

United States Senate Youth Alumni Association (USSYAA)

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

December 8, 2009

Annual Letter 2009

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)

In March 1999, Rosalie Wynn Hearst hosted the inaugural dinner of the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association (USSYAA). "Mom" Hearst died later that year, and USSYAA was legally incorporated the following year. In March 2010 we will celebrate our 11th annual dinner and the beginning of our 10th anniversary year as an organization. As we begin celebrating a decade as an organization, it is appropriate for us to better balance our inward focus with greater attention to the outside world.

In this spirit the USSYAA board authorized the creation of the **Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award** to honor Mom's memory, to recognize the lifetime contributions of an eminent person who has devoted his/her life to public service, and to inspire future generations to similar service.

The USSYAA board is thrilled to be awarding the inaugural Distinguished Public Service Award to the Honorable Sandra Day O'Connor, for her distinguished career in public service as a lawyer, elected official, Supreme Court Justice, and civic educator. She sets exactly the right standard for future honorees. We extend our deepest appreciation for her selection to the award committee chaired by Robert Henry (OK 1971), Chief Judge of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. We will honor Justice O'Connor at our annual dinner, which will take place the evening of March 5, 2010.

During Alumni Weekend, we will also honor Brian Kamoie (PA 1989) with the 2010 USSYAA Distinguished Alumnus Award, to be presented at our Salute to Public Service Reception on the afternoon of March 5, 2010. Our Alumni Weekend activities promise to be quite exciting, and I look forward to seeing to as many of you there as possible. This year's featured events will be quite extraordinary, but space will be limited. Make your reservations online right away at www.ussyaa.org.

Help USSYAA to continue to serve you and to have a positive impact on the nation. Please make a donation, at whatever level so that we can continue to give scholarships, sponsor regional meetings, and increase our outreach and public education efforts. With your support, USSYAA's next 10 years can be ten times as great as its first 10. We have more than 3000 members. Our goal for the next 10 months is to have 10% of our members (300 people) donate at least \$10 each.

Happy Holidays, and see you in March!

USSYAA to Honor Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor with the Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award

Sean Farrell (MA 1996)

The USSYAA is very excited to announce that retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor will be honored as the recipient of the association's distinguished public service award at our annual dinner on Friday, March 5, 2010, at the Phoenix Park Hotel.

Justice O'Connor is being recognized for her long career dedicated to public service, which has included service as an assistant attorney general and state senator in Arizona, as a county superior court and state appeals court judge, and as the first woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court. Justice O'Connor has recently combined her dedication to public service with a desire to enrich the educational opportunities of students by helping develop an initiative called *Our Courts*, a web-based education project designed to teach students civics and inspire them to be active participants in our democracy.

If you have never before attended Alumni Weekend, 2010 this is the year to make the journey to Washington, DC. Reservations for the dinner will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis until capacity is reached; registration is open now at www.ussyaa.org. I strongly encourage you to make your reservations early for what promises to be an exciting event!

USSYAA to Honor Brian Kamoie (PA 1989) with the 2010 Distinguished Alumnus Award

Sean Farrell (MA 1996)

Throughout his career, Brian Kamoie (PA 1989) has been a leader in public health law, emergency preparedness, and homeland security policy. He presently serves as the Senior Director for Preparedness Policy on the White House National Security Council staff. In this capacity, Brian's responsibilities include leading the development of national policy related to health emergency preparedness and domestic critical infrastructure protection.

Before joining the White House staff, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response & Director of the Office of Policy, Strategic Planning, and Communications at the Department of Health and Human Services, where he led policy development and strategic planning for responding to bioterrorism and public health emergencies. He previously served as a professor of health policy and health services at the George Washington University's School of Public Health, and he now serves as a fellow at the university's Homeland Security Policy Institute.

Please join us in honoring Brian as our 2010 USSYAA Distinguished Alumni at an afternoon reception at the Phoenix Park Hotel on March 5, 2010. You may register for this event along with all the alumni weekend events at www.ussyaa.org.

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 plans 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.

USSYAA Launches “10-10-10” Campaign

Monike Santana (ME 2008)

In recognition of USSYAA’s 10th Anniversary, the USSYAA Fundraising Committee is announcing “10-10-10 Campaign.” The aim of the campaign is to have 10% of our members (300 persons) donate \$10 dollars each within the next 10 months (by October 10, 2010). Through this campaign we hope to both increase the number of donors to USSYAA and to raise \$3000.

This campaign is driven by two imperatives. First, as a 501(c)(3) public charity, USSYAA must demonstrate broad public support to protect its current tax exempt status. Our treasurer reports that in the last year, we had only 5 donors!

Second, and more critically, donations are essential if USSYAA is to maintain and expand the level of services it provides to you, our members. Our regular and recurring expenses exceed \$9000 annually and include

- Printing and mailing the Annual Letter - \$2667,
- Maintaining and hosting our website - \$4369
- Subsidizing ticket prices for the Alumni Dinner - \$1890 (\$40 subsidy for each non-student ticket and \$60 subsidy for each student ticket)

Additionally, we would like to hold more regional meetings such as last year’s well attended event at the Hearst Tower in New York City (which costs almost \$1500).

We continue to explore creative fundraising strategies such as the USSYAA logo items for sale by CafePress and available on our website. We also welcome your input on other ideas. Contact me at monike.silva.santana@gmail.com.

USSYAA can only be successful with the active involvement and support of our members. Contribute to USSYAA’s success by contributing to the 10-10-10 Campaign!

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.

Treasurer’s Report

John Selmon Blakley, Sr. (MI 1976)

From December 1, 2008 to November 30, 2009, donations were \$890 and expenses were \$19,579. The number of donors in the period were 5 (the highest individual amount donated was \$400 and the lowest individual amount donated was \$10). The top expenses during the reporting period were:

Website Technology Services \$4,369; Partial payment for 2008 Rosalie Wynn Hearst Excellence in Public Service Award Reception & Dinner \$3,724; 2008 Holiday Newsletter \$2,627; Salute to Public Service 2008 Reception \$2,163; Invitations for the Rosalie Wynn Hearst Excellence in Public Service 2009 Award Reception & Dinner \$2,107; NYC Hearst Tower-2008 Eastern Regional Reception \$1,394.

The Rosalie Wynn and George Randolph Hearst Sr., Alumni Scholarship Fund balance is at \$10,000. Detailed tax and financial statements are available at <http://www2.guidestar.org>.

Alumni Spotlight—Clayton Armstrong (DC 2009)

Sean Farrell (MA 1996)

One of our most recent alumni, Clayton Armstrong (DC 2009), is already making a name for himself, following in the tradition of so many members of the USSYAA. Earlier this year, Clayton earned selection as one of nine members of the inaugural D.C. Scholars program. This program selected Washington high school students on the basis of academic record and personal interviews for a summer internship in a White House office.

Clayton worked for the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs during his internship, handling press clippings, tours, and special events including the Independence Day celebration on July 4. He stated that an important lesson he learned from his experience was that “people you viewed as superhuman are just people doing outstanding things.”

He was profiled in a front page story about the D.C. Scholars program that appeared in *The Washington Post* on Sunday, August 9, 2009. In that story, Valerie Jarrett, Special Adviser to the President, explained the D.C. Scholars program as part of the Obama Administration’s goal “to integrate the White House into the community. To take young folks with an initial interest in public service and give [them] a taste” of the work they would do. Speaking to Clayton and the other scholars, Jarrett said “we want you to enjoy this experience and to think about coming back.”

Congratulations to Clayton Armstrong for his adding “D.C. Scholar” to a resume that already includes “U.S. Senate Youth Scholar.” He began his collegiate studies this fall at the University of Arizona, and the city of Washington is likely to hear and see much more of Clayton in the years to come!

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 current members of USSYAA Board of Directors 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	Boston, MA
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	James A. Brown	CO 2008	Colorado Springs, CO
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 held at the Phoenix Park Hotel in Washington, DC, on March 6, 2010. All USSYAA members are invited and encouraged to attend!

Editorial Note—Alumni News

Sean Farrell (MA 1996)

The traditional “Alumni Notes” section does not appear this year because there were no alumni updates submitted for inclusion. The USSYAA would very much like to continue featuring this section in the future, and encourages all alumni to let us know about anything they have to share throughout the year. Celebrate your good news! Brag a little about your achievements! As Mom Hearst always said about the recognition and praise that came from being part of the USSYP family, “you earned it, and you deserve it!”

From the Editor’s Desk

Sean Farrell (MA 1996)

I hope that you have enjoyed reading about the exciting developments with the USSYAA this year, and that as many of you as possible can join your fellow alumni at the eventful 2010 Alumni Weekend that is in store for you next March. I enjoy this time of year not only because of the cheer of the holiday season, but because I am filled with anticipation for the following spring’s events when I prepare this newsletter, when USSYAA members can renew old friendships and create new ones.

With those memories in mind, and with much thanks to all alumni who have shared their stories with me for four years, I announce that this newsletter will be the last for which I will serve as editor. I will be stepping down as USSYAA Communications Director at the end of my current term, which runs through the date of our General Membership Meeting on March 6, 2010.

A common feeling among delegates to the U.S. Senate Youth Program, me included, is that they are in the company of, and are themselves a member of, a select group of intelligent people with the potential for great and memorable accomplishments, both professionally and personally. I believe that, collectively, the stories you all have shared with me and with your fellow alumni over the years demonstrate the fulfillment of that great potential. A sense of purpose has produced an impressive record of achievement that grows year by year.

Thanks for reminding me every year of the real magic of being part of the U.S. Senate Youth Program family. I wish you all a wonderful holiday season.



**UNITED STATES
SENATE YOUTH
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Alumni Weekend 2010 Calendar of Events

Salute to Public Service Reception

When: Friday, March 5, 2010
12:00 noon to 1:00 pm

Where: Phoenix Park Hotel
520 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC
Metro: Union Station (Red)

Cost: \$25.00 per person
Please register by January 30, 2010.

Dress: Business attire

Alumni Reception and Dinner

When: Friday, March 5, 2010
6:30 pm reception
7:30 pm dinner

Where: Phoenix Park Hotel
520 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC
Metro: Union Station (Red)

Cost: \$30.00 Students
\$60.00 Regular Members
\$100.00 General Public (limited seating)
Please register by January 30, 2010.

Dress: Business attire

Membership Meeting

When: Saturday, March 6, 2010
9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Where: Phoenix Park Hotel
520 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC
Metro: Union Station (Red)

Dress: Business casual

Arrival Day and Mentoring Tables

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

When: Saturday, March 6, 2010
Starting at 2:30 pm

Where: Renaissance Mayflower Hotel
1127 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC
Metro: Farragut North (Red)

2010 Alumni Reply Form

Save a stamp: register, pay, or donate securely at ussyaa.org!

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 plan to attend the Salute to Public Service Reception**
Number of Attendees _____ x \$25.00 = _____
 - Yes, I plan to attend the Alumni Reception and Dinner**
Number of Student Members _____ x \$30.00 = _____
Number of Regular Members _____ x \$60.00 = _____
Number of Public Attendees _____ x \$100.00 = _____
 - Yes, I plan to attend the annual Membership Meeting**
There is no cost for attendance.
 - Yes, I would like to participate at the following mentoring table on Arrival Day:**
 Government Business Law
 Health Care Journalism Education
 College
 - 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 *USSYAA General Fund.****
 \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100
 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other _____
- Total Amount Due:** _____

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

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

*Checks should be made payable to **USSYAA**. 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.