

MSL Caucus



Official Newsletter of the Maryland Student Legislature Alumni Association

SUMMER 2005

Students Attend 16th Annual Session

By Amy Anderson, Governor's Director of Communications

With business suits and ties, skirts and heels, and the familiar sound of a banging gavel all filling the chambers of the State House, the Maryland Student Legislature's 2005 Annual Session was underway. On April 29th, students from universities across the state convened for the 16th Annual Legislative Session in Annapolis. Twelve schools and over 80 members participated in a weekend full of intense debate on exceptional legislation. The Annual Session event marked the culmination of hard work and dedication afforded by all members throughout the year.



Over 80 students participated in the 2005 Annual Session

Through the course of the weekend, the body debated thirty-three pieces of legislation, with ten pieces reaching Governor Macfarlane, and seven of those pieces being signed. Among those pieces of legislation signed were acts concerning election law and proof of citizenship requirements, medical injury compensation, and parental notification of abortion; and resolutions concerning the Maryland General Assembly scholarship program, social security reform, ending the trade embargo with Cuba, and education. A simple amendment to the standing rules of order of the Maryland Student Legislature concerning legislative committee procedures was also adopted.

One extraordinary highlight of the weekend was the 2nd Annual "Tomorrow's Leaders Today" Fundraising Dinner/Gala. Student members, members of the Board of Directors and distinguished guests were graced with the presence of Maryland Senator Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, President of the Senate. Miller discussed the importance of the Maryland Student Legislature in



Thomas V. "Mike" Miller addresses the crowd at the "Tomorrow's Leaders Today" gala

the lives of young leaders, and the incredible experience it gives students, especially those going into the political field. He felt the organization not only provided students the opportunity to participate in the legislative process and learn parliamentary procedure, but it enhanced students' ability to view issues from multiple political persuasions. The

(Continued on page 6)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ANNUAL SESSION RECAP	1
CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE	2
ALUMNI PROFILE	3
MSLAA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	4
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE	5
ANNUAL SESSION RECAP	6

A Message from the Chair of the Board of Directors

At this year's Annual Board Meeting in April, the board approved two exciting initiatives:

Yearly MSL Calendar

After several months of review, the board will approve an organization-wide 2005-2006 calendar this summer. With passage of this calendar, every facet of the organization (from the alumni, to the board, to the college students) will know what is going on throughout the entire upcoming year and be able to plan accordingly. By knowing events and meeting dates in advance, the students can better prepare for the events by doing more research and debate preparation, the alumni will know when they can come to visit the students in action, and the corporation can focus on planning for the future.

Leadership Retreat

This summer, MSL will embark on a long talked about idea; a Leadership Retreat. At this retreat, members of the state government will discuss what MSL is and learn about what makes MSL events successful. In addition, Delegation Chairpersons will learn techniques for improving their recruiting efforts and their budgets. This event will enable the entire state government to start out the year on a better footing.

I look forward to both this summer's leadership retreat and to the coming year as we implement the yearly calendar and several other projects that will make the organization even more successful.

I would also like to give special thanks to Brian Griffiths, Alumni Association President and the entire Alumni Association for their hard work and dedication in making these both the 2nd Annual Alumni/Student Luncheon and the 2nd Annual MSL Tomorrow's Leaders Today Fundraising Dinner a success.

Douglas Testerman
Chairman of the Board
Maryland Student Legislature, Inc.

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Issue XI, Summer 2005

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Alumni Profile: Holly Harrington (FSU '04)

What are you doing these days?

Since the conclusion of my epic college career, I have spent the past year serving my alma mater as a full-time AmeriCorps volunteer. I organize service projects in Western Maryland, recruit student and faculty volunteers, and supervise a group of students in our part-time AmeriCorps program. Being part of AmeriCorps has afforded me many great experiences, including leading a group of students to build homes in Florida with Habitat for Humanity and helping to build the Cumberland Trail in Tennessee. I will soon complete my 1700 hours of service with AmeriCorps, after which I will spend a year or longer in Taiwan as an English teacher. I'm looking forward to living in Asia, and also to teaching others about my experience when I return.

Have you been active in politics?

Not in the way I once was. I'm still attentive to what is going on in the world, and cried into my Yuengling like every other good liberal at the conclusion of the 2004 elections, but rather than devoting my time to electoral politics or lobbying, my focus is now on effecting change on a smaller scale. I have been an advisor to the Sierra Student Coalition in their efforts to improve recycling on the Frostburg campus and in our community. I have also volunteered locally with VDAY, an international movement to end violence against women. Frostburg's VDAY 2005 raised over \$5,000 for our local women's shelters, and I'm proud to have been a part of that. Instead of asking my legislators to do something about the problems I see in my community, I'm taking an active and hands-on role in addressing those problems. That is my new approach to being active in politics.

How did MSL prepare you for life after graduation?

MSL was one of the most rewarding experiences of my college career and life in general. Frankly, I learned more about the world from MSL than I did from most of my college classes. It helped to build my confidence and my ability to argue effectively for the things I want or need, but above all it shaped my feelings about politics. I learned that although I love to research and debate the issues, "politics" is not for me, and I have changed my life and career plans accordingly.

What advice do you have for MSL's current students?

Get everything you possibly can from your MSL experience and college in general. Learn as much as you can about the issues that come before you, and participate! The more you participate, the more you will appreciate your experience and the better leader you will become. On the other hand, don't take yourself too seriously. MSL is serious business, yes, but that doesn't mean it can't be fun. Make friends on the other side of the aisle, and don't let your political differences carry over to your personal relationships. Some of my most rewarding and lasting friendships from college have been with the very people who took the negative floor on every one of my bills!

Department of Corrections

The article on page 4 of *Caucus* # 10 indicated that 2005 was the fifth anniversary of the MSL Alumni Association. The article should have read "This is the Fifth Anniversary of the rebirth of the MSL Alumni Association." The MSL Alumni Association existed prior to 2000, but had been dormant for several years.

The *Caucus* apologizes for the error and wishes to recognize those who worked as part of the Alumni Association prior to its rebirth.

Annual Gatherings: Luncheon and TLT Dinner bring Past and Future Together

The MSL Alumni Association, in conjunction with the MSL Board of Directors and Lt. Governor Sasha Miles took on a very ambitious schedule of events during the 2005 Annual Session. For the second time, the Alumni Association sponsored the Alumni/Student Luncheon on the Saturday of Annual Session. Students joined MSL Alumni for a lunch filled with food and memories in the Miller Senate Office building.

That evening, we took on an equally ambitious task by sponsoring the Second Annual *Tomorrow's Leaders Today* fundraising dinner. We were fortunate to have Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller as our keynote speaker. President Miller interacted with our students, and spoke to the students about the importance of hard work and honesty in modern-day politics. The organization was also fortunate enough to have several other special guests in attendance at the dinner, including:

- State Senator Lisa Gladden(D-41)
- Dr. Herb Smith, WMC Professor and Chairman of the MSL State Faculty Panel
- Tina Bjarekull, President, MD Independent College & University Association (MICUA)
- Miriam Lehman, Director of Governmental Affairs, MICUA
- Kate Gieron, Office of Congressman Dutch Ruppersburger

We thank all of our guests for coming out and supporting the MSL's fundraising efforts.

The only thing that we missed was you! The MSL Alumni Association 2005-2006 Event Calendar is already in its planning stages. We are already looking forward to our Third Annual Alumni/Student Luncheon to be held once again on the Saturday of Annual Session. And we are also looking forward towards our Third Annual Fundraising Dinner next year. Both of these events take a great deal of planning, a great deal of time and effort, and of course a great deal of resources in order to ensure their success.

That is where you, as an MSL Alum, come into the picture. We are always looking for additional volunteers and supporters for our fundraising efforts. Have an idea for a fundraiser? Want to get involved with Alumni Activities? Want to help us with our current annual events? We have opportunities for you to help make a difference.

We are continuing to expand the ways you can help MSL. Please help provide future MSL students with the same opportunities you once had.

Sincerely,

Brian Griffiths, WMC '00
President, MSL Alumni Association

Welcome from the Governor

by Brooke Barrash, 2005-2006 Governor of MSL

I would like to first start off by introducing myself. My name is Brooke Barrash and I am going into my senior year at Towson University. On April 30, I was elected the new Governor of the Maryland Student Legislature. What an extremely great honor and privilege it is to follow in the path of brilliant leaders who served as Governor of MSL at one point in time.

I recently discovered an incredible fact. I am the only student from Towson University to ever be have been elected to a Council of State position in MSL's 16 year history. On top of that, I am the only female, Jewish Republican to hold the officer of Governor. One might imagine how proud I must be.

If someone were to have told me my freshman year of college that I would one day be the Governor of MSL, I would have told them they were crazy! When I went to my first event, Fall LTI at WMC in October 2002, I was in awe of everyone! To hear such eloquent and knowledgeable students was quite impressive to a naïve, young freshman. Since everyone was so welcoming, I felt right at home. I even decided to speak on an affirmative action bill without having an idea what I was doing!

When I decided to run for Governor, I knew that I wanted every freshman to feel what I felt on that cool, autumn day. And by running, I was confident that I would do the best job at running and representing this distinguishable organization. In my speech, I had a platform full of fundamental goals for the betterment of the organization. However, these goals were not at all lofty. They were realistic expectations that I have for myself and for the organization as a whole. With your help, we can make those dreams become a reality.

I know that Maryland Student Legislature has the potential to grow into an amazing organization. I am ready to take that chance and take MSL into the future. I'm ready to go in a new and better direction. But I will need the help of the alumni. All of you helped to shape this organization into what it is today. It is a place where students of all political affiliations and persuasions come together and exercise democracy. It is a beautiful thing.

I look forward to an amazing year serving as Governor. Please email me at governor@msl.org with suggestions, assistance, words of advice, or just to say hello! I can't wait to hear from you and I can't wait to see what the 2005-2006 year brings.

Very truly yours,

Brooke M. Barrash
Governor, 2005-2006

2005 - 2006 MSL Officers

Governor: Brooke Barrash, Towson University

Lt. Governor: Alvin Cole, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Attorney General: Chris Tinsman, Washington College

Speaker of the Assembly: Kevin Rodkey, University of Maryland, College Park

Secretary of State: Tammy Barnes, Washington College

Comptroller: Brian Bailey, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

(Continued from page 1)

honorable Senator Miller is an outstanding supporter of the Maryland Student Legislature and it was a great privilege to have him join us at the gala.

The weekend concluded with the swearing in of a new Council of State under the governorship of Brooke Barrash. Much was accomplished throughout this year and legislative session, and we are all looking forward to a successful 2005-2006 legislative year.

2005 Annual Session Award Winners



Dan Holler accepts the William Troy Simmons Award

William Troy Simmons Award: Dan Holler, Washington College

Best Delegation: Mount St. Mary's University

Most Outstanding Act: Kevin Rodkey, University of Maryland, College Park, for "An Act Concerning Public Health - Abortion - Parental Notification"

Most Outstanding Resolution: Brooke Barrash, Towson University, for "A Resolution Concerning the American Embassy in Israel"

Most Outstanding Senator: Chris Tinsman, Washington College

Most Outstanding Delegate: Tunmbi Oluyede, University of Maryland, College Park

Best Orator: Daniel Bowen, University of Maryland, College Park

Thomas V. "Mike" Miller Award for Up and Coming Members: Adelsia Miles-Braxton, Anne Arundel Community College

MSLAA Elects 2005-2007 Officers

The MSL Alumni Association's 5th Annual Meeting took place on April 30th at the conclusion of the Alumni-Student Luncheon in the President's Conference Room West in the Miller Building. Three of our four elect officers are returning for a second term of service. We are excited to announce that the following alumni were elected unanimously to serve on the MSLAA Alumni Committee:

Director of Communications: Elisabeth Nelson (Frostburg, 2001)

Director of Finance: Pat Daly (Salisbury, 2002)

Director of Alumni Relations: Gina Eosco (UMCP, 2003)

Director of Development: Matt Burger (WMC, 2001)

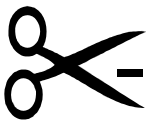
Ms. Nelson and Mr. Burger were elected to their second full terms as directors; Ms. Nelson leaves her post as head of Alumni Relations to lead our Communications effort. Ms. Eosco is elected to her first full term after joining the Committee as Director of Finance in July 2003.

Pat Daly joins the Alumni Committee as a Director for the first time. Pat served as DCP of Salisbury University in his senior year. He also has served as Salisbury University Student Government Executive Vice-President, and co-founded the Salisbury University Union of Community Action, a non-partisan community service organization, which still exists today. He graduated from Salisbury University in May 2002 with a B.A. in Political Science. He currently serves in Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.'s Office of Executive Services in Annapolis.

Mr. Daly was subsequently elected Vice-President of MSLAA on May 15, 2005.

Show Your Support for MSL!

The Maryland Student Legislature is over 15 years old and going strong thanks to the generous support of our donors. Please consider giving what you can today to help us grow and prosper. MSL greatly appreciates contributions of all kinds! If you're unable to offer a financial contribution, but would like to show your support by offering your time, talents and energies, or would like to make an in-kind contribution, please contact Brian Griffiths (briancgriffiths@yahoo.com) or call the MSL Office toll-free at 1-888-MSL-0717. Please remember that your contributions are tax-deductible! Thanks for your continued support!



Yes! I'd like to show my support for MSL, its mission, and its students. I believe in the civic education and the leadership skills and traits that MSL instills in its student members. Please accept my contribution and continue to help shape *Tomorrow's Leaders Today!*

I have enclosed my gift of:

\$1000___ \$500___ \$250___ \$100___ \$50___ \$25___

Other Amount_____

Name (please print)_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Email_____

School & Year of Graduation_____

Please clip and mail with your check payable to:

Maryland Student Legislature, Inc.

222 Main Street, Suite 140

Annapolis, MD 21401-2005



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Alumni & Parents

If you, or your son or daughter, no longer live at this address, please forward a current address and phone number to us at (410) 431-8888 or (888) MSL-0717 or update your contact info online at www.msl.org/alumni.

Mark Your Calendars!

Board of Directors Meeting

July 10th

1 PM

Anne Arundel Community College

Summer Leadership Retreat

August 7th

10 AM

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

More information on these and other events can be found at www.msl.org as details become available.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is published quarterly by the Maryland Student Legislature Alumni Association under the auspices of the MSL Board of Directors. We welcome letters to the Editor and article submissions from our readers. Newsletter contributions may be edited for length or clarity. Submissions may be sent to the following address: Maryland Student Legislature, Attn: Alumni Association, 222 Main Street, Suite 140 Annapolis, MD 21401-2005. Please include your name, address, telephone number, and remember to identify your MSL delegation and year of graduation.