

Arlington Campus' First Student Newspaper

The Stylus



Volume 1 Issue 1
stylus.onmason.com
Summer 2010
Start Something.



Building a Community

The Stylus

Summer 2010: What's Going On?

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The Stylus

**Arlington Campus' First Student Newspaper
The Inaugural Edition**

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The Stylus is a free publication.

**GEORGE
MASON
UNIVERSITY**

Welcome to *The Stylus*

Editor's Note: The First Step

It is always difficult to take the first step. However, as you slowly start walking, those steps become a steady jog. Then, a sudden burst of energy comes.

You start running.

In the distance are the crossroads of opportunity. It is here where you have to make a critical decision.

To the right is the road you came on.

You know that road.

To the left is the path leading into the unknown.

I came to these exact crossroads back in February. With only that in mind, I made the choice of going into the unknown with a vision of establishing the first ever student-run Arlington campus newspaper.

The purpose of *The Stylus* is twofold: It aims to bring a sense of community to the George Mason University Arlington Campus as well as to engage its students in the School of Public Policy (SPP), the School of Law, the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR), the MBA, MPA and Arts Management programs and others.

This publication represents an Arlington Campus that has not been seen before with discussion of events and initiatives on campus and around the metropolitan area; information on critical resources, such as Career Services, the libraries and the bookstore; opinion pieces; significant interviews with faculty and staff about the various schools and programs at Arlington; and messages from the SPP student government — all in a unified voice to serve you, the community. *The Stylus* provides an opportunity for you to know what the campus is doing and to help create what it *could* be doing.

With *The Stylus*, Arlington Campus students now have the means to write and participate in the campus dialogue and create something extraordinary. Those willing to share and contribute their own talents will help create the community this campus needs to become sustainable.

No matter what you do, always remember it starts with just that first step.

Meet me at the crossroads and, as a community, let us walk together.

Maria Habib

Editor-in-Chief, *The Stylus*

Maria Habib graduated in May with her Masters in Public Policy, after starting in fall 2007. Ms. Habib hopes that The Stylus will help students have greater participation in Arlington Campus activities.

The Legacy of Dean Haynes

A fond farewell

Maria Habib and Ryan Dunn

For twenty years Dean Kingsley E. Haynes has guided George Mason University's School of Public Policy. Dean Haynes will be retiring from this position in July, and Dr. Edward Rhodes will take his place. In an interview with *The Stylus*, Dean Haynes discusses how the School of Public Policy started, what makes it stand out and what his legacy as the first and only Dean of this remarkable program is.

The Stylus: Here's the million-dollar question . . . Why are you leaving?

DH: I am not [leaving]. I am stepping down as dean. I am going to be coming back as a faculty member, so I will be here for another few years, anyway. But, I have been the dean here for 20 years, so I think I have done my duty as dean . . . I want to go back and be a regular faculty member.

The Stylus: When you first started with George Mason University, did you ever envision the School of Public Policy to be as it is now?

DH: Yes, the entire purpose was to build it and expand it.

The Stylus: What was the School of Public Policy like when it first started out? It started out as an institute, correct?

DH: It was an institute and what we had was a Ph.D. program for public policy students only. And we built it from there. Normally these kinds of programs are built from the bottom up, [but] we built

it from the top down. We have more of a focus on research in this program than you do in a lot of other programs in public policy.

The Stylus: How did creating the School of Public Policy come about?

DH: There was a university group put together in the mid-1980s. And they wrote a set of statements about the desire of the university to put together a public policy program. And then a fellow by the name of Joe Fisher, who had been head of Resources For the Future, had been a congressman, had worked for one of the governors, was on the staff here helping President Johnson (who was the previous president), and what he did was get the people organized for a public policy to execute that program to the faculty and outline.

The Stylus: What do you think makes the School of Public Policy stand out in comparison to the different schools, such as the School of Public Administration or the School of Public Affairs?

DH: I think we have a very strong international component that we always foster. We also have a very strong research component . . . about two-thirds of our budget comes from grant contract activities that we are highly involved in, so a lot of funding comes in that way. And we have executive education

and a variety of other things that help support the funding of the school. In fact, the National Science Foundation (NSF) does a ranking every year to look at research activities (R&D activities) by different discipline groups, and we fall in the one in Political Science, and as a consequence, this school ranks number one in the country. So we are pretty proud of that.



Photo Courtesy of Andrew Schappert, Web Specialist, School of Public Policy

The Stylus: Why are there two different campuses for the program? Why is the SPP not in one place?

DH: Well, we started . . . in Fairfax, Va., with the Ph.D. program and then we took over a masters program, which existed in something called the International Institute . . . There was a masters in something called International Transactions and it was having some difficulties. The university was thinking of getting rid of it. So we took it over, re-built it from scratch and focused in the area of international commerce and policy and

that's what kind of grew out of it.

The Stylus: Do you think the goals during your tenure here have been fulfilled? What goals do you have for the SPP in the future?

DH: I think our first goals from the beginning have been fulfilled. Right now we have a lot of international activities, but I would like to see them grow. Yet we don't want to spread ourselves too thin. We have opened up George Mason study centers in New Delhi, India, as well as in China. Yet we are not very developed in the fields of Africa or South Africa.

The SPP needs to be better integrated within [Mason], and the SPP Medical and Health policy should be expanded.

I look forward to the construction of the new SPP building in Arlington. One problem with the SPP program has been that we have been split between two campuses, Fairfax and Arlington Campus. We have to have headquarters in one place, so by next January we will be moving to the new building in Arlington.

The Stylus: Any advice or thoughts you have for students at SPP?

DH: I want them to be able to provide leadership so they can provide benefit analysis or writing analysis in their jobs; they will need to have these skills in order to be valuable to an organization. About 50 percent of our graduate level stu-

dents go into the federal government and the rest go into other areas.

The Stylus: What's your favorite thing about being dean?

DH: Dealing with faculty. We have a great group of faculty here. And they are just so exciting to work with and work in a lot of different areas. They are very active, [which] makes it a lot of fun.

The Stylus: What advice would you leave to the new dean, Dr. Rhodes?

DH: I would say we should continue our focus as a professional campus. At the graduate level, 30 percent of students are full time, and 70 percent are students part-time. We hope to get it to 50/50 because it would utilize faculties better.

Thank you, Dean Haynes, for your leadership and service to the School of Public Policy! You will be greatly missed as dean, but we look forward to having you as a part of the faculty. We wish you the best in your future endeavors in research and in teaching.

Finding a Career

Career Center has many resources for job-seeking students

Ryan Dunn
Stylus Correspondent

The George Mason University School of Public Policy offers a large scope of career services. Duane Bradshaw, director for Career Development and Alumni Relations, provides assistance by directing workshops and information sessions each semester.

The SPP Career Center manages an online job search and recruiting tool, SPP JobNet, which provides a listing of job and internship opportunities, employer data and information on other professional development resources.

"All jobs we receive go directly into the job database," said Bradshaw. "We collaborate with the Fairfax [Mason] campus. I would recommend that students sign up for accounts in both the Fairfax HireMason (formerly PatriotJobWeb) and SPP JobNet."

The Career Center can be used to gain specialized resources for specific industries and companies. The career section of the SPP website provides listings of professional associations, NGOs, international, state and local governments. JobNet's search engine can also be tailored to the needs of the students.

"Soon we will be adding a job section or search for Ph.D. students," said Bradshaw.

In addition to its workshops and JobNet, the Career Center has the advantage of connecting with the SPP Alumni Association network.

"We have 1,400 alumni who have stated they are interested in helping other students and alumni in career search and information interviews," Bradshaw said. "We also have a career fair at the Arlington campus once every spring. These job fairs are designed for companies seeking to employ graduate degree students. This year, we had 30 companies come to the Arlington campus for the job fair."

The main goal of the Career Center is to provide resources and personnel for students to achieve whatever career goal they have for themselves. To promote this, the Career Center of the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR) and the SPP Career Center share resources and communications.

The Career, Academic & Alumni Services for the School of Law acts separately, as students there seek jobs requiring a legal background. Yet ICAR and SPP collaborate on certain programs. The students' career counselors can direct them to resources SPP may be more familiar with.

"[Students in] the MPA program at [Mason] and other graduate level students can feel welcome to attend these job fairs and résumé clinics," said Bradshaw.

Soon Arlington will welcome a new dean for the School of Public Policy, Dr. Edward Rhodes.

Bradshaw is very optimistic about this change in administration: "We had a 45 minute block to speak with Dean Rhodes as a candidate, who said both career and alumni relations will be priorities."

SPP recently hired a new assistant for their career center, Heather Wright, who serves as the SPP Career Center assistant director. Both the dean and Career Center thought it was necessary to add another person to the office.

"I am looking forward to the upcoming semesters ahead," said Bradshaw. "I realize the changes in the market are causing difficulties in seeking employment. Yet I think we [the Career Center] will be able to provide new avenues for students and alumni on the job hunt."

Founders Hall to Reshape Campus

New building will open for classes in January 2011



PHOTO BY ANNABELLE OMBAC

Construction junction, what's your function? Founders Hall will open for classes in 2011.

Sean Joyce

Stylus Correspondent

A giant, shiny building has appeared in the heart of George Mason University's Arlington Campus, between the Original Building and Hazel Hall. Watching the construction over the past two and a half years has left many students wondering if they will ever actually step foot in this state-of-the-art facility. For students taking classes in the spring of 2011 or after, the answer is yes.

The seven-story building, known as Founders Hall, will open for classes in January 2011 and will be the new home of Mason's School of Public Policy. The building will also contain space for the School of Law.

In addition to 256,000 square feet of office and classroom space, Founders Hall will provide a garage containing 160,000 square feet of much needed parking space. The building will include a new and improved library, bookstore and auditorium, as well as an Einstein Bros. Bagels.

A large public plaza will be located in front of the building and will link the

campus to the local community. Kathleen Q. Johnson, George Mason University's assistant vice president for Regional Campuses described the space.

"The new plaza will be a wonderful location for university and Arlington County activities; the county and Virginia Square residents have been active in helping the university to develop the plaza and community spaces and I believe that the experience has been highly rewarding for all involved," said Johnson.

According to Tom Calhoun, vice president of Facilities, the project has now reached a cost of approximately \$85 million.

Founders Hall is nearly 85 percent complete and is expected to be ready for occupancy around November. Once complete, some units will begin moving from the various buildings of the Arlington Campus to their new space in Founders Hall, though classes will not be held in the building until Spring 2011.

The occupancy of Founders Hall will impact all of the existing buildings

of the Arlington Campus. As units move into the new building, some units in the other buildings will be shifted. Units currently in the Original Building that are not moving into Founders Hall will relocate to the Truland Building on the corner of Washington Boulevard and Kirkwood Road.

The university plans to decommission the Original Building in an effort to move toward the final phase of a three-part plan for developing the Arlington Campus.

The first phase, Hazel Hall, which houses the School of Law, was completed in 1998. Founders Hall is the second phase. The third phase includes the construction of a new 750,000-square-foot building on the site currently occupied by the Original Building.

ODKM Students: Forging Close Ties to Campus Community

SPP program makes unique “executive cohorts”

Silvia Villacampa
Stylus Correspondent

The Master of Science in Organization Development and Knowledge Management (ODKM) Program is one of the School of Public Policy’s smaller programs, with a unique “executive cohort” format. Students in cohorts begin their studies at the same point and complete courses in sequence in approximately 18 months.

The program focuses on effecting transformation and change in organizations. Program adviser Nancy Dunham said students follow a timeline that starts in the fall and lasts a year and a half. Each year, ODKM welcomes a cohort of about 40 students.

Dunham estimates that an even higher percentage of ODKM students work full-time compared to SPP students overall. Generally, the School of Public Policy strongly emphasizes prior work experience during the application process and rarely admits undergraduate students who have just graduated.

Cohorts take their classes every other week on Friday evenings, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., and all day Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Carlos Soles is part of Cohort 14 and expects to graduate at the conclusion of the fall 2010 semester. Like most students at the Arlington Campus, Soles works full-time and attends the school part time. He is a capacity building specialist at the U.S. Office of Minority Health Resource Center in Rockville, Md. and provides training and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations and community-based programs across the country.

Both Dunham and Soles describe ODKM as an intensive experience both inside and outside of the classroom. Part of the intensity is due to the “strong social component of being part of a cohort,” said Dunham.

Day-long classes on Saturdays mean sharing lunch and dinner with other students. For this and other reasons, ODKM students may have the strongest ties to the Arlington Campus and community when compared to other SPP students. Students in other SPP programs “are nice and also shy,” said Soles. “They look like they are here to accomplish their goal without time for much else.”

Soles said many in his ODKM cohort live, work or volunteer in Arlington. In addition, because of the long stretches of time spent at the Arlington Campus, students of the program make ample use of the campus resources and local restaurants.

For example, Soles explained that his cohort has a long-standing relationship with El Pollo Rico, a Peruvian rotisserie chicken restaurant across North Fairfax Drive on North Kenmore Street. Students in his cohort frequent the restaurant and the restaurant in turn has provided catering for ODKM events.

Soles noted that ODKM students make heavy use of the library and classrooms during the week for meetings, and says he would appreciate “more communal spaces and space for students to get together.”

According to Dunham, ODKM students participate enthusiastically in SPP open houses and during orientation events, sharing their experiences with prospective and new students. “They are very willing to talk about the program and how excited they are about it,” she said.

For more information on the Master of Science in Organization Development and Knowledge Management program, visit their website at:

<http://policy.gmu.edu/Home/AcademicProfessionalPrograms/MastersPrograms/OrganizationDevelopmentKnowledgeManagement/tabid/106/Default.aspx>

Interview With An ODKM Student

Soles also participated in a Q&A with *The Stylus* about his experiences in the ODKM program.

Q. What do you think are the goals of the ODKM program?

Soles: To develop the professional capacity of students to become better agents of change when they work with organizations. ODKM provides tools, knowledge and experiences that enhance the quality of the work being done by an organization.

Q. What do you think about the community on the Arlington Campus?

Soles: I am happy to find lots of smart people with different multicultural backgrounds actively engaged in changing the world from their organizations.

Q. Do you consider ODKM a leadership program? What about the program makes it noteworthy?

Soles: From my viewpoint, I do see this as a leadership program. You learn to apply new knowledge in order to empower yourself. At one level, the ODKM program has helped me learn more about myself and what motivates me in my current position. I have also learned to see more clearly which aspects of different work environments are motivating for individual work styles.

At another level, ODKM has helped me understand how others interpret my own behavior in the workplace. By participating in the ODKM program, one can realize how easily our actions can be misrepresented or misinterpreted in the workplace, or any other situation for that matter. I learned to recognize that each of us has a unique set of values and filters for interpreting people’s behavior and that by being a bit more reflective and mindful, I was able to appreciate the different ways that our behavior can be interpreted.

I was surprised how my behavior was interpreted in different contexts and with different team members. Throughout the ODKM program, I obtained specific and mindful feedback from our faculty and especially from my peers and cohort participants about our own behaviors in groups, teams or as individuals, and I used this feedback to improve my performance at work, in my social life and at home.

Q: How do you feel the program has prepared you for your future career and professional goals?

Soles: In my opinion, ODKM students are good at recognizing different learning and working styles of people in organizations; by engaging in team group activities, we are able to understand our similarities and respect our differences in workplace environments, which allows us to develop better work practices and increase effectiveness and efficiency in our organizations.



Make sure to pack light...

Up in the Air

Students make plans to study abroad

Sean Joyce
Stylus Correspondent

The fall semester is rapidly approaching and students have begun considering studying abroad. According to Michal McElwain Malur, director of External Programs for George Mason University’s School of Public Policy, students “typically start planning to attend a year in advance.”

The first trip offered for the upcoming school year will be to Singapore and India. The trip will take place during winter break. Students who took part in the program last year studied trade and development.

Students will also have the opportunity to go to Mexico over spring break. Last year’s trip focused on transnational

management and trade.

At least two summer trips will also be offered. One to Oxford centered on Britain and its relationship with the European Union, and one to China where students will learn about China’s recent growth as an economic and political power.

The trips for next year will be confirmed at the start of the summer semester.

The most recently completed program took place in Mexico during spring break. Students experienced the country’s rich history and culture by visiting colonial palaces and the remains of ancient civilizations.

In addition to hearing from business leaders about Mexico’s economic potential, students witnessed pervasive income inequality. Masters in Public Policy student,

Kyle Miller described traveling to areas not normally seen by tourists: “Squatter villages stretched as far as the eye can see, and people are living in abject poverty,” he said. “This was very disturbing considering that the U.S. is right next door.”

As part of the activities centered on politics and government, students were also given the unique opportunity to meet Mexican President, Felipe Calderon.

For students considering studying abroad, Miller said, “I would recommend this trip to anyone — with or without a particular interest in Mexico. You will have a new appreciation for their country when you return home.” *This article was written in Spring 2010. Since then, there have been two successful trips to South Africa and Oxford.*

ICAR Offers Students a Tight-Knit Network

Keep your friends close, keep ICAR closer.



The ICAR building looms above.

Ryan Dunn

Stylus Correspondent

One of the more unique schools at George Mason University's Arlington Campus is the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR). ICAR has several academic programs: undergraduate, masters, doctoral and a graduate certificate.

"ICAR is smaller than the other George Mason schools, and it does not have as many staff and students," said Graduate Admissions and Student Services Director Erin Ogilvie. "At the Masters of Science program we have 260 students, and 97 Ph.D. students in total. The admissions program is keeping the ICAR community small because they want small class sizes and a cohort feel to enhance the student experience. It is like a bou-

tique program, a stand-alone unit with a director instead of a dean but we function as a small school [that] has a dean."

Ogilvie has worked for the school since June of 2006. Although it is a smaller school, ICAR has a functional career center [that] services its students and alumni.

"ICAR has a community network [that] is an online social network, a Ning.com site," said Ogilvie. "This is a closed environment for ICAR. These networks are separate because they have very different structures. Some ICAR alumni attend events, but there is not much of an active alumni chapter, rather, it is more of an involved network."

"Each semester there are résumé clinics, and I join Duane Bradshaw to review résumés and offer recommendations," said Ogilvie. "This service is open to SPP and ICAR students. We collaborate mostly with the SPP students. There are occasions when students need specific information so one career center worker will call [his or her] respective career center."

"I meet once a month with other student directors at the Law School and the School of Public Policy, and we meet with Lori Cohen,

University Life director for Arlington Campus. Then we meet other representatives to discuss what we are doing on the departmental level," she continued.

"Many of our events are open to the entire Arlington community. The primary challenge for student interaction is that many of the students are working full time and they then come to take courses late in the evening. Also, each school has its own community. Students identify with their unit more than their campus. When we speak with Lori Cohen, we try to find events where all the students can come together, because . . . the structure can be compartmentalized."

"I think things have been getting better over the past four years, with events such as the Pizza and Perspectives events, which Lori Cohen initialized; students can get together and talk about topics that are of interest to the ICAR, Law and SPP students. There were about three events this spring semester, and they were all successful."

Inside the ICAR building



PHOTO BY ANNABELLE OMBAC

'With Your Left Hand...'

Event helps students master networking, dinner etiquette

Silvia Villacampa

Stylus Correspondent

Over 80 alumni, faculty and students attended the Arlington Campus Graduate and Professional Etiquette Dinner on March 26. The three-hour event organized by University Life involved business etiquette and protocol trainers Nancy R. Mitchell and Lawrence P. Dunham from Protocol Partners.

Based in Washington, D.C., the company's services include protocol, cross-cultural and etiquette education; management and staffing of distinguished visitor programs, ceremonies and events; confidential protocol advice and counsel and protocol resources.

Part one of the evening was a reception, during which Mitchell and Dunham gave tips and tricks for networking and moving around a reception in order to meet new people. Tips included consciously separating yourself from any colleague accompanying you.

At the end of the reception, the hosts of 12 tables were announced and each person had to "network [his or her] way to a table."

Each table had a Mason administrator or school alumnus as the host with seating for six guests.

During the two-hour dinner, the trainers provided extensive guidance on place settings and dining etiquette for business meals. Mitchell and Dunham circulated during the dinner with microphones and answered questions about proper dining protocol. For example, they explained the differences between the American, or "zigzag," method of eating, and the European or Continental style.

American etiquette begins with the fork in the left hand. After a piece of meat or other food is cut, the knife is placed down on the plate and the fork switched to the right hand before the food is eaten. Afterwards, the fork goes back to your left hand. In the Continental style, considered more efficient by the hosts, the fork always remains in your left hand while resting, cutting or eating, and the knife remains in your right hand to push food or while at rest.

The event allowed attendees to learn and polish their dining etiquette in order to focus

less on food and more on getting to know people, networking and being sociable. Still, it was apparent that Mitchell and Dunham did want people to enjoy themselves. In addition to teaching etiquette, their message was that when one is genuine and relaxed, one can be more effective at networking and building relationships with newfound colleagues.



PHOTO BY SILVIA VILLACAMPA

Lawrence (Larry) Dunham, associate, Protocol Partners; Lori Cohen, Ph.D., director, University Life & Campus Relations (Arlington Campus); Nancy R. Mitchell, co-Owner and founding Partner, Protocol Partners

Fukuyama Gives Keynote Address at SPP Alumni Dinner

One last goodbye to Dr. Francis Fukuyama



Dr. Francis Fukuyama discusses American Exceptionalism at the SPP Alumni Dinner. Also pictured, Sarah Bonner, SPP Alumni Association President

Adam Tabaka

Special to The Stylus

The School of Public Policy (SPP) Alumni Chapter sees its mission as ensuring that the best aspects of the Mason experience are available to students long after they graduate. Through awards recognizing SPP faculty, students, and alumni for excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service and its communication efforts, the chapter keeps alumni in the know about SPP-sponsored academic and career-advancing events. Throughout the year, it organizes gatherings like the Signature Event to knit all of us together in the pursuit of actionable knowledge and advancement.

More than 175 alumni, students, faculty and staff were in attendance for this year's Signature Event.

"The Signature Event provides a unique opportunity for the SPP Alumni Chapter to connect former and current students," says SPP Alumni President Sarah Bonner. "This year's dinner was the largest yet and calls attention to the growth of community on campus. When students graduate, we help them to stay connected to the resources and

community of SPP. The professional network can be just as valuable as the degree."

This year's keynote speaker was American philosopher, political economist, and author Dr. Francis Fukuyama. Fukuyama is the founding director of the School of Public Policy's International Commerce and Policy (ICP) program.

The Signature Event was the official farewell for Fukuyama as he leaves the D.C. region for the West Coast. A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to him at this special event. Fukuyama's speech, titled "American Exceptionalism: Then and Now" was an insightful presentation that provided an enlightening discussion for all in attendance. As part of the Signature Event, several SPP students and faculty were honored.

Andro Gigauri and Behnaz Bonyadian were presented this year's SPP Alumni Chapter Distinguished Student Awards and Professor Mark J. Rozell was presented the chapter's Distinguished Faculty Award for his participation in and support of many chapter activities.

A version of this article can be found in the April 2010 SPP Currents.

An Interview with Dr. Rozell

Anne Abbott
Stylus Correspondent

This year's recipient of the SPP Distinguished Professor Award went to Dr. Mark Rozell. Dr. Rozell is currently teaching a section of Public Policy (PUBP) 700 and an elective course on Religion and Public Policy. *The Stylus* recently got the chance to ask him a few questions regarding both his award and his life at the School of Public Policy (SPP).

The Stylus: What do you like best about Mason's School of Public Policy?

Dr. Rozell: I value the interdisciplinary approach of SPP. Until I came here in 2004, I never realized just how much I would appreciate working in a policy program with colleagues from various disciplines. It makes for a vibrant atmosphere. Faculty learn from each other and students benefit enormously from this approach.

SPP has a highly successful program because of the good leadership, collegiality and terrific staff here. Despite the differences among colleagues in fields of specialty, people here work together cooperatively. SPP is one of the rare academic environments where there is almost no factionalism, backbiting and other such nonsense that plagues much of academia. It's a great environment where people can focus on their work and do what they do best.

If you are contemplating taking a class with Dr. Rozell next semester, you might be interested to know that he does play

favorites. I next asked Dr. Rozell the most obvious question you can think to ask a professor:

The Stylus: What is your favorite class to teach?

Dr. Rozell: My favorite class right now is a special topics seminar, "Religion and Public Policy." I have especially enjoyed leading a seminar on "Media and Public Policy." Naturally, like all faculty, I get the most charged up about teaching subjects directly related to my own research.

The Stylus: How do you view the professional environment at SPP?

Dr. Rozell: I'm fortunate to be surrounded by some really impressive colleagues. I like that Jeremy Mayer is a solid scholar, enthusiastic teacher, and he also keeps things light and real around here. I like people who are talented but don't take themselves too seriously.

I am also thrilled watching some of the newer faculty here energize the place in different ways. Keep an eye on Mike Fauntroy; at a remarkably young age, he has soared to a very high level in the competitive world of political analysis. He puts his research out in the public in a way that teaches the broader community about the important findings of political science. Very few academics can do that.

This article was originally written in spring 2010. Please check with SPP for the fall 2010 course schedule if you are interested in taking a class!

Tips for Winning

Anne Abbott
Stylus Correspondent

Dr. Rozell was not the only award winner at the Signature Event. SPP students Andro Gigauri and Behnaz Bonyadian took home the coveted Distinguished Student Awards. Andro graduated this past May with his Masters in Public Policy (MPP), while Behnaz is a current MPP student focusing on Global Governance and International Institutions. So what does it take to get this honor bestowed upon you? Well lucky for you *The Stylus* has established a way to prepare yourself for next year's award.

Step 1: Like your professors

Both Gigauri and Bonyadian expressed their relationships with their professors as reasons for their success at SPP.

Bonyadian focused on the effect professors have had on her overall experience: "I have had a great first year both academically and personally with my professors."

Gigauri was happy to name Dr. Rudder as one of the reasons for his success. "She has a reputation as being a tough professor," he said. "And a tough professor she is, but I [learned] the most in her class. She pushes me to the edge. That makes me want to learn more."

Step 2: Get involved on campus

Bonyadian highlighted that she thought volunteer experience on top of her full-time course load and work

schedule was what set her apart from the rest of the award nominees.

Gigauri spoke of the importance of having a community at the Mason Arlington Campus and of contributing to this during his time as a student here.

Step 3: You've got to have goals

Gigauri will be graduating this spring and plans to join the Republic of Georgia civil service. He says leaving Mason will not be easy but he sounds more than enthusiastic about his future plans.

Bonyadian has some time left at Mason: "I look forward to achieving my masters degree, as well as establishing great connections with professors and fellow students. I hope to continue my career in policy making and analysis at a international organization," says Bonyadian.

The Stylus wishes the both of them the best of luck in their endeavors and congratulates them on their remarkable achievement!

This article was originally written in Spring 2010. Andro Gigauri graduated this past May with his Masters in Public Policy. Behnaz Bonyadian is still a student in the MPP program.

An Economist's Vision of a Jobless Recovery: Setting Sights on a "Technotopia"

Economist muses on cause, solutions to jobless recovery

George Mocharko
Stylus Editor

Fairfax, Va.— V, U, W, L. The first slide of Tyler Cowen's presentation on the recent financial crisis appeared as if it were an eye doctor's chart.

Cowen explained these letters are actually shapes that appear in economic data graphs during a recession, mentioning that the current pattern is in the shape of an "L."

The March 29 event, part of the George Mason University Vision Series, captured the imagination and attention of over 250 Mason community members in attendance at the Center for the Arts. For Cowen, an author, economist and media contributor, the jobless recovery appeared to be a natural progression of many complex factors.

"People think that there is some big recession that started in 2007, and in 2006 things

were great," Cowen said. "This entire decade there has been no job growth at all."

Cowen claims that what has taken place since 2007 is different than what happened after the Great Crash of 1929. During this recession, "a lot of people are underemployed — but there are those worse than unemployed...who say 'No, I've given up!'" and are categorized as discouraged workers.

Cowen also said, "40 percent of those unemployed have been unemployed for over half a year. We're not used to [a recession] being so persistent and lasting so long."

In his presentation, Cowen noted a trend showing that younger people are waiting longer to get married. As with jobs, "people are searching more, and they care about the quality of a match," he said.

So where is the money coming from now for consumption?

According to Cowen, access to cheaper resources now means things can get done quicker for less, even as the labor pool dwindles. Those earning less than \$12,000 per year have an unemployment rate of more than 30 percent, compared to the 3.23 percent faced by top earners.

With labor jobs going to India and China, what of our labor force?

"People in the eighties blamed the problems on Japan; in the last decade, we blame it on China," said Cowen, who compared our shedding of labor jobs to the recent trading of several prominent members of The Washington Wizards who were let go to save on the pay of their exorbitant salaries.

Cowen thinks innovations like Twitter are useful towards creating jobs and making innovations in the marketplace happen, even if they have not quite

figured out a way to make a profit yet.

Yoanna Ganeva, managing director of Mason's Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science (ICES) Program Lab, enjoyed Cowen's approach to the complexities of the financial crises, and was interested in his ideas of "ways to integrate the immigration issues our country faces as part of helping our economy's recovery."

Cowen ended his lecture by speaking about John Stuart Mill, and his concept of the "Stationary State" introduced in 1848 and the "techno-utopia" of the recent past decade.

For Cowen, technological changes are

imminent. He said we are already living in a "technotopia" with the advent of the Internet, blogs and cell phones. So, job seekers be warned: the job revolution of the future will be created by the innovators of today.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TYLER COWEN
Dr. Tyler Cowen lectured at Mason's Vision Series Event on March 29.

Does Journalism Need a Blood Transfusion?

Panel of experts address deepening crisis facing old media

George Mocharko
Stylus Editor

The news media is on life-support and beginning to flatline.

Tremendous ad revenue losses, spurred by a public who increasingly refuse to pay for content, has resulted in consumers being less likely to view traditional media as an authoritative source on all matters.

Not so fast, indicate the speakers at Transforming Journalism: The State of the News Media 2010, held at The George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs (SMPA).

The March 29 event, sponsored by The Newseum and the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, explored the current state of the media coinciding with the release of the "State of the News Media" report.

The opening panel discussion, moderated by former George Mason University professor and current SMPA Director Dr. Frank Sesno, offered insight into journalism's future by stating that the news media

can weather the storm but "hand wringing" will not help.

Among the charges held against the mainstream media is an increased trend towards partisanship.

Tom Rosenstiel, director of Pew's Project for Excellence in Journalism, noted that "the news is more of an argument and less of an authoritative finished product." Rosenstiel continued, "Just in the last couple years we've seen a rise in distrust [in the media] again . . . much of it actually from liberals who think that the press has become more biased than they were."

The merging of entertainment with hard news isn't going away any time soon, either.

"You have to regard yourself as putting on a show," said Tina Brown, former editor of *The New Yorker* and founder of *The Daily Beast*. The major enemy that we all have is time famine. Make them pay attention. If they didn't read anything, you failed."

"Never before in human history has so much information been available to so many

people, so quickly," said Dr. Sesno. The information overload leaves consumers of media with many options of finding out information, yet there is no consensus on what the day-to-day news events really mean.

Jim Brady, president of Digital Strategies for Allbritton Communications and a panelist at the GW event, sees mobile phone content as the next big undeveloped territory. Yet it seems the news media are preparing for these changes by focusing on increasing their own reach through mobile media, news aggregators, blogs and Twitter feeds, rather than leading the way by innovating new ways of distribution.

"If you are looking at like traffic alerts and weather alerts [while you're] approaching 495 and the phone [tells] you that you're about to approach a huge traffic jam, maybe you ought to make a left," said Brady. "I mean, if I got saved twice a year by those alerts, I'd pay a pretty good chunk of change for it."

The information provided by social, or "new" media, cre-

ated by loosely connected citizen journalists, offers a taste of what the new media model may look like. Yet there is an interesting counterpoint to this shift.

"When do we stop calling it new? I've been doing what I've been doing for 10 years," said Ana Marie Cox, *GQ Magazine's* Washington, D.C. correspondent. The mainstream media dominates the debate about itself by framing its competitors as a passing trend, yet it usurps those ways of distribution to further its own ends. Without the media to determine what is on the agenda, perhaps the public is better suited towards deciding what should be on the day's agenda.

"You can't assign a citizen journalist to do something; they have to want to cover it," said Cox.

The pay-per-story model, announced by *The New York Times* this year, could change the way we consume news, yet there is likely to be a resistance towards paying for content online by consumers who have been reading it free online for years.

Falling revenue streams

face not only corporate news outlets, but the public ones as well. The news media is "wounded in that area, but not killed," said Vivian Schiller, president of NPR news during the event's keynote speech.

"The losses suffered in traditional news gathering in the last year were so severe . . . they overwhelm the innovations in the world of news and journalism," said Schiller.

Yet Schiller ended her keynote with an optimistic message to the students attending about how the future of the news media will occur: "You will be the ones to create what those of us [who] have brains that are just too old will ever figure out."

Mercatus Center Flourishes Under Mason Alumnus

Renowned professor of economics talks to *The Stylus*

Ryan Dunn
Stylus Correspondent

Tyler Cowen's professional career developed and centered on his experiences at George Mason University. In 1983, Cowen achieved a B.S. from George Mason University in Economics. He then went to Harvard University for both his graduate and Ph.D. degrees, also in Economics.

He worked until 1989 as an assistant and associate professor of economics at the University of California, Irvine and then returned to Mason. In 1998, Mason Provost David Potter appointed Cowen as general director of both the Mercatus Center and the James M. Buchanan Center for Political Economy. In 2000, Dr. Cowen was named the Holbert C. Harris Chair of Economics. He also serves on the Mercatus Center's Board of Directors.

Dr. Cowen has enjoyed the chance to help create an exciting intellectual environment at the Mercatus Center. "We have been at George Mason University for over 30 years and it has been a fruitful relationship," said Cowen. The center largely

focuses on economics, so its studies cover many areas in relation to law and public policy. According to its website, the Mercatus Center is "a university-based research center [that] works to advance knowledge about how markets work to improve our lives by training graduate students, conducting research and applying sound economics to offer solutions to society's most pressing problems."

The Mercatus Center's information and research can be beneficial to students in many programs at George Mason University. In addition, students also have access to the information supplied by the research center, and the ability to apply for scholarship opportunities.

Recent Mercatus research has focused on Africa, which Cowen described as a "major issue" because of the continent's high poverty levels. He would also agree with the idea that wealth and prosperity bring democracy.

Up Close and Personal

Now and then: a profile of the Mason School of Law



PHOTO BY ANNABELLE OMBAC

Walking by the Mason School of Law, you can't miss it.

Daniel Jeskey
Stylus Correspondent

The still silence that I had expected turned out to be a studious low hum of students collected in small groups. It perforated throughout the hall upon entering George Mason University's School of Law.

The School of Law resides in a uniquely shaped, four-story building sitting at the corner of Mason's Arlington Campus. Within its hallowed walls sits Christine Malone, the director of Student Academic Affairs. Malone, a graduate of the School of Law in 2000, was a law clerk for two years for Fairfax Circuit Court Judge Leslie M. Alden (also a Mason Law alum) and practiced litigation after that at Richards, McGettigan, Reilly, & West. She moved back to Mason in 2004 to assist the Career Services office and to support the school's second-year Legal Research, Analysis and Writing program. She also co-taught an appellate advocacy course and worked in the alumni office before holding her current position for the past three years.

Mason's School of Law was actually started as the International School of Law by Dean John W. Brabner-Smith in 1972, and was originally located in Washington, D.C. The International School of Law relocated to Arlington, Va. in 1977 and in 1979, there was a push to merge with Mason. The School of Law, which once resided in the Original Building where the School of Public Policy is now located, integrated with the rest of the programs later that year. In January 1999, it moved across the parking lot to a new building in Arlington (later named Hazel Hall), which contains four stories of classrooms and administrative offices, a three-story library and two levels of parking.

The school contains upwards of 800 students, and the incoming class last fall contained 247 students. The student body is a diverse community: There are slightly more males (53 percent) than females (47 percent). Students come from all walks of life: some enter straight out of undergrad, while others are older, looking for a second career. Many enter the full-time program, in which you can work no more than 20 hours outside the law program. There are various groups that students are able to take part in that represent different political, religious and ethnic backgrounds, and students can take advantage of community life through, for example, events such as happy hours.

The student body is small enough that stu-

dents can maintain close relationships with their professors and with each other. Students are divided up into sections, and will stay with that section until they finish the program. The School of Law has one of the highest bar exam passage rates in the State of Virginia, clocking in at 90.6 percent, ten points higher than the state average.

After inquiring how the School of Law fits in with the overall Arlington Campus community, Malone remarked how it's a challenge for the community to come together. There are very different programs and you have full-time students versus part-time students on campus; the difficulty is that everyone does different things. The School of Law offers opportunities that are available for all students. One advantage is that there are many ways in which law and policy overlap, which can potentially lead to a closer community, and the new building may offer ways of bringing the two groups closer together.

"If there is a law student sitting outside at a table and the people next to them are public policy students, somebody might hear something and engage in conversation, and that just doesn't happen that much right now," said Malone. "We're all sort of in our own little spaces." Despite the spaces, the Law Library and its resources are a shared facility. "The library is three stories tall and contains 488,994 volumes," said Deborah Keene, the dean of the Law Library.

However, with all this space, they still didn't have enough room for their entire collection, and the Original Building library still houses some volumes. Most importantly, the library is open for access to all students at Mason and the public at large. Public Policy students can visit the library at any time and take advantage of their large collection of material, as well as their various databases and labs.

Why should a prospective student think about Mason's School of Law? The tight-knit community and small class sizes allow for plenty of interaction with colleagues and professors. The professors are open to their students, and maintain great relationships with them, participating in various events the school holds, including an event where the professors were dealers for a casino night and all the money went to charity. The School of Law maintains an excellent reputation outside of its walls, and its unique perspective on law make it a school where you can truly get the best "bang for your buck" and receive an excellent preparation for practicing law.

MPA Offers Students Public Policy Management Training

Robust program combines policy and administration skills

Melissa Gonzalez
Stylus Correspondent

The Masters of Public Administration (MPA) program is a 36-credit course for individuals who are interested in taking on a leadership role within organizations that promote and implement public policy. The program offers prospective students both MBA and public policy training. The MPA program teaches students how to implement policy through an environment where turf wars sometimes arise between the federal government and third parties such as private contractors, local governments and nonprofits.

With 10 different concentrations, the diversified program opens doors to a wide range of public management opportunities at the local, state, national and international level.

Classes with 16 to 25 students are offered both at George Mason University's

Fairfax and Arlington Campuses. The program is also offered as an accelerated weekend program for professionals who seek flexibility in a program that will improve their knowledge and skills.

Annabelle Ombac, a current full-time MPA student, enjoys the best of both worlds by taking courses offered on both the Arlington and Fairfax Campuses.

"There are advantages to both campuses," said Ombac. "Day classes and administration facilities are all situated at the heart of the Fairfax Campus, while the Arlington Campus offers evening courses, more choices for dining and proximity to the nation's capital."

She continued by saying the MPA program helps "sets her apart" from peers and has helped provide her with the confidence to transition easily into public management.

Opinion

The letters, columns and views expressed on this page are solely those of the writers. They do not reflect the views of *The Stylus* or its staff, unless otherwise noted.

LETTERS FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT

A Cooperative Effort

Steven Mihalisko

School of Public Policy Student Association President

Not too long ago, I was chatting with a colleague of mine who was describing to me how grateful he is to have been a student at SPP. He noted the leadership potential around us, and the invaluable experiences he has had learning from and forging relationships with so many talented students, faculty and staff.

In this sense, I see my role, and that of the School of Public Policy Student Association (SPPSA) and all its officers, as being facilitators for enhancing the educational, professional and social experience of every student. A big component of this is reaching out to the larger Arlington community this publication seeks to serve and all its affiliated organizations. Providing better cohesion and community among and within the various schools will only enhance our own organization's ability to provide greater access and opportunity for in-

teraction with the policy and professional community.

Fortunately, the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA), University Life and others are already working towards achieving this. SPPSA has the added opportunity to be a major contributor to such combined efforts by helping put together speaker series, networking events, meet-the-author workshops, local and multi-national entrepreneurial "challenge teams" and contests, scholarships and more.

Moreover, we would seek to continue the work of outgoing President Giovanella Deweer and her officers in organizing community service events. Going beyond that, with programs as unique as ICP and TPOL, we have the opportunity to reach out to similar programs domestically and internationally — the International Economic and Political Studies program of Charles University in Prague, for example, comes to mind.

There are innumerable ways

to achieve these and other objectives, and we are fortunate as a school to already have groups and organizations such as University Life, *Currents*, *Policy Impact*, *New Voices in Public Policy* and others to help us do so. I hope to make SPPSA a highly proactive component of leadership and ideas to elevate the experience a student can get beyond the classroom.

As my friend had noted, it's those value-added experiences that have really set his experience at Mason apart from any other school.

On behalf of Jassem, Melissa, Matt, Maggie and myself, I look forward to a new and exciting 2010 – 2011 year. We welcome all who wish to join us. In addition, I wanted to welcome our new dean, Dr. Edward Rhodes, and thank Dr. Kingsley Haynes for his long and successful leadership.

Regards,

Steve

Program Brief: Arts Management

Virginia Case

President of the Graduate Arts Management Society

The Arts Management MA program consists of approximately 100 multicultural students who spend a majority of their time on the Arlington Campus. With focuses in visual and performing arts, the students often find careers at museums, theaters and other arts venues after graduation.

The Graduate Arts Management Society is an elected group of students who work to compliment the academic experience by helping to establish a variety of cultural, social and recreational programs for the Arts Management stu-

dents.

These programs provide the opportunity to balance course work and free time as cooperative factors in education.

To find out more about the program, visit <http://arts-management.gmu.edu/welcome.htm> or e-mail the Graduate Arts Management Society members at graduateartsmanagementsociety@gmail.com

Going Green by Bicycling to Campus

I want to ride my bicycle.

Silvia Villacampa

Stylus Correspondent

Do you dream about not having to hunt for parking when arriving at the Arlington campus? Not ending up in Clarendon or a whole other neighborhood before you actually find a parking spot? Not feeding meters, paying for parking or paying for the Metro?

If so, biking to campus is a good option, and one with increasing support from the federal government. In March, the movement toward greener transportation received a boost when Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood outlined a new policy to make biking easier and safer.

LaHood addressed the National Bike Summit, which drew over 1,000 participants. The Department of Transportation policy state-

ment included recommended actions for state and local governments, professional associations, community organizations, public transportation groups and other government agencies.

Among the recommendations: ensuring that walking and bicycling are given equal importance to other transportation modes; providing transportation choices for people of all ages and abilities, especially children; and integrating bicycle and pedestrian accom-

modations on new, rehabilitated, and limited-access bridges.

Arlington County serves as a national model for transit-oriented development, and students and staff can take advantage of the county's

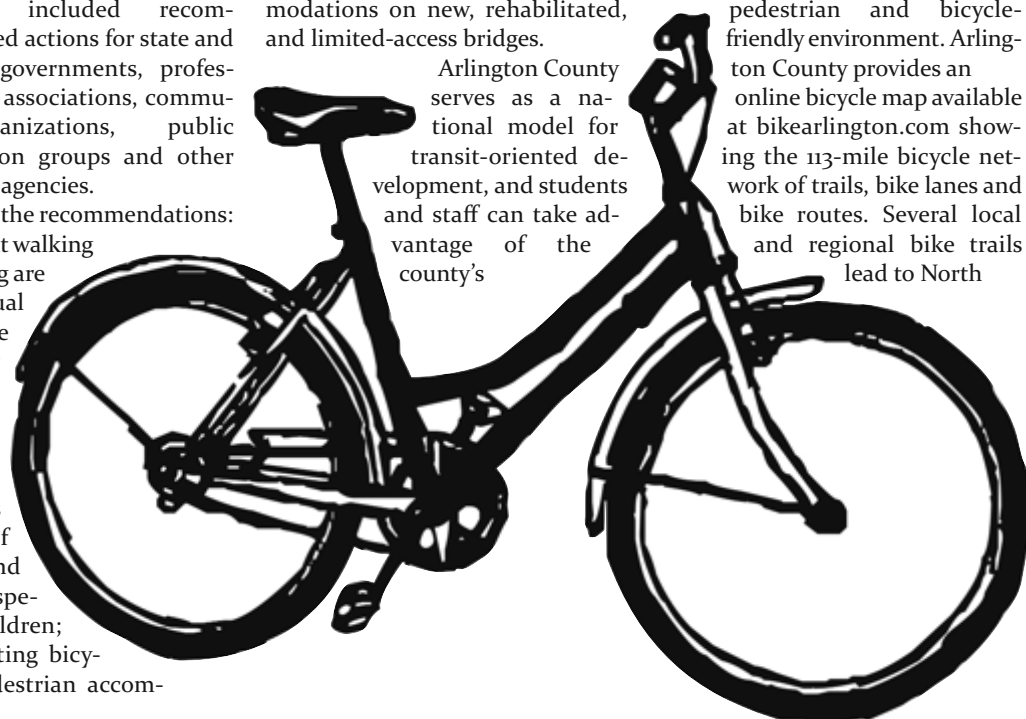
pedestrian and bicycle-friendly environment. Arlington County provides an online bicycle map available at bikearlington.com showing the 113-mile bicycle network of trails, bike lanes and bike routes. Several local and regional bike trails lead to North

Arlington: The Washington & Old Dominion Trail, Custis Trail and Mount Vernon Trail.

North Fairfax Drive has bike lanes near campus. If cycling, riders should make themselves visible with bright, reflective clothing and accessories, especially when it starts to get dark, such as front and back bike lights at night.

A bicycle rack is available next to the entrance of the Arlington Original Building closest to Washington Boulevard.

Silvia Villacampa is an MPP student who has been biking 10 miles round trip to campus with increasing frequency via the W&OD and Custis Trails, with some street riding on N. Quincy Street and N. Fairfax Drive.



DUELING PERSPECTIVES

Fighting change without the facts

Sean Joyce
Stylus Correspondent

In March, President Obama signed into law legislation that ends government subsidies to private banks that have profited from making risk-free student loans. The provision was largely overshadowed by the battle over health care. The quiet but important debate that took place on student loans consisted of democrats offering the findings of both the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports, while republicans relied on questionable statistics and general misinformation.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) told *Fox News* on March 23, "\$9.1 billion of money created by the student loan takeover by the federal government is going to pay for health care." This claim is not true, but it is typical of the methods used by republicans to frame the discussion. The \$9.1 billion is part of \$138 billion in savings from the health care bill, which includes the student loan changes.

Currently, one-third of all government-backed student loans is made directly by the government; private lenders make the rest. Under the new legislation, all government-backed student loans will be direct loans.

The CBO estimates that the change will reduce government spending by \$68 billion over 11 years. The savings will be used to increase funding for Pell Grants, invest money for community colleges and reduce the deficit. The law also makes it easier to repay loans, reducing the cap on repayments from 15 percent of workers' income to 10 percent.

Conservatives have sought to portray the change as a government takeover, but it is unclear what a government takeover of an established government program really means.

Private business operations are often thought to be more efficient than the government, however in the case of student loans, the government has been shown to be more efficient. A 2005 report by the GAO found that subsidized loans by private lenders cost the government \$9.20 for every \$100 in loans, while the direct loans cost the government only \$1.20 per every hundred.

Again speaking to *Fox News*, Graham said that as a result of the new law, "the average student will be spending \$1,700 to \$1,800 more during the life of [his or her] loan." This is false: the reported dollars are based on the difference between current interest rates and those proposed by Graham's colleague, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN).

In reality, students will pay exactly the same rate under the new plan: 6.8 per-

cent. Parents and graduate students who receive PLUS loans, which require a credit check and can be used to cover the entire cost of education, will see their rates lowered from 8.5 to 7.9 percent.

The republicans' best argument against direct lending is that it will result in job losses. Alexander, one of the most outspoken critics of the plan, has repeatedly claimed that the change will put 31,000 Americans out of work.

Factcheck.org found the claim to be an exaggeration and cites an independent industry analyst that predicts the net loss will be less than 5,000 jobs. Alexander's number is based on the assumption that every person who currently works in the industry will lose his or her job. Private companies that provided student loans will only lose part of their business: they will still service all student loans.

Sallie Mae, the largest private lender of student loans, states it may have to lay off a third of its 8,500 employees. Yet the lender also announced that they would bring thousands of jobs back to the United States from overseas to service the federal loans. Even if overstated, the potential for job losses is not welcome news given current economic conditions. However, the student loan program does not exist to provide jobs for banks.

Spending \$68 billion to save 5,000 jobs is an incredible amount of money, especially when compared to the results of the money spent from the stimulus package. Mike Pickett, CEO of Onvia, a firm that tracks government contract spending, estimated "roughly \$68 billion have actually reached contractors and subcontractors," in his February interview with CNN about the stimulus package. "We estimate this has delivered . . . or saved about 500,000 jobs."

Making the switch to direct loans will hurt banks that profited from government subsidies. But contrary to republican talking points, this change will benefit both students and taxpayers.

This is not just about taking money away from banks and giving it to students. It is about ending an unnecessary and wasteful subsidy to lenders, and helping the student recipients for whom the program was created.

Treating symptoms, not the problem

Daniel Jeskey
Stylus Correspondent

The new student loan reform legislation that was passed with the health care reconciliation bill is another liberal travesty to pile on board previous legislation that attempts to deal with higher education (along with education, in general). With this bill, the federal government becomes the primary lender of student loans, replacing the private industry. Like most other problems, liberals believe the answer is either the replacement of private industry with the government, or to make the private industry utilities of the federal government (as seen with the recently passed health care legislation).

In doing this, liberals can expand power and pretend to attack a problem, while in reality, they are only addressing the symptoms. Rather than focus on the rising costs of education, they go after private industry. (This is, again, seen similarly with

the health care bill, in which liberals deal with insurance companies rather than deal with the costs of health care). Now, Congressional Democrats' only accomplishment is in making it easier for students to take on debt that will plague

them and the American taxpayer. Unless one takes the noble step of going into public service (in which case your debt will be forgiven after 10 years), it will still be a burden to the American taxpayer.

The growing influence of the federal government over higher education has produced a negative result rather than a positive one. From 1965 to 2007, federal spending on higher education rose from \$7.5 billion to \$36.6 billion. From 1982 to the present, education costs have risen 439 percent. Throughout this time, the cost of higher education has skyrocketed. The answer to the cost question of higher education may very well lie in rolling back federal support for institutions, as a report by the Cato Institute argues.

The key issue comes down to supply and demand. More and more Americans want to acquire a college education. As demand increases, a shrinking supply means

that prices also increase. New colleges are established, and older schools will be expanded to meet the growing demand. In the meantime, some Americans will postpone college, since one can go to college at any time in his or her life. Eventually, the supply expands to the point where it exceeds demand and prices begin to fall. Now, those who could not afford to go at an earlier time period are now able to get the college education they desire.

However, when third parties, such as the federal government, interfere with student aid, prices are distorted, the budget constraints are not as great and colleges and universities need this cushion to continue raising costs. Students are still willing to attend because of aid or easy credit, putting them at a distinct advantage, finishing school with massive debt. William Bennett, secretary of education under President Ronald Reagan, argued in 1987 that "increases in financial aid . . . have enabled colleges and universities blithely to raise tuitions, confident that federal loan subsidies would help cushion the increase." That statement remains true as aid continues to increase along with tuition rates.

An elimination of federal aid, one could argue, would prevent those who are college ready and lacking in funds from attending postsecondary education. But, as the Cato's 2006 *Handbook for Policymakers* argues, aid-induced inflation may hinder the college-ready poor from attending college in the first place. Indeed, many private philanthropists are all too ready to help students who cannot afford to pay for college. Eliminating federal aid would also allow private lenders to become much more efficient, and also more willing to help low-income students since the value of a college education is recognized by most in today's society.

The Heritage Foundation put out a piece recently that also presents methods of lowering the costs of attending college. Heritage argues that an effective way to lower college costs, alongside reducing federal aid, would be to increase competition amongst higher education by "harnessing the power of technology and online learning." Many schools are placing course content online for free. Heritage also points out that credit-by-examination programs are on the rise, such as Advanced Placement and the College Level Examination Programs. They present two ways of "popping" the education bubble. One is through lowering costs by improving efficiency, and another is through state governments encouraging innovation.

It is time that we take personal responsibility to deal with the actual problem of rising college costs, rather than lay our every burden at the altar of Leviathan.



High Fives and Thank Yous



To **Dean Haynes** for leaving such a remarkable legacy at SPP on the Arlington Campus.

To **Behnaz Bonyadian and Andro Gigauri** for winning the SPP Distinguished Student Awards.

To **Dr. Rozell** for winning the SPP Distinguished Professor Award.

Dean Rhodes for starting a new chapter at SPP.

To the **graduating class of Spring 2010** -

We Made It! We are officially Masters now. Please refer to us as *Senseis*.

To the **awesome inaugural Stylus staff** for their dedication, interest and belief in this vision.

To **Lori Cohen, Ph.D., Director of University Life & Campus Relations** for giving us this great opportunity.

To **Kathryn Mangus, Director of the Office of Student Media** for her

guidance, support and assistance.

To **Emily Sharrer, 2009-2011 Broadside editor-in-chief, Aram Zucker-Scharff, Community Manager for the Office of Student Media, and Nicole Wiesenhahn, Student Media Project Manager** for their advice, review, and assistance in the print and online layout and design for our inaugural edition . . . and also opening the door at the *Broadside* office, literally.

To **Bran Mahoney, 2009-2010 editor-in chief of The Docket**, Mason's

School of Law student newspaper, for his guidance and support.

Last, but not least . . . **YOU** . . . the *Arlington Campus students, staff and faculty* . . . You know who you are, and we certainly know who you are.

Thank you for making this dream a reality.

High five.



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Spread the word, Ya heard

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Jealous you didn't get a high 5?

arlcampuspub@gmail.com

GET INVOLVED

*Stop Dreaming
Start Something*