Greetings!
As always, the Key Executive Leadership program has had a busy time since I last wrote to you. Our programs continue to grow, in addition to the Key Executive MPA and Key Certificate programs, we have signed a memorandum of understanding with MCR to participate in the creation and delivery of a Senior Program Management course. We are expecting to have 440 students come through the doors of Watkins this academic year. I am also happy to announce that we will be joined by two new staff hires including Anna Meyers, who has rejoined us in the Key Certificate program and we will be hiring one more full time staff member in the near future.

I am also pleased to announce that we have several new faculty members joining our program including Katya Andresen, author of Robin Hood Marketing; Dr. Marilee Adams, author of Change Your Questions, Change Your Life; Matt Minahan; Dr. Diane Elmore; Joseph Kaplan and Denise Fantone. We are pleased to add so many talented, dedicated professors to our programs.

The Key Executive Leadership Programs is about challenging good managers to become extraordinary leaders, and at the Roger Jones Awards for Executive Leadership ceremony, we recognize two extraordinary leaders in the federal government. This award is what your work is all about; career executives who dedicate their lives to the goal of public service. You are, as President Woodrow Wilson stated, “[people who,] enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world.”

Another exciting event that we have coming up is the first Annual Key Executive Leadership Alumni Conference in May, where we will be celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the Key Program. This conference will be an opportunity for Key alumni to network and participate in breakout sessions led by a number of distinguished presenters, including Dr. Neil Kerwin, President of American University and former Key faculty member.

We have created a new recruitment DVD for Key that will soon be appearing on our new Key web site. I also believe it will be a valuable tool in helping us secure funds for scholarships for Key students. In the spirit of recruitment, we are now accepting applications for our spring 2010 MPA cohort Key 40 and Certificate Cohort 12. I ask you to send us those, like you, who have chosen the path of extraordinary leadership. It is your support that has made and will continue to make Key a success. For more information, or to apply, go to: www.american.edu/spa/key or contact Corrine Thompson at (202)885-3217 or corrinet@american.edu.

As always, I continue to meet with the Key faculty, alumni and students to ensure that we continue to create a learning environment where students make a choice to change. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Key event.

Bob Tobias, Director
Key Executive Leadership Programs
First Annual Alumni Conference

The graduates of the Key program come from all areas of both the public and private sector and bring with them individual experiences that enhance the learning experience for all of our students. In this spirit, the Key Executive Leadership Programs and the Key Alumni Conference Committee are excited to announce the first annual Key Executive Leadership Alumni Conference. The theme for the conference is “Extraordinary Leadership in Extraordinary Times.” On Thursday night, May 20, 2010, we will be celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Key Executive Leadership Programs. Robert M. Tobias, Director of the Key Executive Leadership Programs and Dr. Donald G. Zauderer, former Director of the Key Executive Program and Professor Emeritus will discuss the history of Key and how it has changed over the years. This talk will be followed by a reception, where attendees will be able to network and socialize with their fellow Key graduates. The evening will also include a silent auction benefiting the Donald G. Zauderer Scholarship. This event will be free to all those who wish to join us in this celebration.

Beginning at 8am on Friday May 21, 2010, a full day of conference activities are planned, hosted in the Mary Graydon Center on AU’s main campus. Key is excited to have Dr. Neil Kerwin, President of American University and former Key professor, as our keynote speaker on “Challenges and Opportunities Leaders Will Face in the Future”. The conference includes breakout session topics such as “Developing a Personal Leadership Philosophy,” “Coaching for Development,” and “Speaking as a Leader.” Each of these breakout sessions will be led by such notables as Dr. Michael Maccoby, President of The Maccoby Group, Dr. Ruth Zaplin, Assistant Director of the Key program and Dr. Marilee Adams founder and president of the Inquiry Institute and Key professor. The day will also showcase a panel discussion on “Ethical Dilemmas” and a facilitated discussion on “How Can Key Best Prepare Leaders for the Future?”

Don’t miss this exciting learning and networking event. Space is limited. We urge you to mark your calendars now, plan on registering early, and stay tuned for more details. The registration cost for the conference is $75.00 ($55 for early registration). We hope you are able to join us as American University celebrates 35 wonderful years of Key Executive Leadership Programs! For more information or to make a donation for the silent auction, contact Nina Allen at 202-885-3857 or nallen@american.edu.

Key Students Continue to Serve

We would like to recognize our students who are currently serving overseas:
Ken Rauch – Graduate of Key 30, serving in Afghanistan
Chris Merwin – Took a leave from Key 37 to serve in Iraq
Robert Sipe – Key 36, just returned from Afghanistan

If you or another Key student is serving overseas as either a civilian or member of the military, please let us know so we can recognize their service.

Mia Beers Awarded the 2009 Donald G. Zauderer Scholarship

Congratulations to Mia Beers, a member of Key cohort 37, and a Humanitarian Policy Advisor with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance. Mia is the recipient of the 2009 Donald G. Zauderer Scholarship. The Zauderer Scholarship is an award of $2000 to one unsponsored student each year. As you know, this amount is but a drop in the bucket, compared to the total cost of a Key Executive Masters of Public Administration degree. Our goal is to ensure that this scholarship continues to grow and eventually reach a point where we are able to provide a full scholarship for the recipients of the Zauderer Scholarship. We need your help to continue the growth of this scholarship, and if you give at the $100 level or above, you will receive a new Key Executive Leadership polo shirt with the Key logo.

To make donations write a check payable to: “American University”

And mail it to:
Nina M. Allen
American University/Key Executive Program
Watkins 115
4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20016-8128

Or you can go to the Alumni Office web page at:
https://www.american.edu/anewau/giving/
Select School of Public Affairs and then Donald G. Zauderer Scholarship

Visit us at our new website: www.american.edu/spa/key
Busy Spring Ahead for Key

Key will be bringing in over 400 new students between its new and continuing certificate and degree programs. Key will be welcoming 75 new students in three cohorts in the United States Department of Agriculture Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program (USDA SES CDP) contract with the Key Executive Leadership Certificate Program. This will be the second time that the USDA has partnered with AU to provide leadership training to the up-and-coming leaders in the agency. Students in this program will come for week-long classes every six weeks over the course of eight months.

The Department of Homeland Security will be starting two cohorts in a contract certificate program starting in early 2010. These cohorts will learn together over fifteen months, completing the program in the summer of 2011.

The Office of Inspector Generals (OIG) is set to roll out their new contract certificate program with Key this coming spring as well. The recently restructured program now offers two tracks, one for new leaders and another for experienced leaders. Key expects to see three cohorts in the experienced leader track and six cohorts in the new leaders track, for a total of 200 students. Unlike the other certificate programs, the new OIG certificate program will be held off-site from AU's campus.

The Social Security Administration is planning to launch a new leadership certificate program with Key in 2010. This program will follow a similar structure to the OIG program, having two tracks and meeting off-campus.

Key is currently recruiting for our regularly scheduled Open Enrollment Certificate Program (Cohort 12) and the Key MPA Program (Key 40).

Both cohorts will be capped at 20 students each. If you know someone in your agency that you think would be a good fit for either program please have them contact either Corrine Thompson (Key MPA) at 202-885-3217/corrinet@american.edu or Sophie Idilbi (Key Certificate) at 202-885-6256/si8400@american.edu.

Congrats Key Grads!

Key is proud to announce the graduations of Key MPA Cohorts 36 which will graduate in December and Key Certificate Cohort 10 which celebrated with a ceremony in October.

Welcome New Cohorts!

Please join Key in welcoming Key MPA Cohort Key 39 and Key Certificate Cohort 11 to the Key family. Both cohorts started their programs in early fall, with seventeen students enrolling in both cohorts, for a total of 34 new students.

Lonnie King to Serve as New Dean

Lonnie King, a national leader in veterinary medicine, has been named as the new dean of The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. King currently serves as a director of the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne and Enteric Diseases. He received his MPA from American University’s School of Public Affairs Key Executive Leadership MPA Program in 1991 as a member of Key Cohort 15. The author of more than 100 publications; King is a board-certified member of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, and has completed the Senior Executive Fellowship program at Harvard University. We at the Key Executive Leadership program would like to wish Dr. King the best of luck in his new position.

Key Launches New Website

This fall Key launched its new website www.american.edu/spa/key. Thanks to Corrine Thompson and John Klingler for all their hard work to get the new site up and running.

Key to Launch New Non-Credit Program

Partnering with MCR, a private organization providing integrated program management capabilities to government and commercial organizations, a new Key non-credit program—the American University/MCR Senior Federal Program Manager Program—will be launched in February, 2010. Following the traditional “cohort” approach, this six-course program was awarded accreditation by the Federal Acquisition Institute (FAI). Upon completion of the program, participants will have 192 hours in the classroom; exceeding FAI senior program manager certification requirements.

The new program is designed to 1) address all of the FAI’s senior program management federal acquisition and program manager competencies and aligned skills and 2) help participants to move from a project and functional staff position to a leadership position within the federal acquisition structure by increasing their substantive knowledge, confidence, and ability to lead.

For more information about the program, please contact Sophie Idilbi at 202-885-6256 or si8400@american.edu.
Recent Student and Alumni Accomplishments

Key - OIG Program
Congratulations to Tim Roach who was promoted to Lead Program Analyst in the Office of Program Evaluation. Tim is now responsible for managing teams of evaluators reviewing EPA’s enforcement activities.

Key 29
Congratulations to Alma Candelaria on her appointment as Director of the International Visitor Leadership Program Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the State Department.

Current Key Students Need Your Support!
Since 2004, the Donald G. Zauderer Scholarship Endowment has helped to support students in the Key Executive Leadership MPA Program. Each year this fund provides approximately $2,500 to partially support a student’s costs associated with earning a degree in the Key Executive Leadership MPA Program. To qualify for the Scholarship, applicants must be Key MPA students who are receiving limited or no financial support from their employer and who have completed one year in the program.

With agencies under great pressure tighten budgets, funding for education is being scaled back or cut out of many agency budgets, forcing many Key students to fund the program on their own. With your financial support, we can continue to ease the financial burdens of some Key students. For more information on how you can help, please contact the SPA Alumni Office at (202) 885-2661.

Thank You
We would like to thank Robert Phillips, one of our Federal Work Study students for his assistance in the production of articles for and formatting of this newsletter.