



School of Public Service

NEWSLETTER

November 2003

Program News

The success of our inaugural year behind us, SPS plunged into year two with 29 young men and women from 16 states and one other country, Liechtenstein, in attendance. The students were from private, public, and parochial schools. A number of them were born abroad (Bolivia, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Russia), reflecting the increasing number of young immigrants in high schools across the U.S.

This year we added elective courses to the curriculum during our fourth week and hope to add more next year. Some of the titles: Hot Issues before the Supreme Court, Women in Public Policy, the U.S. and the Mujahideen, Leadership and Ethics. A course around the LBJ tapes included a visit from former LBJ advisor Harry MacPherson. The Chinese Ambassador, Mr. Yang, met with SPS 2003 at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, then at a lovely reception at his residence. SPS Advisory Board members in attendance were Worth Daniels, Donald Kennedy, and Geoffrey Baker.

Also new in 2003 is our exciting partnership with the Truman Foundation. Exposing young students to their peers at the next level of attainment (Truman Scholars are recent college graduates who are interning in Washington prior to attending graduate school with the help of their grants from the Truman Foundation) is now one of the strengths of SPS. Twenty-eight Truman Scholars joined SPS students on a bicycle ride to and special tour of Mount Vernon, where the expanded group laid a wreath at the tomb of George Washington. During week four, all 53 Truman Scholars came to St. Albans for a special "public policy and Harry Truman" tour of the Cathedral, led by Eileen Yago, and then joined the SPS students for dinner in the Refectory. A large number of e-mail addresses were exchanged, together with lots of advice and counsel, and even some hugs.

Student News

SPS 2002 students have settled into the following colleges:

Dennison, Arizona State University, William and Mary (2), University of Arizona, Harvard (2), University of Richmond (2), Tufts, Rochester Institute of Technology, Lafayette, University of North Carolina, Bowdoin, Middlebury, Lake Forest, Allegheny, Occidental, St. Olaf, Clark Atlanta University, Dickinson, Xavier, Princeton, Washington College, Wake Forest, University of Chicago, University of Colorado

Many have already assumed leadership positions in the freshman class. They continue to stay in touch by e-mail and have had several mini-reunions. They also continue to engage in leadership and public service. Katie Gluckman was one of the students putting questions to Dick Gephardt on "Hardball" with Chris Matthews when the show traveled to Harvard. Mark Stevens participates in student government and is a Dorm Council representative at Washington College. Ford Tanner (who is pictured in this issue) serves as one of two freshman representatives to Wake Forest's Honor and Ethics Council. Ethan McWilliams is a Senator in the Richmond College Student Council.

SPS 2003 have been "introduced" electronically to SPS 2002, who have volunteered to mentor them through the college decision and application process. Many of the Truman Scholars have also volunteered their advice and counsel, again via our e-mail connections.

Funding News

We are pleased to announce, a \$100,000 endowment established by a St. Albans family which will support at least one SPS student each year in perpetuity. In addition, the School received a \$20,000 gift from an STA past parent and public servant. SPS also received several generous gifts from parents of SPS alumni, including one \$5,000 gift which will support a student in SPS 2004, and from our staff and friends.

We are currently interviewing candidates for a fundraising position to support SPS and hope to have that person in place within 6 – 8 weeks. Fundraising is a priority for 2004 in order to ensure the future of the program beyond summer '04.

Student Recruitment

Over the past two years, SPS students have come from 20 states and three countries. We hope to continue having an international flavor to the mix, to attract students from some of the remaining 30 states, and to include students from Native-American groups. This year we also hope to increase the number of students coming from rural areas and small towns. *As friends of the program, you can help by putting us in touch with principals, teachers, youth program leaders and clergy from around the country who might tap the shoulder of a student who is well-suited to this program.* We seek students who have already demonstrated academic ability, interest in public service, and the potential and ability to influence others in the future. We work with a number of groups around the country to reach these students each year but are always ready to follow a new lead or to explore a new partnership.

SPS Personnel

Stephanie Henck joined SPS part-time in October. She serves as Program Assistant, working on our database, student recruitment, and writing for various audiences. Stephanie graduated in May from Boston College where she majored English and International Studies. We are very pleased to have her on the staff.

Kathe Williamson is a new volunteer for SPS. Kathe has served on the Board of the Latino Student Fund in Washington and has been an enthusiastic supporter of SPS, helping us to recruit strong students from the DC area. She will work on strengthening our visibility in some of the states we have not yet touched.

Alumni Opportunity in the UK

Seven SPS alumni, six from SPS 2002 and one from SPS 2003, represented the U.S. at the first international youth conference, "Bridging the Atlantic Divide" at Wiston House, Wilton Park Conference Center in the U.K. The students traveled to the UK in August, accompanied by SPS faculty member Robert Knisely, and SPS volunteer Steve Ebbin.

Fifty-four young men and women from Albania, France, Germany, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, the UK and the US attended. During the six-day conference, students engaged in discussion of current issues, such as the "War on Terrorism," Great Britain's support of the war in Iraq, reformation of the United Nations, and Europe's 'New Democracies,' with experts as resources. One SPS student, in his final report, said "there was strong, anti-American sentiment amongst many Europeans. Particularly, the war in Iraq became one of the most talked about issues during the entire conference..... many if not almost all Europeans considered America to be a superpower that sometimes 'bullies' and intimidates other countries in order to serve its own interests. However, as we continued to converse about this key issue, I found that many Europeans began to view Americans through a new scope despite their strong convictions. The Atlantic divide was indeed being bridged."

On the next page read Mark Steven's article on Wilton Park, entitled appropriately "Bridging the Atlantic Divide" which is also linked on our website's new navigation scheme under "What's New"... "Alumni"

“Bridging the Atlantic Divide”, Wilton Park, August 4-8, 2003 by Mark Stephens SPS 2002

The Conference

What can a person say about the Wilton Park experience? Personally, I must say this proved to be the most rewarding adventure that I have experienced! After spending a week at Wiston House, I have found that both Americans and Europeans enjoyed taking part in a seminar that allowed us to express our views and to learn about our many diversities. Our main purpose was to Bridge the Atlantic Divide, and I feel without a doubt, that goal was met and surpassed! Before arriving at Wilton Park, I expected the tone of the conference to be very political and highly analytical, just as I experienced last summer at the St. Albans School of Public Service. However, this point was contradicted in many ways.

The conference gave all members the chance to meet people of an international spectrum, that included meeting people of various races, ethnicities and cultural backgrounds. In addition, dialogue among the students and speakers proved to be the key and integral part of the whole experience. Discussions included bilateral issues and global issues such as the current ‘War on Terrorism’, Great Britain’s support of America’s war in Iraq, Reformation of the United Nations, and Europe’s New Democracies, just to name a few. Moreover, we had an opportunity to take an excursion to London, which provided students with the social aspect of London by visiting museums and other historic sites, shops, and other tourists’ attractions.

Orators/Speakers

We were delighted to have a panel of prominent, intelligent, and accomplished speakers, who provided an insight into their professions and views on past and current issues. In some ways, these speakers served as moderators in discussions that included issues such as terrorism, trade, democracy, religion, and culture. All speakers clearly challenged the students to think about how each of these issues impacts our way of life and our international relations with each other. The speakers included many journalists (both domestic and foreign correspondents), professors, theologians, and government officials, most notably Lord McNally, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords of London.

Discussions

Among the many discussions, we had the opportunity of engaging in dialogue of how the US views Europe and vice versa. The responses given by the students were very opinionated and in the end, helped us to understand each other better. The conversation enabled us to compare and contrast the many ideals and beliefs of both parties, which resulted in very interesting and intriguing facts and information.

It should also be noted that there was strong, anti-American sentiment amongst many Europeans. Particularly, the war in Iraq became one of the most talked about issues during the entire conference. It was obvious to see that Europeans are no supporters of President George W. Bush and Great Britain’s Prime Minister, Tony Blair. Socially, the Europeans felt that their culture and their way of life was being threatened by American pop culture. This includes: American food, clothing, entertainment, and sports.

At the start of the conference, many if not almost all Europeans considered America to be a superpower that sometimes ‘bullies’ and intimidates other countries in order to serve its own interests. However, as we continued to converse about this key issue, I found that Europeans viewed Americans in a new scope despite strong convictions. Also, we were given the opportunity of having a free round table discussion of two subjects chosen by participants.

Excursion to London

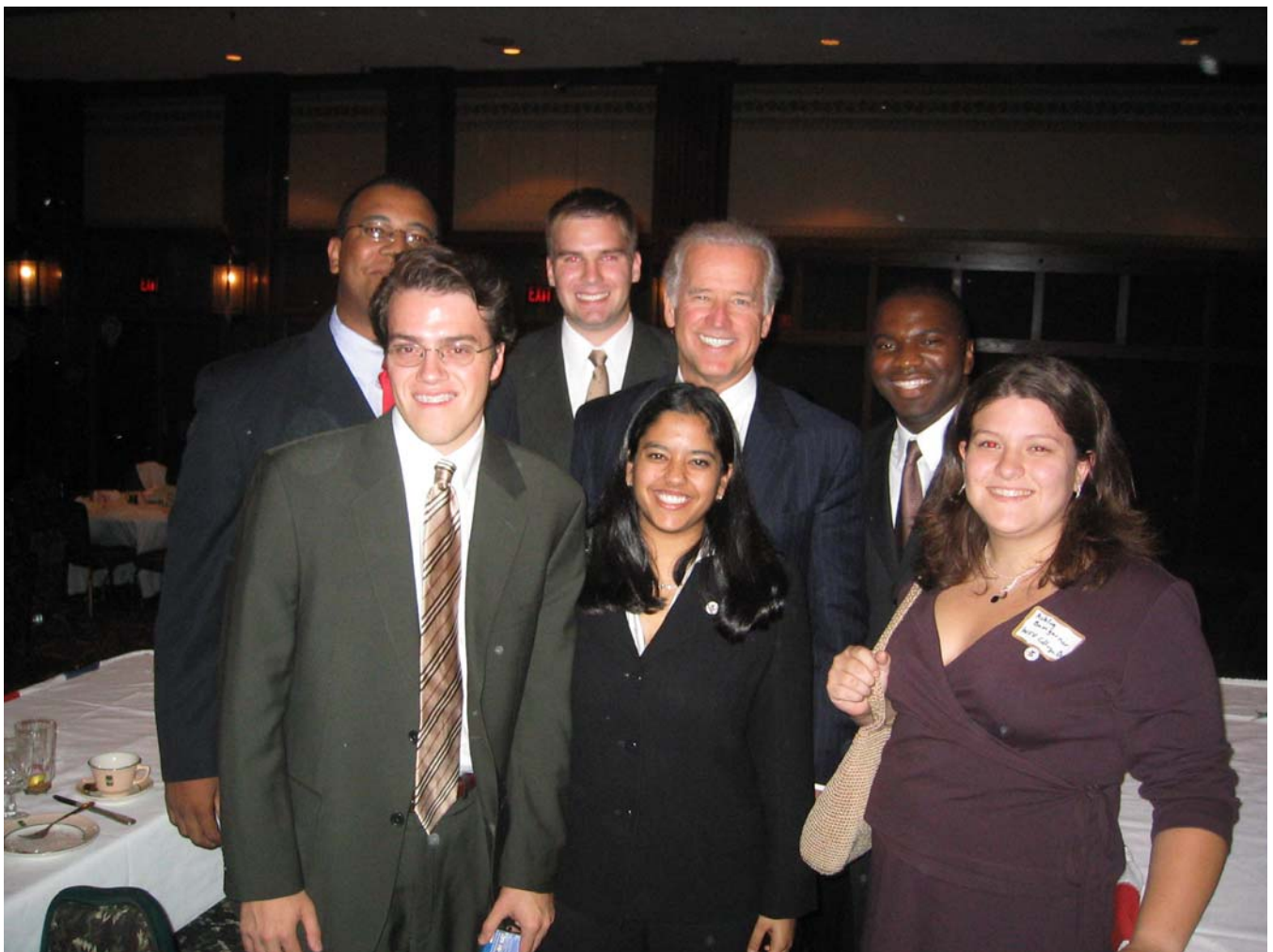
During our excursion to London we toured the House of Parliament and House Lords, which is equivalent to the United States Congress. During our trip to the House of Parliament, we had the opportunity of meeting and talking to Ben Bradshaw, Parliamentary under Secretary of State.

Mr. Bradshaw entertained many questions related to Great Britain’s role in the war in Iraq and the war on

terrorism. Due to the caliber of questions, Mr. Bradshaw publicly acknowledged that the students in the program were very inquisitive and an intelligent group of students. Afterwards, we visited the London Eye, which was an awesome experience. I took photos of famous landmarks such as St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, and Buckingham Palace. Our culminating visit landed at the Foreign Press Association. We witnessed an interesting conversation between one French journalist and one American journalist give their views on the American-France relations before and after the Iraq invasion. Both men provided meaningful insight and knowledgeable information.

What Did I Take Home?

My participation in this conference definitely had a great impact on my life and future ambitions. This experience has furthered my interests in Political Science and International Relations. I am now compelled to learn more the about the outside world and how it affects US policies. At Wilton Park, I was fortunate to meet people from far places that shared my common interest and as a result, we have formed relationships that will never end. I anticipate returning to next year's conference. I will be forever grateful and endowed to Wilton Park and the American Friends of Wilton Park for their generosity and support.



Ford Tanner (SPS 02) and friends with **Senator Joe Biden** at the Vance-Aycock Dinner in North Carolina