

# MSL CAUCUS



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Legislature  
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## Annual Session Approaching

*Kristen Fraser*

Mark your calendars! The 13<sup>th</sup> Maryland Student Legislature Annual Session will convene at the Historic Maryland State House in Annapolis on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Lt. Governor Jamie Goewey (UMCP) and Annual Session Coordinator Christine Brunetti (CND) have been working diligently to ensure an outstanding session.

There are some new and exciting twists to the session this year:

First, the session will convene on Friday at 9 AM, providing another full day of session experience. The Governor's Chief of Staff, Hilary Jackler (UMCP), wrote a letter to all faculty members asking them to excuse delegates and senators from class so that they may attend the session.

Next, the Saturday Night Gala Returns! To revise past traditions, a black tie optional gala is being planned for 8 PM Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Funding has been secured and now we are awaiting final word on a location. All eyes are pointing to the Radisson Ballroom. More details will follow. Thanks to State Political Liason Scott Gibson and his Mt. St. Mary's Delegation, a live jazz ensemble will perform and entertain throughout the evening.

Then, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Alumni Gathering will convene in the Calvert Room of the Historic State House in Annapolis at 12 Noon on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Come gather with fellow alums of MSL for good times, camaraderie, and to interact with the current and future leaders of MSL and the state of Maryland.

We hope to all a huge turnout of Alumni at all of these events, especially the Gala. Help us revive our past for a new generation.

If you need more information, contact the webpage, alumni Chairman Brian Griffiths, or your school's delegation. See you there!

## New BOD Officers Selected

At its Annual Meeting April 7<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Directors selected the following members of its body as officers:

### **Chairman of the Board:**

Susan McConkney

### **Treasurer:**

Nathan Jones

### **Secretary:**

William Troy Simmons

The officers will assume their duties on June 1, 2002, and serve through 2004. Congratulations to all of the board members. We look forward to their leadership of the body, and of their continued relationship with the Alumni Committee, and all of the alumni membership.

# MSL & Maryland Ethics Bill

*By William Troy Simmons  
Chairman of the Board*

As most of the "old" Alumni are aware, MSL was conceived and created prior to the Savings and Loan crisis of the late 1980's and early 1990's. Most of the Corporate and programmatic officers believed we were exempt from any jurisdiction the Maryland State Government or General Assembly may impose. Boy were we wrong!

Thanks to the work of MSL Corporate President Dan Zubari and State Political Liason Scott Gibson, we discovered that in the mid 1990's the State of Maryland passed a new law aimed at curbing lobbying and

cleaning general ethical procedures.

Based on the reading of our corporate counsel, we could be in violation and may have to register as lobbyists. This was completely unacceptable to the board and contrary to our mission.

Thus, BOD Vice Chair Susan McConkey was charged with heading up our response. She posed a legal and political challenge to this bill. First, through her letter writing and meeting efforts, she procured from Susan Fox, Executive Director of the Maryland State Ethics Commission, an official State opinion that we were not to be included in this interpretation.

Not satisfied with this result, Susan worked tirelessly with Scott Gibson behind the scenes as a new ethics bill was drafted for the 2002 General Assembly session.

She worked with MSL's Chief Advocate, Delegate James Rzepkowski (R-32) and the bill's two sponsors, Delegate John Wood(D-29A) and Delegate John Arnick(D-7) to craft language that would exempt MSL from these laws.

Susan helped to coordinate with State Governor Gina Eosco's and Scott Gibson's testimony before the House Commerce and Government Matters Committee. The tricky question was whether alumni could give money to the program in helping them stage the annual legislative reception and to produce the annual legislative compendium.

Eventually, with help from members of MSL, new language was devised. Issues were ironed out, and House Bill 1076 hit the floor on its second reader on March 20<sup>th</sup>, passing with by a 104-22 margin; a great victory for us! The Relevant section is in the Article under state government.

After the passage of the house bill, Susan worked with the senate to conclude matters for final passage. HB1076 passed both houses as emergency legislation before the close of session. The legislation is now awaiting the disposition of Governor Parris Glendening.

## NEW WEBSITE LAYOUT

On Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup>, the official MSL website at [www.msl.org](http://www.msl.org) unveiled a new layout. The redesign, complete with a new sitemap and page layout, came under the direction of Director Michael R.O. Berlin(serving as Chairman of the Web Design Committee), Secretary, Webmaster and Director Douglas Testerman, and MSL Corporate President Daniel Zubari.

While the design is under construction, it met one of the goals of the Board of Directors in updating MSL's web presence. The site is still under construction, so keep checking back for additional updates!

The Alumni Association link is always looking for more information. Please contact Chairman Brian Griffiths to have your alumni-related announcements included.

## November Interim Assembly

*By Brian Griffiths*

For the second time in our history, MSL visited historic Mt. St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg for the two-day fall

Interim Assembly on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

The Saturday Night Banquet was highlighted by Maryland Republican National Committeewoman, two-time gubernatorial nominee, and Western Maryland College graduate Ellen Sauerbrey.

Ms. Sauerbrey gave the students a spirited talk regarding community service. This was Ms. Sauerbrey's second visit to MSL, previously addressing the Interim Assembly at Johns Hopkins in 1994.

## March LTI/IA

*By Brian Griffiths*

The March LTI/IA was held Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup> at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in Catonsville. This was the first time UMBC has ever hosted an interim assembly. UMBC DCP Max Brandy put on quite a show for all in attendance.

At the Spring IA, delegates from Morgan State University and Coppin State College returned to the MSL family.

The key legislation passed during the IA was a piece sponsored by the State Government to amend the Session Awards Committee Procedures and Rules. It was passed unanimously.

## Kelly Elected To Board

*By William Troy Simmons, Chairman of the Board*

At its Winter Meeting, the Board of Directors welcomed former Student Governor Jeremiah J. Kelly to its ranks. Kelly, a 2001 graduate of the Western Maryland College Chapter, excelled as one of our greatest Governors and as an all around student leader.

With Alumni Chairman Brian Griffiths, 2001 William Troy Simmons Award Winner Matthew Berger, and former Secretary of State and Attorney General Kate Boyle, Kelly revitalized the WMC Chapter and then re-energized the entire organizations.

Jeremiah currently serves as the Congressional Affairs Assistant in the Office of Legislation with the Food and Drug Administration in Washington, DC.

## Alums Seek Public Office

*By Brian Griffiths*

Two MSL alums have already announced their intentions to run for public office during the 2002 election season.

UMCP grad Steve Sushner has announced his candidacy for the Maryland House of Delegates. Sushner will be seeking the Democratic nomination in Montgomery County's District 15 (Potomac, Poolesville, and parts of Gaithersburg, Germantown, Bethesda, and Rockville). Steve, who formerly served as MSL's Speaker of the Assembly, will be making his official announcement sometime in May. To contact Steve, call 202-425-5727 or e-mail [steve@empiredc.com](mailto:steve@empiredc.com).

One district over, fellow MSL Alum Dan Zubairi is

making a similar run. Zubairi will be seeking the Republican nomination for the House of Delegates in District 16. Dan (UMBC '98) is currently serving as the President of Maryland Student Legislature, Inc. and as a Managing Partner and President of SydanTech LLC, and information security consulting firm. To contact Dan, you can reach him through his official campaign website at [www.maryland2002.org](http://www.maryland2002.org).

If you are an MSL alum who is seeking public office, and wants to tell fellow alums about it, please let us know. The *MSL Caucus* will publish small pieces about your candidacy, and provide fellow MSL alums with ways to get in touch with you. To ensure inclusion in the next *Caucus*, send an e-mail with all information to [briancgriffiths@yahoo.com](mailto:briancgriffiths@yahoo.com).

## P&P Changes to be Debated

The General Assembly of the Maryland Student Legislature will take into consideration amendments to the controversial Procedures and Protocols document passed unanimously in 2001.

The key aspect in these amendments would be the repeal of all sections calling on alumni action in Section III of the document.

The Alumni Steering Committee had reservations about the document, which called for the MSL student governor to have partial authority over alumni business.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## BRIEF NOTES

- Please send all address changes or corrections to brianmgriffiths@yahoo.com
- Don't forget to sign up for the Alumni Speakers Bureau! This organization will provide MSL students with the opportunity to have guest speakers come to their delegations to discuss MSL, issues, politics, or anything else! This is a great service we want to offer the alumni and encourage all of you to participate!
- Have you considered donating to MSL? Visit our website at [www.msl.org](http://www.msl.org) to find out how.

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