

**UNITED STATES  
SENATE YOUTH  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**Annual Letter 2011**

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011



**Pictured:** Former U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole and USSYAA Board Members (left to right) Rawle Andrews, John Blakley, David Zavadsky, Rachel Lowe, and Norman Fortenberry. *Photo by Don Tanguilig.*

**Former U.S. Senator Bob Dole Receives the  
Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award**

*Marc Langston (KS 2004), Communications Director*

On March 4th, 2011, former U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole accepted the Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award on behalf of Sen. Bob Dole and delivered remarks reflecting on her husband's life-long commitment to public service. Although Sen. Bob Dole was unable to attend due to his poor health at the time of the event, he has resumed public appearances and has personally thanked some of the USSYAA board members for his nomination.

As an ardent supporter and former Co-Chair of the United States Senate Youth Program, Sen. Dole delighted in meeting numerous classes of program delegates. He was honored for his life-long commitment to public service and his continued promotion of civic engagement & education in establishing the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas and for serving as National Chairman for the National WWII Memorial. The United States Senate Youth Alumni Association is proud to honor an American legend who believes in offering public opportunities so that all individuals may discover how they might best serve their community, their state, and their nation.

The Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award is named for the late Rosalie Wynn Hearst, who became a second mother to 3,848 high school juniors and seniors participating as Delegates in the USSYP for almost 40 years. USSYAA was formed in 1999 to continue "Mom" Hearst's personal involvement with Delegates. It is dedicated to building and maintaining avenues of communication among alumni, providing financial assistance for the professional educational needs of alumni, and supporting the USSYP.



**Pictured:** George Irish, Eastern Director of the Hearst Foundations, addressing attendees at the Hearst Tower in New York City.

## **2011 New York City & Boston Alumni Receptions**

*Suchita Shah (WI 2005), Parlemtarian, & Andrew Bonderud (TN 2001), Eastern Regional Director*

On Friday January 21st, 2011, alumni from all ages gathered at the regal Tennis and Racquet Club of Boston, located in Back Bay. Although nearly snowed in, over 30 alumni enjoyed one another and the hors d'oeuvres provided by the Cactus Club Restaurant. It was a great opportunity to reconnect and network with fellow Senate Youth New Englanders.

On Monday, January 24, 2011, the Hearst Foundations generously hosted an alumni reception at the Hearst Tower in New York City. After a lovely event at the Hearst Tower in midtown New York City in 2009, with over 50 alumni of all ages in attendance, even more alumni returned to this magnificent location for another alumni reception on the spectacular 44th floor of the Hearst Tower. The night involved delightful hors d'oeuvres and beverages, mingling and reminiscing, in this exclusive top-floor venue with unparalleled views of Central Park and the New York skyline. George Irish, Eastern Director of the Hearst Foundations, addressed the crowd and expressed his gratitude for the enthusiasm and support of alumni and our efforts to bolster the legacy of the USSYP.

After the inclement weather gave both regional alumni events a scare, the USSYAA Board has decided to try and schedule 2012 regional alumni receptions events during warmer months. The USSYAA Board would also like to thank Andrew Bonderud for coordinating a fantastic event in Boston and Suchia Shaw for her coordination of a stupendous event in New York City as well as the Hearst Foundations for their generosity in hosting the New York City event.

## **Steven C. Rice (WY 1985) Awarded USSYAA Outstanding Public Service Award**

*Marc Langston (KS 2004), Communications Director*

On Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association awarded the USSYAA Outstanding Public Service Award to Mr. Steven C. Rice (WY 1985). Mr. Rice currently serves as the deputy director of Defense Trade Controls Policy at the U.S. Department of State.

Before taking up his current duties in August 2010, Steven Rice headed the political/economic sections at the U.S. Embassies in Doha, Qatar (2007-2010) and Algiers, Algeria (2005-2007). He studied Arabic in Tunis, Tunisia (2004-2005) and in Washington, D.C. (2003-2004). From February 2001 to August 2003, he held the political-military portfolio in the office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs at the State Department in Washington. Prior to that assignment, Mr. Rice served in the Operations Center of the State Department. He was posted to the U.S. Embassy in Damascus, Syria, from 1998-2000 and was assigned to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, Cuba, from 1995-1997.

## USSYAA Military Outreach Committee Created

*Janelle Kuroda (HI 1997), Central Regional Director*

The Military Outreach Committee was formed with a purpose of linking USSYP alumni with their military mentors.

The Committee liaised with USSYP to begin a database of those who previously served as military mentors. This was cross-referenced with USSYP alumni and we were able to identify which USSYP alumni joined the military and were later selected to serve as a military mentor.

The committee also set up a USSYP Military Mentors/Escort Officers Facebook page to foster discussion and relations with military mentors and alumni. Likewise, the Committee liaised with USSYP to work with the Department of Defense to allow those who formerly served as a military mentor twice before to serve again in the upcoming 50th Anniversary USSYP Washington Week events. Those who previously served and those who are USSYP alumni themselves were encouraged to apply for the 2012 program.

## President's Report

*David Zavadsky (WI 1990), USSYAA President*

Since our last holiday newsletter, the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association has been active in bringing events and opportunities to its members. With back-to-back regional gatherings in Boston and New York this past January, followed by a well-attended event in Washington in March where we honored **Robert J. Dole**, we started 2011 strong. We are especially thankful for **Elizabeth Dole's** participation in our annual dinner; while Bob had every intention of attending our dinner, health concerns prevented him from being with us that evening.

This past summer, we were saddened by the loss of **James T. Molloy**, who was the last Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives and the first Executive Director of the U.S. Senate Youth Alumni Association. Jim was instrumental in the early formation of our organization, and provided a historical context for many of our meetings. And of course, those of you who met him in Washington know that he was always full of great stories. Jim's wit and wisdom will be sorely missed.

To honor Jim, we have voted to create the James T. Molloy Alumni Service Award, which recognizes the personal contributions of alumni, friends, and staff of the Senate Youth Program. The James T. Molloy Alumni Service Award complements the Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award, which will remain active in recognizing contributions of individuals at the national policy level. These two awards seek to honor the best in service, both within the Senate Youth family and outside of it.

Though in the latter part of the year you may not have heard much from us, we've been diligently working on planning events that will coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the Senate Youth Program. In many instances, committees comprised of board members and committed alumni have taken the lead on important issues, bringing valuable insight (and hard work) to the board for consideration and action. We are especially indebted to the wise counsel of **Mike Gonzales** (NM 1973), **Gordon Hendry** (IN 1988), **Karthik Chandramouli** (KY 1989), and **Chandini Bachman** (AZ 1970), whose efforts to help improve the alumni association have been appreciated by all of us on the board.

It is this hard work that is leading up to the annual Alumni Weekend events, which will occur on March 2 and 3, 2012. Friday is the night of our fourteenth annual dinner, which will feature the presentation of both the James T. Molloy Alumni Service Award and the Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award. Additional details on our award recipients will be posted on our website at [ussyaa.org](http://ussyaa.org) and sent to your e-mail address on file, so please take a moment to log in and update your contact information and check our site frequently, as we expect tickets to sell out quickly. Although there is a ticket cost, the event is not a fundraiser; at best, we will break even on expenses.

Early Saturday afternoon, we join the Senate Youth Program at the Mayflower Hotel for the mentoring tables on Arrival Day; then, the 2012 Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Mayflower, and a new Board of Directors will be elected. We are also planning a low-cost family-friendly event on Saturday morning, and a social event on Saturday evening. If you can be in Washington all weekend, we expect that you'll have an experience very reminiscent of your original Washington Week, compressed into just two days.

In addition to activities that are organized by the USSYAA, the Senate Youth Program has several events planned during the fiftieth anniversary program. Watch your e-mail and/or postal mail for invitations to these events; RSVPs are

generally required far in advance, and space is very limited. If you are fortunate enough to receive an invitation from the Senate Youth Program, please demonstrate the level of restraint necessary to ensure that the current year's delegates—and our next class of alumni—always remain the center of attention.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank our **current board of directors** for the past two years of dedicated service. We've had an aggressive meeting schedule, and the level of participation in the face of other commitments—our volunteer board and committees are composed of students, executives, professionals, military personnel, and otherwise busy people—has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Please enjoy this year's holiday newsletter, and I hope to see you in Washington this March!

## Call for USSYAA Board Nominations

*Norman Fortenberry (LA 1979), Immediate Past President*

At the USSYAA membership meeting to be held in March 2012, we will hold elections. Although we have nominees (including incumbents running for re-election), we welcome additional nominees for these offices. Nominations can be made prior to the meeting by sending an email to [past\\_president@ussyaa.org](mailto:past_president@ussyaa.org) with the words "USSYAA Nomination" in the subject line. Nominations must be received by **January 15, 2012** so that the Nominations Committee can, as required by the Bylaws, submit a slate of candidates to the Board of Directors by the end of January 2012. As provided in the Bylaws, ten (10) or more members eligible to vote may nominate, by signed petition(s), any additional nominee(s) for any officer position, by mailing such petition(s) together with the written consent of the nominee(s) to the Secretary for receipt by the Secretary at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the Annual Membership Meeting. No member may sign more than one nominating petition during any year.

Nominations may be made for the following offices (those with incumbents are indicated by asterisk):

Vice-President  
Secretary\*  
Treasurer\*  
Liaison Officer\*  
Parliamentarian  
Communications Director\*  
Technology Director\*  
Alumni Programs Director\*

The responsibilities of these officers are specified in Article VI (see pages 4 and 5) of our Bylaws at <http://ussyaa.org/files/bylaws.pdf>.

The Board will also be filling Regional Director positions (those with incumbents are indicated by asterisk). The Board fills these positions at its own initiative and discretion, but welcomes nominees for these positions as well.

Eastern Regional Director  
Southern Regional Director\*  
Northern Regional Director\*  
Central Regional Director  
Western Regional Director\*

### Nominations Committee Members:

Norman Fortenberry, USSYAA Past President, Chair  
Rachel Lowe, Vice Chair (representative of Board)  
Andrew Bonderud, Member (representative of Board)  
Janelle Kuroda, Member (alternate representative of Board)  
Elaine Sedenberg, Member (representative of general body)  
Michael Gonzales, Member (representative of general body)  
Cezary Podkul, Member (alternate representative of general body)

## Treasurer's Report

*John Selmon Blakley, Sr. (MI 1976), Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair*

The assets of the USSYAA are basically invested in a portfolio that consists of Mutual Funds.

Contributions for the calendar year ending 12/31/2011 is \$1,336, General Fund \$791 and Scholarship Fund \$545.

The Scholarship Fund now has a total of \$11,545 for distribution.

## Technology Director's Report

*Dan Brown (MS 1987), Technology Director*

The first mission of the USSYAA is building and maintaining avenues of communication among program alumni. The association's technology—including the website, social media, and e-mail lists—plays a critical role in accomplishing that mission. To make sure you stay connected, join our Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/ussyaa/> and our LinkedIn group at <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1743207>. Also, please take a moment to make sure we have the latest contact information for you. Just go to <http://ussyaa.org/directory> and log in with your e-mail address and password. If you have not established your password, or have forgotten it, you can retrieve it via email by clicking the “I don't know my password” link. If you're not sure what email address to use, send an email to [technology\\_director@ussyaa.org](mailto:technology_director@ussyaa.org) and we'll look it up for you.

## Alan Wang Awarded 2010 Scholarship

*David Zavadsky (WI 1990), USSYAA President*

The USSYAA is pleased to announce that Alan Wang (AZ 2003) was awarded the 2010 Rosalie Wynn Hearst and George Randolph Hearst, Sr., Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000. Alan is pursuing his MD at the University of Arizona College of Medicine in Phoenix, and expects to graduate in May 2012. In addition to his focus on neurology and internal medicine, Alan plans to become involved in public health policy initiatives at the national level.

## USSYAA Announces Scholarship Increase for 2012

*David Zavadsky (WI 1990), USSYAA President*

There were no applications received by the October 15 deadline for the 2011 Rosalie Wynn Hearst and George Randolph Hearst, Sr., scholarship. Because of both this occurrence and feedback from past recipients, the Board of Directors has voted to increase the amount of the Rosalie Wynn Hearst and George Randolph Hearst, Sr., scholarship to \$5,000.00 starting with the 2012 award. Please watch the alumni area of the USSYAA website for more information on the increase and changes to the application procedure.

## Meet the Board

*Marc Langston (KS 2004), Communications Director*

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 the USSYAA Board of Directors are:

President	David Zavadsky	WI 1990
President-Elect	Rachel Lowe	OR 2000
Vice-President	Rawle Andrews	TX 1983
Treasurer	John Selmon Blakley, Sr.	MI 1976
Secretary	Jennifer Tutak	FL 1998
Parliamentarian	Suchita Shah	WI 2005
Liaison Officer	Chad Robinson	DE 2001
Alumni Programs Director	Ash Bhumbra	WV 2004
Technology Director	Dan Brown	MS 1987
Communications Director	Marc Langston	KS 2004
Executive Director	Michael Sundermeyer	MO 1969

Deputy Executive Director	John Spisak	
Central Regional Director	Janelle Kuroda	HI 1997
Eastern Regional Director	Andrew Bonderud	TN 2001
Northern Regional Director	Andrew Bradley	IN 1996
Southern Regional Director	Monike Santana	ME 2008
Western Regional Director	Fernando Saldivar	CA 1994

## Alumni News

### *Class of 1970*

**Bob LaRochelle (CT 1970)** will be releasing his second book in May 2012 entitled Crossing the Street. It will be published by Energon Publications. His first book, Part Time Pastor, Full Time Church, was published by Pilgrim Press in 2011. Bob is an ordained minister and pastor in the United Church of Christ and also work as a School Counselor.

### *Class of 1971*

**Steve Duprey (NH 1971)** was elected to the NH Legislature in 1972 at age 19 as the then youngest person in the country elected to a Legislature. He was honored to be asked by the Hearst foundation to return to the program and speak at the Senatorial luncheon the next year. After serving two terms and completing law school at Cornell, Steve returned to NH where he practiced law for a decade before starting a real estate development company.

Steve remained active in politics, serving in the capacity of either finance or campaign Chair for a number of candidates including former Governors Merrill and Benson, and former Senator Bob Smith. Most recently he served as finance chair for NH's new senator, Kelly Ayotte. Steve ran for Congress in 1992 and narrowly lost in the primary.

Steve served as NH Republican State Committee Chair from 1993-2001, and was an advisor to Senator John McCain in 2007-8. He traveled with Sen. McCain full time from the fall of 2007 until the day after the elections in 2008- logging over 165,000 air miles! Despite the disappointment of losing, it was a tremendous experience serving a man he deeply admires, and it reinforced his love of this incredible country of ours.

Steve was honored to serve as Assistant Chair of the 2008 Republican National Convention in Minneapolis and currently serves as Republican National Committeeman from NH. Steve has been appointed to and served on numerous state boards and commissions, by Governors of both parties, with over 25 years of service. Every part of that service and involvement is a direct result of the inspiration he received from having been a delegate to the United States Senate Youth Program and he remains appreciative of the Hearst Foundations and the generations of the Hearst family who have created and sustained such a tremendous legacy.

### *Class of 1973*

**Richard Varner (MT 1973)** retired at the end of March of 2011. The last 25 years of his career was with Eugene Water & Electric Board, the largest municipally owned utility in Oregon. Dick continues to do consulting work on a part-time basis on power supply contracts, utility rates and risk management.

**Rex Gale (NH 1973)** recently accepted a role as Partner, Health & Benefits, with Mercer in Seattle, WA. He is still married after 31 years to Susan. His daughter, Ellen Troxclair, is Chief of Staff for Texas State Representative Jason Isaac. His son-in-law Caleb is also Chief of Staff for Texas State Representative Phil King while attending Law School at the University of Texas. Maybe politics will be in their long-term future? His son Brien will has his MBA and will graduate with his Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) in May and is in the process of applying for a number of residency programs in CO, WA, and OR.

**Vicki Cundiff (CO 1973)** still counts Washington Week as a lifetime highlight, and is glad that USSYA is carrying on Mrs. Hearst's tradition of keeping us all connected. Vicki continues to practice law in New York, at the firm of Paul Hastings, LLP, where she concentrates on intellectual property law issues, particularly those arising in the copyright and trade secrets areas. It's a fascinating time to be active in this field, and Vicki devotes a fair amount of her spare time to writing and speaking at various professional functions on some of the latest developments. She has also been delighted to

teach a seminar in IP law at Yale Law School, where she has encountered many other alumni. Vicki has also run across her Law School classmate, **Russ Randall (MD 1973)**, who now practices law in Washington, D.C., where his practice has a heavy emphasis on green tech and environmental issues.

Vicki was fortunate to attend a program at the U.S. Army War College in 2007, called the National Security Seminar, which reminded her of the format and topics experienced in Washington Week—it was an opportunity to spend an entire week with officers from the U.S. and abroad and learn some of their experiences, as well as participating in seminars conducted by national and international experts. She highly recommends the program for those who may be interested in another “total immersion” week. She also enjoyed staying in touch with the civilian and military alumni of that program. Vicki hopes to see fellow USSYP alumni in March. Best wishes to all for a wonderful 2012!

#### *Class of 1975*

**Harry Thibedeau (WI 1975)** begins 2012 in an exciting new position with ViaSat/WildBlue in Denver, CO. Thibedeau, who has more than 25 years of experience in the satellite/cable/broadband industries, has joined WildBlue ([www.wildblue.com](http://www.wildblue.com)) -- as an Inside Sales Support Specialist. WildBlue provides high-speed (12 Mbps) Internet service via satellite to nearly 500,000 consumers in rural America. Harry would love to reconnect with Alumni from 1975...so for alumni that live in or are traveling through the Denver area, he may be contacted at [Wildblueharry@gmail.com](mailto:Wildblueharry@gmail.com).

#### *Class of 1978*

**David Stebenne (MD 1978)** was recently appointed Associate Professor of History and Law at Ohio State University. David will teach modern US political history in the History Department and American legal history in the law school.

**Elizabeth Renker (NY 1978)** is currently a Professor in the Dept. of English at The Ohio State University, where she specializes in nineteenth-century American literature and culture. She has published quite a bit, including *Strike Through the Mask: Herman Melville and the Science of Writing* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996); *The Origins of American Literature Studies: An Institutional History* (Cambridge University Press, 2007); the Introduction to the Signet Classic edition of *Moby-Dick*; and a wide array of articles on topics ranging from poetry to American realism to the history of “English” as a school subject. Elizabeth teaches students from freshmen up through doctoral students, and enjoys the challenges of the classroom. One of her favorite classes is a course she designed about five years ago, which teaches current song lyrics (focusing in the indie music genre) alongside poems from the past four centuries, exploring the ancient connections between poetry and song. Each time she has taught the class, she has arranged videoconferences between the class and important indie musicians, including Rivers Cuomo of Weezer, Matt Berninger of The National, Peter Silberman of The Antlers, Richard Edwards of Margot and the Nuclear So and So's, and Jack Tatum of Wild Nothing. She wishes to say “Hello” to all her fellow delegates from '78!

#### *Class of 1979*

**Norman Fortenberry (LA 1979)** as of May 1, 2011, moved from the National Academy of Engineering to the American Society for Engineering Education where he currently serves as executive director. While there are a lot of challenges in a new position, Norman feels that it is incredibly fun and makes him feel like he is making a real contribution to society. To misquote a teacher on television, “Without engineers we’d all be sitting in naked in the dirt.”

**David Shanet Clark (WV 1979)** travelled to the Washington area in October, 2011, to deliver a paper to the national cryptology conference entitled “Lincoln's Telegraph Office: The Origins of Modern Communications and War Signals Security” – about the Union’s use of the telegraph and Stager codes during the Civil War. The conference was hosted by the National Security Agency and held at the Johns Hopkins Advanced Physics Lab in Laurel, MD. On Saturday the national cryptology museum was opened for a private tour on the grounds of Ft. Meade and NSA headquarters. Mr. Clark was the only public high school teacher to present a paper to the cryptology conference; he teaches history, civics and economics in DeKalb County, Georgia. His wife Beverly is associate director of media affairs at Emory University.

#### *Class of 1982*

**William Thro (KY 1982)** was elected President-Elect of the Education Law Association, a national organization of attorneys, professors, and educational administrators who are interested in the interplay between law and education.

After four years as Solicitor General of Virginia, William became the in-house lawyer for Christopher Newport University, a public liberal arts university in Virginia. He also serves as an Associate Professor of Constitutional Studies and teaches constitutional law, constitutional theory, a freshman seminar on landmark Supreme Court cases, and a study abroad course on constitutional change in South Africa.

#### *Class of 1985*

**Steven Christopher Rice (WY 1985)** continues to serve as the deputy director of Defense Trade Controls Policy at the State Department in Washington. He enjoyed meeting the 2011 delegates in the diplomatic reception rooms at the State Department. Steve traveled quite a bit this year updating various audiences on President Obama's export control reform initiative. That undertaking will continue to keep him and his office busy through summer, when he expects to change assignments. Steve and his wife, Rita, live in Virginia with their three children, aged 9, 5, and 2.

#### *Class of 1992*

**Michael Smith (RI 1992)** married his wife Muugi earlier this year and they are expecting their first child in January. In his last update he mentioned that he was working at a university in Mongolia through Voluntary Service Overseas. Michael's project there was a great success (he helped them develop a field education program for their social work students), and now he is back in RI, working as a clinical supervisor for a program that serves at-risk youth.

#### *Class of 1993*

**Melanie O'Quin Rice (LA 1993)** and her husband Andrew are the proud parents of a baby girl, Tierney Paige Rice, born on June 1, 2011. Melanie enjoys keeping up with fellow delegate and USSYP roommate **Meredith Swisher (WV 1993)**, who is also a new mom herself this year!

#### *Class of 1994*

**Kevin Kirchner (LA 1994)** and his wife and met while working together on Capitol Hill in 1999. They just celebrated the birth of our third child, Richard Godwin Kirchner, on November 1, 2011. Kevin is six months away from completing a fellowship in Oculoplastics, Orbit, and Neuro-Ophthalmic surgery. He plans on starting my medical practice in New Orleans next year. They welcome any USSYP alumni to the Big Easy!

#### *Class of 1995*

**Luke DeKoster (IA 1995)** and his wife Fiona are returning to the United States the first half of 2012 for the birth of our second child, as they currently reside in Asia. Luke is in his third year of language study, and his wife co-leads a project teaching at-risk migrant women how to make jewelry. For more information about the jewelry project please contact Luke and Fiona at [goodbye10x@gmail.com](mailto:goodbye10x@gmail.com).

#### *Class of 1997*

**Erin Butler Hess (FL 1997)** and her husband James welcomed a new baby, Georgia Catherine Hess on August 2, 2011. They are looking forward to the holidays and a new year with Georgia and her big brother, Malcolm.

**Matthew Madden (MA 1997)** and his wife Trish welcomed a third son, James, to their family in April. James joined his older brothers Colin (4 yrs) and Peter (2 yrs). The boys are keeping them quite busy, and provide a source of entertainment to the Maddens and any neighbors within earshot of the Dominion Hills area of Arlington, Va. Matthew is an associate at Robbins, Russell, Englert, Orseck, Untereiner & Sauber LLP, a trial and appellate litigation boutique in Washington D.C. On the trial side, he primarily works on complex commercial litigation. On the appellate side, he recently argued a case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, and has briefed cases in the U.S. Courts of Appeals and U.S. Supreme Court ranging from white-collar criminal defense, to bankruptcy, to federal tort-law preemption, and other areas of law.

### *Class of 1999*

**William Brian Casebolt (TX 1999)** completed his MBA in June 2011 from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College and accepted a role at McKinsey & Company in New Jersey. Currently, he resides in Manhattan.

**Geoffrey J. Swenson (MT 1999)** is currently a Law Program Manager for the Asia Foundation in Timor-Leste and In-Country Director for Stanford Law School's Timor-Leste Legal Education Project.

**Kevin McAdam (CO-1999)** is a recent graduate from the University of Colorado Law School. He is now working as a law clerk to the Honorable Christine M. Arguello on the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. Kevin and his wife, Christine, live in Denver with their two children, Christopher (3) and Eleanor (1).

### *Class of 2000*

**Sam Hamilton (OH 2000)** is currently Associate Regional Counsel - North America for Voith, which is a large multinational company based in Heidenheim, Germany and is a leader in the paper-making machinery industry and the hydroelectric industry, among other things.

**Davis Hull (MS 2000)** just started the fulltime MBA program at Syracuse University and he will graduate in 2013.

**Mitchel T. Keller (ND 2000)** is in the middle of the second year of a Marshall Sherfield Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Mathematics at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He has given talks about his research in the UK, Canada, Israel, and Australia. In May 2011 was an invited workshop presenter at King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where he conducted a week of workshops on teaching.

### *Class of 2001*

**Crystal Sanders (NC 2001)** received her PhD in history from Northwestern University in June 2011. She is now a postdoctoral research fellow in the Africana Research Center and Department of History at the Pennsylvania State University.

**Adam Kealoha Causey (LA 2001)** left his home state of Louisiana last summer to take a new reporting job at The Florida Times-Union in Jacksonville. His official title is watchdog reporter, meaning that he keeps an eye on public money in several Northeast Florida counties. Adam also helps document the occasional Republican presidential hopeful's stump speech (Michele Bachmann, for instance) or the latest military base appearance from Vice President Joe Biden. Before moving to the Sunshine State Adam covered crime and politics at The Times in Shreveport, LA for five years. Prior to his departure, Adam was named to the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce's 40 Under 40 class. A highlight of 2011 was being able to witness fellow USSYP alumnus **Aaron Yen Tang (OH 2001)** wed the former Liz Campbell in Colorado in August.

### *Class of 2002*

**Cezary Podkul (IL-2002)** after graduating with honors from Columbia Journalism School in May, spent the summer in Washington interning at the *Washington Post*. He was thrilled to work at such an amazing paper, where he enjoyed the chance to publish several front-page stories while working on the *Post*'s national business desk. In September, Cezary started a job with Reuters on their new computer-assisted reporting team, where he analyzes data, reports and writes for various news, enterprise and investigative projects, which is very challenging and rewarding work. He is really enjoying it so far.

### *Class of 2003*

**Jena Roche (FL 2003)** is in the midst of planning her wedding, which will be in Buenos Aires on Feb 17, 2012. It is quite a lot of work planning a wedding south of the equator! She is also teaching yoga every week at Prana Power Yoga in Union Square NYC and is still working at SAC Capital doing Hedge Fund Capital Raising. All is well and Jena wished all the alumni a safe and happy holiday!

*Class of 2004*

**Tyler Rossmassler (MI 2004)** completed a certificate program at Georgetown University focused on Strategy and Performance Management

*Class of 2005*

**Brandon M. Smith (WV 2005)** is in his second year of law school at the West Virginia University College of Law. He was employed as a summer associate at a large West Virginia litigation firm over the summer.

He graduated the previous year from Marshall University, summa cum laude, with degrees in Economics, History, and Political Science. In this final year as an undergraduate, he participated in an internship program with the West Virginia State Legislature as a legislative intern to the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. In addition, he traveled to Ireland and England as part of an academic trip with the Economics Department of his college. The focus of the trip was on the EU and Ireland's integration into the modern European economy.

School and work experience permitting, he would like to reconnect in the near future with his fellow USSYP alumni at an Alumni Weekend.

**William Haun (CT 2005)** proposed to his girlfriend of six years on the Washington, D.C. tidal basin. The two are eagerly preparing for their May 2012 wedding at Saint Patrick's Church in Washington, D.C.. The wedding will come after Will graduates from the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. During his final year of law school, the Catholic University Law Review published his Comment on an aspect of the Free Exercise of Religion clause, the Federalist Society's Journal Engage will publish his article celebrating the achievements of former U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, and Will completed a legal internship with the Public Integrity Section of the U.S. Department of Justice. He is greatly interested in meeting and re-connecting with fellow USSYP alumni in the Washington, D.C. metro area, and is excited for the upcoming Washington Week.

**Suchita Shah (WI 2005)** completed her medical school training at Columbia University's College of Physicians & Surgeons, surprised at how quickly the past 4 years has flown by! In February, Suchita was honored to be recognized as one of about 20 medical students nationally selected by the American Medical Association Foundation for their Excellence in Medicine Leadership Award, recognizing contributions in public health, communication, leadership, and advocacy...skills she was taught during USSYP! Next step: a 3-year residency in internal medicine, hopefully in a city with plenty of USSYAA members!

*Class of 2006*

**Ellie Gunderson (MI 2006)** began a Master of Social Work at the University of Michigan this fall. Ellie was also hired this year as Fundraising Coordinator for Children of South Africa ([www.CHOSA.org](http://www.CHOSA.org)), a nonprofit that serves orphans and vulnerable children.

**Alex Stroman (SC 2006)** was made the Political Director for the South Carolina Republican Party in October 2011.

*Class of 2008*

**Tonei Glavinic (AL 2008)** received the Richard L. Schlegel National Legion of Honor Emerging Activist Award for his work on civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. A story about the award can be found on the American University website: <http://www.american.edu/cas/news/toner-glavinic-schlegel-award.cfm>.

**Tim McBride (DE 2008)** was elected American University's student government president and has been doing a great job according to **Tonei Glavinic (AL 2008)** who has enjoyed getting the chance to work with Tim over the past couple of years.

*Class of 2010*

**Josh Rubin (NY 2010)**, a sophomore at Yale University, currently serves as Communications Director of the College Democrats of Connecticut, and will be leading the Yale College Democrats' election efforts in 2012.

**Markus Batchelor (DC 2010)** received favorable news coverage regarding his various roles as a leader in D.C. politics and campus activities at George Washington University

[http://washingtoninformer.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=7635%3Ayoung-leaders-in-ward-8-see-political-power&catid=50%3Alocal&Itemid=113](http://washingtoninformer.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7635%3Ayoung-leaders-in-ward-8-see-political-power&catid=50%3Alocal&Itemid=113).

**Rena Wang (CA-2010)** recently assumed the position as Intercollegiate Business Convention Chair 2012 for Harvard Undergraduate Women in Business, an amazing annual convention with 1,000+ registrants from 85-100+ campuses around the world with the goal of building and fostering a network for female leaders. Contact Rena if you're interested in learning more or partnering at [renawang@college.harvard.edu](mailto:renawang@college.harvard.edu).

**Devin Chu (HI 2010)** attended a mini USSYP reunion in Cambridge, MA in December with **Jenny Le (TX 2010)**, **Rajiv Tarigopula (MO 2010)**, **Michael Lai (CA 2010)**, **Michael Walker (DoD 2010)**, **Jessica Salley (LA 2010)**, **Tim Seery (MT 2010)**, and **Yuqi Hou (KS 2011)**. His fellow alumni friends graciously treated Devin to dinner at John Harvard's. Devin is currently attending Dartmouth College.

**Loren Jessen (OR 2010)** is studying at the Oregon Institute of Technology to dual in Renewable Energy Engineering and Electrical Engineering. Loren won the Morrison Leadership Award which will help to continue funding her schooling!

### *Class of 2011*

**Hasher Nisar (CT 2011)** won a \$10,000 Nordstrom Scholarship for College. For information on this outstanding scholarship please visit: <https://sites.google.com/a/cheshire.k12.ct.us/chsrampage/news/hasheer-wins-10-000-scholarship>.

**Kevin Saucedo-Broach (MD 2011)** was admitted to and began attending the University of Virginia (UVA) College of Arts and Science as a member of the class of 2015. At UVA, Kevin auditioned for and was admitted into the Virginia Gentlemen, UVA's oldest a cappella group. He was subsequently also elected the Virginia Gentlemen Publicity Chair! Over the summer he traveled to Peru on a family vacation and visited Machu Picchu!

**Robert Lauf (ND 2011)** is studying Political Science and Economics at North Dakota State University and working for Congressman Rick Berg (R-N.D.) in his bid for the U.S. Senate.

**Stefano Cavallaro (FL 2011)** was inducted as a brother in the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity at Florida State University.

## **From the Editor's Desk**

*Marc Langston (KS 2004), Communications Director*

In my second year serving as Communications Director, my professional career and USSYAA have become delightfully intertwined. As I completed my final semester of Wake Forest University School of Law this past spring, my nomination of one of my personal heroes, Sen. Bob Dole, for the Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award prompted my law school to feature me in the following story: <http://news.law.wfu.edu/2011/08/washington-d-c-metropolitan-externship-profile-marc-langston-11/>.

Upon successfully passing the North Carolina Bar examination and qualifying to waive into the D.C. Bar, I began to work at the American Society for Engineering Education thanks to the tremendous mentorship of **Norman Fortenberry (LA 1979)**, who is currently the Executive Director. Likewise, **Michael Sundermeyer (MO 1969)** was instrumental in assisting me with my initial job search and continues to extol wisdom in order to help guide my career.



Please consider joining USSYAA's Official Facebook group named  
**United States Senate Youth Alumni Association**

and LinkedIn group named  
**United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) Alumni Network**

**A digital version of this newsletter may be retrieved online at <http://ussyaa.org/news>**

### **An Important Address Update Message**

If the address block on the envelope in which you received this mailing has an incorrect e-mail domain (the part that would appear after the “@” sign) or indicates that we have no e-mail address on file, we need updated information to keep you fully informed of USSYAA happenings! Please send an e-mail 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 preferred postal and e-mail addresses. We’ll be sure to keep you up to date.