

SPA'S NEW LEADERSHIP

The academic leadership team in the Dean's office has changed recently, but the faces are very familiar. **Dr. Richard Bennett**, Justice, Law & Society (JLS), became the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in August, and **Dr. William M. LeoGrande**, Government, accepted the appointment as Dean of the School of Public Affairs (SPA) in December 2002.

Joining the faculty in 1978, **LeoGrande** has served the school in a variety of roles – as a faculty member, chair of the Department of Government, and acting dean. **LeoGrande** says the greatest changes he's seen in the past decade are the quality of the faculty teaching and classroom scholarship, both areas that have been steadily improving. "I believe we are building a school that will prove to be one of the top public affairs schools in the country."

LeoGrande acknowledged with pride SPA's top-notch faculty. "Our full-time faculty members excel both in the classroom and in scholarship. Adjunct faculty deliver real-world knowledge to our students. SPA routinely attracts 20 percent of incoming freshmen, and at the graduate level our programs are nationally ranked. We have the potential to do even better, and I look forward to helping shape SPA into one of the finest schools in the country."

The new dean is teaching a doctoral course this spring, and next fall plans to teach an undergraduate course. Dean **LeoGrande** can be reached via e-mail at wleogra@american.edu or by phone at 202-885-2941.

Bennett, who came to AU in 1979, began his tenure in JLS as an assistant professor. He has also served in various capacities during his 24 years, including a three-year appointment as the department chair for JLS. As associate dean, **Bennett** views his role as an aide to the dean, working closely with department chairs and administrative staff. "We are here to work together, and it is my job to work collaboratively designing, maintaining and implementing SPA's stellar curriculum," said **Bennett**. "That's what we're about – community."

Bennett's focus on SPA's curriculum is strategic and fundamental to the community. "To do my job effectively, I need to hear from everyone in SPA, and I welcome all input," said **Bennett**. "I want to hear from students and alumni, as well as faculty, when there are questions about our programs. Our doors are open."

In addition to his responsibilities as associate dean, **Bennett** recently completed a term as president of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the field's leading professional organization. He serves as the faculty advisor for the

AU women's lacrosse team and is also teaching this semester. You can reach **Bennett** via e-mail at rbb.spa@american.edu, or at 202-885-2427.

25 YEARS FOR JONES AWARD

Kenneth M. Pusateri, Kogod alumnus and general manager of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, and **Victor J. Ferlise**, deputy to the Commanding General for the Department of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command were awarded the 2002 Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership. Hosted annually by SPA, the Jones Award honors two government executives who demonstrate superior leadership and a commitment to the effective operation of government.

Pusateri, KSB/BA/71, the first alumnus of AU to receive the honor, was selected for his financial and personnel management expertise. Addressing more than 200 guests filling Kay Spiritual Life Center he commented, "Standing here is like an out-of-body experience for me. I must say I prefer being up here as opposed to my more familiar role as a student."

Ferlise was honored for 30 years of service and leadership to more than 10,000 personnel at Fort Monmouth, N.J. Among the guests were several members of the Jones family, including **Roger H. Jones**, an alumnus of the Washington College of Law.

Roger W. Jones epitomized the best among career executives through his service in government operations and as a consultant to four U.S. presidents. A former SPA professor, **Jones** earned a reputation as a federal executive who influenced the improvement of government service through his commitment to education and training of managers.



(Left to right) Honoree **Victor Ferlise**, Dean **William LeoGrande**, Chairman of Jones Committee **Ray Kline**, honoree **Kenneth Pusateri** and Provost **Neil Kerwin** at the 2002 ceremony.

FEATURED SPA ALUMNI BETSY FISCHER



Betsy Fischer, executive producer of NBC's top-rated Sunday morning public affairs program, *Meet the Press with Tim Russert*, was supposed to be a lawyer, but never quite made it to law school. Instead, Fischer applied for a political internship at nearby NBC during the fall semester of her senior year in 1991. She's been there ever since.

"I've always been interested in politics, and I completed an internship on Capitol Hill, so this was an easy fit for me," says Fischer. "I enjoy researching a topic and piecing things together. Besides, the (NBC) office was walking distance to campus. It was perfect."

Fischer enjoyed the busy climate at NBC, but didn't originally plan to stay in broadcasting. She cut newspaper clippings and completed other assignments that came her way, all the while planning to return to her home state of Louisiana to attend law school. At the end of her fall internship, NBC asked Fischer to stay through her graduation in May. Then her boss asked her continue until the 1992 political conventions were over in August. When the last piece of confetti was cleaned up in New York, Fischer was ready to begin law school, until the producer asked for one more little favor. Could she stay through the election in November, and then perhaps just until the Inauguration in January? By then, Fischer was hooked. She deferred her law school acceptance and joined the staff as a researcher in 1992.

Moving through the ranks, Fischer's career has been highlighted with important political programming, including NBC's *Decision 2000*, the New York state senatorial race and more recently, the *Election 2002* senate debates.

In 1996, Fischer returned to AU to get her Master's degree from the School of Communication. "I needed to understand the fundamentals of how a camera works and how to develop a graphic.

Those technical skills are tough to learn in a "hands-on" setting while producing a weekly news program," said Fischer.

Married to Gene Raineri, an attorney, Fischer wears another hat that is just as important – mother. Daughter Ella's pictures dominate her NBC office. "I work weekends, when my husband can be home, and I am off Mondays and Tuesdays, giving me time to spend with Ella."

Fischer appears right at home in the busy NBC studios where *Meet the Press* is taped, still down the road from AU. Her promotion to executive producer came in July 2002, and she clearly is enjoying the role.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

I am honored to lead the School of Public Affairs as its new dean. The strength and stature of SPA rests with talented faculty, enthusiastic students, and you, as active alumni, supporters, and friends. I'm delighted about the opportunities to work with all of you to continue building SPA into one of the best centers of public affairs education and scholarship, and I invite you to review the outline for the future direction of SPA at <http://www.american.edu/spa/spafuture.pdf>. Together, we can accomplish our goals and raise the bar of excellence even higher.

It was exciting to see so many alumni and students at our inaugural panel discussion, *Election 2002: What Does It All Mean?* Four alumni led a lively discussion on the changing political climate and what it means for both parties in the 2004 elections. We have received positive feedback and are planning similar events this spring.

Alumni represent the critical link between our students and the world that awaits upon graduation. As part of SPA's merit assistance program, our incoming graduate students will soon be offered the opportunity to be paired with alumni mentors. Monica Moody Moore, assistant dean for Marketing, Admissions and Outreach, is spearheading this program. I encourage you to get in touch with her (mmm@american.edu or 202-885-6248) if you are interested in becoming a volunteer mentor. Our SPA alumni offer a wealth of experience to share, and starting in this newsletter, we have added a *Featured Alumni* section to highlight these personal and career achievements. Betsy Fischer, executive producer of *Meet the Press*, is our first distinguished alumna to be recognized.

SPA academic programs and faculty continue to excel. In this newsletter, you'll read about departmental rankings that herald our achievements, a professor's appointment to a federal government commission on Title IX, and an award for a faculty member who has dedicated his career to service through public administration. As you plan your spring schedules, look at SPA's calendar on page 5, or visit the new SPA alumni chapter web site at <http://www.american.edu/spa/alumni>. We have organized several exciting events in the upcoming months and I look forward to meeting many of you.

Please stay in touch, offer suggestions and share ideas, and lend your expertise to the School of Public Affairs.

Best regards,

William M. LeoGrande

William M. LeoGrande



Guidelines for Submission

Published three times annually, the *SPA Report* welcomes submissions.

Please direct any topic suggestions or information to be included in the newsletter to Heather F. Vazquez at 202-885-2942. Send submissions via e-mail to [hjv@american.edu](mailto:hjf@american.edu) prior to the stated deadlines below. Please include name and phone number. E-mailed photos should be scanned at no less than 260 dpi and saved in .jpg or .tif

Deadlines

Spring edition - December 15th
Summer edition - May 15th
Fall Edition - September 15th

Public Administration

Robert Kramer gave a lecture on "Leadership for Reconstructing the Balkans" at the Agency for International Development in Varna, Bulgaria.

Howard McCurdy's expert commentary was cited in more than 70 newspapers discussing the space shuttle tragedy.

Bernard Rosen was honored with the 2003 Paul P. Van Riper Award for Excellence and Service. The award, given annually to a member who has made significant contributions to both the academic and practitioner communities of public administration, was presented at the March ASPA (American Society for Public Administration) conference in Washington, DC.

David Rosenbloom spoke on the topic "Liberation Management" at a conference of the Association of Inspectors General.

Bernard Ross taught a seminar on "The American System of Federalism," at the Forum of Federations in Washington, D.C.

Government

Saul Newman was named chair of the Department of Government in September 2002, succeeding **Gregg Ivers**, who served as department chair since May 2000.

Joseph Soss received the Elmer Plishke Faculty Research Award in November for his journal and book writings. The award is sponsored annually by the Lutheran Community Foundation.

Sarah Stiles was named by the Career Center as November Internship Faculty of the month.

James Thurber published *From Campaigning to Lobbying* and *Shades of Gray: Perspectives on Campaign Ethics*.

Justice, Law and Society

Richard Bennett presented "Police Legitimacy and Policing Styles: The Effect of Citizen Trust on Police Behavior in Developing Democratic Societies," to the European Society of Criminology in Toledo, Spain in September 2002.

Cheryl Anthony Epps conducted "Women Reaching the Top: Initiatives for Media Leadership," a training session for the International Women's Media

Foundation in Washington, D.C. in September 2002.

Rita Simon's expert commentary on Title IX was mentioned in several national publications throughout January 2003, including *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Boston Globe*, and *The New York Times*. Simon has been appointed to serve on a U.S. Department of Education commission on equal opportunity in sports.

Emilio Viano was interviewed on terrorism trends in September by CNN, CNN-Spanish, Swiss Television, French Television TF-1, TV Azteca (Mexico), America 2 (Buenos Aires), Canadian TV CBC; several radio stations in Argentina, Peru, Ecuador, and Venezuela; and by *Etece* magazine.

Robert Johnson was quoted in *The New York Times* last September in an article about the topic of prison life.

Campaign Management Institute

With support from The Pew Charitable Trusts, CMI honored Peter D. Hart and Stuart Spencer with the Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions to Campaign Consulting, an award given annually to a Democratic and a Republican consultant. The honorees were announced at the November 2002 CCPS conference, "Campaigns and Elections: American Style."

CCPS

Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies

A public forum sponsored by CCPS held on September 10, 2002, discussed the impact of 9/11 on American politics. Panelists included: DNC Campaign Manager Donna Brazile, Judge William Sessions, and Congressman Brian Baird.

In collaboration with the American Association of Political Consultants, CCPS hosted the conference "Campaigns and Elections: American Style" in November. Topics ranged from "Media in Campaigns" to "The Worlds of Political Consultants and Lobbyists." Speakers included Karl Rove, Senior Advisor to the President and Thomas Mann of The Brookings Institution.

CCPS hosted a panel in January entitled, "Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Reform Trail." Panelists included Benjamin Ginsberg, national counsel for Bush-Cheney 2000; Thomas Mann, of

The Brookings Institution; Larry Noble, executive director of the Center for Responsive Politics; and Gloria Tottem, executive director of the Progressive Majority. CCPS Director **James Thurber** moderated the panel.

Former Congressman **David Skaggs** joined CCPS as a research fellow. **Robert Healy** of the Wexler Group joined CCPS as an adjunct faculty member, and former Senator **Max Cleland** joined as a faculty research fellow.

Women & Politics Institute

Karen O'Connor, director, was featured in the January 27, 2003 issue of *Newsweek* magazine, representing the pro-choice side of the *Roe v. Wade* debate.

WPI's Women's Leadership Program and the Center for Russian Leadership Development hosted a delegation of 15 Russian women for eight days in September. Following a series of speaker panels and presentations by women in government, education and broadcasting, the highlight of the week included a day of shadowing a professional woman at work.

WPI received an earmark of \$50,000 from Congress. Sponsored by WPI Advisory Board Member, **Senator Mary Landrieu**, the funding will support WPI's "Young Women Leadership Program" for students from AU and area universities this summer.

TraCCC

Transnational Crime and Corruption Center

Louise Shelley, director, wrote "Identifying, Counting, and Categorizing Transnational Criminal Organizations," in the *Journal of Transnational Organized Crime*.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, TraCCC received grants for five overseas research centers in Russia and three centers in the Ukraine. The Library of Congress also awarded TraCCC an Open World Program grant to train 40 emerging Russian leaders in methods of fighting corruption and achieving economic development. Funding was also given to produce the electronic journal, *Russian Regional Report*.

HONORS FOR GOVERNMENT DEPT.

The December 2002 edition of *PS: Political Science and Politics*, a publication of the American Political Science Association, included a study of the quality of political science departments nationwide. The article by Tom Rice (University of Northern Iowa), James McCormick (Iowa State University) and Benjamin Bergmann (University of Iowa) found that SPA's Department of Government ranks 13th nationally based on the faculty's publication of scholarly books. SPA's Department of Government moved up to 12th when the authors controlled for the number of faculty in the department.

INSTITUTE RANKS TOP 100 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

SPA's Institute for the Study of Public Policy Implementation (ISPPI) and the Partnership for Public Service (PPS) will jointly publish a report this spring ranking the *Best Places to Work in the Federal Government*.

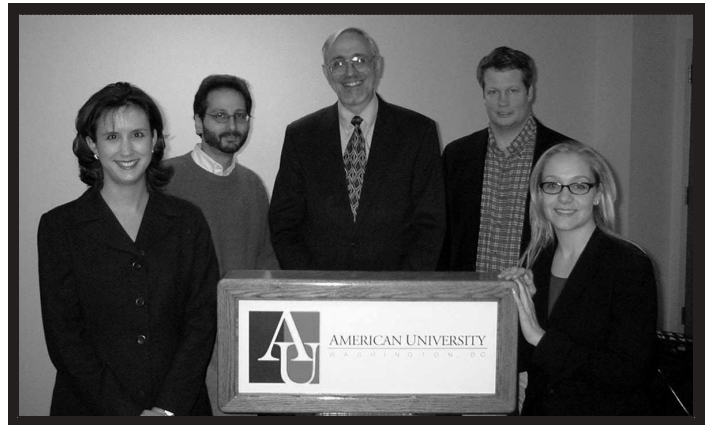
A survey conducted by the Office of Personnel Management last year provided the data used to rank the top 100 agencies. Of the more than 400,000 federal employees surveyed, more than 200,000 responded. Survey questions focused on such issues as training, leadership, compensation, diversity, and advancement.

Under the direction of ISPPI Director **Robert Tobias**, Public Administration, ISPPI and PPS will provide all federal agencies with a report which will include recommendations to increase employee satisfaction.

AWARDS FOR PhD STUDENTS IN SPA

Doctoral student **Suzanne M. Piotrowski**, Government, attended the 2003 American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) national conference in March with scholarship support from the Section for Women in Public Administration (SWPA), a subset of ASPA. The \$500 award from the Research on Gender Committee was used for registration costs. Piotrowski also won the Doctoral Student Manuscript of the Year Award from the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA).

Doctoral candidate, **Danielle White**, Government, received a Dirksen Congressional Research Center grant in support of her dissertation entitled, "Do You See What I See? Perceptions of Race and Representation by African-American U.S. Representatives."



ELECTION 2002: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

SPA hosted a panel of alumni experts in November to discuss campaign finance reform and the changing political climate. Moderated by **Betsy Fischer** (BA/92), executive producer of NBC's *Meet the Press*, panelists included **Rob Engel** (BA/82), director of the National Committee for an Effective Congress and member of SPA's Advisory Council, **Glen Bolger** (BA/85), president of Public Opinion Strategies and **Vivian Santora** (MPA/97), finance director for HillPac in the office of Senator Hillary Clinton.

MESSAGE FROM SPA ALUMNI CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Greetings SPA! I hope 2003 finds you and your families happy and healthy. We have an active schedule of events for the alumni chapter this spring. We will be welcoming the 2003 graduates to the chapter at the annual "Welcome to Your Alumni Chapter" reception on April 23rd. And of course, our annual Congressional reception is on May 21st. Be sure to check the events page of the SPA Alumni chapter Web site regularly for complete information. Visit www.american.edu/spa/alumni.

As my term as chapter president comes to an end, it's hard to believe it's been two years already! With the dedication and hard work of alumni, the chapter has grown both in number and quality of events. To best serve the chapter, it's time for me to step aside and make room for new chapter leadership. Of course, I will stay involved and look forward to seeing where the next chapter president leads us. On a last note, I'd like to thank everyone who has made my experience as chapter president such a wonderful one. The chapter's success simply wouldn't have happened were it not for all your hard work and dedication.

Until next time, GO EAGLES!

Mike Panetta
SPA Alumni Chapter President

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ALUMNI CHAPTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, April 9th – Graduate Student Tea-Time!

Join graduate students, alumni, faculty and staff for tea and conversation. Get together with other members of the SPA community to share information and stay connected. There is no charge for this event. No RSVP is necessary.

American University, Ward Circle Building, Room 300
4:45–5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 23rd – Happy Hour for 2003 Graduates

Join new SPA alumni for their first SPA alumni happy hour at Guapos! Come welcome graduating SPA students and get acquainted with your fellow alumni. Appetizers provided. Cash bar. There is no charge for this event.

Guapos Restaurant
4515 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
6–8 p.m.
Register on-line at: <http://www.alumni.american.edu/events>

Wednesday, May 21st – Annual SPA Congressional reception

Join SPA alumni and faculty for our flagship event on Capitol Hill, hosted by the members of Congress who are AU alumni and meet the chapter candidates! Cocktails & hors d' oeuvres provided.
\$25 per person

Longworth House Office Building
Room 1539
6–8 p.m.
Register on-line at: <http://www.alumni.american.edu/events>

Events schedule is subject to change. For the latest information, visit the SPA Alumni Chapter Web site at www.american.edu/spa/alumni and go to the Calendar of Events page.

For information about events hosted throughout the country by the American University Office of Alumni Programs, please visit the alumni page at www.alumni.american.edu and go to the Events page

If you have any questions about the schedule or would like to get involved with the SPA alumni planning committee, please call Heather F. Vazquez at 202-885-2942 or e-mail hjf@american.edu



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