



UNITED STATES
SENATE YOUTH
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Annual Letter – November 29, 2012

Alumni Association Celebrates Public Service



Peter Edelman provides the keynote address for the dinner. Photo by Don Tanguilig.



Roseann Molloy, incoming President Rachel Lowe, outgoing President David Zavadsky, and Amy Molloy Bogardus present the inaugural James T. Molloy Alumni Service Award to Ambassador L. Bruce Laingen (center). Photo by Don Tanguilig.



Monike Santana, Rachel Lowe and Rawle Andrews present the Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award to Marian Wright Edelman (center-right) on June 21, 2012. Photo by Don Tanguilig.

On Friday, March 2, 2012, the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association celebrated public service in the Walsh-Reckord Hall of States at the National Guard Association of the United States with the third presentation of the Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award and the inaugural presentation of the James T. Molloy Alumni Service Award. Accepting the Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award on behalf of his wife, Mrs. Marian Wright Edelman, was Professor Peter Edelman; and accepting the James T. Molloy Alumni Service Award was Ambassador L. Bruce Laingen, the last American diplomat in Iran. Mrs. Edelman received her award in a private presentation at the Children's Defense Fund in June. See inside for additional details.



A Wedding Reunion – Page 6



A Champion of Change – Page 7



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Laingen Receives James T. Molloy Alumni Service Award



The inaugural James T. Molloy Alumni Service Award was presented on March 2, 2012, during the alumni association's annual dinner. Named for Jim Molloy, the alumni association's first Executive Director, the award recognizes service to the Senate Youth Program and to the Alumni

Association. Jim's widow, Roseann, and daughter, Amy Bogardus, were present for this special presentation to longtime Senate Youth Program contributor L. Bruce Laingen. Ambassador Laingen's biography follows.

Lowell Bruce Laingen was born in 1922 on a small farm in southern Minnesota. Laingen attended St. Olaf College from 1940–1943, graduating in 1947 after serving in the Navy during World War II from 1943–1946. He went to the University of Minnesota from 1946–1948, earning a master's degree in international relations.

After completing the Foreign Service exam in 1949, his tours of service included assignments in Germany, Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. He became the Ambassador to Malta in 1977 and served in this capacity until 1979, when he received orders to return to Tehran, Iran, as *chargé d'affaires*.

On November 4, 1979, he was taken hostage along with 52 other Americans by student militants protesting the current government and Iran's relations with the United States. As the senior U.S. official held hostage, Laingen tried to influence the situation and to improve conditions for his fellow hostages. He appealed to both the United States and to Iranian government officials to resolve the situation as quickly as possible and to improve the health of his fellow hostages. While a hostage, he kept a journal and notes that would later be used in various reports and papers on the crisis and U.S.-Iranian relationships. He was released on January 20, 1981, after 444 days in captivity.

Until his retirement from the Foreign Service in 1987, Ambassador Laingen served as Vice President of the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. He was Executive Director of the first National Commission on the Public Service, chaired by Paul Volcker, from 1987 until 1990; and served as an ex-officio member of the second National Commission on the Public Service from 2001 to 2003. He served as president of the American Academy of Diplomacy from 1991 to 2006.

Ambassador Laingen has been a regular contributor to the United States Senate Youth Program, speaking to delegates in 1983, 1984, 1985, 1993, 1994, 2001, 2003, and 2006. In addition, he has served on the boards of A Presidential Classroom for Young Americans, the Mercersburg Academy

in Pennsylvania, No Greater Love, and the National Defense University Foundation. He holds the Award for Valor from the U.S. Department of State, the Distinguished Public Service medal from the Department of Defense, the Distinguished Alumnus Award from St. Olaf College, the Golden Plate Award from the American Academy of Achievement, a Presidential Meritorious Award and the Foreign Service Cup.

He is the author of *Yellow Ribbon: The Secret Journal of Bruce Laingen* published in 1992. He is married to Penelope "Penne" Laingen, the founder of the yellow ribbon movement. These yellow ribbons are still used today to show support for U.S. troops. Bruce and Penne have three sons, Bill, Chip, and Jim.

Marian Wright Edelman Honored with Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award



On March 2, 2012, the Alumni Association presented its third Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award to Mrs. Marian Wright Edelman, a pillar of the Civil Rights movement and a tireless advocate for children. The Rosalie

Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award recognizes substantial contributions to the national political discourse. Although Mrs. Edelman was unable to be present at the event, her husband, Professor Peter Edelman, accepted the award on her behalf and addressed the dinner. Mrs. Edelman's biography follows.

Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), has been an advocate for disadvantaged Americans her entire professional life. Under her leadership, CDF has become the nation's strongest voice for children and families. The Children's Defense Fund's *Leave No Child Behind*[®] mission is to ensure every child a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start*, and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

Mrs. Edelman, a graduate of Spelman College and Yale Law School, began her career in the mid-'60s when, as the first black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar, she directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1968, she moved to Washington, D.C., as counsel for the Poor People's Campaign that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. began organizing before his death. She founded the Washington Research Project, a public interest law firm and the parent body of the Children's Defense Fund. For two years she served as the Director of the Center for Law and Education at Harvard University and in 1973 began CDF.

Mrs. Edelman served on the Board of Trustees of Spelman College which she chaired from 1976 to 1987 and was the first woman elected by alumni as a member of the Yale University Corporation on which she served from 1971 to 1977. She has received over 100 honorary degrees and many awards including the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Prize, the Heinz Award, and a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship. In 2000, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, and the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award for her writings which include: *Families in Peril: An Agenda for Social Change*; *The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours*; *Guide My Feet: Meditations and Prayers on Loving and Working for Children*; *Stand for Children*; *Lanterns: A Memoir of Mentors*; *Hold My Hand: Prayers for Building a Movement to Leave No Child Behind*; *I'm Your Child, God: Prayers for Our Children*; *I Can Make a Difference: A Treasury to Inspire Our Children*; and *The Sea Is So Wide and My Boat Is So Small: Charting a Course for the Next Generation*.

She is a board member of the Robin Hood Foundation, the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, and the Association to Benefit Children, and is a member of the Selection Committee of the Profiles in Courage Award of the John F. Kennedy Library, the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Marian Wright Edelman is married to Peter Edelman, a Professor at Georgetown Law School. They have three sons, Joshua, Jonah, and Ezra, two granddaughters, Ellika and Zoe, and two grandsons, Elijah and Levi.

Alumni Association Tours the Capitol

Thanks to the generosity of **Representative Cory Gardner (R-CO, CO-1993)**, the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association organized its first-ever family-focused event for the morning of Saturday, March 3, 2012. Attended by alumni from many different years (including, in many cases their spouses and children), it was a unique event for the Association and a way for the Association to form additional bonds between its members and their families. For many Washington-area alumni it was the first visit to the Capitol since their original Senate Youth Program experience. (*See the thumbnail photograph on page 1.*)

Meet the Board

On Saturday, March 3, 2012, a new Board of Directors was installed for the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association. 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 | Rachel Lowe (OR-2000) |
| President-Elect | Chad Robinson (DE-2001) |
| Vice-President | Marc Langston (KS-2004) |
| Secretary | Elaine Sedenberg (TX-2006) |
| Treasurer | John Selmon Blakley, Sr. (MI-1976) |
| Liaison Officer | Rawle Andrews (TX-1983) |
| Parliamentarian | Michael Gonzales (NM-1973) |
| Communications Director | David Zavadsky (WI-1990) |
| Technology Director | Dan Brown (MS-1987) |
| Alumni Programs Director | Amarilis Lugo de Fabritz (MA-1985) |
| Central Regional Director | James Brown (CO-2008) |
| Eastern Regional Director | Nathan Tauger (WV-2010) |
| Northern Regional Director | Andrew Bradley (IN-1996) |
| Southern Regional Director | Monike Santana (ME-2008) |
| Western Regional Director | Fernando Saldivar (CA-1994) |
| Executive Director | Michael Sundermeyer (MO-1969) |
| Deputy Executive Director | John Spisak |

Leaving the board were Jennifer Tutak (FL-1998), Suchita Shah (WI-2005), Ash Bhumbla (WV-2004), Janelle Kuroda (HI-1997), and Andrew Bonderud (TN-2001). The Alumni Association appreciates their dedicated service and wishes them well in their future endeavors.

Hearst Tower Gathering a Success

On Thursday, September 13, 2012, East Coast alumni met at the Alumni Association's third regional gathering at the iconic Hearst Tower in Midtown Manhattan. The group was addressed by William Randolph Hearst Foundations Eastern Director George Irish, and for more than two hours the group mixed and mingled as the sun set behind Jersey City. Eastern Regional Director **Nathan Tauger (WV-2010)** was instrumental in making the event a rousing success. (*See the thumbnail photograph on page 1. Additional photographs are available in the Association's Facebook group.*)

Are You an Early Bird? Join Us in 2013!

Are you planning to join us for the Fifteenth Annual Alumni Dinner and Reception in Washington on Friday, March 8, 2013? If so, consider taking advantage of our special Early Bird rate of \$50.00 per ticket. All registration can be done online through ussyaa.org. On January 1, the rates will change to \$50.00 for young alumni (program years 2007-2012) and \$75.00 for all other alumni and their guests.

President's Report

Rachel Lowe (OR-2000), President

Not only did 2012 mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Not only did 2012 mark the fiftieth anniversary of the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP), but it has marked the beginning of some strides for the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association (USSYAA) as well. To start it off, on March 2 we presented the inaugural James T. Malloy Alumni Service Award to the former Ambassador to Iran, L. Bruce Laingen; it was especially moving because we were joined by Mr. Malloy's wife and daughter, who assisted in the presentation. We also presented the third Rosalie Wynn Hearst Distinguished Public Service Award to the founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, Marian Wright Edelman. As mentioned in her biography, we heard from her husband, Professor Peter Edelman, who accepted the award on her behalf. The incredible remarks made by presenters and board members coupled with this year's grand new venue, the National Guard Memorial Building, brought back fond memories of program days for many alumni, myself included.

During this year's program, we were also privileged to help plan a gala at the National Gallery of Art honoring the fiftieth anniversary of the program. Several alumni were in attendance to hear speakers from the Hearst Foundation, watch an incredible video documenting the history of the program, and engage with the current Administrator of NASA, Charles F. Bolden, Jr., as he addressed the delegates.

After these two exciting events, the board was motivated to continue creating opportunities for alumni. In addition to another successful event in New York, we held the first annual Alumni Day of Service. The theme, *Empowering Youth Through Literacy*, prompted projects ranging from collecting books and supplies for school children to volunteering at a local food bank. I would like to thank those who participated, and those who continue to support their local communities through volunteerism. Next year, we hope to organize some larger group projects in areas with a high population of alumni and make the day of service even more successful.

This year, we will also be awarding our first Rosalie Wynn Hearst and George Randolph Hearst, Sr. Scholarship in the amount to \$5,000.00. I am happy to report that last year's board vote to increase the scholarship has brought in an unprecedented number of applicants. Our alumni programs committee is currently hard at work selecting a recipient for 2012. If you missed this year's deadline, please be sure to apply next year.

Next year, 2013, is going to be phenomenal as well. Some of our regional directors are currently planning an alumni event in conjunction with the upcoming presidential inauguration in Washington, DC. More information regarding this event will be coming very soon! Additionally, the USSYAA annual events committed, headed this year by

Bryce Carson (OH-2009), is hard at work planning next year's alumni weekend, which will take place on March 8 and 9, 2013. Registration for the fifteenth annual alumni dinner and reception is already open – be sure to sign up before December 31, 2012 to take advantage of the early bird rate!

Overall, this year has been tremendously rewarding. I'd like to thank all of our board members who have worked so hard to make these opportunities for our alumni possible. I'm excited to see what our next year of service together will bring.

Treasurer's Report

John Selmon Blakley, Sr. (MI-1976), Treasurer

The assets of the USSYAA are invested in a portfolio that consists of mutual funds at Fidelity Investments. Contributions from January 1, 2012 through November 10, 2012, are \$780, divided among the General Fund at \$525 and Scholarship Fund at \$255.

The Scholarship Fund now has a total of \$10,800 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 and we'll look it up for you.

Our Newsletters Are Online!

David Zavadsky (WI-1990), Communications Director

A version of this newsletter including color photographs is available online at <http://ussyaa.org/users/letters>. Because the newsletter contains "group-only" information, a current e-mail address and password is required in order to access this part of the website.

Based on alumni feedback, we plan to offer all alumni the option to opt out of postal mailings of our newsletter starting next year. Watch your e-mail for more details as next year's newsletter cycle starts.

Alumni News

Class of 1970

Chandini Bachman (AZ-1970) is now a Certified Interpretive Guide through the National Association for Interpretation and is nearing five years of service as a visitor guide leading tours in the U.S. Capitol Building. In addition to her work as a visitor guide, Chandini actively volunteers for the World Harmony Run torch relay, which celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. Chandini also passes along her gratitude to the Hearst Foundations for inviting her to the Senate Youth Program's Fiftieth Anniversary Gala Dinner, and for allowing her to bring her mother as a guest. Chandini writes: "This was very special as my mother surprisingly passed away less than three months later. She told me 'The dinner in Washington was the best!' I am grateful to **David Zavadsky (WI-1990)**, who like me is single, and who invited my father as his guest." (Editor's note: The pleasure was all mine; Chandini's father, Charlie Bachman, is a Turing Award winner and is considered the father of modern database management systems. It was a special night in many ways for all involved.)

Class of 1975

It has been an exciting year for **Harry Thibedeau (WI-1975)**. Continuing a 25+ year career in the satellite industry, he moved to Denver earlier in 2012 and has joined the staff of ViaSat, Inc., one of the top high-tech firms in the country. He serves on the Sales Management Team for the Exede Satellite Broadband product, which offers 12 Mbps broadband service to unserved and underserved consumers. On a personal note, Harry reports that he and his wife love Denver, and would welcome an e-mail to Wildblueharry@gmail.com from any alumni traveling to Colorado. The skiing is awesome!

Class of 1978

David Stebenne (MD-1978) has been promoted to Professor of History and Law at the Ohio State University, where he teaches modern U.S. political and constitutional history in the History Department, and American legal history in the Moritz College of Law. He is also now a member of the Election Law at Moritz group, which is the biggest collection of election law experts at any university in the country. You may have seen him on election night!

Class of 1979

Tom Lee (TN-1979) was elected in October to a third year as chair of the board of Planned Parenthood of Middle & East Tennessee. A partner in the law firm of Frost Brown Todd, Tom began service this year as outside general counsel to the Southeast Consortium for Unemployment Benefits Implementation, a new initiative of the U.S. Department of Labor and four states to develop a common unemployment

benefits IT system serving all four states. Another highlight accomplishment was representing The Nature Conservancy in acquiring and conserving Doe Mountain, an 8,600-acre mountain in East Tennessee that had been slated for clear-cutting and will now become a state recreation area.

Class of 1984

After four years in private practice in Peoria, Illinois, **Thena Poteat (SC-1984)** moved to Saint Louis, Missouri, in July 2012 to begin work as a staff psychiatrist at the inpatient psychiatric unit at the Saint Louis VA Medical Center. She reports: "I am enjoying my new job immensely and am thrilled to be back in Saint Louis after moving away 16 years ago." Her older son will be 16 years old in December and her younger son will be 13 years old in March. Thena would welcome contact from fellow alumni; she is available on Facebook and her e-mail address is thena214@yahoo.com.

Ramin Fathie (NV-1984) is a producer at Viceroy Films. Some of the films he has produced include the international award-winning film "The Sky Below," directed by Sarah Singh, which explores the cultural and human impact of the partition of India and Pakistan in the post colonial era; and "Blind Bowling," a documentary directed by Marc Cantone about the efforts of several residents of the NY Center for the Blind as they embark on the national blind bowling tournament. Viceroy Films produced several spots for Democratic candidates during the election season, and in addition has produced interviews with Ted Koppel, Walter Cronkite, Dan Rather, David Brinkley, and many others for the Emmy's Legends History of Television Project.

Class of 1985

Steven Rice (WY-1985) continues to reside in Virginia and work for the U.S. Department of State. His assignment, however, has changed from last year. In August, he took over as director of the Iraq Political-Military Affairs Office. Steve's daughter Maria is happy to be in "double digits," having turned ten this summer. Ella turned six this autumn and is in first grade; three-year-old Joelle wants to know why she has to wait until 2013 for her next birthday. Steve's wife, Rita, keeps busy with all of the kids' activities, and everyone wishes dad worked shorter hours!

Class of 1988

Gordon Hendry (IN-1988) and his wife, Jennifer Wagner, and welcomed their second child, Austin Douglas Hendry, on May 20, 2012. He was 7 lbs, 15 ounces and 21 inches long. He joins their 5-year-old daughter Alexandra, long-haired dachshund Whinnie, and three backyard chickens living in Downtown Indianapolis.

Class of 1989

Brennan Price (TN-1989) married Ericka Lenz November 8, 2008. Ericka and Brennan welcomed their first daughter, Ellagrace, on August 17, 2012. Brennan is the Chief Technology Officer of the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio. The family lives in Arlington, Virginia.

Class of 1990

Linda (Wolfgang) Kramer (ND-1990) is a charter officer in a newly-formed cooperative that has the goal of bringing fiber-to-the-home technology to every rural residence in her primarily agricultural county. She is also the president of the Sibley County (MN) Library Board and serves on the Traverse des Sioux Regional Library Board.

After a busy two years as the organization's President, USSYAA Communications Director **David Zavadsky (WI-1990)** has enjoyed a relatively quiet remainder of his year. Among the highlights: introducing the band Garbage at the Pondamonium music festival in Madison, Wisconsin; visiting New York for the Alumni Association's Hearst Tower gathering; and finally going over to the "dark side" and opening Facebook and LinkedIn accounts. For those who are not in the social media scene, he continues to maintain a personal website at <http://www.zavadsky.net/david> featuring vacation and hiking photos as well as a list of his brewery and brewpub visits.

Class of 1992

Delvyn Case (ME-1992) is an assistant professor of music at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, where he conducts the Great Woods Chamber Orchestra and teaches courses in composition.

Class of 1995

Luke DeKoster (IA-1995) and his wife, Fiona, are proud to announce the arrival their daughter, Mali Catherine, on March 21 in Iowa. Along with four-year-old son J.C., the DeKoster family has returned to Asia, where Luke is a full-time language student and Fiona is part of a project helping at-risk migrant workers.

Class of 1996

This summer, **Christopher J. Walker (NV-1996)**, his wife Jen, and their two-year-old son Michael moved from Washington, D.C., to Columbus, Ohio, as Chris transitioned from practicing law at a litigation boutique to joining the Ohio State University as an assistant professor of law. At Ohio State, Chris teaches administrative law, constitutional litigation, and legislation. And, a few weeks after arriving in Columbus, the Walker family welcomed their second child into the world—another boy, Zachary. Congratulations, Chris!

After four years of recruiting for a search agency, **Jordan Abshire (LA-1996)** started his own legal recruiting firm, Abshire Legal Search, in August. Abshire Legal Search is based in D.C. and covers the Southeast. When not working, Jordan volunteers at the Tenley Achievement Program in D.C., sponsored by the Youth Leadership Foundation. The program meets every Saturday morning in Southeast D.C. to work with middle and high school students on reading, math, and character development.

Jennifer (Seamon) Bellot (MI-1996) participated in a year-long professional leadership development program called Leadership Philadelphia in 2011-2012, culminating with leading of a project to donate 18 computers and associated equipment the Germantown High School library in Northwest Philadelphia. Jen was also elected to the Faculty Senate as a School of Nursing representative at Thomas Jefferson University. But, most of her time is devoted to her two growing boys, Sage (6) and Lior (3), and her delightful husband, Dario.

Class of 1998

On July 28, **Jonathan Margulies (NY-1998)** had the great pleasure of joining **Dana Green (NH-1998)** at the wedding of their good friend and New York partner-in-crime, **Travis Batty (KS-1998)**. Travis, now an associate attorney in the Capital Markets group at Sidley Austin LLP, wed the very lovely Jasmine Mitchell in a beautiful outdoor ceremony in Charlottesville, Va., near his law school alma mater at the University of Virginia. Dana is a newly-minted associate attorney at WilmerHale, focusing on international arbitration from the firm's office in London. Jonathan is the non-lawyer of the group, happily toiling as a managing director at Winterberry Group, a New York-based management consulting firm that works with advertising, marketing, media and information companies. Jonathan reports that many hours were spent happily reminiscing about the years since the three met on the Mezzanine at the Mayflower Hotel—and wondering about the '98ers they haven't yet managed to track down on Facebook! (*See the thumbnail on page 1; left to right are Dana Green, Travis Batty, and Jonathan Margulies.*)

Jen Tutak (FL-1998) graduated in June with a dual degree: Master of Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School and Master of Business Administration from the MIT Sloan School of Management. To help fund her studies, Jen was honored to receive a graduate scholarship from the USSYAA. Staying in the Boston area, Jen joined Deloitte in July to work in their management consulting practice, with a particular interest in supporting universities to operate more efficiently.

Class of 1999

Virginia Suveiu (CA-1999) reports that she is Vice-President of Communications for the Orange County Chapter of the National Contract Management Association.

Class of 2000

Mitchel T. Keller (ND-2000) completed two years as a Marshall Sherfield Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science in July 2012. He is presently a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Sarala Nagala (ND-2000) became an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut in July 2012.

Peter Buttigieg (IN-2000) was elected Mayor of South Bend, Indiana, in 2011, taking office in January 2012.

Class of 2001

USSYAA President-Elect **Chad Robinson (DE-2001)** has had a busy year, full of transition and new opportunities. He enjoyed spending time preparing for the 50th Anniversary of the United States Senate Youth Program in the early months of 2012, culminating with the successful alumni weekend and various events during Washington Week, where it was wonderful to see so many alumni return to Washington and to catch up with great friends. In July, Chad moved out of politics and into the non-profit sector, and now serves as the Milford Branch Director for the Food Bank of Delaware, where he reports that he is thoroughly enjoying the experience. Outside of his job change, Chad became more active in his local fire company, and, finally, in October 2012 he was installed as Senior Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Delaware. Chad is very much looking forward to catching up with alumni during Alumni Weekend 2013 and wishes everyone a healthy and happy holiday season!

Class of 2003

Elizabeth Post (KY-2003) recently joined BoxcarPR, a public relations and political advocacy firm in Louisville, Kentucky.

Class of 2005

One of **Will Haun's (CT-2005)** most memorable years will surely be 2012. The day after he received his J.D. from the Catholic University of America (with honors), he married his then-girlfriend of seven years at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in downtown Washington. The two had a luncheon reception at 1789 restaurant in Georgetown, and honeymooned in Carmel Valley, California. After sitting for – and later passing – the Connecticut Bar Exam, Mr. Haun began working as an attorney-advisor to an Administrative Law Judge at the U.S. Department of Labor. He also accepted a clerkship for 2013-2014 with Judge Claude M. Hilton on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. He and his wife live in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and he would love to connect with other USSYAA members in the Washington, DC area.

Thomas J. Leeper (MN-2005) had an exciting Fall 2012. In September, he married the love of his life, Heather, in a small ceremony in Saint Paul, Minnesota. In October, he defended his doctoral dissertation in Political Science, which means he will be graduating with a Ph.D. from Northwestern University in December. Research from his graduate studies was published in various peer-reviewed academic journals, including the American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, and Daedalus. In January 2013, he and Heather are moving to Aarhus, Denmark, where he will be completing a multi-year postdoctoral research position at Aarhus University as part of project funded by the Danish National Science Foundation to study the role of political parties on public opinion in Western European democracies.

Suchita Shah (WI-2005) graduated from Columbia University's medical school in May, and is now doing a residency in internal medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. One of the highlights of the residency interview trail was discovering that one interviewer, **Uma Ayyala (NJ-1994)**, was also a USSYP alum, and they spent most of that chat comparing Washington Week experiences and how they are using those skills today. Suchita's medical interests include a focus on healthcare leadership and systemic reforms, including implementing policy improvements. Although she is a busy medical intern now, she would love to meet any USSYAA members in the Philly area! She can be reached at SuchitaRShah@gmail.com.

Class of 2006

Ellie Gunderson (MI-2006) recently earned her Master's in Social Work from the University of Michigan. This January, she is relocating to South Africa to work as a therapist with orphaned and vulnerable children in Johannesburg's impoverished communities.

Chanda Choun (CT-2006) recently started a new job as a Network Engineer for the Defense Information Systems Agency in Manama, Bahrain. He is also serving part-time as a Staff Sergeant in the Army Reserve's 361st Civil Affairs Brigade in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Katie Jo Baumgardner (KS-2006) graduated summa cum laude with Honors from Baylor University in May 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts in University Scholars with concentrations in Great Texts and Political Science. After graduation, Katie Jo moved to northern Thailand to teach English with an international service organization. She returned to the United States in March and spent the summer working on political campaigns in Kansas. Katie Jo is now in her first year at the University of Notre Dame School of Law. Go Irish!

Vanessa Lugo (CA-2006) is a Teach for America alumna who currently teaches Early Childhood Education at Cole Arts and Science Academy in Denver Public Schools. She

was recently named team leader of the ECE, K and First Grade Team and will begin facilitating professional development for teachers around culturally responsive practices. She has spent the last two summers working as a staff member for Teach for America at their summer institute in Phoenix, supporting new teachers as well as working to develop the role of the Diversity and Inclusiveness facilitator. On August 31, Vanessa was honored as a Champion of Change by the White House and the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. The White House Champions of Change program was created as a part of President Obama's Winning the Future initiative to honor ordinary Americans doing great work in their communities. (*See the thumbnail on page 1; Vanessa Lugo is the leftmost seated person.*)

Class of 2007

Sam Inman (ME-2007) currently serves as the Executive Assistant and Scheduler to New Hampshire Governor John Lynch.

Class of 2008

Tonei Glavinic (AK-2008) graduated magna cum laude from American University with a B.A. in Political Science and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and a Certificate in Women, Policy, and Political Leadership. At graduation, he received the Charles W. Van Way Award, awarded to the senior who has done most to build community in their time at the University. In September, Tonei was invited to a reception honoring the next generation of LGBT leaders at the Vice President's residence. He is currently enrolled in the M.A. in Social Justice and Community Development program at Loyola University Chicago.

Following four years at Cornell University, **Emily Cusick (NY-2008)** decided to come to Harvard Law School to pursue her passion for employment law and proactive human resource policy in the domestic workplace. Continuing her tradition of holding student government positions throughout her secondary and post-secondary education, she is a first-year representative to Harvard Law's student government ("HLS Rep Board") and hopes to make some proactive changes as the student government revamps itself after a major reorganization effort last spring.

Kayla Kermode (MI-2008) graduated from Thomas Aquinas College with a B.A. Liberal Arts and is currently employed by WellPoint, Inc., as a Business Process Consultant in the Corporate Procurement Department in Thousand Oaks, CA.

Class of 2009

Brad Lentz (WI-2009) is currently engaged to Samantha Schemenauer, and have set their wedding date for June 29, 2013. Both are attending the University of Wisconsin and

and are set to graduate this spring.

Class of 2010

This past year, **Devin Chu (HI-2010)** worked as a legislative intern for Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI). He enjoyed the experience of working in the U.S. Senate—and it definitely brought back fond memories of USSYP!

As part of the Tulane Organization for Global Affairs, **Greg Savageau (MA-2010)** organized the founding of four Model UN teams in New Orleans area high schools. He brought these teams together in April for the first organized Model UN competition in the city, the New Orleans Model UN Conference (NOMUNC). As with many programs in New Orleans schools this was a challenge, but it definitely paid off—seeing the students learning new skills and getting outside their comfort zone to meet new people was a highlight of his community outreach effort.

After spending the summer working on President Obama's re-election campaign in Chicago, **Josh Rubin (NY-2010)** decided to take the fall semester off to continue working as a national security policy advisor for the campaign. In January, Josh plans to resume his studies as a junior at Yale University.

Class of 2011

After graduating from high school last spring, **Khayree Fitten (IA-2011)** began studying political science and global resource systems at Iowa State University. In addition, he received a gubernatorial appointment to serve on the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, a three-year term that beginning on July 1, 2012. Since September 12, 2012, Khayree also serves as a Senator for the Residence Halls in the Government of the Student Body (GSB) Senate.

Chase Blasi (KS-2011) was elected to his hometown City Council on April 3, 2012, and sworn in April 16th at the age of 18. He serves along with four other City Council members and a Mayor. The town of Colwich, Kansas, is roughly 2,000 people.

Class of 2012

Andrew Wilhelm (MD-2012) currently serves as Class President at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

In September, **Brett Biebelberg (NJ-2012)** was elected to the Harvard Undergraduate Council, which is Harvard's student government.

Amanda Patarino (CO-2012) is currently attending George Mason University as a University Scholar—the highest merit-based honor for an undergraduate. She was also elected as Vice President of Leadership Affairs for the Class of 2016.