

School of Public Affairs



S·P·A·update

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Winter 2004

OFF AND RUNNING— POLITICS 2004

Speeches, ads, polling. The campaign season is upon us once again and your SPA alumni office is planning special events for the convention cities of Boston and New York. There will be pre-events in those cities in May and June, 2004, as well as during the conventions in July and August. To find out when we'll be on the road, check in often with www.american.edu/spa/calendar.html



New city council member Kevin Malecek, SPA/01



Tampa's mayor, Pan Iorio, SPA/81



Dear friends,
A new year and a new look for our SPA newsletter – we hope you'll enjoy reading the variety of articles showcasing our programs, people, and upcoming events.

With campaign season about to be in full swing, we've provided a list of primaries and caucuses through March, as well as a brief Q & A with Professor Steve Taylor putting these early elections into context.

One of our new features is a "Recommended Reading List" from faculty and staff. This month, it's my turn to offer a few ideas for your holiday reading.

Please let us know your current e-mail address by contacting SPAalumni@american.edu as we plan to start sending the newsletter by e-mail with the next issue this spring. Be sure to include your name, degree year, and mailing address. We'll still be printing the newsletter for a few more issues, but eventually want to be entirely online.

Happy New Year,

William M. LeoGrande
Dean

Dean's book recommendations

Derek Bok, *Universities in the Marketplace: The Commercialization of Higher Education* (Princeton University Press, 2003). Harvard's former president examines how financial pressures risk undermining the core mission of the modern university.

Gabriel García Márquez, *Living to Tell the Tale* (Knopf, 2003). A memoir from one of Latin America's greatest novelists, the master of "magical realism."

John Allen Paulos, *A Mathematician Plays the Stock Market* (Basic Books, 2003). How markets work and how even the most rational actor can get swept up in irrational exuberance.

Michael Lewis, *Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game* (W.W. Norton, 2003). How Billy Beane built a championship team with one of the smallest payrolls in baseball, a useful handbook for deans of schools with small endowments!

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2004

Act I:
Primaries and Caucuses
(partial listing)

January 13
District of Columbia
primary.

January 19
Iowa caucuses.

January 27
New Hampshire primary.

February 3
Primaries in Arizona,
Delaware, Missouri,
Oklahoma, South Carolina,
and Virginia (GOP).
Caucuses in
New Mexico and
North Dakota.

February 7
Caucuses in Michigan and
Washington State.

February 10
Virginia (Democratic) and
Tennessee primaries.

March 2

"Super Tuesday" in 11
states. Primaries in
California, Connecticut,
Georgia, Maryland,
Massachusetts, New York,
Ohio, Rhode Island, and
Vermont. Caucuses in
Hawaii
and Minnesota.

March 9

Florida, Louisiana,
Mississippi, and Texas
primaries.

March 16

Illinois primary.

Act II: Conventions
July 26–29

Democratic National
Convention
in Boston.

August 30–Sept. 2

Republic National
Convention
in New York City.

Act III: November 2
General election.

ISO SPA HISTORY

We're in the process of compiling a history of the School of Public Affairs (circa 1934 to the present), and are "in search of" memories of faculty and staff, contacts, anecdotes, photos, and other treasured bits of information to enrich our story. If you have information or material to contribute, please get in touch with Dean LeoGrande at SPAdean@american.edu or call 202-885-2940 by February 15, 2004.

A PAPERLESS NEWSLETTER

Would you like to receive your edition of the SPA newsletter delivered directly to your desktop? As of the spring 2004 issue, you'll be able to receive your copy by e-mail. It's faster, less costly, and would give us the flexibility to contact you in a more timely fashion, without the added expense and lead time of printing and mailing. To sign up, send your current information (name, class year, e-mail address, snail mail address, and phone number) to SPAalumni@american.edu. To the first 50 alumni who sign up for this service by January 30, 2004, we'll send a new AU coffee mug.

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Profile

PAM IORIO



Pam Iorio's political career began inauspiciously in the early 1980s when, as an undergraduate at SPA, she ran for president of the AU Student Confederation and lost. However, the defeat didn't deter Iorio from her career path. Today she is mayor of Tampa, Florida, the nation's 57th largest city.

Throughout nearly 20 years of public service, Pam Iorio (BA/SPA/81) has always been committed to serving her community. When she first ran for County Commissioner, it was in the midst of a zoning scandal.

"The other candidates were three middle-aged men who had failed to deliver on the promises they made. The voters wanted someone different and honest," says Iorio. "You never achieve anything unless you take a risk." Apprised of the risks and knowing she had something to contribute, Iorio launched her political career. At age 26, she became the youngest person ever elected to the Hillsborough County Commission in Florida.

After only one year on the Commission, Iorio was elected chair, followed by three successful bids to the post of Supervisor of Elections for Hillsborough County. In 2000, she was voted president of the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, becoming the county spokesperson for the 2000 recount.

"I've always been attracted to a career in public service. Even in elementary school, I knew I wanted to work for the community, be a public servant," says Iorio. "Having a career in public service gives me the opportunity to help make life better for others, to help shape the community for the better. American University was an important influence on my career and life."

Iorio credits both AU and her years in Washington, D.C. for having a tremendous

impact on her life and education. "My courses at the School of Public Affairs furthered my interest in politics, but Washington, D.C. was my other classroom. I loved the climate in Washington. My friends and I would play Frisbee on the Mall in the spring. Just the beauty of the AU campus in the fall and getting to see the seasons change in Washington amazed me," she recalls.

Deciding what to do after graduation was a short-lived struggle between the lure of fast-paced national politics in Washington, D.C. and returning to her roots in Florida. Iorio says, "I had a decision to make, and Tampa was home. I've always seen myself in local politics, and I know I made the right decision."

Last January, after supervising the technology updates for elections, Iorio supporters asked her to put her name on the ballot for the upcoming mayor's race. With just over three months to campaign, and as the only woman candidate, Iorio was facing well-known and well-funded opponents. Still, her candidacy was buoyed by polls showing her as the front-runner even before she officially announced her bid for the seat. She became mayor in March, 2003.

Iorio is thrilled with her new job, and the city she calls home is thriving, too. A recent Harris poll ranked Tampa among the most desirable cities in which to live. "I know I am doing something for my community. Tampa is quickly becoming known as a city with a lot of extras," she says proudly. "We're in a great location, right on the water. We're home to both the University of Tampa and the University of South Florida. We've built a new performing arts center, a new convention center, and we're building the Tampa Museum of Art. There's a high quality of life here." She and her husband, Mark Woodard, are the parents of two teenagers.

Iorio tells young people who ask for career advice to do something they enjoy. "Don't go after the money," she counsels. "If you follow your dream, you'll be successful."

Know any SPA alumni who deserve a feature? Call Assistant Development Director Heather F. Vazquez at 202-885-2942 or e-mail hjf@american.edu

CONVERSATION WITH PROFESSOR STEVEN TAYLOR



Taking a look at the upcoming Democratic presidential primary season, SPA government professor Steven Taylor offers insight on how to read the political tea leaves.

"It'll be interesting to see who the early dropouts will be and who they endorse, especially in delegate-rich states. Watch for the candidate Senator Graham endorses in Florida.

"For Democrats to win in the Deep South, they've got to get the black vote. They need endorsements from black mayors, congressmen, and state representatives. For example, the endorsement from Harvey Johnson, the mayor of Jackson, Mississippi, would help get the momentum going.

"In Chicago, watch who's going to march in the St. Patrick's Day parade with Mayor Daley. Back in 1984, Mondale was being beaten by Gary Hart, but then Mondale marched in the front of the parade and got a boost.

"California has lots of delegates, but it's hard to say who has the most popularity. Given the number of Hispanics who are registered there, a candidate's endorsement by Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante or New Mexico's governor Bill Richardson would carry some weight, especially if Richardson campaigns for them in California, too."

Professor Taylor specializes in urban politics and the politics of race and ethnicity. He received his doctorate in political science from the University of Minnesota and is the author of *Desegregation in Boston and Buffalo: The Influence of Local Leaders*. From 1997 to 2003, Professor Taylor served on the Human Rights Commission of Montgomery County, Maryland.

APPRAISING THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE

More than 65 persons attended the first-ever symposium on "The Administrative State Reconsidered." The free, one-day program was held on October 24, 2003 at American University and was sponsored by the Department of Public Administration. Professor Howard McCurdy, department chair, welcomed the participants (right). Photo by Hilary Schwab.



NEW DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AT SPA



Jenine Rabin has been appointed the new development director at the School of Public

Affairs, effective December 1, 2003. Until recently, Ms. Rabin was the executive director of development at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, where she supervised a staff of 20 and was responsible for raising more than \$10 million in annual fund and special project support each year. Previously, she worked with the development staff of the Children's Museum of Indianapolis and

with Washington Very Special Arts, an affiliate of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

This is a homecoming for Ms. Rabin – both she and her husband, Drew, attended American University. "We're thrilled to be returning to Washington," she says. "We have many friends in the area and always hoped to settle in D.C." It's also a fortuitous time to come back to AU as the University has just launched a \$200 million capital campaign. The School of Public Affairs' portion of that goal is \$5 million. "There

is so much opportunity for creating partnerships for SPA, both on campus and off. In my brief early acquaintances with faculty, staff, and donors, I've been impressed with their strong commitment to the school and AU. There is great potential for the advancement of SPA. I am very proud to be a member of the team that is the new AU."

Ms. Rabin graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences at American University in 1996 with a degree in anthropology. She also received an MBA degree from Stetson University in 2003.

SPA students Cassie Cullen and Kyle Wibby found their summer jobs in 2003 to be anything but typical office work.

As interns for the District of Columbia police department, they spent their days reviewing cold case files from 1990, the year killings hit a peak of 483 homicides. This was the first phase of a major undertaking that will eventually review 4,700 homicides since 1990.

For Cassie Cullen, a junior from Milford, Connecticut majoring in political science, it was stunning to realize how senseless many of the murders were. “One victim was killed for \$6 and a bucket of chicken,” she recalls.

Another junior, Kyle Wibby, a transfer student from Pepperdine University in California, was struck by the sheer volume of files. “There were 12 floor-to-ceiling stacks of case jackets,” he says.

Cullen, Wibby, and their four fellow interns were the subject last August of a *Washington Post* article showcasing unusual summer internships. As mentioned in the *Post*, for nearly two months they spent most of their time in an old file room with an ancient air conditioner, reading through autopsy reports, entering information in

COLD CASE SLEUTHS

computer databases, and carefully sifting through homicide files for cases that might be re-opened.

The day-to-day

monotony of tedious research was relieved by field trips, such as ride alongs with officers in police cars and helicopters, trips to the morgue, and firing weapons during a visit to the FBI training facility at Quantico, Virginia.

Their supervisor in the Violent Crimes Unit, Detective Jim Trainum, found the six students brought fresh perspectives to their work. “They don’t have the same biases and cynicism that we [veteran police officers] have,” he observes. “They are willing to ask questions and they don’t assume anything.”

Trainum says he cautioned them when they started that it was unlikely they’d solve anything while they were on the job. But, by the end of the summer about a dozen cases were re-assigned because of their work.

During the school year, Cullen has continued reviewing files one day a week. She says she has a new found respect for police officers and the work they do. In fact, she has given some thought to pursuing a career in law enforcement.



Congratulations to alumnus **Kevin Malecek (BA/SPA/01, MA/SPA/02)** who won a seat on the Willoughby Hills, Ohio City Council in November. Malecek triumphed over incumbent Bob Guarino with more than 71 percent of the vote. “I am just amazed and thrilled,” he says. “I never anticipated that I could win by such a large majority. The voters really responded to my message and my campaign.” Malecek, who’ll represent

District Three in the Cleveland suburb, will be sworn in on New Year’s Day, 2004.



Erin Frederick has been awarded a full-tuition scholarship to the Women, Policy and Political Leadership (WPPL) Professional Development certificate program. The scholarship is the first one sponsored by the Women & Politics Institute’s Young Women Leaders Board. The

board is comprised of young women political professionals who are committed to raising one scholarship every academic year for the WPPL program.

Frederick, a 2001 graduate of Barnard College, received her bachelor’s degree in political science. She currently works as a program associate at the Communications Network in Washington, D.C. Frederick finds the WPPL program an exciting opportunity. “The most unique part of receiving this scholarship,” she says, “is the chance to meet and connect with women from all points along the political spectrum.” The 15 credit certificate program may be applied toward a master’s degree at AU.

END OF YEAR GIFT

Alumni financial support means a great deal to the School of Public Affairs. Contributions allow us to strengthen our fine programs, develop new initiatives, and enhance our outreach efforts. Please remember SPA when you’re considering your end-of-year gifts and send your checks made out to American University to the Development Office, School of Public Affairs, Ward Circle Building, 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20016-8022 or call Heather Vazquez at 202-885-2942 with any questions you might have about donations. Many thanks and happy holidays!