



Research Center for
Leadership in Action
NYUWagner

FELLOWSHIP FOR EMERGING LEADERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE ALUMNI CONNECTION

UPCOMING EVENTS

FELPS BOOK CLUB
Thurs., Mar. 3, 7:00pm
@ Location TBA

RSVP: markliu1@gmail.com

WINE AND CHEESE
Mon., Apr. 4, 7:00pm
@ NYU Wagner

Rudin Conference Room
295 Lafayette St.

RSVP:
wagner.felps@nyu.edu

RUN FOR THE WILD 5K
Sat., Apr. 30, 8:15am
@ Bronx Zoo

Register with the FELPS team:
wagner.nyu.edu/felps

2010-2011 ALUMNI BOARD

Jeremy Coffey ('09), President
*The Clinton School for Writers
and Artists*

Mark Liu ('08), Vice President
*Memorial Sloan-Kettering
Cancer Center*

Sean Corlett ('10)
*Brooklyn Democracy
Academy*

Jessica Leavitt ('08)
Per Scholas

Ly Nguyen ('10)
Public Interest Projects

Taku Noguchi ('07)
Goldman Sachs

Rhiannon O'Leary ('09)
Teach For America

Samuel Pierre ('09)
NYC Office of the Mayor

A MESSAGE FROM THE FELPS ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Fellowship Alumni,

What a white winter wonderland we have had in NYC this year! I hope that you have managed to stay dry and warm throughout this holiday season and that 2011 treats you well. 2010 was a great year for the FELPS alumni network, which continues to expand and plan new and exciting events.

On December 13, 2010, we enjoyed the second annual FELPS Holiday Party, attended not only by the current 2011 Fellows but also by numerous alumni. With each new event we are excited by expanding alumni participation, especially alumni who are reconnecting with the FELPS network several years after completing the Fellowship.

The holiday party was attended by alumni from each Fellowship class since FELPS (formerly CareerWays) began!

I would also like to congratulate the FELPS Book Club, led by Andy Felder ('09) and Mark Liu ('08), on its first successful gathering. The book club met on January 18, 2011 to discuss *The Other Wes Moore*.

In the coming months, please join us for the 5K "Run for the Wild" at the Bronx Zoo on April 30. FELPS is hosting a team, and information to join the run/walk is in this newsletter. The Run offers an opportunity to meet new fellows, reconnect with alumni, and spend a day at the Bronx Zoo in support of work by the Wildlife

Conservation Society to save our planet's penguins.

Also, we hope you will attend the second annual Fellow and alumni wine tasting on April 4. At the event you will have the opportunity to network with current Fellows and alumni as well as taste wine from around the world.

As we begin the new year, we hope you will continue to read the FELPS Classifieds and future newsletters for details on opportunities to participate in exciting FELPS events as well as other public service opportunities throughout NYC and beyond.

Best,
Jeremy Coffey ('09)

RESOURCES FOR CONTINUED CAREER DEVELOPMENT

FELPS is committed to helping alumni accomplish their career goals long after their fellowship concludes. We are constantly compiling information to support alumni. We encourage you to send any seminars, job openings, or public service news to:
felps-alumni@googlegroups.com.

FELPS Classifieds:

Published on the 15th and 30th of each month, they include public service and networking events, job listings, fellowship opportunities, and a NEW Class Notes section, so you can stay updated on what

other alumni are doing.

FELPS Alumni Directory:

The directory is now distributed on the 30th of each month as an attachment to the Classifieds. Send any updates to:
wagner.felps@nyu.edu.

FELPS Web site:

The site is updated to include comprehensive lists of alumni, as well as the bios of current Fellows and Career Guides. Under "Fellow Resources," you can find listings of local and national fellowships.
wagner.nyu.edu/FELPS

Job Openings:

The following Web sites have been noted by alumni as helpful:

[Idealist](#)
[Opportunity Knocks](#)
[City Limits](#)
[The Chronicle of Philanthropy](#)
[The Bridgespan Group](#)

Your college career services office

Other Professional Resources:

[BoardServeNYC](#)
[Foundation Center](#)
[Fritzwire](#) (education newsletter)
[Guidestar](#)
[Young Nonprofit Professionals Network](#)



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: RUSSELL BARUFFI '06

Career paths aren't always predictable, and according to Russell Baruffi (FELPS '06), they might even seem somewhat haphazard at times. When Russell left college at Brown with a degree in public policy for the City of New York's Department of Small Business Services, he had high hopes of making a difference. But it wasn't exactly that easy.

"I had been trained to think big picture about what could and should be, but I knew nothing about execution and making things happen in a big organization. I learned a lot working for the City, but my biggest takeaway was that I was not cut out to work in a big bureaucratic organization." Russell also thought that he needed more hard skills. So he decided to make a change and move to Ann Arbor to attend the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan.

Three years later, things seem a lot different. Russell graduated from the Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise at the University of Michigan in spring 2010, with an MBA and an MS in Natural Resources. After

graduation and some travel, he landed a job with an early-stage venture called Apex Wind Energy – a renewable energy company with 44 employees based in Charlottesville, VA. At Apex, he does analysis on wind energy property acquisitions, as well as marketing to get the wind energy they produce into the market.

For Russell, it's an opportunity to join a new venture at a stage in life when he can still afford to take risks. Additionally, Russell says, "Renewable energy development was a great way to make a direct impact and also to utilize my business skills – particularly project finance and marketing." Russell highlights that it was important personally to work for a company whose central mission is to create impact through sustainability initiatives. This decision was informed by his experience last summer, when he interned with the Sustainability department at Sony Pictures Entertainment in Los Angeles.

"Most public companies have sustainability outfits, but they are peripheral to the mission of the organization. Sony's core competency is producing



blockbuster motion pictures – reducing their carbon footprint takes a back seat," Russell says.

Even though he says he has no complaints about business school, Russell says that, in retrospect, he probably went to school a bit early. "I jumped the gun. If I had to do it all over again, I would have gotten more experience so that I could get more out of it. I didn't really know what skills I needed to develop going in." His advice: "If two years out of college you feel like you need to go to business school, you're probably panicking. Find a job and accomplish some things first."

In terms of academic content, he admits he could have learned most, if not all, of what he learned in his MBA from books or at a local college. The real value was in the networks and people,

as well as the time for introspection. "There is a retreat element to grad school that allows you to think about your skills, what you want to do professionally, plot your own path deliberately in a way that you can't do when you are responding to your boss's needs in the work world." Indeed, Russell discovered his interest in renewable energy about halfway into his experience. From there, he had the resources to identify what skills he needed and how to get to a job in wind energy.

Business school was a very "off the shelf" thing to do, he says, a packaged experience that allows you to explore options. He insists that, while business school helps, it is not essential. "If you want to be a doctor, you need to go to med school. Business school is never a prerequisite to lead or succeed in business. Most Fortune 500 CEOs don't have MBAs." Russell seems to be saying that there are many means to an end, and ultimately, it's what you make of the path you take. Perhaps the most important step for Russell was setting his sights on one of those paths and jumping in.

- By Taku Noguchi ('07)

PUBLIC SERVICE BOOK REVIEW: *MOUNTAINS BEYOND MOUNTAINS*

Working in public service, we are charged to tackle the issues that define the public agenda and devote our energy to identifying solutions. *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder is an inspiring example of the results of persistence when an extraordinary individual contributes to the public good.

The title of the book is from a Haitian proverb: as you solve one problem, another problem

presents itself, so you solve that one too.

The focus of the book is Paul Farmer, a physician by training with a specialization in infectious disease. He is an anthropologist and professor at Harvard whose humble beginnings include being raised on a bus and a boat. The story takes the reader from Boston to Haiti, Peru, Cuba and Russia. The author explores the obstacles and successes Dr.

Farmer encounters throughout his life and the growth of the organization he founded, Partners in Health. His mission is to bring modern medicine to communities in need while diagnosing and curing infectious diseases effectively.

His innovative work to address some of the world's horrible diseases, which is sometimes unconventional, demonstrates how changing minds and

practices through dedication is possible. Ultimately, the story challenges all of us to create a better and more just world.

- Mark Liu ('08)

Love Books?

Join the FELPS Book Club at 7:00pm on Thursday, March 3, location TBA. The book selection will be announced soon via the FELPS Classifieds.

For more information email: markliu1@gmail.com



Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Service Alumni Connection

Winter 2011

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE:

AN INTERVIEW WITH SAM DARGUIN '10

Samuel Darguin '10 is the Country and Managing Director of the Haitian American Caucus in Haiti. He also works in the Nutrition for Children program of Yele Haiti.

What drove you to want to pick up and move to Haiti after completing FELPS in 2010?

Even prior to the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010, I knew I wanted to make a difference in my homeland. Even though I moved to Haiti officially in May 2010, four months after the quake, I had gone back to Haiti five times with different groups in the interim. Growing up seeing the poverty and harmful conditions that people have to live with on a daily basis, I knew there was opportunity for me to make a difference. As soon as the opportunity arose by way of an internship, I knew it was time to pack my bags and go.

Did you know what you would be doing when you arrived to Haiti?

I was offered an internship through an organization called Appropriate Infrastructure Development Group (AIDG), and I was assigned the role of project manager for a Masonry Training Program teaching Haitian masons how to build earthquake-

proof housing. I was determined to be an asset in Haiti by any means necessary and was given that opportunity through AIDG. After two months in Haiti, I ran into the staff for Yele Haiti and was offered a position as project manager for the Nutrition for Children program. I am responsible for the overall health and well-being of approximately 1,000 children.

What do you do in Haiti?

Besides working in the Nutrition for Children program ran by Yele Haiti, I am also serving as Country Director for the Haitian American Caucus. We are involved in educating approximately 200 children, running a comprehensive volunteer program giving people a chance to do sustainable work in Haiti, as well as a rabbit breeding program for poor women in the community of Croix des bouquet.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

In five years I will still be in the international relief field. I realized while being in Haiti that helping people who are without a voice, get a voice is where I want to be.

- Interview by Sam Pierre ('09)



FELPS alumnus Samuel Darguin '10 with human rights activist Kerry Kennedy in front of the Haitian National Palace.

CURRENT FELLOW SPOTLIGHT:

KHALID EL KHATIB '11

Sprawling out the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *Wall Street Journal* on his desk, Khalid El Khatib sits down to read each closely. He blocks out three hours each day for this ritual, and yes, he gets paid for it. As Manager of National Communications at Teach For America (TFA), staying up-to-date on how education reform issues and TFA are framed within the national media is a key element of Khalid's job.

Khalid manages many parts of TFA's media and communications work, from lining up interviews with national and local media outlets to drafting press releases to providing media training. One of the things Khalid enjoys most about his job is that it allows him to flex his creative muscles while also being strategic. He notes, "I love that my day can go from bucketing circulation data into a massive spreadsheet to writing tweets for one of our board members like John Legend."

Khalid graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in 2007 and has always had an interest in communications and public relations. Khalid describes his job at TFA over the last three years as rewarding. One media hit he is particularly proud of is a television feature he did for a Brazilian news outlet. The piece showcased students at a Brooklyn KIPP school that incorporates capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian martial art form, into the school's mission as a way to teach their students discipline



and focus. Khalid contacted the school and pulled together the story, which included an energetic capoeira performance by the students. The news piece was broadcast to over 100 million people in Brazil who learned about a small school doing fantastic work and the effort to scale up those successes.

Thus far, FELPS has helped Khalid break out of the TFA bubble. He says, "I essentially have 40 new perspectives to learn from and bounce ideas off of." He is enjoying the opportunity FELPS offers to build his network and learn more about the variety of opportunities within public service. Conversations with peers and guides have already helped him to be proactive with his career planning – he has decided to attend graduate school in the next few years and is now exploring different degrees and programs.

For now, Khalid is working on promoting TFA CEO and Founder Wendy Kopp's new book, *A Chance to Make History*. He is also enjoying NYC's restaurant scene and planning for upcoming trips to Eastern Europe in the late spring and the Middle East this summer.

- By Ly Nguyen ('10)

Stay in touch! Visit the FELPS Web site and click on the alumni connection link to update your information and see what the alumni network has to offer: <http://wagner.nyu.edu/FELPS>



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY