

APRIL 2007



WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS

Leadership & Public Service



Program Calendar

In March, regional panels were held in Washington, DC; Boston; New York; Chicago; and Dallas.

April 4-5
Regional Panel, Atlanta

April 10-11
Regional Panel, Los Angeles

April 12-13
Regional Panel, San Francisco

April 17-18
Regional Panel, Washington, DC

May 1
National Finalists Announced

June 7-10
Selection Weekend

July 16-20
Placement Week

September 1
Fellowship Year Begins

September 5-7
Orientation

“The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause.”
—Theodore Roosevelt

FELLOWS MAKE HISTORY AT THE SUPERDOME

In mid-November, the White House Fellows visited the Gulf Coast to take a firsthand look at post-Hurricane Katrina reconstruction efforts. Among their stops was the Louisiana Superdome, where Assistant General Manager Danny Vincens provided perspective on the dramatic events which unfolded there. Recently, Danny shared the following story.



Fellow Jason Dean (06-07) at the Superdome

On January 3, Louisiana State University played Notre Dame in the 2007 Sugar Bowl. In anticipation of having a local team competing in the game’s return to the Superdome, the city of New Orleans was abuzz with excitement. Finally, game day arrived and, prior to opening the gates, we were running around attending to last-minute details.

Just before tens of thousands of fans were set to enter the stadium, I received a panicked call from the Production Manager of the Allstate Sugar Bowl Committee. The committee had forgotten to get a coin for the opening toss, and he asked for my help. As I ran into my office, I thought of President Gerald Ford, who had just passed away, and grabbed the White House Fellowship Commemorative Coin I had received after giving the Fellows a tour.

The doors opened on time and the fans piled into the Superdome. As kickoff drew near, the announcer called the team captains to the center of the field. The referee told them that a special coin was being used for this game in memory of President Gerald Ford: the eagle was heads and the White House was tails. In an omen of good things to come, LSU won the toss and went on to win the game 41-14.

I managed to retrieve the coin, which will be mounted in a matted frame with an official 2007 Sugar Bowl Poster. The small coin you gave me has become one of my best “Superdome Stories.” Thank you to the White House Fellows for giving me another memorable moment.

FELLOWS FORUM

HONORING THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

“Here Rests in Honored Glory An American Soldier Known But To God.”

Article I of The Code of Conduct for United States Military Forces states, “I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.” This first article lies at the very core of what it means to serve in the military. For those of us who have joined the US Armed Forces, we are obligated to protect, support, and defend the interest of the United States, both at home and abroad. Passionately dedicated and motivated, we remain willing to sacrifice our own well-being for the survival of this country, our people, and our principles of freedom, justice and democracy.



Maj. Mark “Chappie” Smith, USAF (06-07) is placed at NASA.



Pictured from the left: Maj. Smith; Jeff Eggers, Lt Cmdr, US Navy; and distinguished members of the Old Guard laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown.

On March 4, 1921, Congress approved a resolution providing for the burial of an unidentified American soldier, following the custom adopted by other allied countries after World War I. The site of the tomb became the plaza of Arlington National Cemetery’s Memorial Amphitheater.

“My standard will remain perfection!”—Sentinel’s Creed

Since 1926, the military has been tasked with guarding this most sacred place of honor. Soldiers who serve as sentinels at the Tomb must possess exemplary qualities, including American citizenship, a spotless record, and impeccable military bearing. Today, the privilege falls upon the men and women of the 3d US Infantry, the “Old Guard.”

“I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the

principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.”

—Code of Conduct, Article VI.

The first time I visited Arlington Cemetery, my wife and I located the grave of Air Force General Daniel “Chappie” James, the first African-American four-star general in the United States military. Standing before the grave of one of my military heroes compelled me to look inward and deeply reflect upon those core values most important in my life: integrity, service, and excellence. In his forty-year military career, General James exemplified the finest qualities of the American serviceman, and his life story has been my inspiration. Each day I try to honor his name and legacy, and visiting Arlington gave me an opportunity to thank him for his service.

Last October, as my Navy brother LCDR Jeff Eggers and I prepared to lay a wreath saying “White House Fellows, Class of 2006-2007” on one of our nation’s most hallowed grounds, we both felt honored and privileged to represent our country, the armed forces, and the White House Fellowship Program. As I reflect on what was easily one of the proudest days of my military career, I feel a sense of wonder when I consider the incredible opportunities the Fellowship offers us. An experience like our visit to Arlington Cemetery reminds us how fortunate we are to be Americans and allows us to renew our commitments to a lifetime of service.

- contributed by Mark Smith (06-07)

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Colin Powell (72-73), Former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Linda Banton, President, Washington Industrial Roundtable

Anthony Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Francis Harvey (78-79), Former Secretary of the Army

Alberto Gonzales, Attorney General of the United States

Peter Pace, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Dan Bartlett, Counselor to the President

Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior

Doris Kearns Goodwin (67-68), Author and Historian

Donna Shalala, President, University of Miami

Fred Malek, Chairman, Thayer Capital

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

PROGERIA RESEARCH FOUNDATION TO FUND FIRST-EVER CLINICAL DRUG TRIAL

White House Fellows continue to engage in leadership and community service long after their fellowship year has ended. Scott Berns has done both in his remarkable effort to find a cure for Progeria.

Just eight years ago, Scott D. Berns, MD, MPH (00-01) founded The Progeria Research Foundation (PRF) after his son Sam was diagnosed with the fatal, rapid-aging syndrome. Children suffering from Progeria die of heart disease at an average age of 13. Sam is now 10—you may remember meeting him when he joined us at the International Spy Museum during the 2003 annual meeting.

PRF's mission is to discover effective treatments, and eventually the cure, for Progeria and its aging related-disorders. Dr. Berns is PRF's Board Chair, and his wife, Leslie B. Gordon, MD, PhD, is PRF's Medical Director. Together with family, friends, colleagues and now thousands of supporters worldwide, the foundation is the world leader in Progeria medical research.

Progressing at a pace virtually unheard of in the scientific community, PRF's dramatic timeline of success includes the 2002 discovery of the Progeria gene, which flung open the doors of science for a rare

disease that had been virtually ignored for over 100 years. This discovery not only helped further understanding of Progeria but demonstrated to scientists that studying Progeria can help us learn more about heart disease and the normal aging process that affects us all. Since the ground-breaking gene discovery, the dedication and support of researchers, clinicians, families of children with Progeria and others has brought PRF to this exciting turning point in the search for a cure.

Just eight years after PRF's founding, researchers are ready to begin a trial that may treat, or possibly cure, children with Progeria, and in the process may help millions of other people who suffer from heart disease and other aging-related conditions.

The Progeria Research Foundation must raise approximately \$2 million dollars to fund the groundbreaking clinical trial discussed above; it has raised just over half that amount to date. To learn more about the foundation, visit http://www.progeriaresearch.org/clinical_trial.html



Dr. Scott Berns (00-01) and his wife Dr. Leslie Gordon are leading an historic effort that may treat—or possibly cure—children with the fatal disease Progeria, including their son Sam. (Photo: Leah Fasten)

FELLOWS IN THE NEWS

“Humble Abundance”

The March/April issue of *Success* magazine contains an extended profile of **Sean McLaughlin (05-06)**, pictured at right with his wife Laura and three of their eight children. The article discusses McLaughlin’s success as an entrepreneur with Eze Castle Software, the non-for-profit farm he has run with his family since 2000, and his decision to take a sabbatical following his fellowship year. The feature also includes praise from IRS commissioner Mark Everson, McLaughlin’s Principal during his fellowship year. The full article can be found at:

http://www.successmagazine.com/article.php?article_id=133



What Fellows are Saying:

3/28/07—“It happened that I was down at spring training doing a story (about older major league players and younger players both trying to make the team at the same time). It came down from the commissioner’s office that a ruling had been made that women had to be allowed in the locker room. So the owner said, ‘OK, go in.’ It was fun to be a Trivial Pursuit question.”—author and historian **Doris Kearns Goodwin (67-68)**, on being the first woman journalist in the Boston Red Sox locker room. (*TC Palm*)

3/17/07—“For the next two months, she lived and breathed disaster. She worked numbing shifts at ground zero, then retreated, exhausted, to her Ladder Co. 12 firehouse in the Chelsea area of Manhattan to grab a meal or a few hours’ rest, counsel other firefighters, and plan funerals. Of the 343 firefighters who died at ground zero, she knew 250.” This from a profile discussing the post-9/11 work of **Lt. Brenda Berkman (96-97)**. Berkman, a former lawyer with a J.D. from NYU, became the first woman to join the New York City Fire Department in 1992. (*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*)

3/12/07—“Your credibility and diligence and hard work are of paramount importance in both” medicine and journalism, says neurosurgeon and CNN chief medical correspondent **Dr. Sanjay Gupta (97-98)**. “I don’t waste a lot of time,” says Gupta, explaining how he juggles two careers. “When I come in to work, I really come to work. I show up, work hard, and go home to my family.” If forced to choose between his two professions, Gupta says he would stick with medicine: “I love being a doctor; I still feel at the end of the day that that’s my life’s calling.” (*TV Week*)

3/9/07—**Isiah Leggett (78-79)** was the keynote speaker for the 140th Charter Day Convocation at Howard University. Leggett, who graduated from Howard’s law school in 1974, is currently the County Executive of Montgomery Co, MD. (*The Hilltop*)

3/1/07—“I’m always confronted with new and challenging issues,” says **Judge Deanell Reece Tacha (71-72)**. Tacha has been Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth District since 2001. (*Daily Kansan*)

2/22/07—Thanks to **Commander Kathryn A. Donovan (nee Allen, 00-01)**, “the ‘Sand Pirates’ of Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion (NPDB) at Camp Bucca, Iraq, have been the fortunate recipients of generous support from the University of Miami Hurricanes.” Donovan’s fellowship-year Principal was Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, now president of the University of Miami. “The ‘Canes have sent ball caps, T-shirts and a coveted game ball from their victory in the MPC Computers Bowl on December 31, 2006. The game ball has been on prominent display around Camp Bucca, even making it to the base change of command ceremony on Valentine’s Day.” Donovan is NPDB’s commanding officer. (*Blackanthem Military News*)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Wally Baer (66-67) has left RAND to become a Senior Fellow at the Annenberg Center for Communication at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

John Barry (85-86) has left SAP Industries to become the Superintendent of Schools in Aurora, CO.

Dennis Blair (75-76) has been appointed as the 2007-08 Omar Bradley Chair of Strategic Leadership, a joint position with Dickinson College and the Army War College in Carlisle, PA.

Sam Brownback (90-91) U.S. Senator from Kansas, is a candidate for President of the United States.

Dan Caine (05-06) is a Policy Director on the Homeland Security Council at The White House.

Mac DeShazer (84-85) is the Senior Manager, Supplier Diversity Operations, for Lockheed Martin Information Technology in Alexandria, VA.

Carlos Del Toro (98-99) is a candidate for the Virginia House of Delegates (88th District).

Mimi Ghez (00-01) has left the Open Society Institute to become a life coach and was recently awarded the *Washington Post's* Vacation in Lights Award for one of her travel stories.

Melissa Goldstein (99-00) has been appointed as Associate Research Professor in the Departments of Health Policy and Health Sciences at The George Washington University Medical Center in Washington, DC.

Richard Greco (02-03) has left his position as Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Navy to become a Founding Partner and CEO of the private equity firm Filangieri Capital Partners in New York City.

Mark Hagerott (91-92) has been promoted to Captain, U.S. Navy.

Pat Harker (91-92) currently Dean of the Wharton School of Business, has been named President of the University of Delaware effective July 1, 2007.

Jackie Lain (99-00) is the Associate Executive Director for Government Relations for the Texas Association of School Boards in Austin, TX.

John Miller (89-90) has been promoted to Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy, and is the Deputy Commander of the U.S. Naval Central Command in Bahrain.

Lawrence Mock (74-75) has moved to Atlanta, GA, to become the Managing Partner of Navigation Capital Partners.

Chris Moore (99-00) has been promoted to Captain in the San Jose Police Department.

Kien Pham (85-86) has left his position as the Executive Director of the Vietnam Education Program in Washington, DC, to become the CEO of VietNam Media Group in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Alex Rodriguez (80-81) has moved to Tampa, Florida, to become the Chief Clinical Officer and Medical Director for Harmony Behavioral Health (WellCare Health Plans, Inc).

Mary Sarotte (01-02) has left St. John's College at Cambridge University to join the School of Historical Studies at the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ.

Mike Ullman (81-82) J.C. Penney CEO, was named as *Business Week's* Best Leader for Retail Revival for 2006.

Pat Walsh (88-89) has been nominated for promotion to Admiral, U.S. Navy, and Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

Doc Warr (92-93) has been selected for promotion to Brigadier General, United States Air Force, and is now the Commander of the 551st Electronic Systems Wing at Hanscom AFB, MA.

Mike Wheeler (78-79) has been named Director of the Advanced Systems and Concepts Office at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency at Ft. Belvoir, VA.

Tom Williams (03-04) has reported for duty as the Executive Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy in the Pentagon.

Cory Wilson (05-06) is a candidate for the Mississippi House of Representatives (66th District).

Lance Wyatt (99-00) is now practicing at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

MEET THE STAFF



Scott Glabe, Staff Assistant

Prior to coming to the White House Fellows office in March 2007, Scott worked as the field representative in Southeast Missouri for Sen. Jim Talent and, before that, in the office of Governor Matt Blunt. Scott originally hails from Columbia, Missouri, and received an A.B. in international relations from Dartmouth College.

Lindsey Drouin, Associate Director

Lindsey joined the WHF Staff in November 2006. She spent the previous three years in the White House Office of Speechwriting, most recently as the Assistant to the Director. Lindsey is originally from Austin, Texas, and graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in speech communication.

2007 San Francisco Regional Meeting

May 17-19, 2007

The weekend will include meetings with the Honorable George Shultz; Bill Perry (tentative); Professor Lynn Orr; State Supreme Court Chief Justice Ron George; Mimi Silbert, founder of the Delancey Street Foundation; Carla Marinucci of the *San Francisco Chronicle*; and Jim Emerman (EVP of Civic Venture); as well as Fellows Bob Joss (68-69), Judge Margaret McKeown (80-81), David Jones (95-96), and Steve Poizner (02-03).

Attendees will visit Stanford University, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, the California State Supreme Court, the Delancey Street Foundation, the Presidio, Lucas Films, and the new state-of-the-art Gallo Winery in Sonoma.

Plan to be there and make your reservations now. Check your email for additional information on the full agenda, hotel rooms, and tentative cost. For more information, contact Jack LeCuyer at 202-360-0294 or whffdn@aol.com

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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