

President's Message

Dear Fellow Public Administrator:

As I write this, I am looking forward eagerly to our April 10 Networking Lunch in Dover, organized by the Program Committee. The University of Delaware, and especially its **Institute for Public Administration**, has provided great support—including the talents and time of many of the organization's leaders and our student public service fellow **Corinne O'Connor**—as we rebuild DAPA. This is allowing us to move forward and ensure that we are seen as the organization for all public servants in Delaware, whether at the University of Delaware, our other fine Delaware schools, colleges and universities, state government, local governments, the federal government, or public-serving nonprofit and business organizations. In the past, State employees made up a large share of DAPA's leadership and membership, and it is good. The April 10 lunch is a good opportunity to emphasize that relationship, as well as an excuse to spend an hour with friends and colleagues at McGlynn's Tavern and Restaurant on North State Street.



ANNUAL DINNER, DECEMBER 2011

While I'm dwelling on the opportunities DAPA gives me to eat and drink while enjoying the company of Delaware's exemplary public servants, let me say a word about our Annual Dinner, held on December 8, 2011, at the Deerfield Golf Club. Many of you were there, so you already know that the Program Committee did an outstanding job planning and hosting this event. We enjoyed a lively cocktail hour, followed by a delicious dinner and conversation and the presentation of two DAPA Public Service Awards for 2011.

We also enjoyed brief remarks by our two DAPA Public Service Award winners. City of Newark Planning Director **Roy Lopata** reflected on his long and distinguished career in city government with no small amount of wit. **Kim Book**, founder and Executive Director of the restorative-justice nonprofit Victims Voices Heard, spoke very movingly about her motivation for founding the organization and changing the state's correction policies to enable crime victims and their families to meet with offenders in facilitated sessions to promote healing. Hearing and conversing with both of them in a single evening prompted me to reflect on the astonishing range of organizations and ways in which public servants work to improve the world and the lives of people in that world. And, although I've already said this, I have to take note again of how remarkable the pool of public-service talent is here in Delaware.

DAPA COUNCIL DOINGS

One thing new Council member David Bird, Treasurer Martin Wollaston, and I are working on is securing a federal 501(c)(3) tax exemption for DAPA. Like most if not all other local ASPA chapters, we relied for years on a group exemption sponsored by the national organization. That exemption was lost last year due to some confusion among ASPA, the chapters, and the IRS (it's a tangled story, so I'll omit the details from this note). There is no crisis here—ASPA's main exemption is secure, and we can use that temporarily if we need to—but it does mean that it makes sense for us to apply for our own exemption.

Membership is holding steady at about 80 or so, including more than 50 ASPA members who have designated DAPA as their chapter. One priority for the coming year is to maintain our existing membership, bring back some former members, and expand to include new members in all sectors of public service in Delaware. If you have ideas and are interested in helping out, please get in touch with me or Julia O'Hanlon.

As always, we have lots of other opportunities for people to get involved in DAPA's leadership, too, so please let me know (justice@udel.edu) if you have suggestions for (or even better, would like to help out with) ways to improve DAPA and advance its mission, including these continuing projects:

- **Membership development**
- **Program planning**
- **Website enhancements**
- **Nominating committee**
- **Anything else you'd like to see done!**

Don't be shy about getting involved in any activities you'd like to be a part of: All DAPA members are welcome at all activities and Council meetings! Council meetings are normally scheduled for the fourth Thursday of every month at 10:30 a.m. in the Water Resources Agency conference room at 261 Academy Street, Newark, DE 19716 (Delaware Geological Survey Annex). We also have a call-in facility at (302) 831-6494. For those unable to participate in person or by telephone, we will publish meeting agendas and minutes, as well as other DAPA documents, on the website (www.dapanet.org).

Finally, whether or not you choose to participate in Council meetings, please feel free to send me any other questions, comments, or suggestions!

Jonathan Justice, PhD
President

2012 ASPA Annual Conference



DAPA was well represented when the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) hosted its 73rd annual conference in Las Vegas, Nev., on March 2-6, 2012. Several of our members participated in various aspects of the conference, including presenting their research and accepting ASPA's Chapter Newsletter Award for the **DAPA Public Service Reader**. **Maria Aristigueta**, Director of the School of Public Policy & Administration at the University of Delaware (UD), **Jonathan Justice**, Associate Professor in UD's School of Public Policy & Administration, and UD MPA graduate student **Arthur Wicks** each presented their work in panel

sessions. **Martha Corrozi Narvaez**, UD Associate Policy Scientist with the Institute for Public Administration's Water Resources Agency, accepted the newsletter award on behalf of DAPA. Other Delawareans presenting their work at the conference included UD doctoral candidates Yihsiu ("Michelle") Kung and Qinghua ("Queenie") Nian.

The conference attracts academics, practitioners, new professionals, and students to this engaging and thought-provoking schedule of events. The theme of this year's conference was "Redefining Public Service Through Civic Engagement." The conference agenda was filled with panels, workshops, discussion circles, poster presentations, and keynote presentations with many opportunities for networking, plus tours and mobile workshops that showcased southern Nevada. Public engagement and incorporating social media into public service were resounding themes throughout multiple sessions at the conference.

The conference opening session was held on Saturday and was led by keynote speaker Justin Johnson, Deputy Chief of Staff for the United State Office of Personnel Management. As with so many of the sessions, it was well attended, with an array of public servants seeking to better themselves and learn from leaders in the field.

On Sunday, March 4, Walter D. Broadnax accepted the Elliot Richardson Lecture Series Award and spoke about "Leading Change and Managing Self." In a humble and entertaining manner he talked about leading a major effort change as President of Clark Atlanta University and how it forced him to view change in a different light. In closing, he emphasized the need to be honest with yourself about who you are and what you are willing to really work toward—"which hill are you willing to die on?"

In keeping with the conference theme, Camilla Stivers and Cheryl Simrell King, authors of *Government Is Us*, delivered the Donald C. Stone lecture on Monday morning, March 5. Their topic was the future of civic and citizen engagement in the dawning era of technologically facilitated "Government 2.0." Fittingly, Professor Stivers participated via a Skype link from her home in Maine. Stivers and King focused on the possibilities for meaningful relationships among citizens and between citizens and public officials. They suggested this must involve not just "civic engagement" managed by public officials, but also "active citizenship" through the

exercise of power by citizens individually and in groups. They concluded by pointing out that this will involve decentralization of information dissemination and power, demanding flexibility of public officials and citizens alike, and by posing the question, “How can we promote and design ‘wise crowds’ in the interest of high-quality democratic governance?”

A social highlight of the conference was the welcoming reception, hosted by the University of Nevada–Las Vegas in the courtyard and interior spaces at their new building. In addition to the usual food, drink, and lively conversation with new and old friends, the event featured “Marilyn Monroe” and other celebrities strolling, mingling, and posing for photos with conference goers. There was also a “green screen” photo booth where we could get our pictures taken in juxtaposition with famous Las Vegas sights and landmarks.

The conference concluded with the ASPA Awards Ceremony, which honored several public servants from across the country who have dedicated their lives to public service and have made a real difference in their communities and at which Martha Corrozi Narvaez accepted the Chapter Newsletter Award on behalf of the organization's Delaware chapter.

Next year’s conference will be held in New Orleans, La., and is shaping up to be another exciting and informative event.

—by Martha Corrozi Narvaez and Jonathan Justice



DAPA Receives National Award at ASPA Conference



On behalf of the Delaware Association for Public Administration, DAPA Communications Committee chair Martha Corrozi Narvaez accepts the ASPA Chapter Newsletter Award from ASPA president Erik Bergrud in Las Vegas on March 6, 2012.

During the March 6 awards ceremony at the annual conference of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), held March 2-6, 2012, in Las Vegas, DAPA member **Martha Corrozi Narvaez**, accepted the national society's Chapter Newsletter Award on behalf of the Delaware Association for Public Administration (DAPA)—ASPA's Delaware chapter, one of ASPA's 82 chapters nationwide. As its Communications Committee chair, Narvaez coordinates the online publication for DAPA.

The ASPA awards ceremony honored several public servants from across the country who have dedicated their lives to public service and have made a real difference in their communities. "It was a real honor to accept the ASPA Chapter Newsletter Award in the company of such a distinguished group," Narvaez said. "The award is a nod to all of those who have contributed such interesting content about the great public service work they do."

"I am thrilled that the American Society for Public Administration has honored DAPA as the recipient of this year's Chapter Newsletter Award for our **DAPA Public Service Reader**," DAPA President **Jonathan Justice**.

Justice adds, "In addition to current articles and topic areas, the **DAPA Public Service Reader** has been an important vehicle for our chapter's recent resurgence over the past three years and consistently helps put our best foot forward. I am certain it is one of the reasons we have been able to regain members, add new members, and generate interest among new and old members alike in the chapter and its activities."

About every six months, current and former DAPA members receive a link with new articles about recent activities and topics of interest to public administrators, nonprofit staff, and others interested in promoting public service. Printed articles are available at networking events and professional development activities. Because it is primarily an online production, the *Reader* is easily accessible and encourages viewers to visit other DAPA website pages, including the *DAPA Events* and *Facebook* pages.

DAPA Communications Committee member **Mark Deshon** edits the content and designs and uploads the pages for each issue. DAPA Council Member **Kelly Sherretz** serves as an assistant to Narvaez on the committee.

—by Julia O'Hanlon

photo by Melissa Williams, courtesy of ASPA

University of Delaware School of Public Policy & Administration 50th Anniversary Celebration & Conference



This academic year, the University of Delaware's School of Public Policy & Administration (SPPA) celebrates its 50th birthday, and the school administration wanted to make sure this milestone was feted appropriately. SPPA students, faculty, staff, and alumni came together months in advance to plan an event that would capture the multifaceted fields of public policy and public administration, as well as bringing students, alumni, professionals, and elected officials together to network and exchange career insight and advice. A broad range of public service professionals were represented, including those from the private sector, public sector, nonprofits, governments, and everything in between.

After an hour of networking, the celebration began with a luncheon, featuring a very impressive keynote speech by Tony Allen, a University of Delaware alumnus who is an executive at Bank of America and member of the University's Board of Trustees. He explained how not so long ago, he was an apathetic undergrad who had no idea what he wanted to pursue as a career, but that he had grown up in a family who strongly believed in working hard and helping others. Allen elaborated on the roundabout way he ventured into the private sector, but not before dipping into his background to explain some of his personal career development. Allen was one of the founders of Public Allies Delaware and the Metropolitan Urban League of Wilmington and also worked as speechwriter for now-Vice President Joe Biden. He spoke very highly about the School of Public Policy & Administration, insisting, "Everyone in this room is connected to the greatest academic training ground for public service in our country; don't miss your opportunity to do something with it."



After lunch, the celebrations continued with two sessions of information panels, some of which included:

Career Launch for Undergraduates: Making the Most of Your Undergraduate Education

Panelists:

- Joyce Henderson, *Assistant Director, Career Services Center, University of Delaware (Moderator)*
- Christina Morrow, *Director, Delaware Public Allies*

- Carolyn Petrak, *Communications & Training Coordinator, Center for Community Research & Service*
- Audrey Helfman, *Director, Organizational & Community Leadership Program, University of Delaware*

Careers in Public & Community Service: What's Out There & How to Gain a Competitive Edge

Panelists:

- Julia O'Hanlon, *Assistant Policy Scientist, Institute for Public Administration, University of Delaware (Moderator)*
- Maggie Norris, *Assistant Deputy Director, Westside Family Healthcare*
- Janice Barlow, *Director, Kids Count & Associate Policy Scientist Center for Community Research & Service, University of Delaware*
- Linda Kurtz-Risk, *Development Coordinator, MS Society Wilmington*

The Social Media Revolution: Impact on Public & Community Service Professionals

Panelists:

- Meredith Chapman, *Senior News Editor, Office of Communications & Marketing, University of Delaware (Moderator)*
- Allison Taylor Levine, *Director of Communications, Delaware Community Foundation*
- Roger Hesketh, *Community Engagement Manager, Delaware Public Allies*
- Denée Crumrine, *Manager, Small Business Alliance*

Conversation with Alumni & Partners on Careers in Public Policy Development/Analysis/Advocacy

Panelists:

- Gwen Angalet, *Senior Advisor for Academic Affairs, Nemours Health & Prevention Services (Moderator)*
- Kim Gomes, *Vice President, The Byrd Group*
- Jonathan Kirch, *Government Relations Director Delaware & Philadelphia, State & Local Advocacy, American Heart Association*
- Emily Knearl, *Vice President for Public Policy, Planned Parenthood Delaware, Delaware Division of Public Health*
- Albert Shields, *Delaware Press & Policy Advisor to Congressman John Carney*

Conversation with Alumni & Partners on Careers in the Government Sector – Federal/State/Local

Panelists:

- Ed Freel, *SPPA Director of Service Learning, Institute for Public Administration & Advisor to U.S. Senator Thomas Carper (Moderator)*
- Vince Meconi, *Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, New Castle County, Delaware*
- John Collins, *Campaign Manager, Carper for Delaware & Staff for U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services & International Security*
- Angela Gladwell, *Director, Office of Environmental Planning & Historic Preservation, FEMA/Department of Homeland Security*
- Marcus Henry, *General Manager of Community Services, New Castle County, Delaware*

The event was followed by a 50th Anniversary reception hosted by the school, which was attended by about 300 students, professionals, friends of the school, supporters, elected officials, school staff and faculty, and other special guests.

SPPA Director and DAPA member **Maria Aristigueta** acted as master of ceremonies for the reception, which began with words of encouragement for current undergraduate and graduate students delivered by U.S. Senator Tom Carper. In speaking about the amazing men and women who have come to work for him over the years and then gone on to make huge differences in their communities and for their country, Carper said, “How proud I am of them and how grateful I am to the University of Delaware and to this program for providing them not just for me or our state, but, as it turns out, our nation.”

Included in the proceedings were proclamations from Governor Jack Markell, Lt. Gov. Matt Denn, the State House of Representatives and Senate, the New Castle County Council.



Prof. Aristigueta then invited University of Delaware President Patrick Harker to the podium to say a few words. Following Harker, George Watson, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, spoke about how excited he was to welcome SPPA into the college and how, even in a tough economy, it has been able to bring in four new, highly qualified, and impressive professors to the school. Both Harker and Watson thanked Aristigueta for her leadership of the school.

The programs at SPPA are creating the next generation of leaders and policymakers for our country, and it will be exciting to see what the next 50 years bring.

—by DAPA member Corinne O’Connor

photos by Mark Deshon

DAPA Spring 2012 Luncheon

On Tuesday, April 10th, about 30 public service professionals and students throughout Delaware met at McGlynn's on North State Street in Dover for a DAPA-organized networking lunch. Attendees comprised both DAPA members and non-members, who came hoping to network, reconnect, and/or meet with their fellow Delaware public administrators.

In the past, the DAPA Council had hosted this type of program, and this spring DAPA resurrected this fun, informal luncheon. The DAPA Program Planning Committee identified Dover as the most appropriate site, in hopes of drawing people from all over the state and expanding DAPA membership outside of New Castle County. The Committee chose McGlynn's, due to its beautiful location on Silver Lake and for its delicious menu.

The state and local government sectors were well represented as well as the University of Delaware's Institute of Public Administration. Current and former University of Delaware Legislative Fellows were excited to reconnect with one another, the Housing Coordinator for Sussex County and one of Delaware's Deputy Attorneys General came, and there was even a surprise visit from the State Treasurer Chip Flowers. Graduate students, lobbyists, planners, professors, and policy analysts utilized this informal networking experience and discussed how they are giving back to their state. It was an exciting and diverse mix of students and professionals, who recognize that the commonality of working in public service and the importance of networking are intertwined.

At the conclusion of the lunch, DAPA President **Jonathan Justice** thanked everyone for coming and noted that it was obvious that all there were truly enjoying their time together and benefitting from this networking opportunity. The group expressed a strong desire to continue this type of event, and DAPA looks forward to DAPA members and non-members coming together for the next DAPA-organized networking lunch.

—by DAPA members Corinne O'Connor and Martha Corrozi Narvaez



Supporting Local Governments' E-Government Efforts in Delaware: A Profile of the Municipal Web Developers Group

Local government websites are likely to have a core set of features—links to the municipal charter and the code, council meeting agendas and minutes, a list of contacts, a calendar of events. In the past decade, many Delaware municipalities have gone further, utilizing technology to create unique and customized portals into towns and cities that reflect local cultures, economies, and geographies. Citizens of Smyrna can watch Town Council meetings at home, streamed live through the town website, then sign up for text messages to stay in the loop. Even summer residents of Dewey Beach can monitor the waves any time of day through a web camera trained on the surf. Entrepreneurs in Sussex County can access a web mapping application and layer various zoning maps, council district lines, and tax-ditch-boundary data with simple and intuitive tools. These components demonstrate the promise of e-government to create more participatory communities and better-targeted services.



Carol Spencer, an administrator for Morris County (N.J.) government, speaks to the MWDG about incorporating sound website legal policies.

Much in the spirit of the Internet itself, local government officials and website administrators in Delaware utilized one another as resources for information and best practices to guide planning and decision-making around their website design and strategy. Six years ago this spring, 23 of these public servants came together for the first meeting of what became the **Municipal Web Developers Group (MWDG)**. The goal was to improve web development in local government through support, education, and networking. DAPA member **Mark Deshon**, an Assistant Policy Scientist with the University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration, helped to found the group after having spoken on website applicability for local governments in the fall of 2004 at the Delaware Institute for Local Government Leaders. "It was a grassroots phenomenon," says Deshon. He adds, "The [MWDG] is open to anyone who has either oversight responsibility for or directly maintains a municipal or county website, and the group's most profound synergistic benefit has been its networking component."

Greg Hughes, the director of Delaware's Government Information Center (GIC), was also involved with the MWDG from the beginning. GIC is tasked by the Department of State to use the Internet to meet the state mandate to ensure free and equal access to government information. Hughes notes, "The mission of the GIC is to increase the amount and quality of

government information on the web, and the scope of that is not just state government but local government as well. The MWDG," he says, "provided GIC with an inroad to meeting that mission."

Over the years, GIC has provided increasing support for the group. For many years, MWDG conversations centered on the basics of web hosting: would it be better to find local volunteers or staff to operate self-managed sites on open-source platforms or to pay a vendor for a content-management system? If the latter, should the vendor manage the system or should the town control its messaging more directly? Often the result was that towns had difficulty in keeping the content on their sites updated.



Govolution's Jennifer Alterwitz discusses website electronic-payment options with local government participants at a MWDG meeting in 2010.

Meanwhile, GIC began offering free tools and free hosting for municipalities on its *Delaware.gov* domain, designed on the premise that town size and budget did not have to dictate quality and control. In an effort primarily aimed at boosting participation in the group, Deshon, Hughes, and DAPA member **Win Abbott** (now the Town Manager of Milton) began a tour of the state, to engage directly with town officials and educate them about their options. Today 19 of the 45 Delaware municipalities with official websites operate on the *Delaware.gov* domain, and GIC offers towns free design services and free training for website maintenance. GIC has won national awards for its *Delaware.gov* website and has been recognized for its emphasis on government transparency.

Members also find the collective nature of the group particularly valuable. Dewey Beach

volunteer webmaster Dick Cleaveland says, "The [MWDG] has helped me see the approach that other municipalities have taken in regard to site development and content." For instance, the fact that other towns were starting social media accounts helped Dewey Beach to decide it was time to take the plunge. "As many towns now have Twitter feeds and Facebook pages as had websites just ten years ago, so it has been pretty explosive in terms of the amount of change we've seen in the past several years," noted Deshon.

IPA hosted the MWDG until 2010, when, through a planned transition, GIC became the sponsoring organization. Deshon is happy with the GIC's ability to use its expertise and day-to-day work on communication issues to offer relevant and current information, such as on device use, QR codes and GIS applications: "It is like having brought up a child and seeing that he or she is now healthy, self-sufficient, and on to new things."

—by DAPA member Rachel Linstead Goldsmith

photos by Mark Deshon

Reflections on My Winter Session Experience in Our Nation's Capital

From the moment I found out that the University of Delaware (UD) School of Public Policy and Administration (SPPA) was planning a winter session in Washington, D.C., I knew it was an opportunity I absolutely could not pass up. Last year in April, I applied for the 2012 winter session program along with more than 40 other undergraduate students, and after completing the required application materials and surviving an interview with SPPA instructor and DAPA member **Ed Freel**, I was one of the 20 students chosen to participate in this initial unique winter session experience.

On New Year's Day, we arrived at Graham Hall to pile into a bus that would take us to our home for the next four weeks on Capitol Hill—exactly one block from the Capitol. Our closest neighbors would be the U.S. Supreme Court Justices. Upon arrival, we were stunned. This was a public policy/political science major's dream come true; we really were just one block from the Capitol. As we dragged our luggage into the two side-by-side townhouses, ten boys in one and the girls in the other, it dawned on us that we were going to have an incredible time during the month of January. Our first day in D.C. was spent unpacking, getting to know one another's food tastes, and having dinner as a group at the infamous Dubliner Restaurant & Pub, across from Union Station.

There were several majors represented among the 20 students, including public policy, political science, international relations, communications, and English, as well as some specializations in journalism, Middle Eastern conflict, and education reform. Although it was a diverse group, we shared one big thing in common: we all wanted to make a positive difference in our world, and this experience was going to help us practice our individual skills and talents in offices and organizations that will help make these "differences" a reality.

Every student was assigned to a different internship, taking students to all parts of the city. A few students were chosen to work in congressional offices, others at nonprofits, others at lobbying firms, and others at various organizations that specialized in a specific issue area. I was placed at a nonprofit called Atlas Corps, Inc., an international network of nonprofit leaders and organizations that promotes innovation, cooperation, and solutions to address the world's 21st century challenges. Atlas Corps, whose mission is to address critical social issues by developing leaders, strengthening organizations, and promoting innovation through an overseas fellowship of skilled nonprofit professionals, was founded in 2006 by UD MPA alum Scott Beale, who is currently Atlas Corps' CEO and a true advocate for international social change.



I was fortunate enough to work on several projects with Zach Przystup and Meredith Newmark, Atlas Corps' U.S. Program Officers. One of my peers, Brenna James, also interned at Atlas Corps with me, so it was great having a buddy to take the metro with every day to work. We felt like we were actually doing a "real job."

Three days each week each student spent working full days doing real policy research and analysis. Each week had a different governmental focus, and these tied into the lectures we had on Monday mornings and the site visits we participated in on Fridays.

The first week, we studied the Executive branch. We had a very interesting lecture with UD Political Science & International Relations Prof. Joe Pika, and then the following Friday we were fortunate enough to visit the White House Domestic Policy Council, where we were briefed by Raquel Russell, a Special Advisor to President Obama; then visited the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), where we met with Joe Pika (the professor's son), who tried to explain the complex relationship OMB has with all parts of the Executive branch; and then ended our day at the U.S. Department of Transportation, where Beth Osbourne elaborated on the struggles the transportation system is facing in a rough economy and a gridlocked Congress.



The following week, we learned about Congress on Monday from UD Political Science & International Relations Prof. Jason Mycoff and made site visits to the Republican National Committee and the Democratic National Committee. Other site visits that correlated with the lecture on the Legislative branch included a trip to the Capitol to speak with Elizabeth Hart, Chief of Staff to Congressman John Carney, and Jim Reilly, Chief of Staff to Senator Tom Carper. They gave us great insight about what it's like to work on "The Hill" and their own personal career development. They both made it very clear that if we work hard and are passionate, we, too, could end up with successful careers working with Congress.

The third week focused on the Judicial branch. Our lecture was provided by SPPA Prof. and DAPA member **Leland Ware**, and that week we were briefed by Virginia Seitz, head of the Office of Legal Counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice and also visited the U.S. Supreme Court. The weekend between the study of the Legislative and Judicial branches of government came with a remarkable visit to the Newseum, a relatively new D.C. museum dedicated to the history and advancement of communications technology and the importance of the media. This would become important to us in a couple of weeks.

To incorporate the interests of the international relations students, we made a special Tuesday visit to the Department of State, where we participated in their first-ever agenda briefing for students. We learned about Secretary of State Clinton's goals for 2012, and students were given the chance to ask questions about a range of international issues. That night we were given the special treat of having pizza with Delaware's lone U.S. Representative John Carney. During our casual, informal dinner meeting with Congressman Carney, we were



able to discuss topics that our generation considers the most critical and important policy issues of the moment. Congressman Carney spoke about the incredibly important task of reforming our education and healthcare systems. Many of my peers were surprised that he actually wanted to know our opinions and thoughts about various issues, but having interned for him last summer, I knew firsthand how important it is to Congressman Carney to understand the needs and concerns of those whom he represents. It was really great that he took the time out of his non-stop, busy schedule to hang out with us.

Our last week in Washington focused heavily on the news media, or as some consider it, the Fourth Estate. We had an extremely interesting lecture with UD Prof. Ralph Begleiter, a former CNN foreign correspondent. He shared with us his own personal experiences about how heavily the media influences policy decisions, and how drastically, in his opinion, the news-media climate has evolved over the last two decades into more entertainment than real journalism. We all agreed. That afternoon, we went back to the Capitol to meet with Paul Kane from the *Washington Post*, Emily Spain, Communications Director for Senator Carper, and James Allen, Communications Director for Congressman Carney. They each touched on how they balance the highly polarized, often very critical media and how they work with professionals from the media on a day-to-day basis. It may not seem as prevalent to the average American citizen, but in D.C. it is widely known that the various media outlets are key players when it comes to policymaking and policy decisions.

Some of the other fun things we did on our trip included a trip to the National Zoo with Ed Freel and his wife, a State of the Union get together at the boys' townhouse with Ed and Meredith Seitz (our grad assistant on the trip) and having ice cream with Sen. Carper. We also were able to check out about a dozen restaurants and museums in our free time, and this gave us an even better appreciation for what a marvelous city Washington, D.C., really is.

I asked a few of my peers to comment on their own experiences, and my new friend Matt Garlipp told me his opinion of our trip. "Everything about the trip was amazing," Matt said. "I was very impressed that we could fit so much content and so many experiences in just one short month without feeling rushed or overwhelmed. Overall, though, I would say the biggest impact was feeling reinvigorated and passionate about our nation's political system. Prior to this trip, I was very frustrated and apathetic with our nation's politics. There is still much to be done in terms of improving our government, but after the trip I felt much more positive and optimistic about being able to help make these changes."

Matt summed up what we all felt when we left our winter session home on Friday, January 27. We had experienced something new and special as a group, and our friendships have stayed strong in the months that have followed. I would recommend to any and all students that they take full advantage of this wonderful experience. Not only was it life-changing, but the connections we made and the professionals we had access to are completely invaluable. I am truly grateful I was given the opportunity to be part of this domestic study abroad program, and my time in D.C. has given me what I consider my favorite part of my college career.

—by DAPA member Corinne O'Connor

photos by Ed Freel

Member Spotlight: David Bird

DAPA Council member **David Bird** is Clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, a position he has held since April 2000. The Delaware Bankruptcy Court handles the most “mega Chapter 11 cases” in the country—cases with at least \$100 million in assets and at least 1,000 creditors. He supervises a staff of 75 with an annual budget in excess of \$5 million and six bankruptcy judges. David has served in both the public and private sectors as an attorney and program administrator with the U.S. Department of Justice, a CEO for a financial services company, a bank holding-company officer, an urban planner at the federal and county levels, and an attorney in private practice.



The common thread of his diverse career to date, as he sees it, has been in working with organizations to help them grow and meet the organizational, technical, and customer service needs of their constituencies. He strongly believes that knowledge and work experience is cumulative and can be applied in creative and sometimes unexpected ways, particularly through collaborative efforts. A recent example of this is that, as a result of having taken a course at the University of Delaware this past summer—“Tools for Public Organizations in Crisis”—David, in collaboration with the other Clerks of Court in the Third Federal Judicial Circuit, developed and implemented a program to share resources and staff services throughout the Circuit in order to deal with a critical budget shortfall in the judiciary.

David has a JD degree and an MBA from the University of Miami and a BA in Regional and Urban Planning from Ball State University. In his spare time, he enjoys giving back to his community (City of New Castle), where he serves as Chair of the Planning Commission and has helped set up nonprofit organizations to assist the community’s library and the city in its effort to participate in the National Main Street Program administered by the National Trust For Historic Preservation.

photo courtesy of David Bird



Student Spotlight: Cimone Philpotts

DAPA member **Cimone Philpotts** is currently a first-year Master of Public Administration student concentrating on Public Finance in the University of Delaware's School of Public Policy & Administration. She graduated from Spelman College in May 2011, having received an undergraduate degree in Economics. Cimone was actively involved in undergraduate research with the No Child Left Behind Act and its monetary allocations to Title I schools. The research measured a public school's performance by the amount of funds allocated per pupil. She has passionately and consistently been serving her community since the age of 15 and her drive to serve prevails today. Anyone who comes in contact with Cimone automatically knows, sees, and feels her commitment to public service.

Most of Cimone's volunteer work is with underprivileged African-American females in programs like Poised Pretty in Pink, Girl Scouts, Minorities Achieving Collegiate Success Foundation, and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Growing and Empowering Myself Successfully Program, where she mentors and pushes young girls towards higher education, regardless of the cost, field of study, or their race. During her time spent as an intern with the Department of Veterans Affairs, she started an outreach committee and participated in an awareness initiative, putting together care packages for homeless veterans, assuring them that our nation is keeping its commitment to them.

Cimone is currently a research assistant in two programs in the University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration—the Conflict Resolution Program (CRP) and the Women's Leadership Development Program (WLDP). As a research assistant in CRP, Cimone has completed training in basic mediation and is a certified mediator. With WLDP Cimone has gone above and beyond the call of duty. She saw the need for youth to be able to participate in a program like the one offered by WLDP and has created a leadership-development program from the ground up, to be piloted this month, which is targeted toward high school girls.

As a public servant voluntarily serving her community as well as making a career out of serving her community, Cimone also holds a leadership position on the University of Delaware's Black Graduate Student Association where she serves as a voice for the graduate students of African descent by organizing mentor/mentee relationships, social events, community-service opportunities, professional development programs, and awareness initiatives such as the I Am Trayvon Martin Rally for Justice and Peace. Cimone's life orbits around public service. She is thoughtful, charismatic, honest, as well as organized, committed, and dependable. When you add to that her ambition and desire to do the right thing, these are characteristics of a phenomenal young public servant.

photo courtesy of Cimone Philpotts