

## American Democracy Project



April 2006

# ADP NEWS

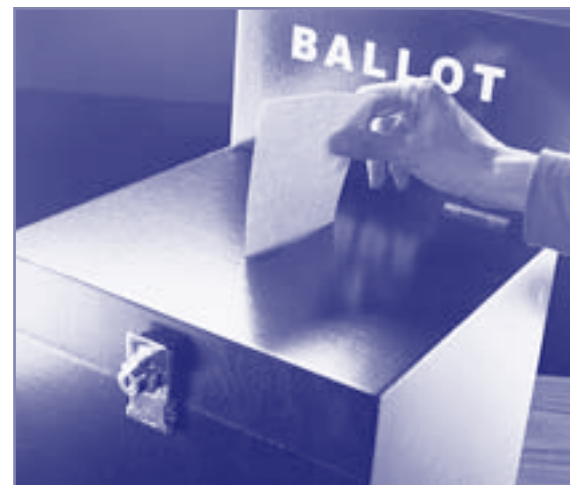
## AASCU to Participate in Young Voter Strategies Project

**Y**oung Voter Strategies is a project of The George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management, with support from The Pew Charitable Trusts, to provide the public, parties, candidates, consultants and nonprofits with data on the youth vote and tools to effectively mobilize this electorate for upcoming elections. As part of this project, the first-ever national grants to support innovative nonpartisan strategies to register young voters ages 18 to 29 were awarded. Elizabeth Bennion and her colleagues at Indiana University South Bend in collaboration with AASCU are the recipients of one of the grants.

It is expected that the \$3 million project will enable grant recipients to register a total of 350,000 young voters nationwide in 2006. After the November 2006 elections, Young Voter Strategies and a team of university researchers will analyze each project to create a "Young Voter Toolkit" of

best practices for mobilizing young voters. The toolkit will be a compilation of the 2006 results plus best practices learned from a decade of youth outreach. The toolkit will be unveiled in a series of briefings for political consultants, campaign managers and party officials, and will be made available to key decision makers, opinion leaders, and nonprofits as they build their strategies for the 2008 election.

For more information about Young Voter Strategies, visit [youngvoterstrategies.org](http://youngvoterstrategies.org). ★



# CAMPUS NEWS

## GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

The Second Annual Coverdell Symposium—New Leaders for a New Century: The Millennial/Hip-Hop Generation and American Leadership was held March 21–22 at Georgia College & State University. The symposium featured the arts, workshops and lectures designed to celebrate diversity and promote civic leadership.

Tamar Lewin, a senior writer at The New York Times, was the featured speaker at the March 22nd luncheon. Lewin, a co-author of the acclaimed series, *Class Matters*, published by the Times in the summer of 2005, spoke to participants about race and class in America.



*New York Times* reporter Tamar Lewin delivers lecture on race relations.  
Photo taken Loren Elliott

“I’m nervous, said Lewin, but, I want to talk about race and class and how little we cross those lines in the United States. We have this really diverse society, but we all tend to live in our own categories.”

Lewin approached the controversial subject matter of race relations in public schools, inter-class relationships and the idea of the United States being a disparate in heretocracy, where wealth is distributed to those born into it.

“When you talk about these things, the world opens up,” said Lewin. “Until you’ve examined and moved around through these different social categories, you’re not conscious of them.”

## STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK BROCKPORT

Brockport’s fall semester began on a high note as the campus’ ADP activities continued to be successful.

### ACTIVITIES

- the Tsunami Challenge;
- the Freshman Council;
- the Alliance of Universities for Democracy;
- Campus Compact; and
- Summer Reading Program support.

### COMMITTEE REORGANIZED

- The Steering Committee Chair, Dena Levy, opened the committee’s first meeting by dividing the group into subcommittees to efficiently plan, execute, and support

ADP-related events. The following subcommittees were formed: Campus Events, Curriculum Initiatives, Hurricane/Disaster Relief, and the Distinguished Speaker Series.

### ADP CONSTITUTION DAY

- Student turnout approached 350 at the ADP Constitution Day event—a significant increase from previous student-attended events. Students also demonstrated an interest in the objectives and work of ADP with a couple of student-authored articles in the 2005 October and November issues of *The Stylus*, Brockport’s campus paper.

### AUEM COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIP

- By the end of the semester, ADP had developed a collaborative relationship with the Alliance of Universities for Democracy, and more specifically, Debrecen University in Hungary. This collaboration was coordinated by Greg Garvey, associate professor of English. Brockport is set to begin faculty exchanges with Debrecen, with a delegation arriving from Hungary next month.

### COLLABORATION WITH GENESEO

- Brockport also collaborated with the State University of New York Geneseo to bring The New York Times columnist David Carr to Rochester to discuss the media’s role in strengthening democracy.

### KATRINA FUNDRAISER

- The Disaster Relief/BEAR subcommittee took the lead in a very successful Katrina Relief fundraiser, bringing in over \$1,200 for disaster victims.

### DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

- ADP coordinated a university-wide grant competition for academic departments and programs inviting speakers to address topics related to civic engagement in Spring 2006 as part of a Distinguished Speaker Series. The competition has resulted in a five-person speaker series featuring: David Kaczynski (brother of Unabomber Ted Kaczynski), Major John Krenson (Army Intelligence/Afghan War veteran), and culminating in keynote speaker Ariana Huffington. The events have garnered unprecedented turnout among students and faculty.

## SPRING 2006 EVENTS

- ADP has collaborated with a number of other campus groups to coordinate and promote Spring 2006 events, including the annual Diversity Conference, the annual Scholars Day, the presidential inauguration, and a campus visit by Barry Childs, director of Africa Bridge. Priorities for the 2006–2007 year including continuing to increase direct student involvement in ADP and student engagement in ADP activities, and a deeper embedding of ADP objectives into the curriculum and co-curriculum.

For additional information, visit Brockport's ADP website at [brockport.edu/adp](http://brockport.edu/adp).

## TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE

Texas A&M University-Kingsville will host an exhibit celebrating the 219th Anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States. The exhibit will open on July 28th and will culminate with a special birthday party for the U.S. Constitution on September 17th.

Developed by a national consortium of scholars and institutions, this exhibit has been made available as part of a nationwide project supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Additional resources have been made available by grants from the Texas Committee for the Humanities. Visit [archives.tamuk.edu/adp\\_constitutionday2006.htm](http://archives.tamuk.edu/adp_constitutionday2006.htm) to learn about these resources.

## WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY, NEW JERSEY

William Paterson University is now offering a Youth Power and Public Leadership Camp. The pro-democracy camp is specifically for high-school age youth as part of its American Democracy Project.

This camp offers young people a structured yet creative environment where they may develop a skill-set specifically designed to promote critical-thinking, community-action, and public leadership.

By working from the “inside-out”, students will identify their camp and post-camp goals in the context of their own histories, communities, and civic concerns. By focusing on the next generation of political participants, this camp seeks to sustain and broaden the youth engagement trend across diverse communities, with special attention to those where youth engagement has been weakest.

This camp is a great opportunity for those with no prior experience in community or political service and will also offer challenges to those seeking skill building in the area of student governance as well as community action.

Youth Power and Public Leadership will emphasize finding one's public voice through community action, working with and understanding “others,” and learning the “nuts and bolts” of responsible leadership. ★

# NEWS & NOTES

## NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER RECEIVES GRANT

The National Constitution Center is receiving \$6.4 million from the Annenberg Foundation to support seven programs under the Constitution Center's Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach. The grant will support seven national and regional civic education and engagement programs, including a Peter Jennings Institute for Journalists and a Constitutional Convention.

Four of the seven are new programs:

- Peter Jennings Institute for Journalists and the Constitution;
- A Great Debates series;
- An Annual Constitutional Convention; and
- National Teacher Institutes.

Existing programs that will benefit from the grant, include:

- Constitution Day;
- The Pennsylvania Coalition for Representative Democracy (PennCORD); and
- Curriculum development for the new National Constitution Center Partnership High School.

The Peter Jennings Institute for Journalists and the Constitution will be an annual two-day conference for professional and student journalists. Featuring national journalists and legal scholars, the institute will hold seminars, workshops and case studies exploring a range of constitutional issues and concerns.

For more information, call 215.409. 6600 or visit [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org).

## DEMOCRACY MATTERS UPDATE

This spring, Democracy Matters held its fifth annual National Summit. Students from across the country came

to Albany, New York, for a weekend of strategizing, workshops, and sharing experiences and stories. ADP campuses were represented, with students from as close as Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania and the State University of New York Cortland, and from as far away as California State University Sacramento, San Francisco State University (Calif.), and Portland State University (Ore.).

The Democracy Matters National Summit is an opportunity for students to network and plan with other student leaders. They develop strategies for raising awareness of the problem of money in politics, for taking political action, and for creating campus and community coalitions for reform.

Students received training at workshops on “Using the Media,” “Organizing A Campus Event,” Civil Rights and Strengthening Democracy,” and more. They also learned creative ways to tackle the problem of money in politics. Facilitating the weekend were Democracy Matters alumni, university faculty, grassroots organizers, and leaders in the national movement for campaign finance reform. The next national summit will be September 8–10, in Washington, D.C.

For more information about nominating an undergraduate at your school for a paid on-campus internship, about working with Democracy Matters on your campus, or about students’ attending the summit, contact Joan Mandle at [joanm@democracymatters.org](mailto:joanm@democracymatters.org).

## YOUTH JUSTICE IN AMERICA

Andrew Ferguson is a public defender in Washington D.C., and one of the authors of *Youth Justice in America*, written to inspire students to care about constitutional law and juvenile justice.

*Youth Justice in America* focuses on constitutional cases involving the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendments and issues of the juvenile justice system. It is a constitutional law textbook written for all student levels, from at-risk youth to early college classes. It is filled with constitutional cases, articles, music lyrics, screenplays, and pictures about juvenile law issues.

In conjunction with the publication of the book, The Youth Justice Constitutional Literacy Project was created to reach young people by educating them about the Constitution. The goal is to bring together colleges, university resources, community programs, law students, juvenile defenders, and youth detention professionals to create regular teaching opportunities for motivated educators. Each project would develop independently, based on the specific needs of the community and realities of the local

schools and detention centers. The end goal is to empower youth to embrace constitutional literacy as a weapon against recidivism.

The authors founded and run the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project at the Washington College of Law at American University (D.C.). The Marshall-Brennan Project offers classes in 15 public high schools in the District of Columbia, ten in Pennsylvania, and a few in New Jersey and Arizona, and is developing projects in Massachusetts and other states. The goal is to take the model and apply it to teaching at juvenile detention facilities.

The managers of the project are interested in determining if there is interest in establishing a constitutional literacy project at ADP schools. They are also looking at existing programs in order to collect examples of community partnerships focused on civic and constitutional education targeting at risk youth—especially youth in detention.

Youth Justice in America is available at [cqpress.com](http://cqpress.com) and [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). If you are interested in using the book as a teaching tool, contact Andrew Ferguson at [speakingyouth@hotmail.com](mailto:speakingyouth@hotmail.com) or the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project at [wcl.american.edu/wethestudents/curriculum.cfm](http://wcl.american.edu/wethestudents/curriculum.cfm).

## ADP T-SHIRT CONTEST 2006

The results are in and the selected slogan for the 2006 ADP T-shirt contest came from Anthony Montgomery at Lander University (S.C.). The slogan reads:

*(front)*

**. . . By the people,  
for the people . . .**

*(back)*

**It's our turn.  
American Democracy Project**

AASCU would like to thank all students who submitted their slogans ideas.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

One goal of our civic engagement work is to help make our world a better, safer place for us now and in the future. The sustainability movement is one practical way that students can become engaged in civic issues.

This spring and fall, PBS will air four hour-long programs, *Edens Lost and Found*, that focus on sustainability initiatives in Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Se-

attle. This PBS series examines how some large American cities are creating more sustainable environments. The series is interested in helping people “get off your seat and get onto the street.” It provides concrete action examples that students and universities can use to contribute to sustainability and a better world. The website includes some suggestions for action. Copies of the programs are available on DVD.

In addition, the series highlights the work of promoting attention to sustainability issues undertaken by Sustainable Lane’s rankings of 25 American cities. Their rankings are based on definable and concrete criteria that can be used by American Democracy Project participants to stimulate discussion and perhaps follow-on action projects.

### **ALL-NEW “YOUTH POLICY ACTION CENTER” BRINGS DEMOCRACY TO YOUNG PEOPLE ONLINE**

More than 80 of the country’s leading national, state and local advocacy organizations, in an unprecedented partnership, have launched the all-new Youth Policy Action Center: a website that engages young people (and adults) in democracy: changing policies that change young people’s lives.

The Youth Policy Action Center helps visitors contact their elected officials and features:

- Action Alerts from leading national, state and local child and youth organizations.
- State Pages identifying what is going on close to home.
- Policy Tools with information about elected officials, media contacts and legislation.
- Information Portal providing up-to-date media stories, research and policy analysis.
- Social Networking to access sites such as MySpace®, Friendster®, essembly, and Yahoo!@360 for social good.
- Videos, Voting, Volunteering displays videos created by young people on how to register to vote and find volunteer opportunities.

The first version of the Youth Policy Action Center, launched in April 2005, was the featured “hot site” on PoliticsOnline, the Foundation Center, and others, and was highlighted by nationally syndicated columnist Jane Eisner in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. ★

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MAY 30-JUNE 2, 2006**

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI**

### **THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN’S RIGHTS & EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

The conference will highlight programs that promote the civic engagement of youth around the world. Internationally renowned keynote speakers will welcome academics, teachers, leaders of non-governmental organizations, and political leaders from the United States and abroad. A World Youth Camp will be held concurrently with the conference. To submit a paper, send a brief abstract to [21stcenturyconference.tamucc.edu](http://21stcenturyconference.tamucc.edu)

Refereed conference proceedings will be published. For more information contact: Dorothy S. McClellan, Texas A&M University Regents Professor of Criminal Justice, President, 21st Century Society for Children’s Rights & Education at [Dorothy.McClellan@mail.tamucc.edu](mailto:Dorothy.McClellan@mail.tamucc.edu)

**JUNE 15-18, 2006**

### **ADP NATIONAL CONFERENCE: REFLECTION & RENEWAL**

The 2006 American Democracy Project National Meeting will meet in Snowbird, Utah. The program includes:

- James Joseph, former ambassador to South Africa, currently executive director, United States-Southern Africa Center for Leadership and Public Values, Duke University (N.C.)
- Frances Moore Lappe, author of *Diet for a Small Planet* and newly released *Democracy’s Edge*, and director of the Small Planet Institute
- Robert Corrigan, president of San Francisco State University (Calif.)
- Mallory Wall, president, Student Government Association, McNeese State University (La.); board member, University of Louisiana System

- Mary Kirlin, professor of Political Science at California State University Sacramento
- Brian Murphy, president of De Anza Community College (Calif.)

There will be 34 concurrent sessions or workshops, a total of more than 100 individual presentations. There will be Campus Showcases on display for a day, providing materials and ideas for new programs and projects; a number of opportunities for small group discussions; a film festival; and a combination book display/book raffle.

Don't miss the pre-Conference Workshops! Three pre-conference workshops, scheduled for Thursday, June 15th, are open to all participants. They are offered at no additional cost. For planning purposes, please identify how many persons from the team will attend a particular pre-conference session and give their names to Mary-Kathryn McKenna (mckennam@aascu.org).

- Getting Started in the American Democracy Project. A program for campuses just starting their civic engagement work. Thursday, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Open to all ADP campuses.
- Jury Initiative. A program on how to work with local court systems. Thursday, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Open to all ADP campuses.
- Voter Registration Project. This will be a planning session for voter registration efforts in Fall 2006. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open to campuses participating in the Young Voters Strategies Project. Registration materials available at aascu.org.

**SEPTEMBER, MARCH 15, 2007**

### **PHASE ONE: WEB CONVERSATION**

**MARCH 15-17, 2007**

### **PHASE TWO: CONFERENCE**

#### **THE IGNATIAN CENTER, SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY (CALIF.) WEB-BASED CONVERSATION AND ACADEMIC CONFERENCE**

Callings: Fostering Vocation through Community-Based Learning:

- Have you ever wondered what impact community placements might have on students' sense of what to do with their lives?
- Or how faculty might tailor their experience to encourage reflection on where their gifts and desires meet the world's needs?

Join a forum on how to educate students to respond constructively to society's challenges, to dedicate themselves to the common good.

#### Featured Speakers:

- Sharon Daloz Parks, Director of Leadership for the New Commons, an initiative of the Whidbey Institute, and author of *Big Questions, Worthy Dreams*.
- Michael Himes, Professor of Theology at Boston College (Mass.), and author of *Doing the Truth in Love: Conversations about God, Relationships, and Service*.

**NOVEMBER 5-8, 2006**

**KATOWICE, POLAND**

### **ALLIANCE OF UNIVERSITIES FOR DEMOCRACY: 17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Conference theme: The University and the Challenge of Transition Facing Societies in Eastern, South-Eastern and Central Europe. Founded in 1990, the Alliance of Universities for Democracy is a consortium of American and Central European, East European, and South-East European universities united for the common purpose of supporting institutions of higher learning in North Central/Baltic, Central, South-East and Eastern Europe in the transition to their democratic roles in building civil societies and in market-driven economies.

We encourage young scholars and junior faculty to participate. We invite alumni of various exchange programs sponsored by the American Councils for International Education and other agencies to contact those agencies to see if support is available. We also invite papers from undergraduate and graduate students.

The conference will be held in English. Colleagues may submit one or more presentation proposals. Requirements for submission: A one-page abstract as follows: (a) title of presentation; (b) name(s) of presenter(s); (c) title of presenter; (d) department or faculty and name of university and country; (f) e-mail address, fax number, mailing address; (g) identify proposal as either a poster session or a panel presentation; (h) indicate under which track or tracks the paper is being submitted. In the e-mail proposing the paper, place (a) your name and (b) your paper title (or a short title if necessary) in the subject line.

Send proposals to Gábor Czéh at the University of Pecs [audem@ki.pte.hu](mailto:audem@ki.pte.hu).

The deadline for receipt of proposals, including titles, authors' names, institutional affiliation and addresses,

and an abstract is May 15, 2006. Late proposals may be considered if space is available. Registration will begin around August 1.

Colleagues requiring formal letters of invitation for visa or funding purposes should contact us as soon as possible. Invitations will be sent based on the visa requirements of Poland. Inquiries about visa requirements for Poland should be directed to the Polish consulate in your home country

Presenters must register for the conference. Presentations and presenters will not be in the printed program if the presenter has not registered. [audem.org](http://audem.org)

For additional information about the conference, contact [audem@ki.pte.hu](mailto:audem@ki.pte.hu).

**JANUARY 25-27, 2007**

**LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY, VIRGINIA**

**AMERICA AND THE WORLD: SUSTAINING  
DEMOCRACY IN THE GLOBAL AGE**

Longwood University is hosting an academic conference that seeks to understand the current state and future

of democracy. This event will highlight various challenges facing democracy in the 21st century. Economists, political scientists, geographers and historians are encouraged to submit original research papers focusing on the following categories: the sustainability of democracy in the developing world, the challenges facing post-industrial democracies, the impact of terrorism on freedom, and how globalization affects democracy. For more information regarding the conference visit: [longwood.edu/democracy](http://longwood.edu/democracy). This event is being supported by the American Democracy Project, Hampden-Sydney College, and the Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission.

For additional information contact: N. Scott Cole, assistant professor of political science and co-director, Civic Leadership Institute, Longwood University at 434.395.2526. ★

The American Democracy Project is a multi-campus initiative that seeks to create an intellectual and experiential



understanding of civic engagement for undergraduates enrolled at institutions that are members of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. The goal of the project is to produce graduates who understand and are committed to engaging in meaningful actions as citizens in a democracy.

**Project Contacts**

George L. Mehaffy, AASCU, ADP Project Director • [mehaffyg@aascu.org](mailto:mehaffyg@aascu.org)

Felice Nudelman, *The New York Times*, ADP Project Co-Director • [nudelf@nytimes.com](mailto:nudelf@nytimes.com)

Mary-Kathryn McKenna, AASCU, ADP Project Coordinator • [mckennam@aascu.org](mailto:mckennam@aascu.org)

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

1307 New York Avenue, NW • Fifth Floor • Washington, DC 20005-4701

202.293.7070 • fax 202.296.5819 • [aascu.org](http://aascu.org)