

United States Senate Youth Alumni Association (USSYAA)

P.O. Box 1798
Washington, DC 20013-1798
<http://www.ussyaa.org/>

December 13, 2005

Annual Letter 2005

A Special Message to Those Whose State and Year Do Not Appear on the Envelope

If the address block on the envelope in which you received this mailing does not have your USSYP state and year, then we're missing vital information about you. Please send a note via email to technology_director@ussyaa.org, or send a letter to the association's post office box in Washington, D.C. indicating your name (including name when you were a USSYP delegate if different), USSYP year, USSYP state, and your current address.

President's Message

Robert R. Middleton (DC 1966)

Welcome fellow alumni of the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association (USSYAA). It seems just like yesterday that I assumed the Presidency of this superb organization and I wish to thank everyone who has attended any of the activities, written a check for either the scholarship program or the general fund of our 501(c)(3) organization, or reflected for just a few moments on the impact which the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) had on your life. The Board of Directors has worked hard to keep you informed of its efforts to grow the effectiveness of USSYAA and to serve as a role model for cooperation among alums from all parts of the country, ages, races, and disciplines. USSYAA has worked together in a non-partisan way to spread the word about the ever growing reach, power and importance of our membership. And with the assistance of our Communications Director, David Zavadsky (WI 1990), and Technology Director, Dan Brown (MS 1987), we have tried to make these connections easier.

In this past year, we began a periodic inclusion of Alumni Sketches to serve as friendly reminders of how the Washington Week experience has influenced different alums and the direction their lives have taken, sometimes because of USSYP or even in spite of USSYP. I hope that you will take the time to look them up on the website, ussyaa.org, and read many of them. We anticipate even more in the future.

Our recent recipient of the Rosalie Wynn and George Randolph Hearst, Sr. Memorial Scholarship was an exceptional alumnus, Joseph Wender, and many thanks go out to Connie Britner (MI 1966) and Board scholarship committee members Erin Butler-Hess (FL 1997) and Norman Fortenberry (LA 1979), for their stellar selection.

This year has also seen certain changes at USSYP headquarters in San Francisco. The first is the resignation of Ms. Leah McLean, Alumni Association liaison, who has completed her legal studies and will soon begin the practice of law. Leah has meant so much to USSYAA over the past years and has assured name tags for each alum who has notified San Francisco of his or her expected attendance at the alumni event on Arrival Day. But most of all, Leah's coordination of our mentoring sessions has been superb. She worked closely with board member, USSYAA/USSYP liaison, and patron Michael Sundermeyer (MO 1969), and their efforts have made Arrival Day quite an experience for both participating alums and new delegates alike. Leah, we will miss you.

Another change that has taken place in San Francisco is the retirement of Thomas Eastham as Western Director of the William Randolph Hearst Foundations and the naming of his replacement, Paul Dinovitz. Thanks, Tom, for your many years of both service and effectiveness in your position and all you have done personally to solidify USSYAA and USSYP relations. Mr. Dinovitz has a great deal of experience in the television medium of communication and is greatly looking forward to his very first Washington Week. And USSYAA would welcome any ideas which he might have to continue and enhance the wonderful level of cooperation which USSYAA has achieved with USSYP, as well as to enrich the experiences of future delegates to USSYP.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the helpful support and assistance which the Board of Directors has provided during my term as President, and especially my predecessor John Blakley (MI 1976), who has faithfully served almost two years as Treasurer. I am especially proud of the youngest members of the Board, Casey Cashdollar (DE 2003) and Chad Robinson (DE 2001), both of whom served the Board while still in college. Casey even took the Board's meeting minutes long distance when she was spending a semester abroad in Granada, Spain. Yet it has been the cooperation and mutual respect which all Board members have exhibited which helped us to constantly move forward.

Lastly, this has been an unusual year in the history of the world with the tsunami which ravaged so many nations, hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma (and 20 others), together with the earthquakes in Pakistan and India, and mudslides in Central America. And I know that many of us have answered the call following these catastrophic events. I would ask, however, that you calmly consider a pledge this year to this fine organization, commensurate with your ability and desire to give. On March 4, 2006, when I step down as President of USSYAA and turn the important leadership role over to Randy Brantley (NC 1981), it will mark 40 years that I have served as an active supporter of, and advocate for, USSYP. For the rich history that it has achieved and for the exciting future that it portends, I ask that you keep these three questions in mind. Is USSYAA a special organization? Yes. Is it an elitist or partisan organization? No. Is it your organization? Yes.

Wender Receives Alumni Scholarship

Connie Britner (MI 1966)

Our 2005 USSYAA Scholarship recipient is Joseph Wender (IL 1999). Before he graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Wesleyan University, he applied to the John Edwards campaign. He became Field Organizer in the state of Iowa. Following John Edwards' fall from the race, Joey next went to Boston to become the director of the campaign fundraising canvass office for the Democratic National Committee. As a result of the excellence shown at his Boston office, he was moved to the New York office which was described as failing. His leadership improved the canvass daily average in New York from \$100 to \$300. Then he was asked to return to field organizing in Michigan. His persuasion and passion led 294 people to become precinct leaders.

Mr. Wender's exposure to Iowa's Nonprofit Resource Center proved to him the university's commitment to cultivating community leaders. He was also impressed by the extent to which the Center seeks to develop effective neighborhood-based organizations. This experience prompted application to the College of Law at Iowa University. Joey foresees a career in social advocacy such as he has briefly experienced to date.

Alumni Weekend Planning Underway

Randy Brantley (NC 1981)

Plans are underway for another enjoyable Alumni Weekend in Washington, D.C. Each year the alumni gathering coincides with the U.S. Senate Youth Program's arrival day. On Friday evening, **March 3, 2006**, Senate Youth Program alumni will gather for a networking and reunion reception. During the reception, alumni typically discuss family, careers, memories of the Senate Youth Program, and, of course, politics! Attendance for the Friday alumni event has increased each year since USSYAA was established in 1999. On Saturday morning, **March 4**, alumni will gather for the seventh annual USSYAA general membership meeting. The membership, which includes all Senate Youth Program alumni, will conduct business and elect officers and directors. After the membership meeting, attendees are invited to the Mayflower Hotel to help welcome the 44th class of Senate Youth Program delegates, which is the highlight of Alumni Weekend. A number of alumni will share their education, work, and public service experiences with the delegates at mentoring tables. In addition to welcoming delegates, alumni have the opportunity to interact with Senate Youth Program staff.

Look for a postcard and email after the holidays with detailed information about the locations and costs associated with Alumni Weekend. USSYAA's Alumni Weekend is a great reason to return to Washington, D.C. for networking, reminiscing, and meeting the "new kids." We look forward to seeing you there!

USSYAA Seeks Donations to and Applications for the Rosalie Wynn and George Randolph Hearst Sr. Scholarship Fund

This would be a great time for alumni to actively consider making donations to the *Rosalie Wynn and George Randolph Hearst, Sr. Scholarship Fund*. The scholarship fund is a project of USSYAA and is neither affiliated with nor endorsed by The William Randolph Hearst Foundations. Tax-deductible contributions may be made by check (please indicate “Scholarship Fund” on the memo line) sent to USSYAA, P.O. Box 1798, Washington, DC 20013-1798. Contributors are encouraged to explore whether matching contributions from their employers are possible.

Grants of up to \$500 are made available to deserving alumni to defray the costs of graduate and professional programs. Priority is given to those alumni pursuing careers in which earnings may not adequately reflect the individual’s level of commitment and service to society. The application deadline for the next round of scholarships is September 15, 2006.

Technology Director’s Report

Dan Brown (MS 1987)

Our alumni database is complete only back to 1996. We have greater than 90% of all names for 1993-1995 and less than 50% for all classes prior to 1993 except 1974, which we have 100% for, thanks to Stephanie Saxon (Delaware). If anyone has rosters for any of the classes prior to 1993 please send them to technology_director@ussyaa.org or Dan Brown, PO Box 1946, Provincetown, MA 02657.

Meet the Board

David Zavadsky (WI 1990)

Elections are fast approaching for the 2006-2007 USSYAA Board of Directors. Each quarter, the board meets via teleconference to discuss matters pertinent to the ongoing operation of the association, and makes plans for the annual “Washington Weekend” that coincides with the arrival of the new crop of US Senate Youth Program delegates.

The USSYAA Board of Directors for 2004–2005 is...

President	Robert R. Middleton	DC 1966	Silver Spring, MD
President-Elect	Randy L. Brantley	NC 1981	Concord, NC
Vice-President	Norman L. Fortenberry	LA 1979	Silver Spring, MD
Treasurer	John Selmon Blakley	MI 1976	Scarsdale, NY
Secretary	Casey Cashdollar	DE 2003	Lewes, DE
Parliamentarian	Chad Robinson	DE 2001	Greenwood, DE
Liaison Officer	Michael S. Sundermeyer	MO 1969	Washington, DC
Alumni Programs Director	Connie Britner	MI 1966	Jackson, MI
Technology Director	Dan Brown	MS 1987	Provincetown, MA
Communications Director	David Zavadsky	WI 1990	Madison, WI
Central Regional Director	Brandon Lucas	CA 1988	Hopewell Junction, NY
Eastern Regional Director	Erin Butler	FL 1997	Williamsburg, VA
Northern Regional Director	Ron Jacobs	OH 1993	Washington, DC
Southern Regional Director	Natalie Voris	MO 1996	Arlington, VA
Western Regional Director	Mehul Patel	NJ 1994	Manasquan, NJ
Executive Director	James T. Molloy		Laurel, MD

The board’s annual meeting will be in Washington, DC, on March 4, 2006. All USSYAA members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Treasurer's Report

John Blakley (MI 1976)

USSYAA had revenues of \$74,582 and expenses of \$45,436 providing an ending balance of \$29,146 as of December 1, 2005. The figures are cumulative since the inception of the organization and are not annualized.

Washington Week Mentoring Project Again Greets Delegates

Michael Sundermeyer (MO 1969)

USSYAA alumni greeted the 2005 Senate Youth delegates when they arrived at the Mayflower last February. Alumni hosted Mentoring Tables that discussed educational options and career paths for government service, law, business, journalism, teaching, military service, and medicine and public health. A table devoted to college also premiered. Each table made a short presentation, and its alumni provided informal advice to delegates throughout the afternoon.

In 2006, the Mentoring Project will occur on the afternoon of March 4, Arrival Day for the 2006 Program. Tables will organize in January. All of the above career and education areas are available. A committee for each area will develop literature, prepare a short presentation, and organize a schedule for informal discussions with delegates.

If you would like to participate in the Mentoring Project, please contact any USSYAA board member or e-mail msundermeyer@wc.com.

Parliamentarian's Corner

Chad Robinson (DE 2001)

Greetings to all Senate Youth alumni! It is at this wonderful and joyous time of year that we look back on the things for which we should be thankful. I hope that you are as thankful as I am for your Senate Youth experience. The best 10 days of my life may have taken place a bit more recently than some of yours, but I am sure the feelings we have are shared for this amazing program.

This year has brought about some great change in my life. I have graduated from Wesley College with my BA in Political Science. During my last few months as a student at Wesley, I served as the Driver/Personal Assistant to U.S. Senator Thomas R. Carper. This was an amazing opportunity for me, but one that created an enormous amount of added responsibility during my last semester of college. Upon my graduation, I returned three days later to begin a career at Wesley College in the Office of Admissions. I currently serve as an Admissions Counselor and Program Coordinator for our Pre-Collegiate program. I am very excited about my new responsibility and am enjoying my new job very much. I am slowly getting accustomed to not being a student anymore, but will be returning for my MBA in the spring with a concentration in Executive Leadership.

As we embark upon a new year, I encourage you to become involved in our amazing organization. The possibilities are endless for what we can accomplish, but it all begins with engaged and empowered alumni that are willing to make a difference. The world today is changing fast, and you may involve yourself in a great number of charitable endeavors. I encourage you to involve yourself in the one endeavor that I hope meant a great deal to you, and that will help shape the future of our nation for years to come. I wish you healthy and happy holidays and a safe and prosperous 2006.

ALUMNI NEWS

CLASS OF 1965

For **Robert Ivy (MS 1965)**, the Senate Youth Program was a highlight of his education, but as the years passed he had lost touch. As he was touring the new Hearst Corporate Headquarters Building under construction in New York City, where he is the editor of Architectural Record Magazine, he met Mr. Victor Ganzi, the President of Hearst, who was taking a construction tour himself. That meeting led Robert to the USSYAA website. Robert is eager to learn what has happened to other graduates of the class of '65, and asks, "What did we grow up and become?" He hopes to attend the reception welcoming new honorees in 2006 and also hopes that another early grad will join him.

CLASS OF 1966

Bob Middleton (DC 1966) writes, "After six years in private industry after college, three years in law school, and 25 years working for the Federal and District of Columbia governments, most recently as an Administrative Law Judge, I have decided to take a break. I remain actively involved in three other boards, in addition to completing a two year term as the USSYAA President, and look forward to a few more months rest before venturing forth in the next phase of my life in either business or politics. I have helped the US Senate Youth Program each year on arrival day for over 25 years and have kept in close touch with Program officials since 1966. Each year since Mom Hearst's death in 1999, I have welcomed new delegate arrivals, as she would have done, to make certain that they contact their parents. I am also pleased to announce that my wife Quinn currently works directly with the U.S. Senate Youth Program in San Francisco and serves as the Washington D.C. Liaison. My love for the U.S. Senate Youth Program is very deep and I hope that others of you who have learned to appreciate its value over the years will continue to be involved in some manner with both the Program and with USSYAA."

CLASS OF 1976

Darolyn Lendio Heim (HI 1976) has been practicing law in paradise for over 21 years and loves it! She is a partner at McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP in Honolulu and practices primarily in the area of civil litigation, land use and governmental law. She is married with two sons, ages 8 and 3, and enjoys every exhausting minute of being a working mom.

CLASS OF 1979

Dan Cottone (DE 1979) is glad to be back in Chicago as a lubrication engineer with ExxonMobil coaching/supporting other younger engineers, after commuting back and forth from DC for two years. He completed the Chicago Sprint triathlon this year, with 4.5 minute improvement over last, and has signed up to do the Olympic distance next year and is continuing my training. He currently serves his community as a member of a local zoning team.

CLASS OF 1980

C. Keith Ozaki, M.D., F.A.C.S., (FL 1980) currently serves as an Associate Professor of Surgery in the Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy at the University of Florida College of Medicine. His work includes clinical care, teaching, and vascular biology research. He and his wife Kim have one son who is now 9 years old.

CLASS OF 1981

Randy Brantley (NC 1981) was one of 55 individuals selected to participate in "Leadership Charlotte," a 10-month program that exposes executives, managers and leaders to various aspects of life in the city of Charlotte, North Carolina. Once a month, participants gather for an all-day program on topics such as government and politics, law enforcement, social services, education, the arts, etc. In addition, teams of participants partner with an at-risk neighborhood to assist with a project selected by the residents. Charlotte presently is the third fastest growing city in the U.S. Brantley commented, "Leadership Charlotte is like the Senate Youth Program but focused on city government and spread over 10 months. I often find myself comparing the two experiences."

CLASS OF 1984

Thena Gidget Poteat (SC 1984) is a Board Certified psychiatrist and a partner in Associates in Mental Health in Peoria, Illinois. She completed her psychiatry residency at Yale University in 2004. She and her husband, John Clemmer, have two sons, Cal age 8 and Jake age 5. She welcomes e-mails from fellow delegates at thena@aya.yale.edu.

CLASS OF 1985

Steven Rice (WY 1985) is currently serving as the head of the political/economic section at the U.S. Embassy in Algiers, Algeria. His wife, Rita Homsy, is employed by a U.S. contractor on an embassy project. Their three-year-old daughter, Maria, is the first child at the U.S. Embassy in Algiers in 14 years. The family expects to remain in Algeria until the summer of 2007.

CLASS OF 1989

Since February 2004, **Brian Kamoie (PA 1989)** has worked on emergency preparedness and response at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) while on loan from his faculty position at George Washington University. An article in USA Today on Sept. 14, 2005, profiled his work in the HHS Secretary's Operations Center during the response to Hurricane Katrina. It said, "Kamoie's focus is the federal government's response to the crisis on Mississippi's Gulf coast. He is one of dozens of staffers working 12-hour shifts in the Op Center, acting as Secretary of Health Michael Leavitt's eyes on the crisis and helping to coordinate the agency's activities." The full article is available online at http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-09-14-katrina-war-room_x.htm. Brian lives in Annapolis, Maryland with his wife Laura, a professor of history at the U.S. Naval Academy, and 17-month old daughter Cara. His e-mail address is kamoie@gwu.edu.

John Knapp (WA 1989) graduated from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in 1993, and then the Georgetown University Law Center in 1997. His legal career started with a year as the judicial law clerk to Judge Peter J. Walsh of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. After several years of private practice, he recently became a partner with the firm of Cairncross & Hempelmann in Seattle. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of Washington Business, as well as a Precinct Committee Officer for the local Democratic Party. He writes, "I'm sure there is a way to reconcile those two positions, but someone will have to explain it to me!" John has been married to wife Inti since 1999. His hobbies include snowboarding, cycling, "hacking away at the acoustic guitar," and taking Portuguese lessons.

CLASS OF 1990

Brenda (Ruth) Soya (CO 1990) married Serge Soya in March 2005 and is now living in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Brenda is on her first posting with the US State Department. She enjoyed eight months of training in DC, seeing many of the same things as the USSYP, but with different eyes.

Stephen Malone (IL 1990) graduated from Northwestern University in 1994 with a BA in political science and from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1997. After practicing labor & employment law at firms in Chicago and New York, he transferred in-house and has served as Employment Counsel at NBC Universal, Inc. in New York City since 2003. He enjoys travel, the arts, fitness, and photography.

CLASS OF 1992

A. Benjamin Spencer (VA 1992) is teaching as a law professor at the University of Richmond School of Law. He and his wife have two daughters and are expecting their third child in January. His first book, *Acing Civil Procedure*, was just published by Thomson West in September. Also, he has launched a new blog entitled Federal Civil Practice Bulletin located at <http://federalcivilpracticebulletin.blogspot.com/>. The blog chronicles developments in the area of federal civil practice and procedure.

CLASS OF 1993

Ramon Esquivel (WA 1993) is teaching English and World History in Brooklyn while earning a master's degree in Educational Theatre at New York University. He is interested in connecting with USSYAA alumni that are in the education field, particularly those working in arts education. After college at Yale University in Connecticut, five years in Washington DC, and now two years in New York City, Ramon is yearning to head home to Seattle.

Michael Bowling (OK 1993) reports that "I married the love of my life, Ursula Moore, on March 12, 2005, in a church two blocks from our marital home in Oklahoma City. We enjoyed a wonderful honeymoon in Costa Rica. Ursula is finishing her clinical psychology doctorate and will graduate this coming June from Fuller Theological Seminary." Congratulations, Michael!

After graduating from law school in 2003, **Kirby Lee (IN 1993)** completed a judicial clerkship at the Federal Circuit in D.C., and is currently clerking in the District of Maryland (Baltimore). He intends to be in practice in D.C. next year, either in government or at a firm doing patent litigation. Although there are times he misses his hometown of Indianapolis ("Go Colts!"), he very much enjoys living in the Baltimore/D.C. area.

CLASS OF 1994

Stephanie Dawson (OH 1994) graduated from Miami University (Oxford, OH) with a B.S. in Environmental Engineering Management and went on to work for Accenture (formerly Andersen Consulting) in the IT area. She has a goal to touch every continent and is about half way there. She is now returning to school to pursue my passion, film.

Jessica Schniepp (ME 1994) is living in Southern NH with her husband and daughter, who is a year and a half. She is excited to report that they are having a boy in March. She is working as a Business Systems Analyst at Liberty Mutual and loves what she is doing.

CLASS OF 1995

Michael Mahan Lawlor (MT 1995) graduated from the University of Montana School of Law in May 2002. Then, he served for a year as a law clerk for Chief Justice Karla M. Gray of the Montana Supreme Court. In June 2004 he completed a Master of Laws in Taxation at the University of Washington School of Law. He now lives in Alexandria, VA, with his wife, Amy, and sons Thomas (5) and James (2), working in Washington, DC, as a law clerk for Judge Herbert L. Chabot of the United States Tax Court. In 2005, Michael attended the USSYP Arrival Day at the Mayflower, and was pleased to visit with his roommate from the 1995 program, **Wystan Ackerman**. Next summer he plans to return to Montana to practice law.

Since participating in the program in 1995, **Ivan Kaplan (WA 1995)** graduated from Bellevue Community College in Bellevue, WA. With his associates degree in philosophy, he began working at a Seattle area Wendy's. He was subsequently promoted to assistant manager. Ivan's ceaseless climb up the corporate ladder suffered a setback when he converted to vegetarianism and began berating Wendy's customers for their destructive lifestyle choices. Ivan then briefly joined the circus, during which he attempted, unsuccessfully, to free various misused animals into the wilds of suburban Idaho. Recently, Ivan began working in a suburban Seattle nursing home where he entertains the elderly with his Rick Moranis impersonation. "One so compelling," Ivan writes, "I am led to believe it alone sustains life in certain residents." Anyone interested in a demonstration of Ivan's Rick Moranis impersonation, or in contracting his services for a loved one's birthday or Bar mitzvah, may email him at ivankaplan@hotmail.com. [Editor's note: This is almost exactly what Ivan wrote. Given that truth is often stranger than fiction, I include it without further comment.]

CLASS OF 1996

Sean Farrell (MA 1996) spent the summer doing contract research and analysis work at the Congressional Research Service, including supporting CRS during the congressional response to Hurricane Katrina. He has since accepted a permanent position with CRS as a Congressional Relations Specialist, and he's excited about his professional future in the federal government with CRS. He is also very proud to report that his girlfriend Samantha began her graduate work in health sciences this fall, at the top-ranked Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health.

Jared Bayer (DE 1996) moved to Philadelphia this May to begin working as a commercial litigation associate at Cozen O'Connor. After three years of law school and a long summer of studying for the bar exam, it has been a busy, but

exciting, change of pace. Before moving, Jared lived in Washington, DC, for five years, where he worked as an immigration paralegal and attended law school at American University. He hopes to complete an MA in International Affairs within the next year. Jared would love to hear from fellow 1996ers; his email address is jbayer78@yahoo.com.

After four years in the television news business as a producer and on-air reporter, **Talia Tuck (DC 1996)** recently returned to her alma mater, Harvard, where she is now an Admissions Officer. She writes, "It is wonderful to be back in Cambridge, and it is indeed an honor to represent the College."

CLASS OF 1997

Daron Roberts (TX 1997) is in his second year of law school at Harvard. After graduation, he plans on taking the bar exam, and traveling to the only two continents left on his itinerary—Antarctica and Australia. He would love to reconnect with any alumni from his year. His e-mail address is drobotts@law.harvard.edu.

Anne Boyd (CO 1997) attended Colorado College from 1997-2001, graduating *summa cum laude* with a degree in Political Science. In the fall of 2001, she traveled to Saint Petersburg, Russia, and studied for a semester. She then attended Duke University in 2002-2003 and took graduate courses in Political Theory and International Relations, returning to Saint Petersburg for the summer of 2003. She completed her education at the London School of Economics, receiving her MSc in History and International Relations in 2004. Since autumn 2004, she has been working as an intelligence analyst at NORAD/NORTHCOM, based in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She enjoys being back in her native state and would love to keep in touch with any Colorado-based alumni, and any contact with other Russian speakers/travelers would be great.

Erin Butler (FL 1997) married James Hess on April 2, 2005, in Erin's hometown of Apalachicola, Florida. The couple lives in Philadelphia, PA, where Erin is a legal consultant for ThomsonWest and James is an Associate at Duane Morris LLP.

Rufus Allen (SC 1997) graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2001 with a BA in Classics and Political Science. He attended Wake Forest Law School in Winston-Salem, NC, and took the August 2004 North Carolina Bar Exam. He now lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he is an Associate Attorney General in the Environmental Division of the N.C. Department of Justice. In addition, he has worked on several Democratic political campaigns, most recently as Deputy Finance Director for Roy Cooper's re-election as North Carolina Attorney General and Targeting and Technology Director for the N.C. Democratic Coordinated Campaign.

CLASS OF 1998

Chris Stewart (MO 1998) is the director of alumni communications at the University of Denver. Chris started at DU in August 2005 after working for two years in alumni communication at the Air Force Academy. Chris plans to begin an MBA program at DU in March 2006.

After graduating from Yale in 2002, **Marisa Futernick (CT 1998)** relocated to London, where she had already spent a significant amount of time studying and working. She currently lives with my boyfriend Paul, and is currently working at a video art gallery while also continuing to make work as an artist, writing the occasional art review, playing in a band, and DJing regularly. Marisa keeps is still a politically active citizen and keeps up on things through Democrats Abroad. She has very fond memories of her USSYP experience and is still in touch with a few of the friends made during her week in Washington.

CLASS OF 1999

After graduating in 2003 with a B.A. in Political Science from Wheeling Jesuit University, **Rebecca McCumbers (WV 1999)** entered the Ph.D. program in Political Science at the University of Notre Dame to study Political Philosophy. She received my M.A. in 2005 from Notre Dame, and works as a teaching assistant and graduate assistant for the Program in American Democracy.

Jacob Rodenbiker (ND 1999) will graduate with his J.D. in May from the University of Minnesota. After spending his summers with the U.S. Attorney for North Dakota and, most recently, in Egypt studying Islamic Law, Jake is not certain where he will be after law school, but he is considering options as varied as getting a specialized law degree, criminal prosecution, working on a political campaign, and finding a job on Capitol Hill or in the White House. Of course, he

would appreciate any leads or advice and may be contacted at jtrodnebiker@gmail.com. Additionally, Jake would enjoy hearing from '99 classmates who might be facing similar choices.

Abhishek Mathur (NY 1999) recently graduated from NYU Law, and is currently working at a boutique law firm outside of NYC doing telecom law.

Heather (Woodruff) Grizzle (NE 1999) recently served as Policy Director and Press Secretary for Doug Forrester's campaign for governor of New Jersey. She writes, "It was an incredible 10-month experience—I learned a tremendous amount, and I was glad to get another fix for my political addiction." She is now enjoying some much-needed time off and pursuing a variety of opportunities. She and her husband plan to remain in Manhattan, where they have lived for several years. "We welcome USSYA visitors if you're passing through!"

CLASS OF 2000

Mitch Keller (ND 2000) earned his B.S. in Mathematics from North Dakota State University in May 2004. He is now pursuing his Ph.D. in Mathematics at Georgia Tech. In addition to serving as a graduate teaching assistant, he is Vice President of the Graduate Student Government Association.

Robert Goodspeed (ME 2000) was promoted at People For the American Way and now serves as Internet Coordinator to their National Programs and Outreach Department, overseeing online communications for several of the organization's projects. He continues to edit DCist.com, a website about Washington, D.C., and lives in the city's Shaw neighborhood.

This past January, **Jessica Gogarty (CO 2000)** returned from Taiwan after serving for 18 months as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She reports that it was an absolutely wonderful experience and, while there, she had the opportunity to become fluent in spoken Mandarin Chinese. She is now enrolled in the TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) Master's program at Eastern Washington University and hopes to use her degree to serve immigrants in United States, or possibly once again live overseas.

Crystal Koen Szymanski (OK 2000) is currently in her second year of teaching at Garber Junior High in Garber, Oklahoma. In addition to teaching 6-8 English, she coaches the academic teams from 6th through 12th grade. In December 2005 she plans to graduate with a master's degree in secondary education with an emphasis in social science, and from there aims to go into administration.

J. Cory Tull (DE 2000) graduated from Georgetown University in May 2004 with a degree in International Political Economy and an honors certificate in International Business Diplomacy. He is now a consultant with Ernst & Young LLP's Tax Controversy & Risk Management Services group, working with the company since October 2003. In addition to his full time job with E&Y, he started law school at Georgetown this fall in their evening program.

Mike Jackson (GA 2000) graduated from The George Washington University in 2004 with a degree in History. Since then, he has worked at the Washington-based Middle East Institute, where he is involved with media relations and outreach. He can be reached via e-mail at m_t_jackson@yahoo.com.

After working for a year as the chief aide to state Representative Tom Patton of the Ohio House of Representatives, **Sam Hamilton (OH 2000)** is now a 1L at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. He ultimately hopes to represent public school districts and universities either as in-house counsel or through an education law practice group at large private firm. He and his wife, Tasha, a communications staffer for Ohio House Speaker Jon Husted, live in Columbus, OH.

Sarala Nagala (ND 2000) writes briefly, "I am currently pursuing a JD at University of California, Berkeley (Boalt Hall)." Congratulations, Sarala, and best of luck!

CLASS OF 2001

On May 13, **Andrew Bonderud (TN 2001)**, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Vanderbilt University with a B.A. in Political Science and Spanish. The same day, he was commissioned as an officer in the US Navy. In 2004, he became the first NROTC midshipman to spend an entire semester in Cuba, studying at the University of Havana. Subsequently, he was awarded the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross in the fall of 2004. He looks forward to hearing great things about his fellow 2001 delegates as many prepare for graduation and post-college activities and jobs.

Steph Hartford (WA 2001) graduated from Willamette University this May with a BA in Politics, which she accomplished in just four years despite severe health issues. She has relocated to Boston in order to pursue part-time work and plans to apply to graduate school for a Master's in Public Policy. Her biggest piece of news, however, is that she is engaged to Scott Herman, a native of Bellevue, Washington.

Kristopher Johnson (SC 2001) reports that during the fall of 2003, he interned for South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford. In the Spring of 2005, he graduated from the University of South Carolina with a B.A. in political science. Currently, he is an intern at the Cato Institute in Washington, DC. In the fall of 2006, he plans to begin law school.

Jacob Dudley (NE 2001) is nearly done with his degree in Education from the University of Nebraska. He intends to teach history or civics at the high school level. Concurrent with graduation, he also will receive a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Army through ROTC. He hopes to serve his country for at least a few years in the Infantry.

Adam Kealoha Causey (LA 2001) will graduate in December from Louisiana State University with a bachelor of arts degree in mass communication. He was managing editor of LSU's student newspaper, The Daily Reveille, during his last semester. Adam's duties included overseeing storm coverage in hurricane-ravaged south Louisiana. He spent summer 2005 as an intern at RedEye, an edition of the Chicago Tribune for readers in their 20s and 30s. He is talking with several newspaper editors about job opportunities as a reporter in early spring.

Crystal Sanders (NC 2001) graduated with honors from Duke University in May 2005 with degrees in history and public policy. She is currently a doctoral student in history at Northwestern University, researching the history of the education of blacks in the South during the age of Jim Crow. Crystal notes that "Washington Week 2001 will always be a fond memory. I made so many friends that I still keep in contact with and have so many amazing memories." Crystal would love to hear from her fellow 2001 delegates; her email address is crystal@northwestern.edu.

Elly Pickett (WY 2001) is currently the Deputy Press Secretary for U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, R-WY. She has been working for Sen. Enzi for a year and a half. More information about Elly can be found on the USSYAA web site in the "Alumni Sketches" area.

CLASS OF 2002

Cezary Podkul (IL 2002) is a student at the University of Pennsylvania, enrolled in the College and Wharton. He is on exchange at the University of Melbourne in Melbourne, Australia, where he is taking business and philosophy classes during the fall 2005 semester. He has recently started learning how to play cello, and has also picked up the art of playing the didgeridoo. Cezary reports that he has added a music minor to his degree and will stay at Penn for an extra semester, pushing his graduation to December 2006.

Since last spring's USSYAA gathering in Washington, **Chris Sighinolfi (ME 2002)** spent the summer interning with Lord, Abbett & Co., a privately-held asset management firm located in Jersey City, NJ. This experience solidified his interest in the financial markets and helped focus his career search during campus recruiting this fall. As a result, he recently accepted a full-time offer with UBS Investment Bank to become an Associate Equity Research Analyst beginning in July 2006. In May, Chris will graduate from Penn with a BA in Philosophy, Politics & Economics (PPE).

Sara Lonardo (RI 2002) is currently a senior at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, pursuing a bachelor's in public policy with a focus in poverty and welfare studies. She notes that "my senior thesis will be taking a look at marriage incentives so if anybody has done work in the subject, help would be much appreciated!" She is interning for Sheldon Whitehouse's Rhode Island Senate campaign and editing her school paper, the *[wire]*. She is also Domestic Policy center director for the Wheaton chapter of the Roosevelt Institute, the nation's first student-run progressive think tank that got its start after the 2004 election.

Ross Mankuta (NY 2002) writes, "My senior year at The George Washington University is underway and I have begun some coursework for graduate school, most likely to be completed at GWU. I recently finished up a volunteership at The White House and have been able to remain close with many colleagues." Ross has begun conducting interviews for GWU of potential undergraduate students, including an interview weekend in New York City. He has remained involved in student government, student affairs and intramural sports at GWU. "I really enjoy seeing USSYP faces around campus and have kept in contact with some fellow 2002 alums. If anyone is ever in DC, do not hesitate to drop me a line. Happy holidays!"

Jud Campbell (VA 2002) is finishing his senior year at UNC-Chapel Hill. He's still rooming with fellow Senate scholar **Tom Filopoulos (NC 2002)**. Jud will attend the London School of Economics next year on a Marshall Scholarship. Tom plans to finish his Chinese and Philosophy double major next year before going to graduate school in East Asian Studies.

Mollie Farber (FL 2002) is finishing her last year at Yale University, double-majoring in sociology and political science. Her sociology thesis will examine the unintended side-effects of recent reform to mental health law in D.C. for the staff of D.C. mental hospitals. Her political science essay is a study of state strategy in dealing with nonviolent social movements. Mollie is applying to both law school and graduate school this year, and will pretty much take what she can get. Mollie is the chairman of the Progressive Party, the outgoing director of her all-female sketch comedy troupe, and teaches religious school twice a week. She received a Truman Fellowship nomination from Yale last year. She was tapped into a secret society, but if she told you about it, she would have to kill you. Mollie looks forward to this year's week in Washington, and wonders what the heck happened to **Heath Silvey (MO 2002)**—did he accidentally tip a cow *onto* himself, or is he just missing?

Wilson Unga (HI 2002) has just returned from two years abroad in Japan as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He is currently enrolled at Georgetown University in the School of foreign Service as an International Politics major. He still keeps in contact with many of the students from his year and has the fondest of memories of the program. He writes, "My experience as a USSY representative gave me a new vision which is very much a part of my personal motivation to pursue my educational field."

CLASS OF 2003

Meredith Jessup (MI 2003) recently started her Masters Degree program in Political Management at the George Washington University. She has been an active student in Washington, DC, recently interning in the office of Senator Elizabeth Dole. She was a recipient of the Ronald Reagan Future Leaders Scholarship from the Phillips Foundation and this fall she has been an intern in the Office of the Vice President in the White House Internship Program. In the spring semester she will be attending the University of Westminster in London to study European politics and work in the British Parliament. She has also been offered an internship position for the fall of 2006 at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC.

Aaron L. Connelly (FL 2003) is in his junior year at GW. This past year there, he led the drive to refound the Enosinian Debating Society at George Washington University. Though dormant of late, the Society claims a heritage dating back to 1823, whereas the Philodemic Debating Society at Georgetown, now led by **John Deutsch (NY 2003)**, can only claim a history dating back to 1828. Aaron looks forward to a reinvigorated rivalry between the two societies. In the summer, Aaron stayed in Washington to do research on Sino-Japanese relations at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and is now abroad at Oxford University in the UK studying Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) for the academic year.

Raymond Pacia (RI 2003) is enjoying his junior year at Yale University. He is a history major and the managing editor of the *Yale Daily News*. He spent this past summer in Rome interning with the Associated Press.

William Godwin (TN 2003) is a junior at Georgetown now, but is studying abroad this year at the London School of Economics, focusing on race-relations, nationalism, and human rights. He has been endorsed by his University to compete for the Truman Scholarship next spring. He is currently working on a project with Professor Paul Gilroy at LSE which explores the relationship between black intellectuals and communism in the inter-war and post-WWII eras, including a case study of Richard Wright.

Casey Cashdollar (DE 2003) is a junior attending the University of Delaware. She writes, "Although I have changed my major from three languages to majors in International Relations and Spanish Studies, I am still keeping busy with plenty of course work and activities. I have spent much of the year traveling to various places and feel that there is no better way to start the New Year than to continue the trend. Over the holidays I will be in Texas visiting my two beautiful nieces and then immediately departing for Cork, Ireland where I will be staying with my boyfriend and his family for the month of January."

CLASS OF 2004

Ali Zaidi (PA 2004) is a sophomore, Government Concentrator at Harvard University. He is a member of the Harvard Undergraduate Council, and was recently elected to the Board of Directors of America's Promise (www.americaspromise.org).

CLASS OF 2005

William Haun (CT 2005) was accepted as an undergraduate into the American University School of Public Affairs as a Political Science major. Since starting college in the fall, he has become the conservative columnist for the campus newspaper *The Eagle* and has met former President Jimmy Carter and NAACP president Julian Bond. He is currently a candidate for a senate seat in the American University Student Government. In February of 2006, he will be attending the CPAC conference in Washington, DC.

From the Editor's Desk

David Zavadsky (WI 1990)

Over the years I've edited several newsletters for several organizations, yet no newsletter has been quite so enjoyable as the one you're reading here. The volume of alumni news was excellent this year, and included everything from earnest reports of college life to what I can only hope was a farcical take on the usual factual material that's published here.

New this year has been the addition of alumni sketches to our web site at www.ussyaa.org. More than just the usual updates you see in the newsletter, the sketches are more detailed biographies of our members. If you know someone who should be featured, please feel free to contact me at communications_director@ussyaa.org.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank all of the people who made this newsletter possible. This is my second year as editor, and sixth year of involvement with the newsletter's production. It has been an honor helping to continue the tradition that Mom Hearst started so many years ago, and I hope that you enjoyed this year's edition.



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