



Leadership Visions

American University
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The Leadership Program
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Do we have your
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Let us know!

A Message from the Director Dr. Sarah C. Stiles

What a magnificent semester it has been!

The title of the freshman and sophomore courses is: "Laboratory in Leadership Development" I and II. These young political scientists really have had the sense of working in a laboratory. They have been performing experiments, reading about those leaders who have gone before, working and observing until they discover how they most effectively perform as leaders and how to get the best out of their classmates. It's not easy. If it were the world would be a different place.

The freshman class experienced the full gamut of growing pains and final satisfaction of a job well done. After choosing HIV/AIDS Awareness as the issue they wanted to address in their community service project they learned about the challenges of teamwork. Imagine organizing 35 "leaders"!

They said it couldn't be done . . .

The sophomore class of 2005 proved that yes, they can do anything they want to do! The assignment was "plan and execute a fundraiser." It could have been anything. This ambitious group chose to put on a benefit rock concert in Bender Arena. They started raising money during winter break. Several students took the lead and delegated their classmates in the multitude of tasks and details involved.

A highpoint happened at a low point. I invited to class two SPA Ph.D. students who hold leadership positions in their professional lives, Captain Keith Williams of the D.C. Police Department and Lt. Commander Glen Diehl of the U.S. Navy. These gentlemen were just the voices of experience and encouragement the students needed. "How do you get people to work for you?" "How do you deal with people who are older and don't take you seriously?" "How do you motivate people?"

According to Keith and Glen, there's no such thing as "dead weight" on the team. You can always bring people around. Remember to treat everyone with respect. When teammates trust and respect each other, they'll do anything for their fellow teammate. Why else would a military person risk his or her life for a comrade? Because, according to Lt. Commander Diehl, the buddy knows he or she would do the same.

The seniors grappled with the Peloponnesian War and Pericles, the propaganda model and Chomsky, and ethics and the Dalai Lama, among other things. What an intellectual delight to discuss complicated contemporary issues in the context of history and human nature with a group of talented young people well-versed in political science. Perhaps the most memorable class took place on the steps of Kay Spiritual Center on a beautiful evening in early spring. The students called on all their interdisciplinary knowledge and engaged in a spirited and deep discussion of ethics and the international political system. AU is sending some wonderfully thoughtful people out into the professional world this May.

This summer we will choose a new class of Leadership students and the excitement will begin again.

---Sarah Stiles

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Some Words From Those Saying Goodbye

The Leadership Program wishes its Seniors luck as they go out to lead the world in their chosen fields.

Joshua Apfelroth

Enjolique Aytch

Dana Begley

Andrew Block

Candace Brown

Tina Chen

Keesha Coleman

Andrew George

Jacob T. Kaskey

Murad Khan

Christopher Malagisi

Dana Miller

Laura Miller

Jason Reimer

David Rosen

Brianne Schwantes

Kevin Sullivan

Erin Taylor

Leadership will miss you all and look forward to seeing you at future alumni receptions!

Tina Chen Class of 2003

While contemplating the reality of taking my LAST finals and writing the LAST research papers, thoughts of post graduation are constantly lingering in the back of my mind. The abyss of future opportunities and options is out there; to make it out alive and happy is the desired result. While at times a sense of hopelessness attempts to creep into our psyche, it is quickly dispelled by the knowledge and experiences obtained from four years of leadership formation and theory.

Post graduation I need to be able to direct my attention to career fairs, job searches, and call back interviews, all the while focusing on maintaining the will to continue and minimizing fear and anxiety. I enter this stage of my life without trepidation, that is, without uneasiness, because I have learned the strategies to conquer my own weakness and approach each situation with the appropriate attitude and determination.

Leadership has not only contributed to my manner of perception and presentation, but it has also given me an inner strength that I can draw from and offer to others. My knowledge also lends me an invaluable variation of approaches that will be indispensable in order to function and be productive in the global society in which we live.

With the memories of the growing pains and realization of fulfillment, I am confident in the education I have received and the skills I have acquired and learned to refine. With this, the determination to excel and succeed in the future is not only a desire but also an real possibility.

Enjolique Aytch Class of 2003

American University's SPA Leadership Program receives national praise for good reasons; I am proud to be one of those reasons. As a graduating senior, I have been through all four years of the Leadership Program.

In my freshman year, I remember performing several community service projects, my sophomore year, I remember sponsoring elaborate fund-raising projects. In my junior year, I remember gaining practical experience in an internship, and now, in my senior year, I am honing my leadership skills so that I will be able to utilize them in my future endeavors.

The fourth, and final, year of the Leadership Program affords the opportunity to not only learn your leadership style, but to contrast it with other styles. Using several intellectual debates, the students are able to openly discuss current issues and the leadership techniques being used to combat these issues to determine their effectiveness. The exciting aspect of the seminar portion of Leadership is that we do not only analyze current leadership trends, but we return to our history to see the methods that have worked in the past, and those that were doomed to fail.

When the magnificent moment arrives to graduate American University and move beyond the SPA Leadership Program, you will be confident to know that you are equipped with several leadership skills and resources that will prove vital in life, even if your future endeavors do not place you in a leadership-titled position. Enjoy the program while you are in it, and receive all of the benefits that you can from it.



The Class of 2003

Leaders Try Their Hand at Comedy

Marc Malon
Class of 2005

The Leadership Program Steering Committee showcased the 2nd Annual Comedy Night on April 12th in the Tavern. Taking the cue from last year's freshman class, the Steering Committee decided to make Comedy night a tradition with the goal of raising money for the program.

The show was headlined and emceed by Doug Hecox, a professional comedian who appears regularly at the DC Improv and has performed for HBO. Hecox kept the audience engaged throughout the evening.

Also featured was a competition between student comedians. This year's winner was Shwa Losben, who was a slam-dunk with his unique brand of musical comedy. The runner-up was last year's winner, Mike Rose, whose laid back and somewhat spacey humor impressed the crowd and judges alike. Also competing were Brian Adams, who humorously ranted about the things in life that annoyed him, and Ross Nover, who entertained the audience with his banjo.

American University's improvisational comedy troupe, Mission Improvable, returned with their well-honed comedic skills. But the highlight of the night may have been a lighthearted vocal duet featuring Bob Nardo and Matt Hermann, former presidents of the College Republicans and Democrats, respectively. The bipartisan duo hammed it up to the audience's delight with their rendition of Sonny and Cher's *I've Got You Babe*.

Overall, Comedy Night was a success. This year's show, organized by Jesse Olczak and Marc Malon (both of the sophomore class) worked out the kinks from last year to provide a tighter show, and a good amount of money was raised to help the program.



From left to right:
Front Row: Doug Hecox, Marc Malon, Jesse Olczak, Dr. Stiles
Back Row: Jennifer Arver, Joe Schreiber, Erin Murphy

The Vision of the Future

Jake Kaskey passed the Student Director baton to Dana Begley this semester and she has run with it!

Dana led bi-monthly meetings and met individually with each member of the committee to ensure she knew people's ideas and concerns. The steering committee's retreat involved thoughtful fun (you got hit with a "snowball" if you said anything negative), doughnuts (thanks to Matt Herrmann), and a plan for the future.

Steering Committee goals include: nurturing program unity among the classes and the alumni, developing community both on and off campus, and working to raise money for the program. We have a great team to take the SPA Leadership Program into a successful future!

Summer Calendar

New Student Orientations

June 23
June 27
June 30
July 7
July 11

Deadline for Applications For Incoming Freshmen

July 16

Welcome Week

August 17-24

First Day of Classes

August 25

Fall Academic Calendar

Labor Day (no classes)

September 1

Fall Break

October 6-7

Thanksgiving Break

November 26-28

Last Day of Classes

December 8

Exams

December 11-17

Winter Break

December 18-
January 11

All events are subject to change. To see changes and updates, visit the leadership website at www.american.edu/spa/lead

Congratulations to the following leadership students and their accomplishments:

Jack Kent Cooke
Foundation Scholarship

Alonit Cohen has won up to \$60,000 for her last two years at AU. Al is a sophomore leader and Freshman Leadership TA.

Derrick Fraiser will be attending graduate school next year with up to \$350,000 for the next 6 years at his disposal. Derrick is a member of Leadership *honoris causa*.

AU Cathryn Seckler-
Hudson Award

Jason Reimer is a senior leader and has worked with the YMCA's Youth and Government. The award is given to a senior who best exemplifies qualities of character and achievement while making significant contributions to student government.

Brianne Schwantes was awarded the American University Award for Outstanding Service to the University Community. Brianne is also a senior leader.

We're Growing!

The SPA Leadership Program is looking to grow so we can afford the teambuilding activities and get-togethers that are so invaluable.

Lenora Stiles (no relation!) spent the semester looking into grant possibilities for the program and how we might pitch ourselves. Laura Miller and her team did a great job of putting together a marketing packet we can share with potential donors. You should see it! If you know anyone of any business that is looking for a worthy cause, here we are!

And We're Spreading!

Marshall Bailly (Junior leader) never slows down.

While he was studying in Namibia as part of his semester in southern Africa last fall, he sang the praises of the SPA Leadership Program. Before long, a joint Leadership Program with the University of Namibia (UNAM) in Windhoek was in the works.

Marshall will be working with professors at UNAM this summer teaching



leadership skills and empower the less fortunate in Namibia's young democracy.

Future Leaders Meet Past Leaders

Ihona Piaskowy Class of 2005

Stormy weather and the onset of war could not hold back past and present Leadership students from gathering at the Second Annual Leadership Alumni Reception. The reception was held in the Mary Graydon Center on Thursday, March 20, 2003.

Approximately 65 people congregated for a colorful array of hors d'oeuvres and conversation. During the evening's festivities, students from each leadership



class spoke on the projects and events taking place in their respective classes. Alumni enjoyed hearing the status of the leadership program and present students gained post-graduate insight from alumni.

Class of 2004 student, Bob Nardo, shares with participants the goings on of the junior class.

Not So Simple: A Leadership Reflection

Anthony Valdez

Class of 2006

It blows my mind that for the second time I have to bid farewell to a semester that slipped right through my fingers. There were countless challenges stemming from my first year in college, a few more than I expected, but in the end I have come out a stronger person.

Coming into American University I was a little skeptical about the Leadership Program. I wondered what exactly the class offered. Before the first class I envisioned the Leadership Program offering meetings with members of congress, implied school leadership positions, and other great perks. What I learned was that leadership does offer the great perks, we just have to go out and get them for ourselves. And did we ever.

I never once imagined that I would assist in putting on a rock concert, yet I helped push a bill in the General Assembly to get the Sophomore Leadership class \$10,000 for a concert benefiting the American Heart Association.

Who knew that I would be spending a Saturday night in a Washington, DC café brainstorming with a group of my classmates and arriving at one of the most amazing ideas I have ever heard. We proposed taking an abandoned house and creating a transitional housing unit for aged-out foster care youth, something that has never been done before in the District of Columbia.

The freshman class decided to take up the issue of HIV/AIDS awareness for our community service project. The week was a showcase of what can happen when 35 dedicated students are behind a project. The week began with a presentation by a local AIDS group, continued with a viewing of the movie Philadelphia, and culminated with a HIV/AIDS awareness fair in Bender Arena.

This is just the beginning of greatness and there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

Benefit Concert Stirs Hearts

Lenora Stiles

Class of 2005

Crowds cheered in Bender Arena on Saturday, April 19 as Rachel Weiner and Hope Mandel of the sophomore Leadership class presented a \$5,000 check to the American Heart Association.

More than 800 people showed up at AU from local college and high school campuses, as well as from the DC community, to see the concert featuring Grammy-nominated *Tonic*, *Dakona*, and local band *Catch-A-Fire*.

The benefit concert, dubbed "Music for the Heart" was the culmination of more than five months of dedicated work by the sophomore class. In the second year of the program, leadership



The AHA accepts the sophomore's gift

students are expected to plan and carry out any type of fundraiser for an organization of its choice.

This year's sophomores decided to donate to the American Heart Association because two of their peers have been deeply affected by heart disease; Stefan Pitts died in the fall of 2001 from heart problems and last semester Sarah Feldman's step-father died of a heart attack. The sophomore class held the benefit concert to honor their classmates and support an organization dedicated to "stopping heart disease and stroke".

The Eagle, the student newspaper, gave the event a "thumbs-up," applauding the Leadership Program for bringing a big-name concert to the campus. The sophomore class learned many lessons about making contracts, fundraising, signing corporate sponsors, and, of course, how to "set the stage" for a night of fun, music, and making money!

The SPA Leadership Program students and Sarah Stiles, Director, deserve an enormous "congratulations" for all the work that they have accomplished this semester.

Within the past 2 weeks they have:

Educated the AU community about AIDS prevention at the HIV/AIDS Awareness Fair (First-Year student's community service project)

Produced "Comedy Night" in the Tavern

Produced a very successful concert with 3 bands (one local to the area to promote new talent, and one Grammy nominated headliner!) to raise money for the American Heart Association. The students raised over \$40,000 for this project!

Having attended these events, I was very impressed with the students' professionalism, organization, and dedication.

All of them worked so hard and I'm sure learned a great deal. "Great job" to all of you!

Briana M. Weadock
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Want to contribute to the newsletter? Want to work with the Steering Committee? LET US KNOW!!!
E-Mail the Leadership Program at leadership@american.edu and let us know how you want to help!

Leadership Changes Mascots

What better mascot for a leadership class than a dog who leads the blind?

Last year we said good-bye to Dustin as he moved to Israel to help lead a gentleman who is a musician and piano tuner. This year, we have gained Jasmine as she begins her training to become a guide dog. Jasmine always adds a special bit of humor to class sessions as she wanders the room looking for love.

And so, as long as Dr. Stiles continues to be a foster mother for the puppies, the Leadership Program will have a mascot.



Jasmine helps sell tickets to Comedy Night



Dr. Stiles and Dustin