



**Message from the Director: Dr. Sarah C. Stiles**

December 2006

**D**ear Students, Alums, Mentors, and Friends,  
One of my favorite readings from the Tao addresses the ripple effect. Everything you do counts, and you have no way of completely knowing the impact of your actions.

I see the positive consequences of the ripple effect in the student body of the Leadership Program. With each passing year students are more confident, have higher standards, and have deeper, more meaningful relationships. Older students are role models for those just entering thus reducing the learning curve and raising the quality of the program overall.

Brian Brown, our Student Director, has set the tone this year. I have watched him learn and grow as a leader who demonstrates emotional intelligence and organizational skills. I think you will enjoy reading about the students' achievements and future plans. I know I couldn't be more proud of what the students have done – *on their own*.



Program Director Sarah Stiles with Student Director Brian Brown.

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**Message from the Student Director: Brian Brown**

**T**his semester has been a great experience. I've truly enjoyed working with Dr. Stiles and the members of our Leadership Steering Committee to plan our various events and programs.

Great things have been accomplished through hard work and the credit goes to those individuals who have been actively involved in our committees. I would also like to express gratitude to our alumni

and mentors who we depend on to make the Leadership Program a success.

As I look toward the coming holiday season, I want to wish all of you the very best. This is a time for reflection on ourselves and our experiences collected over the past year. Members of this program never cease to amaze me and I hope that I have been able to serve them adequately in light of all they have accomplished.

During the spring semester there are a great many more things to be done but our program is strong and determined.

Upon reflecting on the semester, I would ask each of you who have been positively affected by the program to take a moment to thank our committee chairs and their membership for making it all possible. These are the ones who deserve your appreciation. Good luck and we will see you in the spring!

**Fun Facts about the Leadership program:**

- 6: Visits to Antietam
- 12: Visions Newsletters
- 30: TAs
- 50: Mentors
- 109: current students
- 107: Alumni
- 150: internships students have taken for credit
- 150: AU clubs and organizations with AU students
- 320: recommendations Prof. Stiles has written
- \$8000: total amount raised by sophomore class fundraisers

*\*data since 2001*

**Welcome Back Ice Cream Social**

By: Sarah Hord

**T**he Ice Cream Social reunited friends who spent a summer apart and allowed the entering freshmen the opportunity to make new friends.

The event, held on August 30 in Butler Board Room, was a huge success with nearly 100 students attending, according to Kyra Smerkanich, the Events Chair for the Leadership Program, who coordinated the event.

After everyone enjoyed making their own sundaes and social-

izing, Student Director Brian Brown introduced the Steering Committee. Each committee chair introduced themselves and promoted their committee in order to recruit the freshmen to join.

Professor Stiles then showed a slideshow of "The Year That Was...2005-2006." Freshmen were excited to see what would be coming up in the program, and the upperclassmen enjoyed reflecting on last year.



Students socializing at the event



## Freshmen Retreat

By: Andrew Fogle

**T**emperatures dropped as spirits soared at the class of 2010 Freshmen retreat, held Oct. 6 and 7 at the Shepherd Spring Retreat Center near Antietam, Md.

Students met Friday evening eager to board university AUTO vans for a one and a half hour trip into the Maryland wilderness. Several hours and one broken shuttle later, the group was reunited at their destination.

Amy Kostilnik recalled the first evening: "We had some s'mores and listened to Professor Stiles read some of Frederick Douglass' work."

Young leaders awoke the next morning to a frigid and wet Saturday.

After breakfast, students went to Antietam National Battlefield, where they roamed the grounds of the single bloodiest day in American history. TAs offered relevant leadership lessons, historical facts, and extra coats.

Upon returning to the campsite, the group warmed up with a variety of physical activities and



At the battlefield

The Class of 2010



hot drinks. An improvisational session gave students the opportunity to show off their wit while getting to know others in the class.

"I thought it was great, drinking hot chocolate while my friends made fools of themselves" said Kylee Merendino.

The evening held many surprises. Students recorded their impressions of peers, which were sealed in envelopes for future use.

After groups presented impromptu performances featuring their thoughts on leadership, "animal personalities" were revealed and students shared intimate thoughts concerning the weekend and their experiences.

The night closed with a hot dog and marshmallow roast.

Students left in two groups Sunday morning, returning to campus with new memories, new friends, and a greater understanding of SPA Leadership.

## Issue Groups Take the Lead

### Substance Abuse

By: Andrew Fogle

The members of the 2010 Substance Abuse issue group found themselves high on success during their first semester.

After brief discussion during the second week of the classes, the group decided to organize a campus-wide Substance Abuse Awareness Week.

Events planned for the upcoming project include film screenings, guest speakers, and a "beer goggle challenge," all of which will serve to build awareness of substance abuse related issues as they influence AU.

Group member Jenn Spicker reflected on the project: "I think that the week we are organizing is going to go a long way in getting people on campus to reconsider their habits."

Students are currently working with the Washington-based Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration.

**Members:** Jenn Spicker, Kylee Merendino, Amy Kostilnik, Andrew Fogle, Georgette Spanjich; **TA:** Katlyn Miller

### Peace & Conflict Resolution

By: Jenna Sablan

Bumps in the road aren't stopping this group. Peace & Conflict

Resolution, a new topic to the class of 2010, is working with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Silver Spring, Md.

Their project involves hosting a community day in the Maryland suburb to assist refugees, to educate the community on IRC's presence and needs, and to encourage people to help with the organization's efforts.

The group decided to help IRC and the refugee situation after considering other options to work with political parties or religious conflicts.

"I'm really excited to be working with IRC and think that our group is off to a great start," Martha Hanna said.

**Members:** Ehsan Ali, Martha Hanna, Jon Kohan, Alexis Nadin, Tom Ports, Jenna Sablan, Dave Simnick; **TA:** Lauren House

### Immigration

By: Jenna Sablan

The Immigration issue group is gearing up for the spring. Members will be partnering with the Newcomers Community Service Center and hosting an "Immigration Week" on campus.

This event will help educate the AU community and raise awareness on the vast issues concerning immigration through various programs. In addition, the group will hold a supply drive in Northwest DC to aid the Wash-

ington immigrant community.

The group is eager to implement the project when they return from break. "We have spent a full semester planning our project, and I'd like to see our ideas put into action.

Although challenging, I can guarantee the end results will be very rewarding," group member Christine Hooyman said.

**Members:** Nicole Borowski, Joanna Carmusciano, Marissa Golub, Christine Hooyman, Carolyn Kunst, Theresa Odisio, Philip Zakahi; **TA:** Carl Seip

### Education

By: Carolyn Browender

The Education issue group made the decision to partner with the DC-based organization College Bound.

College Bound is a group that partners high school students from public and private schools from around the DC area with volunteer mentors who tutor them and help them along the college admissions process.

Members went on three site visits to discuss college life with students in the program, confirming what group member Sam Schiro described as "a partnership [rather] than a one time thing."

The group is planning to invite College Bound students to the AU campus for a day to explore the college admissions process, as

well as different types of schools, majors, extracurricular activities, and the overall importance of secondary education.

**Members:** Gabby Adkins, Carolyn Browender, Nick Cosenza, Emma Di Mantova, Jenn Dorsey, Jenny Janovitz and Samantha Schiro; **TA:** Sarah Lehar

### Outdoor Progress

By: Jenn Spicker

Outdoor progress is ready to get up and move.

They are working with several groups including the Washington Area Bike Association, Eco Sense, and Dinosaurs Against Fossil Fuels to implement a campus bike rental program for students, staff, and faculty.

"Working with the other campus organizations will definitely help move our project along, but there are some conflicts with groups stepping on each other's toes," says Mary Schellentragher, a group member.

The group chose the bike project in order to leave a lasting impact. They are still working out the exact details, attending an average two meetings per week, including board meetings with their cooperating campus organizations.

**Members:** Nicole Bazik, Seth Cutter, Francesca Giarratana, Alli Gold, Kristopher Kagan, Mary Schellentragher, Sean Silbert; **TA:** James Lynch.



## Q & A with the TAs

### James Lynch

- Westmont, New Jersey
- Political Science and CLEG

### Sarah Lehar

- Frederick, Maryland
- Political Science and CLEG double major, with a minor in Business Administration

### Lauren House

- Boston, Massachusetts
- Public Communication

### Carl Seip

- Woodinville, Washington
- Political Science, with a minor in Spanish

### Katlyn Miller

- Anchorage, Alaska
- CLEG

### Who is your favorite leader?

**James:** Dwight D. Eisenhower

**Sarah:** Nelson Mandela

**Lauren:** Noam Chomsky

**Carl:** Lewis & Clark

**Katlyn:** Abraham Lincoln

### What is your career ambition?

**James:** Military service—huah!

**Sarah:** Practicing law, possibly public defense

**Lauren:** Army Public Affairs Specialist

**Carl:** ship captain with a political science degree

**Katlyn:** Criminal Prosecutor

### What is your favorite movie?

**James:** "Top Gun"

**Sarah:** "When Harry Met Sally"

**Carl:** "Almost Famous"

**Katlyn:** "Crash"

### What is your favorite restaurant in D.C.?

**James:** Steak and Egg; should I be proud of this?

**Sarah:** The Diner, Adams Morgan

**Lauren:** Bambulé

**Carl:** The Diner, Adams Morgan

**Katlyn:** Murasaki



Katlyn Miller, Carl Seip, Sarah Lehar, James Lynch, Lauren House

### Why did you want to be a TA?

**James:** Last year, I saw the bond that Katie Olson made with my freshman group and I wanted to have that experience.

This experience is turning into a defining moment of my life and I am grateful for it.

**Sarah:** Originally, I did not think I was going to have the time commitment to do it. After talking to my TA's as well as a member of my class, I was convinced that it would be a good choice. I also realized how much I learned about myself during my freshman year and to participate in that process with a group of students as a mentor would be very fulfilling.

**Lauren:** I was excited to meet the class of 2010 and really wanted to give back to the program in a real way. I have gained so much more—especially friendships within the class and the TA group.

**Carl:** From the very start, I al-

ways thought I might want to be a TA, but I never seriously considered it until the end of freshman year. I saw being TA as a way to reach out to the freshman class. I am able to share the positive experiences that I have had in the L-Ship to incoming students, which is very important to me. This is *such* a great program, and I wanted to share my excitement for it.

**Katlyn:** The TAs in Leadership class were so important and helpful to my transition into college. I wanted to be able to provide that for the incoming class of freshmen.

**For you, what are the best things about being a TA?**

**James:** Forming an unshakable bond with the other TAs. ... and the occasional "awkward turtle" moments!

**Sarah:** I work with amazing people, which includes Professor Stiles, the other TAs and the freshmen. I have found people

who support me and who I can support and that network of people is wonderful. Also, I am able to give back to such an important program.

**Lauren:** I really *love* watching the freshmen develop their service projects.

**Carl:** What I enjoy the most is getting to know the freshmen class on a personal level. While I enjoy guiding and advising my issue group and committee, I have really enjoyed becoming friends with members of the Class of 2010. Being able to laugh, hang out and enjoy their company has been a highlight of my year.

**Katlyn:** Getting to interact with the freshmen and be inspired and rejuvenated by their enthusiasm and great ideas.

**And the worst?**

**James:** Not being able to add my insight and excellent, and I stress EXCELLENT ideas into the Freshie's projects.

**Sarah:** Well I have to say the hospital trips so far have not been great.

**Lauren:** There's nothing bad about being a TA! ...awkward turtle...

**Carl:** It is hard to find a worst moment – even getting stuck on the side of I-70 in Maryland on the way to the freshmen retreat is great to look back on. But our two L-Ship related hospital trips thus far this year haven't exactly been highlights.

**Katlyn:** Not being able to participate in their project. I am so excited and want to be involved but I have to settle with living vicariously through them.

## Welcome Week Events

It was anchors aweigh for the SPA Leadership program this August as old friends reunited and new friends were made during the 2006 Welcome Week events.

### Monday

The Teaching Assistants welcomed the Class of 2010 to DC by taking them to get ice cream from Larry's in Dupont Circle. After being told that this ice cream was the best DC had to offer, it was a disappointment when the window was dark. Luckily, the man working inside invited the group in. After ice cream, students heard a brass band playing in Dupont Circle, and the TAs led everyone in dancing.

### Tuesday

The class attended a meeting with their professor, TAs, and fellow classmates. Professor Stiles introduced herself to the Freshmen, then Leadership alum Jen Smyers spoke, discussing how the lessons she learned in class have helped her in her life.

### Wednesday

The Class of 2010 picked up more mileage that it expected Tuesday night. A group of freshmen, their TAs, and upperclassmen toured Washington by moonlight, visiting many of the capital's most famous sites—the Washington Monument, the

World War II Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial. After a hastily planned detour to Arlington National Cemetery, students discovered a closed metro station. A brisk walk back to the Foggy Bottom metro stop concluded with midnight subway and cab rides back to campus. Though the night held many discouraging surprises, students still said they had a great time.

### Thursday

The freshmen leaders and their TAs, along with some upperclassmen, relaxed with dessert at The Cheesecake Factory in Friendship Heights. The

event was a great opportunity for the freshmen to talk with the upperclassmen about the program and university.



Seth Cutter, Dave Simnick, Alli Gold, and Carolyn Browender having dessert at the Cheesecake Factory Thursday night.



## Fundraising Projects:

### DC Youth & Government, Leadership Initiatives, CoRAL Conference

By: Sarah Hord

**W**hat does DC Youth & Government, the CoRAL Network, and Leadership Initiatives all have in common? They all had previous Leadership program connections, but they all will be the beneficiaries of the sophomore class' fundraising projects this year.

The sophomores were able to choose which group they wanted to be in, and the groups have begun planning the projects they will carry out in the spring.

Professor Stiles said she made the decision to divide the class into groups so the class could have more far-reaching effects on more organizations. She also wanted to limit conflicts that arise when the group gets too large to work effectively.

The class heard from speakers from all three organizations before they divided into groups. Leadership program alum Jason Reimer, Founder and Chair of the Advisory Board for DC Youth & Government, and Bernie Shultz, Finance Chair and Assistant to the Vice-President of Campus Life visited the class on September 6 to begin discussing fundraising options and to lead a brainstorming session.



*Rochelle Mincey-Thompson, Nate Cole, Karyn Cassella*

Karyn Cassella, Program Director for DC Youth & Government, visited the next week and brought the 2004-05 Youth Mayor Nate Cole and the 2006-2007 Youth Mayor Rochelle Mincey-Thompson.

Cassella explained how beneficial the program is to DC students, while both Cole and Mincey-Thompson told how it had changed their lives.

Cole, now a sophomore at the University of Maryland, is well-known throughout the District and has created his own non-profit. Mincey-Thompson, a senior at Roosevelt High School, has earned a scholarship to attend Syracuse University and play basketball there next year.

On September 20, Leadership program alum Marshall Bailly spoke about Leadership Initiatives, the non-profit organization he founded. The organization

works with university students in other countries to help them harness their leadership abilities to address the needs of their community by setting up organizations or clinics, such as a family planning clinic.

Professor Sam Marullo, Founder of the CoRAL network, and Charise Van Liew, Founder and Executive Director of Facilitating Leadership in Youth (FLY) visited on September 27.

Marullo spoke to the class about how the network has helped organizations make connections and work together to achieve their goals.

Van Liew said that her non-profit has reached out to many kids in the area and that it has benefited from the CoRAL network.

On November 1, Marshall Bailly visited again to share his knowl-

edge and experience on fundraising with the class.

He said the first things a group needs to decide are who they are fundraising for, the target audience, the resources the group will need, and the monetary goal.

The CoRAL group is working with the organization to host an event on December 12 at the restaurant Bus Boys and Poets. They are also working on defining the organization so that donors understand the program they are giving to.

The Leadership Initiatives group is planning to sell fair-trade coffee and hot chocolate on campus and at Eastern Market during the week of Valentine's Day next semester.

The DC Youth & Government group would like to have an event that allows DC students to speak to prominent members of the community.

"We feel like donors won't understand the message unless it is relayed through the students," said group member Ryan Post. They hope that this event will bring donors who will continue to donate for many years in the future.

The groups have begun making preparations for their projects and will develop a project plan to turn in to Professor Stiles at the end of the semester.



*Professor Stiles speaks to the sophomores about their projects during class.*

## Sophomore Retreat to Mount Vernon

**T**he sophomores didn't let a rainy day ruin their retreat.

On September 16, 12 members of the sophomore class packed into AUTO vans and traveled to Mount Vernon, where they toured the house and grounds of President George Washington.

They even met a historical re-enactor of the first president. Despite a total downpour, the group ate lunch and went to an outdoor 18<sup>th</sup> century fair.

Erika Langhart ('09) said that "regardless of the rain and

transportation issues, Mount Vernon was a great escape!"

Before leaving, the group visited the gift shop and several students bought three-cornered hats.

Natalie Greene ('09) said the group had a great time. "The retreat was a great bonding experience—coffee, jaw harps, and re-enactors all made it quite a day!" she said.

*\*Another retreat for the class will be planned for the spring semester.*

By: Sarah Hord



*Scott Wener, Erika Langhart, Natalie Greene, Ali Shott, Carl Seip, Elliot Friedman, Lauren House, Molly Kenney, Josh Hattem, Sarah Lehar, Sofia Amaya, Joe Pavel*



*Sitting on the steps of President Washington's mansion.*



## Internships

By: Jenn Spicker

**J**uniors are test-driving careers in their field of choice this semester through the Leadership Program's internship requirement.

Each junior must do an internship, working 20-24 hours a week to earn six credits.

Leslie Colwell interns at Critical Exposure, and according to her the organization "gives inner-city students cameras, teaches them the basics of documentary photography, and has them take pictures of the conditions in their schools."

The internship assignment has three additional requirements apart from the actual internship.

First, juniors must keep a weekly journal of their internship activities, focusing on description of the workplace and analysis of the description.

The second part of the internship assignment is a 10 to 12 page "organizational analysis" of each student's internship setting.

Finally, the students must turn in an internship evaluation,

completed by their employers at the end of the semester.

The workload of each of the interns is different depending on where they work. Some may work with people face-to-face like Haig Kherlopan. He is an intern on Capitol Hill and gains experience in the political world by answering letters and e-mails, giving tours of the Capitol, and doing other necessary tasks.

Other students, like Jason Dombrowski, participate in the behind the scenes work that is necessary for organizations to grow.

Dombrowski interns with the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, and he says he works on "creating, implementing, and deploying a database on Government Spending Controls on the state level."

The junior internship program not only gives Leadership students experiences they will be able to use on their résumés for the rest of their careers, but also gives them a chance to discover if their field choice is a match for them.

### Internships for the Class of 2008

- **Marissa Chmiola:** European Communications Strategies.
- **Daniel Greeley:** Maryland Democratic Party
- **Katie Myers:** Woman's National Democratic Club and Willkie Farr and Gallagher LLP
- **Katie Olson:** Executive Office at the D.C. Superior Court
- **Samantha Palmer:** Title II Community AIDS National Network (TII CANN)
- **Tai Spargo:** FieldWorks
- **Stacia Young:** Sewall-Belmont House and Museum, Headquarters for the National Women's Party
- **Erin O'Sullivan:** Edleman, in Brussels, Belgium
- **Anthony Flynn, Jr:** CNN
- **Alex Cohill:** NBC
- **Sara Wilson:** YMCA DC Youth & Government Program
- **Rob Kimball:** United States Fish and Wildlife Services: Department of International Conservation
- **Jason Dombrowski:** Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation
- **Haig Kherlopan:** Congressman Dana Rohrabacher
- **Andrew Price-Gibson:** Council for Excellence in Government
- **Robert Idlett:** Democratic National Committee (Research Dept.)
- **Will McGahan:** American Youth Policy Forum
- **Leslie Colwell ('07):** Critical Exposure
- **Christina Fisher ('07):** Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, and Flam LLP, International Trade
- **Paul Perry ('07):** NAACP Washington Bureau



Daniel Greeley, Daniel Guarnera, Ben Murray, Brian Brown, Liz Evancho, and Prof. Stiles standing with statues of George Washington and family



Standing in front of the mansion

## Junior-Senior Retreat to Mount Vernon

By: Sarah Hord

**O**n November 11, Professor Stiles and five Leadership students loaded into an AUTO van and spent the day at Mount Vernon.

Ben Murray ('07) coordinated the event and arranged for the group to have a personal tour of the mansion.

"The tour was fascinating, and it focused on George and Martha Washington's marriage as more of a partnership than other marriages at that time," Daniel Greeley ('08) said.

The group was also able to see the Washington's tomb because it was open for Veteran's Day.

After eating lunch, they were able to walk around the newly opened museum and visitor's center.



Standing beside Washington's tomb.

Greeley thought the visitor's center and museum were "well-done" and that the exhibits reinforced what they learned during the tour.

"Mount Vernon has changed a lot over the last decade or so," Professor Stiles said. "It is a much better learning experience than it used to be with just the walk through the mansion."



## Alumni Reception

By: Jenna Sablan



Old Leaders met new, as graduates of the program mingled with current Leadership students and reminisced with Dr. Stiles about their Leadership experience at the annual Alumni Reception on October 26.

Mathew Mullock ('04), director of administration for the Institute on Religion and Public Policy, eagerly passed out his new business cards. Mullock appreciated how the program's design allowed for improving discussion, debate, and problem solving skills.



*Alumni Committee: Chair: Sara Wilson; Theresa Odisio, Martha Hanna, Amy Kostilnik*

Regardless of the activity students participate in, Mullock advised that they should always keep an open mind because the

end result will be well worth it.

Current Washington College of Law grad student Murad Khan ('03) also shared his advice, stories of previous work in a New York City law firm, and experience as an intern in Senator Hillary Clinton's office with freshmen attendees.

Karyn Cassella ('90) still has connections to American University and the Leadership Program. The former director of the AU Community Service Center now works as program director for DC Youth & Government, an organization that several Leadership students volunteer for regularly. Martha Hanna ('10), a member of the Alumni Committee, which



*Beth Hess, Matt Mullock, Kerry Murphy, Scott Porwick, Elliot Friedman, Murad Khan*

organized the event, felt the event was a success and was "happy with the way it turned out."

Freshman Christine Hooyman agreed. The reception gave her an opportunity to "mingle with alumni and Leadership students."

## Sophomore Mentor Reception

By: Sarah Hord

The atmosphere was thick with conversation as members of the sophomore class conversed with their mentors, who were eager to share their experiences and learn about the students' lives.

On Monday, October 16, the sophomores met their mentors for the first time at a reception held in the Battelle Atrium.

The reception was coordinated by Mentorship Chair Sofia Amaya ('09) and assisted by Events Chair Kyra Smerkanich ('09). Seth Custer, ('10), played the piano, providing a nice atmosphere for the event while several students from the Class of 2010 served the food and beverages.

Everyone engaged in conversation, and the students listened attentively for information that could help them plan for their future as the mentors described their career and educational experiences.

Mentors were chosen specifically for each student, based on compatibility of the mentors' résumés and the students' profiles, as well as the students' future career ambitions.

Mentorship Chair Sofia Amaya said that they attempted to "match every sophomore with a mentor that is truly going to shed light on their possible career interest."

Amy Robandt said she is "fortunate" to be paired with her mentor, Bill Halamandaris, who is the co-founder and president of the Heart of America Foundation.

Professor Stiles addressed the group explaining her expectations of the program over the year.

The students should try to organize at least one outing each semester with their mentor, she said. The meeting could consist of going out for coffee or lunch, a tour of where the mentor works, a day of shadowing the mentor, or sitting in on a meeting or going to an event with the mentor.

Phil McHugh met with his mentor, Captain Keith Williams of the Metropolitan Police Department in early November and sat in on a high-level meeting, McHugh said. He also said he was given a tour of the MPD Headquarters and helped Capt. Williams on a few assignments.

"This was truly an invaluable experience, and I'm sure there will be many more to come," McHugh said.

Erika Langhart had lunch with her mentor, and the conversation gave her some insight for her future. "I was informed of great ways to get involved with the State Department," Langhart said.

Katlyn Miller said the reception was well-organized, and she also likes her mentor. "I am really excited to be meeting with my mentor and working with her. This program seems like a great supplement to the ideals of the Leadership program."

*"Another, less formal, mentor reception will be scheduled for January, so students can reconnect with their mentors after the winter holiday."*

## Student/Mentor pairs

- Katlyn Miller:** Kara Ariail, associate at Jackson Lewis LLP  
**Abinav Goel:** Marshall Bailly, Director of Leadership Initiatives  
**Andrew Jensen:** Peter Bruesoe, PhD student in SPA  
**Megan Michel:** Kara Bue, partner at Armitage International  
**Natalie Greene:** Bethany Dame, Public Affairs, National Association of Manufacturers  
**Carl Seip:** Edward P. Faberman, attorney  
**Amy Robandt:** Bill Halamandaris, Heart of America Foundation  
**Kyra Smerkanich:** Anne Marie Halsey, Donor Relations at the Smithsonian Institution  
**Kristian Hoysradt:** Matt Herman, Legislative Analyst, U.S. Coast Guard  
**Bill Debaun:** Charles Hilty, retired Hill Chief of Staff  
**Kenneth Hammitt:** Shin Inouye, Legislative Media Liason for ACLU  
**Elliot Friedman:** Matt Inzeo, Political Assistant, DCCC  
**Justin Bibb:** Bill Keyes, President, Center for Responsible Citizenship  
**Scott Wener:** Justin Meyer, former Campaign Manager  
**Jacob Shelly:** Matt Mullock, Institute on Religion and Public Policy  
**Josh Hattem:** Keith Pemrick, Legislative Director on the Hill  
**Danielle Sassower:** Scott Peterson, Youth Development & Juvenile Specialist  
**Ali Shott:** Ilona Piaskowy, Legislative Assistant, APTS  
**Joe Pavel:** Jason Reimer, 3L, The Dickinson School of Law  
**Ryan Post:** David Rosen, 3L, Georgetown Law  
**Will Herman:** Lacey Rosenbaum, teacher with Teach For America  
**Meredith Hughes:** Marc Rosenberg, Manager Corporate and Public Policy Advertising, *Washington Post*  
**Erika Langhart:** Douglas Silliman, Director of the Office of Southern European Affairs, U.S. Foreign Service  
**James Lynch:** T.D. Smyers, retired Captain of the U.S. Navy  
**Josh Cahan:** John Turner, Policy Analyst for AARP  
**Sofia Amaya:** Anthony Valdez, People for the American Way  
**Lauren House:** Charise Van Liew, Executive Director of FLY  
**Sarah Hord:** Christy Venable, America's Service Commissions  
**Sarah Lehar and Katlyn Miller:** Rachel Weiner, 2L Washington College of Law  
**Julissa Giron:** Sara Wells, Public Policy, Women in Government  
**Phil McHugh:** Keith Williams, DC Police Department  
**Funmi Makinwa:** Sarah Stiles, SPA Leadership program director  
**Jordan Weiner:** Johnny Barnes, Executive Director, ACLU



## 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)

**Paul Perry:** Accepted into Teach for America 2007 Corps (will be teaching high school English in Philadelphia beginning Fall '07); National Society of Collegiate Scholars Distinguished Member (2006); Public Policy & International Affairs (PPIA) Fellowship (2006); AU Multicultural Affairs/International Student & Scholar Services Leadership Award (2006)

#### Class of 2008

**Amy Teachout:** National Finalist for the Boren Award to study in Cairo; awarded the SPA Clark Scholarship (2006)

#### Class of 2009

**Justin Bibb:** DC Mayor's Youth Community Service Award (2006)

**Natalie Greene:** Women & Politics Student of the Year (2006)

**Sarah Hord:** United Methodist Undergraduate Scholarship (2006); inducted into National Society of Collegiate Scholars

**Molly Kenney:** Outstanding Student in Women & Politics Institute (2006)

**Ali Shott:** United Church of Christ Undergraduate scholarship; received American University's nomination to compete for the Killam Fellowship

### Positions:

#### Class of 2007

**Ashley Mushnick:** Student Government President

**Ben Murray:** Speaker of SG Senate

#### Class of 2008

**Roddy Flynn:** Public Relations Director for AU Players Student Theater Troupe; Member of Student Government Board of Elections

**Tai Spargo:** Deputy Director of Women's Initiative

**Michael Wagner:** President of the Justice Advisory Group

#### Class of 2009

**Sofia Amaya:** Undergraduate Senator-at-Large; Congressional intern, summer '06

**Justin Bibb:** President of Phi Alpha Delta; Co-founder and Executive Director of D.C. Today...D.C. Tomorrow; Co-Leader of an Alternate Spring Break Trip to Biloxi, Mississippi (2007)

**Elliot Friedman:** named to the Student Government Judicial Board; intern at the Independent Expenditure Dept. of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee

**Julissa Giron:** ACLU Legal Assistant intern

**Josh Hattem:** Phi Alpha Delta Membership Chair; JAMS Advisory Board member; Student Conduct Council Member; AU Career Center Peer Advisor; intern at Center for Death Penalty Litigation (summer '06)

**Lauren House:** Director of Domestic Abuse Awareness for Women's Initiative; Vice-President of the Latter-day Saint Student Association; founding a women's issue-based non-profit in the District

**Andrew Jensen:** Member of the Student Government Board of Elections

**Molly Kenney:** co-President of Peace and Empowerment Project (campus organization); Student Conduct Council member; AU Career Center Peer Advisor

**Erika Langhart:** Student Government Director of Academic Affairs; Undergraduate Senator for the Class of 2009

**Meredith Hughes:** President of AU Circle K International Community Service Club; summer intern at the Jewish Healthcare Foundation where she created a webpage for the Squirrel Hill Health Center

**Sarah Lehar:** summer '06 STEP assistant, Student Transition Enrichment Program for Incoming Freshmen; Vice-president of Phi Alpha Delta; Student Government Outreach Director; Stu-

dent Advocate for SAC

**Phil McHugh:** attended the 2006 National Violent Crime summit

**Megan Michel:** Hughes Hall Residence Hall Association representative

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

**Amy Robandt:** University College Program Associate; Co-Leader of an Alternate Spring Break Trip to Biloxi, Mississippi (2007)

**Carl Seip:** President of the AU Pep Band

**Kyra Smerkanich:** Campus News Editor for the Eagle

**Scott Wener:** Treasurer for the AU College Democrats

**Josh Cahan:** Undergraduate Senator-at-Large

#### Class of 2010

**Seth Cutter:** Undergraduate Senator for the Class of 2010

**Jennifer Dorsey:** Director of Body Image for Women's Initiative

**Emma Di Mantova:** Deputy Director of Domestic Abuse Awareness for Women's Initiative

**Kristopher Kagan:** Undergraduate Senator for the School of Public Affairs

**Samantha Schiro:** Co-Director of Women's Stress and Health for Women's Initiative

**Georgette Spanjich:** Undergraduate Senator for the Class of 2010

## APSA application accepted

By: Sarah Hord

The Academic Development Committee, under the direction of Phil McHugh ('09) and with Professor Stiles have been chosen by the American Political Science Association (APSA) to present their findings at its fourth annual Teaching and Learning Conference to be held this February in Charlotte, NC.

McHugh and Prof. Stiles will present the results from surveys conducted over the past two

years, sharing what they have learned about the Leadership program with the "Program Assessment" working group.

They will also "discuss ways of assessing leadership development programs" with the group, according to Prof. Stiles.

At the conference, APSA showcases "cutting-edge approaches, techniques, and methodologies that can be applied in the political science classroom," according to its website.



Justin Bibb receiving the Mayor's Youth Community Service Award from DC Mayor Anthony Williams.



## Visions



[www.leadership.american.edu](http://www.leadership.american.edu)



### Publications Committee Staff

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

### Mentor Reception Pictures



Mentorship Chair Sofia Amaya speaking to Matt Mullock



Phil McHugh with his mentor, Police Capt. Keith Williams



Lacey Rosenbaum, Scott Porwick, Professor Sarah Stiles

## The Ripple Effect

Do you want to be a positive influence in the world? First, get your own life in order. Ground yourself in the single principle so that your behavior is wholesome and effective. If you do that, you will earn respect, and be a powerful influence. Your behavior influences others through a ripple effect. A ripple effect works because everyone influences everyone else. Powerful people are powerful influences.

If your life works, you influence your family. If your family works, your family influences the community. If your community works, your community influences the nation. If your nation works, your nation influences the world. If your world works, the ripple effect spreads throughout the cosmos.

Remember that your influence begins with you and ripples outward. So be sure that your influence is both potent and wholesome. How do I know this works? All growth spreads outward from a fertile and potent nucleus. You are a nucleus.

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

### Steering Committee Members

Student Director: Brian Brown  
Secretary: Kristian Hoysradt  
Mentorship Chair: Sofia Amaya  
Treasurer: Daniel Greeley  
Publications Chair: Sarah Hord  
Program Development Chair: James Lynch  
Academic Development Chair: Phil McHugh  
Public Relations Chair: Ben Murray  
Grant-Writing Chair: Carl Seip  
Events Chair: Kyra Smerkanich  
Leadership in Film Chair: Nick Tiernan  
Alumni Chair: Sara Wilson

## **Dr. Stiles wins CIVITAS Essay Contest**

By: Sarah Hord

When Dr. Stiles read the faculty prompt for this year's CIVITAS essay contest, she knew exactly what to write about, and her essay was one of the two winners.

Dr. Stiles was honored at a reception on October 18, where she shared her essay with those who attended.

The prompt was "If you could start your own civility revolution in your part of the university, what would you do?"

#### This is her essay:

I recently began a "civility experiment" where I work. My civility revolution is about smiling. The smile is the oldest and most basic means of communicating good will and it's usually contagious. When we are happy we smile, and jokes (almost) always bring (at least) a smile.

I decided to try to tell at least one joke (clean and simple) to people every day. When people are happy they are more likely to be tolerant and considerate of others.

I got the idea this summer

when a visiting friend left a joke book lying around the living room. I picked it up and the first joke I read made me laugh out loud. My husband wanted to know why I was laughing and soon he was laughing. Our friend said he liked to leave that book around so people would pick it up and get a chuckle.

I memorized that first joke and told it frequently. Everyone laughed! Over the summer I visited an old friend in Boston and told a few jokes to her family.

One evening I noticed her son had the very joke book I had found so inspirational. I had the family in stitches at the breakfast table the next morning. When my friend dropped me off at the airport she slipped me the joke book and said she thought I should have it and she would buy her son another.

I've been learning a few new jokes every week and trying them out on my colleagues and students. I am happy to say that people greet me with a smile on a regular basis. I have yet to tell a joke to the office Grinch but hopefully happy civility will have a ripple effect. In the meantime, "Knock, knock...."

## **Studying Abroad**

By: Jenna Sablan

From England to the Mediterranean, a few students in the organization have taken their leadership skills abroad in various programs this semester.

Former student director Heather Botter is having a wonderful time "visiting other leaders of the free world," she said about studying in Madrid, Spain.

Amy Teachout is also enjoying her experience at the American University of Cairo in Egypt. Describing the cultural learning experience as "a sensational bombardment," Teachout spends her time in exciting classes and teaching with STAR, an American University of Cairo organization that teaches Sudanese refugees.

### **Students**

#### **Studying Abroad Fall '06**

- Heather Botter: Madrid
- Christina Casey: London School of Economics
- Marissa Chmiola: Brussels
- Lee Dreyfuss: Rome
- Erin O'Sullivan: Brussels
- Brandee Schindler: Madrid
- Amy Teachout: Cairo