Message from the Director

Greetings!
This spring ushers in an exciting time for us at 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, the Senior Program Manager Certificate program, has begun and is proceeding well as we continue to provide excellent experiences for all of our students.

Our focus this spring is the First Annual Key Executive Leadership Alumni Conference on Thursday, May 20 and Friday May 21, 2010. On Thursday evening, we will celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Key Executive Leadership program. Dr. Donald G. Zauderer, former Director of the Key Executive program and Professor Emeritus, will discuss the history of Key and how it has changed over the years. The presentation will be followed by a reception where our Key alumni will be able to network and celebrate with their fellow alumni.

Friday will feature breakout sessions on topics such as: “Developing a Personal Leadership Philosophy,” led by Dr. Michael Maccoby, President of the Maccoby Group; and “Transforming from Good Managers to Extraordinary Leaders: Leading by Example,” led by Dr. Marilee Adams, founder and President of the Inquiry Institute and Key professor. Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity! Go to http://www.american.edu/spa/key/alumni_events.cfm to register today!

We continue to seek leaders who wish to deepen their knowledge and become extraordinary. In our search for the best and brightest, we have begun holding 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 spring open house was held on April 23, 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 41 and Key Certificate Cohort 13, both starting in the fall 2010 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 Nina Allen at (202) 885-3857 or nallen@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.

Bob Tobias, Director
Key Executive Leadership Programs

First Annual Key Executive Leadership Alumni Conference
“Extraordinary Leadership in Extraordinary Times”
Thursday May 20 and Friday May 21, 2010
Mary Graydon Center, AU Main Campus
http://www.american.edu/spa/key/alumni_events.cfm
Key 37 Member Responds to Crisis in Haiti

A twelve-year veteran of U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) global emergency operations, Mia Beers (Key Executive MPA Cohort 37) was part of the Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) in Haiti with specific responsibility for coordinating efforts with other donors, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Within 24 hours of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that rocked Haiti on January 12, USAID’s DART arrived in Haiti. At the height of the U.S. Government response efforts, the DART comprised 540 individuals - 511 search and rescue team members and 34 staff with various expertise in shelter and settlements, protection, health, logistics, food, nutrition, water and sanitation, as well as liaison to the United Nations, the military, and the media.

On March 10, Mia was one of approximately one hundred officials representing the US Government relief efforts thanked in a Rose Garden press conference hosted by President Obama and attended by Haitian President Rene Preval.

Key Goes to Brussels!

On June 25, twenty Key Executive MPA students from Key 38 and Key 39 will begin a unique experience as Key conducts a course abroad for the first time. The goal of the course based in Brussels, Belgium is to give the students an understanding of how public administration works in the European Union, and to understand the similarities and differences between public administration in the EU and in the US. The course consists primarily of guest speakers who are experts in the policy-making and public administration processes of the European Union. Seminars will take place either at the offices of the speakers or at American University’s Brussels Center.

Students will begin the course on Friday, June 25, with a class designed to create a framework of how public administration works in the US, taught by Dr. Diane Elmore. The course will then meet in Brussels from Monday, June 28 through Friday, July 2 with Prof. Jerry Sheridan. To date, Key is the only MPA program in the nation with an abroad component. We are excited at this opportunity and the possibility for future courses abroad.

Key 36 Graduate Selected to Speak at SPA Commencement Ceremony

Key is proud to announce the selection of Key 36 member Kevin Martin as the 2010 graduate student speaker at the School of Public Affairs Commencement Ceremony on May 9. He was selected to speak by faculty members and SPA administrators from dozens of applicants within the graduate students participating in Commencement.

Kevin completed his Key MPA in December of 2009. Key is excited for Kevin and wishes him the best in his future endeavors.
Key 38 Member Achieves SES Certification

Allison Wiedeman, a graduate of the United States Department of Agriculture Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program (USDA SES CDP) Key Executive Leadership Certificate Program Cohort VII and current member of Key MPA Cohort 38, received her SES certification from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in January.

She is currently at the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Water in Washington, DC. There she is a Branch Chief for the Water Permits Division's Rural Branch where she is in charge of developing nationally applicable water pollution control regulations and permits for the animal livestock industry, pesticide applications to waters, and water quality trading. She began her career with EPA after receiving her environmental engineering degree from Vanderbilt University in 1980.

Allison is currently seeking employment with the SES Corp at either the EPA or USDA. She has been married for 27 years and has three children. Now that her children are grown, Allison spends her time outside of work by horseback riding in the winter, sailing in the summer, and traveling.

Meet Key Staff Members Anna Myers and Amin Omidy

Anna C. Myers is an administrative coordinator with the Key Executive Leadership Certificate Program. She is a native Washingtonian. Anna received her B.A. in Psychology with a focus on human services in 2002 from Marymount University in Virginia. She worked as a community support worker and a vocational rehabilitation counselor for people diagnosed with serious mental illnesses in the Washington, DC area for four years. In 2008, she earned her Master’s in Public Administration from American University’s School of Public Affairs.

After a brief hiatus to Los Angeles last summer, Anna returned to the Key Team. When she is not on campus, she likes to read, knit, plays tennis, and is taking sailing lessons this summer. She is also working on a "Thirty in Thirty" list; she'll complete 30 things before she turns 30 years old. One item on this list is to kiss a real live elephant, anyone with any tips on how to accomplish this goal, please email her at acmyers@american.edu.

Amin Omidy is an administrative assistant with the Key Executive Leadership Certificate Program and is the newest addition to the Key team. He moved to D.C. this past summer after finishing a degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Kentucky. His wife, Mimi, has been living in the Washington area since 2006. Mimi also works for American University as an Advisor in the Kogod School of Business.

When not at work, Amin enjoys volunteering with local non-profits to promote environmental and community stewardship, reading, and travelling.
Recent Student and Alumni Accomplishments

Certificate Cohort 10
Lawrence Yu was appointed Deputy Director for Science and Chemistry in the Office of Generic Drugs within the Federal Drug Administration.

Key 36/Fairfax County Certificate
Hassan Aden was promoted to Deputy Chief of the Alexandria, Virginia Police Department. He is now the Chief of Patrol and will be responsible for all police service to the citizens of Alexandria, VA.

Fairfax County Certificate
Cindy McAlister was promoted to Major with the Fairfax County, Virginia Police Department.

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

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

SPA Dean William LeoGrande recently announced the creation of the Anita F. Alpern Scholarship, an endowed scholarship program established through a gift from the estate of Professor Anita Alpern. Professor Alpern served as Distinguished Adjunct Professor in Residence at SPA for over two decades. The purpose of the Alpern Scholarship is to provide annual scholarship awards to students in the Masters of Public Administration (MPA) and Key Executive Leadership programs.

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