



May 2007

Message from the Director: Dr. Sarah C. Stiles

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ear Students and Friends of the Leadership Program,

It has been a year of personal and social growth for all of us. The freshmen kept the tradition of raising the bar yet again with the scope and breadth of their service-learning projects. The Class of 2010 truly incorporated the concept of **servant leadership** into their modus operandi. They began the semester eager to affect their notion of grand scale change -- they finished the semester with a greater appreciation of the importance of **collaboration** with members of the community, the necessity of **trust** among teammates, the value of clear **communication** and a greater sense of the **work ethic** needed to achieve an ambitious goal. You will be impressed with what they have done.

The sophomores studied emotional intelligence, they read about Ernest Shackleton and how to lead in times of extreme **adverse conditions**, and they focused on modes of **conflict resolution**. They began the semester confident in their abilities based on their successes in the past yet learned that conflict can occur even in the happiest of families. Kristian Hoysradt eloquently concluded the semester with a reading and commentary on the Tao titled "Time for Reflection." Conflict has the potential of opening our minds to new possibilities and opportunities -- but only if we stop the "go, go, go" and take the time to reflect.

Seniors naturally draw lessons based on their experiences over four years. Repeatedly students recalled examples from their common past that illustrated points in their readings on ethics, emotional intelligence, and ancient history. As we looked to the future and studied **social entrepreneurs** the group teeter tottered from inspired to daunted -- but finished the semester **inspired**. I am so proud of them.

While the future is never certain, we need never fret, for with a sincere desire to effect positive change -- both within ourselves and in the greater society—we cannot fail. Setbacks will happen and we will learn from the school of hard knocks, but "we'll get by with a little help from our friends" for **leadership truly is relationship**.

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Message from the Student Director: Brian Brown

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ellow Leaders and Friends:

We are closing the books on another year. As always, for some of our members it is a final closure. To them we wish the best in whatever it is they choose. For the rest, have a fantastic summer. Play hard! You've earned it.

Forgive me for a few personal remarks but I feel inclined to do so. This years has been a fantastic gift and I am grateful to all of you in the program for making it possible. You have allowed me to learn, lead, love, and live. Serving the Leadership Program has been one of my greatest joys.

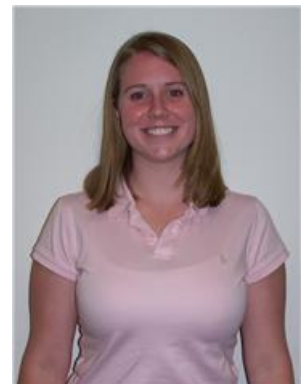
We have done good things. We have been challenged, and we have risen to meet those challenges. When I think about the future of the program, I smile. There is so much more to be done and that is as it should be. I have the highest confidence in our new student director. I have known Sara Wilson since she was a quiet freshmen with a big grin and an even bigger heart. Not much has changed, well she's not so quiet anymore.

Sara will bring new energy to the program. Combine that with the constant guiding hand of our director, Dr. Stiles, and we have a recipe for success. A big thanks to my hard working Steering Committee and best wishes to the incoming one. Work hard. Do great things.

Signing off,
Brian

Meet the 2007-08 Student Director, Sara Wilson

*read her letter to the program on page 6





Lincoln Advises Freshmen

By: Andrew Fogle

Nearly 150 years after his death, Abraham Lincoln is still offering advice to young leaders. The freshman class has spent the semester studying the Civil War president and his legendary leadership style, drawing on resources like Donald T. Phillip's book "Lincoln on Leadership" and the city of Washington itself in the form of a Lincoln-centered walking tour downtown.

"I've really appreciated our focus... everyone learns that Lincoln was the best president we have ever had, but it hasn't been until now that I knew why," said Amy Kostilnik.

The class emphasized Lincoln's emo-

tional intelligence, personal awareness, positive attitude, and other qualities that made him effective at steering the country through the Civil War.

The Civil War walking tour of downtown D.C proved to be an educational and memorable experience. Accompanied by Professor Stiles and their TAs, freshmen began their Saturday morning excursion at the Farragut North metro station and from there visited such sites as Lafayette Square, Ford's Theatre, and Clara Barton's old office.

The tour concluded with lunch at Union Station. Ehsan Ali commented: "Walking in Lincoln's footsteps was an engaging and informative experience, even if it was below freezing on a Saturday morning when I



should be sleeping."

The class' study culminated in a mid-term research paper that related Lincoln's life and style to the leadership theory that students had examined over the course of the year.

Class of 2010: Service and Learning at Work

Education

By: Carolyn Browender

The Education issue group finally saw their planning and hard work come to fruition on March 24, when about 20 students came to campus to experience "The Real Deal: What College is Really Like."

These 20 students were from a DC based non-profit called College Bound, described by group member Nick Cosenza as "a group dedicated to helping students get into college... where kids can learn and harness [their] critical thinking skills."

The "Real Deal" gave students an opportunity to see a college campus without having to deal with the pressures of a normal campus tour. The Education group planned sessions focusing on different aspects of college life, such as roommates, classes, and extracurricular activities. Group member Jenny Janovitz said of the event: "Planning certainly paid off; there was a lot of hard work put into it. Our dedication shone because everything ran so smoothly."

Group members learned a great deal from planning this project. Samantha Schiro commented: "It made me more aware of my strengths and things I can work on. For instance, I'm a really confident speaker and I love to talk but that doesn't mean that the quieter group member doesn't have equally lovely things to say. I try harder to pull people into a conversation now."

Due to the success of the event, all of the group members felt that had all had a chance to develop and grow with one another.



Nick Cosenza, Jenny Janovitz, Emma DiMantova, Samantha Schiro, TA Sarah Lehar, Jenn Dorsey, Carolyn Browender, Gabby Adkins

Outdoor Progress

By: Jenn Spicker

It was a bumpy semester for the Outdoor Progress group. Their ride was mostly uphill, but group member Mary Schellentraeger remained "positive and hopeful that things would all work out in the end."

The biggest difficulty this green group faced was finding "the green" to pay for their project. Their plans to instate a rental "yellow bike" program on campus required funds for helmets, locks, lights, repair kits, and bikes. Group members wrote letters and applied for grants with no luck at first. The group found relief from RHA, which donated \$600 to their efforts.

Despite the potholes and punctures in the group's plans, they found great success. Public Safety Lt. Sifri donated five bikes for the pilot program kick-off on April 24.

The pilot program was a big success. The group obtained nearly 300 signatures for a petition to make the Yellow Bikes a permanent fixture on campus. They had over 60 bike rentals during the four-day test period, and the majority of students returned happy and hopeful to see the bikes return next year.

"We've had people just come over and ask us 'What is this?' and just getting to talk to them is such a big help," stated Ali Gold.

By collaborating with Eco-Sense, Student Government, AUTO, Dinosaurs Against Fossil Fuels, Public Safety, and off-campus community-based organization Washington Area Bicycle Association, the group hopes that it will have enough support to continue the program next year.



Kristopher Kagan, Nicole Bazik, Alli Gold, Seth Cutter, Francesca Giarratana, TA James Lynch, Mary Schellentraeger, Sean Silbert



Peace & Conflict Resolution

By: Jenna Sablan

Silver Spring sprung to life on April 21 when Peace and Conflict Resolution held their community service project at Arts Alley in the DC suburb. Partnering with the Suburban Washington Resettlement Center (SWRC), a consortium of refugee resettlement agencies in Silver Spring, the issue group hosted “Silver Spring Day: Celebrating and Connecting Cultures.”

The family community day consisted of cultural performances, community speakers, activity booths provided by various organizations, and an art exhibit. Highlight performers included Rhythm Workers Union, the Jazz Academy of Music, and Tappers with Attitude Youth Ensemble. A Burmese ethnic group performed a traditional harvest dance, and a Turkish group danced a traditional wedding ceremony.

State Senator and Washington College of Law professor Jamie Raskin spoke about the values of democracy and the cultural vibrancy of Silver Spring. SWRC employees expressed the importance of refugee resettlement work, and refugee speakers spoke about their experiences transitioning in the United States.

Attendants at the day received packets with personalized information on ways they can help, such as through hosting a furniture drive or providing discounted medical care. “The packets are the core of the day,” Alexis Nadin explained. “While it’s great that people come out and have fun experiencing the various cultures of Silver Spring, we wanted to provide a way that people could really contribute in concrete ways. It’s more than just ‘spreading awareness’-we wanted to encourage involvement.”



Martha Hanna, Alexis Nadin, Dave Simnick, Jon Kohan, Ehsan Ali, Tom Ports, Jenna Sablan



Jenn Spicker, Georgette Spanjich, Amy Kostilnik, TA Katlyn Miller, Kylee Merendino, Andrew Fogle

Substance Abuse

By: Andrew Fogle

Drugs, booze, and awareness: this group made all three the focus of their service project. Held March 29 and 30, the event was intended to promote discussion of substance abuse issues as they relate to American University.

Thursday evening featured a screening of the film “Traffic” co-sponsored by the United Methodist Student Association, preceded by a student-produced video piece and group conversation specifically examining AU’s problems. The movie highlighted the abuses of human rights that take place at all levels of the drug trade.

“Our emphasis on the social justice issue was a new approach to an old problem, and I think people appreciated that,” said Kylee Merendino.

The group held their Substance Abuse Awareness Fair in front of Kay Chapel on Friday. Pepsi Pong and a “beer goggle challenge” poked fun at college drinking culture while offering reminders of its dangers. Community-based organizations such as the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration, Al Anon, and Alcoholics Anonymous staffed tables on the quad. An alcoholism screening test provided sobering news to many participants.

Group members were pleased with the results of their efforts and believe that they have made a real impact on the lives of their peers. Georgette Spanjich explained: “If our work to promote responsibility has stopped just one person from becoming an abuser, then it has all been worth it.”

Immigration

By: Jenna Sablan

The Immigration group held their service-learning project on the morning of April 21. The group’s partner organization, the Newcomers Community Service Center (NCSC), was in dire need of renovated classrooms for their Immigrant English-language and career services training.

Their project was a part of National and Global Youth Service Day (N&GYSD). By agreeing to be a part of this national weekend of service, the group was eligible for and later won a grant from Serve DC. This grant was used to buy items such as whiteboards and tables.

The group collected four computers and a used Cannon Inkjet printer for the classroom. These items were collected through soliciting door-to-door, flying throughout DuPont and other Metro stops, and sending e-mails.

They also cleaned the classrooms, kitchen, and downstairs area with each member assigned to a specific area. Around 10 volunteers looking to get involved with N&GYSD came out to help the group revive the building.

“Although there were a lot of obstacles this year,” Marissa Golub explained, “our project really came together, and we know we will have a lasting impact on the NCSC and the immigrant community.”



Marissa Golub, Phillip Zakahi, TA Carl Seip, Nicole Borowski, Christine Hooyman, Joanna Carmusciano, Theresa Odisio



Fundraising Projects:

DC Youth & Government, Leadership Initiatives, CoRAL Conference

By: Sarah Hord

Though the sophomore class may have gotten off to a slow start planning their fundraisers and a rocky time implementing them, they turned out to be a success, both in raising funds for the organizations as well as for the students in gaining valuable learning experiences.

This year, the class was divided into three groups, each responsible for raising funds for a different organization. The beneficiaries were Leadership Initiatives, the CoRAL network, and Youth & Government.

The Leadership Initiatives (LI) group sold bags of fair trade coffee on campus. The group worked well together, but their success was limited by the amount of coffee drinkers with coffee makers that lived on campus. The group had some struggles, such as with tabling. "People wouldn't even try the coffee for free," noted Meredith Hughes. The group raised about \$300. Jordan Weiner commented though that selling



the coffee had a dual benefit. "Not only did we raise money for LI, but we also provided health care for 30 families in Mexico." The group also helped advertise a fundraising event that LI hosted.

Group members: Ali Shott, Natalie Greene, Kenneth Hammitt, Meredith Hughes, Sarah Hord, Jacob Shelly, Jordan Weiner, Megan Michel

The CoRAL group sold pizza in the residence halls for a few nights, although they had originally planned to hold a gala. During the year the group struggled with their mission and how

much collaboration to have with the CoRAL network. Sarah Lehar said that the group thought it was more about "creating a lasting impact for the organization, not just about the money." In the end, they realized that they just needed to get CoRAL as much money as they could, so they changed their focus to achieve their new goal and raised \$660.

Group members: Molly Kenney, Josh Hattem, Sarah Lehar, James Lynch, Justin Bibb, Josh Cahan, Sofia Amaya, Erika Langhart

The Youth & Government (Y&G) group also had some difficulties working with their organization.

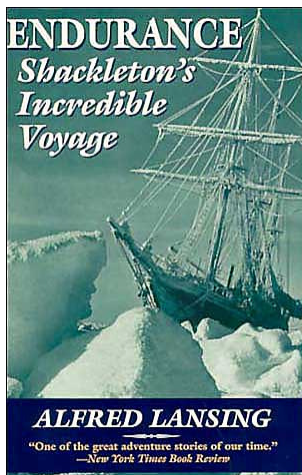
Although they made numerous attempts to work with the fundraising side of Y&G by assisting them with their annual gala, Katlyn Miller said they were "blown off," and no one was returning their calls. She then explained that when the person did call back he just wanted them to stuff envelopes, which the group didn't feel was a valuable contribution to the program. So the group also decided to just raise the money, and set out tabling for donations and selling pizza.

Will Herman said, "We had to start something from nothing," noting the difficulty of trying to buy things to sell without any money to front the costs. The group raised about \$200 in donations from tabling, which Katlyn Miller said gave them a chance to pass out information to let students know about Y&G and recruit volunteers for next year's events. Overall they raised about \$600.

Group Members: Katlyn Miller, Elliot Friedman, Carl Seip, Kristian Hoysradt, Andrew Jensen, Joe Pavel, Julissa Giron, Bill DeBaun, Will Herman, Ryan Post, Scott Wener, Dani Sassower, Funmi Makinwa

Sophomores Study Shackleton

By: Sarah Hord



After an unsuccessful attempt to see an Imax film in Baltimore about Ernest Shackleton, the sophomore class stayed in the next week to watch one of Professor Stiles' movies about the incredible leader.

For an hour and a half, students sat attentively in a dark, cool room, watching actual footage and pictures of Shackleton's *Endurance* voyage to Antarctica.

The class had been reading about the journey and then discussing the horrific conditions and Shackleton's amazing leader-

ship style for the past few weeks.

The voyage, which took place from 1914-1916 was commanded by Shackleton who had enlisted a crew of about 20 men. They set sail from Elephant Island below Africa in hopes of making the trans-continental journey across the cold ice-land of Antarctica.

However, their ship became frozen into the ice before they could reach the mainland, leaving Shackleton to lead the group back to civilization in one of the best survival stories of all time.





Sophomore Mentorship Program

By: Sarah Hord

On Tuesday, April 17, Professor Stiles opened up her home to welcome in the sophomores and their mentors for a relaxing evening to conclude the mentorship program for the year. Several students and their mentors came, although not as many as Dr. Stiles had hoped, though several replied to let her know that they couldn't make it.

Sofia Amaya and her committee prepared a great menu of cheese and crackers, followed by sandwiches, and lemon cupcakes with fruit for dessert. They also worked hard to organize the event and several freshmen served as waitresses and doormen.

The next night, the class talked about their overall opinions of the mentor program, and most thought the experience was very valuable, but that there were still some kinks that needed to be worked out.

Katlyn Miller said she had a wonderful relationship with her mentor, Kara Ariail, although it was almost impossible to meet because of their hectic schedules, but they kept in touch through phone and email. Katlyn gained a lot from the relationship saying, "she has great advice about LSATs, law school, and life in general."

Bill DeBaun was able to meet with his mentor, Chuck Hilty, several times for coffee during the

year. He said that he enjoyed spending time with Chuck "because he has a lot of good stories and has a completely different perspective on life." Bill said that he has learned to appreciate silences with Chuck, "because although we live in a world where someone has to be saying something all the time, he is content to just sit and sip coffee. That change of pace has been positive for me!" Bill said that Chuck has also given him some professional advice and offered to help him make some connections.

Sarah Hord also had a great relationship with her mentor, Christy Venable. Sarah said that they went out two eat a couple times and plan to meet again before the end of the year. "She helped give me an idea of a career path," Sarah said, "and she also helped me on a project for my public administration class." Sarah said her mentor seemed to be a perfect match for her because not only were they interested in the same career field, but Christy also grew up close to where Sarah is from and they share similar histories.

The Mentor Committee is gearing up for next year, putting the finishing touches on the new sophomore class profiles to begin the process of matching them up with mentors in the community.



Katlyn Miller with Kara Ariail



Bill DeBaun with Chuck Hilty



Sarah Hord with Christy Venable



Mentor Reception at Professor Stiles' apartment

Night Out on the Town: Hexagon

By: Sarah Hord



The "political circus" (above), and no parking at the new stadium (right)

*Pictures from Hexagon.org

Strike While the Irony's Hot!" This was the theme for this year's political satire Hexagon show. On March 21, Professor Stiles and several students went to see the annual show, which was held in the Duke Ellington theater in Georgetown.

More than 20 students made the journey, rushing to get to the theater, with slow transportation causing them to be a few minutes late.

The show began, depicting the current political situation as a circus. It went on to talk about the first female Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, as well as other figures, such as Senators Barack

Obama and Hillary Clinton, and North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il.

The show also played off local situations such as no parking at the new baseball stadium, the polluted fish in the Chesapeake Bay, and the new shopping stores in Friendship Heights.

The show, which began in 1956, is produced by local professionals who volunteer as actors, writers, musicians, sound and light technicians, and prop designers.

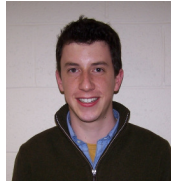
Each year the group chooses a beneficiary to donate the proceeds to. This year they chose the Ronald McDonald House in D.C., raising \$60,000 for them. Over the years, they've raised more than \$3.3 million for more than 40 organizations.



Seniors Offer their Reflections of the Program



Daniel Guarnera: The most important part of the Leadership Program for me has been the chance to get to know the inspiring, dynamic students in the program. When you put thirty students committed to changing the world in a class together for



Ben Murray: Leadership, to me, has been about the people. We've spent four years together growing, learning and having fun. I can't wait to see all the cool things we end up doing.



Jenna Briggs: My favorite quote from Abraham Lincoln is 'whatever you are, be a good one'. Whatever your role in the Leadership Program may be, do your best and you're already there. Take care of each other and especially Professor Stiles!



Brian Brown: It has gone by so fast. A retreat in the middle of a hurricane, service projects that tested our limits, parties, fundraisers that rested on the edge of a knife, internships that excited us about the future, and a seminar that asked us to reflect on it all. There were times when I wondered if it was all worth it. Now at the end, I think about how much I've learned and grown. Oh how I will miss the Leadership Program.

CoRAL Showcases Servant Leadership

On Saturday, April 28, students, educators, and community leaders committed to service came together on the AU campus to share their service-learning experiences and learn from each other in a positive atmosphere.

Program Development Committee Chair James Lynch recruited the volunteers for the event and made sure it ran smoothly. Many Leadership students volunteered during the day (some starting very early) to make the conference a success. Along with set-up and preparation, students also ran the registration tables and served as session monitors at all 10 of the panel discussions.

The day began with speakers featuring City Council member Kwame Brown, Founder and CEO of DC Central Kitchen, Robert Egger, and Leadership Program sophomore Justin Bibb, who has founded a non-profit, D.C. Today... D.C. Tomorrow, which works at Thurgood Marshall Academy to help encourage and teach service-learning to the students there.

At lunch, all five of the freshmen issue groups showed their poster presentations, along with 15 other posters. "Each group created posters complete with pictures and descriptions of the planning and execution of their service projects," explained Jenna Sablan ('10). About 15-20 freshmen were in attendance, and they answered guests' questions about their projects.

Members of Inner Vision, a creative youth group native to

By: Sarah Hord

D.C., added a special touch to lunch. A piano-singing solo, poems, and several raps added cultural flavor to a day packed with more traditional academic events.

The performances, which came toward the end of lunch, featured the voices and talents of young men who had grown up in tough parts of the district. "Their hope and ability was an inspiration to all who heard," said Andrew Fogle ('10) who presented and volunteered at the event. "It helped to provide a more personal dimension to the volunteerism showcased at the conference."

Professor Stiles really appreciated the effort that all the volunteers put in to making the conference successful again this year. She said, "A professor from San Francisco came to see how we ran the conference." Someone else from an organization in Philadelphia reminded her of the importance of what we're doing, Stiles said. "This is cutting edge stuff," she noted, "and similar organizations across the country have not been able to keep it up because of financial circumstances."



Freshmen Presenters: Joanna Carmusciano, Andrew Fogle, Emma DiMantova, Nick Cosenza, Marissa Golub, Jenn Dorsey, Alexis Nadin

Letter from New Student Director Sara Wilson

I applied for Student Director of the Leadership Program because I know firsthand how the program can take a high school senior and help transform them into a confident professional. I know that I have benefited greatly from the opportunities this program has to offer and look forward to giving back to the Leadership community.

I am currently studying abroad in Limerick, Ireland, but I cannot wait to get back and start working. This year the Leadership Program enjoyed many successes including the high quality presentations of the freshman class and the most recent CoRAL conference. I am looking forward to helping the Leadership Program build on these successes.

Next year I am fortunate to work alongside a well-qualified Steering Committee. They offer diverse opinions and positive attitudes that will serve the program well. I am confident that next year will be one of our best yet.

Steering Committee Members 2007-08

- Student Director: Sara Wilson
- Secretary: Martha Hanna
- Mentorship Chair: Jason Dombrowski
- Treasurer: Phillip Zakahi
- Publications Chair: Sarah Hord
- Events Chair: Christine Hooyman
- Alumni Chair: Amy Kostilnik

Kylee Merendino, Andrew Fogle, and Georgette Spanjich stand by their Substance Abuse Awareness poster at the conference.





Leaders in the Field

Awards:

Class of 2007

Leslie Colwell: Accepted into Teach for America 2007 Corps

Jennifer Greene: Accepted into Teach for America 2007 Corps (Houston)

Jen Lombardo: Accepted into Teach for America 2007 Corps (Houston)

Ashley Mushnick: Carmen Group Scholarship Winner for the School of Public Affairs

Paul Perry: Accepted into Teach for America 2007 Corps (will be teaching high school English in Philadelphia beginning Fall '07)

Class of 2008

Amy "Aminah" Teachout: selected to volunteer this summer with an NGO called Learning Enterprises in a small village in Mauritius, she will teach 3 English courses to children and adults in a 700-person village.

Class of 2009

Natalie Greene: Inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society

Kenneth Hammit: Inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society

Josh Hattem: National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Will Herman: Highest GPA in Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity

Sarah Hord: Inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society

Meredith Hughes: Inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society

Molly Kenney: Outstanding Honors Sophomore by the AU Honors Program

Erika Langhart: Invited to join Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honors Society

Ryan Post: National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Ali Shott: won the Killam Fellowship to study at Acadia University in Nova Scotia for the fall semester next year

Dani Sassower: Highest GPA of the Semester—Chi Omega Sorority

Jacob Shelly: Patriot League Academic Honor Roll (Track)

Positions:

Class of 2007

Ashley Mushnick: Student Government President

Class of 2008

Charlie Biscotto: Had a lead role in the AU Players production of Big Love. He also starred in the Rude Mechanical's production of The Reindeer Monologues and the Department of Performing Arts production of Untitled Masterpiece.

Roddy Flynn: Public Relations Director for AU Players Student Theater Troupe; starred in their production of The Sleeper; had lead roles in The Reindeer Monologues and Untitled Masterpiece

Class of 2009

Justin Bibb: Co-Leader of an Alternate Spring Break Trip to Biloxi, Mississippi (2007)

Elliot Friedman: Elected President of the Inter-Fraternal Council; Interned for Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-8)

Josh Hattem: Internship at Serve DC (Spring and Summer)

Sarah Hord: Selected to be Women's Group Coordinator for the United Methodist Student Association for 2007-2008

Kristian Hoysradt: Elected Vice-President of Recruitment for Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity

Molly Kenney: Publicity Director and Editorial Board Member of "Clocks & Clouds" Undergraduate Scholarly Journal; Internship at D.C. Public Defender Service (Spring and Summer)

James Lynch: AU Students 4 McCain

Joe Pavel: Appointed Chair of the Student Government Board of Elections

Ryan Post: Pi Kappa Alpha Team Captain for Relay for Life; Community Service Chair for Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity

Carl Seip: President of the AU Pep Band Boosters

Dani Sassower: Chi Omega Sisterhood Chair

Jacob Shelly: Policy Director for Economic & Social Affairs in the Roosevelt Institution; Everett Public Service Internship at Taxpayers for Common Sense

Class of 2010

Carolyn Browender: Selected to be Hospitality Coordinator for the United Methodist Student Association for 2007-2008

Samantha Schiro: Director of Stress and Health for Women's Initiative.; created a Buddy Club Running program

Leaders go on Alternative Break Trips

By: Carolyn Browender

While some students headed home or to the beaches, several Leadership students took servant leadership on the road (or stayed right in DC!) when they went on alternative break trips.

Molly Kenney ('09) described her trip to San Francisco as "an incredibly enlightening experience... The trip opened my eyes to exactly how bad prison conditions are, particularly in youth correctional facilities, and the factors that contribute to status quo."

Haig Kherlopian ('08), "wanted to learn about more about a problem that is in our backyard, domestically... the HIV rate in DC is just as bad as some sub-Saharan countries in Africa."

All of the students felt uncomfortable at some point. Will Herman ('09) said he felt apprehensive about going on a trip to Biloxi, MS with "a group of 20 which, for the most part, I did not know... [Also,] the people, the local culture, and the general atmosphere

was all unaccustomed to me. Although frustrating at times, it was an experience that cannot be replicated."

Kenney noted a great deal of servant leadership on her trip. [The released prisoners] are leaders in a movement of change by devoting themselves wholeheartedly to helping those still in prison, a segment of society often dismissed...it was personally empowering to see activists, prosecutors, and public defenders doing what they do in order to improve the lives of others—prisoners, victims, and their communities."

Kherlopian, reflecting on his group's visit to the Department of Health, noted, "Leadership is key for organization. The smaller groups [we worked with] had people who were passionate about the issue, and if there's that desire to really serve, things get done, regardless of the bureaucracy."

Justin Bibb traveled to Biloxi, and Carolyn Browender traveled to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Studying Abroad

- **Daniel Greeley:** Brussels Summer Internship Program [Belgium]
- **Natalie Greene:** London School of Economics (full year)
- **Josh Hattem:** London School of Economics (full year)
- **Kristian Hoysradt:** London Enclave program (fall)
- **Molly Kenney:** London School of Economics (full year)
- **Dani Sassower:** Kings College, London (fall)
- **Carl Seip:** Chile
- **Ali Shott:** Acadia University in Nova Scotia (fall); University of Edinburgh [Scotland] (spring)



www.leadership.american.edu



Publications Committee Staff

Sarah Hord, chair
Jenn Spicker, Andrew Fogle,
Carolyn Browender, Jenna Sablan

Time for Reflection

Endless drama in a group clouds consciousness. Too much noise overwhelms the senses. Continual input obscures genuine insight.

Do not substitute sensationalism for learning.

Allow regular time for silent reflection. Turn inward and digest what has happened. Let the senses rest and grow still.

Teach people to let go of their superficial mental chatter and obsessions. Teach people to pay attention to the whole body's reaction to a situation.

When group members have time to reflect, they can see more clearly what is essential in themselves and others.

*John Heider, *The Tao of Leadership: Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching Adapted for a New Age* (1985)

Leading and Learning Abroad

By: Carolyn Browender

From Brussels to Cairo, Leadership students have left AU for the semester or year and are testing their brains and leadership abilities elsewhere.

"In today's increasingly 'global' world, it only made sense that I should study abroad," said Michael Wagner ('08), who is currently attending Peking University in Beijing, China.

Other students echoed his sentiments; Sara Wilson ('08) chose to study in Limerick, Ireland, "mainly because it isn't a huge city and its closer to most of the big touristy things in Ireland."

Naturally, going abroad hasn't been without its share of culture shock. Amy "Aminah" Teachout ('08) described a trip on the Cairo metro as "the cross-cultural highlight of my experiences abroad thus far... there is no unspoken agreement in the Cairo metro that one must let the passengers disembarking from the car get out of the car before you get in."

However, Teachout believes that she has adjusted to life in the Egyptian city, noting that "young people of different sexes holding hands in the street seems kind of scandalous and you want to swathe the 'half naked' tourists."

Roddy Flynn ('08), who is also studying at the University of Limerick "realiz[ed]

that other schools aren't nearly as politically active as AU and that we're really in our own little bubble...like one girl didn't know the difference between US Senators and State Senators, also like no one votes."

Students who are currently abroad note how they have strengthened their leadership skills. Olga Khazan ('08) mentions travel plans as a prime example, "Sometimes when you're traveling with a bunch of laid-back people, someone *has* to make a decision otherwise you'll never end up doing anything... alternately, when you're traveling with a bunch of high-strung people, you have to be laid back and allow the OCD types to get what they want so that everyone else can have an enjoyable experience."

Sara Wilson ('08) agrees, saying that "Sometimes its frustrating getting lost or having something not go right, but our motto for this semester is 'let's just see where this takes us' and when I make a wrong decision, to know that I have the skills to not freak out and to trust that I can get us back on track."

Other students studying abroad this semester: Katie Olson in Berlin, Germany; Jessie Bailly, Nairobi, Kenya; Sarah Brown, Belgium; Christina Casey, London; Camille Koue, Madrid, Spain.



Juniors Roddy Flynn, Katie Olson, and Sara Wilson point to a sign in France telling how far away they are from D.C. (6,175 km)(above) and by the Arc de Triomphe (right)



Cairo, Egypt (above) and Amy Teachout sitting on one of the Great Pyramids at Giza (right).

