



December 2007

Message from the Director: Tim LaPira

I have had a great time working with you all and getting to know you this semester. A professor always feels privileged when he gets to work in a program with such talented students.

The freshmen and sophomores especially, show me this on a weekly basis. The freshmen went above and beyond anything I anticipated when presenting their service project proposals. I am looking forward to seeing their results unfold. The sophomores have equally stepped up to begin working on their grant making foundation.

I am also looking forward to their continued success next semester. Thank you all for making this year such a great experience for me. I am positive that I will continue to enjoy working with you all as well as getting to know the seniors next semester.

Good luck with finals and happy holidays!



Program Director Tim LaPira with Student Director Sara Wilson.

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Message from the Student Director: Sara Wilson

I would like to thank everyone for a fantastic first semester. It has been a great opportunity to work with Professor La Pira and the Steering Committee. You have all taught me so much about this program and what it means to be a leader.

I have also had a great

time welcoming and getting to know the freshmen; they are passionate and energetic and help continue to make this program a success.

The committee chairs have done a fantastic job with their events, receptions and committees. I would like to thank them all so

much for the hard work they have put into this program. It should be an interesting and exciting semester next year and I am looking forward to it and all that we can accomplish.

Good luck on finals and have a great winter break!

Welcome Back Social

By: Emily Nantt

This year, the SPA Leadership Program's Steering Committee helped the upperclassmen and incoming freshman class kick off the year with a Welcome Back Party in the McDowell Formal Lounge.

Participants gathered to snack and socialize before becoming formally introduced to committee members, TAs, and each other. This year, the TAs were introduced followed by individual introductions for each freshman.

All freshmen stood, introduced themselves and where they were from, and were asked such questions as "Who is your favorite leader?" and "If you could visit any historical character, who would it be?"

Students were grateful for the activity, as it was an effective icebreaker and allowed them to start learning names.

Nirvana Habash ('11) remarked that "The Welcome Back Party was amazing since it introduced me to at least 15 new people and made me feel

more comfortable around so many new faces."



Professor LaPira speaks at the event

Favorite Leader Poll:

- Mohandas Gandhi: 15
- Martin Luther King, Jr.: 23
- Abraham Lincoln: 14
- Sandra Day O'Conner: 2
- Eleanor Roosevelt: 10

**These five leaders were chosen by the Publications committee, and students from the Classes of '09, '10, and '11 participated in the survey.





Freshmen Retreat

By: Leah Pope

For three days and two nights over Labor Day Weekend, the freshman class retreated to Maryland for their first look at what it means to be in SPA Leadership.

The sophomore TAs, Jenna Sablan, Ehsan Ali, Georgette Spanjich, Alli Gold and Seth Cutter, organized the retreat, ensuring that food would be provided and that there would be plenty of good times for all. Director Tim La Pira also attended to welcome the freshman class to the program.

On Saturday, the group visited Antietam National Battlefield to

learn firsthand about the ways different leadership styles were juxtaposed in the Civil War.

Back at the campsite, the freshmen were entertained by s'mores, Four Square, La Pira's dog Jiggs and a plethora of other bonding activities.

The freshmen learned of their animal personality types, and were divided into their issue groups for the first time.

As she recalled the trip, Nirvana Habash said, "I feel like the experiences we shared during the retreat have really helped us to develop together as leaders this semester."

At the battlefield, listening to the tour guide



The Class of 2011



Urban Development

By: Nick Troiano

Tackling homelessness isn't easy, but that's not stopping this group. Their project is a campaign to raise the public consciousness about the homelessness and poverty problem plaguing the district.

The group's community-based organization, *A Wider Circle*, has briefed them on a process called gentrification, where low-income housing is replaced by upscale infrastructure. The process is blamed for displacing many people and has become the focus of the group's efforts.

Group member Dan Shorts explained that they will be holding an event consisting of a resource fair and demonstration in front of the D.C. Mayor's office.

Mark Burgel, executive director for the non-profit who also teaches health and fitness at AU, commented that, "The gentrification going on in D.C. is simply moving the problem, not eliminating it." Burgel said that addressing homelessness is at the core of dealing with urban development.

The group plans to end their whole day event, which will take place in mid-April, with a concert in Maryland sponsored by *A Wider Circle*.

Members: Jon Baker, Scarlet Doyle, Micheal Monroy, Kristen Pionati, Dan Shorts, Nick Troiano, A.J. Welch
TA: Jenna Sablan

Public Health

By: John Sonsalla

This group is off to an excellent start this year. The group, under the supervision of TA Eh-

san Ali, has hit the ground running and chosen to tackle the quickly growing issues of smoking and obesity in our nation's capital.

The group plans to hold a massive one-day event called, "Healthfest Extravaganza 2008." The event will have three different key subjects to relay the mission of living a healthy lifestyle: Mission Witness to Fitness, Mission Nutrition and Kick Some Butts.

To preempt their event, the students of the Public Health Issue Group will be visiting elementary and middle schools in our local community. They will be educating the kids on the benefits of living a healthy lifestyle through fun interactive games while offering an invitation to the Healthfest Extravaganza 2008.

Megan Maragilli is one of the many enthusiastic members of the group, and stated, "We really hope to make a substantial and lasting impact on our community."
Members: Bharat Krishnan, Isaac Cramer, Natasha Pereira, Helen Zhang, John Sonsalla, Leah Pope, Megan Miraglia TA: Ehsan Ali

Social Justice

By: Emily Nantt

Your typical college student's day rarely involves meeting with former presidents, phone calls to famous bands, or fighting for overseas legislation- that is, of course, unless they happen to be a member of the Social Justice group. The group is collaborating in order to promote a cause that currently is limiting social welfare.

Thus far, they are aiming to

have Dave Matthews perform at a benefit concert and food drive to promote Darfur awareness, set to take place at the end of March.

TA Georgette Spanjich, remarked, "With the same energy and enthusiasm that my class showed last year, the new freshmen are making an effort to make an even bigger impact through service."

Recent efforts include collaborating with community based organizations such as Amnesty International and STAND as well as zealously pursuing fundraising projects on and off campus. Group member Seth Gilroy reminds us that "as Plato said, 'all society must be rooted in justice'."

Members: Caitlin Flynn, Seth Gilroy, Nirvana Habash, Emily Nantt, Quinn Pregliasco, Rob Masiello, Ben Schorr TA: Georgette Spanjich

Education

By: Jenny Leland

This group is planning to work with the Washington D.C. Public Schools to help improve students' attitude towards learning through a mentorship program and day of fun educational programming, entitled "University You".

Throughout the spring semester, there will be periodic assessments to determine students' progress. Those that need particular help will be granted a mentor. "University You" will entail a series of programs with specialists in a variety of fields to show students in a fun way what their education could lead to someday.

"If we can inspire one student, or ideally a group, to be more ex-

cited about learning and proactive about his or her education then we will have achieved our goal," group member Graham Vyse said. "The main point of our endeavor is to improve test scores but more importantly to boost enthusiasm about school and learning and education itself."

Members: Andrew MacCracken, Graham Vyse, Kathryn Baxter, Kristen Cleveland, Leslie Kodet, Jenny Leland, Kera Package TA: Seth Cutter

Environmental Sustainability

By: Tracy Empson

The little red schoolhouse is finally going green.

For their service-learning project, this group will renovate MacFarland Middle School, making it more environmentally friendly and sustainable. Proposed changes to the school include more energy efficient lighting, a new recycling program and implementation of alternative energy sources.

"We're most excited about working with the kids," commented group member Nikki Snarski. "We are all excited to watch how they respond to the changes."

The goal of the project is to reduce the school's carbon footprint and encourage the students to make a positive impact on the environment in the future.

Group member Betsy White explained, "We are teaching the leaders of tomorrow to be environmentally conscious so that the world of tomorrow will be better than the world of today."

Members: Emily Beyer, Tracy Empson, Stephen Laudone, Nikki Snarski, Kelsey Stefanik-Sidner, Betsy White, Samantha Zarrini TA: Alli Gold



What is it that a mix of two peacocks, a koala, a lion and an owl could possibly have in common? You guessed it, the job of being TAs for the freshmen Leadership class. We all know them and love them: Alli Gold, Ehsan Ali, Georgette Spanjich, Jenna Sablan, and Seth Cutter.

Nirvana: What made you decide to become a TA?

Alli: I became a TA because I care deeply about this program, and I am dedicated to sharing my enthusiasm and excitement for the leadership program with the freshmen class. I also thought it would be a great way to meet 35 new students at AU and help them facilitate their own exciting community-based service projects.

Ehsan: I knew that the incoming leadership class would be at least as active and involved as my class had been, if not more so. All they need is to be given guidelines and kept from treading on each other's rights, and they will make good of it.

Georgette: I wanted to become a TA because I loved my experience in the Leadership Program as a freshman [and] wanted to have the opportunity to share the things I loved most about the Leadership Program.

Jenna: I thought it would be a really rewarding experience to be the go-to person for a group of freshmen transitioning into the program, college, and a

Q & A with the TAs

unique assignment that many probably have not experienced before.

Seth: I decided to become a TA because I knew how influential my TA, James Lynch, was in helping me adapt to my freshman year in the Leadership Program. All of the TAs made the year so memorable that I wanted to do the same for the Class of 2011.

N: Would you say being TAs together has made you closer?

A: I definitely got close to the TAs during our planning at the beginning of the semester.

G: Being a TA has really given me the opportunity to get to know the other TAs and their leadership styles. I have become a better leader by observing these traits in my peers and I have appreciated getting to know the other TAs this way.

S: We are all constantly learning new things about one another. Our work dynamic together has been exceptional, and the other TAs are amazing people to work with.

N: Do you have specific goals for your issue group members?



Georgette Spanjich, Ehsan Ali, Jenna Sablan, Alli Gold, Seth Cutter

By: Nirvana Habash

A: My goal is for them to do their best and put in a lot of hard work so that at the end of the year they look back on their service project and they can be truly proud of all of the great work that they did throughout the

year.

E: I want them to be happy with the end result of their year of labor, and I want each of them to feel that everyone within the group played a big part in the outcome.

G: I really want my issue group to achieve all of the fantastic programming it is planning. I am going to be proud of my issue group no matter what they do.

J: My goal is for each and every individual to not only contribute something unique to their project and the program, but to really feel motivated and excited for the great project I know they will achieve.

S: The only goal I have for my issue group is that they continue to be open-minded about what leadership is. We can always improve ourselves, and if we all remember to remain humble – to be true servant-leaders - the Program will have produced 35

amazing people.

N: Can you tell us your most embarrassing AU moment?

E: I think my most embarrassing AU moment was when my cell-phone went off in Introduction to Systems of Justice and Professor Bennett quizzed me about who was calling.

G: My most embarrassing AU moment occurred at Founder's Day last year when my dress ripped straight up the back. The masses arriving to Founder's Day realized that I had ripped my dress and that I was currently completely naked somewhere in the Willard Hotel.

S: I dropped my tray at TDR last year when leaving and broke the plates all over the floor.

N: What is an interesting, unknown fact about you?

A: I have never been on a rollercoaster.

E: I would tell you, but then it wouldn't be unknown.

G: Many people don't know that I am a black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

J: My parents manage a McDonald's.

S: I was born on Leap Year 1988 and will turn 5 this year.

N: How is Thumper (the stick he used to scare the Freshmen Leadership students at retreat)?

Ehsan: He's just fine. He can't wait until the next time he gets to come out. Right now he's just waiting for a freshman in leadership to misbehave...

The SPA Leadership Class of 2011 was greeted by their TAs with a wealth of entertaining events during American University's Welcome Week this August.

Monday

The Class of 2011 headed off to Dupont Circle for Larry's Ice Cream Shop Monday night.

During the metro-journey, TA Seth Cutter called down the students for being, "Escalators," on the escalators because it was not proper escalator etiquette to stand on the left side of escalators! After reaching their destination, many students enjoyed the ice cream. Andy MacCracken ('11) described it as, "A delicious treat!"

The TAs and the students then played a game of introduce yourself, your major, and one interesting fact about you, in front of the Dupont Circle stat-

ues. The game was a great bonding opportunity for the Class of 2011 Leadership students! The night was a success!

Wednesday

"Monuments By Night" was another one of these fun, educational, bonding experiences.

The group of 20 began the night on the Red Line taking the Metro downtown to their first destination—the Washington Monument. From there they walked to the WWII memorial which was recently dedicated to the public in 2004. And even though it was dark, what night would be complete without a game of frisbee on the National Mall?

Steven Laudone ('11) commented on the festivities of the night. "It was very exciting to meet some of my classmates and friends that I would be spending the next four years with."

Welcome Week Events

Friday

During the Meet & Greet with Professor Tim LaPira, LaPira spoke briefly about himself and his background. He also told what the Leadership Development course would encompass for the upcoming year. He introduced the class to the text that was to be read and discussed. LaPira also mentioned the Leadership issue group projects.

Kelsey Stefanik-Sidener ('11) thought the Meet & Greet was, "both engaging and informative." The meeting ended with a trip to the Cheesecake Factory!

TA Ehsan Ali waited for an hour and a half in front of the doors to the Cheesecake Factory before the rest of Leadership arrived. 22 strangers gathered outside the restaurant hoping the waiters

would soon come to seat them. They didn't know it would be another hour before that obnoxious buzzer would go off, signaling that the table was ready.

After the long wait, the group of Leadership students ordered their tasty treats. Students not in the Leadership Program would be surprised to know that the best part of the night was not the cheesecake, but the conversation going around the table.

"I sat down to have a piece of cheesecake, but left with an unbreakable bond with Alli Gold," Andrew MacCracken ('11) said. "She is a riot!"

After a delicious event, new friends, and a few games of metro-bingo, everyone was on their way back to the AU campus looking forward to more fun with their Leadership friends.



Fundraising Project: Creating a Grant Foundation

By: Carolyn Browender

Thirty-two sophomores are approaching their fundraising a bit differently this year.

In this year of transition, the students chose to go beyond the assignment of fundraising for a non-profit. Instead, the class of 2010 is both creating its own grant foundation and raising money for it.

The yet-to-be-named project's goal will be to provide small grants to local high school students who are interested in performing some sort of community service.



Class of 2010

"I think it's a really cool idea," said sophomore Nicole Bazik. "It's a great way to help DC public school students get involved in leadership and public service."

The class has been split up into committees and given tasks, ranging from the actual formation and legalities of creating the foundation, to organizing the fundraiser and publicizing the grants.

"The committees have helped the class focus more," said Nicole Borowski. "But bringing [the work] back to class is a lot harder because there are so many people to please."

Recently, members of the grant committee spoke with the general council. It was decided that the Leadership program could open an account within the School of

Public Affairs, but that the future of the program needs to be determined further.

"This could provide a lot of structure for the program if it is kept," noted Bazik

In addition, the class also held an event at Armand's Pizza on Monday, December 3 in order to jump-start the fundraising process. The class earned \$125 from the endeavor. The class will use this money to help fund a larger fundraiser next week. They will be selling pizza in the residence halls during finals week.

Studying Abroad

By: Sarah Hord

Many students took their leadership skills abroad this semester as they studied in other countries. More than 10 students from the program are studying abroad! Here is what a few of them had to say:

Molly Kenney ('09) is studying at the London School of Economics and Political Science for the whole year. She really recommends going abroad she said, "particularly in European destinations [because] the educational system and philosophy is incredibly different, and you are challenged to direct your own studies."

Will Herman ('09) has really enjoyed having a host family in Costa Rica. "It's funny to think that in such a short amount of time I have become a member of another family in another country and in another language," he said. "It is an experience like no other."

Tai Spargo ('08) who is studying in the London Enclave program is also interning at the Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership and has had an "extremely positive experience." She recommends that "anyone who has the opportunity to

study abroad should take advantage of it."

Ali Shott, ('09) did not have quite the experience in Nova Scotia that she thought she would have, since the professors there have been on strike since August! So, she said, she "set off with two friends to backpack through Canada's smallest province: Prince Edward Island." She has "absolutely loved" the time she spent traveling to half of Canada's provinces, and advises anyone who studies abroad to travel as much as possible.

When asked how the Leadership program has helped him in his experience abroad, Herman said, "I think more than anything the program has given me confidence, and that has helped enormously."



Who are they? And where are they?

- Justin Bibb: *London School of Economics*
- Natalie Greene: *London School of Economics*
- Josh Hattem: *London School of Economics*
- Will Herman: *Costa Rica*
- Kristian Hoysradt: *London Enclave program*
- Molly Kenney: *London School of Economics*
- Ryan Post: *University of Adelaide, Australia*
- Dani Sassower: *Kings College, London*
- Carl Seip: *Chile*
- Tai Spargo: *London Enclave program*
- Ali Shott: *Acadia University in Nova Scotia, Canada*

Leadership Peacocks: Kristian Hoysradt ('09) and Tai Spargo ('08) in London at a Natural History Museum (left)
Josh Hattem, Molly Kenney, and Justin Bibb by the Eiffel Tower in Paris (right)





Juniors traveled off-campus this semester to test their skills in a professional setting, exploring the fields of government agencies, non-profits and Capitol Hill through an internship.

For the Leadership Certificate, each student must take a six-credit internship requiring them to work 20-24 hours per week. They also have a bi-weekly class to make the internship experience more meaningful.

Katlyn Miller, ('09) who interned at the Federal Judicial Center, said that the class is "a good supplement because you analyze your experience with the organization based on the learning that you have had and the knowledge you have accumulated over the past two years in the Leadership program." She concluded that "it helps you see the application of what you have studied."

Jordan Weiner, ('09) who interned at the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty enjoyed her internship. Her work has been somewhat administrative, she said, but she has also done a lot of writing and researching.

This semester the class, taught by Professor Sam Garrett, has also helped students with future career decision-making.

On September 13, students learned the results of their Myers-Briggs personality survey, which lead to in-depth discussion with Travis Sheffler from the Career Center about the role of these personalities and how they may impact personal interactions in their careers.

A panel of AU alumni spoke to the class about their careers and life after college on October 11. Panelists included Kelita

Svoboda Bak, Karen Garrett, Eric Hodachok, Ashley Mushnick, and David Bak.

"The panel stressed that one of the most important components to landing a job after graduation is having a good skills-set," said James Lynch, ('09) who interned at the Agricultural Retailers Association. He added that this internship has helped him gain those skills. "It forced me to learn how to manage their website, work a database, develop professional relationships and be sure to order and demand the perfect cup of coffee for the boss...among other skills."

Professor Mark Waldman, from Waldman Advisers informed the class about financial planning and budgeting, which the class seemed particularly engaged in.

The Honorable Maurice Foley, a judge in the U.S. Tax Court also visited the class, discussing his job and law school. He is a self-declared "tax nerd," and inspired the students to "find your passion and pursue it!"

The students had a few assignments over the course of the semester, including a brief reflection paper on one of the speakers, an organizational analysis of the internship, and a final internship memo. Each student's supervisor also evaluated their performance.

Several students offered advice for rising juniors when choosing their internships. "Look for an internship with the type of work environment you think you will enjoy," Miller suggested. "It's easier to wake up in the morning to go when you enjoy the people you are around."

Internships

By: Sarah Hord

Internships for the Class of 2009

- **Sofia Amaya:** John McCain (R-Ariz.) Presidential Campaign Headquarters
- **Josh Cahan:** U.S. Government
- **Bill DeBaun:** American Federation of Teachers
- **Elliot Friedman:** Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee
- **Julissa Giron:** Business Executives for National Security
- **Kenneth Hammitt:** Citizens for Responsibility & Ethics in Washington
- **Sarah Hord ('08):** YMCA D.C. Youth & Government
- **Meredith Hughes:** Senator Robert Casey's Press Office (D-Penn.)
- **Andrew Jensen:** Fieldworks
- **Olga Khazan ('08):** Glover Park Group
- **Erika Langhart:** Fierce, Isakowitz, and Blalock
- **Sarah Lehar:** American Constitution Society
- **Sarah Little ('08):** Friends of the Global Fight
- **James Lynch:** Agricultural Retailers Association
- **Katlyn Miller:** Federal Judicial Center
- **Joe Pavel:** Pew Charitable Trusts
- **Jacob Shelly:** Senator Russ Feingold (D-Wisc.)
- **Jordan Weiner:** National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
- **Scott Wener:** Congressman Michael Arcuri (D-N.Y.)

Carl Seip: On Studying Abroad in Chile

Here is an excerpt from an essay Carl Seip wrote about his experience studying abroad in Chile. The essay can be read in its entirety on the Leadership Blackboard site.

"It seems ironic, or at least odd, that I am writing an article for the *winter* SPA Leadership newsletter while the temperature hovers around 90 degrees outside my window. Indeed, summer is entering full swing in Chile - final exams for the year in schools, Christmas decorations in shop windows, and that "summertime" feeling we all know and love, combined with the holiday Christmas spirit. It is a strange dichotomy - but one that I have been enjoying as my time here comes to a close...."

The relationships I have made, the people I have met, many for only a few hours, the living conditions I have seen and the curriculum I have taught. And the smiles that

have greeted me, the influence I have had, as well as that upon me, the stories that have been recounted, the perspective I have seen, the friends I have made, and the laughter I have had, and caused, as I inevitably use the wrong word in Spanish to describe something. *These* are the reasons to study abroad. Not because you want to go to touristy places, not because you want to get away from DC, and not because it's what "juniors do." Indeed, when my passport was first stamped entering Chile, I was expecting to be embarking on a journey filled with seeing tourist sites, living in Chile, and learning from my classes. But as the last stamp falls as I leave this country, I can now see how that perspective has changed; it is the people you meet, the stories you hear, and the friends you make, that truly become your favorite experiences abroad. And they are the reasons I will return to this continent again one day - just as soon as I can."



Carl Seip, at Machu Picchu (above) and with friends in Argentina (left)



Alumni Reception

The SPA Leadership Alumni reception was held on Thursday, October 25 in the Mary Graydon Center. Alumni from as far back as the beginning of the leadership program were present.

"[The leadership program] was just sort of offered in '92," said Jed Perry (SPA '96) who now lobbies for Johnson & Johnson. "I think it wasn't that old when I started the program."

New members and old had the chance to see what some leaders are doing with their



Alumni Committee: Chair: Amy Kostilnik

certificate from the Leadership program, and many enjoyed the opportunity to meet older people who had participated in the program.

By: Bharat Krishnan

"It was kind of weird and exciting to see these people who had gone through this same program and are now out in the world doing important work," said freshman Stephen Laudone (SPA '11).

The reception was a success, according to Alumni chair Amy Kostilnik.

"Even though only three alumni came, for the transition year, I think it went well. I think it's really important to let the alumni know in advance. Because it was so early in the year, we had trouble doing that," Kostilnik said.

If the leadership program was created to help refine the skills of



Students and Alumni mingle at the event with Professor LaPira

the leaders of tomorrow, it seems to have achieved that goal.

"I really honed my communications skills and learned to articulate myself," Perry said. "[By] understanding different types of leadership, this program really showed me that there's different ways to be a leader."

Sophomore Mentor Reception

Leadership sophomores and their assigned mentors met for the first time on October 16 to kick off the mentorship program. Student Director Sara Wilson described the program as a mutually beneficial system in which leadership students and their volunteer mentors will learn from each other.

The two-hour event held in the Butler Boardroom included ice breakers and delicious food. Under the chairmanship of Alexis Nadin, students on the Mentorship Committee planned and carried out the event which many present considered very successful.

Michael Wagner, a senior in the Leadership Program, spoke of his mentorship experience calling it an "unparalleled opportunity," and he still meets regularly with his mentor.

Tim LaPira, Leadership Program Director, followed Wagner, commenting that the mentorship program will put these sophomores "head and shoulders above other college kids in America." For the mentors themselves, LaPira said they will gain insight on the "youthful idealism" again.

Mentor Doug Silliman, from the Department of State, said this is his third year vol-

By: Nick Troiano

unteering as a mentor. He said he enjoys it because he gets to hear new ideas and see what the new generation is focused on. Silliman said his "mentee", Gabby Adkins, can expect, among many other things, internship recommendations, study abroad insight, and advice on graduate schools.

Wagner concluded his remarks, saying to his fellow students that, "done right, you will not just have a mentor, but a colleague and friend...the classroom will only get you so far."

**Another, less formal, mentor reception will be scheduled for next semester.*



Nick Cosenza with his mentor, Jeffrey Smith

**More Mentor Reception Pictures on page 8.*

Student/Mentor pairs

Martha Hanna: Brian Adkins

Seth Cutter: Kate Alesse

Steven Dalton: Nick Thorpe, working for Senator Hutchinson

Casey Bassette: Matthew Hermann, AU Adjunct Professor

Dave Simnick: Kristy Mordhorst, State Dept.

Jon Kohan: Joe Schaarrino,

Alexis Nadin: Nick Tiernan, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, State Dept.

Carolyn Browender: Anne Meyer, Publishing Fellow, American Prospect

Mary Schellentrager: Kellie Dupree, Campaign Corps Coordinator, Emily's List

Jenn Dorsey: Janet Bass, Deputy Director of Public Affairs Dept., American Federation of Teachers

Gabby Adkins: Darlene Kirk, Press & Public Affairs Officer, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, State Dept.

Marissa Golub: Matt Jacob, Director, Affiliate Services, American Federation of Teachers

Andrew Fogle: Ahnna Smith, Recruitment Director for Teach for America

Theresa Odasio: Joshua Gardner, Assistant Account Director, Corporate Communications and Reputation Management, Edelman Public Relations

Alli Gold: Jeff Harris, Vice President for Programs, Alliance to Save Energy

Nick Cosenza: Jeffrey Smith, Public Information Specialist, Federal Reserve Board

Tom Ports: Shaka Mitchell, Outreach Coordinator, Institute for Justice

Christine Hooyman: Jen Smyers, Associate for Immigration and Refugee Policy, Church World Service

Francesca Giarratana: Erica Anderson, Assistant Account Executive, Spectrum Science Communications

Jenna Sablan: Richard Wells, Vice President, State and Community Mobilization, America's Promise Alliance

Ehsan Ali: Doug Silliman, State Dept.

Nicole Bazik: Christy Venable, Training and Technical Assistance Manager, American Association of State Service Commissions

Philip Zakahi: Ashley Carrigan, Associate Director, Office of External & Intergovernmental Affairs, Dept. of Interior

Nicole Boroski: Heather Hill

Mike Radlick: Katie Flipczyk Howard

Georgette Spanjich: Allyson Neville, Associate Administrator for Public Affairs, Federal Highway Administration, Dept. of Transportation

Kris Kagen: Ian Grossman

Kylee Merendino: Justin Perillo

Derek Conrad: Meredith Mecca

Samantha Schiro: Christopher Malagisi

Emma DiMantova: Kelly Aschliman

Amy Kostilnik: Beth Fuch



Leaders in the Field

Awards:

Class of 2008

Sarah Hord: *United Methodist Undergraduate Scholarship (2007)*

Class of 2009

Katlyn Miller: *Abroad Student Mobility Scholarship Award*

Class of 2010

Mary Schellentrager: *Member of AU Solidarity, which received the "I'll Be There" award from D.C. Jobs with Justice for their work supporting the unionization of the AU Shuttle bus operators*

Class of 2010

Samantha Zarrini: *Legal Eagle Award*

Positions:

Class of 2008

Charlie Biscotto: *Undergraduate Senator, Class of 2008*

Sarah Hord: *Women's Group Coordinator, United Methodist Student Association*

Sara Wilson: *Coordinator, Freshman Service Experience; Recruiter, Teach for America*

Class of 2009

Josh Cahan: *President, National Society of Collegiate Scholars; Public Relations Director, Alpha Phi Omega*

Bill DeBaun: *Logistics Coordinator, Kennedy Political Union*

Elliot Friedman: *Inter-Fraternity Council President*

Joe Pavel: *Chief of Staff, Student Government*

Tom Ports: *Undergraduate Senator, Class of 2009*

Class of 2010

Seth Cutter: *Musical Director of the Catholic Choir; Archives/ Clerk of the Student Government Senate*

Emma Di Mantova: *Women's*

Empowerment Director, Women's Initiative

Jenn Dorsey: *Communications Director, Women's Initiative*

Martha Hanna: *President of Phi Alpha, Delta Rho Pledge Class*

Georgette Spanjich: *Undergraduate Senator-at-Large; Congressional intern, summer '06*

Class of 2011

Emily Beyer: *Undergraduate Senator, Class of 2011*

Nirvana Habash: *Vice-President, Class of 2011*

Jenny Leland: *VP of Programming, McDowell Residence Hall Association; Disability Coordinator for Student Government*

Andrew Mackracken: *Undergraduate Senator, School of Public Affairs; Director of Open Government for the Senate; Clerk, Committee on Campus Life and Programming*

Meg Miraglia: *Undergraduate Senator, Class of 2011*

Kera Package: *Undergraduate Senator, Class of 2011*

Ben Schorr: *Undergraduate Senator, Class of 2011*

Dan Shorts: *Vice-President, AU Unity 08*

Nick Troiano: *Undergraduate Senator, Class of 2011*

Samantha Zarrini: *Co-Manager for the AU Men's Hockey Team*

**As part of their Comm 509 class, seniors Roddy Flynn, Sarah Hord, and Stacia Young worked with their classmates to create and administer a survey to college students across the country about Campaign 2008, and it has been published on WashingtonPost.com. Here's the link to check it out:

<<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/29/AR2007112900758.html?sid=ST2007112900846>>

The 100-Mile Man: An AU Legend

By: Nirvana Habash



Jesse Itzler speaks to the students (above)
Students watch the documentary, "The 100 Mile Man" (below)



To wrap up the Fall 2007 semester, students in the Leadership Program were invited to a speech by AU Alum, Jesse Itzler, a 38-year old, self-made millionaire. If you've never heard of him, maybe you will recall last year's "100 Mile Man"- that's Jesse.

Those in the audience watched a movie documenting Jesse's months before a 100 mile race in order to raise a million dollars for ten select charities. Who do you think was supporting AU's very own Jesse Itzler during this challenge? None other than football legend Tom Brady, heartthrob actor Matt Damon, and basketball star Rip Hamilton, to name a few.

The audience was won over by Itzler's compelling story. He finished the race and raised over one and a half million dollars for charity.

During the speech following the video, Itzler stated, "No one really thought I could do it. In fact, I bet Jay Z \$25,000 I could do it. And he paid it."

20 years after his own AU experience, Itzler remains as down-to-earth as ever. Even though 50 Cent sent him a text during the video, Itzler kept his cool. As part owner of Marquis Jets, Itzler is used to dealing with big name celebrities.

After a couple of questions and fun stories, Itzler was back to business. But not before inspiring one fellow Leadership student to follow in his footsteps. Our very own freshman, Seth Gilroy, has begun training to become the "100 Mile Boy". Gilroy says, "100 miles represents an almost unachievable goal and I think it's good to have that to give you drive and direction." Good luck, Seth. You've got our support!



Visions



www.leadership.american.edu



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Get to Know Professor Tim LaPira

By: Leah Pope

Professor Tim LaPira joined the SPA Leadership team this year as Interim Director following former Director Dr. Sarah Stiles' resignation.

While previously the program's focus has been on studying leadership theory and significant historical leaders, LaPira expressed a desire to shift that focus more toward participation in government and civic engagement. According to LaPira, many other leadership programs teach skills more fitting to business management, but where politics are concerned, "Leadership is engagement in the civic system."

His future at AU is uncertain, LaPira said, because the SPA needs a more permanent director that acts almost more as an administrator than a faculty member. Nonetheless, he hopes his view of leadership as it relates to public affairs will have a lasting impact on the program.

Born and raised in the suburbs of Philadelphia, LaPira attended LaSalle University, where he received an undergraduate degree in political science and public administration in 1998. During his sophomore and senior years, he worked

sophomore and senior years, he worked on former Congressman Jim Greenwood's reelection campaigns for the U.S. House of Representatives. In spring of 1998, Greenwood hired LaPira to work in his District of Columbia office full time.

LaPira completed coursework for his PhD at Rutgers University, and is now working on his dissertation through research on Capitol Hill. He is using congressional staff members to study effects of lobbyists and interest groups. LaPira's dissertation, entitled, "Is it who says it or what they say?" gauges how much of an effect the credibility of an organization arguing one side of an issue has over the content of the argument itself. His findings, that knowledgeable staffers are more likely to give an argument more weight if the advocates are credible than staffers who don't know the subject area, have broad implications that could prove useful both within and outside the realm of political science.

While at Rutgers, LaPira was a teaching assistant for one of a series of classes with an emphasis on community service. That, he said, is part of why he chose to work with the SPA Leadership Program.



Mentor Reception Pictures



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