



# SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## AMERICAN UNIVERSITY ★ WASHINGTON, D.C.

75  
Years  
1934-2009

FALL 2009

## update



2 New Scholars at SPA



3 Fulbright Power



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AnewAU



### MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends:

In this edition of the *Update*, we are pleased to welcome new faculty members to the School of Public Affairs. These new professors add even greater depth to our faculty's teaching and research capabilities, enhancing what is one of the nation's most accomplished public affairs faculty. They join us as part of an impressive cohort of new AU faculty that, as part of the university's ambitious new strategic plan, help meet our priorities to attract the brightest scholars.

As we welcome these new professors (see page 2), we also pause to reflect on the legacies of the distinguished professors that came before them. SPA has long prided itself on its outstanding faculty—scholars that have carried on a 75-year tradition of excellence in public affairs education. The influence of past and present SPA faculty is far-reaching. Their teaching and mentorship resonate strongly across generations of SPA alumni.

Their profound impact is not only felt by our graduates, but also touches the students of today and tomorrow through the endowed scholarship programs that honor several former faculty. We are proud to announce that the late **Anita Alpern**, beloved and highly respected professor in SPA graduate programs, established an endowed scholarship program through an estate gift to AU (see page 4.)

Professor Alpern joins other faculty, including **Bernie Rosen, Bernie Ross, Amos Perlmutter, John D. Young, Donald Zauderer, Morley Segal, and Edie Seashore**—all of whom have been honored with endowed scholarship programs. Many SPA alumni acknowledge the legacy of these former professors through an annual gift to named scholarship programs. Gifts to these scholarships provide vital financial support to current and future generations of SPA students.

Please join me as we both welcome the newest cohort of faculty here at SPA and as we recognize the contributions of our emeritus faculty through their legacies in teaching, research, and scholarship support.

Best wishes,

*William M. LeoGrande*

William M. LeoGrande

## A Woman in Politics: Jennifer Lawless

### New Women & Politics Director Carries on the Mission

This fall marked an important change for SPA. **Jennifer L. Lawless** became the new director of the Women & Politics Institute. Identified and recruited by WPI Founder **Karen O'Connor**, the Jonathan N. Helfat Distinguished Professor of Government, Lawless is stepping into big shoes and big expectations. O'Connor established WPI, which has an advisory board that includes nearly every female member of Congress.

Luckily, Lawless relishes a challenge. In 2006, she sought the Democratic nomination to the U.S. House of Representatives from Rhode Island's second district. The campaign fell short, but her academic career kept rising. She comes to AU with tenure after six years at Brown University as assistant professor of political science and public policy. Lawless is also widely published and is the coauthor, with Richard Fox, of *It Takes A Candidate: Why Women Don't Run for Office* (Cambridge University Press, 2005).

Q. How did you come to arrive at AU? Not many tenured faculty leave the Ivy League.

I was thrilled to be offered the opportunity to join the faculty at American University and to serve as the director of the Women & Politics Institute. I had long admired the institute's important work, both in terms of the training it provides to encourage women's political activism and the research it generates to close the gender gap in political leadership.

Although I was very happy in Rhode Island and at Brown—indeed, I had no intention of leaving – this opportunity was simply too incredible to forego. After all, almost everything I have done personally, professionally, and politically for the last six years has been geared toward increasing women's political representation – my research, my book, my congressional campaign. The Women & Politics Institute, and its location in Washington, provide me the proximity and platform to broaden the scope and reach of my research, as well as shape the national dialogue regarding women and politics. And this is a particularly exciting time, since WPI is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

Q. WPI has quite a portfolio of programs and connections.

There's no question that women have made substantial progress in terms of their presence in government and politics. Over the course of the last 30 years alone, the number of women in Congress has more than tripled. Nancy Pelosi is the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Secretary of State and former U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton received 18 million votes in her 2008 bid for the presidency. And former Alaska governor Sarah Palin appeared on the national ticket as Republican presidential

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“Scores of studies now find that, *when* women run for office, they fare as well as their male counterparts.”

Consider making a gift to support the students and work of WPI.  
Visit [american.edu/anewau](http://american.edu/anewau)



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## SPA HAPPENINGS

OCT  
23-25

### Alumni and Family Weekend

Visit the updated schedule of events at [american.edu/alumni](http://american.edu/alumni)

OCT  
27

### Key Executive Leadership Alumni Reception

Mary Graydon Center 4 & 5  
5:00 - 6:30 pm

OCT  
27

### Roger W. Jones Award Ceremony and Reception

Guest Speaker John Berry, Director of U.S. Office of Personnel Management

Katzen Arts Center

7:00 pm

RSVP 202.885.6290 or [rogerjonesaward@american.edu](mailto:rogerjonesaward@american.edu)



NOV  
4

### CCPS 100 Years of Community Organizing: From Alinsky to Obama

Often called the father of community organizing, Saul Alinsky launched his legendary career in the 1940s on the South Side of Chicago, not far from the neighborhoods where young Barack Obama learned and applied Alinsky's ideas in the 1980s. Today a new generation of organizers is following in Alinsky's and Obama's footsteps.

Kay Spiritual Life Center

NOV  
9

### SPA Alumni/Student Career Networking Reception

Mary Graydon Center 4  
7:00 pm

NOV  
12

### SPA PhD Alumni Book Authors Luncheon

SIS Lounge

11:30 am

NOV  
16

### Faculty on the Road in Baltimore – SPA

Professor Howard McCurdy

6:00 pm

DEC  
7

### Faculty on the Road in Philadelphia – SPA

SPA Professor Daniel Fiorino

6:00 pm

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# Joining the Ranks: SPA's New Scholars

SPA grows its scholarly capital this year with the addition of new faculty in all departments.



Executive-in-residence in DPAP **Daniel Fiorino's** teaching, research, and writing focus on environmental policy and politics, the executive branch, and the role of analysis and innovation in policy making. At the EPA, he held a range of senior management and analytical positions. An elected fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, he holds a Ph.D. in political science from Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. **Kristine Kalanges** is a lawyer and scholar whose principal research interests include legal and political philosophy, as well as the intersection of law, religion, and politics in the United States and around the world. She is especially interested in religious freedom and the ways in which religious beliefs, practices, and histories condition legal and political institutional possibilities. The assistant professor in JLS holds a J.D. from Yale Law School and an M.A. and Ph.D. in government, both from Georgetown.

Government assistant professor **Jie Lu** studies local governance, the political economy of institutional change, public opinion, and political participation. He works extensively with standardized sampling survey data and qualitative evidence compiled following the anthropological tradition. Dr. Lu holds a Ph.D. in political science from Duke University.

**Thomas W. Merrill**, assistant professor of government, researches and teaches political philosophy, especially early modern political philosophy, bioethics, and public policy. He is completing a book manuscript on David Hume's political philosophy, has published articles and reviews on a number of topics, and co-edited *Human Dignity and Bioethics* (Notre Dame Press). He has served as senior research analyst at the President's Council on Bioethics and has taught at St. John's College, Annapolis, as well as holding postdoctoral fellowships from the Program on Constitutional Government at Harvard and the American Enterprise Institute. ★



DPAP assistant professor **Stephanie Newbold** specializes in the intellectual history of public administration, administrative ethics, the legal environment of public management, and organization theory. Dr. Newbold's dissertation on Thomas Jefferson's contribution to the development of American public administration received honorable mention from National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration's in the Annual Dissertation Award and led to a book manuscript titled *All But Forgotten* (2010, SUNY Press).

DPAP assistant professor **Joe Sabia's** areas of focus include health economics, labor economics, economic demography, and applied microeconomics. Dr. Sabia's research on minimum wage policy has been cited in such media outlets as the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *USAToday*. He has also testified before the U.S. Senate Finance Committee on this

topic. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from Cornell University. ★



**David Pitts**, DPAP assistant professor and Ph.D. student development coordinator, is a public management and policy scholar with a primary focus on workforce diversity and representative bureaucracy. Dr. Pitts received the 2009 Robert Bailey Award for the best paper in LGBT politics and the 2006 Leonard White Award for the best dissertation in public administration, both from the American Political Science Association.

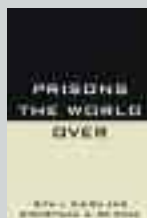


DPAP assistant professor **Edmund Stazyk's** research focuses on the application of organization theory and behavior to public management, public administration theory, and human resources issues. His primary interests are in the areas of organizational and individual performance with an emphasis on employee and public-service motivation. Dr. Stazyk holds a Ph.D. in public administration from the University of Kansas.

## BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

### BOOKS

■ As of 2007, more than 9.25 million people were imprisoned worldwide. Almost half of these prisoners are in the U.S, China and Russia. Distinguished University Professor **Rita J. Simon** with **Christiaan De Waal** SPA/MSJ '08, have



explore the topic in *Prisons The World Over* (Lexington, 2009.) The volume offers a comprehensive overview of prison demographics and conditions for countries around the world including reports

of the percent of female prisoners, the number of penal institutions and their occupancy level, privately run prisons, and the presence and treatment of political prisoners.

■ Edited by JLS professor **Jeffrey A. Schaler**, *Peter Singer Under Fire* (Open Court, 2009) offers an



intellectual autobiography of the best-known and most controversial ethicist of our day. Also included are essays from prominent critics which are followed by responses from Singer.



## A Woman in Politics

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candidate John McCain's running mate. But women remain severely under-represented in U.S. political institutions.

The reason I am so excited about this new position is because of the Institute's top-notch programs and connections to the political arena. Both can help close the gender gap in political leadership. We provide young women with academic training that encourages them to become involved in the political process. We facilitate faculty and student research so as to enhance our understanding of the challenges that women face in the political arena. We offer the only graduate and undergraduate certificates in Women, Policy, and Political Leadership. Through our WeLead and Campaign College programs, we offer young women leadership training. These are the skills necessary to run for public office and pursue a variety of political careers. And, of course, we constantly build the network of women who have participated in our programs, graduated from AU, and share our concern about women's under-representation.



**Karen O'Connor**, the founder of the Women & Politics Institute and the Jonathan N. Helfat professor of political science, led the nonpartisan center to national prominence throughout her tenure. She has mentored thousands of young women, many of whom have gone on to tackle roles of political leadership. She has also written or coauthored 20 books and testified before the U.S. House and Senate. During the 2006–2007 academic year, she taught a class in which students produced a full-length documentary on the Equal Rights Amendment, including interviews with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Eleanor Smeal, Phyllis Schlafly, Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.), and others.

Q. What is the situation for women considering politics as a career? Why is it still that so few seem to run?

Scores of studies now find that, when women run for office, they fare as well as their male counterparts. In terms of fundraising and vote totals, there is no widespread, systematic bias against women candidates. Despite these gender-neutral outcomes, on election day, very few women hold elective office.

My research focuses on political ambition and the factors that preclude women from entering the electoral arena in the first place. Based on data from the Citizen Political Ambition Panel study, a series of national surveys that Richard Fox and I conducted of almost 3,800 "potential candidates," we find that women, even in the highest tiers of professional accomplishment, are substantially less likely than men to demonstrate ambition to seek elected office. Women are less likely than men to be recruited to run for office. They are less likely than men to think they are qualified to run for office. And they are less likely than men to express a willingness to run for office in the future. This gender gap in political ambition persists across generations. Despite cultural evolution and society's changing attitudes toward women in politics, running for public office remains a much less attractive and feasible endeavor for women than for men.

One of my central goals is for WPI is to conduct this type of survey research biannually so that we can track change over time, as well as assess the factors that propel and suppress interest in running for office. In the coming months, we will begin issuing a series of policy reports in which we highlight key findings and suggestions for how to include more women in positions of political power.★

- U.S. ranks **85th** worldwide in the percentage of women serving in the national legislature.
- **Eighty-three percent** of the members of Congress are men.
- **Three-quarters** of statewide elected officials and state legislators are men.
- Men occupy the governor's mansion in **44** states.
- In **89** of the nation's **100** largest cities, men run city hall.

## SPA HONORS



The next time **Mike Danielson** returns to Mexico to research indigenous communities, he will do so as a Fulbright Scholar. The Ph.D. student in the School of Public Affairs has just become the 54th AU student since 2000 to earn the award.

"The Fulbright is a great honor," says Danielson. "It will allow me to contribute to important research on Mexican migration to the United States and the changes this brings to local politics in migrants' hometowns."

Danielson, who has a master's degree in international policy and Latin American development, has been collaborating with SPA professor of government **Todd Eisenstadt** (above right) on a three-year research and training project in Oaxaca, Mexico, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Higher Education for Development (HED). Dean **William M.**

**LeoGrande** (above left) is on Danielson's dissertation committee.★

DPAP distinguished scholar in residence **Beryl Radin** was awarded the H. George Frederickson Award for Career Contributions to Public Management Research which honors a senior scholar for career-long work in the field of public management scholarship.★



DPAP senior scholar in residence **Robert J. Marshak** and co-author David Grant received the Best Paper Award from the Organization Development and Change Division of the Academy of Management for their submission, "A Discourse-based Theory of Organizational Change."★

## PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

■ **Lynn Addington**, associate professor of Justice, Law & Society, was quoted in *Detroit News* about a recent FBI report that shows a decline in crimes for 2008. Addington said the data may not be an accurate reflection because of a histo-

ry of flawed reporting. "In the early 1970s, Philadelphia was kind of notorious for having police-generated crime drops," she said, adding that in 2008, the numbers may have been greatly affected by the financial crisis.

■ **Howard McCurdy**, professor of Public Administration and Policy, was quoted by the AP about how NASA's budgeting matters may prevent the launch of future space exploration programs. More than 100 news outlets, including *U.S. News and World Report*, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, and MSNBC.com, published the article.

■ In an opinion piece for *Government Executive*, **Robert M. Tobias**, director of the Key Executive Leadership Programs, discussed the importance of initiative and leadership from the executive branch of the federal government.



## PHILANTHROPY

### New Scholarship Fund Honors Merrilee Milstein, SPA/MSOD '06



Merrilee Milstein

SPA is pleased to announce the establishment of the Merrilee Milstein Scholarship Fund, an endowed scholarship program in SPA's AU/NTL program (American University/NTL Institute), which is dedicated to training scholar/practitioners in the field of organization change.

**Merrilee Milstein**, who died in 2008, was a leading community activist and labor organizer in New England. She worked to address labor concerns for workers with District 1199 of the New England Health Care Employees, served as deputy director for the Northeast Region of the AFL-CIO, and also as deputy secretary of state for Connecticut. After earning AU/NTL's M.S. in Organizational Development (MSOD) in 2006, she became an organizational consultant dedicated to tackling critical challenges in the labor movement.

Merrilee was the sister of Elliott Milstein, former dean and current professor at AU's Washington College of Law. Professor

Milstein and Merrilee's colleagues, family, and friends joined together to endow the fund in September 2009. The Milstein Scholarship Fund will provide an annual scholarship award to an MSOD graduate student who is dedicated to a career in the labor movement. To make a gift, please contact the Office of Development at 202-885-3968 or [mackeben@american.edu](mailto:mackeben@american.edu).

### Alpern Scholarship Fund to Support MPA and Key Executive Students

Dean **William LeoGrande** recently announced the creation of the Anita F. Alpern Scholarship, an endowed scholarship program established through a gift from the estate of Professor **Anita Alpern**. Professor Alpern, who died in 2006, served as Distinguished Adjunct Professor in Residence at SPA for over two decades. The Alpern Scholarship will provide annual awards to students in the MPA and Key Executive Leadership programs.

A New York City native, Professor Alpern moved to Washington, D.C., during World War II and began her career as an economist with the Bureau of Economic Security in the Labor Department. Professor Alpern later worked at the IRS where, in 1975, she was appointed the first woman assistant commissioner for planning and research. At the time of her retirement in the late 1970s, she was the highest ranking woman in the federal career service.

At AU, she was a highly respected professor of the Department of Public Administration and Policy in the School of Public Affairs. She had a passion for public service that was clearly demonstrated in the courses she taught. Her work with the Presidential Management Fellowship placed an exceptional number of American University students in this prestigious program.

### Kerwin Doctoral Fellowship Supports Two SPA Students

**Amanda Girth**, SPA/PhD '10 and **Kelley Moul**, SPA/PhD '10 are the recipients of the 2009-2010 Neil and Ann Kerwin Doctoral Fellowship awards. The annual fellowship awards were established in 2004 by AU President Neil Kerwin and his wife Ann. The awards support dissertation research that is deemed to be of the highest quality by the SPA faculty and dean.

Girth is originally from Eaton Rapids, Michigan, and is a doctoral candidate in Public Administration. The Kerwin Fund will support her research exploring variations in the enforcement behavior of government contract managers. Moul is a native of South Africa and doctoral candidate in Justice, Law, and Society. The Kerwin Fund will support her research on how court clerks use discretion to alter the implementation of South Africa's Domestic Violence Act.

### Sykes Gift Supports Zauderer Scholarship



Gwen Sykes

**Gwen Sykes**, SPA/MPA '01, recently made a \$25,000 gift in support of the Donald G. Zauderer Scholarship Fund. The Zauderer Fund, established by alumni and friends of the Key Executive Leadership Program, is an endowed scholarship providing an annual award to a Key student. The fund honors Professor Zauderer, a cofounder of the Key program in 1974.

"Gwen's gift and volunteer leadership of the Zauderer fund will have a substantial impact on our ability to award even more scholarship to Key students," said Dean William M. LeoGrande.

Gwen, vice president and CFO at Morehouse College, is a faculty member in the Key program. She is leading efforts to raise an additional \$50,000 in support of the Zauderer Fund. To make a gift in support of these efforts, please contact the Office of Development, School of Public Affairs, at 202-885-3968 or [androski@american.edu](mailto:androski@american.edu).

## SPA NOTABLES

**Richard A. Lidinsky, Jr.**, SPA/BA '68, was confirmed as the new commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission.

**Kenneth H. Merten**, SPA/MPA '86, was confirmed as the new ambassador to the Republic of Haiti.

**Steven B. Nesmith**, SPA/BA '85, has joined Ocwen Financial of the District as senior vice president and assistant general counsel for strategic and government initiatives.

**Peter Hofstetter**, CAS/BA '74; SPA/MPA '77, is the new CEO of Holy Cross Hospital.

**Dr. William H. McDonald**, SPA/BS '78, was named vice president of academic affairs at Post University, Waterbury.

**Kenneth E. Bentsen Jr.**, SPA/MPA '85, former U.S. representative from 1995-2003 (Texas), will serve as executive vice president of public policy and advocacy for the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association.

**Lonnie King**, SPA/MPA '91, a national leader in veterinary medicine, has been named dean of The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

**Michael W. Kempner**, SPA/BA '81, president and CEO of MWW Group, was honored as PR Executive of the Year at the 7th Annual 2009 American Business Awards.

**Jessica Lemos**, SPA/MPP '07, joins Majority Leader Steny Hoyer's team as legislative coordinator.

**William "Bill" Sweeney**, SPA/BA '73, was named the new president and CEO of The International Foundation for Electoral Systems.

**Mimi L. Magyar**, SPA/BA '72, joined Lerch, Early & Brewer Chartered in Bethesda as a principal in the family law practice group.

**Richard H. Neiman**, SPA/BA '72, was recently awarded the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy's Distinguished Public Service Award. Neiman was appointed as New York's 43rd Superintendent of Banks in March 2007.

### Introducing *Beyond Ward Circle*

SPA recently launched *Beyond Ward Circle*, an online series featuring the success stories of SPA alumni. The features highlight the experiences of alumni working in both the public and private sector, and also explore the unique ways that alumni AU experiences have shaped their career paths.

Interviews for *Beyond Ward Circle* are conducted by SPA graduate and media entrepreneur **Chip Griffin**, SPA/BA '94, a member of the SPA Dean's Advisory Council. The first *Beyond Ward Circle* profile features **Seth Ingall**, SPA/BA '88 and WCL/JD '92. Seth is regional vice president for GEICO's New York Profit Center, based in Woodbury, New York.

Please visit [american.edu/spa/alumni/bwc](http://american.edu/spa/alumni/bwc) to access Seth's and future alumni profiles.



FALL 2009

## update

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|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Wood Use         | 5 Fully-Grown Trees         |
| Total Energy     | 3 Million BTUs not consumed |
| Greenhouse Gases | 11,013 lbs CO2              |
| Wastewater       | 1,187 Gallons               |
| Solid Waste      | 301 lbs                     |

Environmental savings data based on research by the Environmental Defense Fund.

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On the cover: the Capitol, Getty Images.

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