

The Gender Agenda

The gender agenda blog from PwC aims to discuss and debate the issues faced by women in the workplace and examines what we can do to address this crucial talent management issue.

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14 December 2007

Ulysses – a powerful and defining experience

As referenced earlier this week, here's a blog contribution from US Partner Jill Hemphill, who participated in our leadership development programme [Ulysses](#) last year.

I had the pleasure of meeting Jill at the 2007 [Catalyst Awards Dinner](#) at which PwC US's gender retention initiatives were honoured, and she was so passionate about her Ulysses experience and what it had meant to her that she was at the top of my list when it came to asking for blog contributions.



Jill joined PwC in 1994 and became a Partner in Tax in 2002. Based out of PwC's New York office, she participated in the PwC Ulysses program in 2006.

“During the summer of 2006, I had the opportunity to participate in PwC's Ulysses Program. My Ulysses experience took me to South Africa to work with an organization that provides HIV/AIDs treatment to some of the nation's poorest citizens. The experience offered me the opportunity to step back from my day-to-day professional life, immerse myself in a very difficult culture and challenge myself to think differently about the role businesses play in civil society. I returned from the experience a better listener and with a deeper understanding of what it means to work effectively on a diverse team. I'm also more inclined to take risks now than before Ulysses - the experience instills a confidence to try new things, always working towards your own goals of what it means to be an effective leader.

It is challenging to sort out all of my learnings from an experience like this - I think I'll continue to discover all that Ulysses truly meant for many years to come. Ulysses was easily the most the powerful, defining professional experience of my career. I hope that someday all PwC'ers around the world will have the chance to participate in this program.”

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Posted by PwC at 4:34 PM in [Guest contributors](#)

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