

MAY 2007



WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS

Leadership & Public Service

Program Calendar

2007-2008

Nationalist Finalists

Announced (see page 5)

May 11-26

International Trip to India and China

June 7-10

Selection Weekend

July 16-20

Placement Week

September 1

Fellowship Year Begins

September 5-7

Orientation

“Little progress can be made by merely attempting to repress what is evil. Our great hope lies in developing what is good.”

—Calvin Coolidge

A DREAM COME TRUE

Fellow Wes Moore is an active supporter of the charter SEED School in his native Baltimore. Nia Clark, who contributed this article, is a high school freshman.

Several weeks ago, I gave a tour of the SEED campus to White House Fellow Westley Moore. During the tour, he asked me “What do you want to be when you grow up?” I gave him my answer, which always seems to surprise adults: “I want to be the executive chef at the White House.” Before I knew it, Wes had helped schedule a tour of the White House to meet the chefs, including executive chef Cris Comerford, and take a tour of the kitchens.

On Tuesday, April 10, I traveled with Ms. Lewis, the development manager at The SEED School, to Washington, DC. First, we met Wes

and Education Director Page Archer at the White House Fellows office. They took us to meet Clarence Lipford, who runs the White House Mess and gave us a tour of where food is served to the people who work in the West Wing.

Next, we met Ms. Comerford, the person in whose footsteps I will follow to be executive chef. When the moment finally arrived, I was in shock; I was amazed to reflect that, in twenty or so years, that could be me, inspiring a young person to reach for her goals.

Then came dessert! We met with pastry chef Bill Yorres and indulged in “Chocolate Freedom,” a combination of chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry ice cream with a few fresh raspberries on the side. Finally, we were given souvenirs for the road: White House M&M’s and a breakfast and lunch menu from the Mess.

What an unforgettable experience, for both me and Ms. Lewis! Thank you to Page and Wes for taking the time to show me a whole new world.



High school freshman Nia Clark (center), with fellow Wes Moore (l) and SEED School Development Manager Robin Lewis (r)



Nia Clark with White House Executive Chef Cris Comerford

—contributed by Nia Clark

REFLECTIONS ON LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

LBJ: A TIME CAPSULE

John M. McGinty was a White House Fellow in 1967-1968. Mr. McGinty, an architect who lives in Houston, Texas, wrote this reflection on his class's interactions with President Johnson shortly after his fellowship year ended and submitted it in response to last month's newsletter.

There were three occasions when the Class of 1967-68 went as a group to the White House to see the President. The first was on the night of our selection. We felt like Dorothy in Oz. Both winners and losers, with our spouses, were invited. The Marine Band played, drinks were served on silver trays, the entire Cabinet was there, and I danced with the president's daughter Linda Bird. (Chuck Robb, later her husband as well as Virginia governor and Senator, was there too, but he was just a Marine guard, and, as yet, unknown.) Soon after midnight, the President announced that he was going to bed, but we were welcome to stay. His house was our house! Stay we did, until about 3 A.M. or so. There has not been a White House Fellows occasion since that even rivaled it. Texans do know how to throw a party!

The final time we visited was in August, 1968, at the end of our year. President and Mrs. Johnson invited us to the living quarters where, in the sitting room adjoining the Truman Balcony, they graciously visited and reminisced with us about the past year, much like old friends who had been on a journey together. They too were soon to leave, and we had been through a lot together.

The most significant visit, however, occurred sometime around mid-year, during the Tet Offensive. The President invited us to come as a group, ostensibly to ask questions as we had done with so many other administration officials. We were seated at a conference table in the Fish Room, which is now the Roosevelt Room. Just the Fellows were present, along with program director Tom Carr and associate director Steve Strickland. The President entered alone, and was later joined by a Japanese photographer named Okimoto, if I recall correctly. No other aides were present.

The President began the "discussion" by saying that he wanted to tell us what was on his mind. And so began a 45-minute soliloquy on the course of the war in Viet Nam. It was deliberate and impassioned, filled with details of logistics, military tactics, and depressing statistics. He named names, friends and foes alike. He drew targeting maps for air strikes on white napkins. His frustration and rage were evident. I recall him pounding the table and exclaiming through clenched teeth, "You can't kill bicycles with B-52's!" More napkins were filled with diagrams of the Ho Chi Minh Trail and Hanoi harbor and bombed-out railroads that were being repaired overnight. That war was dooming his vision of a Great Society, and he hated it.

No questions were asked. As we were leaving, one of the other fellows commented that we should have picked up those napkins for history.

—contributed by John M. McGinty



1967-1968 White House Fellows with President Johnson

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Lisa Curtis, Senior Analyst, Heritage Foundation

Josh Bolten, White House Chief of Staff

Ronen Sen, Indian Ambassador to the United States

L. Paul Bremer III, Former Administrator, Coalition Provisional Authority

Lorne Craner, President, International Republican Institute

Zhang Zeguang, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the People's Republic of China

IN MEMORIAM



JACK VALENTI (1921-2007)

Jack Valenti died from complications of a stroke at his Washington, DC, home on April 26. Over 1,000 friends and family attended his funeral mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew on May 1.

To say that Jack Valenti was the greatest champion of The White House Fellows program is no exaggeration.

From its creation in 1964 to our last reunion in 2006, The White House Fellowships had no more loyal and devoted friend.

Jack met with every class of White House Fellows, both when he was inside the LBJ White House and in all his years as president of The Motion Picture Association of America.

He hosted our classes at the Washington MPAA offices in a building now named in his honor.

He screened first run movies with us, arranged receptions with food and guests from Hollywood and Washington.

He had a love for the Fellows that transcended politics. It did not matter that we were liberals or conservatives, Democrats or Republicans.

On at least two occasions, Jack used his network of friends in the Congress and in the White House to keep the small WHF federal appropriation from being eliminated.

He and his wife Mary Margaret always welcomed us with enthusiasm when we returned to Washington. As many fellows like John DeLuca (65-66) can confirm, Jack was a powerful ambassador of our program to many different communities of interest.

Jack's articulate voice has been stilled, but his spirit will live in the hearts of all of us who shared a part of our own journeys with him.

—contributed by Tom Johnson (65-66)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Roy Alcalá (76-77) is serving as an advisor to the National Security Advisor and to the Prime Minister of Iraq.

Bill Caldwell (91-92) has been nominated for promotion to LTG and assignment as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, KS.

Ronald Clark (04-05) has forward staged to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, from which he will deploy to Iraq as the executive officer of the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Division.

Alex Dimitrief (85-86) has left the law firm of Kirkland and Ellis in Chicago to become the Vice President and Senior Counsel for Litigation and Legal Policy for General Electric in Fairfield, CT.

Mike Fenzel (00-01) is headed to Iraq for a yearlong combat tour (his third) with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, in which he is a battalion commander.

Alex Friedman (98-99) has been named as the Chief Financial Officer for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle, WA.

Sunny Garg (99-00) has been promoted to VP, Commercial Operations Group, Exelon Corp, in Chicago, IL.

Tom Leppert (84-85) has retired as President and CEO of the Turner Corporation and is now a candidate for Mayor of Dallas, TX.

Burn Loeffke (70-71) has been named as one of this year's five Distinguished Graduates by the United States Military Academy at West Point and will be honored in a full Corps review in May.

Jeri Eckhart Queenan (85-86) will join The Bridgespan Group, a non-profit consulting firm, as a partner in their Boston office effective September 1, 2007.

WASHINGTON EARLY APRIL

*When you run through the cherry blossoms
as the sun settles down into early-mild air,
and evening springs open over the Potomac
as a light breeze pushes river-sweet through pink
branches and encases you in memory's hug,*

*when you move perfectly past the pockets of people
admiring the thick gleam of each lit monument
in contrast to the fading day's blooms of fluff,
and everyone is picnicking or perched
on benches holding hands,*

*when you stride with such earned ease
to lap the Tidal Basin flanked with pink and people,
and that slip into night comes so gradually
it can't not feel sudden, looking back
to where crowds on the steps of the Jefferson
look like lit dots against the now-arrived dark,*

*when this moment is all breeze and speed and cherry,
and you know you've made so many right moves
since the last time spring started its surge
from the roots up,*

*it's easy to believe you don't need anything more
than nights like these in a world
that decorates your days
like the pink clouds of blossom
in April's opening week,*

*and that if you wanted
you could soar on strong legs
for the rest of your life here in Washington,
eating nothing but cherry air and
drinking from rivers.*

—contributed by Jocelyn Pickford (06-07)

Julia Vindasius (95-96) has left SAIC in Houston, TX, to join Sense Intellifield in CA as their VP of Consulting.

Barry Williams (02-03) has been assigned to the Joint Staff in the Pentagon, where he is an operations officer in the J-3/ Directorate of Operations.

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

NATIONAL FINALISTS

Dr. Brian M. Alexander
Resident Physician, Harvard
Radiation Oncology Program
Southfield, MI

Mr. Jaime A. Areizaga
Global Project Finance Senior
Associate, Clifford Chance US,
LLP
Washington, DC

Lt. Michael Bahar
US Navy Officer
New Rochelle, NY

Mr. Louis W. Bremer
Vice President, Investment
Banking Division, Morgan
Stanley
Bossier City, LA

Dr. Patrick H. Conway
Robert Wood Johnson Clinical
Scholar
College Station, TX

Major Bobbi J. Doorenbos
US Air Force Officer
Carroll, IA

Major Andrew J. Drake
US Marine Corps Officer
Clinton, NY

Lt. Col. Dawn M. Dunlop
US Air Force Officer
Huntington, NY

Major Bradford R. Everman
US Air Force Officer
Marietta, GA

Major John Gallagher
US Army Officer
San Jose, CA

Mr. Timothy J. Graczewski
Director, Oracle Corporation
Enfield, CT

Major Ethan C. Griffin
US Air Force Officer
Chesterland, OH

Lt. Col. Stacey T. Hawkins
US Air Force Officer
Bastrop, LA

Ms. Juanita Irizarry
MPA candidate, Harvard
University
Chicago, IL

Major Ryan M. Janovic
US Army Officer
Akron, OH

Ms. Julissa Marengo
General Manager, ZGB
Communications
North Bergen, NJ

Mr. Travis W. Matheson,
Washington State Patrol Officer
Olympia, WA

Mr. Charles J. McLaughlin
Engagement Manager
George Group, LLC
Kennebunk, ME

Ms. Katherine Mossman
Associate, Investment Banking
Division, Credit Suisse
Securities, LLC
Lancaster, CA

Ms. Anne Neuberger
Senior Vice President of
Operations, American Stock
Transfer and Trust Company
Brooklyn, NY

Dr. Eric D. Patterson
William C. Foster Fellow
Fallbrook, CT

Mr. Eric D. Plaks
Teacher, Bronx Charter School
for the Arts
Princeton, NJ

Dr. Jaewon Ryu
Physician, Department of
Emergency Medicine, Harbor-
UCLA Medical Center
Chicago, IL

Mr. Nathaniel Scott
President, DNA Business
Services
Jacksonville, FL

Ms. Kristine M. Singley
Senior Project Engineer, Walt
Disney World Design and
Engineering
Celebration, FL

Mr. Andrew R. Smarick
Acting Chief Operating Officer,
National Alliance for Public
Charter Schools
Arnold, MD

Major Kathryn A. Spletstoser
US Army Officer
Eau Claire, WI

Major Timothy T. Tenne
US Air Force Officer
Baltimore, MD

Dr. S. Phin Upham
Visiting Scholar, New York
University Department of
Economics
Claremont, NH

**Lt. Commander M. Tate
Westbrook**
US Navy Officer
Murfreesboro, TN

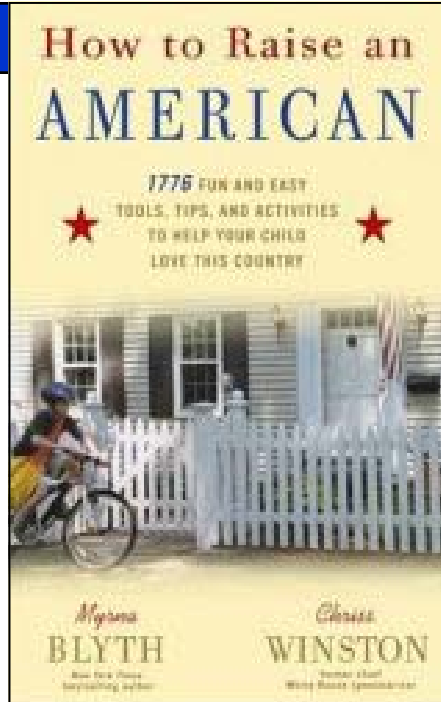
**Lt. Commander Keith E.
Williams**
US Navy Officer
Derry, NH

Major Robert A. Willis
US Army Officer
Smithfield, VA

IN THE NEWS

White House Fellows Commission Chair, Myrna Blyth, is in the news. She is co-author, with Chriss Winston, of the new book, "How to Raise an American." The book features 1776 Fun and Easy Tools, Tips, and Activities to Help Your Child Love This Country. Read more tips like the one below at <http://www.howtoraiseanamerican.com>.

"Learn about your own hometown's government. Take your kids along with a couple of their friends for a tour of City Hall. If you call ahead, and the group is large enough, you may get a special tour by an elected official and even have the chance to meet the Mayor or Town Manager. Have the kids say thank-you by designing a flag for the town. Bet the local paper would write a story about the visit and publish a picture of the flag they create."



Mark Your Calendars Now! 2007 Annual Meeting and Seminar October 25-27, 2007

Hotel rooms at special WHF rates are available at Hotel Washington (202-638-5900) and the Capital Hilton Hotel (202-393-1000). Book now as most hotels are already sold out due to a major convention during our reunion and both hotels have gone to extraordinary measures to reserve a block of rooms for us.

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

Email: whitehousefellows@whf.eop.gov

Phone: 202-395-4522 Fax: 202-395-6179

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