

DECEMBER 2007



WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS

Leadership & Public Service

Program Calendar

December 19

Holiday Party
712 Jackson Place
5:00-7:00 p.m.

January 14-18

Domestic Study
Trip (McAllen,
Houston and New
Orleans)

January 23

Mid-Year
Commission
Meeting

February 1

Application
Deadline for
2008-2009 class

*"I encourage you to make the right choice, to help others,
and to follow your dreams"*

— President George W. Bush

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

It was great to see so many of you at October's Annual Meeting and Seminar, where our theme was "Securing our Collective Future: Global Stewardship/Global Leadership." Many participants indicated that they found it to be an especially substantive and informative program. Thanks again to Bob Edmonds (95-96), President-elect, and his terrific planning committee for organizing the Annual Meeting program this year.

On Friday night, in addition to presenting the 2007 John W. Gardner Legacy of Leadership Award to Doris Meissner (73-74), we gave a posthumous tribute to Jack Valenti that concluded with the announcement that the Board of Directors has established the Jack Valenti Friends of the White House Fellows Award to recognize those individuals who were not Fellows but have strongly supported the WHF Program over the years. Our thanks to Past President Kevin Monroe (73-74) and Board member Jami Floyd (94-95) for their organizing work on the Legacy of Leadership and Valenti tribute, respectively.

On Saturday, the group enjoyed a fabulous morning at the recently restored National Portrait Gallery, where we had the whole place to ourselves for 2-1/2 hours with Gallery Director Marc Pachter and the curator staff, courtesy of the efforts of Karen Galatz (85-86). The weekend was capped off by an excellent lunch at the nearby Zaytinya—one of Washington's best new restaurants.

The Annual Meeting and Seminar was also a great opportunity to meet with the current class of Fellows. They all seem to be enjoying their Fellowship experiences, and the enthusiasm and energy they conveyed were both inspiring and heartening.

This brings me to an important matter where we need your help. I'd like to encourage all of you to help identify qualified candidates for the 2008-09 year. Applications are due on February 1, 2008, and we know from experience that one of the greatest inducements to applicants is the advice and encouragement of past and current Fellows. The chair of the Commission on White House Fellowships, Myrna Blyth, spoke at the Commissioners' Lunch and urged us all to help with this recruitment effort in this administration transition year. The program's continuing vitality and visibility will be the beneficiaries of our collective support. Please consider one or more of the following actions in support of this goal:

1. Host a recruitment and orientation meeting for prospective applicants at your workplace or alma mater—perhaps joined by classmates or other former Fellows in your locality. Please contact the Program Office at 202-395-4522 for materials.
2. Send names of potentially promising candidates to me or any member of the Board of Directors. We'll reach out to them and inform them of any recruitment sessions planned in their region.
3. Send to Jack LeCuyer (whffdn@aol.com) and me (diane.yu@nyu.edu) your ideas on where and how the WHF program can publicize the program and the application process.

Many thanks for your anticipated cooperation!

—Contributed by Diane C. Yu

DORIS MEISSNER HONORED



"John Gardner challenged us to step beyond celebrating the sum total of our achievements and also become a 'community of mutual support.' The leaders of the Association have taken that challenge to heart. The result has been gatherings that have been infinitely richer, and we feel a deeper appreciation for the WHF experience as far more meaningful over time. I think we all owe a great debt of gratitude to the Association officers of the last ten years for so ably guiding that shift."

-Doris Meissner accepting the Legacy of Leadership Award on October 26 (citation excerpted below)

Doris M. Meissner exemplifies John Gardner's charge to us to remain committed to public service and to strengthening the White House Fellows Program.

Leadership: Following her Fellowship year, Doris remained with the Justice Department and served as a senior official in the Ford and Carter Administrations. During the transition to the Reagan administration, she served for a year as Acting Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), and was then appointed its Executive Associate Commissioner. She served until 1986, when she departed to deepen her expertise on immigration issues at the Carnegie Endowment. Returning to government in 1993, Doris served as President Clinton's INS Commissioner from 1993 to 2000

Lifetime Commitment to Public Service: Doris's commitment to public service extends well beyond her government service. In 1988 she created the Immigration Policy Project at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, which evolved into the Migration Policy Institute, where she is today a Senior Fellow.

Support for the White House Fellows Community: Doris has remained intimately involved with the White House Fellows program continuously since her fellowship year. She has been a member of the Washington Regional Selection Panel on many occasions, has been a speaker for numerous WHF classes, and has coached incoming classes during selection week. She is a regular attendee and speaker at annual meetings, and feels deep loyalty and affection for her fellow Fellows.

Doris has exhibited extremely strong character in both professional and personal roles. Whether the issues were challenges stemming from the wrenching politics of immigration, including the Elian Gonzalez case, or the tragic loss of her husband, Chuck, in an aircraft accident in Croatia, Doris has always been able to summon remarkable inner resources to deal with whatever she faced. She is an impressive model of all of us.

SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

Fran Townsend,
Assistant to the President
for Homeland Security

Christiaan Mark Johan Kröner, Ambassador of
the Netherlands

Ferenc Somogyi
Ambassador of Hungary

Sam Brownback (90-91),
United States Senator

Lanny Griffith,
CEO and Partner,
Barbour Griffith & Rogers

Alphonso Jackson,
Secretary of Housing and
Urban Development

Patrick Harker (91-92),
President, University of
Delaware

David Hirschmann,
Executive Vice President,
U.S. Chamber of
Commerce

Michelle Rhee,
Chancellor, Washington,
D.C. Public Schools

Elias Zerhouni, Director,
National Institutes of
Health

Linda Springer, Director,
Office of Personnel
Management

Gordon England, Deputy
Secretary of Defense

Clay Johnson, Deputy
Director, Office of
Management and Budget

**White House Fellows
Book Discussion**
Good to Great
by Jim Collins

PLACEMENT REPORT

On Tuesday, November 6, 2007-2008 Fellow Travis Matheson, a Lieutenant in the Washington State Patrol, accompanied his principal, Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters, to the White House for a state dinner in honor of French president Nicholas Sarkozy. This is his spontaneous account of the evening:

Secretary Peters' security detail arrived about 6:20 p.m., and we proceeded to the West Wing entrance where the Cabinet members were being brought in. From that moment forward everything turned into a whirling blur of the most beautifully choreographed evening of friendly people, flowers, music, food, drink, performance and grand pomp. It was truly a magical evening.

We were greeted and ushered by very gracious military and personal aides at every turn, first holding in the Diplomatic Room for a few minutes with other guests until it was our turn to proceed upstairs. After receiving our photograph and table cards, we joined the other arriving guests in the East Room. Secretary Peters was tremendously kind and thoughtful throughout the evening. She never once forgot about me or failed to introduce me to someone, often times going out of her way to introduce me to the First Lady, Vice President Cheney, and many other distinguished guests. I couldn't have had a more caring hostess!

After about 30 minutes of conversation in the East Room, President Bush, The First Lady, and President Sarkozy were announced. They briefly walked through the room and then formal pictures began in the Blue Room. We were announced for our photo with the Presidents and the First Lady as Secretary Mary Peters and Mr. Travis Matheson. President Bush remembered me from the bike rides on which I had joined him. He even remembered that I was a state trooper from Washington State and introduced me to President Sarkozy as such! I was very proud and honored!

We made our way to the State Dining Room and, after another 15-20 minutes of mingling everyone was seated for dinner. I am sure much of the beauty and elegance of the event was lost on my lack of social sophistication, but I will say I was stunned by the way everything was presented. Each table had a beautiful arrangement of brilliant pink, orange, and red roses in the center. The silver, china, and glassware settings were also beautiful with gold trim and images of the White House on the plates. There were name cards and menus for each guest.

Presidents Bush and Sarkozy gave speeches and offered toasts honoring the wonderful history of partnership between the two countries. The most moving part for me was when President Sarkozy stated that "I've come to say one simple thing: France and the United States are allies, have been allies, and will continue to be allies, and have been so forever." After the speeches and toasts, dinner was served. The food, of course, was exquisite. My favorite dish was the sweet potato casserole. My good friends from Idaho will certainly appreciate that! The service was amazing. It seemed like that if you even glanced at your wine or water glass that it was instantly filled!

Dessert was appropriately named Lafayette's Legacy. It was layered chocolate ice cream, cookie, and cream decadence. During dessert, the U.S. Marine Band moved into the room while the violinists played some very beautiful pieces of music as they stood among the tables of guests. Shortly after that, Presidents Bush and Sarkozy left the room and we were all kindly directed to move back to the East Room for the after-dinner entertainment.

All of the guests were treated to a fireside chat between General Washington and General Lafayette. It was very well acted and a great reminder of the long standing, mutually beneficial relationship that France and the United States enjoy. Next the U.S. Army Chorus sang three songs, concluding with a rousing rendition of the The Battle Hymn of the Republic, "Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!"

Finally, Presidents Bush and Sarkozy joined the chorus on stage to thank everyone for coming. The U.S. Marine Band was playing ballroom dancing music in the Grand Foyer. President Bush and The First Lady had retired. About 10:00 p.m. we headed back out through the West Wing. My chariot dropped me off at the Metro station and I was soon on my way home as the best dressed fellow on the Metro.



Lieutenant Travis Matheson is placed at the Department of Transportation

—Contributed by Travis Matheson



Dr. Patrick Conway is placed at the Department of Health and Human Services

REFLECTIONS FROM MICHIGAN

From October 29 through November 1, the 2007-2008 Class of Fellows traveled to Michigan for our first domestic study trip. The purpose of the trip was to gain an increased understanding of and exposure to domestic issues facing the nation and examine how senior leaders are attempting to address these issues.

We selected Michigan because the state is currently attempting to confront numerous important challenges, including a struggling economy, contentious labor negotiations, the environmental impact of industry, rising health care costs, education and the role of institutions of higher learning, and relationships with a large Arabic immigrant population. During our time in Michigan, we met with a broad array of leaders in government, private sector, and NGOs in the Detroit area, Ann Arbor, and Lansing.

Governor Jennifer Granholm and Detroit City Council President Kenneth Cockrel discussed the importance of incentives for businesses to move to or expand within the state. They are primarily using tax-based and land purchase incentives. Multiple speakers discussed retooling the state's economy away from reliance on the auto industry. They discussed Michigan's natural resources and supply of technology trained people through the University of Michigan and other institutions. Focus: HOPE was a model example of a community NGO providing job training associated with child care and other services to transform lives and train productive members of the economy.

United Auto Workers President Ron Gettelfinger and Ford Executive Chairman Bill Ford, Jr., indicated that unions are working together with Ford to attempt to make the company profitable, including in the current labor agreement. One hope is that this cooperation is not too late to save Ford. We asked about the VEBA provision of the agreement, which took healthcare costs risk out of Ford and placed it into a trust. This seems to be a short term solution that does not address the fundamental problem of rising healthcare costs in America and their effect on business. Both Mr. Ford and Mr. Gettelfinger shared these concerns. Multiple speakers also discussed the importance of moving the auto industry towards cars with alternative energy sources.

When we met with Majority Leader Mike Bishop and State Senator (and WHF commissioner) Valdemar Garcia, the Senate had just finished difficult task of balancing their budget and multiple members were getting attacked by constituents for both cutting services and raising taxes. It is disappointing that is much easier to attack in our political culture than realize the potential value of this compromise solution.

University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman discussed the importance of the university in providing "technologic talent" resources to the state. When asked about the obligation for a state university to contribute to the state and ties between academia and policymakers, she indicated that these ties needed to be improved.

ACCESS, which we visited in Dearborn, serves the Arab American population in Michigan; Dearborn has the highest density of Arab Americans in the U.S. They spoke of their denouncement of the 9/11 attacks and the negative effect those events had on perceptions of Arab Americans. The organization also serves basic needs of new immigrants' transitioning to America. It was an impressive resource to this population.

Overall, the Michigan trip was a tremendous learning experience and the discussions with the leaders illustrated both areas of progress and where more work needs to be done.

— Contributed by Patrick Conway



The Class of 2007-2008 with UAW President Ron Gettelfinger

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Amy Alving (97-98) has been named Chief Technology Officer of SAIC.

Catherine Anderson (82-83) has retired from her judgeship in Minneapolis and has moved to Sanibel, FL.

Cesar Aristeiguieta (02-03) has been inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame of California State University Bakersfield.

Mike Armacost (69-70) has received the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun from the government of Japan; Emperor Akihito presented the award in November.

Dennis Cobb (94-95) has retired from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and is now Executive Vice President for Public Safety of Infinite Contingencies Group, International.

Eric Greitens (05-06) is the Chairman of the Center for Citizen Leadership in St. Louis, MO.

Sam Khichi (04-05) is Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Catalant Pharma Solutions in Somerset, NJ.

Dan Oliver (82-83) is President of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA.

Rod Von Lipsey (93-94) has left Goldman Sachs to become the Senior Vice President for Investments in the Washington, DC, office of UBS Financial Services, Inc.

Tom Williams (03-04) has left the Office of the Secretary of the Navy to work in the Strategy Division of the Joint Staff in The Pentagon.

Doug Kmiec (82-83), a Professor at Pepperdine University in Malibu, saw the California wildfires ravage his community in late October.

He writes:

“There were some very anxious moments. The fire scorched a good portion of the front lawn of the University, but thankfully after that, the rascal decided to leave the campus alone. Unfortunately, the fire then took a turn toward our house and came within a quarter-mile before it turned farther into the canyon and away from the ocean. I spent some time on guard on the rooftop. All things considered, we count ourselves fortunate to have only had to pack the cars and prepare to evacuate—although that’s an interesting exercise in evaluating one’s personal property. Sadly, one of our colleagues, Professor Bernard James and his wife Connie, lost their house in the fire.”

Mark Your Calendars!

WHF Commission Mid-Year Meeting, January 23, 2008

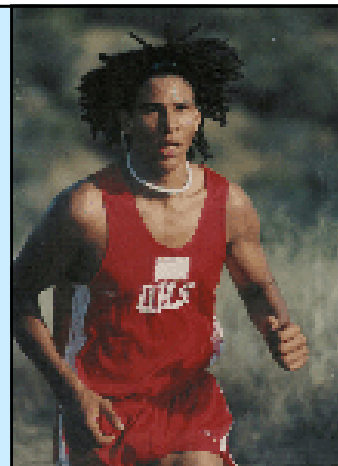
WHF Regional Meeting in New York City, May 15-17, 2008

WHF Selection Week for the class of 2008-2009, June 11-14, 2008

WHF Foundation and Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, October 23-25, 2008

Running to Support Young Dreams

In an attempt to raise \$1,000,000 for organizations that help young people acquire the education and skills necessary to realize their dreams, Robert Reffkin (05-06) will be running 50 marathons, one in every state, over the next few years. The money raised will go directly to nonprofits that share this mission and have successful track records in achieving these goals. To learn more about this effort, please visit www.runningtosupportyoungdreams.com



WHERE ARE THEY NOW



Demonstrating his commitment to the White House Fellows Program, President Bush spoke with the current class about leadership and service for almost 2 hours during an Oval Office meeting on October 24, 2007.

ABOUT THE WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

The White House Fellows Program is a non-partisan program that offers exceptional young leaders firsthand experience working at the highest levels of the Federal government.

Fellowship Selection Criteria:

- A record of remarkable professional achievement early in one's career.
- Evidence of strong leadership skills and the potential for further growth.
- A demonstrated commitment to public service.
- The knowledge and skills necessary to contribute successfully at the highest levels of the Federal government.

For more information, please visit our webpage at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/fellows>.

The President's Commission on White House Fellowships

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Please send any comments, submissions or other newsletter-related communication to Scott Glabe at sglabe@whf.eop.gov