



# ADP NEWS

## ADP-South Conference 2005

The Southern Consortium of the American Democracy Project (ADP), or ADP-South, was conceived by a small group of ADP members at the 2004 national ADP conference. This 13-state group was formed with the goal of fostering collaboration and support of civic engagement initiatives among southern states. It held its First Annual Conference on November 10-12, 2005 at Clayton State University (Ga.). This first conference was attended by 70 individuals (many of them students) representing 19 schools and nine states. Further participation came from *The New York Times*, the National Issues Forum, and AASCU's Mary-Kathryn McKenna. Speakers included: *New York Times* White House Correspondent Elisabeth Bumiller discussing her up close and personal view of U.S. democracy and the President's push for democracy overseas, as well as McNeese State University (La.) Student Government Association President/University of Louisiana System Student Board Member Mallory Wall reporting on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita's impact on the Louisiana higher education community and how that has changed her view of student civic engagement.

Faculty, staff and students presented engaging breakout sessions, but the most rewarding moments were the sharing of ideas and the discussions of potential collaborative endeavors. Beyond presentations, this conference included a business meeting and an awards ceremony to acknowledge

outstanding civic engagement initiatives.

In order to further the progress and sustainability of ADP-South, a council was formed with a representative from each attending state:

- Arkansas: Ronald Sitton, University of Arkansas at Monticello
- Florida: Becky Mulvaney, Florida Atlantic University
- Georgia: Gene Hatfield, Clayton State University
- Louisiana: Jackie Tisdell, University of Louisiana System
- Kentucky: Beverly McCormick, Morehead State University
- South Carolina: Dennis Wiseman, Coastal Carolina University
- Tennessee: Mike McCullough, University of Tennessee at Martin
- Texas: Tamara Waggener, Sam Houston State University
- Virginia: David Locascio, Longwood University

The council recognized Jackie Tisdell for her efforts as Chair in 2005. New officers elected for 2006 were: Gene Hatfield, Chair; Beverly McCormick, Vice Chair; and Mike McCullough Secretary/Treasurer. The Council is looking into ways to include student leadership in the consortium's activities and to recruit participants from Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, and West Virginia.

Below are the award winners and a synopsis of their outstanding initiatives.

### Co-Curricular

- Third Place: Middle Tennessee State University, Constitution Day 2005.
- Second Place: Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Commemoration of the 1965 Civil and Voting Rights Acts.
- First Place: University of Tennessee at Martin, Tearing Down the Wall.

### Curricular

- Third Place: University of West Georgia, Cross Cultural Communication.
- Second Place: Louisiana Tech University, Community Service in Architecture Program.
- First Place: Morehead State University (Ky.), Leadership Development Program.

### Institutional

- Third Place: Western Kentucky University, Election 2004: Engagement Campus-Wide.
- Second Place: Western Kentucky University, Constitution Week Activities.
- First Place: Morehead State University (Ky.), Septemberfest: A Celebration of the American Community.

Business for ADP-South is managed through an ADP-South Center currently housed at the University of Tennessee at Martin with Mike McCullough serving as Executive Director.

Next year's ADP-South conference will be held in Kentucky in late October or early November.

To learn more about ADP-South, visit [ADPsouth.org](http://ADPsouth.org). ★

## News & Notes

—by George Mehaffy, ADP Director

Lots of things happened this fall in the American Democracy Project. Here are a few highlights from the national office perspective:

**Constitution Day:** Judging from the reports we have received, Constitution Day was a major event on many campuses. We received descriptions of activities from more than 100 campuses. We're

planning on collecting these stories to create a campus guide for future years.

**Wingspread Conference Guide:** The Wingspread Conference in summer 2003 produced a volume entitled *Democracy and Civic Engagement: A Guide for Higher Education*. This monograph, intended to be a guide for institutions thinking about starting a focus on civic engagement, was printed in September. We mailed copies to all ADP provosts and campus coordinators. Additional copies are available free by writing to Mary-Kathryn McKenna at AASCU.

**Civic Engagement Conference at the Carnegie Foundation:** In early December, AASCU's George Mehaffy participated in a conference at the Carnegie Foundation that was convened by Bill Galston of CIRCLE. The purpose of the conference was to assess where civic engagement is on the national agenda and what the emerging research agenda should be. A copy of the proceedings of that conference will be available soon from CIRCLE. Galston has taken a position at the Brookings Institution and Peter Levine will be the new head of CIRCLE.

**Civic Engagement in Action Series:** Some of the most noteworthy national work on civic engagement is the implementation of the five initiatives, entitled Civic Engagement in Action, that were launched at the 2005 ADP national meeting. Here is a quick report on activity:

- **Civic Engagement in the First Year of College:** A meeting was held at Sam Houston State University (Texas) in November; almost 60 people attended. John Gardner provided a very thoughtful opening address. Plans are underway to produce a monograph in conjunction with The New York Times and the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience. There will also be a presentation at the 2006 ADP National Meeting.
- **Civic Engagement in Other Lands:** Partnerships have been created between 16 ADP institutions and Eastern European colleges and universities interested in focusing on civic

engagement in their countries. The Alliance of Universities for Democracy (AUDEM) held its annual meeting in Yalta, Ukraine in November. A number of AASCU institutions participated, as did AASCU's Mary-Kathryn McKenna. Several Eastern European colleagues will attend the 2006 ADP National Meeting.

- **Stewardship of Public Lands:** Nineteen universities are participating in the Stewardship of Public Lands project that is using wolf reintroduction as a case study in understanding how competing but equally legitimate concerns over public lands are resolved in a democracy. Presidents, provosts and other senior leaders gathered in Yellowstone for three days last June, and 26 faculty journeyed to Yellowstone for five days in August. Since then, campuses have been working on local projects; some have also been developing courses that include wolf reintroduction. AASCU is planning another faculty program in Yellowstone for July 31-August 5, 2006, with a focus on the Yellowstone ecosystem. It will be open to all ADP campuses. A presentation on the project's status will be given at the 2006 ADP National Meeting.
- **Civic Engagement and the Jury System:** Seventeen campuses are participating in the Jury System initiative. The first meeting was held in Portland, Oregon, just before the 2005 national meeting, with guests Tom Munsterman of the National Center for State Courts and David McCord of the American Judicature Society. Participating campuses are working on plans to incorporate activities and study of the jury system in the curriculum and programs of their institutions. AASCU has been working with June Kress of the Council on Court Excellence, an organization that provides citizen monitoring of the District of Columbia court system. The Council's guide for observing courts was distributed to participating campuses.
- **Civic Engagement and Voting:** Sixteen campus are participating in the initiative on voting, gathering information on best practices in the recent national election. The goal of this group is to create a guide for campuses for voter

education, registration and participation in future elections. The initiative is being lead by Jim Perry at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. There will be a meeting of the group in Indianapolis in late January to plan the monograph and the presentation at the 2006 ADP National Meeting.

**Campus visits:** This fall AASCU's George Mehaffy traveled to Western Kentucky University to participate in work with faculty; addressed the Board of Regents at Northern Kentucky University; and met with faculty and others at California State University Fresno and at the University of Central Missouri. ★

## Upcoming Events

### **2006 National ADP Meeting**

Snowbird, Utah June 15-17, 2006

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Fourth Annual American Democracy Project national meeting in Snowbird, Utah, June 15-17, 2006. This will be a wonderful collection of presentations, round table discussions, campus showcases, and much, much more. Call for proposals will be sent in early January.

### **Stewardship of Public Lands, Yellowstone Seminar**

July 31-August 5, 2006

Join AASCU in developing a set of course materials on the Stewardship of Public Lands. Starting Monday afternoon, July 31st and spending a week (through Saturday afternoon), the group will explore issues and controversies in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem: bears, snowmobiles, wolves, gold mines, bison, elk, lake trout, and other challenges to the future of the ecosystem. The goal will be to understand these issues politically and to gain insights about how they get addressed and resolved in a democracy. AASCU will be collecting materials and designing courses and modules that ADP campuses can use, alone or in conjunction with local controversies, to help students understand the process of resolution of disputes. Details will be sent out in January. Participants may come alone or as campus teams.

# Campus Reports

## Fort Hays State University (Kan.) opens new Center for Civic Leadership

The mission of the Center for Civic Leadership is to foster and promote the development of citizens and “citizen leaders” who will address and solve community problems. This model of leadership emphasizes collective action through collaboration for the purpose of addressing social needs and injustices. Civic leadership is a contemporary theory that calls for the development of citizen leaders who are committed to making our world a better place.

While civic participation and public service provide a vital and critical role in our democratic and free society, it is the link with leadership that helps shape the decision making process and its outcomes. Beyond service, these citizens identify key issues, raise questions, voice opinions, challenge traditional authority, and take the appropriate actions when necessary. The purpose is to create a new generation of Americans who empower themselves and have the skills and capabilities to act on behalf of the greater good.

For more information about the Center for Civic Leadership, call (785) 628-5592, visit [fhsu.edu/ccl](http://fhsu.edu/ccl) or email us at [ccl@fhsu.edu](mailto:ccl@fhsu.edu)

## George Mason University (Va.)

As the campus prepared for Constitution Day and other programs this year, the programs could not be separated from what is happening to fellow citizens in New Orleans, Mississippi and Alabama. In a conversation with a colleague who teaches at Savannah State University (Ga.) about the Katrina disaster, she recommended a book called “The Soul of Politics: Beyond ‘Religious Right’ and ‘Secular Left’” by Jim Wallis.

More than ever, what is needed is what those of us in cultural studies would call a “third space,” outside the binaries of left/right, Democrat/Republican, liberal/conservative, and inside the politics of caring. The Democracy Project has given us a way to frame thoughts and ideas about what really matters in a way that is already making a difference.

## Indiana State University

On campus, ADP continues to be robust and events surrounding constitution day continue through the entire semester. One event is the Banned Books Outloud day that includes a large printed page from the Constitution signed by many, many students, faculty and staff during events supporting constitution day. Pictured is a freshmen student reading a children’s book under the signed document to a crowd of children, parents and students at the bookstore. ★



## FYI . . .

### To Rebuild After a Hurricane, Be an Architect of Democracy

—by Harry C. Boyte (ADP Advisor)  
09/26/2005

(MINNEAPOLIS) For all the talk about a consensus on the need for effective government after Katrina, Democrats and Republicans divide along predictable lines. Conservatives argue that rebuilding New Orleans offers an opportunity to show how private initiative, not public action, gets things done. From the perspective of Bush critics, reconstruction efforts, unlike the New Deal, are likely to fall prey to cronyism and corruption.

Yet today’s polarized politics is a symptom of larger cultural problems. Americans remain a compassionate people, as support for flood victims shows. But the disaster of governance in New Orleans—the failure to work together to prevent

death, suffering, and looting - illustrates the erosion of our capacities for cooperative action.

In recent years, public affairs scholars and practitioners have argued for a concept of “governance” that is broader than “government.” Governance describes how approaches to complex challenges have shifted, whether preparing for disasters or reforming schools. No one in the real world of public policy believes that government is always the center of the universe or the only source of solutions. Yet what is to prevent corporations, nonprofits, or others from advancing their own interests at the expense of the public good? If no easily identifiable group of people can be held to singular account for outcomes of public benefit, then there is an urgent need for accountability and cooperative work to become core values in the civic culture.

The 1930s was a good example of cooperative governance - democratic values - at work. Liberals portray the New Deal as a triumph of government activism, but federal initiative was part of a broad culture of democratic governance. The American dream shifted from individualist, WASP-oriented, consumerist ideals of the 1920s, to a far more cooperative, racially pluralist, and egalitarian vision. The reform movement had combined efforts like trade union organizing with organizing for change in culture-shaping institutions like the motion picture industry, journalism, and education. Again in the 1960s, the civil rights movement worked profound changes in American culture. In both cases, millions of people deepened a democratic way of life.

Today’s images of what it means to be a success undermine a democratic culture. The good life is defined by private pursuits, whether shopping in the mall or battling it out on reality TV. Cooperative labors that solve problems are more empty pieties than principles we live by. Consumerism contributes to the erosion of human solidarity, as religious leaders such as the late John Paul II have observed, but part of the problem also comes from liberal education. Professionals are trained to look at people in terms of their deficiencies not their talents, and to be detached from the civic life of places.

Yet the response to Katrina also suggests that Americans are searching for a rediscovery of the democratic faith. Under the surface, there are multiplying signs of a movement for democratic renewal. For instance, the cultural crisis drives

the work of broad-based citizen organizations that involve several million families. Racially, religiously, economically, and politically diverse groups such as the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), based in congregations of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faith and other local institutions, organize around issues like schools and jobs, but they frame their work in terms of a “war of values.”

These organizations distinguish themselves by focusing on principles of respect, sound relationships, concern for the poor, and participation that come from both faith and democratic traditions. They contrast with unbridled competition and greed. Positive Hip Hop among young African-Americans contrasts with their portrayal as thugs and addicts in the mass culture. Higher education groups like the Campus Compact challenge the message that education is simply about monetary gain with a message of active citizenship. Environmentalists make long-term agreements with industry, farmers, local governments, and others to create sustainable ecosystems. The Global Campaign Against Poverty connects Americans to other parts of the world.

Beyond organizations designed to effect change are “culturemakers” - clergy, educators, businesspeople, entertainers, health workers, journalists, housewives, steelworkers, and politicians - who shape the culture, its values, and its practices. Students, shoppers, and spectators also create an impact through their individual choices and collective action.

Many today are appalled at the prospect that private images of the good life - reality TV shows, strip malls, and schools that teach children to pass standardized tests while they fail at life - will continue to dominate as problems mount. People often feel powerless to change prevailing trends. But if called to recognize, in the words of the old civil rights song, that “we are the ones we’ve been waiting for,” millions of people might take up the challenge of being architects of a democratic culture. This is the way to solve our problems, not blame others for the failure.

—Harry C. Boyte, a senior fellow at the Humphrey Institute,  
is the author of ‘Everyday Politics.’  
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## Democracy Matters Update

Democracy Matters is a non-partisan organization that informs and engages college students and communities in efforts to strengthen our democracy. Democracy Matters works with ADP on multiple college campuses and universities. With chapters throughout the country, Democracy Matters focuses on the issue of private money in politics and other pro-democracy reforms. In this way, Democracy Matters encourages the emergence of a new generation of civically engaged leaders.

In September, Democracy Matters Regional Field Organizer Petra Stankard spoke at ADP's launch of their Central Missouri State University program. Stankard spoke to students and faculty about how to create a Democracy Matters chapter at the school. She was interviewed on a local radio and television station where she argued that students should vote, create a dialogue, and increase their active participation in our democracy.

At Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania, Democracy Matters recently organized a successful brown bag lunch discussion on the topic of civic engagement. Democracy Matters students explored the role that big money in politics plays in discouraging political and civic engagement, especially among young people. They presented their analysis to faculty and students and will be bringing the presentation into classrooms on campus.

The Democracy Matters Campus Coordinator at Winston-Salem State University (N.C.), spoke at

Constitution Day events about how the impact of money in politics is threatening the very principle of "One Person, One Vote" set forth in the U.S. Constitution. The chapter brought local legislators to campus in November to speak about fundraising by candidates and their own election campaigns. California State University Sacramento held a successful "Rock the Vote" concert and registered student voters for California's Special Election. The event featured three bands, students tabling on various political interests, and the registration of hundreds of student voters.

At the State University of New York Cortland, the Executive Director of Democracy Matters, Joan Mandle, and Jessica Wisneski, the Clean Money/Clean Elections Coordinator for Citizen Action New York, visited the campus in November. The forum focused on the problems of fundraising for women and people of color that lead to their under-representation in politics. They also talked about how a "Voter-Owned" or "Clean Elections" system of public financing like the one in Maine and Arizona has positively affected women and people of color.

If you are interested in further information about bringing Democracy Matters to your campus, and about the organization's paid undergraduate on-campus internships to work for deepening democracy, please contact Joan Mandle at [joanm@democracymatters.org](mailto:joanm@democracymatters.org) and/or go to [democracymatters.org](http://democracymatters.org). ★



**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.**

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