



May 2008

Message from the Director: Tim LaPira

Inside this issue:

What a year! Nine months ago I took the helm of the Leader “ship” knowing little more about the program than what’s on the website. During this all-too-brief time as the faculty Director, I’ve come to learn not only how extraordinarily talented and bright you are, but also how enthusiastic you are about dedicating your lives to affecting real social change.

Traditionally, the faculty-student relationship implies that the teacher imparts knowledge upon the student. In my experience this year, it was decidedly the other way around. You taught me that scholarship at the college level is about much more than reading books, attending lectures, and writing papers. You demonstrated to me that a dedicated group of students can organize their communities to bring about important social change. Whether it was a mentor program in a local middle school, a grant-making foundation to benefit the DC’s public schools, or live C-SPAN broadcast of a panel of dignitaries raising awareness about the genocide in Darfur, the service projects that Leadership students successfully carried out this year were nothing short of extraordinary. You showed me that a truly higher education is not just about doing well, it’s about doing *good* beyond the college campus.

As I move on to the next stage in my life, I know I’m leaving the program in the very capable hands of Professor Margaret Marr. I know the program has many years of success to come. Best of luck to you all!

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Message from the Student Director: Sara Wilson

It is unbelievable that this year is coming to an end. I am so proud of the accomplishments we have made as a Program.

I want to thank all of the Steering Committee members for the incredible job they have done this year and I want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as Student Director. It’s been an amazing experience and I am very excited about the upcoming changes to the Program.

I would also like to welcome Dave Simnick as the new Student Director. I know he will do a great job leading the Program in this upcoming year. Thank you all so much for this opportunity.



Meet the 2008-09 Student Director, Dave Simnick

**read his letter to the program on page 7*





Class of 2011: Service and Learning at Work

Education

By: Jenny Leland

It's been an exciting year in the Education Issue Group as they strove to improve the preparedness of students at Janney Elementary School to excel on the DCCAS testing.

Their project included semester long mentoring program three days a week, a career day and a reception celebrating education and the students' progress.

"I am extremely proud of the work that we've done because I believe that in bringing 35-40 mentors to Janney Elementary School we have really eased the burdens of teachers working with Janney students after school. That has been helpful for them and based up on the comments our group has received from mentors it has been really fulfilling for them as well", as group member Graham Vyse said, "there are certainly things I would have done differently and I have learned a great deal about what it takes to be an organized and competent leader but all told our education project has been as thoroughly enjoyable and fruitful endeavor."



Kristen Cleveland, Kera Package, Kathryn Baxter, Andy MacCracken, Jenny Leland, Graham Vyse, Leslie Kodet, TA Seth Cutter (not pictured)



Jon Baker, AJ Welch, Dan Shorts, Michael Monrroy, Nick Troiano, Scarlet Doyle, Kristen Pionati, TA Jenna Sablan

Urban Development

By: Nick Troiano

The Urban Development issue group held a successful "rally against gentrification" downtown in Freedom Plaza on March 30th, group member Jon Baker said. Led by TA Jenna Sablan, the group intended to raise awareness about this predatory process of urban development, which, according to member Kristen Pionati, is responsible for displacing hundreds if not thousands of low-income families, many of whom wind up on the streets.

At the rally, several community based organizations, including A Wider Circle and the National Coalition for the Homeless, both of which co-sponsored the event, set up tables to educate the many passersby. Several homeless people spoke at the rally, as part of a local speaker's bureau. In what was the culmination of a lot of work and research for the group, members Dan Shorts and Scarlet Doyle read aloud the "Proclamation against Gentrification" which was a message to the mayor and city council about the problem and what they need to do to solve it. The group gathered signatures for the proclamation at the rally.

"Overall, I think we were very effective in getting our message out there about this very important problem, in fact, our Web site (www.dcfremptystreets.com) has even received several hits from servers at the DC government—we know they're listening to us," member Andrew Welch stated.

After a smaller event on the quad in April, the group sent their signed proclamation to local officials.

Environmental Sustainability

By: Tracy Empson

The environmental sustainability issue group has sown the seeds of sustainability at MacFarland Middle School in Northeast Washington, DC with its environmental education program, Growing Greener.

"The centerpiece of our service-learning project is the education portion of Growing Greener," commented group member Emily Beyer. "Students will have mini-lessons about environmental issues and recycling in their science classes for two weeks."

In addition to the education component, Growing Greener will reduce the carbon footprint of MacFarland. The group will replace incandescent light bulbs with more energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs. A recycling program will also be implemented. Students at the school came together in April to plant trees and flowers in front of the school as well as take part in environmental activities.

Group member Kelsey Stefanik-Sidener explained, "Through a combination of physical changes to the school and environmental education, we hope to leave a lasting impact on the students and staff of MacFarland Middle School."



Emily Beyer, Nicole Snarski, Kelsey Stefanik-Sidener, Stephen Laudone, TA Alli Gold, Tracy Empson, Samantha Zarrini, Betsy White

Public Health*By: Bharat Krishnan*

Get ready for HealthFest Extravaganza 2008! The Public Health Group has been making substantive progress this year towards their event, a health fair on the quad. Now that they are working with RHA, WholeFoods, and Robeks, among other organizations,

"[RHA] might be providing us with a dunking booth and that thing you hit with a hammer to test your strength," Meg Miraglia said. "Since it's a preview day, we don't think we'll have trouble having people at the event because we've reserved the entire quad. The main thing will be having activities to keep their interest once they get there."

Aside from partnering with organizations, the group has had an uphill battle with obtaining money all year.

"We went through a lot of different scenarios, but we eventually got a hospital to agree to give us some money," Natasha Pereira said. "The main problem has been trying to pay for tables, actually."

The event will be held on April 18 during the day, and will feature free smoothies from Robeks, fun activities, and plenty of information on eating healthy and staying fit from several organizations.



*John Sonsalla,
Natasha Pereira,
Isaac Cramer,
Megan Miraglia,
Leah Pope,
Helen Zhang, TA
Ehsan Ali, Bharat
Krishnan*



*TA Georgette Spanjich,
Emily Nantt, Seth
Gilroy, Quinn Pregli-
asco, Nirvana Habash,
Rob Masiello, Ben
Schorr, Caitlyn Flynn*

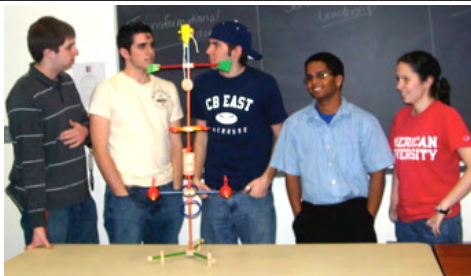
Social Justice*By: Emily Nantt*

After a tedious semester of phone calls, flyer hanging, fund-raising, and all-around scrambling, the Social Justice group held their final event on March 27.

The day began with a Darfur awareness fair on the quad, where participants witnessed several speakers with insight into the dilemma. Five tents of Hope were set up, covered with messages, pictures, and facts for the less informed from anti-genocide advocates. A die-in occurred in the afternoon, where a crowd of students acted as a pile of dead bodies while guest speaker Mohammed Yahya spoke about the loss of his family members due to the crisis.

The fair was followed with a political panel in Ward 1 where six ambassadors and advocacy directors held an open forum discussion, moderated by SIS professor A. Carl Levan and broadcasted live on C-SPAN 1.

Though the group hit many road bumps along the way such as Julian Bond dropping out as moderator four days before the event, the group met frequently and worked thoroughly to cover all bases. "It was tough, but I am very satisfied with how the project worked out," remarked Nirvana Habash after the event. "I believe that it truly was an eye-opening experience for those on our campus."



A major theme of the first year in program is defining leadership. For most freshmen, it's difficult to pinpoint exactly when they blossomed into their take-charge attitudes. In order to demonstrate how leadership starts from an early age, the freshman class was given the task to build absolutely anything with a bunch of pieces from a tinkertoys set.

The real challenge, however, was that one student from each group was given a slip of paper with a leadership trait they had to carry through during the group's time building together. Some leaders were told to be extremely hands on, to guide the rest of their group into following their lead; others were told that they could not contribute; they could only engage the group in conversation in order to make group decisions.

Girls and Boys and Tinkertoys!!!

The product of each group was creative and unique from the other groups. Emily Beyer, who was one of the group leaders, was told that she could only talk her group through the motions of building their product. She was not allowed to interfere or make final decisions for the group. Freshman Graham Vyse said, "It was really interesting to see that every single person in Emily's group got to add their own idea and flair into making a Field-goal kicker."

During the wrap-up after the activity the freshman class agreed that leadership is something that begins from an early age. From picking teams to deciding what game to play, children are constantly presented with opportunities to make decisions. Therefore, it became apparent to the 35 Leadership freshmen that at some point during their childhood they stood out as team captains, teacher's pets, older siblings, etc. The tinkertoy activity took them all back in time to memories of working in groups with others just for fun—years later it shaped them into active participants and distinguished leaders.

By: Nirvana Habash



Fundraising Projects

By: Andrew Fogle

From partisanship to pancakes, the sophomore class met a semester full of challenges and opportunities to emerge as a stronger and more cohesive group.

Committed to the idea of a grant foundation developed during the first semester, the class resolved to raise money in order to fund leadership and community building initiatives undertaken by DC high school youth. After several false starts and a bumpy few first weeks, a new model of group leadership and class participation evolved: "Things were definitely chaotic at first, but we banded together and managed to overcome it. I think we ended up better off, having worked through that tension," said Alli Gold ('10).

The group originally planned a casino gaming fundraiser, but late-developing technical complications made this impractical. The sophomores had to think fast in order to

compensate, organizing themselves into four smaller committees in order to get things done. These groups planned and carried out several smaller fundraising events: a competitive arcade afternoon, featuring various video games and tournaments with prizes, a pancake breakfast held on a Sunday morning, and a midnight flag football tournament, attended by a variety of campus student groups.

As for the football tournament, Jenna Sablan, said, "I wasn't sure how it would turn out, but I was really happy with the energy and enthusiasm all of the people playing brought to the event--it made it a really fun event to not only plan but also attend."

The events were very successful and drew in over \$2500 by the end of the semester.

The group is still working to choose the applicants who will receive the funds they have raised.

Super Tuesday vs. Fat Tuesday

By: Nirvana Habash

Tuesday, February 5, 2008 was a day to celebrate. Around the nation, people watched the Primary Election results from 24 states, typically referred to as "Super Tuesday". The rest of the nation, however, was out celebrating the annual "Fat Tuesday"-- Mardi Gras.

Where do you think our freshmen SPA Leadership students were? Well, it's accurate to say there was a good mix of politics and parties. A few freshmen planned a Super Tuesday party in McDowell Formal Lounge, which provided a good atmosphere for the election results. Before and after Fat Tuesday celebrations, most of the freshmen leaders stopped in to catch up and talk politics. "We only have Presidential elections every four years, and Mardi Gras is an annual event; it was important for us to watch the results come in" said freshmen Kristen Cleveland.

In the end, the freshmen spent the night enjoying Super Tuesday with every intention to make up for putting aside this year's Fat Tuesday next year.

Program-wide Retreat

By: Emily Nantt & Sarah Hord

As homage to the Freshman Retreat that the Leadership Program holds annually, on Friday evening, March 28, the program held a mini program-wide retreat in Ward. Student director Sara Wilson put it together, along with seniors Tai Spargo and Katie Olsen. The event was a time to relax and socialize, as most groups were wrapping up their events for the semester. Students enjoyed a hefty selection of Chipotle burritos and ice cream sundaes. Afterward the students played some theatrical games and laughed at Alli Gold's impressions of a violent death.

The most uniquely Leadership event of the night was when the students split into groups according to their animal personalities to make a commercial about the Leadership program. The groups used their creativity and personalities to come up with some great ideas. Some groups took a very detailed look at the program, while other groups looked at the program more generally, but all the skits were great and the students

seemed to have a lot of fun working in their personality groups.

At the conclusion of the night each student went around and said their favorite part of the program as well as tips for improvement. All guests collectively said "Aaw!" when freshman Katherine Baxter told T.A. Seth Cutter that he was her favorite part of the program.

Students really wanted to see an expansion of many of the programs that we have begun, such as in the mentorship and alumni areas. Other students also mentioned how the interaction among all levels of the program is something that should happen more often. Betsy White, ('11) said that she "valued the connections" she has made with other members of the program and the safe environment that the program creates.

"I thought that the retreat was a fun way for us to meet upperclassmen and reflect on the year," said freshman Helen Zhang. "Leadership can be hard work, but having so many friends in it makes it all worthwhile."

2008-09 Freshman TAs



Megan Miraglia, Andy MacCracken, Tracy Empson, Kristen Cleveland, Jon Baker, Professor Marr



Sophomore Mentorship Program

By: Helen Zhang

Currently the SPA Leadership Mentorship Committee is busily preparing for their traditional year end reception plus the presentation of gifts to mentors and students to be held on April 17, 2008. They have also collected surveys that will reveal what types of mentors SPA Leadership students are searching for so the Mentorship Committee can better match mentors and students. A process of identifying suitable mentors to retain according to the experiences of students with mentors this year is also in the making.

The Mentorship Committee Chair, Alexis Nadin, said that, "This has been an especially incredible experience between my mentor and me; we've had some great moments and some 'Washington D.C.' moments together. Overall the program has benefited Leadership students by allowing them to make contacts in the DC network, preparing for a future career."

She sees the mentorship program as having been a great experience for students. She noted that, "the people who really benefited from the program were those who vigorously pursued their mentor."

She also said that the mentors were able to specifically help some of the sophomores this year. "The mentors helped students out with writing recommendations and finding internships for them, as well as getting to meet famous officials, like Colin Powell."

Alexis said she is very excited about the mentorship chair for next year, Stephen Laudone. She is encouraged that the rising sophomores are also excited about having mentors, but notes that there is a change for the next year—mentors will be optional for students, that way students who really want a mentor have a greater chance to get a wonderful mentor. She said they are also "working hard to recruit really exceptional mentors" for next year.

Message from New Program Director: Margaret Marr

Greetings,
Thank you for this excellent opportunity! I feel privileged to work with such an outstanding group of students to explore the relationship between leadership and social change.

Since my selection, I have enjoyed getting to know the students, listening to your hopes and experiences in the program. In just the past month, I have attended the program-wide retreat, met with the first, second and fourth year classes, enjoyed watching the first year students present the conclusion of their fantastic projects, helped select next year's outstanding TAs and Student Director, organized an "intergenerational" TA and Student Director meeting, attended a few Steering Committee meetings, and addressed students recently admitted to AU to let them know about this terrific program.

In the next few months I will be working diligently with the new Student Director and other students to recruit another excellent class of first year

students. I believe the Program's greatest asset is the high caliber of students it attracts.

I am also working to revamp the second year curriculum to make it more meaningful and to allow students to build on the skills developed in the first year. My discussions with the students indicate they are enthusiastic for the opportunities that change can bring.

Additionally, I aim to return to more rigorous academic training, throughout the program, that is successfully integrated with the students' experiential work. Toward that end, the meeting of all years' TAs and Student Directors was very valuable, indeed insightful.

This is genuinely a collaborative effort. I value your experience, insights and hopes. Working together we can make this a model program that other universities will aspire to emulate. I look forward to it!

~Margaret H. Marr, J.D.

Mentorship Spotlights

By: John Sonsalla

The sophomore mentorship program is an excellent way for Leadership students to learn valuable lessons outside of the conventional classroom, from an important member of the community. I have interviewed three sophomore students to find out how the Mentorship Program was working in their lives.

David Simnick was paired with Ms. Kristy Mordhorst, the founder for the Young Professionals in International Affairs, this fall semester. Kristy also founded the AU's Foreign Policy Association and was the recipient of the Alan Taylor Memorial Prize in 2005. Dave described his mentor as a very realistic person who has accomplished a lot in a short period of time. However, he added that his mentor has instilled in him the belief, "That you can preserve under the hardest conditions." He added that, "She really keeps pushing and makes the best of what she is given... She's accomplished so much."

Georgette Spanjich, a TA in the Leadership Program was paired with Ms. Allyson Neville from the Genocide Intervention Network. Allyson has been very

influential in legislation relating to Darfur, writing the actual bill that passed in the Hours and the Senate. Georgette described the love of policy that her mentor opened up to her and their continued close relationship. "...The most important thing I will take away from my mentorship experience was the passion that my mentor and I shared for the process of creating policy."

Seth Cutter, also a TA in the Leadership Program and recently elected President of American Universities Student Government was paired with Kate Alesse. Kate is a researcher at the World Bank Office of Institutional Integrity. Kate recently finished a report on corruption in the organization abroad and is currently working on several other campaigns. Seth described the help that Kate has provided him. "She reminded my how close we are to the "real" world and to begin thinking about life after school. Life is challenging and we need to be ready to adapt to those changes..."

Steering Committee Members 2008-09

Student Director: Dave Simnick

Secretary: Jenny Leland

Treasurer: Robert Masiello

Mentorship Chair: Stephen Laudone

Publications Chairs: Nick Troiano
& Leslie Kodet

Events Chairs: Kathryn Baxter
& Christine Hooyman

Alumni Chair: Jenna Sablan

Buddy Chair: Emily Beyer



Seniors Offer their Reflections of the Program

Michael Wagner: “The SPA Leadership Program does a really good job of molding you into a community. Things we did four years ago in our first few weeks--learning our “animal” types, playing ridiculously hard games of charades, the T.A. system--we can all still laugh about them today, and those shared memories bond us together in a significant way.

I consider the Program a real success story for me. The main reason I joined was pretty simple: to get the chance to work, learn, and live with the best and brightest AU had to offer, and I have not been disappointed. My peers in the program are all impressive people, dedicated, committed, and hard working, and many of them are also great friends.

Leadership is relationship, as they say, and the relationships I have formed through the past four years, both professional and personal, I hope will stick with me for a long time.”

Stacia Young: “The best time in Leadership was sitting around the fire at our freshman year retreat and just being exhausted and gross but really excited about the program.”



Kenneth Hammitt, Samantha Palmer, Katie Olsen, Andrew Price-Gibson, Michael Wagner, Sara Wilson, Roddy Flynn, Stacia Young, Tai Spargo, Katlyn Miller, Marissa Chmiola, Will McGahan, Katie Myers, Erin O'Sullivan, Adriana Vecchio, Rob Kimball, Sarah Hord, Haig Kherlopian, Joe Pavel, Sarah Little, Jason Dombrowski, Lee Dreyfuss, Alex Cohill (not pictured)

Samantha Palmer: Cool Leadership experience: “Meeting Jane Goodall freshman year during our service project. I got her to sign a book for my mom. MY mom's hero is Jane and when she got her book she cried.”

Andrew Price-Gibson:

“Leadership class is something that, as a senior, I value. There is something to say about growing up with people, that very few people get in a university experience.”

Sarah Hord: “I loved this program from the very beginning, and have really enjoyed being a part of such a wonderful group of people. I truly value the relationships I made with other students, and I love being in a program that fosters doing good for others. My leadership skills have grown exponentially during my time at college, and I attribute that to the program and the students who made me feel that my leadership personality (owl) was valued. Good luck to everyone, and I know the program will continue to build relationships that will last for years to come!”

Erin O'Sullivan: Favorite Leadership Moment: “For the freshman retreat I brought sheets but no blankets. Turns out we were in the mountains and despite it being early September, it was freezing at night. I was curled up in a little ball shivering and Sarah Brown threw her towel over me before she left (she went back to campus in the first wave of caravans). She also left me a little note on a post-it saying how great it was to get to know each other and to return the towel whenever, with a little smiley face. Four years later Sarah is my roommate and one of my best friends.”

Adriana Vecchio: Advice to underclassmen: “Enjoy your service projects! I know it sounds silly (enjoying classwork—a strange idea, I know), but the freshman service projects are a great way to form friendships and learn about something new. Make sure your group picks something that each person can get excited about in their own way. If you like what you're doing, it's less work. Service projects may start off small, but it's a great resume boost, particularly if you think of something unique. Make sure to write down all the aspects of your project, because employers will be asking you about it when you graduate. Most of all, enjoy your underclassman years! As freshmen and sophomores, you have less responsibility and a lot more free time. Take advantage of it, because it disappears as you get older.”

Senior Seminar By: Sarah Hord

This year in the senior seminar course, Political and Organizational Leadership, students looked at leadership theory and discussed how these theories have been or could be applied to their internship and career experiences. Students rotated as discussion leaders each week, which made each class unique.

The most interesting discussion leaders were Haig Kherlopian, Jason Dombrowski, and Michael Wagner. They created and performed a skit parodying Indiana Jones. The skit was the “Quest for the General Theory of Leadership,” which was the book the class was reading, and the quest was led by Nebraska Kherlopian. All the students enjoyed the skit and made the quest for the theory more realistic.

The class had a final paper analyzing the theories of leadership discussed in class and applying them to historical or contemporary leaders.

Unlike the other Leadership classes, this focused much more on theory and learning in a classroom setting. Several students felt the class would have been more meaningful with alternative classes or by studying leadership in a more practical matter. Adriana Vecchio thought “a field trip to see something inspiring like the Lincoln monument or discussing particular leaders as case studies would have been a good addition to the class. While leadership theory and academic application is important, seeing leadership in action is the best way to learn.”

Leading and Learning Abroad

By: Emily Nantt

Welcome back Leadership students who studied abroad in the fall! Last semester many students took advantage of AU's excellent study abroad program by heading to locations such as London, Brussels, Scotland, and the Netherlands for programs relating to their majors. Those in SPA have more of a challenge in this area, as abroad class schedules are steered toward SIS majors.

However, SPA leaders including Erin O'Sullivan and Roddy Flynn had immense success and great experiences in

Belgium and Ireland, respectively. “The best part of studying abroad was the spontaneity,” said Flynn. “I enjoyed the ability to fly off to Prague for a weekend or take in the Louvre on a whim.”

Being abroad does have its challenges, however. “My host family made my living situation a little difficult, but the travel was fantastic,” remarked O'Sullivan.

Any advice for L-ship students who plan to travel abroad? “Talk to people who have been abroad before,” O'Sullivan said. “That's the best way to get a feel for what you're getting yourself into.”



Awards:

Class of 2008

Jason Dombrowski: *Graduate School at George Washington University studying Security Policy Studies*

Sarah Hord: *Received the United Methodist Undergraduate Scholarship; Dean's List*

Katie Myers: *Hofstra Law School \$8000/yr scholarship' New York Law School \$5000/yr scholarship*

Katie Olson: *Accepted into Peace Corps; will be in Malawi, Africa*

Tai Spargo: *Graduate School at American University to study Public Administration (5 year BA/MA program)*

Michael Wagner: *University of Michigan Law School, Dean's Fellowship*

Sara Wilson: *Accepted into teach NOLA, teachings fellows program in New Orleans*

Class of 2009

Molly Kenney: *Recipient of the Truman Scholarship for Graduate School*

Jacob Shelly: *Patriot League Scholar Athlete in Cross Country and Track*

Class of 2010

Alli Gold: *National Political Science Honors Society*

Class of 2011

Emily Beyer: *Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society*

Isaac Cramer: *Dean's List*

Scarlet Doyle: *Dean's List*

Tracy Empson: *Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society*

Bharat Krishnan: *Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society*

Leaders in the Field

Stephen Laudone: *Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society*

Jenny Leland: *NRHH Induction*

Megan Miraglia: *Dean's List*

Michael Monrroy: *AU College Republicans—Best Freshman Award*

Kristen Pionati: *Dean's List*

Leah Pope: *Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society*

Kelsey Stefanik-Sidener: *Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society*

Nick Troiano: *Society of Professional Journalists Photo Journalism Award for his work covering the Dalia Lama for The Eagle*

Graham Vyse: *Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society*

Samantha Zarrini: *Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society*

Helen Zhang: *Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society*

Michael Wagner: *President, Justice Advisory Group*

Elliot Friedman: *Interned at New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine's Washington D.C. office; will be taking a leave of absence from the university next semester to be the Field Coordinator for John Adler's Congressional Campaign in NJ's 3rd District*

Kristian Hoysradt: *President of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity*

Jacob Shelly: *Policy Director for the Roosevelt Institution, a student think tank; President-elect for Roosevelt Institution, 2008-09; Co-Director of AU Students for Barack Obama; "State" Co-Director for Washington D.C. Students for Barack Obama*

Seth Cutter: *Student Government President-elect for 2008-09; Musical Director of the Catholic Community Choir and Ensemble*

Alli Gold: *Vice President of Jewish Student Association; Intern for Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz (PA-13)*

Jenna Sablan: *Leadership Alliance Summer Research Internship, Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School of Public & International Affairs*

Georgette Spanjich: *Class of 2010 Senator; Chairwoman on the Committee on Student Rights; AU Ambassadors Networking Chair; Intern for Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY)*

Kathryn Baxter: *AU Ambassador Emily Beyer: Class of 2011*

Andrew Price Gibson: *AU Students for Hillary, treasurer; Resident Assistant*

Erin O'Sullivan: *Women's Initiative Representative on the AU Lady Eagles team*

Tai Spargo: *Director of the Vagina Monologues*

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Tai Spargo: *Director of the Vagina Monologues*

Senator

Scarlet Doyle: *Intern for Senator John Ensign (R-NV)*

Nirvana Habash: *2011 Class President*

Leslie Kodet: *Stage Manager/Sound Designer for AU Players*

Bharat Krishnan: *Communications Director for Mike Turner for Congress*

Stephen Laudone: *AU Ambassador*

Jenny Leland: *RHA VP of Programming for McDowell Hall; RHA VP-elect of Programming; SG DAT Disabilities Director*

Andrew MacCracken: *School of Public Affairs Senator; AUSG Chair on Committee on Student Oversight and Accountability; AUSG Clerk for Special Committee on the Budget; Grassroots Campaigns, Inc. Field Manager*

Megan Miraglia: *Class of 2011 Senator; RHA Floor Representative*

Michael Monrroy: *Intern for Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA)*

Emily Nantt: *President of Republican Women at AU*

Kristen Pionati: *Internship at State Representative's office; show on ATV*

Dan Shorts: *Delta Tau Delta*

Kelsey Stefanik-Sidener: *AU Ambassador; Intern for Congresswoman Betty Sutton (OH-13)*

Nick Troiano: *Intern for Mobilize.org; Summer internship with Pike County (PA) Courier; Class of 2011 Senator*

Graham Vyse: *TA for a Mass Media course*

Betsy White: *Intern for Congressman Jim Cooper (TN); Summer intern for the non-profit Finished Up*

Letter from New Student Director Dave Simnick

I want to first thank this year's Director, Student Director, and Steering Committee for keeping this program running while our organization found it's footing again. They were given a hard task and rose to the occasion. If you see any member of the aforementioned group, please thank them for their hard work and dedication to this program; they surely deserve it.

I also want to congratulate the new SPA Leadership Director and Steering Committee members for this 2008 and 2009 year. I look forward toward working with everyone in the program and am always open to new ideas or ways in which we can improve this great certificate.

This year holds great promise for the program, but with the opportunity to change things for the better - requires the need for more cooperation and effort. Listening to all those who attended the open forum, the members of this program want it to become known campus-wide for the amazing things we do. Leadership students want to have more social events, simulations, as well as interaction between the different classes. This is all possible, but it won't be achieved without the help of

dedicated Leadership students.

Change is a great word to say, but a hard one to implement. For these improvements to become long-lasting in the program, we need Leadership to become more of a commitment than most treat it as they do now. If we set this tone for future classes, this program can transform and eventually have a greater impact not only the students who have the honor of graduating from it, but the multiple lives that are touched or improved through the various programs and projects we do to serve our community.

The Leadership Program has taught me a lot in only two years and I look forward to how much I have yet to learn and grow through this position, my junior internship, and the senior class. Leadership is not only relationship, but sincere commitment to that relationship you hold to your responsibilities. I plan to take this position as sincerely as possible and I am dedicated to see this program develop into the things we hoped it would be.

This year offers new possibilities and I need your help in order to make all of these improvements a substantial reality.



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John McCain: James Lynch ('09); Sofia Amaya ('09); Emily Nantt ('11); Dan Shorts ('11); Michael Monrroy ('11)

Mike Huckabee: Isaac Cramer ('11);

Mitt Romney: Michael Monrroy ('11)



Bharat Krishnan, Jacob Shelly, and Dave Simnick after the Obama rally on campus.

Leaders Hit the Campaign Trail

Democrats

By: Bharat Krishnan

In a city where politics is personal, Leadership students stick out as being very opinionated and knowledgeable. From the first day of classes last semester, practically everyone favored one candidate over the others and many spent their winter break campaigning instead of relaxing.

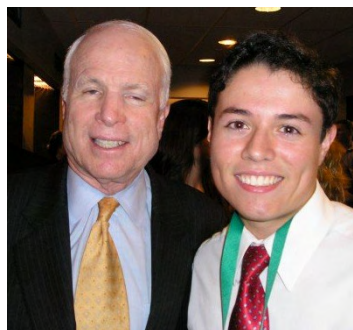
"This election is incredibly important for students," said Jacob Shelly ('09), who is the DC Director for Students for Barack Obama. "We are going to be heading into the job market soon and the economy is in shambles. Many of us have friends in Iraq, and John McCain's hawkish policies will only serve to deteriorate what little soft power we have left in the world."

With only a few nominating contests left, Barack Obama's rival, Hillary Clinton, must win big in most of the remaining contests in order to stand a chance of winning the nomination. Jenny Leland ('11) spent some time campaigning for the junior senator from New York in New Hampshire, where she won by two points.

"Being in the room was amazing," Leland said. "I just think Senator Obama isn't experienced enough, and would do much better as Hillary's running mate."

While the general election is sure to instigate plenty of debate among students in the fall, Leadership students have shown huge interest in the primaries.

"The primaries give you a chance to select someone who you think would bring your Party in the right direction for the good of the country," said Emily Beyer ('11), who supported Joe Biden and now supports Obama. "Biden was the most knowledgeable of all the candidates by far with respect to foreign policy. Hopefully, President Obama will appoint him Secretary of State."



Michael Monrroy with Senator McCain

Republicans

By: Nick Troiano

Leadership students hit the campaign trail this winter and spring, stumping for their favorite presidential candidates up and down the East Coast.

Dan Shorts, ('11) had the opportunity to stay at a friend's house in New Hampshire for a few days preceding the second-in-the-nation primary over winter break. "It was an incredible experience, something that I will remember for the rest of my life," he said.

Shorts got to see his candidate, Arizona Senator John McCain, speak twice—once at a campaign stop, and luckily for Shorts, at McCain's victory speech after sweeping the Granite State. Shorts recalls meeting McCain and telling him he will see him at his Inauguration almost one year from then.

McCain would soon thereafter have a showdown with fellow Republican Presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee in South Carolina two weeks later in January, where freshman Isaac Cramer was present. Cramer, who traveled seven hours south from the American University campus for the Saturday primary, commented that, "it was worth the trip and getting no sleep to help Huckabee come very close to winning the state."

Though in the end it was an upset for Cramer and his candidate in what was a crucial state, Cramer said he would do it all over again tomorrow. One of his best memories is greeting the former Arkansas Governor when at a polling station, where he and his friends were waving signs in the pouring rain. Cramer said Huckabee walked across the street to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

With the general election only a few months away, it is expected leadership students will continue to engage in the political system, campaigning all the way to the White House next year.



The Obama headquarters in New Hampshire where Kristian Hoysradt campaigned.