

United States Senate Youth Alumni Association (USSYAA)

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

December 13, 2008

Annual Letter 2008

A Special Message to Those Whose Delegate 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, DC, indicating your name (including name when you were a USSYP delegate, if different), delegate year, delegate state, and your current address.

President's Message

Norman Fortenberry (LA 1979)

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the United State Senate Youth Alumni Association (USSYAA), it gives me great pleasure to extend warm holiday greetings to all alumni of the William Randolph Hearst Foundation's United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP). Here in Washington, there's the tingle of excitement to offset the chill in the air. While there is always lots of energy surrounding the arrival of a new administration, there a special sense of anticipation surrounding that of President-elect Barack Obama. Among other reasons for this anticipation is Barack Obama's consistent and unambiguous statements in favor of public service, a cause dear to the hearts of USSYAA members.

During its April 29, 2008 conference call, the board passed a resolution endorsing "incorporation of formal programs of public service instruction in the nation's colleges and universities as well as in a dedicated public service academy, such as the proposed U.S. Public Service Academy." Members may recall that, in December 2004, the USSYAA announced a partnership with the Partnership for Public Service to encourage federal service.

When I assumed office, I stated that my priorities were twofold:

1. Expand avenues of communication within our membership and between our association and external audiences. In so doing, we can enhance the value of USSYAA to our members, further inform our members of opportunities for public service, and provide useful service to the USSYP.
2. Strengthen our ability to provide financial assistance to our members by maintaining our status as a public charity. This priority will require actively soliciting support from our membership and other sources.

To encourage more engagement among the membership, the board has authorized the creation of several ad hoc committees (please see article below on these committees). To bring greater clarity to our operations, we will present for consideration amendments to the by-laws to create the new position of Deputy Executive Director; to clarify the responsibilities of other officers; and to create the Finance and Investment Committee as a standing committee of the USSYAA board. The board is also making efforts to ease the registration process for alumni weekend events and to increase the utility of the USSYAA website. In addition, a regional event already has been held in Washington, DC, and another will be held on **February 4, 2009 in New York City**.

Planning is well underway for alumni weekend events. We are looking forward to the Salute to Public Service Luncheon, the annual alumni dinner, the general membership meeting, and the mentoring tables program. All of these activities will occur on **March 6 and 7, 2009**. The board has also authorized an exploratory committee to investigate the viability of a 20th anniversary event for members of the USSYP Class of 1991 (please see my article below).

USSYP is an organization on the move, but we can't move without you. We exist to serve your interests and to reflect your priorities. Please take the time to communicate with the board, volunteer for a committee, or donate to the scholarship fund. We can do so much, but only if we do it together.

Happy Holidays, and I look forward to seeing you in March!

Save the Date—USSYAA Alumni Event at Hearst Tower on February 4, 2009

Mehul Patel (NJ 1994)

Mark your calendars! The USSYAA is holding a regional alumni reception at the Hearst Tower in New York City on Wednesday, February 4, 2009. We're excited about having this event for any USSYAA alumni who live in the New York City area, or who happen to be passing through the city on February 4, 2009. Special thanks to The William Randolph Hearst Foundations for allowing us to use this incredible venue!

Be on the lookout for more details on the event in January—we will be sending a mailing to alumni who live in the region, and we will be posting the same information on the USSYAA website.

USSYAA Announces Formation of New Committees for Members

David Zavadsky (WI 1990)

The USSYAA is a volunteer organization, and is comprised of members who have great ideas and who want the organization to make a difference in the lives of not only its members, but of people throughout the country. However, one of the challenges of the organization is that there are usually far more goals than there are board members to carry them out. To take the organization to the next level, we need help from members like you. Many alumni have volunteered their time over the years, but figuring out how to make that time even more meaningful for both the member and the USSYAA as a whole has often been a challenge.

After the 2008 annual meeting, President Norman Fortenberry, Vice President Rachel Cook, and I met to talk about how to broaden the involvement of the general membership in both furthering and developing the goals of the organization. As a result of our discussions, we developed the idea for a set of ad-hoc committees. Norman drafted the ideas from our discussion into a comprehensive document and we had the plan distributed to the board by the time I left Washington that March. Our April board conference call was filled with spirited discussion, as well as excitement for bringing more members into the operation of the organization.

If you haven't already volunteered for an ad-hoc committee, there are still slots available on each one. Whether your aptitude is in fundraising, event planning, history, writing, or strategic planning issues, there's something you can do to contribute to the USSYAA. Please consider joining one of the committees in 2009. Your investment in time will help to create an alumni association that makes a real impact. The board liaison for each committee is listed; please send a message to the committee liaison if you'd like to join!

Resource Development Committee: This committee shall identify individual, foundation, and corporate targets for direct appeals/proposals as well as recommend solicitation strategies appropriate to the identified targets. The membership of this committee should include individuals with experience in fundraising or connections to philanthropic organizations or individuals. Contact Norman Fortenberry at president@ussyaa.org.

Annual Business Meeting Committee: This committee shall consider whether a location other than Capitol Hill might be desirable for the annual business meeting. Should it determine that an alternative location would be desirable, it shall identify candidate venues for the annual business meeting, select and secure a menu of refreshments, consider whether to identify a host hotel for alumni weekend, and address other related issues. Contact Norman Fortenberry at president@ussyaa.org.

Intermediate Range Planning Committee: This committee shall look at events and opportunities up to 4 years into the future, and develop strategies for realizing such objectives, to be recommended to the Board. Contact David Zavadsky at president_elect@ussyaa.org.

Long Range Planning Committee: This committee shall look at events and opportunities at least 4 years into the future and develop strategies for realizing such objectives. Contact Rachel Cook at vice_president@ussyaa.org.

Alumni Dinner Committee: This committee shall plan and execute the Alumni Dinner, a task which may include consultations with the Resource Development Committee to determine strategy. This committee also shall identify candidates for keynote speaker, for the Board's consideration. Contact Rachel Cook at vice_president@ussyaa.org.

Mentoring Tables Committee: This committee shall plan and execute the Mentoring Tables program at the opening of the U.S. Senate Youth Program each year. Contact Chad Robinson at liaison_officer@ussyaa.org.

External Relations Committee: This committee shall handle interactions (within guidelines set by the Board) with external organizations with which USSYAA has or may wish to have a professional relationship (e.g., Partnership for Public Service and/or US Public Service Academy). Contact Chad Robinson at liaison_officer@ussyaa.org.

Alumni Profiles Committee: This committee shall identify candidates (by soliciting nominations or otherwise) of alumni to interview, for the purpose of featuring in-depth alumni profiles on the USSYAA website. The Board has developed a template of questions to guide the interview process. In addition to the website profile, information shared in alumni interviews may be featured in future USSYAA promotional materials. Contact Sean Farrell at communications_director@ussyaa.org.

Archives Committee: This committee shall carefully review and catalog the archives of the USSYAA, including the special archives provided to the association by Mom Hearst. The committee shall also seek to identify archival materials that could be used for USSYAA publicity efforts, to document the history of Mom Hearst's contacts with USSYP delegates, and to distill actual or composite personal narratives that allow alumni to fully appreciate the impact of Mom Hearst on the lives of USSYP delegates through the years. Contact Sean Farrell at communications_director@ussyaa.org.

Salute to Public Service Luncheon Committee: This committee shall plan and execute the Salute to Public Service Luncheon, a task that may include consultations with the Resource Development Committee to determine strategy. This committee also shall identify candidates for luncheon speakers, for the Board's consideration. Contact Rawle Andrews at program_director@ussyaa.org.

Outstanding Service Award Committee: This committee seeks to recognize the outstanding service rendered in support of the mission, vision, and purposes of the association by alumni and friends of the USSYAA. Contact Rawle Andrews at program_director@ussyaa.org.

Record Crowd Enjoys USSYAA Annual Dinner

Randy Brantley (NC 1981)

The USSYAA celebrated its tenth annual alumni dinner on February 29, 2008, at The James Monroe House in Washington, DC. Attendees enjoyed a cocktail hour on the second floor gallery of art and antiques before moving downstairs for dinner and the evening program. Over 70 USSYAA alumni and guests—the largest number to date—filled the historic venue's to capacity. Special thanks to those alumni and guests who sat at the “spotlight table” on the stage.

Walter Burns, president of the Arts Club of Washington, graciously provided use of the venue and attended the event to present a short history of the Monroe House. President Randy Brantley (NC 1981) welcomed special guests David J. Barrett, President and CEO of Hearst-Argyle Television; Paul “Dino” Dinovitz, Executive Director of the William Randolph Hearst Foundations; and Rayne Guilford, Director of the United States Senate Youth Program. Both Mr. Dinovitz and Ms. Guilford offered greetings to the alumni. Rawle Andrews, Jr., (TX 1983), Director of Alumni Programs, awarded the 2008 Rosalie Wynn and George Randolph Hearst, Sr., Scholarship to **Sienna Houtte (AK 2002)**. Unable to make the trek to Washington for the dinner, Sienna prepared a video message of thanks for the scholarship.

After a scrumptious dinner buffet prepared by Monroe House Chef Brennan Hurley and his staff, guests turned their attention to the evening's keynote speaker. Chad Robinson (DE 2001) introduced the Honorable Robert H. Henry (OK 1971), Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Judge Henry recalled the profound influence of his own USSYP experience more than thirty five years ago, and guests were enthralled by the judge's insightful legal analyses and thoroughly entertained by his wry Oklahoma wit. USSYAA founding president John Selmon Blakley, Sr., and President Randy Brantley surprised Judge Henry with the 2008 USSYAA Outstanding Service Award. At the conclusion of the evening, President Brantley introduced incoming USSYAA President Dr. Norman L. Fortenberry (LA 1979) and President-Elect David F. Zavadsky (WI 1990). Brantley encouraged all alumni to consider the rewarding experience of serving on the USSYAA Board of Directors.

Volunteers Sought to Plan Washington Event for USSYP Class of 1991

Norman Fortenberry (LA 1979)

The USSYAA board has authorized the consideration of a 20th anniversary event for the USSYAA Class of 1991, which would be held in conjunction with Washington Week in 2011. Members of the 1991 class surely recall that they were unable to experience Washington Week due to security concerns at the time of the first Gulf War. Knowing how central Washington Week is in the memories of so many USSYAA members, the board has authorized the formation of a planning committee to be comprised of members of the Class of 1991. Paul "Dino" Dinovitz, Executive Director of the Hearst Foundations, has expressed his support for the idea of a 20th Anniversary event and his interest in finding ways for members of the Class of 1991 to participate in some of the activities planned for the USSYP Class of 2011.

A preliminary survey of members of the Class of 1991 indicated strong interest in the idea of a 20th anniversary event. Those surveyed emphasized that since the Class of 1991 had never gathered as a group, any agenda should allow plenty of time for personal interaction. Those surveyed also expressed interest in events that would be open to the families of the 1991 alumni. While there was interest in participating in some USSYP activities, there was a recognition that the Class of 1991 should endeavor to avoid detracting from the Washington Week experience of the Class of 2011.

The USSYAA board seeks volunteers from the Class of 1991 to lead and serve on a planning committee for the 20th anniversary program. Among the tasks of the committee would be to develop an agenda of events, develop a budget, and devise a fund raising strategy to meet projected costs. If you are an interested member of the Class of 1991, please contact President Norman Fortenberry (LA 1979) at nfortenb@gmail.com, or by phone at: 202-334-1926 (work); or 301-384-3220 (home).

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

Rawle Andrews (TX 1983)

The Rosalie Wynn and George Randolph Hearst, Sr. Alumni Scholarship was established to honor the contributions and achievements of the Hearst family in nurturing and supporting the over 4,000 alumni of the U.S. Senate Youth Program, as well as to support public service. All alumni enrolled in post-graduate programs at accredited colleges and universities are eligible to apply; preference is given to those applicants whose career goals do not indicate an increased potential for high earnings, and to those whose goals include public service. The scholarship selection committee may award scholarships in amounts up to \$1,000 to one or more USSYAA alumni, depending on eligibility. Please visit www.ussyaa.org/alumni/scholarship.php for more details about the scholarship.

The USSYAA always welcomes donations to the 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) and mailed to USSYAA, P.O. Box 1798, Washington, DC 20013-1798. Contributors are encouraged to explore employer matching contributions.

Technology Director's Report

Dan Brown (MS 1987)

The first mission of the USSYAA is building and maintaining avenues of communication among program alumni. The association's technology, including the website and e-mail lists, plays a critical role in accomplishing that mission. However, as the association continues to grow in size and increase its level of activity, it is natural that it will outgrow its technology. We are presently integrating more advanced technology into our website, and we have already established a more secure login system for our alumni-only pages. Please visit our website (www.ussyaa.org) periodically to check out our ongoing efforts to enhance our online presence.

Don't forget to keep us up to date with changes in your contact information. Just go to the website, click "Alumni Area," and then click "Directory." You may login with your e-mail address and password. If you have not established your password, or have forgotten it, please use the link that will send a new password to your e-mail address. If you have any login problems, please e-mail me at technology_director@ussyaa.org.

Meet the Board

Sean Farrell (MA 1996)

The board meets regularly via conference call to discuss matters pertinent to the ongoing operation of the association, and makes plans for the annual alumni weekend that coincides with the arrival of the new class of USSYP delegates.

The members of USSYAA Board of Directors for 2008–2009 are:

President	Norman L. Fortenberry	LA 1979	Silver Spring, MD
President-Elect	David Zavadsky	WI 1990	Madison, WI
Vice President	Rachel M. Cook	OR 2000	Alexandria, VA
Treasurer	John Selmon Blakley, Sr.	MI 1976	Scarsdale, NY
Secretary	Jen Tutak	FL 1998	Honolulu, HI
Parliamentarian	Paul Biedlingmaier	PA 2007	Washington, DC
Liaison Officer	Chad Robinson	DE 2001	Greenwood, DE
Alumni Programs Director	Rawle Andrews	TX 1983	Washington, DC
Technology Director	Dan Brown	MS 1987	Austin, TX
Communications Director	Sean Farrell	MA 1996	Elkridge, MD
Central Regional Director	Shannon Gallagher	IL 1988	Chicago, IL
Eastern Regional Director	Mehul Patel	NJ 1994	New York, NY
Northern Regional Director	Andrew Bradley	IN 1996	Downers Grove, IL
Southern Regional Director	Erin Butler-Hess	FL 1997	Richmond, VA
Western Regional Director	Cara Dilts	AK 1998	Washington, DC
Immediate Past President	Randy L. Brantley	NC 1981	Concord, NC

The board's General Membership Meeting will be in Washington, DC, on March 7, 2009. All USSYAA members are invited and encouraged to attend!

Treasurer's Report

John Selmon Blakley, Sr. (MI 1976)

USSYAA had revenues of \$360,484 and expenses of \$76,428 providing an ending balance of \$284,056 as of October 31, 2008. These figures are cumulative since the inception of the organization, and are not annualized.

USSYAA Bylaw Amendment Proposal

David Zavadsky (WI 1990)

Pursuant to Article IX, Section 2, of the by-laws of the USSYAA, the Board of Directors hereby gives notice of a proposal to amend Articles VI and VII of the by-laws. A vote on the following changes will occur at the annual meeting, to be held on March 7, 2009, in Washington, DC. All USSYAA members in attendance at the annual meeting may vote on these proposed amendments. Ratification requires a majority vote of those present at the annual meeting.

United States Senate Youth Alumni Association

Proposed By-Law Amendments to Clarify the Duties of the Officers

and Establish the Finance and Investment Committee

The Board of Directors recommends amending Article VI, Officers and Their Duties, by amending Section 4 to remove reference to a specific event, (the annual dinner of the USSYAA); by amending Section 6 to clarify the name of the Finance and Investment Committee; by amending Section 8 to broaden the scope of the Liaison Officer position; by amending Section 10 to broaden the scope of the Communications Director position; by amending Section 13 to clarify the check signing privileges of the Executive Director; and by adding Section 14 to create the position of Deputy Executive Director. Proposed text is as follows:

Section 4 – Vice President. The Vice President shall assist the President-Elect; shall serve as Parliamentarian in the absence of the Parliamentarian; and shall be the officer to provide written approval of checks in the absence of the Treasurer.

Section 6 – Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the USSYAA; shall have supervision of all funds of the organization, including authority to provide written approval for USSYAA checks to be signed by the President, President-Elect, or Executive Director; shall file required tax forms; shall give a financial report at each Board meeting and annual membership meeting; shall arrange for an annual audit or review of the books of USSYAA by a certified public accountant; and shall be chairman of the Finance and Investment Committee.

Section 8 – Liaison Officer. The Liaison Officer shall serve, at the direction of the Board, as the liaison with the William Randolph Hearst Foundation (“Foundation”) and United States Senate Youth Program officials; and shall serve as the liaison with any other organization that has regular contact with the USSYAA.

Section 10 – Director of Communications. The Director of Communications shall manage, at the direction of the Board, the organization’s facilitation of communication among members of the USSYAA and between the USSYAA and its members, and between the USSYAA and external parties and organizations.

Section 13 – Executive Director. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the President with approval of the Board; shall be a nonvoting member of the Board; and shall have authority to sign checks on USSYAA bank accounts with written approval of the Treasurer, or in the absence of the Treasurer, of the Vice President.

Section 14 – Deputy Executive Director. The Deputy Executive Director shall be appointed by the President with approval of the Board; shall be a nonvoting member of the Board; and, at the direction or in the absence of the Executive Director, shall assume all powers and duties of the Executive Director.

The Board of Directors recommends amending Article VII, Standing Committees, to establish the Finance and Investment Committee as a Standing Committee. Proposed text is as follows:

Section 1. There shall be four Standing Committees: Communications, Alumni Programs, Program Support, and Finance and Investment.

A. The Communications Committee shall address the USSYAA’s Mission on communications. The chairperson shall be the Director of Communications, and the vice-chairperson shall be the Director of Technology.

B. The Alumni Programs Committee shall address the USSYAA’s Mission on alumni programs and financial assistance. The chairperson shall be the Director of Alumni Programs.

C. The Program Support Committee shall address the USSYAA’s Mission to support the Foundation’s Senate Youth Program. The chairperson shall be the Liaison Officer.

D. The Finance and Investment Committee shall oversee the finances, investments, and budget of the USSYAA. The chairperson shall be the Treasurer.

ALUMNI NEWS

CLASS OF 1975

Carol Frost (AK 1975) was named Associate Vice President for Research and Economic Development at the University of Wyoming, where she has served on the faculty of the Geology and Geophysics department since 1983. During the 2006-2007 academic year, Carol served as interim director of the university’s School of Energy Resources.

CLASS OF 1979

David Shanet Clark (WV 1979) sent a brief note to announce that, in 2008, he was elected Chairman of the DeKalb County (Georgia) Historical Preservation Commission.

CLASS OF 1980

C. Keith Ozaki, M.D., F.A.C.S., (FL 1980) writes to announce that he just moved to a new position as a vascular surgeon and researcher at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. He was formerly a Professor of Surgery at the University of Florida College of Medicine and Chief of Surgical Services with the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System.

CLASS OF 1981

Randy Brantley (NC 1981), Immediate Past President of the USSYAA, was named Leadership Development Officer for Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) and four Charlotte Greater Metro Habitat affiliates. He will coordinate the major gifts fundraising efforts of the affiliates and HFHI in the Charlotte, North Carolina area. Charlotte is the eighth U.S. location in which Habitat has placed a Leadership Development Officer. Randy looks forward to his first Habitat Global Village experience in February, when he will travel with 24 U.S. citizens to Xela, Guatemala to build homes, and he is honored to be a part of Habitat's international housing ministry.

CLASS OF 1983

Rawle Andrews (TX 1983), the Managing Attorney of AARP's Legal Counsel for the Elderly, was appointed by the DC Court of Appeals to a three-year term on the Washington, DC, Access to Justice Commission. He recently published a book review of the American Bar Association's "*Legal Guide for Americans Over 50: Everything About the Law and Medicare & Medicaid, Retirement Rights, and Long Term Care Choices for Yourself and Your Parents*" (Random House). Rawle lives and works in the District of Columbia and is the proud father of his daughter, Jordan F. Andrews, who is a fifth grade honor roll student in the Avondale School District in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

CLASS OF 1985

Steven Rice (WY 1985) continues to head the political and economic section at the U.S. Embassy in Doha, Qatar. He and his wife, Rita Homsy, are expecting their third child early in 2009. The new addition to the family will join sisters Maria (6) and Stephanie (2). The Rice's expect to remain in Qatar through the summer of 2010, so any alumni in the region passing through Qatar are encouraged to get in touch with Steven.

CLASS OF 1994

Mehul Patel (NJ 1994) oversaw the development of J Condo, a 33-story, 267-unit project in the DUMBO neighborhood of Brooklyn for the past few years. After wrapping up that project last April, he took a leap to the public sector to help oversee the redevelopment of Penn Station in New York City. Mehul writes that the Penn Station project "is an enormous undertaking which embodies the critical infrastructure investments we need in these challenging times and combines a fascinating mix of transportation planning, real estate development, economic development, historic preservation, and sustainable design." He's also be busy providing oversight of the city's water and sewer infrastructure as a member of the New York City Water Board, to which he was appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg in November 2007.

CLASS OF 1996

Sean Farrell (MA 1996) worked on voter identification and turnout efforts, via phone banking and neighborhood canvassing, on behalf of Barack Obama's campaign during the Maryland presidential primary election. He is a congressional relations specialist with the Congressional Research Service (CRS) at the Library of Congress. Since the end of October, he has been detailed by CRS to staff the House Administration Committee-sponsored New Member Seminar, which provides the official legislative process and public policy orientation to the newly-elected members of the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition to working on seminar logistics and advance planning, he will be on-site in early January to staff the four-day program, held in Williamsburg, Virginia. His wife Samantha is a management analyst with the Veterans Health Administration's Health Services Research and Development office. Sean and Samantha are looking forward to their upcoming vacation in mid-January, where they will unofficially serve as goodwill ambassadors from the United States as they celebrate the inauguration of President Barack Obama among the people of Ireland!

CLASS OF 1999

Christian Weeks (NH 1999) has relocated to Cambridge, Massachusetts to attend the Harvard Business School, after working for three years with Deloitte Consulting in McLean, Virginia. He would love to hear from any other delegates who may have found their way to Harvard Business School.

CLASS OF 2000

Elizabeth (LeBlanc) McCormick (LA 2000) was married in 2006 to her husband, Jay McCormick. She has recently moved from Lafayette, Louisiana to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where she now works at Chesapeake Energy Corporation.

After teaching music for four years and completing his master's degree in music education, **Jon Gathje (NE 2000)** will be attending Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota to begin work on his Master of Divinity degree, in preparation for ordination in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Jon is teaching part-time at the International School of Minnesota and singing with the choral ensemble *VocalEssence*.

CLASS OF 2002

Taylor Heyen (MN 2002) left her job as a consultant at Accenture to take a position as an advisor with the IT Forrester Leadership Boards at Forrester Research. She moved across the river from Cambridge to Boston, Massachusetts, and still makes it back to visit family and friends in Minnesota whenever possible. She encourages members of USSYP 2002 to get in touch when they're in Boston!

Ross Mankuta (NY 2002) has moved to Los Angeles, California after six years in Washington, DC, and after earning a BA and MA from The George Washington University. Ross writes that his fellowship experience and working in the GWU undergraduate admissions office were fantastic opportunities and that he has recently started working in the admissions office at the University of Southern California (USC) as an Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions. He now resides in West Hollywood and is enjoying life in L.A. He would love to meet up with USSYP alumni in southern California and also in New York and Connecticut where he will be recruiting for USC.

CLASS OF 2004

Elizabeth Kurtz (DC 2004) graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in June of 2008 with a joint degree in Sociology and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Her academic work focused on war and conflict, race and ethnicity, and Arabic. During her senior year, she wrote her thesis on how the experiences of American soldiers who served in North Africa during World War II shaped their perceptions of Arabs and Muslims. Since graduating, Elizabeth has returned to Washington, DC, where she grew up. She will be working at the House Armed Services Committee through the end of October, and then she'll be off to a new job (hopefully also in military and/or legislative affairs). Elizabeth is a volunteer at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and conveys that she has found the work to be a very rewarding experience. She plans to work for a few years before returning to school for graduate work, but she hasn't decided what type of degree to get. She's keeping an open mind and is open to any suggestions!

CLASS OF 2005

William Haun (CT 2005) is a senior at The American University, finishing his BA in Political Science with a concentration on law and politics. Throughout the past year, he reports that he has served as president of the university's chapter of the College Republicans, bringing numerous speakers to campus, fundraising over \$4,000 for the group, and expanding its influence on campus. He has completed internships at the Department of Justice and at a local law firm in his hometown of South Windsor, Connecticut. He was also invited to speak on growing the conservative movement on college campuses at the Americans For Prosperity "Defending the American Dream" Summit in Washington, DC. This past spring, the Phillips Foundation awarded him the "Ronald Reagan College Leaders Scholarship" for his work in expanding the conservative movement while maintaining a high academic performance. William is preparing to take the

LSAT this fall semester, and he currently interns in the general counsel's office for the Republican Governors Association. He is planning to attend law school next fall.

Suchita Shah (WI 2005) graduated in May 2008 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a BS degree in Biology, with a concentration in neurobiology. "Jeopardy" fans might have seen her representing UW in the 2008 Jeopardy College Championship. She is currently a first-year medical student at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and she hopes to pursue an integrated career in medicine and health policy & advocacy. Suchita would love to connect with any USSYP alumni in the New York City area! (suchitarshah@gmail.com).

Hogan Miller (KS 2005) joined the Lynn Jenkins for Congress campaign in the spring of 2008, serving as field director. At the time, Jenkins was State Treasurer and a candidate in the Republican primary. (*Ed. Note: Lynn Jenkins won the primary election, and subsequently was elected to Congress in the November general election*). Hogan is presently an accounting and political science double major at the University of Notre Dame. He previously interned for former U.S. Senator Gordon Smith (OR) in the summer of 2007.

Thomas Leeper (MN 2005) graduated from the University of Minnesota last fall with a degree in Political Science and Global Studies, with a minor in Spanish. Since then, he has interned for Grassroots Solutions, a field consulting firm in Minneapolis, and served as a research assistant at the National Youth Leadership Council in Saint Paul, Minnesota. This September he began a Ph.D. program in political science at Northwestern University, focusing on American political behavior and political psychology.

Kristine Duong (HI 2005) recently graduated from the University of California-San Diego, with a BA in Political Science, with a concentration in public law. While law school is not in her immediate future, she is keeping busy back home in Honolulu. She is currently working as a community executive for Aloha United Way, managing several accounts, including those of the Hawaii state government departments as well as those of non-profit organizations on Oahu. In her spare time, Kristine is also competing in the 2009 Narcissus Queen Pageant, sponsored by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. In her *other* spare time, she likes to keep in touch with friends on the mainland and catch up on three years' worth of sleep. She would like to say "what's up!" to her fellow 2005 delegates and hopes that everyone is enjoying themselves wherever they are.

Kasia Rada (IN 2005) interned at the Minaret of Freedom Institute in Washington, DC, as part of the Institute for Humane Studies' Koch Summer Fellow Program. Kasia is now studying abroad for a year at The American University in Cairo, Egypt.

CLASS OF 2007

Sam Inman (ME 2007) is a politics major at St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire, which hosted a presidential primary debate in January. During the primary campaign, Sam worked for ABC news and met several of the candidates, as well as media personalities George Stephanopoulos, E.J. Dionne, Chris Matthews, and Charles Gibson. At St. Anselm, Sam is a student ambassador for the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, a member of the campus Political Union, Model UN, and Green Team. He is also a volunteer for a get out the vote organization called *Count Me In!*

From the Editor's Desk

Sean Farrell (MA 1996)

As you've surely gathered from the articles in the newsletter, the USSYAA is making great strides towards growing the impact of our organization and increasing the value of the organization to its members. As I have said before, this newsletter represents an important part of the legacy of Mom Hearst, and it is my privilege to serve as a temporary steward of her valued creation. I always enjoy communicating with alumni and conveying their stories of accomplishment, celebration, and discovery to the entire membership.

Due to unforeseen technical difficulties with our online communications systems (which have only recently been resolved), I was unable, as has been standard practice, to extend more than one e-mail call for alumni contributions to the newsletter. I apologize for this development, as it surely impacted the volume of alumni stories we were able to feature. I look forward to staying in contact with everyone through a more robust communications infrastructure in the coming year.

May the holiday season bring great joy to you all!



**UNITED STATES
SENATE YOUTH
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Alumni Weekend 2009 Calendar of Events

Salute to Public Service Luncheon

When: Friday, March 6, 2009
12:00 noon to 1:00 pm
Where: Washington, DC
Cost: To be announced
Dress: Business attire

Alumni Dinner and Reception

When: Friday, March 6, 2009
6:30 pm – 10:30 pm
Where: Washington, DC
Cost: To be announced
Dress: Business attire

Membership Meeting

When: Saturday, March 7, 2009
10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Where: Washington, DC
Dress: Business casual

Arrival Day and Mentoring Tables

Sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation and US Senate Youth Program

When: Saturday, March 7, 2009
Starting at 2:30 pm
Where: Renaissance Mayflower Hotel
1127 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC
Metro: Farragut North (Red)

Please check our website at www.ussyaa.org for updates on locations and costs for Alumni Weekend events, and while you're there, please take a moment to update your contact information and e-mail address. Watch your e-mail and mailbox in February for details on how to register, pay, and donate online, and for final event information!

2009 Alumni Reply Form

Your Name _____ Name as Delegate (if Different) _____

Delegate State _____ Delegate Year _____

- I updated my contact information online on ___/___/_____
 Please update my information with the following:

Mailing Address Home Office Campus _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-Mail Address _____

Preferred Telephone Number Home Office Campus Mobile _____

- Yes**, I am interested in attending the Salute to Public Service Luncheon. Keep me apprised of the status of this event.
- Yes**, I have an interest in attending the annual Alumni Dinner and Reception. Keep me apprised of the status of this event.
- Yes**, I want to participate in the annual Membership Meeting. Keep me apprised of the status of this event.
- Yes**, I would like to participate at the following mentoring table on Arrival Day:
- Government Business Law
 Health Care Journalism Education
 College

For faster response, please contact our Liaison Officer at liaison_officer@ussyaa.org with your information and mentoring table preference. Tables are frequently added based on Alumni and Foundation interests!

- Yes**, I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the **Rosalie Wynn and George Randolph Hearst, Sr., Alumni Scholarship Fund.***
- \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100
 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other _____
- Yes**, I would like to make a tax-deductible unrestricted contribution to the **United States Senate Youth Alumni Association.***
- \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100
 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other _____

Please detach and mail with your check (if applicable) to:

USSYAA, PO Box 1798, Washington, DC 20013-1798

*Please investigate whether a matching contribution from your employer is possible. A contribution to the USSYAA or its scholarship fund is not required to participate in the events of alumni weekend. The scholarship fund is a project of the USSYAA and is not affiliated with nor endorsed by the William Randolph Hearst Foundations.