

much power congressional staffers have," says Gerstner, a 1996–97 APSA Congressional Fellow from Berlin, Germany. "Since members of Congress don't have time to know everything, they really rely on their staffs to become experts on many issues, so staffers are very instrumental in either getting things done or purposefully not getting things done."

Gerstner spent her fellowship year in the office of Representative Jim McDermott (D-WA) where she took charge of AIDS-related issues. Her first duty was to help assemble the Congressional Task Force on International HIV/AIDS, chaired by Representative McDermott. Having done most of the leg-work involved in recruiting the 52-member Taskforce, Gerstner spent much of her time learning the fine points of AIDS policy and preparing briefings on the variety of HIV/AIDS issues considered by Task Force members. In her spare time, Gerstner helped coordinate McDermott's work on human rights issues and dabbled in foreign policy work.

When she arrived on the Hill, Gerstner was no stranger to the complexity of congressional politics. Her 1996 master's thesis at the Free University of Berlin treated negotiations between the White House and Congress regarding trade with China. Gerstner's thesis offered a comparative analysis of the 1993 decision to link China's most favored nation status to its human rights record and the 1994 decision to separate the debates on trade and human rights.

"Even though I studied Congress and the politics involved in making a deal, what I didn't really know before I got here was how personal politics can be," said Gerstner. "If a staffer in another office doesn't personally like you or your member, they can make it difficult to work together and get things done. That's the downside of working here. People can get too wrapped up in the power of their positions," she said. "The good side of it is that if you're committed and you're working with good people, you really can get things done."

Gerstner counts her trip to McDermott's district in Seattle as one

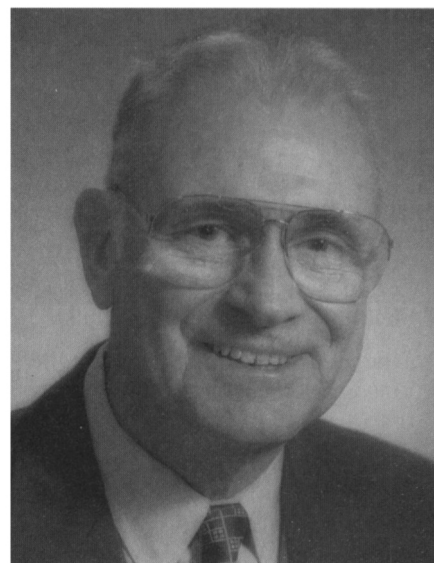
of the best experiences of her fellow-year. "Seeing what goes on in the district office really gives you a perspective that you don't get working in Washington," said Gerstner. "I think a lot of times the people who work here don't have an appreciation of what goes on in the offices back home. It's really important work that they're doing there, listening to constituents and addressing their problems. It takes a lot of time and understanding. Unfortunately, people here see the legislative side of things as the place of real importance and take the constituent side for granted, but if they had more opportunity to get in touch with the people that vote, they might think differently."

She also valued the chance to work alongside Representative McDermott. "I've been able to spend a lot of time working with him, and he's gone out of his way to teach me a lot about the different aspects of American politics from fundraising to handshaking to working on the issues. It's been a great time."

Gerstner's fellowship was funded by the German Marshall Fund of the United States which, since 1982 has sponsored Congressional Fellows from Germany. In addition to Gerstner, Thomas Zittel, who teaches political science at the University of Mannheim, was a 1996–97 Fellow. Josef Braml, University of Passau, and Marcus Pindur of German Public Radio and Television have been named Congressional Fellows for the 1997–98 fellowship year.

### **Congressional Fellowship Program Honors Lee Hamilton**

The Congressional Fellowship Program honored Representative Lee Hamilton (D-IN) with the CFP Alumni Award at its annual reception concluding the fellowship program year. Norman Ornstein, chair of the Congressional Fellowship Program Advisory Committee, and Len Parkinson, president of the CFP Alumni Association, joined APSA executive director Catherine Rudder in presenting the award and in wel-



Lee Hamilton

coming approximately 200 guests to the reception.

Representative Hamilton was cited for sponsoring 28 Congressional Fellows in his office throughout his 32 years of service in the House of Representatives, giving him the distinction of having sponsored more Congressional Fellows than any other member of Congress. In addition, Hamilton was cited for his distinguished career in the House of Representatives.

Elected to Congress in 1964, Hamilton is the senior member of the Indiana congressional delegation. A graduate of DePauw University and Indiana University School of Law, he is currently the ranking Democratic member of the House Committee on International Relations and is a member of the Joint Economic Council. Hamilton is former chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress, the Select Committee to Investigate Covert Arms Transactions with Iran, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He has received 12 honorary degrees, and has been awarded numerous honors, including the Georgetown University Chair for Distinguished Service, Indiana University's Distinguished Citizens Fellowship of the Institute for Advanced Study, and membership in the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

The CFP reception was held July

15 in the historic Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building, site of the Teapot-Dome, Watergate, Iran-Contra, and Clarence Thomas nomination hearings.

In addition to approximately 200 current and former Fellows and friends of the program, Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), Representative Steve Horn (R-CA), and Thomas Foley, former speaker of the House of Representatives, all of whom are members of the CFP Advisory Committee, and Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services were in attendance.

The reception was funded through the generosity of MCI Communications which, in 1991, presented the Congressional Fellowship Program with an endowment of \$5 million.

### Dan Palazzolo: A Day in the Life of an APSA Congressional Fellow

In the Cannon House Office Building, Daniel J. Palazzolo leans back in his chair, props both feet on his desk, and surveys his schedule.

"I'm juggling a half-dozen issues, but this should be a pretty uneventful day," says Mr. Palazzolo, an associate professor of political science at the University of Richmond. He is on a year's leave, working with Representative Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., a Maryland Republican, on a fellowship sponsored by the American Political Science Association.

But as he tucks his schedule back into his shirt pocket, his "catch-up" day is blown apart. Earlier that morning, on a radio talk show, he is told, Mr. Ehrlich's predecessor, Helen D. Bentley, criticized a bill to reform U.S. patent law, which the Congressman supports. The bill would, among other things, put the federal Patent and Trademark Office in private hands, hurting independent inventors and small businesses and giving foreign inventors an edge over Americans, Ms. Bentley said.

Within 15 minutes of her comments, constituents concerned about the bill's ramifications have jammed the phones and facsimile machines in Mr. Ehrlich's offices on the Hill and back in his district.

Steven Kreseki, the Congressman's legislative director, huddles with Mr.

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