

## NEW Leadership™ Students Explore Politics, Test Advocacy Skills on Global Warming Issue



CAWP director Debbie Walsh welcomes students to NEW Leadership™ New Jersey 2007.

Thirty women from nineteen schools across the state attended the five-day **NEW Leadership™ New Jersey** summer institute at CAWP, learning about leadership, politics and public policy from experienced women leaders. Students learned political skills – networking, public speaking, projecting a positive image and developing a message – and then applied them during an action project on global warming. Student teams studied the global environmental crisis, researched legislative, grass roots and local initiatives to address the problem of climate change, and then made presentations advocating their positions.

Participants represented a wide range of socioeconomic, ethnic, racial, political and educational backgrounds. Three outstanding political women were on hand as Faculty in Residence, acting as mentors and advisors throughout the program: Marilyn Carpinteyro, New Jersey Citizen Action organizer; Robin Kelly, former Illinois state legislator and current chief of staff to the Illinois State Treasurer; and former New

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### Ifill Visit Rescheduled for September 20

September 20, 2007 is the new date for Gwen Ifill's visit to Rutgers as the Senator Wynona Lipman Chair in Women's Political Leadership. Ifill was literally unable to speak as originally scheduled in March – thanks to a bout with laryngitis – but her talk on "Politics, Policy and Reality: What's Really Going On in Washington" will be just as timely in September, with Congress and the President facing off on issues and the 2008 elections fast approaching. The 7:00 pm lecture will take place at the Busch Campus Center on that Thursday; details, including directions and Ifill's New York Times op-ed on the Rutgers women's basketball team, [are posted here](#).

## NEW Leadership™ (continued)

Jersey legislator and Bergen County freeholder Elizabeth “Lisa” Randall.

Keynoting the program was Peggy Shepard, executive director and co-founder of WE ACT (West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc), a non-profit organization working to improve environmental policy, public health, and quality of life in communities of color. A long-time proponent of environmental and social justice issues, Shepard spoke to the students about her experience advocating for environmental justice and the importance of working with residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods to address issues of pollution, quality of life and sustainable growth.

A panel of policy experts provided valuable information about local and statewide initiatives to address climate change, helping students to focus their thinking in preparation for the action project. The panel included: Jeanne Fox, president of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities; Sara Bluhm, assistant vice president of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association; Sharon Krengle,

Highland Park school board president; and Dr. Kevin Lyons, director of Rutgers purchasing and green purchasing initiatives.

On their visit to the State House in Trenton, participants heard from the co-sponsors of the “Global Warming Response Act,” Senator Barbara Buono and Assemblywoman Linda Stender, about the status of their bill. Other highlights included: a talk by Jennifer Velez, Commissioner of Human Services; an exercise on lobbying the legislature led by Nancy H. Becker, the first woman to own her own Trenton lobbying firm; and a tour of the state house with commentary by Andrea Orbe-Martinez, acting director of appointments.

CAWP was delighted to award scholarships to five fortunate students through the Senator Wynona Lipman Chair in Women’s Political Leadership, funded by the New Jersey Legislature to honor the first African American woman in the New Jersey Senate. The scholarships support future leaders who will continue Senator Lipman’s legacy of advancing women’s leadership in New Jersey.



NEW Leadership Faculty in Residence Marilyn Carpinteyro, Lisa Randall, and Robin Kelly.



NEW Leadership™ Development Network partners from the University of Iowa, St. Anselm College, and Auburn University join CAWP staff at NEW Leadership New Jersey.

# CAWP

## *Election Watch*

2007 may be an “off year” in most states, but in New Jersey and four other states, important elections are taking place. Visit CAWP’s website for candidate lists and election results!

Visit [CAWP’s Election Watch page](#) to find out more about what is happening this election year.

## NEW Leadership™ New Jersey: A Participant's Perspective

*(Editor's note: Viviana Bernal, a student at Montclair State University, participated in NEW Leadership™ New Jersey in 2006. While her account covers the 2006 program, much of what she describes recurs every year. We were honored by her comments and are pleased to reprint them with her permission.)*

This summer I was fortunate enough to attend a program called NEW Leadership™ New Jersey, which combined Women's Studies and Politics, at Rutgers University. My experience there was incredibly enriching, life-altering, and eye-opening. I felt that I learned a great deal there and have gained skills and friends that I will never forget.

NEW Leadership™ New Jersey was developed by the Center for American Women and Politics to cultivate a new generation of female leaders who will bring women's voices to the forefront of politics, an area where women have been grossly underrepresented and unheard. In order to accomplish this worthy goal, the organizers of the program decided to bring the current generation of female leaders together with those who had the potential to be part of the next generation. There were lectures, panel discussions, and workshops led by successful women in different areas of the political world. There were women who held public office; women who worked in the governor's office; women who were part of national organizations working towards helping exploited women, men, and children; lobbyists; and many others.

I have to say that it was incredibly inspiring to hear such strong, powerful, and successful women speak about their experiences in politics. Images of such women have been so rarely presented in our society and seeing them firsthand helped all the participants to envision themselves in these powerful women's shoes. "If they can do it, we can do it" was the



NEW Leadership alumnae enjoy the chance to get together. At right is Viviana Bernal.

general feeling. I was also somewhat surprised at how down-to-earth and warm these incredible women were. This made the experience that much greater because it put me, and the other young women, at ease and made us feel comfortable enough to speak to them personally.

I also felt that the organizers of the program were conscientious about who they chose to participate in the program and I, personally, felt that they chose the participants in a way so that we might learn from each other, which

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### NEW Leadership™ Alumnae Buck Trend, Get Involved in Politics

Studies have shown that young women rarely consider a future that includes political involvement, and college women are less likely than college men to be interested in politics or view political involvement as a priority.

CAWP's NEW Leadership™ program has worked since 1991 to reverse that trend – and we are succeeding. Upon completion of the program, graduates of NEW Leadership™ report an increased understanding of and interest in politics and greater confidence in their ability to interact with political officials. In a recent survey of past participants, over 90% said that NEW Leadership™ increased their understanding of politics, their ability to participate in the political process, and their leadership capabilities.

As a way to showcase the impact of the program, CAWP convened a NEW Leadership™ alumnae day at the Eagleton Institute on Sunday June 10. The program showcased three of our successful graduates:

Shirley Genty, a graduate of Douglass College, credits her experience in NEW Leadership™ 2001 with inspiring her to found "Sisters of Promise", a non profit organization dedicated to promoting education, community involvement and self confidence in young women ages 11-18. Recently Shirley was appointed coordinator of the Woodbridge Township Municipal Drug Alliance Program.

Jennifer Taylor, who attended NEW Leadership™ in 2003, completed her MA at Rutgers Camden and is currently employed as a policy analyst at the Assembly Majority Office in Trenton.

Stephanie Gidigbi, a 2004 graduate of Kean University and NEW Leadership™ New Jersey, works on constituent services in Congressman Donald Payne's Washington DC office.

## Participant's Perspective (continued)

was most definitely the case. For me, it was an incredible experience to be able to spend six days with so many intelligent, passionate, outgoing, and strong young women. I was ecstatic at the fact that I was able to have so many passionate conversations about issues that I cared about. I have felt that I could not really bring up such important issues in casual conversations that I have had with my peers at home so to have these issues come up in casual, social conversations often at a meal or even at night in the dorms was a real treat. Because of this, I was somewhat reluctant to leave Rutgers and give up that daily dose of intelligent conversation.

Also, my peers were extraordinarily inspiring because of the incredible things they had been doing in their own communities and colleges. Many of them ran programs to bring about important changes in their communities and some were part of national and even global organizations to bring about international social change. Many of their life stories included great hardship and turmoil which, through incredible strength and courage, they were able overcome. Listening to their stories inspired me to strive to be as strong and courageous in my own life. I enjoyed very much speaking to all of them and learning about their incredible lives.

All aspects of the program, including workshops, panel discussions, lectures, and our final political action project, were designed to teach the participants important skills necessary to be successful and productive in the political world. An example of this was a workshop on networking; we were taught about the importance of networking and were taught how to sharpen our networking skills. Later that day, a reception was held where NEW Leadership™ alum and other friends of the Eagleton Institute were invited. This was our chance to put our new networking skills to the test. All the workshops and lectures worked in this way, where we were taught a skill and then given the opportunity to put it to the test.

I felt that the organizers did a wonderful job in imparting so much knowledge and cultivating so many useful skills in the participants. I myself felt that I gained many skills in the process of this program that will be useful to me no matter what field I decide to enter. I also gained a lot of confidence from this experience, as I am sure did many of my peers, and I came to believe that I could, one day, sit on a panel of other distinguished women, imparting my knowledge to a new generation of female leaders. I felt that through this program I was able to expand my own vision for myself in the future. I am truly grateful for this experience and I intend to keep in touch with my fellow participants, and I know that together we can change the world for the better.

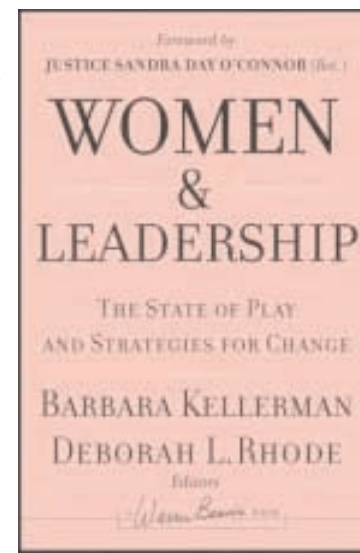


Students acting as a legislative committee for the NEW Leadership action project examined an exhibit submitted by students testifying about school bus emissions.

## New Book on Women and Leadership Features Chapter by CAWP Senior Scholar Ruth B. Mandel

*Women and Leadership* brings together in one comprehensive volume preeminent scholars from a range of disciplines to explore when and how women exercise power and what stands in their way. The book offers readers an informed analysis of the state of women and leadership and presents current thinking about the perils of stereotypes, the importance of leadership style, gender differences in the decision to seek leadership roles, lessons from women leaders, “opt out” patterns and the need for flexible career paths, global inequalities and initiatives, and strategies that get women to the top.

Published by Jossey-Bass as part of the J-B Warren Bennis Series (August 2007) and edited by Barbara Kellerman and Deborah L. Rhode, it includes a chapter (“She’s the Candidate: A Woman for President”) by CAWP senior scholar and Eagleton Institute of Politics director Ruth B. Mandel. [Order the book from Amazon here](#) and CAWP receives a small donation from your purchase.



## NEW Leadership™ Interns: The Fab Four

*Editor's note: In its newsletters, CAWP highlights the talented and energetic young women whose hard work is essential to our programs. This month, we profile four interns who helped with NEW Leadership™ New Jersey in 2007.*

The life of NEW Leadership™ interns is never dull – whether before or during the program. In advance, they might conduct research about public policies and legislation for the action project, organize and produce the program notebook, plan snacks for 40 people, or communicate with eager participants who need to know program details. During the summer institute, interns can be found greeting speakers, staffing the scavenger hunt, sorting business cards and arranging prizes for the networking competition, or schlepping yogurt for those snacks. All this and much more goes into an intern's day; with only one CAWP staff member dedicated full-time to the program, the interns are the glue that holds it together.

**Fabiola Tony**, now a junior, arrived at CAWP as an extern, assigned by the Douglass College



Fabiola Tony and CAWP director Debbie Walsh check out posters designed by NEW Leadership students to show what they learned during their scavenger hunt.

alumnae to assist for a week with our *Ready to Run™* campaign training. (That week stretched into much more, including long hours before and during the *Ready to Run™* program.) NEW Leadership™ program coordinator Sasha Patterson quickly identified Fabiola, a resident of Iselin, as a valuable asset and convinced her to sign on as a Fishelson intern for the summer institute. There, she says, she discovered something new every day, whether about students from all over New Jersey or about the details of global warming, this year's policy focus. For her, the highlight was meeting and learning from so many very different political women.

A political science major with minors in women's and gender studies and Africana studies, Fabiola has her sights on law school, anticipating a career as a political organizer, lobbyist or campaign manager. For now, she's a Leadership Scholar at Rutgers' Institute for Women's Leadership and will be undertaking a social action project this fall. Luckily, she's well equipped to handle every challenge – an oasis of calm in the midst of chaos, offering common sense, a ready hand and a bright smile at just the right moment.

**Emily Clinch** was mystified when two women approached her as she was leaving a Rutgers program on global climate change. CAWP's Sasha Patterson and development director Sue Nemeth had no idea who she was, but guessed that one of the very few women attending the program might be interested in the 2007 NEW Leadership™ action project, which would focus on that very subject. Once they explained the program to Emily, who turned out to be an M.S. student in biogeochemistry and paleoclimate at Rutgers' Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, she was hooked. Before long, she was on duty as the



NEW Leadership intern Emily Clinch reviews materials with program coordinator Sasha Patterson.

science expert researching and planning the action project, in which NEW Leadership™ students had to study the issue and then play a role in either a legislative hearing or a school board meeting where policy was being debated.

Emily earned her B.A. in English and geology from Williams College in 2004, where her honors thesis focused on coral reef growth and development. She also studied nutrient uptake in algae at Princeton University before coming to Rutgers, where she worked on Indonesian climate and El Niño cycling. Her hobbies include knitting and running. She has now assumed a new role as a sixth grade science teacher in Metuchen. When her students encounter her energy, creativity and warmth, they are destined to discover that they share her passion for science and nature.

**Cindy Serrato** knew all about NEW Leadership™ before she arrived at Rutgers as a graduate student in the women's and gender studies master's program. As a student at the

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## NEW Leadership™ Interns (continued)

University of Nevada at Las Vegas, where she earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology, she had participated in NEW Leadership™ Nevada, one of the partner programs in CAWP's NEW Leadership™ Development Network. There she was inspired to further her feminist involvement on campus and in the community. So Cindy, born in Mexico and raised in the United States Southwest, came looking for the program when she decided that she wanted to focus her graduate studies on women's leadership and political involvement. CAWP was more than happy to engage her as program assistant, since she brought a wealth of relevant experience, having been a resident assistant and multicultural assistant as an undergraduate at UNLV and a two-term AmeriCorps member in Washington DC.

Cindy worked with Emily Clinch, researching global climate change. In addition, Cindy worked on the first-ever NEW Leadership™ New Jersey alumnae event. Many alumnae commented that it was great to have such a re-energizing event, and Cindy felt the same. The NEW Leadership™ work days were long, but she enjoyed every minute of it and was able to learn a great deal from everyone involved.

She is now a graduate research assistant at CAWP, helping Gilda Morales on a new collaborative research effort with the United Jewish Communities of MetroWest NJ. This year, Cindy is the graduate assistant for the university's student involvement department where she works with the campus council, multicultural affairs, in addition to advising student organizations and the commuter program. After graduation, she hopes to continue her professional development in student affairs or in a program that fosters women's leadership.

**Sara Angevine** first worked with CAWP on *Ready to Run™* in 2006, making an instant impression with her energy, her optimism and her high-fives. All of these traits made her a logical choice for the NEW Leadership™ staff, living in the dorms and helping out with a variety of tasks.

Sara is a graduate student in political science, focusing on women and politics, American politics, and comparative politics. She is interested in the role of identity politics within structures of government, particularly in terms of American foreign policy. She received her B.A. from Hamline University with majors in political science, communication, and women's studies. Having interned in the Minnesota State Senate, she enjoys comparing Minnesota and New Jersey politics. She also loves the campaign side of politics and has worked as a volunteer coordinator on several US House races in Indiana, Ohio, and Oregon in 2002 and 2004. She received her master's degree in women and gender studies at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa and an International Gender Studies Certificate from Utrecht



Cindy Serrato and Faculty in Residence Marilyn Carpintero enjoy the closing session of NEW Leadership.

University in the Netherlands. Sarah also spent a year in Ljubljana, Slovenia teaching English.

This year, Sara holds a fellowship at the Eagleton Institute of Politics. She is happy to be back stateside and to work on local politics again. In her spare time, she loves to travel, dance, and take spontaneous swims in the Atlantic Ocean.



Sara Angevine (right) celebrates NEW Leadership "graduation" with program coordinator Sasha Patterson, CAWP director Debbie Walsh and Marie Quinones from Drew University.

# CAWP

## Presidential Watch

Will 2008 be the year a woman gets a major-party presidential nomination?

Stay informed – visit [CAWP's website](#) for polls, news clips, historical information and more.

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## NEW Leadership™ Development Network: Partners Around the Country Promote Women's Leadership

The NEW Leadership™ Development Network now includes sixteen programs around the country modeled on NEW Leadership New Jersey. The newest additions are in two states highly visible in the presidential nomination process – Iowa and New Hampshire. Both the University of Iowa and St. Anselm College will host their first programs in 2008. On this page are photos from some partner institutions with established programs for college students based on the CAWP model.



Mount Mary College 2007 NEW Leadership Wisconsin Class.



21st Century Academy Shear Fellow Taylor Hahn addresses her colleagues on the floor during the mock debate in the Missouri House chamber.



NEW Leadership Pennsylvania students at the 2007 keynote dinner



Former Governor Barbara Roberts stops by her portrait during the NEW Leadership Oregon tour of the Capitol.



Dana Murphy, Former Vice-Chair of the Oklahoma Republican Party, talks with 2007 Oklahoma NEW Leadership participants Priya Desai, Lucy Kamau, and Houda Elyazgi.



Participants in Auburn's 2006 Women's Leadership Institute listen to speakers after receiving their program notebooks on the first day.

## Fall Must-Haves:

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- ✓ Argyle sweater
- ✓ Warm boots
- ✓ Power suit
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## Patron Profile: Julia Fishelson

CAWP depends on interns for many of our programs, but we're well aware that even the most dedicated students have bills to pay and can't afford to donate their services. Fortunately, one of the Center's longtime friends also understood the need to compensate talented interns for their work. That's why she established the Julia Fishelson Internship Fund at CAWP in 1995 through a generous endowment gift.

Fishelson is a resident of Wooster, Ohio. A graduate of Vassar College, she is a civic activist and volunteer whose work emphasizes women's issues, politics, community development and the arts. She is a trustee of the College of Wooster, the Massachusetts School of Law and the Ohio Citizen's Committee for the Arts, and serves on numerous boards in Ohio and nationally. She donated two houses for Every Women's House, a refuge for abused women and children, and she is a founder of the Wooster League of Women Voters and the Wayne Center for the Arts. She is on the

regional board of the Anti-Defamation League and is active in support of Israel. Her community service has earned her numerous awards and recognition.



Julia Fishelson, a loyal friend of CAWP for many years, chats with former Congresswoman and vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro at the NEW Leadership keynote address in 1994.

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### CENTER FOR AMERICAN WOMEN AND POLITICS

The Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) is a university-based research, education and public service center. Its mission is to promote greater understanding and knowledge about women's changing relationship to politics and government and to enhance women's influence and leadership in public life. A unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, CAWP is a leading authority in its field and a respected bridge between the academic and political worlds. Visit our web sites: [www.cawp.rutgers.edu](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu) and [www.newleadership.rutgers.edu](http://www.newleadership.rutgers.edu)

### EAGLETON INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

The Eagleton Institute of Politics explores state and national politics through research, education, and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice. The Institute focuses attention on how contemporary political systems work, how they change, and how they might work better. Visit the Eagleton web site: [www.eagleton.rutgers.edu](http://www.eagleton.rutgers.edu)

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