

MSL Caucus



Official Newsletter of the Maryland Student Legislature Alumni Association

FALL 2005

Interim Assembly Fall 2005 Takes Place at UMBC

By Amy Anderson, Governor's Director of Communications

On November 12th and 13th the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, welcomed eleven delegations and nearly seventy members of the Maryland Student Legislature to their campus for the convening of the 2005 Fall Interim Assembly. Saturday began with welcoming remarks from Governor Brooke Barrash and the VDCP from UMBC, Rachel McMullin. Immediately following the opening ceremonies, the MSL body began its business with the election of a new Lt. Governor: Brendan McElroy, the former DCP of the Towson delegation.

Saturday also included a guest speaker, John P. Sarbanes, son of current U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes. John P. Sarbanes is following in his father's footsteps and seeking election to Congress, representing Maryland's 3rd District. He feels being involved in politics is both civically and personally rewarding and challenged us each to become involved.

Fall IA was full of interesting and enthusiastic debate, culminating with the signing of seven pieces of legislation. Among the legislation signed were three simple amendments to the Standing Rules of Order, simple resolutions concerning the recognition of Rosa Parks and the security of the United States, and resolutions concerning the elimination of race from college applications and prescription drugs.



John P. Sarbanes addresses the students



Students prepare for debate

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A Message from the Chair of the Board of Directors

In the last edition of the caucus, I detailed two new proposals: the yearly calendar and the Summer Leadership Retreat. Here is an update on these two initiatives; as well as details for one of the Board's latest initiatives.

2005-2006 Yearly Calendar Passes

In July, with the support of every facet of the organization, the MSL Board of Directors adopted its first yearly organization-wide calendar. Results of this calendar can already be seen; students knowing well in advance when events will happen and the Board can plan in advance for its meetings. In the future, this calendar will continue to help the entire organization grow with better more advanced planning for events, increased alumni participation, and a clearer picture for financial planning. At the Annual Board meeting, we will vote on the adoption of the 2006-2007 MSL Calendar. This calendar will be made available to students, faculty and alumni at the 2006 Annual Session.

First Summer Leadership Retreat is a Success

On August 6th, the organization held its first ever Summer Leadership Retreat at the Radisson Hotel in Annapolis. I would like to thank the organizations founder William Troy Simmons for all his hard work in making this event such a success.

About twenty-five people, including members of the MSL Council of State and representatives from the organizations school delegations attended this event. Through this event attendees gained some useful information including: some aspects of MSL's history, what is needed for planning to host a successful MSL event, yearly delegation financial planning, and a seminar on successful communication. In the future, we hope this event will be held annually with different workshops encompassing all facets of our organization.

MSL 2005-2010 Five Year Plan Passes

Long in the making, at the October Board of Directors Meeting the Board passed the organization's new five-year plan for 2005-2010. This plan passed with support from both the programmatic division and the alumni association president. I encourage everyone to check out the 2005-2010 Five-Year Plan on our website.

MSL CAUCUS

Issue XII, Fall 2005

PUBLISHED BY THE MSL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Elisabeth Nelson, Managing Editor

MSL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mr. Dan Zubairi

Maryland Student Legislature, Inc.

222 Main Street, Suite 140

Annapolis, MD 21401-2005

www.msl.org/alumni

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Alumni Profile: Phil Dacey (UMCP, '00)

What are you doing these days?

I am currently the director of external affairs at the MVA, which basically means I lobby for the MVA in Annapolis. I live with my wife in Glen Burnie 8 walking minutes from MVA headquarters. I'm also attending the University of Baltimore law school at night, so I'm keeping pretty busy.

Have you been active in politics?

I have been very active in state and local level politics. I worked as the Chief of Staff for Senator Nancy Jacobs (R - Harford and Cecil Counties) for 4 years before working at the MVA. I helped manage her re-election campaign in 2002 where we managed to win by a convincing margin in what was projected to be a close race. Most recently, I helped a candidate in the race for Mayor of Aberdeen who beat the incumbent this November.

My current position is an interesting balance because I have to work with everybody in the legislature of both parties, and that naturally precludes some political activity.

How did MSL prepare you for life after graduation?

I mean it when I say that MSL was a terrific training ground for work in Annapolis. Working as a Chief of Staff for a state senator straight from college was somewhat overwhelming, but my years in MSL certainly helped me understand the process. The real Annapolis is actually much like MSL with county delegations balanced against political affiliation, and even includes a lot of the partying that we used to do at night in MSL!

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

My best advice is to make it fun and keep the controversies brewing. The most fun part of MSL was the struggle for individual and school power. It wasn't as interesting in those rare periods that lacked conspiracies to obtain and retain power. I also appreciated the challenge of getting bills passed through both chambers and signed. Come to think of it, I'm not sure any of my bills ever made it all the way through (which is actually realistic). MSL was a great place to meet similarly interested young people, and I see many of my MSL contemporaries in positions in and around state government. So keep it fun and be nice to everybody because you're never sure who you'll have to make alliances with in the future.

(Continued from page 2)

This important plan outlines the intended direction for the programmatic division, and the organizational components of the organization. Some highlights from this document include: overall yearly planning aspects, financial planning, membership recruitment, and the evolution of the organization's program to more accurately simulate the Maryland State Government.

I look forward to the rest of this legislative year as we continue to implement the new five-year plan, plan for our third annual fundraising dinner in April, adopt our next organization-wide calendar and again produce a successful Annual Session.

Douglas Testerman, Chairman of the Board of Directors

Play Your Part

The Maryland Student Legislature, Inc. has undertaken many exciting projects in recent months. At the October Board Meeting, two major plans were passed; a Plan for our 2006 Fundraising Dinner, as well as the ambitious 2005-2010 MSL Five Year Plan. Both of these plans prove exciting opportunities and challenges for our corporation.

The 2006 Fundraising Dinner Plan is an extension of our previous two fundraising dinners. We have laid out an ambitious plan and an ambitious schedule in the undertaking of this event. While the dinner is still months away, we are moving forward to provide as outstanding an experience as possible, all the while promoting the Corporation and raising much needed funds for our organization. This ambitious schedule includes a great deal of cooperation among the Board of Directors, the State Government, and the Alumni Association. I wish to thank Governor Brooke Barrash and Comptroller Brian Bailey for their efforts and cooperation on our fundraising dinner plan.

The Five Year Plan, of course, is our most ambitious product. You, as an alumna of the Maryland Student Legislature, understand better than anybody where our organization has been. We have grown and contracted several times over the years. We have had challenges and we have had setbacks. Now, the Corporation is ready to take the ball and run towards our goals, and ensuring the continued growth of our organization.

This is where you, as an MSL Alum, again come into the picture. In. As I noted in Caucus # 11, we are always looking for new volunteers to help us with Alumni Association projects. Now more than ever, we are in need of assistance. The Alumni Association, with the passage of the Fundraising Dinner Plan and the Five Year Plan, has more projects on its plate than ever before. We need people who are willing to make phone calls. We need people who are willing to stuff envelopes. We need people who are willing to help ask for donations, or help secure sponsors. Everybody has a part to play, and we need you now more than ever before.

The Board of Directors is able to pass plans to plan our future. But these plans, in addition to our future as a corporation and as an organization, cannot be sustained without the help of volunteers and supports such as you, our alumni. Today's alumni stand on the blocks our Alums laid for them. Please play your part; help in any way you can to ensure that we keep building.

Sincerely,

Brian Griffiths, WMC '00
President, MSL Alumni Association

LTI Wrap-Up

by Tammy Barnes, 2005-2006 Secretary of State of MSL



Students listen at an LTI session

The Maryland Student Legislature started off the 2005-2006 legislative year with its annual fall Leadership Training Institute (LTI) October 8th at Villa Julie College in Stevenson, Maryland. Nine delegations gathered, bringing many new faces to the year's first event. It was a goal of the State Government to integrate new and exciting workshops into the agenda of traditional training sessions:

Introduction to MSL, Bill Writing, or Introductory & Advanced Parliamentary Procedure. Among the new additions, *How to Secure an Internship* was co-taught by Caitrin McCarron, DCP St. Mary's College, and Speaker of the Assembly Kevin Rodkey, University of Maryland College Park. Both Ms.

McCarron and Speaker Rodkey incorporated their experiences of interning on the state and capitol levels. Also, Governor Brooke Barrash introduced *Resume Writing and Personal Statements*, a new workshop designed to help members refine their portfolio as they apply to graduate schools or search for meaningful employment. And the third training session featured a new workshop as well, *Getting Involved in a Political Campaign*, and was led by guest speaker Mr. Luke Clippinger, current campaign manager for Senator Paula Hollinger (MD). Followed by a speech from Allan Lichtman, a history professor at American University and candidate for US Senate, the day's training sessions were then concluded with a mock debate in which many new faces took the floor and participated in active debate for the first time.



Senate hopeful Allan Lichtman speaks

Board Passes Five-Year Plan

The MSL Board of Directors passed the Organizational and Programmatic Five-Year Plan for 2005-2010 at its October 23rd Meeting. "This is the document that lays out the vision of our corporation for our immediate future," said MSL Alumni Association President Brian Griffiths. "This is a statement of where our Board thinks the Corporation needs to go."

The new plan is the Third Organizational Five-Year Plan. This is the first Five-Year plan in place for the Corporation since the second plan expired in 1997. The vision of the corporation for the next Five-Years includes:

- Establishment of a Corporate Headquarters
- Creation of an Endowment Fund
- Re-establishment of the Board of Advisors.
- A more realistic simulation of Maryland State Government
- Additional Days added to Interim Assemblies and Annual Session
- Establishment of the "MSL For Credit" program.

"I am excited about accomplishing these ambitious proposals," Griffiths said. The full text of the plan is available online at:

http://www.msl.org/bod/MSL_Five_Year_Plan_Volume_III_2005_2010.pdf

3rd Annual Fundraising Dinner Set

The Maryland Student Legislature is pleased to announce that it will be holding the 3rd Annual Tomorrow's Leaders, Today Dinner on April 27, 2006. This year, the dinner will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton BWI Hotel in Linthicum.

"I am delighted that we have been able to enact this plan six months prior to the dinner," MSL Alumni Association President Brian Griffiths said. "Last year in particular, I felt that we were too compressed by time constraints to have the dinner come off as effectively as it needed to. This year, we are moving forward early and decisively, with an unprecedented amount of cooperation from all facets of the corporation."

The Dinner Plan for the Fundraiser was co-sponsored by President Griffiths, Chairman of the Board Doug Testerman, and Student Governor Brooke Barrash.

"I am pleased that we were able to put a plan in place that delineates responsibility, and a clear timeline," Griffiths said. "We think that this dinner will be the model for all future dinners."

Tickets to the event will be \$50 per person. Additional incentive levels of donation will be available. Alumni and donors will also be asked to sponsor the attendance of students to this event as well.

For additional information, contact Brian Griffiths at briancgriffiths@yahoo.com.

Mark Your Calendars!

December 6, 2005

MSL Holiday Happy Hour, 6-8 PM
Glory Days Grill, Towson

February 12, 2006

Winter Board of Directors Meeting, 12 PM
University of Maryland-College Park

February 13, 2006

MSL Legislative Reception
Miller Senate Office Building, Annapolis

March 4-5, 2006

Spring LTI/IA
Washington College, Chestertown

April 9, 2006

Board of Directors 2006 Annual Meeting, 12 PM
Location TBD

April 27, 2006

3rd Annual Maryland Student Legislature *Tomorrow's Leaders, Today Dinner*
Four Points by Sheraton BWI, Linthicum

April 28-30, 2006

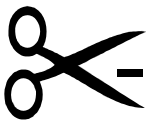
17th Maryland Student Legislature Annual Session
State House, Annapolis

April 29, 2006

4th Annual Alumni-Student Luncheon
Miller Senate Office Building, Annapolis

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___

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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.



MSL Caucus
Maryland Student Legislature, Inc.
222 Main Street, Suite 140
Annapolis, MD 21401-2005

Address Label here

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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