Greetings!
The lazy days of summer are over and the University is full of students and energy once again – fall is officially here. I hope you all had a good summer.
Key had a busy summer with three Key MPA cohorts and three USDA Key Certificate cohorts continuing their classes. Over the summer we also successfully recruited 18 new students for Key cohort 37. Thanks to all of our alumni who recommended many of these new students to the program.

We had a number of graduations this spring, summer, and fall: Key 33 of the Key Executive MPA Program, Cohorts 5, 6, and 7 of the United States Department of Agriculture Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program (USDA SES CDP) and Cohort 8 (Open Enrollment) of the Key Executive Certificate Program. We miss them already, but each of our graduates revealed growth, change, and promise as they continue on the path of becoming extraordinary leaders. We wish them well and look forward to sharing their successes.

We welcomed Key 37 into the MPA program and Cohort 9 into the Certificate program as part of the Key family. Due to the high demand for this cohort, we are recruiting another cohort (10) to begin in spring 2009. Applications are due by December 15.

And as always, we are recruiting yet again for the Key MPA program. We are now accepting applications for our spring 2009 cohort, Key 38. Applications are due by December 1. We need your support! If you have a colleague or friend that might be right for Key; I encourage you to please recommend they apply to the Program. Your continued support of the Key Programs is what has made Key so successful! For more information or to apply, go to spa.american.edu/key or contact Corrine Thompson at (202) 885-3217 or corrinet@american.edu.

The summer was also a very busy time for the University. After months of planning and meetings, the Strategic Plan Steering Committee unveiled the final draft of AU’s new Strategic Plan. The University also welcomed a new Provost, Scott Bass, in July.

Bob Tobias, Director
Key Executive Leadership Programs
2008 Recipient of Zauderer Scholarship Honored at Alumni Reception

The 2008 recipient of the Donald G. Zauderer Scholarship, Marc Santora, was honored at the alumni reception on October 15. Marc Santora, a member of Key cohort 34, is an Environmental Protection Specialist with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, working in the Office of Water. He joined the EPA as a Presidential Management Fellow in 2003.

According to his supervisor, Debbie Newberry, “Marc is a model civil servant.” Marc has stated that he views his job as a means of facilitating proactive change in government. He is driven foremost by his aspirations to serve the public good, firmly believing that government is a catalyst for change. As his team leader, Laura Flynn, has stated, “Marc is not only a strong leader; but is also an ethical, compassionate, and hardworking individual…and also happens to be a genuinely nice person.”

The Donald G. Zauderer scholarship was established through the generosity of Key alumni and friends in honor of Key cofounder and professor emeritus Dr. Donald G. Zauderer. This scholarship partially offsets the tuition of a Key student towards the completion of the Key Executive Leadership MPA Program receiving little or no funding from his or her agency, who has demonstrated scholarship, leadership and a dedication to public service.

Fall Alumni Reception Features Deputy Secretary of DHS

On October 15 the Key Executive Leadership MPA Program held an alumni reception on Transition Challenges in 2009, focusing on the upcoming Presidential transition facing many agencies. The event’s keynote speaker was Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Deputy Secretary Paul Schneider. Deputy Secretary Schneider spoke about preparing for the presidential transition process at DHS. Both Key alumni and current Key students attended the event.

Love of the Program Motivates Current Students to Recruit

Since the adoption of the OPM cohort into the Key Executive Leadership Program, it seems as though the recruitment effort never stops. This adoption of two cohorts every year with one cohort beginning their journey in the spring and a second cohort beginning their journey in the fall has helped the program grow by leaps and bounds. The recruitment earlier this year of Key 36 with 17 students and more recently of Key 37 with 18 students has kept Key staff extremely busy. We are very excited in this increase in enrollments, and even more excited at the enthusiasm for the program held by so many of these newer students. The members of Key 36 were a tremendous help in the recruitment of Key 37. They volunteered to speak at numerous information sessions throughout the spring and fall, and made dozens of phone calls and emails to prospective students. In addition, several members of Key 36 have spread the word about Key within their agencies, with one going as far as creating an inter-agency recruitment/selection plan for the Department of Education. Their excitement about the program helped to convert prospective students into Key 37 cohort members. The Key Program and School of Public Affairs Marketing and Admissions Office held a thank you luncheon in July for the members Key 36 during a weekend the cohort was in for class.
Two USPS Key Alumni Promoted

Postmaster General Jack Potter recently announced the appointments of Jim Cochrane as Vice President of Ground Shipping and Mitzi Betman as Vice President of Corporate Communications for the United States Postal Service. “Both have been acting in their respective positions for several months, and each has done an outstanding job during that time,” Potter said.

As Vice President of Ground Shipping, Cochrane is responsible for developing products and programs that will improve profitability and customer value while leveraging pricing freedoms made possible by the Postal Act of 2006. “Jim’s previous experience as Manager of Package Services, Product Development, and his Sales background uniquely position him to understand customers’ needs in this market. His extensive prior experience in operations including Manager of the Capital District will be beneficial in developing customer solutions that align with operational capabilities ensuring efficiency, world-class service and profits,” said Potter.

Cochrane earned his Master of Public Administration (MPA) from American University’s School of Public Affairs, Key Executive MPA Program, graduating with cohort 27 in 2003. Reflecting upon his time in the Key program, Cochrane remarked, “The Key Program was certainly instrumental in my personal development.”

Betman most recently served as Director, Operations Planning and Strategies, in the office of the Deputy PMG and Chief Operating Officer. There she performed the duties of chief of staff and principal executive for implementation and coordination of national postal operations plans and strategies. “Mitzi’s strong operational, field, and corporate experience, and connection with our customer base, lend themselves well to shaping our corporate messages internally and externally,” Potter said.

Betman holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from the University of Maryland, University College and a Master of Public Administration degree from American University’s School of Public Affairs, Key Executive MPA Program, graduating with cohort 29.

Betman reflected recently on the Key program stating, “The Key Program was, without question, an important part of making this opportunity a reality. …specifically, [the] leadership class helped me to not only learn about great leaders and leadership qualities, it helped me learn about [myself]! As I have moved through this leadership journey since graduation, I cannot tell you how many times I have looked back over my notes and journals from [the] class.”

The faculty and staff of the Key Executive Leadership Program are very proud of Jim and Mitzi and send their congratulations and best wishes to both.

Visit us at spa.american.edu/key
**Congratulations to USDA Certificate Graduates!**

The USDA SES CDP Key Certificate program was recently completed by all three cohorts. We celebrated their graduations in August (Cohort 5), September (Cohort 6) and October (Cohort 7). Key wishes them the best in all of their future endeavors. We are especially proud of and excited for several graduates who have recently been promoted into SES positions, including Paul Sebesta, Karlease Kelly, Christine Zakarka and Mary Wagner.

**Welcome Key 37!**

The Key Executive Leadership MPA Program would like to welcome the members of Key 37 to the Key family. Key 37 has 18 members from both the public and private sectors. They started their program in mid-August. A welcome reception was held in September and attended by current and former Key students. The event was well attended, with current students asked to speak on the topic “What do I know now, that I wish I had known when I started the program?” Students provided great insights and memories of their time in Key thus far.

**Thanks to our alumni board for all their great efforts!**

- Donald Bathurst – Department of Homeland Security
- Cecelia Davis – General Services Administration
- Karen Ellis – Department of Agriculture
- Phyllisa Goldenberg – Defense Logistics Agency
- Michael Hughes – Marshals Service
- Brad Huther – International Intellectual Property Institute
- Daphne Jefferson – Department of Labor
- James Kelly – Army
- Susan McKeen – Postal Service
- Gina Nightengale – Environmental Protection Agency
- Robert Schall – General Services Administration
- Lynn Simpson – Department of Defense
- Linda Stracke – Department of Education
- Gary Thuro – Postal Service
- Keith Washington – Department of Transportation
- Jennifer Wicks – Department of State

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