

Lyric Clark Master of Public and International Affairs, 2001

"GAO's Youth Movement"



In Washington, D.C., youth rules. Presidential hopeful Barack Obama grabs media buzz, newly graduated interns jockey for positions on Capitol Hill, and the Government Accountability Office's staff is a young bunch, as well: Over 60 percent of the workers have been on staff five years or less.

Lyric Clark, a Senior Foreign Affairs Analyst, has worked at GAO since graduating from GSPiA's International Affairs program in 2001, and she's in good company-the agency likes to hire GSPiA grads, too.

Latin American nations are Clark's area of special interest. She has a certificate in Latin American Studies, and, early in her GAO career, worked on the disaster recovery programs administered to Honduras and Nicaragua in the wake of Hurricane Mitch in 1998.

Through her Bosch Fellowship, from June 2004 to June 2005, she was able to study U.S.-Latin American relations

for three months at the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Bonn, Germany.

An unforgettable learning experience, the Bosch Fellowship also afforded Clark the opportunity to attend a World Trade Organization conference in Geneva alongside English-speaking journalists from developing countries like Nigeria and the Philippines. She participated in discussions on urgent global topics such as intellectual property rights and WTO activities.

GAO was an attractive choice to Clark, as the agency is flexible with its employees, encouraging sabbaticals for learning enrichment. "When I left GSPiA, I definitely wanted a career that would allow me to travel around the world," said Clark, referring both to her fellowship and to her recent journey to Burma, at the request of the House International Relations Committee, to study UN activities and humanitarian issues there.

The environment at GAO, similar to the amalgamation of talents in a graduate program, is an especially enticing aspect of Clark's job. "David Walker [the U.S. Comptroller General] has done a lot to bring young minds to the agency," she said, praising her co-workers. "They have new, fresh ideas to add to the government."

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