



SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY ★ WASHINGTON, D.C.

WINTER 2007

update



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A new AU



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Sometimes alumni efforts and student interest converge in a way that enriches both and fortifies the school. Here is a story of one such instance:

This year we embarked on an effort to harness the enormous expertise of SPA alumni through five alumni committees. Each group centers on a different professional area: non-profit, federal, legal, congressional, and government relations. The government relations group proved to be so large that we divided it. **Jim Thurber** of SPA's Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies took the lead of the senior group, which is composed of vice presidents and senior executives in the government relations field.

The first joint effort of both groups was a November campus panel on careers in advocacy. Students with lobbying careers in mind could talk with alumni who lead in this field. Participants included senior representatives from JPMorgan Chase, Raytheon, Blank Rome, Preston Gates & Ellis, and the Greater Capital Area Association of Realtors. The event was, I am sure, the beginning of many mentoring relationships beneficial to students and gratifying to alumni.

A member of the senior government relations committee, **Chris Porter** (BA/SPA'89) is vice president for government relations at Novo Nordisk, the international health care company. Chris identified an opportunity to provide an internship for highly qualified master's students that would also benefit his company. The first Novo Nordisk-sponsored internships will be awarded to two graduate students in the spring of 2007. These paid professional learning experiences are invaluable to outstanding students who seek careers in health policy, one of the fastest-growing fields of interest for our graduate students and, of course, a field that is critical to our population in the years ahead. I am very pleased that SPA can offer opportunities like these to our students.

Enjoy the holiday season and please accept best wishes for the New Year from all of us at the School of Public Affairs.

Best wishes,

William M. LeoGrande
William M. LeoGrande

SPA Students Record ERA History with Justice Ginsburg

SPA students entered the chambers of the U.S. Supreme Court on a mission to record modern history. Their topic: the Equal Rights Amendment. Their interview subject: Supreme Court Justice **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**, an early proponent of the failed measure.

The interview was filmed by the students for inclusion in a documentary for 11th grade classrooms. The meeting and interview was facilitated by **Karen O'Connor**, Jonathan N. Helfat Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Director of the Women & Politics Institute at SPA, as part of an undergraduate honors class.

"The history of this amendment is not being transferred to younger generations," said O'Connor whose passion gave rise to the class. At present, there is little produced film documentation of the history of the ERA.

In their meeting, Justice Ginsburg communicated her admiration for the SPA project. She reiterated her long-standing



SPA students with Ruth Bader Ginsburg and in preparation for their interview with the Supreme Court justice. The interview will be part of the first documentary for high school students on the history of the Equal Rights Amendment.

their having arrived the first day well into the syllabus.

"I signed up for the class because I knew that if Karen O'Connor was teaching, it would be great," said Natalie Green, an SPA student. "I never imagined that I would be hearing the history of the fight over the amendment from the leaders in the

financial support from the Women & Politics Institute.

Students also reviewed historical footage, songs, photographs, and historical artifacts and created timelines, storyboards, and voiceover suggestions for the project.

In addition to Justice Ginsburg, students have interviewed others

who have both supported and opposed the amendment. Interview subjects have included U.S. Representative **Carolyn B. Maloney** (D-NY), **Phyllis Schlafly** of the "Stop the ERA" campaign;

continued on page 3



Section 1 of the Equal Rights Amendment, as proposed in 1972 by the 92nd Congress: **Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.**

support for the ERA, and regretted its failure to pass despite years of advocacy. After the interview, Justice Ginsburg helped the students identify other potential interviewees for the project.

The 15 students in the class represent a variety of interests, including political science, journalism, communications, and international studies. They are all bonded by a common enthusiasm for the project, as evidenced in

movements. As a sophomore, I'm already in the middle of documenting political history. It's amazing."

Students got guidance in film production from a top professional. **Don Critchfield**, a former producer at NBC News, assisted the novice filmmakers in assembling their equipment kit—lighting, cameras, and microphones that were borrowed from other AU offices or purchased through



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SPA HAPPENINGS

JAN 29

Climbing the Hill: Choosing Your Path
Congressional Alumni Career Committee

JAN 31

Profiting from Nonprofits: Pulling Back the Curtain on the Nonprofit Sector
Nonprofit Alumni Career Committee

FEB 12

Feds R Us: Careers in the Federal Government
Federal Agencies Alumni Career Committee

APR 13

New York Breakfast Series Event

APR 20

Key Alumni Reception

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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<http://spa.american.edu/alumni>



ALUMNI AUTHORS Julie Dolan (PhD/SPA'97) and Melissa Deckman-Fallon (MA/SPA'97, PhD/SPA'99) celebrated the release of their coauthored book, *Women and Politics: Paths to Power and Political Influence*. The book explores women's experience as policy makers and change agents in government, media, and the judiciary. Dolan and Deckman-Fallon, associate professors of political science at Macalester College (MN) and Washington College (MD), respectively, spoke about their research and publication experience with SPA alumni during AU's homecoming weekend.

Rita Simon on Transracial Adoption

Rita Simon's expertise is as wide-ranging as the headlines of a *New York Times* front page—the jury system, immigration, women and the criminal justice system, and Israeli society, among other topics. The common denominator: Simon's driving passion. The professor, who teaches both in the School of Public Affairs and in the Washington College of Law, is one of only three faculty to attain the distinguished rank of University Professor. As a recipient of Guggenheim and other prestigious fellowships as well as editor of leading journals, including the *American Sociological Review*, *Justice Quarterly*, and *Gender Issues*, Simon is a prominent figure in her many fields.

She is also noted for sharing scholarship opportunities with outstanding graduate and even undergraduate students. Her protégés have served as researchers and even as co-authors of the scholar's more than 50 authored or edited books. *The Insanity Defense*, *The World Over: Global Perspectives on Social Issues* (Lexington Books) and *Women's Roles and Statutes the World Over* (Lexington Books) were both published in 2006.

In Their Parents Voices, Simon's upcoming book on transracial adoption, delves into another emerging front-page issue. A 1978 law which declared that a child belongs to the tribe of American Indians into which he or she was born, drew lines in transracial adoption. Years on, the maturing of these adopted children, as well as black and mixed-race transracial adoptees, provided a rich field for investigation. Simon's research in this area, begun in 1968, is the most complete in the field.

Q In general, what did you find were the experiences of children who were adopted transracially?

A There was a common theme among the adopted children: All of the participants believe transracial adoption served them well. With Rhonda Rooda, herself a transracial adoptee, we interviewed in great depth 24 adults of African American and mixed black and white backgrounds. All of them believed transracial adoption served them well or let them feel connected to their adoptive parents. They believed their adoptive parents loved them, cared for them, and tried to do right by them. But do they believe their parents always succeeded? No!

How did they fail?

The major complaint from those who are critical is that their parents did not know how or did not understand that they needed to raise their black or mixed-race child differently than a child of their own race. The adoptive parents should have worked harder at finding out how to rear a black child and learned more about the history of the black community in this country. They should have associated more with black families, lived in black neighborhoods, joined black churches.



They should have attended public events with black families. While all the participants believed they benefited by having been adopted, they offer that advice to white families about how to make life easier for the black child they adopt. These children did this without questioning the good will and sincerity of white families who choose to adopt black and mixed-race children.

So their racial identity was important.

Yes, but for almost all of the adopted children the more salient definition of who they

are is not their racial identity rather it was their work, their talents, their family attachments, and their religious commitments.

What about the experiences of their adoptive parents?

In 2004 we contacted the parents of these adoptees. We were able to interview 16 of them. They talked to us about their decision to adopt across racial lines (which was usually motivated by the desire to adopt an infant) and their reactions when their children started to search for their birth parents. All of them reported positive experiences and loving relationships, but they also described difficult and complicated times that they had with their adopted child.

What is your next step in this area?

Now we are planning a third study: interviews with the white birth siblings of these transracial adoptees. We want to know what it was like growing up with a black brother or sister. What are the ties to him or her today? And also if he or she would consider adopting a child of a different race.

You are remarkably prolific. *In Their Parents Voices* is one of six books you are working on simultaneously. Do you have a practice or philosophy that drives your work?

Yes. I always ask myself when I'm thinking about starting a new project: Will the data make a difference in helping to inform public policy and in improving people's lives? Does the work matter? ★

Recent and Upcoming books by Rita Simon

- ★ *Intercountry Adoptees Tell their Stories* with **Heather Ahn Redding**, PhD/SPA 2003 (Lexington Books, 2006)
- ★ *In Their Siblings Voices* with Rita Rooda
- ★ *Coming of Age the World Over* with Howard Altstein
- ★ *Native American Transracial Adoptees Tell Their Stories* with Sarah Hernandez
- ★ *Anti-Semitism the World Over in the 21st Century* (Current Psychology, JLS Assistant Professor **Jeffrey Schaler**, editor)

BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

BOOKS

■ *Howard Gardner Under Fire: The Rebel Psychologist Faces His Critics* (Open Court Publishers, 2006), edited by JLS Assistant Professor **Jeffrey A. Schaler**, brings together leading experts who disagree with the promi-



nent psychologist. Howard Gardner replies cogently to each essay.

At the forefront of the debate is Gardner's renowned theory of multiple intelligences. According to Gardner, intelligence can take many forms: linguistic, musical, logical-mathematical, spatial, bodily-kinesthetic, and personal. The book also covers the study of creativity,

psychology of the arts, and leadership and aesthetic development.

PUBLICATIONS

■ DPAP Associate Professor **Jocelyn Johnston** presented the coauthored paper "Managerial Challenges in the Implementation of an Evolving Intergovernmental Policy: Contracting for

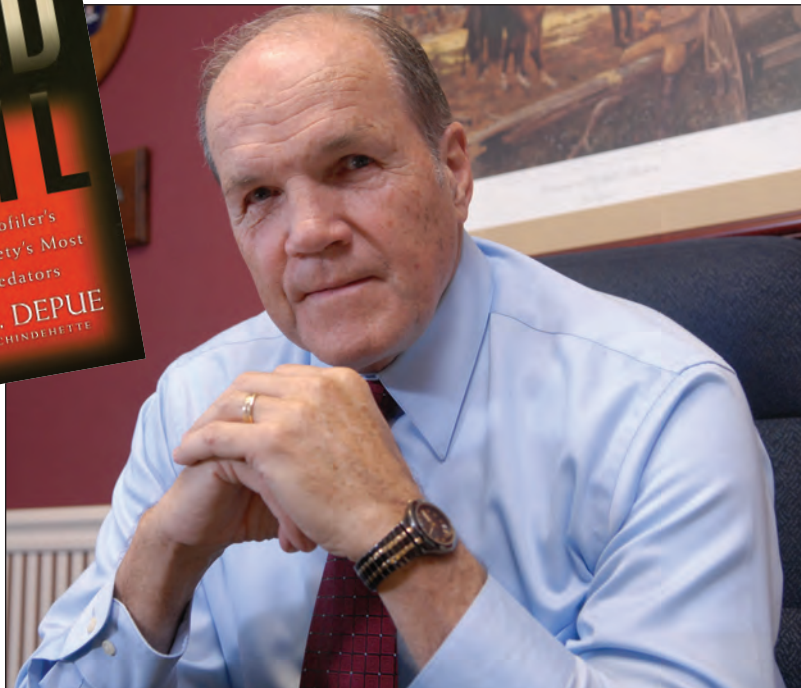
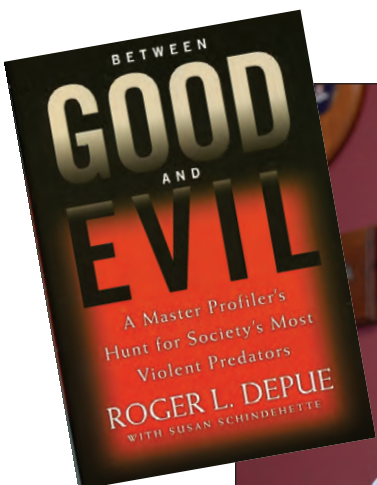
Social Welfare Services," at the American Political Science Association meeting in Philadelphia in August.

■ DPAP Professor **Robert Durant** published "Agency Evolution, the New Institutionalism, and 'Hybrid' Policy Domains: Lessons from the 'Greening' of the U.S. Military," in the *Policy Studies Journal*, November 2006, and "A New



ALUMNI OF NOTE

Roger Depue (MA/SPA'76, PhD/CAS'86) has a knack for finding himself at the center of history as it unfolds. Over his 40-year career, the former marine has been on the trail of gangsters, assassins, even Watergate's Deep Throat. Depue's lasting contribution, however, has been his pioneering work in the field of criminal profiling and analysis.



This police officer's son—one of five—followed his father into the force and quickly rose at age 27 to be Michigan's

youngest police chief in the city of Clare.

When Depue encountered FBI agents investigating crime boss Meyer Lansky who visited his family there, the agents identified raw talent and pushed him to complete his education. Degree in hand, Depue joined the Bureau.

After training in Washington, Depue was assigned to New Orleans, which was "great for a young special agent," he notes. One assignment involved searching the Big Easy connections of Louisiana resident Lee Harvey Oswald after President Kennedy's assassination. It was Depue's first role as participant in modern history in the making.

At his next stop, Washington, Depue began his AU studies in the then named School of Public Administration, which uniquely combined classes in ethics, philosophy, criminal justice, and social psychology. His time at AU was "invaluable," he says.

In his PhD studies, Depue learned how to do research and put courses together, in addition to forming lasting professional connections and friendships with fellow PhD alumnus FBI Supervisory Special Agent **Richard Ault** (PhD/CAS'85) and others.

Outside of class, Watergate grew from a burglary story buried in the pages of the Post to a high level investigation of a presidential cover-up. Depue was once again on the scene. "The

FBI was ordered to come in to secure the White House.... I secured Leonard Garment's [Nixon's special counsel] office," says Depue. "It was right across from Haldeman's."

Thirty years later, the Watergate story matured, along with Depue's expertise. In 2002, NBC contracted with the criminal analyst for a profile of the then unknown source called Deep Throat. Through textual analysis of Woodward and Bernstein's *All the President's Men*, Depue deduced that Deep Throat was Mark Felt, the associate director of the FBI at the time of Depue's own Watergate assignment.

"In one excerpt, Deep Throat said a visitor *went* rather than *came* to the White House. He was not a White House insider and that cleared two-thirds of the suspects," says Depue. His correct deduction went unlauded at the time, as NBC producers cut his analysis in favor of a photogenic professor fielding guesses from his attractive graduate students. "Too bad the professor turned out to be wrong."

In the late 1970's in response to civil unrest and the fear of takeover of embassies in Washington, the FBI formed Spider One and Depue was a member of the bureau's first SWAT team.

His work expanded again as Depue then became an instructor at the FBI Academy in

Quantico, Virginia, which functions as a small university for the bureau. He became chief of the behavioral science unit, which specializes in crime analysis and criminal personality profiling.

Depue says his students pushed the envelope of the field through their questions: Do criminals return to the scene of the crime? Do they keep a scrapbook? Do they take a souvenir? These questions and prisoner interviews in response to a 55-point research protocol led Depue and others to develop information for use in criminal investigation and analysis. "It was a tremendous body of knowledge of criminal tradecraft," he says. "Before long, we became the authority in violent behavior."

The FBI emerged as the lead agency in response to the U.S. attorney general call for expertise in thwarting a national crime wave. The bureau's National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime—with Depue as its first director—was founded and later made famous by Thomas Harris' book *Red Dragon* and the movie *Silence of the Lambs*. The center became the first clearinghouse for unsolved crimes through the tracking of crime of violence. Comparison and contrast of crimes committed by transients were possible for the first time. One of the unit's key discoveries was that crimes frequently followed occupations; drivers of 18-wheel trucks were in a position to move across state lines and away from the scene of their offenses. These and other findings led to congressional testimony, in one case with *America's Most Wanted* host John Walsh, for federal legislation targeting crimes against children.

In 1989 after 21 years with the FBI, Depue identified an opportunity in the private sector. With friends that include the director of the National Institute of Mental Health and fellow agents, Depue founded The Academy Group, named for his previous employer. The Manassas, Virginia, company provides training, testimony, consultation and research to Fortune 500 companies. Depue's expertise continues to keep him close to the front pages; he was an expert witness in the Columbine school shooting case, as well as providing profiles of then unknown offenders in the JonBenet Ramsey and Martha Moxley murders.

In his work, Depue focuses on text like a laser beam: "Most of our words come from the period of socialization between the ages of 10 to 25. From that you can fix an age. There are also 'male' and 'female' words. Each characteristic allows you to narrow the focus just a little bit more." While his instinct is important, Depue says facts are key to making findings solid and defensible. It is also hard to fake evidence. "Good people make bad criminals,"

says Depue.

The father of three adult children designs his life around the "five F's": faith, family, friends, fitness, and fun. Fun, however, was wanting after the death of his first wife. Depue focused on faith by pursuing three years of seminary postgraduate study in philosophy and theology. This step back was "the best thing that ever happened to me."

Today, following the success of his 2005 memoir with Susan Schindehette, *Between Good and Evil: A Master Profiler's Hunt for Society's Most Violent Predators* (Time Warner), Depue is considering writing a novel. Otherwise he seeks renewal through hikes with his new wife, the former Joan Ridick, a clinical psychologist. They recently climbed up Old Rag in the Blue Ridge Mountains. In a career comprised of the study of unpredictable and dangerous behavior, Depue finds "it's beautiful to stand on a mountain top with someone you love and just look around." ★

ERA

continued from page 1

Eleanor Smeal, former president of the National Organization for Women; **Kim Gandy**, president of the National Organization for Women; former Senator **James Buckley** (R-NY), **Alice Cohen** of the Feminist Majority; and **Marty Langelan**, former president of the National Women's Party. Interviews will continue next semester with former Senator **Birch Bayh**, social activist **Dorothy Height**, and Senator **Orrin Hatch** (R-UT).

The documentary which will premiere in late spring will be accompanied by a teaching booklet for educators. ★



Students who participated in the ERA film project with Justice Ginsburg on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Covenant Kept: Core Values, Presidential Communications, and the Paradox of the Clinton Presidency," in the *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 36:3, September 2006.

■ DPAP Distinguished Professor **David Rosenbloom** and **Julie Dolan**, PhD/SPA'97, coauthored an article on representative administration which

appeared in the *Review française d'administration publique*.

MEDIA

■ Director of the Center for the Study of the American Electorate **Curtis Gans** was interviewed by WAMU 88.5-FM and the Associated Press and appeared on the CBS *Evening News* to discuss the center's

study on the new low in voter turnout nationwide in this year's midterm primaries.

■ Government Professor **Candice Nelson** was quoted in a *New York Times* article on the shift in emphasis from the general elections to the primaries and the tougher competition for Senate incumbents in the primaries.

■ DPAP Distinguished Professor **Julian Bond**'s op-ed for the *Washington Post* noted that the face of AIDS in the United States is primarily black.

■ DPAP Professor Emeritus **Bernard Ross** was interviewed about Washington, D.C.'s mayoral primary by the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, and *Baltimore Sun*.

IN THE NEWS

LeoGrande on Cuba

An expert on Latin American politics, Dean William M. LeoGrande shares insights on the future of Cuba as President Fidel Castro experiences on-going health problems at the age of 80.

Q: You've met Castro personally on several occasions. How significant was his decision to temporarily hand over power to his brother?

A: Castro has never before handed over power, even when he has been abroad on extended trips for weeks at a time. His decision to hand over power now, even temporarily, indicates that his illness is very serious and debilitating.

Q: When Raúl Castro does eventually permanently take over control of the government, how do you expect the country to change?

A: Raúl Castro has always been more pragmatic than Fidel about economic experimentation. The armed forces, which he leads, have been in the forefront of economic reform and the use of market mechanisms in the economy. I think he would be inclined to experiment further if he were in charge.

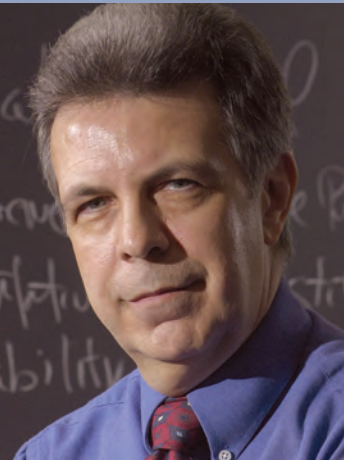
Q: Do you expect any rivals to Raúl Castro to emerge?

A: Raúl Castro has been the second most important leader in Cuba and Fidel's designated successor since January 1959. As commander of the armed forces, he has a very loyal following in the military. Under these conditions, I don't expect anyone to challenge his leadership. But after Fidel, decision making among Cuban leaders will be a more collaborative enterprise than it has been in the past because no one has Fidel's charisma and authority.

Q: Do you consider this to be a major turning point in Cuba's history?

A: Fidel's death will be a major turning point in Cuban history, but it is possible that he may recover from his current illness and resume his leadership positions. In that case, the current episode will be seen in retrospect as a test of the succession machinery that Castro has put in place. ★

SPA HONORS



Robert Durant Named NAPA Fellow

DPAP Professor Robert Durant was elected into the National Academy of Public Administration's 2006 fellowship class. With Durant's induction, SPA claims 10 NAPA fellows on its faculty, making AU among the leading universities in number of NAPA fellows. In addition, more than 24 AU alumni are NAPA fellows.

The National Academy of Public Administration is an independent nonpartisan, nonprofit corporation chartered by Congress to provide trusted advice to government agencies on issues of governance and public management. NAPA comprises more than 550 lifetime fellows who are federal executives, academics, and state and local officials. Under its congressional charter, the academy is charged with advancing the effectiveness of government

at all levels—federal, state, and local.

“One of the reasons I came to AU was SPA's strong traditions of theory *and* practice. SPA faculty walk comfortably in both the academic world and the practitioner world,” said Durant whose primary areas of interest are environmental and natural resource management, policy implementation, and public management issues.

Durant has published more than 80 refereed articles, book chapters, and monographs including articles in leading political science, public administration, and public policy journals. He is also the author or coauthor of five books.

DPAP Assistant Professor **Anna Amirkhanyan** received the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) 2006 Annual Dissertation Award for her work, “The Smart-Seller Challenge: The Determinants and the Outcomes of Privatizing Public Nursing Homes,” at the NASPAA National Conference in Minneapolis in October. Amirkhanyan received her Ph.D. from Syracuse University.



JLS Assistant Professor **Lynn Addington** presented “Hot vs. Cold Cases: Examining Time to Clearance for Homicides,” at the Justice Research and Statistics Association's 2006 Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado. Addington is the recipient of the Spagna SPA Faculty Research Award, which supports promising assistant or associate professors' research. The award is named for **Susan Spagna** (BA/SPA'72), and a member of the Dean's Advisory Council.

The top staff of Afghan President **Hamid Karzai's** security detail participated in a week of leadership development training provided by SPA and led by Key Executive Leadership Program Director **Robert Tobias**. The training was developed in response to a request from the Department of State to help Afghans assume full responsibility for their president's security.

DID YOU KNOW

- ★ SPA has a fresh look to its Web site. Take a moment to make a bookmark: spa.american.edu
- ★ More than 3,500 AU students volunteered thousands of hours of community service over the last year, resulting in AU being honored for distinguished service on the first President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

In Memoriam

Distinguished Adjunct in Residence and former Assistant Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service **Anita F. Alpern** died in October. She was 86.

Professor Alpern taught for more than 20 years at SPA after more than 35 years of service in the federal government. At the time of her retirement, she was the highest ranking woman in the federal career service.

Professor Alpern was twice recognized for her teaching at SPA. She supervised SPAs' internship program and placed an exceptional number of graduates in the Presidential Management Fellows program. She served also on SPA's dean's advisory council.

After graduate work in public administration at Columbia University, Anita Alpern came to Washington to work at the Bureau of Economic Security. She finished her federal career as an assistant commissioner at the Internal Revenue Service, working between those assignments in a variety of positions in the Department of Defense. She was one of six women in 1975 to receive the Federal Woman's Award. In 1985, she was the first woman to receive the President's Award from the Washington chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

A memorial service will be held on January 19 at AU's Kay Spiritual Life Center.

Daniel Richard Minns died in December at the age of 60. After earning his PhD from Indiana University, he taught at Williams College, Case Western Reserve, Indiana University, and Heidelberg College. Professor Minns joined AU in 1985, teaching until health problems diminished his involvement in 1990. He won a National Science Foundation fellowship and his articles on political behavior and urban public policy were published in leading scholarly journals. After teaching at AU, Professor Minns assisted organizations that supported interracial tolerance and AIDS prevention. A celebration of his life will be held in the Washington area in late winter or early spring.

Roger W. Jones Award

Comptroller General for the United States **David M. Walker** was the keynote speaker for SPA's Roger W. Jones Award ceremony in October. Given to outstanding senior executives in the federal government, the 2006 awards went to **David M. Altwegg**, Deputy for Agency Operations, Missile Defense Agency, and **William Gimson III**, Chief Operating Officer of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (pictured right with SPA Dean **William M. LeoGrande**, CDC Director **Dr. Julie Gerberding** and Walker.)

Walker will join the Roger W. Jones Award selection committee in 2007, the 30th year of the awards. Nominations may be made through agency or department heads to SPA. For more information visit spa.american.edu.



WINTER 2007 update

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On the cover: A detail from the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, D.C. (GETTY IMAGES)
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