



School of Public Service

Newsletter #3

St. Albans School, Washington DC

April 12, 2004

2004 PROGRAM NEWS

Paul Volcker (former Federal Reserve Chairman and current STA grandparent) will be attending the SPS Advisory Board meeting May 19 and will be speaking to the Board about increasing youth civic engagement through programs like SPS.

SPS to Welcome Third Session in June

SPS is gearing up for a very exciting 2004 program beginning June 20. Thirty rising high school seniors from across the country and abroad will participate in our month-long, residential summer program that offers intellectual challenge and personal visits with leaders in politics, business, journalism and government service. The applicant pool looks promising and to date we have received applications from students living in Tennessee, New Jersey, California, Georgia, Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania and Nevada who have demonstrated leadership in their home schools and communities.

Applications are due May 1.

This year's program will feature:

- A visit to the Supreme Court hosted by Justice O'Connor
- A visit to the State Department
- Simulations on the Middle East, international crisis
- Focus on the US Elections and candidates
- A formal dinner with several ambassadors
- Reception at the Japanese Ambassador's Residence
- Lunch with Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich
- Cases, lessons, and speakers on subjects such as campaign finance reform, shaping public opinion, issues before the Supreme Court, and economics

Wilton Park summer opportunity

SPS alumni and students as well as other student groups are invited to attend the International Youth Conference at Wilton Park in Sussex, UK. Last year's conference was so successful that organizers have decided to offer it again. While the deadline for SPS applicants has passed, there are some spaces available to students from other schools and programs. If you know of a young person between the ages of 18 and 21 (by 2nd August) who would both contribute to and benefit from this wonderful experience, please direct them to SPS for information. The expected cost per student is \$2,500.

Outreach to New and Established Partners

A hallmark of the School of Public Service is its outreach to a variety of partners both in the fields of education and public service. Recently, SPS Director Mary Anne Waikart visited Memphis as the guest of the Memphis Rotary Foundation's PREP program. PREP sends promising Memphis public high school students to college preparatory programs at the nation's strongest prep schools for summer work. One of the featured speakers at the PREP event was Amelia Thompson (SPS 03) who compared her summer at Phillips Exeter Academy with her summer experience at SPS St. Albans. At SPS, she said, motivation came from an interest in public service and a motivated group of peers, not from grades. SPS continues to grow and expand its partnership with PREP

Other organizations that SPS has reached out for partnership include The Latino Student Fund, the Youth Vote Coalition, United Leaders, Do Something, the DC Public Schools, United Leaders, Close-Up Foundation, Presidential Classroom, Corporation for National Service, the Superintendents of Montana Native American Schools, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and others. SPS is seeking to work with these groups to recruit students and to find ways to enhance and expand its programming.

SPS has also been working with the St. Albans Centennial Counselors, a group of 50 STA alumni from across the country, to increase the visibility of the program in their areas.

ALUMNI/AE NEWS

In our first two years 57 students from 20 states and three foreign countries have attended our program. Their experience on the Close was memorable and rewarding and here is a sampling of what some of our alumnae have done since:

Students in our inaugural class are now attending some of the nation's most prestigious colleges and universities including **Harvard, Princeton, Tufts, and University of Chicago**. Many are active leaders in their freshman class and have engaged in a wide range of outside activities such as appearing on public interest television forums. Our 2003 students have been accepted to: **Johns Hopkins, MIT, Northwestern, Middlebury, Williams, Harvard, Princeton, Vanderbilt, Georgetown and Notre Dame**, among others.

Our students and their parents tell us that SPS has had a profound affect on them and below is a sampling of what they report to us.

- ❑ A student from Arizona, now attending Arizona State said SPS "gave me a whole new perspective on how I want to serve my community and my nation." He went on to say that perhaps the next time he comes to Washington, "it would be to represent my state in the Senate chamber I visited [that] summer."
- ❑ The mother of a second session student reported that her daughter experienced "an intellectual, life-changing experience at the impressionable young age of 17," and has gained "an increased level of understanding of national issues...feels more confident... and is able to substantiate her views."
- ❑ Another student told us: "Using the case study method, we debated and argued current events and social issues with a passion rarely seen in high school kids."
- ❑ One student said that her visit to the State Department and a reception at the Chinese Embassy inspired her to apply to a college where she could major in International Relations as preparation for a public service career. What influenced her most was having Assistant Secretary of State Richard Armitage look her in the eyes and say "I'd like you to consider working for State".

SPS alumni play an active role in their communities long after they leave our program. A sampling of alumni achievements includes:

- ❑ A Senator in the Richmond College student government
- ❑ A freshman Honor and Ethics council representative at Wake Forest
- ❑ Founder of a Young Republican Club at a high school in Ohio
- ❑ Washington College representative to the college Model United Nations in Montreal
- ❑ Newly elected Secretary of the UNC-Chapel Hill student body (rare for a freshman); he will work on a Senate campaign in Montana this summer.
- ❑ A student from North Carolina served as Student Government President and revived the Teen Democrats club at her school. She organized a trip so that she and her classmates may attend the National Democratic Convention in Boston this summer, and she will be working for a candidate for Senate this summer.

And finally, many alumni have decided to return to Washington for internships with Senator Sununu, Senator Boxer, Senator Murkowski, Senator Kennedy, other members of congress, and House and Senate committees.

FUNDING NEWS

SPS is pleased to report solid progress in securing philanthropic support for the program. We are especially grateful to those SPS Advisory Board members who have provided direct support to the program this year. Several parents of first and second session students also have provided gifts for financial aid so that other young people may have the kind of life-changing experience that their children had at SPS. One family's gift will help us to welcome a student from the DC Public School system to this summer's program. In addition, we have received interest from other families and private foundations that are considering philanthropic support to help support and expand core program activities and to ensure that students may attend regardless of their family's financial situation.

Other recent gifts include a general support grant from the Mars Foundation. In addition, a member of this year's class will be the first to receive the Bracewell Scholarship, made possible by a generous donation. We also are pleased to have received financial support from SAIC for students who will attend the Wilton Park conference this summer.

Philanthropic support is critical to SPS program operations as a supplement to tuition. In addition, such support enhances our ability to achieve our long-term vision to bring together students from a variety of socio-economic, ethnic and political backgrounds to learn from each other, be exposed to the diverse opportunities in public service and to take back what they've learned by becoming engaged in civic activity in their own communities.

If you know if individuals, corporations and foundations that may be interested in supporting SPS and its vision, please contact SPS Director, Mary Anne Waikart (202) 537-6438 or Georgia Sullivan at (202) 537-5539.

SPS PERSONNEL

SPS is pleased to welcome Georgia Sullivan as its new Director of Development. In this role, she will develop and manage all fundraising and related activities for the School. She will closely coordinate her work with Beth Brummel and the STA Development/External Programs team to build a comprehensive philanthropy program for SPS. Georgia also will provide staff support to the SPS Advisory Board.

Georgia comes to SPS from the National Cathedral School where she served for four years first as Director of Major Gifts and most recently as Director of Development. Georgia brings to this work 15 years of professional experience in fundraising, communications, and community service. Prior to her positions at NCS, Georgia served in development positions at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and at the Woodrow Wilson International Center of Scholars.

Georgia is a graduate of Union College and has completed partial studies at Johns Hopkins University toward a Master's Degree with a concentration in media, history, and politics.

OTHER NEWS

SPS to Expand International Focus

Jugo Kapetanovic, a St. Albans graduate, now a freshman at Harvard, has suggested that SPS along with **Seeds of Peace** work together to bring a student from Sarajevo to participate in SPS. He has already planned fundraisers at Harvard and St. Albans. SPS has forged a partnership with Seeds of Peace and has pledged some scholarship funds for this endeavor. The program hopes to welcome the first recipient this summer.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

New Partners for SPS

If you are aware of corporations and foundations that might be interested in working with SPS to advance greater youth civic engagement, please contact SPS Director, Mary Anne Waikart at 202-537-6438.

Summer Jobs

Many former SPS students have been bitten with Potomac fever and are looking for opportunities to come back to Washington for summer jobs and internships. If you know of such opportunities, please contact Mary Anne Waikart, SPS Director, 202-537-6438.

Summer Housing

SPS Alumni coming to Washington for the summer are always looking for inexpensive housing, house sitting opportunities or suggestions about places to live. If you have suggestions or housing to provide, please call Stephanie Henck in the SPS office, 202 537-5286.