Annual Alumni-Student Reception
Great Success
By Courtney Lerch (MPA 2011)

On February 26, alumni, students, faculty, and staff gathered in the City View Room at the Elliot School for the Trachtenberg School’s annual Alumni-Student Reception. The event provided current students with the great opportunity to meet and network with distinguished alumni, including Thad Allen (Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard) and many others. Niki Davila (MPA 2011) noted, “The reception was fantastic. It was great to meet alumni from various years and from so many different career paths.” She added, “The fact that so many alumni made the time to attend says a lot about the long-term impact the Trachtenberg School has on its students.”

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Award for Public Service. This year’s recipient, Allison Gurnitz (MPA 1991), co-owns Coray Gurnitz Consulting, Inc. in Arlington with her husband and business partner, Kevin Coray. Additionally, she is involved in various community service activities including serving as a PTA member at her son’s school and as a member on the board of IBIS, a community-based chamber music organization (see page 4 for more on Allison). The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes alumni for their individual achievements in the areas of public policy and public administration and their leadership in serving the public interest and enhancing the quality of democratic governance, specifically through accomplishments demonstrating integrity and character, professional attainment and achievement, outstanding service to their field, and commitment to the Trachtenberg School.
From the Director

Dear Alumni and Friends of the Trachtenberg School,

This spring has been filled with celebrating the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni (including our 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award Winner, Allison Gurnitz), continuing research and dialogues about fiscal matters, and interviewing for three new faculty positions in the Trachtenberg School.

We will soon name the first Amsterdam Senior Faculty member, and we already have made two excellent hires of junior faculty: Stuart Kasdin and Elizabeth Rigby.

Stuart Kasdin joins the Trachtenberg School with significant experience in federal budgeting and regulatory policy, after having worked as a program examiner and policy analyst in the Office of Management and Budget for over 11 years. He also has experience with international development issues, having previously worked with the Freedom from Hunger Foundation, the World Bank, and as a Peace Corps volunteer. Dr. Kasdin has three MA’s, including one in Agricultural and Resource Economics from UC Davis, and his PhD is in Political Science, from UC Santa Barbara. He has articles published or forthcoming in Public Administration Review, Journal of Public Budgeting and Finance, and California Journal of Politics and Policy.

Elizabeth Rigby is a political scientist whose work examines the role of politics in shaping social, health, and education policy at the federal, state, and local levels. Her research has been published in a range of inter-disciplinary journals including: Health Affairs, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Policy Studies Journal, Political Research Quarterly, and Social Science Quarterly. She has also published pieces in briefs published by policy organizations including the National Conference of State Legislatures, Center for the Study of Social Policy, the National Center for Children and Families, and the Southern Rural Development Center. Dr. Rigby holds a BA in Political Science from Emory University (Atlanta), a MA in Education from Washington University (St. Louis), and a PhD (with distinction) in Politics and Education from Columbia University. She was selected as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholar, for which she received post-doctoral training in population health at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Our Regulatory Studies Center, under the direction of new faculty member Susan Dudley, has already enriched the learning environment for students and faculty with speakers such as Sally Katzen, Margaret Spelling, and Marcus Peacock at the “Noshing with Notables” sessions. The Center has also funded an internship for our students in OMB’s Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

While we thought that student interest in our programs could not be higher than the record set last fall, the number of applications for fall 2010 soared once again. With over 900 applications for our masters programs and over 200 for our PhD program, selecting from among so many qualified applicants was harder than ever. We will soon see how well we planned for yet another large incoming class!

Warmest Regards,
Kathy Newcomer
Director

Success of Capstones Continues

By Kathryn Newcomer, Director, Trachtenberg School

The Capstone experience has always been an integral part of education at the Trachtenberg School, and we have continued to devote effort to making the best educational experience available to students. Dr. Lori Brainard continues to teach the Public Administration Capstone course, and Dr. Rita Hilton has been brought on part-time to teach the Public Policy Capstone course.

We’re excited about what’s happening in these courses that have long been both the culminating experience of professional education and an important platform for community service. The Trachtenberg School’s revamped website will incorporate a link for clients to put forth potential Capstone projects. Capstone curricula underwent review over the past 18 months, and innovations have been put in place. The MPA Capstone course has expanded time for groups to work on projects, and the MPP Capstone includes seminar time on teams in the workplace. Students in both Capstones have the opportunity to work out the challenge of finding a client and defining a manageable project scope.

Note to alumni: If you have an idea that might potentially work as a Capstone project, please let us know!
Professor Jennifer Brinkerhoff has participated in each of the three annual Civil Society Days (CSD) of an international policy process concerning migration and development. An extension of a United Nations High Level Dialogue, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is an inter-governmental meeting that addresses policy coherence related to migration management and migration implications for development. From the outset, and with funding support from the MacArthur Foundation, the first hosting country, Belgium, created a precursor event to assemble diverse representatives of civil society to consider the GFMD agenda and inform the inter-governmental dialogue with a civil society perspective that would include examples of best practice and concerns for constituencies. As a new initiative, the learning curve has been steep and after two years of experience (last year in Manila), this year’s Civil Society Days in Athens (November 2-3, 2009) included a roundtable on the future of the Civil Society Days of the GFMD. Professor Brinkerhoff participated in the planning and delivery of that roundtable. While deferring to civil society representatives in the actual discussions, Brinkerhoff first raised a host of concerns in the planning for that session that she hopes will inform the next event to be held in Mexico in 2010.

In short, deliberation is not occurring. Not surprisingly, each year seems to result in a laundry list of ideas that is submitted to the participating governments but, for all practical purposes, falls into a void. When recommendations from civil society are specified, no effort has been made to track governments’ response during their deliberations, let alone subsequent policy changes. These outcomes, coupled with the challenges noted above, help to explain why governments may not be inclined to respond to the outcomes of the Civil Society Days.

This year’s Civil Society Days yielded several recommendations to the organizers to try to improve the impact of the event for the future, including the structuring of a steering committee that includes representatives of the various civil society subgroups alongside the existing international experts and organizers; a request to know the government agenda further in advance so that interested parties can begin deliberative processes at local and national levels prior to the international assembly; and mechanisms for monitoring the impacts of CSD policy recommendations and for sustaining the process of dialogue and deliberation continuously, rather than once a year.

The Civil Society Days of the GFMD have been a great experiment in state-society relations on a global scale. Concerned members of civil society have been given an extraordinary opportunity to assemble and potentially influence national and international policies. The GFMD is scheduled through 2012, after which time it may be folded back into the United Nations, continue on in some form, or possibly cease to exist. Looking forward to Mexico and the subsequent meetings in Spain and Morocco, Brinkerhoff’s hope is that the continued experimentation will begin to bear fruit in time for the Civil Society Days to be institutionalized prior to the next iteration of structures to address global policy coherence surrounding migration and development.
Alumna Spotlight: Allison Gurnitz (MPA 1991)
with Courtney Lerch (MPA 2011)

Courtney Lerch: What brought you to GW and what interested you in the MPA degree?

Allison Gurnitz: While I was an undergrad at Michigan State, I had a summer internship in D.C. where I worked with a group that did research on workforce trends at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. While there, I became intrigued with how government organizations work and really wanted to find an opportunity to return to D.C. after graduation. A colleague of mine at HHS knew Kathy [Newcomer] and suggested I talk with her about the MPA Program. That’s more or less how I ended up at GW, where I focused on organizational behavior and development.

CL: How did your GW experience help your career advance to your current position as co-owner of Coray Gurnitz Consulting?

AG: It was invaluable. Kathy [Newcomer] and Cynthia McSwain were great mentors to me. Cynthia really encouraged me to take organizational behavior and other related classes, which have been so helpful over all of these years. While I was at GW, and after I had left HHS, I started working with Kevin Coray on various consulting projects while I worked toward completion of my degree. At the time, I really thought it was an interim step and could not have imagined that we would grow the company together.

CL: How have you stayed involved with the Trachtenberg School community?

AG: We have been recruiting consultants and interns from GW for many years. A few years ago, Kathy [Newcomer] asked me to speak to her Public and Nonprofit Program Evaluation course. I really enjoyed the experience and have spoken to her classes ever since. I also serve on the Trachtenberg School Advisory Board. I had a wonderful experience at GW and I am happy to contribute my time whenever possible.

CL: What is a typical day like for you?

AG: I split my time between doing consulting work and managing the company. I do not want to give up consulting and I am fortunate that I can balance the two. Everyone at the company has their individual consulting responsibilities and we share much of the internal work. I honestly can say that I look forward to going to work every day and having a positive impact on our clients.

CL: Congratulations on your company being recently named one of The Washingtonian magazine’s “Great Places to Work!” Can you reflect on this honor?

AG: We were so excited to receive the award in November. It was particularly special for us because it coincided with our 20th anniversary. There was quite a process for applying for the award and I never imagined we would win given all of the companies in D.C. In the end, it was so thrilling to receive recognition for our 20 years of hard work. We are so grateful for our amazing team, all of whom are truly dedicated to our mission of helping organizations deliver on their public promise.
Career Development Services Update

By Niki Davila (MPA 2011)

Spring 2010 was a busy semester for Career Development Services (CDS) at the Trachtenberg School. Starting in February, CDS began sending out monthly emails containing important information about events happening each month. The purpose of these emails was to allow members of the Trachtenberg community to get an overview of events for the month in one place and be able to mark their calendars early for events in which they were most interested.

In addition, the weekly career forum that was instituted last fall continued this spring, moving from Friday afternoons to Monday afternoons. Some of the forum topics included interviewing techniques and tips, a resume and cover letter workshop, and a LinkedIn workshop. Just as in the fall, the career forums were often followed by informational sessions with prospective employers, which included organizations such as Deloitte Consulting and the Social Security Administration. During the semester, Deloitte also came to campus to interview several Trachtenberg first year students for their Summer Scholars Program.

The end of February brought CDS’s fourth annual Networking Week. It concluded with the Alumni-Student Reception, at which Allison Gurnitz (MPA 1991) was presented with the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award (see cover and page 4). The reception allowed current students, alumni, members of the Trachtenberg School Advisory Board (leaders in the field of public policy and public administration), and faculty members the opportunity to meet and mingle with one another.

For the second year, the Trachtenberg School was one of five schools to co-sponsor the Public Service Career Expo in New York City held on March 11. The expo is NYC’s premier public service focused career fair, and it allowed attendees to speak with hundreds of employer representatives from every corner of public service. On the same day, Trachtenberg students attended the annual Opportunity Knocks Career Fair at GW hosted by the Elliott School of International Affairs.

On April 24, Capstone Presentation Day allowed graduating students to wrap up the semester and their time at the Trachtenberg School. MPA and MPP capstone teams presented their projects and findings to a group of students, faculty, and over 30 alumni. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

Alumni interested in becoming more involved with career activities, programs, or with the Trachtenberg School in general are invited to contact Paul Binkley, Director of Career Development Services, by email at pbinkley@gwu.edu or by phone at 202-994-8475.

Recent Graduate Employment by Sector
6 months out (January 2007–August 2009)

Recent Graduates

Public

Non-Profit

Private

Further Education

Note: Dollar figures represent average salary range for given sector.
* Includes Certificate of Nonprofit Management Alumni
Student Board News

By Bryce McNitt (MPP 2011 and PPSA President) and Dominique Harris (MPA 2011 and MPAA President)

Spring semester 2010 got off to a great start as the new PPSA/MPAA Student Boards planned a variety of events for the student body. This semester we enjoyed several traditional events which have been very successful in previous years, such as Spring Fling, a semi-formal event in the Elliott School’s City View Room, as well as numerous other social and volunteer programs. We also aimed to increase student participation within the Graduate Public Affairs Council of D.C. (GPAC), given our new Student Board position which coordinates directly with GPAC.

In addition to traditional events, the boards also planned several new events, including a Haiti relief fundraiser. As of this writing, the boards are determining whether the event will occur before the end of the spring semester or be on the agenda for the fall. The event will feature informal roundtable discussions on various policy aspects of disaster relief and development aid for the country of Haiti. The boards plan to donate proceeds from the event to an aid organization. The Student Boards are also excited to unveil a completely new website that will combine both the MPAA and the PPSA websites into one Trachtenberg School Student Organization site. The revamped website will feature more interactive capabilities to engage current students as well as alumni and prospective students.

As we continue our hard work, we would like to thank the outgoing board for their very helpful assistance during our transitioning phase and for leaving such an active and effective Student Board tradition.

Photo Courtesy: Courtney Lerch

From left to right, MPA students Katie Willoughby, Dominique Harris, Jordan Schulman, and Courtney Lerch at Spring Fling.

STUDENT BOARDS

MPAA Board Members
Dominique Harris—President, University of Pennsylvania
Chelsea D’Angona—Vice President, University of Southern California
Andrea Leung—Treasurer, Oberlin College
Kaitlin Welborn—Communications Coordinator, University of Pennsylvania
Claire Mahoney—Events Coordinator, The George Washington University
Shannon Burke—Professional Development Coordinator, University of Missouri
Justin Heineman—Volunteer Coordinator, University of California Santa Cruz

PPSA Board Members
Bryce McNitt—President, University of Minnesota
Megan Bourke—Vice President, Indiana University
Kerry Kooi—Treasurer, Cornell University

Andrea Brian—Communications Coordinator, University of Indianapolis
Candice Wu—Events Coordinator, University of California San Diego
Erin Bankey—Professional Development Coordinator, Pennsylvania State University
Caitlin McKeown—Volunteer Coordinator, College of St. Benedict

GPAC Representative
Daniela Chacon Arias—Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador

PhD Liaisons
Daniel Coogan—MPP, The George Washington University
Sarah Ficenec—MPP, Johns Hopkins University
Megan Hatch—MPA, Cornell University
Diana Hincapie—Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Columbia
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA’s) National Stakeholder Forum was an opportunity for the public to participate in the formulation of NOAA’s long-term strategy, that is, to take a fresh look at the major trends and challenges facing the nation, and stimulate our best thinking on how NOAA might respond. NOAA can succeed in this type of strategic thinking only with the full engagement of its staff and our stakeholders—the extensive community of partners and collaborators in the public, private, and university sectors that contribute, directly and indirectly, to NOAA’s mission.

The event was the capstone of a series of stakeholder forums held across the nation, all directed toward the development of NOAA’s “Next Generation” strategic plan. The purpose of the National Forum was to present participants with some of the high-level conclusions we have drawn from consultations NOAA has held throughout the country, to solicit input on the direction NOAA has begun to craft, and to begin working with stakeholders on developing a shared understanding of the most important objectives NOAA should seek to pursue over the next five years.

The day-long forum was introduced by NOAA’s Administrator, Dr. Jane Lubchenco. A marine ecologist and environmental scientist, Dr. Lubchenco has studied marine ecosystems around the world and championed the importance of science and its relevance to policy-making and human well-being. A former president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the International Council for Science, and the Ecological Society of America, she served 10 years on the National Science Board and has informed multiple U.S. Administrations and Congress on climate, fisheries, marine ecosystems, and biodiversity.

MPP Student Making a Difference in Peru

While most Trachtenberg School students spent the spring 2010 semester studying, working, and shoveling snow in D.C., MPP Candidate Aimee Reeves was thousands of miles away working in the more temperate climate of Cuzco, Peru. After starting her MPP in the fall of 2009, she found a listing for a spring internship in Peru through Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), a research organization that evaluates development program efficacy to influence development policy. Aimee knew that although she would miss a semester at GW, she could not pass up the opportunity to return to Peru, where she previously spent over two years working for a NGO between 2007 and 2009.

A native Peruvian family.
Bill Adams

Bill Adams is currently in tropical Kuala Lumpur on his Fulbright semester teaching organization theory and management at the University of Malaya. Students and faculty colleagues there have been warm and welcoming.

Steven Balla

Steven Balla wrote two articles on the Catholic Church in China for the Catholic News Agency upon returning from his Fulbright in China. The pieces detail the “Catholic Church with Chinese Characteristics” and some of the implications of the one-child policy, respectively. Dr. Balla also attended and made a presentation at a meeting at the Center for Technology in Government at the University of Albany. The meeting, entitled “Building a Sustainable International Digital Government Research Community,” was the capstone of a three-year, NSF-funded project in which Dr. Balla collaborated with colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic on e-democracy research.

Jennifer Brinkerhoff

Jennifer Brinkerhoff has been advising and training personnel about engaging with diasporas for development at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. State Department since July. This has included the following: a presentation and discussion on diaspora engagement with the Office of Policy and Planning, U.S. State Department; a formal presentation entitled “Diasporas and Conflict Societies: Conflict Entrepreneurs, Competing Interests, or Contributors to Stability and Development?” at USAID’s Center for Conflict Mitigation and Management; a training at the Foreign Services Institute on “Diaspora Engagement 101: State and AID” at the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center; and a training for State Department country desk officers on “Diasporas and Diaspora Engagement.”

In October, Dr. Brinkerhoff was invited to participate in an Economic and Social Research Council (United Kingdom) research workshop on “Explaining Diaspora Politics,” where she presented “The Diasporan as Political Entrepreneur: The Diaspora Advantage and Theoretical Implications” at the University of London. In November, she organized a panel on diaspora philanthropy at the annual meeting of the Association for Researchers on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) in Cleveland, Ohio; she presented “Diaspora Philanthropy: How is it Different and What Fosters It?” Also in November, Dr. Brinkerhoff presented “Diaspora Engagement with Fragile States: Lessons and Prospects” to the World Bank.

Perhaps most notably, Dr. Brinkerhoff was selected as a delegate to the Civil Society Days of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Athens, Greece, in November (see page 3).
David Brunori
David Brunori recently contributed to the article “Experts evaluate property tax system” in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Stephanie Cellini
Stephanie Cellini has a paper titled “Financial Aid and For-Profit Colleges: Does Aid Encourage Entry?” forthcoming in the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management. She also presented the paper “The Labor Market Returns to Private Two-Year Colleges” (coauthored with Latika Chaudhary) at Harvard University’s Labor Economics Workshop in December.

Dylan Conger
Dylan Conger has the following forthcoming publications: “Immigrant Gateway Type and the Immigrant Paradox” (with Trachtenberg School doctoral student M. Atwell) in Is Becoming an American a Developmental Risk? and “Age of Entry and the High School Performance of Immigrant Youth” (with A.E. Schwartz and L. Stiefel) in the Journal of Urban Economics. Dr. Conger also presented her research on bilingual education and served as a discussant at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management annual meeting in D.C. in November.

Donna Lind Infeld
Donna Lind Infeld, MPP Program Director, recently published a review of the book Evidence for Policy and Decision-Making by George Argyrous in the journal Public Organization Review. In November, she was invited to speak on Public Service Education in the U.S. and China to the All China Youth Federation Delegation sponsored by The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation.

Kathryn Newcomer

In October, Dr. Newcomer made presentations on three panels at the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) 2009 Annual Conference in Washington D.C. She spoke on “Measuring Outcomes in Public Affairs Programs,” “How to Make Effective Use of External Advisory Boards: Findings from AGB Survey,” and on “Innovation in Universities.” She was also invited to give a speech at the Bush School of Public Service at Texas A&M University in October, where she spoke on “Improving Performance in the Federal Government: What Next?” Additionally, Dr. Newcomer was recently asked by GW President Knapp to co-chair a committee focusing on Improving Business Operations in the University. This committee is working through the academic year to identify recommendations for improving business processes that affect student, staff, faculty, and alumni experiences with the university. During the fall semester, she also chaired the Promotion and Tenure Committee for the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences.

Scott Pace
Dr. Scott Pace recently testified before both the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology and the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Before the committees, Dr. Pace highlighted the increasingly international efforts taking place in space and theorized what kind of future the U.S. could have in space within this new context.

Marvin Phaup
Marvin Phaup organized and moderated panel discussion on the effects of the recession on the federal fiscal outlook at the Trachtenberg School’s forum on the fiscal future in September. Also in September, he presented “Budgeting for Disasters in OECD Countries” (with Charlotte Kirschner) at the Washington Conference of the Association for Budget and Financial Management.

Dr. Phaup addressed the American Society for Public Administration Conference at the University of Nebraska in Omaha in October on the case for federal budget reform. In November, he participated in a forum sponsored by Academy of Government Accountability and George Mason University on Revitalizing Research and Teaching in Government Financial Management, and he also was interviewed on the problem of the national debt on West Virginia (Charleston) Metro News Radio. Dr. Phaup also recently served as a consultant to the Pew-Peterson Commission Report Red Ink Rising that was released on December 14, 2009. He also completed final revisions to “Budgeting in the United States,” (with Charlotte Kirschner) forthcoming in Comparative Budgeting. In March, Dr. Phaup delivered the Sandridge Memorial Lecture to the Virginia Economics Association.
Steve Redburn has been directing a study of the long-term federal budget challenge for a joint committee of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Public Administration for the past two years. The study report, “Choosing the Nation’s Fiscal Future,” was recently published. It is available in book form from the National Academies Press and can be downloaded free from a new website established by the National Academy of Public Administration, www.ourfiscalfuture.org. The report recommends early action to stabilize the federal debt within a decade at no more than 60 percent of the Gross Domestic Product, illustrates the many paths by which the debt could be stabilized and a potential fiscal and financial crisis avoided, describes possible reforms to make the budget process more forward-looking, and lists six tests than anyone can apply to the President's budget or alternative proposals to judge whether they are prudent under current circumstances. Additionally, this year he will be directing a new National Academy of Sciences study of immigration enforcement and consulting on budget reform.

Gregory Squires

Gregory Squires has had several recent engagements based on his book The Integration Debate: Competing Futures for American Cities (with Chester Hartman). In October, the authors held a book signing and reception at GW. In November, the authors presented the book at both “A Continuing Talk on Race” at Busboys and Poets, and at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Other recent presentations by Dr. Squires include “Foreclosures—Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow” at the Anton/Lippitt Urban Conference at Brown University and “Does Fringe Banking Exacerbate Neighborhood Crime Rates? Social Disorganization and the Ecology of Payday Lending” (with Charis Kubrin and Steven Graves) at the Sixth Annual Consumer Federation of America Consumer Advocates’ High-Cost Credit and Payday Loan Summit.

Dr. Squires additionally has several recent publications. These include “From Redlining to Reinvestment: Economic Justice Advocacy, ACORN, and the Emergence of a Community Reinvestment Infrastructure” (with Jan Chadwick) in The People Shall Rule: ACORN, Community Organizing, and the Struggle for Economic Justice; “Segregation and the Subprime Lending Crisis” (with Derek Hyra and Robert Renner) in the Economic Policy Institute EPI Briefing Paper #244; and “Payday Lending’s Steep Cost Isn’t Just in Fees” (with Charis Kubrin) in American Banker.

Christopher Sterling (SMPA)

Chris Sterling recently had The Concise Encyclopedia of American Radio published. Dr. Sterling served as one of two senior editors for this nearly thousand-page book, the content of which was drawn from but also updated from his 2003 Encyclopedia of Radio, which won an American Library Association reference book award. This spring Dr. Sterling is teaching a new combined grad/undergrad special topics class on international radio broadcasting. The class surveys the history and current status of government and other services intended for audiences in other countries (than the one originating the transmission). Dr. Sterling and his students are exploring the many reasons for such services: war, propaganda, cultural transmission, communicating with expats, and promoting religion.

Stephen Trachtenberg

Stephen Trachtenberg, President Emeritus, taught “The University Presidency in America” during the fall semester. He also had “Of Course It’s Not Your Father’s Oldsmobile—They Don’t Make Them Any More,” Graduate Education in 2020: What Does the Future Hold?” and a commentary in The Chronicle of Higher Education published. President Emeritus Trachtenberg recently served as a speaker at Oswego University, the Georgetown School of Business 2009-2010 MBA Leaders Series, the School Without Walls Gala Dinner, BIF/Business Innovation Factory, the Historic Society of Washington Author/Lecture Series, GW Colonial Masonic Lodge, GW Colonials Weekend, the 2009 National Veterans Day Concert.
the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, and the Scottish Rite Scholarship Recipients Dinner.

President Emeritus Trachtenberg additionally served as a participant at the 26th International Churchill Conference and at the IAUP Presidents Retreat; as a panelist for the National University Board of Trustees Blue Ribbon Panel and the ACE Leadership Network on International Education; as a presenter at the TIAA-CREF Institute of Higher Education Conference; and as Chair of the Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee.

**Michael Worth**

Michael Worth has his book *Leading the Campaign* forthcoming for publication by the American Council on Education.

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**Alumni Updates**

*Compiled by Courtney Lerch (MPA 2011)*

**Jennifer Auer (MPP 2005)**

Jennifer Auer began Arizona State University’s PhD program in Public Administration in the fall of 2008.

**Robert Bailey III (MPP 1984)**

Robert Bailey was elected President and CEO of Peoples Community Bank in Montross, Virginia in February 2009. He additionally serves as President of the King George, VA Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Bailey has also served as Chairman of Children’s Home Society in Richmond, VA.

**Brian Beckmann (MPP 2007)**

Brian Beckmann serves as a Vice Consul at the U.S. Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela.

**Tracy Bement (MPA 1999)**

Tracy Bement received a promotion in July 2009 to be the District Court Administrator for the 10th Judicial District of Georgia, which covers over 20 counties in the state.

**Adrianne Berman (MPP 2009)**

Adrianne Berman recently had a paper she wrote for Professor David Brunori’s PAd 249 class published. Her article “Can Local Governments Get Through A Recession When State Aid Is Cut?” was published in *State Tax Notes* in June 2009. It has since been quoted by Professor Henry A. Coleman of the Public Policy Program at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey in “State Government Finances: Outlook for New Jersey and Implications for its Local Governments.”

**Hernán Charosky (MPP 2007)**

Hernán Charosky was appointed as Director of the Citizen’s Participation Office of the Executive Branch in Argentina on February 1, 2010. The organization is one of the first in Argentina created to oversee the government and strengthen its democracy and accountability system.

**Audra Clark (MPA 2008)**

Audra Clark gave birth to a baby girl, Adelle Lynn, on December 31, 2009. “Addie” weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces and was 20 inches long.

**Ben Daniels (MPP 2006)**

Ben Daniels married Karla Sirianni Daniels on August 15, 2009 in Marion, Massachusetts. Mr. Daniels will finish law school at Boston College this spring, and Mrs. Daniels, a 2007 GW graduate, is pursuing a master’s degree in Clinical Psychology at Northeastern University.

**Alison Deeb (MPA 1988)**

Alison Deeb is a councilwoman for the 4th Ward in the Town of Morristown, New Jersey. She is the first Republican to be elected in her ward in 15 years, and this January she was elected as Council Vice President despite being the only Republican on the town council. Her interests include environmental issues, animal welfare, the arts, and tax and pension reform.

*continues on page 12*
Lee Edgar (MPA 2004)

Lee Edgar recently passed a licensure examination to become a Professional Engineer in Maryland. He also received the 2009 Maryland Quality Initiative (MdQI) Award of Excellence for Public-Agency In-House Environmental Design. On October 29, 2009, Mr. Edgar traveled to Ames, Iowa to speak on the application and performance of pervious concrete. He also served as a guest speaker on sustainable stormwater management design at the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council (CCLC) annual conference held at GW on December 4, 2009.

Diana Coben Einstein (MPA 2004)

Diana Coben Einstein along with her husband Heath and two-year-old daughter Levyn welcomed baby girl Adielle Emma into their family on October 25, 2009. Diana is currently the Associate Program Director at Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, Texas. She also recently published an article in the Union for Reform Judaism’s Torah at the Center.

Brinille Ellis (MPA 1994)

Brinille Ellis will complete her three-year assignment as a General Services Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Istanbul this summer. Ms. Ellis will then return to D.C. for a year of Urdu language and Public Diplomacy training in preparation for her assignment as the Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Lahore, Pakistan.

Marshall Ellis (MPA 2005)

Marshall Ellis was promoted to Managing Director of Business and Fund Development at CrisisLink in November 2009.

Richard Gallagher (MPA 1993)

Vice Admiral Richard Gallagher currently serves as the U.S. Military Representative to the NATO Military Committee. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Deputy Commander, U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. He has also worked with NATO before, as Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Policy. He has held various other esteemed positions in the Navy, including service in operational tours in various fighter squadrons and carrier air wings. Vice Admiral Gallagher has received the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal (two awards), Legion of Merit (four awards), Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards), NATO Meritorious Service Medal, and various service decorations.

Gabriel Gershowitz (MPP 2005)

Gabriel Gershowitz graduated from Columbia Law School last May, then took and passed the New York bar examination. In the fall of 2009, he served as a Foreign Law Clerk to the Supreme Court of Israel. He most recently began working as an associate.
focusing on mergers and acquisitions and private equity deals at the New York-based law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP.

**Erin Grizard (MPP 2004)**
Erin Grizard recently joined the California practice of The Dewey Square Group in Sacramento as a Principal working with clients on energy policy at the legislative and regulatory levels.

**Mike Hawthorne (MPA 2007)**
Mike Hawthorne, his wife, Kirstin, and their sons Owen and Derek welcomed baby boy Kyle Joseph into their family on December 1, 2009.

**Andrew Hoffman (MPA 1998)**
Andrew Hoffman is currently working at the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A), within the Department of Homeland Security. He is in charge of developing plans and policies to integrate and coordinate the Department’s varied intelligence activities. Mr. Hoffman is engaged, and his wedding is scheduled for October 2010. He recently traveled to Merida, Mexico and experienced Chichen Itza, one of the wonders of the world.

**Timothy Klein (MPA 1986)**
Timothy Klein recently received two awards at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). One was from Secretary Ray LaHood for Mr. Klein’s outstanding support of the DOT Transition Team; the second was the Research and Innovative Technology Administration’s (RITA) Administrator’s Leadership Award, the highest honor given by DOT/RITA. Mr. Klein is also a member of the Trachtenberg School Advisory Board.

**Julie Nicholson Knausenberger (MPA 2007)**
Julie Knausenberger worked for JBS International Inc. from May 2007 through June 2009 as a Research Analyst/Consultant for social service programs. She married Cephas Knausenberger in August of 2008 and they moved to Chicago in August of 2009. Mrs. Knausenberger is currently in her first year of the social work program at University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration. She hopes to combine her MPA with a MSW to conduct direct client work and affect policy change in the area of mental health, hopefully at a VA hospital. Her first year internship is at Salvation Army Family and Community Services, where she is a counselor working with a wide variety of clients and groups.

**Alex Lawson (MPA 2009)**
Alex Lawson recently took a new position as the Communications Director for the Project to Defend and Improve Social Security.

**Zachary Miller (MPA 2009)**
Zachary Miller recently started a new job as an associate at Community Science in Gaithersburg, MD. Prior to this position, he worked at the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. On his last day there, the agency hosted the first Coordinating Council meeting for the Obama Administration. Attorney General Eric Holder chaired the meeting and Secretaries Sebelius (Health and Human Services), Duncan (Education), Solis (Labor), and Director Kerlikowske (Office of National Drug Control Policy) all attended.

**Danielle Noll Moon (BA 1994/MPA 1996)**
Danielle Moon was recently selected as a member of the Senior Executive Service (SES), at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency that oversees the Medicare and Medicaid programs. She is the Director of the Medicare Drug and Health Plan Contract Administration Group, which is responsible for oversight of private health plans that deliver Medicare benefits to nearly 11 million beneficiaries. She joined CMS a little more than 13 years ago as a Presidential Management Intern just after she received her MPA. Mrs. Moon also received a JD from the University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Law in 2003, and she is a member of the Maryland Bar. She resides in Baltimore with her husband, Mark, and two sons Aidan (6) and Colin (3).

**James Nicoll (MPP 2007)**
James Nicoll is pursuing a MS in Biohazardous Threat Agents and Emerging Infectious Diseases at Georgetown University.

**Ray Oman (DPA 1983)**
Ray Oman teaches Public Administration at Strayer University and recently participated in organizing a Student Public Administration Association at the University’s Arlington Campus. He also recently interrupted his full Public Administration teaching schedule at Strayer to accept a short-term position as an Administrative and Financial Analyst on-site contractor with a bureau of the Department of Justice.

**Aaron Otto (MPA 1993)**
Aaron Otto, Assistant State Treasurer in Kansas, has had a wide variety of career experiences since finishing his GW degree. As a former legislative liaison to the Governor of Kansas, he handled policies dealing with the Kansas Highway Patrol, the Adjutant General’s Department Division of Emergency Management, the Department of Agriculture, the Governor’s Homeland Security Council, the Midwest Governors Association, Kansas Mentors, and the Kansas Board of Regents. Prior to these positions, Mr. Otto...
served in the Pentagon and
sea rotations both inside
and outside the Navy and in
the Office of the Secretary of
Defense. During his time in
Washington, D.C., he served as
Special Assistant to the As-
sistant Secretary of Defense,
on the staff of the Com-
mander of the Atlantic Fleet,
in the immediate office of the
Secretary of the Navy, and as
the Shipbuilding Section Head for the Chief of Naval Operations
overseeing an annual budget formulation of over $15 billion.

**Summer Ramke Pachman (MPA 2003)**
Summer Pachman works as a contractor at GAO evaluating
the use of stimulus funds in New York. She lives in the New York
City metro area with her husband, Eric, and 2-and-a-half year old
son, Asher.

**Ashley Palmer (MPP 2009)**
Ashley Palmer has been working with Embry Howell at The
Urban Institute since early 2009. They are grateful to GW for
introducing them.

**Michael Parks (MPA 1994)**
Rear Admiral Michael Parks of the U.S. Coast Guard is the Deputy
Director of Operations for Headquarters, U.S. Northern Com-
mand (USNORTHCOM). The Directorate of Operations serves as
the principal advisor to the USNORTHCOM Commander on all
operational matters, providing strategic guidance to plan and
execute NORTHCOM missions including land, maritime, and
Homeland Defense air operations as well as Defense Support to
Civil Authorities.

**Jillian Pevo (MPA 2009)**
Jillian Pevo serves as associate director of legislative affairs at
the National Association of Federal Credit Unions. Her boss, Dan
Berger, teaches graduate communications classes at GW.

**Ethan Pollack (MPP 2008)**
Ethan Pollack recently represented the Economic Policy Institute
in a debate against the Heritage Foundation and the Committee
for a Responsible Federal Budget on fiscal policy and long-run
debt issues. The event was sponsored by YPNation, a group that
focuses on policy issues as they relate to young professionals.

**Kristin Cormier Robinson (MPA 1997)**
Kristin Robinson recently took an appointment with the Admin-
istration as Advisor to the Administrator, Federal Emergency Man-
agement Agency.

**Anna Staton (MPA 2002)**
Anna Staton will serve as Public Health Fellow to the U.S. Senate’s
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee on Children
and Families during 2010. Following the fellowship, she plans to
return to her role as a public health advisor in the Science Policy
Branch at the National Institute on Drug Abuse. She currently
resides in Baltimore with her husband and two stepdaughters.

**Matthew Tisdale (MPA 2007)**
Matthew Tisdale joined the office of California Public Utilities
Commission member Dian Grueneich in January. Matthew will
be Commissioner Grueneich’s advisor on energy policy, including
implementation and evaluation of California’s landmark energy
efficiency programs.

**Samara Weinstein (MPA 1992)**
Samara Weinstein was recently profiled in *Washington Jewish Week*
for her involvement with the Hadassah Leadership Academy and
Girl Scouts.

**Yiling Wong (MPP 2008)**
Yiling Wong recently got engaged. She works at the King County
OMB in Seattle, Washington.

**Bob Wurster (MPA 1997)**
Bob Wurster was recently appointed Chief of Financial Policy and
Internal Controls at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.
Mr. Wurster’s daughter is a student at Vanderbilt Medical School
and recently came very close to meeting Taylor Swift, and his son
recently graduated from Virginia Tech and is employed as a
survey statistician at the Census Bureau.

**Ken Yellis (MPA 1987)**
Ken Yellis recently published “Fred Wilson, PTSD, and Me: Reflections on the History Wars” in *Curator.*
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