



The Gazette

News, Commentary, and other Marginally Important Stuff
for students lucky enough to be in the GSP
(Seriously... read it... it's exquisite)

Issue 1.1

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Fellow GSPers,

As you glance over this newsletter, I would ask you to resist the temptation to simply excise it from your mailboxes (which I'm sure, if they're anything like mine, are bursting at the seams with emails ranging from critically important to painfully unnecessary), and instead take a second to read over it. The Gazette has come into existence because GSP is currently well into its third year, and it would be inexcusable to leave such a worthy program without a good forum for news and discussion any longer.

In the short pages that will comprise The Gazette, you will find well-written, amusing, and informative articles concerning the Georgetown Scholarship Program. As of now, we envision publishing material about networking opportunities with alums, GSP social events, and the direction that students would like to see the program take. In all honesty, however, the content is entirely flexible, and we want this to be your newsletter. So please, don't hesitate to contact us with suggestions about content you would like to see in The Gazette. Hopefully this publication will come to be whatever the student body of GSP wants it to be and will serve as a forum in which GSPers can find opportunities, discuss fun events, read quality writing, and plan ways to help the program grow, to the benefit of deserving students and Georgetown alike.

So please take the time to have a look at this first issue of The Gazette and let us know how it can better serve your needs. Beyond that, finals are upon us, so good luck and may your holidays bring much deserved relaxation and lots of presents.

-Drew Peterson, SFS '10
Sponsored by GSP '77
Editor



NOTES FROM STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Student Leadership Committee (SLC) is a GSP student-organized and run program that began this year with the support of the Admissions Office. The central aim of SLC is to build a support network that will help facilitate a fun, comprehensive, and academically resourceful first year for incoming GSP recipients. We all understand what freshman year is like because we have all been there! Being a mentor through SLC is a year-long commitment that not only includes new Facebook buddies but a collective effort to create a sense of belonging — a feeling integral to the freshman college experience. Although there are a few general events planned for the year, the emphasis of this program is on the mentor-mentee relationship, and it is the responsibility of the mentor to instigate and cultivate this relationship. At the SLC we hope that our mission to create powerful bonds between all students involved in GSP will be a successful one, and we urge freshmen to take advantage of the opportunities their mentors can provide.

-Amy Hang, COL '09
Sponsored by GSP '80
Student Leadership Committee Chair



THE GAZETTE

Editor: Drew Peterson

Donor Thoughts: GSP Chairman Paul W. Goodrich

Email: gspinfo@georgetown.edu

Student Contributors: Amy Hang, Joe Parker, Danny Rico

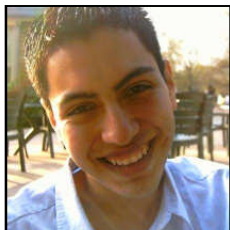
Admissions Liaisons: Missy Foy, Kim Harves, Leah Thomas

Website: <http://gsp.georgetown.edu>

Thinking About Economic Diversity

How a force that defines us also calls us to serve

Danny Rico (SFS'09/GSP'68) reflects on an eye-opening community service trip to one of the nation's most dangerous and economically disadvantaged municipalities.



As you step into the elevator in the Intercultural Center, you cannot help but be amazed at the number of languages being spoken at once in such a small space. This diversity, not simply in ethnic heritage, but also in economic background, is what makes Georgetown University. Our different experiences shape everyday life around campus. With such rich diversity and an active student body, why would anybody even consider traveling beyond Healy gates? We are fortunate enough to live in a place where everything is great, from the amazing architecture to the world-renowned professors. Where would we be without all of this? What if a simple mistake had placed us on the wrong track?

Father Charlie Gonzalez's annual trip to Camden, NJ helped me find the answers to those questions. Upon entering the city, one cannot help but be astonished at the fact that this was once a thriving area. The formerly beautiful row houses now lie crumbling, most of them boarded up and hosting brightly colored notices that state "Condemned." We drive around the corner and Father Gonzalez draws our attention to a dilapidated structure, "the ice cream store in front of the school where people could buy drugs." Homes have bars on their windows and businesses use retractable metal doors to cover their displays. It is as if the city were preparing for a riot.

A closer look at the city sheds light onto the true nature of its residents. As we assist in serving lunch to the homeless in a former church, we are struck by the same diversity that we see at Georgetown. The only difference of course is that many of these people do not have a home, are direct victims of a city with a monstrous unemployment rate, and many have made a grave mistake or two in their lives. One can turn around, look out the window, and easily spot multiple people injecting themselves with the only thing that brings them happiness.

So what does this have to do with us? Simply that many of the people that come into that soup kitchen once had our potential. A simple conversation with one of the homeless reveals that many of these people used to be professionals. To my left there is a former doctor, to my right, a onetime schoolteacher, and in front of me, an erstwhile nurse. Although many of them have erred and turned to drugs, they are all living the harsh realities of poverty.

As one converses with them more, it becomes apparent that many of these people have been ignored or have seen the door of opportunity slammed in front of them. "All I want to do is get a job, buy an apartment, and have a big dinner for my family to show them I am still somebody," says a Puerto

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(Rico, continued)

Rican man. It is hard to believe that a man with such ambition and dignity could end up at a soup kitchen.

As Georgetown students, we have great potential to assist others. The diversity on campus allows us to learn that not everyone is the same, that not everyone possesses the same economic status. The people of Camden once shared dreams similar to the ones we have now, and currently their city and lives lie in ruins. As educated students, we have the ability to see beyond appearances and realize that a homeless man is not just a homeless man, that he is also perhaps an aspiring poet or a caring father. Georgetown has given us the resources to help those who need it most. It is time for us to look beyond the front gates and face reality, not with a sad face, but with hope, vision, and the determination to make a difference.



UPCOMING EVENTS

One of the primary functions of The Gazette is going to be the announcement and discussion of exciting events planned for GSP by the Leadership Committee. At the moment, the projects listed below are in the works and your feedback on these ideas would be greatly appreciated.

Next Semester (in the works):

- Internship/career panel for GSP students, hopefully with some of our interesting and generous donors
- GSP "class" costume party: Halloween Round 2
- End of the year barbecue

To reiterate, feedback on these ideas (which are currently all in planning phases) would be greatly appreciated—as well as offers to write columns in the future! Also, if anyone has certain events or projects they would like to see GSP undertake, do not hesitate to contact us at gspinfo@georgetown.edu

My Life Outside the Classroom

Reflections on Campus Activism Opportunities

Joe Parker (COL'10/GSP'87) expounds on the opportunities Georgetown has given him to maintain a cherished family tradition of social activism.



It's no surprise that my choice to come to Georgetown was not based on cost efficiency (though I seem to join the minority unable to drop the annual \$50,000 required for an education here.) Likewise, it definitely was not in the expectation of a light workload (it is currently almost 3:00 in the morning).

Indeed, I was sold on this university during a GAAP weekend Student Activities Commission fair.

It was during this sparsely attended event that I first met the Solidarity Committee. The excitement and passion of the people standing behind the table convinced me that they believed something could be done in response to the problems of today's world. More importantly, they believed that we as students could be a part of that solution. It was then that I realized this was what I had been looking for to round out the ideal college experience.

Activism has been a huge part of my life for as long as I can remember. My dad, numerous uncles, and both my grandfathers were and are strongly involved in their respective workers' unions. Now I feel that it's my turn to carry the proverbial torch. Since arriving on the hilltop, the Solidarity Committee has been the group with which I've become most involved. The organization's name comes from the idea of "standing in solidarity" with the workers of the world. In other words, we work to maintain their rights in the workplace and we support them in any way possible.

This begins right here on the Georgetown campus, with University employees – maintenance staff, security workers, and food service personnel, among others. Advocacy for these employees has been the main focus of our group. It is also perhaps the most rewarding, as it entails building positive relationships with many of the wonderful workers here at Georgetown. Our goal is to listen to their grievances and encourage them to help themselves by way of active participation in workers' unions and Georgetown staff/student/worker negotiations.

Outside of Solidarity, I've also found enjoyment participating in groups like the College Democrats and the Georgetown University Legislative Advocates (GULA). The former has provided an outlet to the political junkie that lives within me, allowing me to extend my activism in support of certain candidates. Although the commitment isn't huge – it entails calling voters and asking for support, and sometimes local canvassing drives – I've been given a sense of grass-roots participation in a much greater cause. GULA is an exciting prospect as well. The concept is simple: find issues you care about, then lobby them in Congress. As Congress has been out of session for much of this semester, the work thus far has been preparing a plan of action.

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(Parker, continued)

I've been working for the subcommittee on healthcare issues. It seems that GULA will prove to be a wonderful way in which to take full advantage of this great city in which we live.

All in all, I see the year so far as having been a chance for me to sink my teeth in and get a small grasp on the possibilities available here. I've not only been bitten by, but have become permanently attached to the infectious bug that is student activism. I've been given a chance to voice my opinion, fight for it, and meet some amazing people along the way. I only hope that I can continue to do so for the rest of my time here and on into my lifetime career. **G**

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Every year thousands of high school seniors set their hopes on attending the most selective universities in the country, including Georgetown. The question for all of us becomes, how long can Georgetown continue to compete with and win the most talented students if it cannot compete with the financial aid packages offered by colleges with larger endowments?

The answer might well reside in the Georgetown Scholarship Program's success. First, GSP appeals to a wide range of Georgetown alumni who understand the importance of maintaining Georgetown's outstanding and diverse student body. Second, as is the case with the Alumni Admissions Program, GSP gives Georgetown alumni a reason for staying involved. Third, GSP is not just writing a check on an annual basis, it's becoming a part of a program which offers donors opportunities to return to campus, meet with their Class GSP students, and become available to correspond with recipients. Finally, and most importantly, giving through GSP fulfills an important need. The case for keeping our institution competitive and enriching the learning experience here through economic, cultural, and ethnic diversity is so well rooted in Georgetown's core values that GSP donors have already given and pledged more than three million dollars.

There is a need, however, to do more. When I first started interviewing in 1967 the Georgetown Alumni Admission Program had about 200 interviewers around the country. It has continued to grow. GSP will follow that same model. We must make our case for contributions, meet the students, expand the Georgetown family, and help our donor base to grow. This is happening now and will continue for many years to come. GSP is already an important part of class reunion giving. We have approximately 130 GSP students on campus, and look to double that number next year.

So now you understand that the Georgetown family is always growing, willing to face challenges, and more than ready to help. You are now a member of GSP and the Georgetown family. You will soon learn how you can help the alumni who are helping you. The GSP train is now on a roll; welcome aboard.

-Paul W. Goodrich, COL'65
Chairman, GSP