Greetings!

This fall is an exciting time for the Key Executive Leadership Programs. Our programs continue to grow as we continue to be joined by those who have chosen the path of extraordinary leadership. Our newest program is off to an exciting start as we finalize the creation of a Key Executive Leadership MPA with a focus in maritime affairs. This new focus is extremely important as global trade increases and concerns of international security place new demands on officials in ports around the world. With the addition of this new program, we continue to grow the Key program as a whole and break ground in new areas while continuing to offer our students opportunities not available anywhere else.

I wish to express my thanks to those who joined us last spring for the celebration of Key’s 35th Anniversary and our inaugural Key conference. A wonderful time was had by all. The leaders of our sessions engaged students in discussion and presented ideas on how to continue our work as extraordinary leaders. Dr. Neil Kerwin, President of American University and keynote speaker, was very well received by all, and Dr. Don Zauderer, founder of the Key program, joined me as we discussed the past and future of the Key Executive Leadership Programs. We are already underway in planning our next alumni conference. We hope you will all join us as we continue to bring past and current students together to discuss new ways we can improve our leadership.

Key also broke new ground this summer, by including an abroad component. Students from Key 38 and 39 joined me in travelling to Brussels to examine the role of public administrations in the European Union in comparison to the United States. We are in the planning stages of our next trip abroad, and we continue to search out new ways to provide our students with experiences that are available only through our Key Executive Leadership Program.

We continue to seek leaders who wish to deepen their knowledge and become extraordinary. In our search for those committed to learning and developing their leadership capacity, we continue to hold open houses on campus when we have several cohorts in attendance. Our open house features all current Key programs. Prospective students will share lunch and have the opportunity to learn about the Key Programs from current students. Our fall open house was held on September 24, 2010, with more planned in the future. We encourage you to help spread the word about these events and to bring any interested colleagues along with you to an event. In addition, please contact us if you would like to share your Key experiences with prospective students.

The Key MPA Program is now accepting applications for Key MPA Cohort 42, Key MPA with a maritime focus Cohort 1, and Key Certificate Cohort 14, all starting in the spring 2011 semester. I ask you to send us those, like you, who have chosen the path of extraordinary leadership. It is your support that has made and will continue to make Key a success. For more information, or to apply, go to www.american.edu/spa/key/ or contact Corrine Thompson at (202) 885-3217 or corrinet@american.edu.

As always, I continue to consult with Key faculty, alumni and students to ensure that we continue our tradition of providing a learning environment where students make the choice to change. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Key event.
First Key Conference a Rousing Success

This spring marked the 35th Anniversary of the Key Executive Leadership Program. We were able to mark this anniversary with a celebration of the Key Executive Leadership Program and our First Annual Key Executive Leadership Conference on May 20 and 21, 2010. The celebration of Key’s 35th Anniversary was a truly enjoyable evening where we celebrated the students and faculty that have made our program what it is today. Dr. Don Zauderer, the “father” of the Key Executive Program, spoke about the history of the Program and shared his thoughts on where we’ve been and Professor Robert Tobias, the current director of the Program, spoke about where our program is headed in the future.

The conference itself was a great success. Breakout sessions featured such notables as Dr. Michael MacCoby, and Dr. Marilee Adams. Both these and our other breakout sessions were very well received by our participants. One of the highlights of the conference was the keynote address delivered by Dr. Neil Kerwin, President of American University, who spoke about how government agencies write laws and make policy. Dr. Kerwin is an expert in this field having authored the book, Rulemaking: How Government Agencies Write Law and Make Policy.

We are looking forward to our Second Annual Alumni Conference next May. Watch your inbox for a Save the Date for the Second Annual Key Conference!

New Program Takes Float

The Key Executive Leadership Program is excited to announce that it has partnered with the Northeast Maritime Institute (NMI) of Fairhaven, MA, to create the AU/NMI Key Executive Leadership MPA with a focus in maritime affairs. NMI, run by Key 36 alumnus Eric Dawicki, offers a wide range of courses and maritime training opportunities—used for both professional development and licensing upgrades—for the professional and entry-level mariner.

The program is targeted to public sector managers at all levels of government and for private sector managers who are interested and involved in the many aspects of maritime affairs. Successful students will obtain a Key Executive Leadership MPA degree.

Admiral James Loy, former USCG Commandant, and member of the program’s Academic Advisory Board, has stated, “We are in a post-9/11, Katrina, and 2010 Gulf oil spill environment. Each challenge brings a new dimension to vessel operations, marine safety, and marine pollution prevention requiring skills and competencies that now are even more important skills sets of leaders and managers in the maritime community. Nowhere is a need for agility, adaptability, and speed of service more apparent. If the maritime community, government and the private sector is going to gain capacity to do what is needed to be done, we must have these capabilities.”

Other distinguished members of the Academic Advisory Board include Dr. John Farthing, Scientist Emeritus of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; Admiral “Ace” Lyons, former Pacific Area Commander (USN RET); Gerhard Kurz, former President of Mobil Shipping and Transportation Co. and CEO of Seabulk International; and the Honorable John Gaughan, former administrator of the U.S. Maritime Administration.

For more information, including how to become a sponsor for students in the program, please see www.american.edu/spa/key/nmi, email key-nmi@american.edu or call Corrine Thompson at (202) 885-3217.

First Abroad Comparative Politics Course in Brussels a Success

This past June, the Key Executive Leadership MPA Program incorporated an abroad component into the curriculum. Students from Keys 38 and 39 first met for an all-day class session on governance in the United States and then traveled to Brussels, Belgium for 5 days to study governance in the European Union (EU). They met with several major figures in the EU community and learned the differences in approaches between European and American government and policymaking. The reviews from our students have been excellent and all appreciated the unique opportunity to expand their study abroad.

We are now reserving spots for next summer’s course, open to students in Keys 40 and 41. Contact Nina Al len or Corrine Thompson for more information about the trip.

Welcome New Key Certificate Team Members!

Victoria Ramirez, her husband, and their two cats are newcomers to Washington, DC. Victoria joined AU from the public sector at the Texas Education Agency, where she provided assistance to independent school districts and charter schools. She works with Assistant Director Sophie Idilbi on administrative matters in the Key Executive Leadership Certificate programs. Victoria is also a student in SPA’s Master of Public Policy program, where she plans to specialize in social policy with a focus on education.

Raesah Et’Tawil joins the Key staff as an administrative assistant. She moved to Washington, DC from Mobile, Alabama three years ago after joining IODP Management International, a science management firm sponsored by the National Science Foundation. There she served as a program and communications assistant. Raesah holds a BA in International Relations and Communications from the University of South Alabama. She is continuing her education at AU as an MPA student.

MCR Program Imparts New Tools

The Key Executive Program has partnered with MCR to create the Key Executive Leadership Senior Program Manager Certificate program. This program is designed to teach new performance management techniques to enable students to bring developed and tested performance management principles back to their agencies.

The students’ response has been excellent. After participating in the program, many say that their agencies were not currently using these performance management techniques but with their new skills, they have returned to their agencies and changed the process for projects, which has enabled a more accurate projection for the time and cost of projects. One participant also shared that it is important for others to learn these principles in order to apply them in their agencies.

In addition to lectures, case studies, individual and team presentations, students are challenged to execute “sleeves rolled up” tasks since senior managers can periodically benefit from a healthy dose of “real” project management work. Along these lines, one workshop had students show up to class at 9am only to immediately receive a mock, but realistic, performance work statement and submitted cost proposal for program office support work. They were told to be ready for the Integrated Baseline Review by 2:30pm, at which point they would be subjected to 90 minutes of grilling by their “customer” in terms of their scope, schedule, cost, planned deliverables, and risks. Scenarios like these, infused with a variety of periodic, time-sensitive inputs to change conditions, reinforced AU/MCR program objectives relative to leadership, coalition-building and decision-making.

Word is spreading. The second AU/MCR cohort (SPM 2) is double the size of SPM 1, and began in October just as the first cohort was graduating. New agencies, such as the Department of Labor, will be exposed to MCR technical prowess in this new cohort. For more information about this certificate program, please contact Sophie Idilbi at si8400a@american.edu or 202-885-6256.
Recent Student and Alumni Accomplishments

**Fairfax County Police Key Executive Leadership Certificate Program**
Dave Russell and Jim Baumstark have both been promoted to the rank of Captain, and Ed Roessler has been promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief of Police. Out of 16 graduates from the program, 12 have earned a promotion.

**Office of Inspector General Certificate Program**
Peter Kim has been promoted to the position of Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Recovery Oversight, for the Department of the Interior.

**Key 21**
Karen Ellis received the 2010 Women in Federal Law Enforcement (WIFLE) Foundation Award for Outstanding Federal Law Enforcement Employee in her position as the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations with the Department of Agriculture.

**Key 36**
In July Kurt Drake left General Electric to accept the position of Compliance Leader for Mubadala (http://www.mubadala.ae/) based in Abu Dhabi.

**Current Key Students Need Your Support!**

With agencies under greater pressure from tightened budgets, funding for education is being scaled back or cut out of many agency budgets entirely; forcing many Key students to fund the program on their own. With your financial support, we can continue to ease the financial burdens of some Key students.

Since 2004, the Donald G. Zauderer Scholarship Endowment has helped to support students in the Key Executive Leadership MPA Program. Starting in 2010, the Anita F. Alpern Memorial Scholarship was established with the same mission. Each year these scholarships partially support two students enrolled in the Key Executive Leadership MPA Program. To qualify for the Scholarship, applicants must be Key MPA students who are receiving limited or no financial support from their employer and who have completed one year in the program, while maintaining at least a 3.7 GPA.

For more information on how you can help, please contact the SPA Alumni Office at (202) 885-2661.

**Key would like to thank Robert Phillips for his assistance in the production of this newsletter.**