

# Making—and Celebrating—SPA History



Celebrating the first three-quarters of a century, more than 100 alumni, current and former faculty, and students helped kick off a year-long celebration of the anniversary of the School of Public Affairs in a March 3rd reception at the Katzen Arts Center—exactly one year ahead of the 75th anniversary of President Franklin Roosevelt’s announcement of the founding of SPA. The event featured remarks from AU President **Neil Kerwin** and Dean **William LeoGrande**. Please visit [spa.american.edu](http://spa.american.edu) for updates and information.

**Alexandra Salama**, SOC/BA ‘05, SPA assistant director of development, and **Ed Faberman**, SPA/BA ‘67; Dean **William M. LeoGrande**; Emeritus Professor **Bernie Ross** and **Marlene Ross**, CAS/Ph.D. ‘85; **Chip Griffin**, SPA/BA ‘94, **Eddie Goldberg**, SPA/BA ‘68, **Pam Deese**, SPA/BA ‘80 and WCL/JD ‘83, and **Chris Malagisi**, SPA/BA ‘03; **Jenine Rabin**, CAS/BA ‘90, director of development for university initiatives; **Ann Kerwin**, CAS/BA ‘71, and **Susan Spagna**, SPA/BA ‘72.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Morley Segal**, professor emeritus at the School of Public Affairs, died of complications from pancreatic cancer in April in San Francisco. He was 74.

Dr. Segal was widely known and respected for his innovations in higher education and his role as the cofounder of the internationally recognized graduate program in organization development conducted jointly by American University and the NTL Institute for Applied Behavioral Science. Dr. Segal published in leading political science and public administration journals and is best known for his critically acclaimed book, *Points of Influence: A Guide to Using Personality Theory at Work* (Jossey-Bass, 1997). The hallmark of his work was a unique ability to bring together ideas from different disciplines, integrated through mental models and typologies that made them accessible and useful to practitioners.

Professor Segal joined the faculty of the School of Government and Public Administration (SGPA) as an associate professor of public administration in 1967 and taught undergraduate and graduate courses in political science and public administration, including study abroad programs and the Washington Semester program, for the next thirty years until his retirement in 1997. After retiring from American University, Dr. Segal moved to San Francisco where he completed the requirements to become a licensed marriage-and-family therapist and began a new career as a therapist. He was actively involved in his therapy practice and various writing projects until his death. Dr. Segal’s contributions to SPA, AU, and the field of organization development will be celebrated in a fall event on campus.★



SPA's Ward Circle Building is adorned with 10 new museum-style banners marking the school's 75th anniversary in 2009. These colorful banners, in AU red and blue as well as celebratory gold, are hung both on Ward's Nebraska Avenue and Quad sides.

## PHILANTHROPY

### Ph.D. Alumnus Eugene Levine Establishes Endowed Research Fund

**Eugene Levine**, PhD/SPA ‘60, has established the Levine Ph.D. Research Endowment Fund with a \$50,000 gift to American University and SPA. The endowed fund will provide financial support to exemplary research studies pursued by Ph.D. students. Dr. Levine is a member of the Ph.D. Advisory Council at SPA.

“We are deeply grateful to Gene for this generous gift in support of our Ph.D. students,” commented William LeoGrande, Dean of SPA. “To ensure that our Ph.D. program continues to enhance its reputation and influence in public service education, we must provide financial backing to students in their research pursuits. The Levine Research Endowment Fund will have a significant, lasting impact on our ability to provide this essential support.”

Dr. Levine is a professor of biostatistics in the Graduate School of Nursing of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda. He is also president of Eugene Levine Associates consultancy. Previously, he was deputy director of health professions analysis and chief researcher and statistician of the nursing division at U.S. Public Health Services in Washington. He has published numerous works primarily on statistical analysis, research design, and manpower analysis. He is the author of *Preparing Nursing Research for the 21st Century* (Springer Publishing, 1994) among other publications. Dr. Levine resides in Potomac, Maryland, with his wife Barbara.★

## AU Hoop Dreams



For the first time in the 82-year history of the AU basketball program, the Eagles prevailed as champions in their league. Bender Arena was packed to support the home team in triumph over Colgate, 52-46.

## SUMMER 2008 update

Published three times a year by the  
American University's School of Public Affairs

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# SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## AMERICAN UNIVERSITY ★ WASHINGTON, D.C.

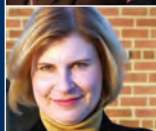
75 Years  
1934-2009

SUMMER 2008

# update



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A new AU



### MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends:

SPA students stand alongside the very best in the nation. This spring, two SPA students were named Truman Scholars. They join this year's Presidential Management Fellows and the many other SPA students receiving national honors. These awards are a clear demonstration of the high quality education SPA offers—rigorous, comprehensive, and current. Our mission is to educate leaders for the future, and the success of our students in national competitions is impressive evidence of our achievement.

Our faculty also continues to bring distinction to SPA: Professor **Dick Bennett** received the 2008 Founder's Award from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences for his contributions to criminal justice education, Professor **Bob Durant** won a national teaching award in public administration, and Professor **Dan Dreisbach** was named AU's Scholar-Teacher of the Year, the highest faculty award given by the university.

To maintain an environment that sustains faculty excellence and attracts the nation's most talented students, alumni support is essential. There are four pillars to our fund-raising efforts in the AnewAU campaign:

**Outstanding Student Experiences.** SPA must provide support for our students through scholarships as well as special programs and activities that enhance their academic experience.

**Excellence in Teaching and Research.** To attract and retain faculty who are the best in their fields, SPA must support their teaching and scholarship through research awards, named professorships, and endowed chairs.

**Enhancing our Ward Home.** Part of the quality of an educational experience derives from the environment in which it occurs. Enhancing the educational space in our building will enrich the experience of faculty and students alike.

**The SPA Leadership Fund.** This unrestricted fund provides SPA with the resources to undertake special projects and react quickly to new opportunities.

I hope our successes inspire you to become a donor if you are not already, but most of all I want to encourage you to engage with your school. For the 75th anniversary of SPA to truly be a success, it will take a collective effort. Share your ideas and expertise. Most of all, become involved and stay connected to AU and SPA.

Best wishes,

*William M. LeoGrande*

William M. LeoGrande

## SPA Students Earn Record National and International Honors

### Awards Include Truman, Udall, Killam and Presidential Management Fellowships

SPA and AU students this year earned a lion's share of highly competitive national awards including the Truman, Killman and Udall Scholarships, Killam and Boren Fellowships, and the prestigious Presidential Management Fellowships.

"Our students stand shoulder to shoulder with the very best in the nation," said SPA Dean **William M. LeoGrande**. "We are proud of each of them—and of SPA's ability to support them in achieving their goals."

The Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation named two SPA juniors as 2008 Truman Scholars in recognition of their commitment to a life of public service, leadership, and academic accomplishments. **Molly Kenney**, a law and society major, and **James Valvo**, a political science major, earned the prestigious scholarship, which provides \$30,000 for graduate studies. This is the second year in a row that American University has produced two Truman Scholars. The students will receive their awards at the Harry S Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Mo., on May 18. Additionally, SPA student **Carrie Johnson** was named a Truman finalist.

Carrie Johnson was also one of the two SPA students, of the three from AU, tapped for the coveted Udall Scholarship. Carrie, with majors in law and society and the interdisciplinary public policy of the underrepresented, and **Drew Veysey**, a political science and environ-



AU students **Carrie Johnson**, **Casey Roe**, and **Drew Veysey** are this year's winners of Morris K. Udall Foundation scholarships.

mental studies major, will be supported by the foundation, which encourages study of the environment and Native American public policy and health care.

**Marcus Allen**, a law and society major, was named a Killam Fellow. Through this award, the Killam Fellowships Program provides exceptional undergraduates with support for a year of study in Canada or the United States. **Megan Libby**, a master's JLS candidate, was awarded a Boren Fellowship for language study in Thailand.

For the third consecutive year, AU was the third top school in the nation in the number of Presidential Management Fellows. The federal government's prestigious two-year program

puts fellows on the fast track to high-level management positions. Eleven SPA graduate students were awarded these fellowships.

SPA students have also been awarded State Department Critical Language Scholarships to study foreign languages overseas. With this scholarship, **Amy Teachout**, political science major, will study Arabic in Oman; and **Sarah Fischer**, Ph.D. candidate, will study Turkish in Turkey. ★

Help support our students through SPA's Leadership Fund. Make a gift online now at [spa.american.edu](http://spa.american.edu)

## SPA Alumni/Faculty Help Students Help DC Offenders

The School of Public Affairs helped launch their careers in community corrections, and now **Greg Hunt** and **Aaron Lucas** are returning the favor.

Together, Hunt, who earned his master's in justice from AU in 1975, and Lucas, who graduated with a bachelor's in the administration of criminal justice that same year, have decades of experience in probation, counseling, and treatment. Following their respective retirements, the two developed the Agencies in Cooperation for Effective Services (ACES) program, which trains AU students to help ex-offenders successfully transition back into their communities throughout the Washington area.

ACES' aim is simple, says Lucas. "We developed this program for students who believe that change is possible in the criminal justice system,

for students who want to move away from the 'lock 'em up and throw away the key' philosophy.

"We hear about recidivism and the revolving door, but people can change—I've seen it first hand—and we want our students to be a part of that process," Lucas continues.

According to the Washington-based Urban Institute, 95 percent of offenders are eventually released, which means people are cycling into and out of prisons at historic numbers. More than 630,000 people are released from prisons each year, a fourfold increase over the past 20 years. And as the majority of offenders are drawn from a relatively small

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## SPA HAPPENINGS

AUG  
26

### AU Alumni Reception

Democratic National Convention  
Denver Botanical Gardens • Denver, CO  
5 - 7:00 pm

SEPT  
2

### AU Alumni Reception

Republican National Convention  
Orchestra Hall  
Minneapolis, MN  
5 - 7:00 pm

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# Barbara Palmer on Hillary Clinton and Women in the House and Senate

There are currently 71 women in the House and 16 in the Senate—the most in U.S. history. In spite of Hillary Clinton's historic run for president this year, SPA Assistant Professor of Government **Barbara Palmer** believes it will be along time before women serve in equal numbers with men in Congress.

The second edition of Palmer's coauthored book, *Breaking the Political Glass Ceiling: Women and Congressional Elections* (Routledge, 2008), explores the history of women running for Congress and differences in election rates between Democratic and Republican women. A large part of the authors' analysis looks at the demographic characteristics of the districts where women are successful.

After earning her PhD, Palmer taught at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, where she met her coauthor, Dennis Simon. They merged their research interests and spent two years compiling a data set on women in elections that includes every primary and general election from 1956 to 2006. That's more than 30,000 candidates and 15,000 elections—the largest data set on this subject to date.

**Q** Are there still unique challenges women face running for Congress?

Incumbency is a huge obstacle for any group that has very low participation rates in Congress, whether you want to get more young people in or women or people of color. It is true that once women get elected to Congress, they are just as successful in maintaining reelection as their male counterparts, but Dennis and I started to dig beneath the surface and found that female incumbents actually have to work harder to hang onto their seats. When you have a female incumbent, it is not uncommon in the opposition primary to have five, six, seven, or eight candidates running. You do not see this in races with male incumbents.

**Q** Are there patterns in the success of female congressional candidates?

Female candidates tend to cluster in certain House districts. The women in Congress are not randomly distributed across the United States. One third of the women serving in the House come from California and New York. We discovered that, just as you can predict which party will win a House seat by looking at the demographics of the district, you can also predict the likelihood that a woman will win. Female candidates tend to come from the wealthiest districts in the country. This is true for both Republican and Democratic women. In addition, women tend to come from districts that are more diverse racially and ethnically, have higher levels of education, and are more urban and compact. The way district lines are drawn can affect the chances of a woman winning a House district. It all comes back to what Tip O'Neill said: "All politics is local."

**Q** Do you see trends in how voters perceive women candidates?

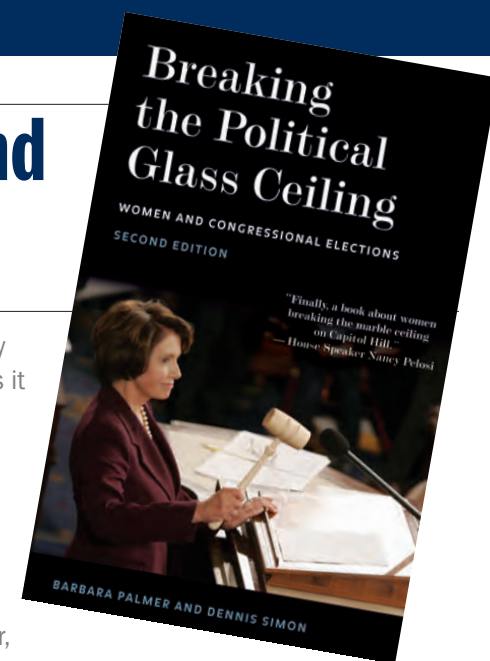
Voters have a tendency to perceive women candidates as being more liberal than the men they run against. As a result, in a Democratic primary, female candidates have an easier time getting support from strong liberal voters, who



are usually the people who show up to vote in those primaries. However, strong conservative voters, the people who show up to vote in Republican primaries, are less likely to vote for a female candidate because they perceive her as more moderate. As a result, Republican women have a tougher time winning their primaries. This is part of the reason why there are more than twice as many Democratic women in the House as there are Republican women.

**Q** Based on your research, do you have predictions for how the House and Senate will look in ten years?

There are currently 71 women in the House, so if the rate of increase remains typical in the year 2152, we will have a House that is 50 percent female. On the other hand, it does not take much to create an atypical election cycle. For example, my home state of Minnesota used to have very few women in its state legislature. When I was growing up, we were ranked in the bottom half of all states. But a couple of years ago, one of the women in the state House decided she wanted to change that and told her party leadership that she was going to make it



a priority to recruit female candidates. In 2004, Minnesota ranked 17th in the nation. In 2007, the state ranked third. Things changed because one person decided she wanted change. There are all kinds of women out there who would be great candidates, but many times women don't think they're qualified. They just need to be convinced.

**Q** Whether or not she gets the Democratic nomination, does Hillary Clinton's candidacy change American politics?

Absolutely. The visual of a woman running for president is incredibly important. Last summer, one of the reasons people said they were so excited about Fred Thompson was because he "looked like a President." Consciously and unconsciously, the images we see in the media have a profound effect on us. Hillary Clinton's candidacy opens up new possibilities. No one is questioning whether she can handle being commander-in-chief anymore. We are watching history being made.

**Q** What changes have you seen in students' attitudes about women taking on nontraditional roles and running for office?

I have been teaching for over ten years, and one of the most striking things I have noticed is how attitudes about balancing career and family life have changed among my students. Male students have increasingly said that they want to be more involved in their kids' lives. But ten years ago, my female students said confidently that they would have the opportunity to have both a career and raise a family—that their spouses would be partners with them, especially in raising their children and doing the housework. Today, my female students assume without question that they will quit their jobs and be the one that will raise the kids. On the other hand, many of my female (and male) students have thought about running for office some day. That's the really exciting thing about being at American University. The students are so engaged and politically aware, which makes teaching politics and government incredibly rewarding and fun. ★



**Frances Fragos Townsend** (SPA/BA'82) Roger Jones Selection committee member

## June 6 – Last Call for Award Nominations for Top Feds

SPA's 2008 Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership honors outstanding federal leaders nominated from all agencies and across the nation. Two public servants in the federal government whose work is marked by extraordinary effectiveness during a career, or in a single mission achievement, are selected each year

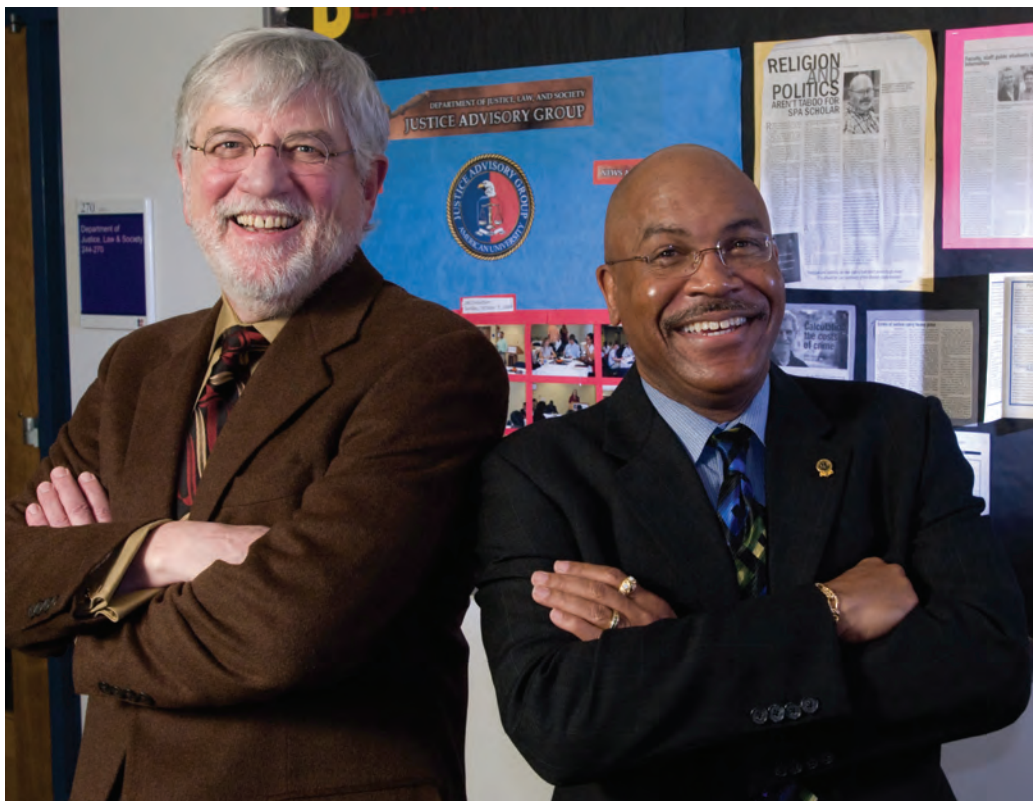
Nominees should—

- ★ demonstrate superior leadership with outstanding organizational achievement;
- ★ have a strong commitment to effective continuity of government by promoting the career development of future federal managers and executives; and
- ★ be members of the Senior Executive Service (SES).

Nominations will be accepted until **June 6**. To view the nomination procedure, please go to "News & Events" at [spa.american.edu](http://spa.american.edu) and select "Roger Jones Awards" from the drop-down menu.

Award recipients will be honored in a special awards ceremony in fall 2008, and will each receive \$2,500. ★





Greg Hunt and Aaron Lucas

## SPA Faculty Help Students Help DC Offenders

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number of disadvantaged, urban communities, issues surrounding reentry are particularly salient in areas like D.C.

“Supervision without services doesn’t work,” says Lucas. Because ex-offenders often struggle with addiction, unemployment, homelessness, and social instability, “they need an array of services related to housing, employment, education, mental health, and drug treatment.

“There’s no question that some people simply belong in jail, but many others can benefit from services and are ready and willing to better themselves, given the opportunity,” Lucas continues. “And when that happens, everyone in the community benefits.”

Offenders in Society, which is offered every semester within SPA’s Department of Justice, Law and Society as part of the ACES program,

### Talila A. Lewis, SPA/BA ’07

Position: Lead paralegal specialist, DC Government



I served as an intern paralegal for Special Counsel, Innocence Protection Act intern investigator, and interpreter for

Deaf and Latino clients during my ACES internship in DC’s Public Defender Service.

I was trained to be able to quickly understand the complex factual and legal dynamics of both ongoing and closed cases in the District of Columbia. I became knowledgeable in criminal trials and would not have been able to secure my current position had it not been for my experience with the ACES program, which combines advocacy, counseling methods, community outreach and drug dependency education.

gives undergraduate and graduate students a glimpse at the inner workings of the criminal justice system and helps them identify opportunities for change. In the classroom, students learn how to interview, assess, and counsel a variety of defendants and ex-offenders, including those suffering from a mental illness or substance abuse issues. Students then apply those skills at a local correctional agency or community treatment program, where they’re required to work at least 15 hours a week for 14 weeks.

“It’s rigorous,” says Lucas, “but it can also be incredibly rewarding.”

“We’ve had some students who enjoy their placement so much, they go above and beyond the requirement and work there on the weekends,” he continues. “They feel good about the kind of work they’re doing.”

Students, who are placed at halfway houses, juvenile institutions, state and federal probation offices, and drug treatment centers, work

one-on-one with clients, helping them build résumés and navigate a maze of social services. In some cases, students even manage their own case files and lead group counseling and education sessions.

“They’re not doing photocopying in these internships,” says Lucas. “The students are actually getting their hands dirty.”

In addition to chronicling their experiences in a journal, the students are also required to identify a problem at their agency, and, in the words of Hunt, “find a way to fix it.”

“We had one student who decorated the interview room at one agency to make it more comfortable for clients, and another student set up an Internet job bank for clients,” Hunt says. “They’re little things, but they can make a big difference.”

A few of the agencies have been so impressed with the students’ initiative and commitment that they offered them full-time employment upon graduation. Several of Lucas and Hunt’s former students now work as probation officers at the District of Columbia Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, while others have been hired by the federal public defenders’ office in D.C.

Hunt says it’s gratifying to know his students leave AU well prepared for a career in community corrections.

“Before I retired, I worked with a number of student interns; and so many times they would come to me completely unprepared for the field. I had to spend so much time just catching them up...,” he says. “It’s good to know our students arrive on day one ready to work.”

And while effective interviewing and counseling skills are critical, Hunt hopes his students leave the School of Public Affairs with something even more essential. Just as he and Lucas did 30 years ago, Hunt hopes his students leave with a desire to make their communities a better, safer place.

“Although we hope students get something out of the class, it’s just as much about AU giving something back to the community,” says Hunt. “With thousands of offenders returning to society every year, we are providing a service in an area with a great need. And I’m just proud AU students can be a part of that.”★

### Grant Smith, SPA/BA ’05

Position: Legislative assistant, Drug Policy Alliance



I was one of the first students to enroll in the ACES program. In the spring of 2005, I interned in the

Vocational Opportunities Training Education and Employment (VOTEE) division of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA). My primary role was to assist staff with conducting “life skills assessments,” administering diagnostic tests, and helping offenders identify and apply for job opportunities. As a result, I was offered a paid internship position in the agency’s Victim Services Program. My experience working at CSOSA continues to inform my role as an advocate for overhauling our nation’s drug laws.

## SPA HONORS

JLS professor **Richard Bennett** was awarded the prestigious Founder’s Award from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) this spring. The lifetime achievement award is given to someone who exhibits “outstanding service to ACJS and the profession.” In April, Bennett was also recognized by the U.S. State Department for exceptional performance and dedication to the Antiterrorist Assistance Program.

AU has named JLS professor **Daniel Dreisbach** as the University’s Scholar-Teacher of the Year. Dreisbach is known for his incisive scholarship on church and state in the early years of the nation. This award is reserved for highly regarded faculty members whose combination of scholarship and teaching makes their classes a memorable experience for students and establishes them as a leader in their field.

## Carmen Group Policy Panels Explore Health Care, School Violence



“Curing What Ails Us: Health Care Policy and the 2008 Presidential Campaign,” the first of two SHAPE Carmen Group Policy panels, was moderated by Professor **James Thurber**, Director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies. The forum featured expert commentary from panelists Elena Rios, MD, President & CEO, National Hispanic Medical Association; **Alan Mertz** (MA/SPA ’80), President, American Clinical Laboratory Association and **David Richardson** President, Federal Operations MAXIMUS Federal Services. The second SHAPE Carmen Group Policy Forum took place on April 21st and featured noted author and criminal profile expert **Roger Depue** (MS/SPA ’76, PhD/CAS ’86). Depue’s presentation focused on policy and preparedness issues pertaining to school violence. The SHAPE Carmen Group Policy Forum is funded through a generous grant from the Carmen Group.★

### Christina Labib

Major: justice, law and society, psychology



I did my ACES internship at Argus House, a juvenile facility that housed boys, aged 10 to 17, who had been convicted of mis-

demeanor crimes, including substance and drug abuse, stealing, gang affiliation, and running away from home. The program put the boys through an extensive treatment program that allowed them to learn from their mistakes.

Being able to observe children who had just entered the program, as well as those who had successfully completed the program, allowed me to see that by intervening in these lives at the correct time, you can put them on the path to success.