Regulatory Process in America: Past, Present, and Future.”

Burt Barnow

Burt Barnow had two articles published in a recent book titled The Workforce Investment Act: Implementation Experiences and Evaluation Findings: One article is titled “Lessons from the WIA Performance Measures, and the other article, written with Christopher King, is titled “The Use of Market Mechanisms.”


Professor Barnow has served on three National Academy of Sciences committees during the past six months: The Committee on the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Workforce Needs for the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Defense Industrial Base; The Energy and Mining Workforce Committee, and the recently completed Committee on the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research and Its Grantees.

Professor Barnow has served on a number of advisory panels for government agencies to offer guidance to agencies and their evaluators: The Evaluation of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division’s Use of Remedies; the Department of Health and Human Services Subsidized and Transitional Employ-
ment Demonstration; and the Department of Health and Human Services Design Options for the Search for Employment Project.

**Ed Berkowitz**

Ed Berkowitz has a chapter on health policy in a new volume called “A Reader’s Companion to Lyndon Johnson.” He has appeared as a commentator at a session of the Business History Conference in Philadelphia and he will appear on a panel at the policy history meetings in Richmond in June.

**Lori Brainard**

Lori Brainard has published “Electronic Commons, Community Policing and Communication: Online Police-Citizen Discussion Groups in Washington, DC” (Co-authored with Teresa Derrick-Mils) which was featured in *Administrative Theory and Praxis*. She presented her paper, “Social Media and the Top 10 Municipal Police Departments: Current Use and Future Prospects for Gov 2.0” (with Trachtenberg PhD Candidate Mariglynn Collins) at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Public Administration, in Las Vegas, NV in March. Professor Brainard also presented a poster based on this paper at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action in Toronto, Canada in November.

Professor Brainard was also a Presenter and Co-Convene of “Capstones and Community Clients”—the 2011 Annual Meeting of the National Association of Schools of Public Administration and Affairs in Kansas City, Mo. in October.

Professor Brainard is serving on the following committees, the Data Committee (NASPAA), the Technology Advisory Committee (ASPA), and the Annual Dissertation Awards Committee 2011. She is also a member of the Strategic Imperative Group S (Leveraging Technology to Engage Members and Influence the Broader Community).

Through the University’s Honors Program, Professor Brainard was selected by two honors program undergraduates interested in working on her research. They will be working with her on her research project about the use of social media by police departments (spring semester 2012).

Professor Brainard is also providing commentary to the Bellingham (WA) Herald for an article on the purchase of their local TV station, KVOS-TV, by a OTA Broadcasting. The local community is concerned that ownership by an absentee owner will result in a decrease of locally orientated issue programming and they asked her to comment on the regulation, and deregulation, of FCC rules governing local programming.

Professor Brainard is looking forward to her sabbatical. After spending 1 month in Crete with her family, she will work on her project on social media use by police departments and serve as a Visiting Scholar at the Police Executive Research Forum, an applied research institute in DC.

Next year, while on sabbatical, in addition to being a visiting scholar at PERF (Police Executives Research Forum) she has been chosen as a Mount Vernon Faculty Fellow, affiliated with the University Honors Program for 2012-2013. As part of that fellowship, she will teach 1 course entirely on her research project. The course will be “Governance, Civic Engagement and Social Media.” In addition she will give a presentation to other fellows.

**Derick W. Brinkerhoff**


He presented “Performance-based Public Management Reforms: Experience and Emerging Lessons from Service Delivery Improvement in Indonesia” (with Anna Wetterberg) at the International Research Society on Public Management, Annual Conference, in Rome, Italy in April.


He also presented “Service Delivery, Trust in Government, and Legitimacy in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States: Examining
Water Services in Iraq” at Wageningen University, Social Science Department, Disaster Studies Group in Wageningen, The Netherlands in January. He served as a Keynote speaker, presenting “Reflections on Fragile/Conflict-Affected States and Service Delivery, Legitimacy, and Multi-Stakeholder Processes” at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Conference on Service Provision and the Legitimacy of State Institutions in Situations of Conflict and Fragility, The Hague in December.

Professor Brinkerhoff was a Speaker, presenting “Reflections on Donor-supported Reforms: Denmark as Destination, Institutional Isomorphism, and Communities of Understanding” at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management’s Annual Conference, Roundtable, titled, What Have We Learned From Four Decades of Donor-led Public Sector Reforms in Developing and Transitional Countries? in November in Washington, DC. Professor Brinkerhoff served as an External Examiner for a Dissertation Defense at Wageningen University in the Social Science Department’s Disaster Studies Group in Wageningen, The Netherlands in January.

Jennifer Brinkerhoff

Jennifer Brinkerhoff gave a keynote address based on her book, Digital Diasporas (Cambridge University Press, 2009), at the International Metropolis Conference in the Azores in September. She organized and presented on a panel on “Change Agents at the Grassroots: Reforming Institutions in Developing Countries” at the Association for Researchers on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) annual conference in Toronto in November. She also recently published three articles: “Creating an Enabling Environment for Diasporas’ Participation in Homeland Development” in International Migration in February 2012; “Digital Diasporas’ Challenge to Traditional Power: The Case of Tibetboard” in the Review of International Studies in January 2012; and “Diaspora Entrepreneurs as Institutional Change Agents: The Case of Thamel.com” (with GW Associate Professor of International Business, Liesl Riddle) in International Business Review in December 2011. In early February, she hosted a launching event at GW for the findings of the first ever survey of the Coptic Diaspora in the US, Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom. She and Associate Professor Liesl Riddle (International Business) conducted the survey under the auspices of the GW Diaspora Research Program, which she directs. The event featured policy discussants from the US Government and the Coptic Church. She was invited to deliver a workshop in February on careers in international development based on her book with TSPPPA Associate Faculty Professor Derick Brinkerhoff, Working for Change, to DePaul University in Chicago. She was also invited to partici-

pate in a workshop on “Transnational Actors and Conflict Outcomes” at the International Studies Association Annual Convention in San Diego in April.

David Brunori

David Brunori gave the keynote address at the Conference of State Tax Court Judges, in Cambridge, MA, and at the Hartmann Institute on State Taxation, at Vanderbilt University.

His book titled State Tax Policy: a Political Perspective has also been released in its 3rd edition.

He also published “Corporate Income Taxes,” in Handbook of State and Local Public Finance.

Stephanie R. Cellini

Stephanie Cellini published “For-Profit Higher Education: An Assessment of Costs and Benefits,” featured in the March issue of the National Tax Journal.

Additionally, her previously published article, “The Value of School Facility Investments: Evidence from a Dynamic Regression Discontinuity Design,” (with Fernando Ferreira and Jesse Rothstein) was selected for inclusion in a volume of the International Library of Critical Writings in Economics, titled The Eco-
nomics of Evaluation in Public Programs. They also published a policy brief based on this article for the Wharton Real Estate Review, in Fall 2011.

Professor Cellini also presented her paper, “The Labor Market Returns to a Private Two-Year College Education” with Latika Chaudary, at a conference on education at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta in September and at the Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings in November.

She presented “Does Federal Student Aid Raise Tuition? New Evidence on For-Profit Colleges” with Claudia Goldin at the National Bureau for Economic Research Education Program Meeting in November and at the Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference in March. She also presented this paper at the U.S. Department of Labor in February.

Professor Cellini presented “School Quality and Information Disclosure: Evidence from the Housing Market” with Paul Carrillo and Richard Green at the American Economic Association Annual Meeting in January.

Dylan Conger was elected to serve a three-year term on the executive board of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. She was also invited to serve as an advisor to the National Center for Education Statistics National Assessment of Educational Progress High School Transcript Study. Professor Conger delivered talks on her research at the University of Chicago, University of California at Berkeley, and the Public Policy Institute of California. She chaired a panel at the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness annual meeting and presented her research on English Language Learners, unauthorized college students, and gender differences in access to post-secondary education at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Professor Conger has a paper titled “The Effects of High School Courses on Test Scores, High School Graduation, and Postsecondary Entry,” with co-authors Mark C. Long and Patrice Iatarola forthcoming in American Educational Research Journal.

Joe Cordes was inducted as a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. He published “Re-Thinking the Deduction for Charitable Contributions: Evaluating the Effects Of Deficit-Reduction Proposals” in National Tax Journal in December.

Susan Dudley

Professor Susan Dudley’s article, “Observations on OIRA’s 30th Anniversary,” appeared in the Administrative Law Review. She and George Gray, GW Professor of Environmental & Occupational Health, coauthored a chapter in a book on Institutions and Incentives in Regulatory Science, forthcoming this spring. Her tribute to William A. Niskanen, whom she interviewed as part of the Regulatory Studies Center’s oral history project, is forthcoming in Regulation. Her current research focuses on regulatory reform, including improving regulatory applications of benefit-cost analysis and risk analysis, and designing institutional incentives for more effective regulatory policy. She has presented her research and organized sessions at meetings of the Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis, the Society for Risk Analysis, and the Association of Private Enterprise Education, as well as conferences and seminars hosted by non-profit organizations and trade associations, and in testimony before Congress.

Michael Harmon

Michael Harmon published a new book entitled Whenever Two or More Are Gathered: Relationship as the Heart of Ethical Discourse with O.C. McSwite. He also contributed to an article titled “Truth, Telling the Truth, and Being Truthful: Nonverbal Communication and the Constitution of Ethical Relationship” in Administrative Theory & Praxis.

Donna Lind Infeld

Donna Infeld and Bill Adams published “Fulbright Scholars in Public Administration, Public Affairs, and Public Policy,” in the Journal of Public Affairs Education. Together they also published “Federal Workers Gain in Public Trust,” in PA Times. At the fall AP-PAM conference, Professor Infeld’s research was featured in three presentations on a range of topics: 1) examining use of statistical software in Public Policy/Public Administration education based on joint research with Bill Adam’s, 2) detailing an assignment in her policy analysis class in which students contribute to Wikipeida and 3) discussing cross-cultural education based on her Fulbright experience in China.

Kathryn Newcomer

Kathy Newcomer made multiple presentations at the annual conference of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) Conference in Kansas City, Missouri in October 2011, including talks on “Teaching Evaluation Ethics with Ethics Debates,” and “Teaching Performance Management.” She also made multiple presentations at the an-
nual conference of the American Evaluation Association (AEA) in Anaheim, California in November 2011, including a presentation on “Valuing a Performance and Evaluation Culture.”

She consulted with faculty in the School of Government at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogota, Colombia on development of an MPA degree in October, 2011. In December 2011 she taught a course on program evaluation for a cohort of National Park Service (NPS) managers as part of a certificate for the NPS for a consortium of 6 universities that includes GW. The course involved camping in tents on the Cumberland Island National Seashore Park off the coast of Georgia.

Kathy Newcomer chairs the Faculty Senate Urban Affairs Committee, and is a member of the GW Board of Trustees Committee on External Affairs, and she briefed the Trustees’ Committee on the extensive service activities of both GW and The Trachtenberg School at their meeting in February, 2012. She also gave a paper on the “Challenges and Opportunities for Performance Management in the U.S. Federal Government at the annual conference of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) in Las Vegas, NV in Mach. She has also been named a non-resident Senior Fellow in the Government Studies program at the Brookings Institute.

Scott Pace

Scott Pace hosted a symposium on November 16 to discuss the many policy, technical, and market risks facing the space launch industry. The symposium featured a number of distinguished speakers including: Mr. Brett Lambert, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Acquisition for the DoD; Mr. Daniel L. Dumbacher, Assistant Associate Administrator, Human Exploration Capabilities, NASA; Mr. Michael Gass, President and CEO, United Launch Alliance; Mr. Kenneth Lee, Senior Vice President, Space Systems, Intelsat; and Mr. John Schumacher, Vice President for Space, EADS North America.

Professor Pace testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on September 8 regarding the proposed LightSquared wireless broadband network. He represented the Space Policy Institute at the 62nd International Astronautical Congress in Cape Town, South Africa during the first week of October.

He visited Japan in December for ten days to give space policy lectures at the University of Tokyo and the Japanese space agency. He also contributed a chapter on space cooperation to a longer study by the US-Korea Institute at SAIS on “Missile Negotiations with North Korea.”

Nancy Potok

The Census Bureau named Nancy A. Potok as associate director for demographic programs. She will take the lead on implementing the reorganization of the management for reimbursable surveys. A major duty will be appointing survey directors, who will report to her and be responsible for client services for demographic surveys of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics at the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, among others. Her duties also involve the creation of service provider units within the Census Bureau’s Demographic Surveys Division, and the Demographic Statistical Methods Division.

Christopher H. Sterling

Christopher Sterling retired from the full-time tenured SMPA faculty on New Year’s Eve, but continues at GWU as an associate dean in CCAS working on a variety of special projects including academic program reviews, developing career services for CCAS graduate students, externally-funded research projects, and college space allocations—among other things! The Ides of March will mark the beginning of his fourth decade at GWU.
Gregory Squires

Gregory Squires submitted written comments and testified before the Federal Reserve Board on the proposed merger of Capital One and ING Bank on September 20, 2011. He published several articles including “Born Again,” featured in American Banker in January. He was invited to comment for a column entitled “BankThink: Bold Predictions for 2012.” He also published “Professors stand with Occupy protestors,” in The Occupied Washington Times and “Segregation as a Driver of Subprime Lending and the ensuing Economic Fallout,” which was featured in a book titled Fair and Affordable Housing in the US: Trends, Outcomes, Future Directions.

Elizabeth Rigby

Elizabeth Rigby published an analysis and commentary on the newly-formed National Prevention and Public Health Council in the policy journal, Health Affairs. This article: “How the National Prevention Council can Overcome Key Challenges and Improve Americans’ Health” was highlighted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Elizabeth Rigby presented her current research examining “State-level Resistance to ‘ObamaCare’” at the Southern Political Science Conference in New Orleans this January. While at the conference, she also participated in a roundtable on prestigious fellowships in political science and a retrospective of the work of one of her mentors and collaborators, Gerald C. Wright. Elizabeth Rigby published a paper with her collaborator, Melanie Springer of Washington University in St. Louis, entitled: “Does Electoral Reform Increase (or Decrease) Political Equality?” in the November 2011 issue of Political Research Quarterly. They are now undertaking a follow-up panel study comparing the knowledge, behavior, and mobilization low-, middle-, and high-income citizens in the months leading up to the 2012 presidential election.

Stephen Joel Trachtenberg

President Emeritus Trachtenberg’s was interviewed and featured in an article in The Atlantic entitled, “Why Is College So Expensive?” His article, “After 40 Years, Changing My Academic Major,” was featured in The Chronicle of Higher Education, Winter/Spring 2012 issue. His article, “Time To Put Collegiate Sports Into Proper Focus” was featured in The Washington Post. He is also a featured columnist for The New York Times column, Room for Debate. He taught an undergraduate honors elective course entitled: Leadership: Theory and Practice. He raised $8 million from Laurence Geller/The Churchill Centre devoted to preserving the legacy of Winston Churchill to establish the National Churchill Library and Center at GW and other assorted smaller gifts to the University.

President Emeritus Trachtenberg gave the keynote address at the following events: the US-Japan Research Institute Conference, Assoc. Of Private Sector Colleges & Univ. Conference, American Colleges of Pharmacy, CATO Annual Conference. He was a panelist at the Harvard Symposium entitled, Ten Years After 9/11 The State of our Affairs. He also delivered remarks at the University of Hartford/Presidents College Dedication. He also served as a judge at the GW Law School/Van Vleck Moot Court.

He is a member of the following organizations: the Cosmos Club Humanities and Education Group, the Council on Educational Development (CED), the Council on Foreign Relations, the DC Chamber of Commerce, the DubMeNow Higher Education Advisory Board, the Economic Club of Washington, DC, the Federal City Council, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the Higher Education Group of Greater Washington (HEG) and the International Assoc. of University Presidents. He was also term member the Yale Law School Executive Committee.

He is on the Board of Directors for Bankinter Foundation for Innovation. He is on the Advisory Committee for the American Bar Association Law Library of Congress Standing Committee. During the 2011/2012 year he was the treasurer for the American Ditchley Foundation and he was on the Board of Advisors for the Atlas Research Group. He is also on the Advisory Boards for GLIN Foundation, Excelsior College and PBS Friends of the NewsHour. He is on the National Defense University Board of Visitors.

He participated in a live radio interview with NPR International’s Takeaway Morning Show. He also received the Doctor Honoris Causa, bestowed by Bucharest University of Economics.

Robert Weiner


Michael Wiseman

Michael Wiseman is currently serving as a consultant on European Social Fund evaluation for the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Social Inclusion. He and graduate student Erica Harbatkin participated...
in a Member State meeting on ESF evaluation in Brussels in October. Wiseman and European colleagues are planning a workshop on evaluation for Member State representatives to be held later this year.

**Hal Wolman**


**Michael Worth**

Michael Worth’s new book titled *Foundations for the Future: The Fundraising Role of Foundation Boards at Public Colleges and Universities* was published in January and the second edition of his book titled *Nonprofit Management: Principles and Practice* was released this past fall. *Please see page 9 of this newsletter for more information.*

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30th anniversary conference RSC and TSPPPA hosted last May, features articles by several RSC scholars and other regulatory experts.

The RSC has also continued its efforts to provide opportunities for TSPPPA students. Its Regulatory Comment Clinic engages students in the federal regulatory process by having them analyze an active regulation. The RSC’s popular monthly student lunch seminar, Noshing with Notables, gives students opportunities to meet informally with successful policy professionals. Featured guests this year have included Donna McLean, Former CFO of the U.S. Department of Transportation; Josh Gotbaum, Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; Marcus Peacock, Minority Staff Director of the Senate Budget Committee; Curtis Copeland, former Congressional Research Service regulatory expert, and Brenda Aguilar, Policy Analyst and Assistant Branch Chief, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. These opportunities provide TSPPPA students with an invaluable amount of both practical and academic experience.
Alumni Spotlight: TSPPPA grads help shape Nevada politics

By Anne Lamb (MPP ’13)

Anne Lamb (MPP ’13) talked with two TSPPPA graduates working in politics in Nevada about their careers, hopes for this election year, and how their GW degrees have helped them navigate the Silver State.

Chris Edwards (MPA ’96) has served a distinguished career as a military officer and public servant. His work as a naval officer took him on travels around the world. Previously, with the Air Force Secretariat, he served as a public administrator in the Office of the General Counsel. Most recently, Edwards has provided direct support to expeditionary bases in the Middle East and Africa, and helped lead anti-piracy efforts in that region. He is now vying for the Republican nomination to represent Nevada’s 1st Congressional District.

Q: What made you decide to enter the race for the Congressional nomination in your district?

Chris Edwards: Our nation faces multiple crises that have not been adequately addressed by the elected officials in Washington. I have some great work experiences that can help fix many of the problems we face.

Q: If elected, what do you hope to accomplish?

Chris Edwards: I hope to present and advocate for sensible, effective solutions to our many problems. In particular, I intend to fight against excessive government, wasteful and ineffective spending, anti-business job-killing regulations and taxes. I will fight for sensible policies that effectively fix the many problems of unemployment, anemic economic activity, falling housing prices and soaring debt. I also can draw upon my military and overseas experience to develop smarter foreign policy and national security. And as a veteran myself, I will support a strong military trained, equipped and prepared to defeat any foe and never forgetting to take care of service members and their families who have served us so amazingly well for so very long.

Q: How have you used the skills you acquired during your time at GW in your career thus far?

Chris Edwards: GW greatly helped me to be an excellent public administrator while serving in the government at the Pentagon and in the DC city government. I also used skills from GW to better serve the military overseas in the Middle East and Africa for several years.

Robert Herbert (MPA ’04) currently serves as Deputy Commander of the Nevada Army Guard and has served as a legislator advisor to Senator Harry Reid for the past 15 years. He recently shared some of his insights, career accomplishments, and his take on public service.

Q: Briefly, can you outline the scope of your career both pre- and post- GW?

Robert Herbert: I believe that there is no better way to spend a working day than to be a public servant. I started as an 18-year-old Army warrant officer flying helicopters patrolling the East-West German border and have been working since then in some capacity in public service.
Before attending GW, I had been in the military for 25 years, and with Senator Reid for about five years, serving as his legislative assistant on defense and veterans issues. I continued working in the senator’s office while completing my MPA in the evenings.

I have now been with Senator Reid for 15 years, and he has been the Senate Majority Leader for the last 7 years. I cover homeland security, transportation, defense, and veterans, and I am the Director of Appropriations overseeing all 13 appropriations bills that Congress must pass each year to fund the government. From 2002-04, I went back to Nevada and served as his director for Southern Nevada. Because I am a Nevadan and have deep roots in the state, I also serve as a surrogate for Senator Reid at events and meet regularly with mayors, CEOs, nonprofits, base commanders, and the governor when I return to the state during Senate recesses. I am his eyes and ears in Nevada; in the Senate, I help coordinate legislation that moves from committees to the Senate floor. I also staff him in meetings that range from agency secretaries, Nevada elected officials, CEO’s of multinational corporations, to visiting dignitaries.

Finally, this year will also mark my 30th year in the National Guard, where I am currently a colonel serving as Deputy Commander of the Nevada Army Guard. With oversight over 3,000 troops, I conduct command inspection of units to ensure their readiness for mobilization for combat. I work with the adjutant general to advance the Nevada Guard’s needs with the Pentagon, National Guard Bureau and Congress. I also serve as chair of the academic leadership board to select the next leaders of the Guard.

Q: What did you hope to accomplish in your current role?

Robert Herbert: It may sound corny, but when I go to work every day, I simply want to make life better for Nevadans, and for all Americans. When Congress passes a transportation bill that I’ve worked on, people’s lives will be improved. I’ve worked on defense bills that provided men and women in the military with better equipment and training. I helped Senator Reid pass concurrent receipt legislation that now allows veterans injured in combat to draw their retirement and disability compensation simultaneously, as would anyone in the private sector who was injured on the job. A close friend and fellow test pilot told me on his deathbed that he was able to spend his last days at home with his family with a visiting nurse, rather than in an institution, because of the concurrent receipt legislation. This is one of the many reasons I continue to feel like I can make a difference working in the public sector.

Q: How have you used the skills you acquired during your time at GW in your career thus far?

Robert Herbert: GW opened my eyes to the many different facets of public service. After serving in the military for so many years, the program exposed me to the civilian world and helped develop the skills I use on a daily basis in the U.S. Senate. As I assumed more responsibility in dealing with appropriations bills, the budget course I took provided a more holistic understanding of how federal agencies develop their budget requests. Congress is constantly bombarded by special interests with statistics purporting to explain the impact of legislation, and the statistics training I received at GW has been invaluable in helping me evaluate the loads of information that cross my desk on a daily basis.

The organizational theory and leadership training I received at GW has helped me immensely in my work as a National Guardsman. Last year, I was selected to attend the National War College, and my experience at GW prepared me to focus my coursework on what would make me a stronger public servant, to address my weaknesses and concentrate on areas that would help me do my two jobs better.
The Trachtenberg School hosted current students, faculty, alumni, and friends at the Elliot School’s City View Room on February 24, 2012 for the Distinguished Alumni Award Presentation.

TSPPA bestows the Distinguished Alumni Award to recognize outstanding alumni for achievements in the areas of public policy and public administration, and leadership in serving the public interest and enhancing the quality of democratic governance.

This year the award was presented to Frank P. DiGiammarino, III (MPA ’95). He currently serves as Director of Innovation and Global Expansion for Worldwide Public Sector at Amazon. DiGiammarino was most recently Advisor to the Vice President of The United States for Recovery Implementation. As a recognized change agent, DiGiammarino came to the Executive Office of the President from the National Academy of Public Administration where he was the Vice President of Strategic Initiatives. Prior to the National Academy, he spent many years as a senior consultant and strategist. Former positions include Director and Department of Defense Practice Area lead at Touchstone Consulting Group, General Manager and Director of Program Management at Sapient Corporation, and Principal Consultant with the state and local government practice at American Management Systems.

DiGiammarino was introduced as “the epitome of innovation” by Dr. Demetra Nightingale (PhD ’98), a past award recipient. Frank captivated the audience with his speech as he recalled important lessons learned at TSPPA. “I can’t imagine doing the tough jobs without having been through GW,” he said. Reflecting on his time implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, DiGiammarino noted, “Some of the best people work in the government – [but sometimes] they hit the target and miss the point.” He stressed that we need to be able to explain to people the good work that is going on across the country. “Doing the job is important, but so is sharing the message. Have impact and make what you do relevant for people where they work and raise their families,” he said. DiGiammarino concluded by encouraging students to “think big, do big things and celebrate them.”

- Frank P. DiGiammarino
Alumni updates
Compiled by Sarina Rosenberg (MPA ‘13)

John Topinka, MPA ’83
In 2007, John Topinka retired from Miami-Dade County government after 25 years working in budget and finance. He completed a PhD in public administration, graduating from Florida International University in August 2011. This school year, he was a visiting professor of public administration at Florida Atlantic University.

Ret. Capt. Jim McEntire, MPA ’88

John L. Cox, MPA ’90
Dr. John L. Cox was named President of Cape Cod Community College. Prior to this position, he served as Vice President for Finance, Operations, and Government Relations at Harford Community College in Bel Air, Maryland.

Sarah L. Spradlin, MPA ’95
Sarah L. Spradlin has joined Mercy’s philanthropy team as regional vice president for the east communities. As regional vice president, Spradlin is responsible for developing invigorating programs and increasing support, strengthening donor, member and volunteer relations and building visibility with stakeholders, corporations, foundations, and the public. Before coming to Children’s Hospital of Michigan, Spradlin served as director of development for the Beaumont Foundation and president and CEO of the Women’s Philanthropy Institute.

Christopher Brown, MPA ’97
Christopher Brown currently serves as Director, Government Relations for the Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey. He lobbies the New Jersey Legislature, the Christie Administration and members of the Southern New Jersey federal delegation. In addition, he earned the Certified Association Executive (CAE) credential from the American Society of Association Executives in 2006. Brown currently resides in Mount Laurel, New Jersey with his wife, Katie, and two children, Matthew and Natalie.

From left, TSPPPA’s Paul Binkley, with Stephanie Stone (MPP ’09), Kyle Stearns (MPP ’09), Kristen Warms (MPA ’09), Daniel Honker (MPA ’09), Amber Morris, and Steve Duggan (MPA ’09) at the Distinguished Alumni Reception in February, 2012
Marco Cercone, MPA ‘99
Marco Cercone is a partner at a mid-size firm, where he is a litigator practicing in the area of property litigation. He also started as an adjunct instructor at Daemen College in Buffalo, where he teaches a Civil Litigation class for paralegal students.

Amber Brooks, MPA ‘02
Amber Brooks is a senior civil society advisor at USAID. She spoke at an event hosted by the Elliot School of International Affairs.

Nicholas C. Lee, MPA ‘04
Nicholas C. Lee started a new role as Senior Program Officer at the Gates Foundation. He formerly worked at the Office of Management and Budget.

Rani Parker, PhD ‘04
Dr. Rani Parker was featured in an article in The Business Monthly.

Colleen Paletta, MPA ‘05
Colleen Paletta currently serves as Vice President of Workforce Development at Goodwill of Greater Washington. She was also accepted as a Marano Fellow at the Aspen Institute’s Sector Skills Academy and will be spending the next year studying and learning sector strategy approaches to training and placing low-income and low-skilled workers.

Joy Kraybill, PhD ‘08
Joy Kraybill has accepted a new position with the US Department of Health and Human Services. She will be working on the implementation of health reform at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Center for Consumer Information, and Insurance Oversight, Office of Health Insurance Exchanges.

Emily Remington, MPP ‘08
Emily Remington is the Assistant Director of Programming at the Scott S. Cowen Institute for Public Education Initiatives at Tulane University. She was elected to represent the state of Louisiana on the College Board’s Southern Regional Council, and presented at the College Board’s National Forum in New York City.

Melissa Boteach, MPP ‘11
Melissa Boteach was named one of Forbes’ “30 Under 30” in Law & Policy in 2011. She is a manager at the Center for American Progress on the “Half in Ten” project advocating federal measures to cut poverty rates in half.

Caitlin McKeown, MPP ‘11
Caitlin McKeown joined Partnership for a Healthier America as a staff assistant, where she is supporting the directors of policy, new business, and communications and marketing. Most recently, McKeown served as a White House intern, working on First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move! campaign.

Wendy Uptain MPA ‘11
Wendy Uptain was recently named a White House Champion of Change. Champions of Change seek to spread the ideas of ordinary people that are doing innovative things. Those named Champions of Change are invited to the White House to share their views.

STAY CONNECTED TO THE TRACHTENBERG SCHOOL

• Join the Trachtenberg School (TSPPPA) and George Washington Alumni Association LinkedIn groups.
• To become more involved with career activities and programs, contact career services at tscareer@gwu.edu.
• Let us know how you’re doing! Email tsnews@gwu.edu with your updates to be included in our next newsletter.
• To receive TSPPPA and GW mailings, event invitations, and news, please update your information at alumni.gwu.edu/update.
Thank You For Your Support!

The Trachtenberg School expresses its deep gratitude to the following individuals and organizations for their generous contributions (July 1, 2011 through February 29, 2012). The support of alumni and friends of the Trachtenberg School is essential to achieve excellence in education and programming.

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Mr. Robert Reeg, MPA ’98, & Mr. Jeff Dalley
Mr. Thomas Ryan, MPA ’82, & Mrs. Maria Ryan
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