



**STUDENT NEWSLETTER SPRING 2004**

**WELCOME INCOMING SPRING 2004 STUDENTS**

The faculty and staff of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs welcome members of the Spring 2004 class!

You are joining an innovative graduate program designed to prepare leaders to meet the challenges of administrative reform and Euro-Atlantic integration in Macedonia and the Western Balkans.

We look forward to working with you during your studies at the Graduate Center for Public Policy and Management (GCPPM).



*From left to right: Veli Kreci, GCPPM Program Coordinator; Martina Miseska; Pande Lazarevski, GCPPM Training and Research Coordinator; Danica Stanojevic; Petar Teov (front); William N. Dunn, Director of GCPPM and Professor; Sasko Anastasov; Nadica Dzekovska; Aleksandra N. Ruzin (front); Makedonka Andonova; Aferdita Imeri; Marjiana Opasinova (front); Lenka Steriova; Neda Kostovska Milevska; Lidija Karakameva (front); Greta Gorgevic; Marija Stefanova (front); Vlado Andonovski; Trajce Andreevski, Vasko Sutarov (front); Suzana Pecakovska; Snezana Kostovska (front)*

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**GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

**USAID TO SUPPORT UP TO SEVEN SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH JUNE 2005**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will support up to seven scholarships as part of its emerging leader program. A memorandum of understanding between USAID Macedonia and the GCPPM was signed on March 11, 2004 by USAID Director Goldman and GCPPM Director Dunn. More details available in the next newsletter.

**PIVARA-SKOPJE PROVIDES SUPPORT TO GCPPM STUDENTS**

The interest of the business community in GCPPM is growing. The Skopje Brewery provided two full scholarships for the Spring Semester 2004. A successful company recognizes the value of forward-looking managers and leaders with progressive skills gained through GCPPM programs.

**GCPPM WELCOMES NEW STAFF**



Dr. William N. Dunn, Director of GCPPM, announced the appointment of Ms. Sonja Andonova to the professional staff of GCPPM. Ms. Andonova will serve as Coordinator of the new Office of Professional Communication, which is responsible for developing the writing and public speaking skills of GCPPM students. Andonova holds an M.A. degree in International Relations from the Patterson School of Diplomacy at the University of Kentucky and graduate certificates in Public Administration from Georgetown University and in Multilateral Diplomacy from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. She has worked as interpreter and advisor in the Executive Office of in the President of Macedonia, as section head in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and as Counselor in the Macedonian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

**GCPPM CO-HOSTS CURRICULAR WORKSHOP THIS APRIL**

Veli Kreci, GCPPM Coordinator and Academic Coordinator of the Civic Education Project-Local Faculty Fellows Program in Macedonia, announces a Public Administration Curricular Materials Development Workshop that will meet for the first time on April 12-15, 2004.

Hosted by GCPPM and the CEP-Soros Program in Budapest, the workshop will focus on the development of course syllabi in the areas of public policy, public

administration, and management.

The major goals of the workshop, which follows the Bologna Declaration and European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), are the construction of courses and course modules designed according to specific learning outcomes and based on case materials that reflect problems and opportunities of public administration reform in the region.

Other invited workshop participants

include faculty from the Master of Public Policy Program at Comenius University in Bratislava and from the Center for Public Policy at Central European University in Budapest.

The first workshop will be held at the GCPPM facilities in Skopje. Subsequent workshops will be held at Southeast European University in Tetovo and Kliment Ohrid University in Bitola.

# INCOMING STUDENTS SPRING 2004



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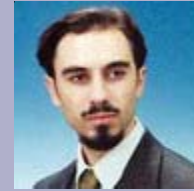
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**Petar Teov**  
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## MY INTERNSHIP AT THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### WHAT I EXPECTED AND WHAT I HAVE GAINED

*By Tatiana Andreevska, CPPM Fall 2003 Student*

I applied for the internship at the American Chamber of Commerce out of curiosity. I had heard about this organization before, but I did not know much about its activities and goals, prior to doing a case study and policy issue paper for my studies at the Graduate Center for Public Policy and Management.

I arrived at the internship without any expectations. Frankly, I did not expect that I would have any special gain, since I already have professional experience. Nevertheless, being between two jobs, I decided to take this internship opportunity and to see what would happen.

Since being at the American Chamber of Commerce, I have had opportunity to learn more about the business sector in Macedonia. The most successful companies in Macedonia are members of the American Chamber of Commerce. I have seen membership grow since I have been at American Chamber of Commerce. I also feel that I know more about companies' successes, as well as the problems they are facing in their everyday operations. My participation in the regular leadership lunches has helped me develop a deeper understanding of the business sector, the economic reality, and the policy climate in Macedonia. In spite of starting the internship without any expectations, I have definitely experienced gain. The internship has also added value to my professional experience as I was previously predominantly involved in the non-government sector.

I am especially proud that many companies here in Macedonia work very hard to reach excellence in their field of business.

Moreover, a large number of them are recipients of international awards for quality. I know about the companies' achievements because I was appointed to work on the American Chamber of Commerce newsletter. I am very fond of writing, and I was a journalist for a short time after my graduation. Hence I have the opportunity to enjoy writing after many years. Working on the newsletter reminded me how difficult it can be to collect all materials in a timely manner. I do believe that you, when putting together the GCPPM Student Newsletter, must face the same problems. Information is going out of date very easily and members do not always have time to write.

In the end, I send my regards to all Pittsburgh interns from Macedonia, the heart of Southeastern Europe. If I have to share how I feel after two months internship, my message would be that I have learned a lot. The experience that I did not consider to be very important for my future has turned out to be very precious. It deepened my way of thinking about many issues. It has been a very pleasant experience to be a team member of an organization with an excellent reputation and in an accelerated growth process.

So, my message would be not to make opinions in advance, enjoy your internships and grasp as much different kinds of knowledge as you can.

*Tatiana Andreevska is one of the students that were selected for the internship at the American Chamber of Commerce in Macedonia.*

## END OF SEMESTER DINNER

In December 2003, the students celebrated the end of their first semester with their professors and with GCPPM staff.



*From left to right. Back row: Tatiana Andreevska, Elena Pehevska, Marijana Loncar-Velkova, Meri Kostovska, Sonja Nikolovska, Magdalena Saldeva, Vesna Atanasova, Bekim Imeri, Margareta Nikolovska, Professor William N. Dunn, GCPPM Office Manager Shqipe Tahiri. Front Row: Ana Zabevska, Ivana Gribovski, Kelmend Zajazi, GCPPM Training and Research Coordinator Pande Lazarevski, Rexhep Prekopuca, Professor David Y. Miller, Mihaela Stojkoska, Andrija Aleksoski, and GCPPM Program Coordinator Veli Kreci.*

## MY FIRST SEMESTER AT THE GCPPM

*By Marijana Loncar Velkova, MPPM Fall 2003 Student*

When I became a student at the University of Pittsburgh I felt honored. At the same time, I was afraid that I would not respond well to the challenges of the new way of studying. It took me a lot of work and determination to meet the expectations and to justify the trust that the University has issued to me.

The classes at the GCPPM have expanded my horizon and opened new possibilities. I learned how to accept and estimate things in a different way, and gained new skills that I am sure to find very useful in the near future.

The professors have a great way of lecturing and with their skills and experience they know how to increase the students' interest. There was no difference at all whether it was face to face classes lecturing, or distance learning. The staff members at the GCPPM have a great understanding of our needs and are always ready to help us with all our requests.

Thank you, University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, and GCPPM in Macedonia, for helping me to open new doors and explore new possibilities. Overall, the first semester has been a very pleasant experience for me.

## REFLECTIONS ON MY FIRST SEMESTER

By Rexhep Prekopuca, MPPM Fall 2003  
Student

I am glad that I have the opportunity to be part of the first generation of MPPM students in Macedonia. I was looking for a quality education from a top US university and a program that makes me "think out of the box." This program offers a new aspect in education and skill development. It has equipped me with the ability to think more analytically and to explore different approaches toward various issues.

The program has changed my general view. I am now more practical in my every day work and I try to implement the things I have learned at the GCPPM. Recently, I have been given the responsibility to develop and publish an official Parliamentary newsletter. In this project, I am using the knowledge that I have acquired during the first semester.

I think that this program will help in developing a new type of manager of public institutions with the ability to conduct public policy research. For our country, this is very useful, as we are in the transformation process of our society and standing before the challenge of membership in the European Union and NATO.

Therefore, I frequently promote the program to my friends and family. I am trying to explain to my friends and people I know the possibility that the program offers. I encourage them to apply for the MPPM or CPPM programs.

### DISTANCE EDUCATION AND COURSE SUPPORT WARE

This is the first time that I have had the opportunity to take distance learning classes. Until now, it has been working well. We can follow the lessons excellently. It feels as if the lecturer is in class, standing in front of us. I also find CourseWeb very useful. We can obtain all the information, materials and handouts for the lessons from there.

I would like to mention that the professors from the University of Pittsburgh that are lecturing us are very good in their job. Their lectures are very clear and understandable. They are doing everything to help us in getting MPPM or CPPM.

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

During October last year, I was on a four day study tour in the Hungarian Parliament. After finishing my second semester in April, I am expecting to attend a one month training program in the Senate of France, related to the European Union Institutions. After that, in November 2004 I will go to Paris to spend one month at the École Nationale D'Administration (ENA). This is part of High Administration training.

*Rexhep Prekopuca is the Head of the Public Relations Department of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.*

## OF NOTE

### GCPPM IN NISPACEE NEWSLETTER

The Graduate Center for Public Policy and Management was featured in the Winter 2004 Newsletter of NISPACEe, The Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe.

Please visit <http://www.nispa.sk> for a copy of the complete newsletter.

### GCPPM AND GSPIA TO PRESENT AT ANNUAL NISPACEE CONFERENCE

Look for GCPPM at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual NISPACEe conference, when GSPIA Master's student Ivica Bocevski,

GCPPM Adjunct Faculty Instructor Veli Kreci, GSPIA PhD. student and GCPPM Teaching Assistant Philip Murphy, and GSPIA Macedonia Program Coordinator Jacqueline Saslawski will present two papers, "Public Administration Education in Southeastern Europe: Accelerating the Process," and "Macedonian Local Governance: Needs, Desires, Realities." GSPIA Associate Dean David Miller and GCPPM Director William Dunn will be hosting an open house for friends, students, and supporters of GCPPM in Vilnius.

For an abstract of the papers and details about the conference, please visit <http://www.nispa.sk>.

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