



GEORGETOWN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

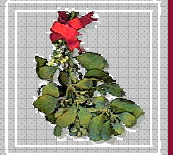
NEWSLETTER

To Get Involved:

Website: gsp.georgetown.edu

For Questions:

E-mail: gspinfo@georgetown.edu



BECOMING INVOLVED WITH GSP IN 2005-06

Year Two of the Georgetown Scholarship Program is off to a great start, building on the foundation of \$1 million raised and 50 students funded with improved financial aid packages starting in the fall of 2005. That initial success has allowed the GSP leadership to reach out to a growing circle of Georgetown alumni, parents, and friends, building a meaningful network that may one day fully fund the university's undergraduate financial aid program.

GSP's impact is already tangible for the 50 students who were the first recipients of the grants. Although the plan is to grow the program to the point where all financial aid recipients are "GSP students," creating a group too large to fit in any one room, this first class has a special place in the development of the program. As such, they have been involved in a few activities to help them get to know more about the program, and they have been universally grateful in their thanks to the donors for giving them this opportunity. Max Rerucha is one of them who might not be here but for his GSP grant, and his story is told by Melissa Foy on page 2 of this newsletter.

GSP has also had an impact on the alumni, parents, and friends who have joined the program so far. Since the first newsletter this fall, word has spread quickly and interest has been growing, with over a dozen new class leaders signing on and many others looking to become more involved. Events around the country have brought out over 100 potential

members of the program in the past few months. Alumni like Dena Reger and Rick Klein of the class of 1980 have seen GSP as the perfect way to connect with their classmates while doing something meaningful for the students who will become leaders in their communities, and they testify to the importance of the program for their class on page 3.

The potential impact of GSP is even greater. A Georgetown education should be available to the best and brightest from every background, but without the committed support of programs like the GSP it is impossible to reach all deserving candidates. There is tremendous inequity in how higher education is funded, with students from low-income families almost hopelessly behind their wealthier peers when it comes to getting a college degree. With public support for higher education faltering, the burden falls on colleges and their supporters to make up the widening gap, and GSP is Georgetown's best answer to that challenge. John Nagle's article on page 3 discusses

some of the recent media attention that highlights the issues facing students in need.

So the challenge is great and the work is difficult, but the reward is to keep Georgetown in the top echelon of national universities while also remaining true to its mission for social justice. It is a goal that the Offices of Undergraduate Admissions and Student Financial Services identified as critical to the future of the university, and it is a goal that will be recognized as central to the next university-wide fundraising campaign when it is announced in 2006.

Reaching that goal requires the committed service of everyone who is able to lend their support to a program that will make Georgetown a place for all talented students to strive for, regardless of their financial situation. If you would like to help Georgetown achieve that goal, please read on, and look especially to the next page for information about how you can join GSP now.

WINTER 2005-06 IN THIS ISSUE...	PLEDGING AND GIVING TO THE GSP	2	REFLECTIONS FROM GSP '80 CLASS CHAIRS	3
	GSP STUDENT PROFILE: MAX RERUCHA	2	GSP EVENTS BRING NEW DONORS TO PROGRAM	4
	GSP TO MAKE THE MERITOCRACY A REALITY	3	VISIT GSP ONLINE	4

PLEDGING AND GIVING TO THE GSP

GSP is a part of the Georgetown annual fund, and as a result gifts are tabulated based on the fiscal year which ends June 2006. GSP members have until then to complete their gifts and count toward the annual total.

Even so, it is important that any potential donors make a pledge for their gift as soon as possible, and certainly before the end of February, 2006. Those pledges allow the University to know how many students can be funded by GSP gifts in 2006-07.

That information will allow the Financial Aid Office to include the GSP grant in the student's financial aid package and help Georgetown become more attractive to those recipients, increasing the odds that they will choose to enroll.

Some donors will wish to give their gift as soon as possible in order to take advantage of tax deduction benefits at the end of the calendar year. Others may prefer not to give the full amount immediately, but often think of the needs of others during the holiday season and wish to make a pledge. Whatever the course taken, the University and the students are extremely grateful for your participation.

Whether it is to give a gift now or to make a pledge for the future, anyone interested in becoming a part of GSP should visit the website and go to the "How to Join" link for the latest instructions on signing up, or look for contact information for your class leader or staff representative if you have questions.

gsp.georgetown.edu

GSP STUDENT PROFILE: MAX RERUCHA

I first met Max Rerucha at a welcome pizza party on campus this fall for all 50 GSP students. His tall figure hovered at the doorway momentarily, while his eyes scanned the room anxiously. Upon seeing my nametag, he immediately walked over and leaned down to shake my hand vigorously while thanking me "for the GSP." His enthusiasm and gratitude was so overwhelming that I struggled to explain that I was merely the messenger, that the GSP is actually a collective gift from generous alumni.

Later in the semester, when I meet Max at the Uncommon Grounds coffee shop in the Leavey Center, he has come prepared with a stack of photos and shakes my hand again, thanking me for interviewing him, adding "this is such an honor". I am again at a loss for words.

Max politely waits for me to sit down and follows suit, digging out a few photos from the stack – the first of him and two friends from his award-winning debate team in high school. After commenting about the local colleges they attend, he adds, "That's part of what some people don't know about Wyoming; people grow up there and pretty much stay in the region. But that's why it's so great that I had the opportunity to come to Georgetown, to represent Wyoming and everyone back home in a positive light."

At the top of his class in the one public high school in Laramie, WY, Max took until late April to accept his spot at Georgetown, wanting to visit campus and fully evaluate his options.

When I ask if he worried about the cost of attending Georgetown, he immediately nods his head, adding that his parents were willing to do what was required to send their son to Georgetown. "But the GSP letter came at the perfect time. I came back from the GAAP Open House Weekend on campus and the letter was waiting in the mail for me." He mailed his confirmation of attendance back to Georgetown soon after.

An SFS student, Max hopes to focus on American foreign policy, perhaps eventually joining the Foreign Service when he graduates. He's already honing his public service skills with involvement in the Georgetown Solidarity Committee and the G.U. Grilling Society. Max lives in Darnall with a student from New Jersey, and is taking the Problem of God with Father King. Some things never change.

Melissa Foy
Admissions Officer



Max (right) with his brother, Luke, and his Early Action acceptance letter in Dec. 2004.

GSP TO MAKE THE MERITOCRACY A REALITY

The Georgetown Scholarship Program was founded to make attending Georgetown a realistic goal for all talented students, regardless of their financial circumstances. And although Georgetown has long practiced need-blind admissions and pledged to meet the full need of all students, it is clear that economic status remains a nearly insurmountable barrier between a large part of the population and elite universities like Georgetown.

An article titled "Does Meritocracy Work" by Ross Douthat in September's *Atlantic Monthly* serves to crystallize some of the issues facing poor students. Douthat's article also summarizes many of the issues presented by William Bowen et al. in the book *Equity and Excellence in American Higher Education*. Both present a compelling case that colleges and society are not doing enough to ensure that needy students have the chance to use higher education to improve their situation.

Since the middle of the 20th Century, colleges have endorsed

the egalitarian notion that anyone could earn a spot in their class if they were smart enough and worked hard enough. Federal programs like the GI Bill, Pell grants, Perkins and Stafford loans were designed to open up opportunity and made great strides in those areas. Colleges responded with affirmative action plans and need-blind admissions policies, yet statistics show that not much has changed for the very poorest families despite those efforts.

Indeed, Douthat points out that 1 in 2 students who come from families that earn over \$90,000 a year will achieve a bachelors degree by age 24, while that ratio slides all the way down to 1 in 17 for those who come from families making under \$35,000. That disparity becomes even more stark at the most elite universities, enough that one would think it was a problem people are trying to address.

To the contrary, some of the best sources of support for needy students are in jeopardy.

The latest Congressional budget cuts threaten to slash federal financial aid. State universities are throwing money into merit grants at the expense of need-based aid. And some "need-blind" institutions are offering aid packages that would require students to take on over \$100,000 in debt, severely limiting options.

Here is where the GSP can make a difference. Georgetown maintains a need-blind admissions process and meets full need, but it is difficult to even get high-achieving but needy students into the pool given the "sticker shock." Aggressive financial aid programs at places like Harvard and UVA have had early success in attracting true socio-economic diversity, giving those schools a platform to appeal to the neediest students and the resources to get them to enroll. Georgetown has a long way to go to match those programs, but GSP is the program that can make it happen.

John Nagle, Sr. Assistant Director

REFLECTIONS FROM GSP '80 CLASS CHAIRS

2005 marked our 25th Reunion and many fellow members of the Class of '80 responded resoundingly to the GSP call in its inaugural year. With the enthusiastic support from the Reunion Fundraising Chairs, Jim and Beth Eisenstein, our GSP team reached out to a number of our classmates who recognize and support GSP's mission as a critical element of our alma mater's ability to compete. GSP participants from the Class of '80 often cited the Program's direct impact on the students themselves as an essential benefit, as well. Georgetown has instilled a commitment to social justice in us all – and what better way to guarantee continuity of that commitment than to help make a Georgetown education accessible to our future leaders!

As Co-Chairs of the GSP effort, we found it to be a wonderful way to reconnect with classmates. Our reunion was a remarkable success thanks to the entire Reunion Committee, which was led by Chairs Dan Young and Ken Robbett. We are most grateful to those classmates who responded to the GSP effort and look forward to including many more in the future.

Rick Klein and Dena Walter Reger

GSP FUNDRAISING EVENTS BRING NEW DONORS TO PROGRAM



GSP Leaders (Brian Devaney, Dean of Financial Services Patricia McWade, Ray Esposito, Eileen Harte, Barbara Crocker, Paul Goodrich, Alan Leahey, Dena Reger, Carol Cooke) meet to discuss future GSP events during the AAP Board of Advisors Conference in November 2005.

Over 100 alumni, parents, and friends of Georgetown joined Dean Deacon at several successful GSP events during the fall and many more are planned for the future. A tremendous thank you is offered to the dedicated alumni, listed below, who hosted fundraising events. These events helped to bring many new donors to the Georgetown Scholarship Program.

Providence, RI

Hosted by Ray Esposito, GSP '78 Chair and Paul Goodrich, National Chairman and GSP '65 Chair

Garden City, NY

Hosted by Nancy Vincent, GSP '79 Chair

Short Hills, NJ

Hosted by Eileen Harte, GSP '77 Chair and Maren Dinsmore, N'78

Future events are being planned for early 2006 in Los Angeles and San Francisco as well as in New York City. Dates to be determined. For more information on upcoming events, please visit:

gsp.georgetown.edu

Georgetown Scholarship Program

Chair: Paul Goodrich

Co-Chair: Lisa Christiansen Gentil

GSP Class Chairs

If your graduating class is not listed, and you would like to become a chair, please visit our webpage for additional information at:

gsp.georgetown.edu

Class	GSP Class Chair
1964	Joe Cassin, John Werwaiss
1965	Paul Goodrich
1967	Jean Colrick
1968	Paul Maloy, Ed McManimon
1971	Kevin Moynihan
1973	Cristina McGinniss, JoAnn Palazzo, Joe Toce
1974	Mark Alexander, Carol Cooke, Lisa Christiansen Gentil
1975	Barbara Crocker
1976	Brian Devaney, John (Bud) Colligan, Rob Wall
1977	Ed Finneran, Eileen Harte
1978	Ray Esposito
1979	Jane Carey, Andrew Murray, Nancy Vincent
1980	Rick Klein, Dena Reger
1981	John Cleary
1982	Alan Leahey, Sean McCarthy
1983	Diane Brand
1985	Michael Mahoney
1989	Elizabeth Moley
1990	Regina Fay Gannon
1991	Jennifer Coia
1992	Christine Steeves Goodrich
1993	Robert Wallace
1994	Kevin Meagher
1997	Kahlil Olmstead
2000	Katherine Deacon, Erin Duffy
2003	Fred Flather, Elena McKee

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VISIT GSP ONLINE

Are you curious about who in your class is involved in GSP? Interested in learning more about the interests and goals of the 50 students who received GSP scholarships? Or maybe you heard that a GSP reception is being held in your city and want to learn more details. All of this information, and more, can be found at the newly created GSP website. It is a resource intended to keep you connected, involved, and informed. Below is a sampling of the kind of information that is available to you online, as a GSP member or prospective donor:

*Contact information for class leaders *Honor roll of donors *GSP mission statement *Profiles of the 50 current GSP scholars *Information on how to join *A description of past GSP events and upcoming functions

Please visit GSP online at gsp.georgetown.edu.