

"Perspectives" Series: Learning From Leaders

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It has been said that a person should look within for value but beyond for perspective. Perhaps with this in mind, Tulane senior Stephen Frapart has been working diligently to ensure his fellow students are given views from "beyond." In organizing "Perspectives: A Leadership Speakers Series," Frapart has created a vehicle through which he has brought to campus highly sought speakers such as Colin Powell and Stephen Covey. This year, the series kicks off on Tuesday (Oct. 7) with Wendy Kopp, chief executive officer and founder of Teach for America.



Wendy Kopp, chief executive officer and founder of Teach for America, is the first speaker in this year's 'Perspectives' series. (Photo by Jean-Christian Bourcart)

Frapart, a finance major, said he strives to bring motivational speakers to campus in order to give fellow students an opportunity to learn from successful leaders, but also to build support for the city's efforts to rebuild.

"I think it's important for students to improve the city, and I'm just doing my part in improving our school and our city and giving us all a chance to learn something along the way," he said.

Last year, [Teach For America](#) placed 250 corps members in the New Orleans area and accepted 24 Tulane graduates into the program. With the organization's strong presence in the area, Frapart figured an appearance by Kopp would be an excellent way to set the tone for this year's series. "I wanted to have leaders who had ties to our community and could really speak to students about the issues we face," he said.

As part of her senior thesis as an undergraduate at Princeton University, Kopp outlined a plan to recruit recent college graduates and professionals to teach in low-income neighborhoods and help ignite a movement to promote equity in education. Upon graduation, Kopp founded Teach For America and has spent the past 18 years developing the corps into a program that attracts some of the nation's brightest young men and women.

In keeping with his conviction that students should be exposed to motivational leaders, Frapart also helped organize an opportunity for 27 Tulane students to meet with investor, businessman and philanthropist Warren Buffett in Omaha, Neb., on Oct. 17.

In November the Perspectives series will continue on campus with a lecture by David Bonderman, a founding partner of Texas Pacific Group and its Asian affiliate, Newbridge Capital. Now listed on the Forbes 400 of wealthiest Americans, Bonderman in 1967 and '68 was an assistant professor at Tulane University Law School.

CNBC's hit finance program, "Mad Money" hosted by Jim Cramer also will visit campus in November as part of the "Mad Money: Back to School Tour."