



FELLOWSHIP FOR EMERGING LEADERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE ALUMNI CONNECTION

UPCOMING EVENTS

2011 Fellowship
Application Readings

Wed., Sept. 22, 6:00pm
@ Jeremy Coffey's apt.
89 Bleeker St, 1E

Tues., Sept. 28, 6:00 pm
Wed., Sept. 29, 7:00pm
@ NYU Wagner
295 Lafayette, 2nd floor

To attend an application reading session, please RSVP to wagner.felps@nyu.edu.

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 ('09)
Brooklyn Democracy Academy

Meghan McCormick ('09)
New York University Doctoral Program

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,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well and rested after a wonderful summer. As Fall approaches the Alumni Board is preparing for another great year.

Over the last year we held our first alumni volunteer event in memory of Connor Donohue ('09) as well as several social events including a FELPS holiday party and a wine and cheese tasting.

It's been great to hear from alumni who are reconnecting with FELPS years after their Fellowship came to a close, and on behalf of the Alumni Board, I would like to welcome the 2010 FELPS Class to the Alumni Network.

As our alumni network grows, our Alumni Board continues to evolve. I would like to welcome three new members to the Alumni Board: Sean Corlett ('10), Ly Nguyen ('10) and Rhiannon O'Leary ('09). Continuing on the Board from last year are Meghan McCormick ('09), Taku Noguchi ('07) and Sam Pierre ('09). Additionally, last year's Alumni Board President, Mark Liu ('08), will continue to be a valued leader as Vice President.

We look forward to bringing you more events this year and hope to continue to increase alumni connections and participation. Please continue to follow our newsletters, bi-weekly classifieds, and updates on upcoming events.

To kick off the year, I invite you to connect with alumni at the application readings that will help shape the incoming 2011 FELPS class. The readings will take place on September 22, 28 and 29. Please see the Upcoming Events section for more details.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Best,
Jeremy Coffey ('09)



FELPS ALUMNI VOLUNTEER AT INAUGURAL DAY OF SERVICE



Dozens of alumni joined with Connor Donohue's family to rejuvenate Central Park with the help of the Central Park Conservancy.

FELPS hosted its inaugural Day of Service on Saturday, May 22, 2010. The event honored 2009 Fellow Connor Donohue who unexpectedly passed away in March 2010. As new members of the alumni network, the 2010 Fellows joined alumni and Connor's family and friends to volunteer their time with the Central Park Conservancy. Wearing bright green t-shirts, volunteers weeded and mulched the lawns and planted trees with the same enthusiasm and passion that Connor always brought to helping others.

The event was not only a great way to remember Connor, but also a way for old FELPS friends to reconnect. Afterwards, there was a BBQ at alumni board member Taku Noguchi's apartment to relax after a hard day's work!

- By Mark Liu ('08)



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: PAM PRADACHITH

Growing up in Berkeley, California, Pam Pradachith ('07) recalls the Asian Youth Center in the East Bay as an integral part of her upbringing. She credits the institution for supporting her growth, guiding her direction and giving her opportunity. So it comes as no surprise that Pam's career focuses on youth development. "That was where my heart and passion was," Pam says. "I always knew I would end up there."

Pam is the Director of Programs at Opportunity Impact (OI), a five-year program targeting students between fourth and eighth grade living in San Francisco's public housing. The goal is to identify and provide comprehensive services to support their academic and social development at an early stage in childhood.

In retrospect, it all makes sense that Pam has landed where she is – but like many young professionals, her path to get there involved exploration, thoughtfulness and questioning.

After graduating from Columbia in 2004, Pam worked in direct service in youth and workforce development, and then in quality assurance – a performance management and measurement unit – at the NYC Mission Society. By 2007, she wondered if she wanted to stay in social service work at all.

"Most of my friends were all in the private sector," she says. "And I was a point of burnout. It was grueling, tough work. I was ready to leave the sector."

FELPS came at a critical point. "FELPS introduced me to a community of people who were

incredibly passionate and doing all types of great work. It reinvigorated me to want to make a contribution to the sector," Pam explains. Following FELPS, Pam pursued her MPA at Wagner as a Clark Foundation Fellow, while working full-time at NYC Mission Society.

Today, Pam is working with a smaller direct-service program. OI operates on a \$500,000 budget with only four full-time and six part-time staff. In some ways, it feels like a start-up. Pam pitches in in a variety of ways that extend beyond her official



role. Early on, she also shouldered the stress that comes with growing a new nonprofit in a bad economy. But it appears they've weathered the eye of the storm and she's thankful that her organization stuck it out. After only three years, the program boasts a 90% retention rate and 80% average daily attendance.

Pam envisions that she'll stay in operations and strategy development roles down the line, though for now she's just taking it one step at a time. While Pam approaches her work with a big picture mentality, you get the sense that she will always maintain a strong, hands-on connection with direct service.

For more information on Opportunity Impact, visit opportunityimpact.org.

- By Taku Noguchi ('07)

SERIES ON SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: PROFIT-MAKING ORGANIZATIONS

Often we think of social entrepreneurship as an enterprise where there is no monetary profit. Rather, the profit is the social good that results from the work. While that may be the traditional model, there are plenty of young people in the world unwilling to sacrifice their income but determined to make the world a better place. New York University recently profiled three such people, all from a country on the cutting edge of social enterprise: Singapore.

Syinc.org
Shaun Koh of Syinc.org has a rule about social enterprises: "If making good is directly correlated to making money, then it's what I call a social

enterprise." The 24-year-old student took leave from his engineering course at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor to work on Syinc.org where he does everything from building databases to Web strategies. He's designed a social innovation program for schools in which students use design thinking to build more effective solutions to problems.

Koh explains that the very notion of a profit-generating business that does good is quite new. Two years ago when he entered a social enterprise proposal into a business competition, the judges had no idea how to rank the venture because they were looking for the project with the

most profit, and Koh's business was not primarily profit-focused. But things have changed.

"Nowadays, there are categories for social enterprises in business competitions. But most people think that social enterprises are about employing disabled people to make things and sell through the internet, but I think it's not particularly innovative."

Give.sg
Give.sg uses social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter to help charities raise funds. Its three founders, Assem Thakur, Zwee, and Pong Yu Ming, all from the National University of Singapore, designed it as a sustainable business that does

good. Assem says, "There are big administrative costs for charities to hold an offline event -- about 20 percent. Through Give.sg, we bring down the cost to 5 percent. That's how we give them a cost-effective solution and sustain Give.sg at the same time."

SEforum
Tomithy Too contributes to the Social Entrepreneurship Forum, a place for social entrepreneurs to discuss projects, share practices and raise awareness of their work. Right now Too is busy "building a flash game that's based on current events and personalities to help people understand what's happening in the world."

- By Meghan McCormick ('09)

Visit the FELPS Web site to update your information and see what the alumni network has to offer:

<http://wagner.nyu.edu/FELPS>

