

July 2006

The President's Commission on White House Fellowships



"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

- John Quincy Adams

Upcoming Events

July 10 - 14, 2006
Placement Week for incoming class

July 12, 2006
WHF Reception honoring the 2006-2007 Class.
712 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC

July 17 - 22, 2006
2005 - 2006 class travels to Alaska

October 19-21, 2006
WHF Association Annual Meeting & Seminar

Special Thanks!

We would like to thank the members of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships for attending Selection Weekend at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland and for their outstanding job in choosing the 2006 - 2007 Class of White House Fellows.

The fourteen individuals who make up the 2006 - 2007 Class of Fellows are listed on the following page. You can find the press release with their biographies on our website at www.whitehouse.gov/fellows.

Director's Note

Selection weekend in June marked a year and a half in my term as Director of the White House Fellows Program. As I watched the Commissioners work together to select the new class of Fellows, I was struck once again by the extraordinary nature of this program and what a privilege it is to work with people who are committed to making our great Nation even better. As we move through the selection process from February to June of each year, the recurring theme of inspiration resonates through discussions between prospective Fellows, Regional Panelists and Current Commissioners. One simply cannot meet 100 of America's most talented and passionate young professionals without pausing to give thanks for the positive impact that they have had and will have in their respective communities. And, as many Panelists and Commissioners have noted, meeting them renews one's faith in our Nation's ability to foster the dynamic leaders necessary to meet current and future challenges.



Prospective candidates for the White House Fellows Program often ask what the Commissioners are looking for in potential Fellows. They want to know what it takes to be selected. I'm quick to rattle off our selection criteria: a record of remarkable achievement early in one's career; evidence of strong leadership skills; a commitment to public service; and the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute successfully at the highest levels of the Federal government. Unfortunately, this quick recitation leaves out some of the most important ingredients. The Fellows who go on to make their mark in the world are focused and passionate about their work, yet they retain an intellectual curiosity about the broader world around them. They are flexible and responsive to challenges and change. These Fellows demonstrate a personal and professional maturity that manifests itself in the ability to have intelligent discussions marked by intellectual honesty and a deep respect for their fellow man. Importantly, they are also results-oriented and take responsibility seriously. They are humble and recognize that in order to be a truly successful leader, you must remain connected to your core values. No matter how often positions and titles change, or how fiercely the pressures from the world encroach upon their personal life, it is their ability to deal with ideas and issues with honesty, integrity and courage that matters most. The Fellows and prospective Fellows who embody these traits are truly worthy examples for all Americans to emulate and wonderful sources of inspiration for us all.

- Janet Eissenstat

White House Fellows Class of 2006 - 2007



Chris Caballero



Jason Dean



Jeff Eggers



Bedouin Joseph



Eugene Huang



Miguel Howe



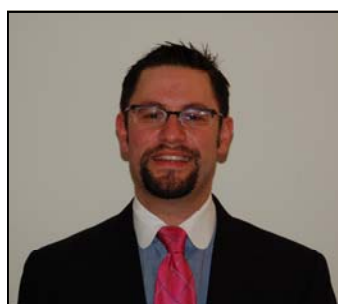
Fred Kacher



Wes Moore



Jocelyn Pickford



George Ruiz



Lena Sene



Mark Smith



Jeff Stern



Mark Vlastic

ALUMNI BIOGRAPHY



Reginald Turner (96-97) is currently the President of the National Bar Association.

Reginald M. Turner

White House Fellow alumnus Reginald M. Turner (96-97) is currently serving as President of the National Bar Association. In his one year tenure, Turner has presided over the Association's vetting of three U.S. Supreme Court nominees, testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee's confirmation hearings on Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito. He has also guided the Bar's *pro bono* response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. Turner has traveled extensively in the Gulf Coast region to meet with storm victims, governmental agencies responsible for rebuilding devastated communities and lawyers providing counseling and advocacy for residents and evacuees. He has been a strong voice for those whose needs have been neglected in the aftermath of the catastrophes in Louisiana and Mississippi.

In June, Turner led a 35-member Bar delegation to Ethiopia, seeking to strengthen ties to the Ethiopian Bar Association and to learn more about the court system and legal framework implemented under the 1994 constitution. The delegation met with Ethiopian lawyers and judges to discuss the justice system and attended lectures featuring the United States Ambassador to Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Minister of Justice and several Supreme Court Justices, as well as organizations such as the World Trade Organization and USAID.

Turner is a partner and executive committee member in the Detroit law firm of Clark Hill PLC, where he serves as a litigator and governmental affairs advisor for businesses and nonprofit organizations. He is listed in the peer review guide "The Best Lawyers in America" and he is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, an honor reserved to less than one percent of lawyers in each state. He is one of Michigan Lawyers Weekly's Lawyers of the Year for 2005. In 2002-2003, Turner served as President of the State Bar of Michigan.

Turner often engages in *pro bono* representation in important civil rights and civil liberties cases. He was counsel in the historic affirmative action case involving the University of Michigan, representing a coalition of civil rights organizations known as Citizens for Affirmative Action's Preservation, and seventeen African American and Latino students. He has represented political and civil rights organizations in voting rights litigation as well. This year he is one of the leaders of the opposition to a ballot initiative to ban affirmative action in Michigan.

Turner is a member of the Board of Directors of Comerica, Inc., a Fortune 500 financial institution. He is a member of the Michigan State Board of Education by appointment of Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm. Turner's priority on the Board is literacy, and he is organizing a community-based effort to develop a culture of expectation that all children will learn to read by the third grade, regardless of their economic circumstances. Turner is Chair of the City of Detroit Board of Ethics, Vice Chair of the United Way of Southeastern Michigan, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the Detroit Police Foundation.

During his White House Fellowship Turner principally worked in the Department of Housing and Urban Development where he coordinated a nine-agency Presidential task force which addressed socioeconomic issues in riot-plagued St. Petersburg, Florida. He also co-chaired the class trip to South Africa and Mozambique.

Turner resides in Detroit with his wife, Marcia Holland Turner, and their two daughters, ages 15 and 8.

FELLOWS FORUM

WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS GUEST SPEAKERS JULY 2006

General Colin Powell,
Armed Forces Benefit
Association

Laura Bush,
First Lady of the United
States

Dick Cheney,
Vice President of the
United States

Bradley Patterson,
Author

Alberto Gonzales,
U.S. Attorney General

Thomas Schelling,
Author/Economist

Dina Powell,
Assistant Secretary of
State for Educational
and Cultural Affairs

Observations from Homeland Security

I have spent almost ten months in America's youngest Department, watching it transform through its third year of existence amid crises, controversy, and dramatic change. Secretary Chertoff and his leadership team have been responding to natural disasters, ambiguous threats, hostile press, demanding and unpredictable legislators, discontented State and local authorities, and a suspicious public, all the while formulating and executing a string of major Presidential initiatives and continuing to re-align and integrate a Department architecture born of 22 fiercely independent agencies. Going into the Fellowship I instinctively believed Homeland Security would offer the most lucrative learning experience precisely because of its youth and endemic challenges. Little did I know how quickly and thoroughly I would be exposed to both the triumphs and challenges of the agency.

I will share a few anecdotes from my time at DHS headquarters to highlight what I learned about leadership in a dynamic environment. Like almost all the other Fellows, I raised my hand upon arrival in early September 2005 and volunteered to assist on any project related to Katrina. I was quickly accepted as a member of the new Presidentially-directed Hurricane Katrina Task Force, which had a mandate to serve as clearinghouse for mid-to long-term recovery options in the Gulf region. My role as energy liaison officer allowed me to interact with the Homeland Security Council and Department of Energy, but after several weeks it became apparent that our Task Force could not fully exercise its coordinating role. While information still flowed into the White House, it was difficult to coordinate with other Departments. The lesson I derived from this Task Force experience is that a Presidential directive is only as good as its follow-through, forming new organizations in the middle of a crisis is too late, and bureaucracies seek primacy through information ownership.

During my tenure at DHS I also supported the Secure Border Initiative, a DHS Policy team charged with developing strategies to deal with illegal immigration on America's southwest border. I served as co-lead for an inter-agency team studying the El Salvadoran problem. El Salvadoran immigrants flow north in heavy numbers through southern Texas, and are difficult to return to their host country because the El Salvador government will only accept a small number of returnees each week. I learned to appreciate the tough and complex challenges of apprehending, holding, processing, and repatriating immigrants. It also became obvious how much extra time and effort must be exerted to calibrate expectations, educate and influence the views of Congress and the press. Further, I saw the importance of measuring progress through metrics and setting realistic goals based on exigent political and fiscal conditions.

I spent the greater balance of my time at DHS as a Special Assistant to Charlie Allen, Chief Intelligence Officer and Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis. I began supporting him the



Mike Studeman is a Commander in the U.S. Navy and has spent his Fellowship year at the Department of Homeland Security.

Recruitment Corner

Planning for Fall 2006-2007 Recruitment is under way, and we are organizing activities in many cities. Please let us know if you are interested in hosting an event or serving as a guest speaker at an information session in one of the following cities.

Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco, Seattle

If you have recruitment ideas for these or other cities, please contact Page Archer at parcher@whf.eop.gov.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Suzy Becker (93-94)** on the release of her new children's book entitled *Manny's Cows, The Niagara Falls Tale*. The book was written and illustrated by Suzy Becker. Becker is also the author/illustrator of the New York Times best-seller *All I Need to Know I Learned from My Cat*.

first week he arrived at the Department and spent six months acting as his confidante, special projects officer, and advisor. His actions in the first few months exemplified the best leadership traits in any large organization. He took a beleaguered group of intelligence specialists, repeatedly communicated his vision and priorities, set high standards and expectations, created decision-oriented groups, held his leadership team to account, and personally took charge of repairing strategic relations with the Secretary, DHS component directors, Congress, Intelligence Community leaders, and State, local, and private sector partners. It was a tour de force. I was witness to the singular power of individual leadership as one man by dint of personality began to build a true intelligence enterprise in the Department. His actions underscored the importance of being the master of your domain, the contagiousness of optimism and high energy, the criticality of developing personal relations across organizational lines, the power of evocative language, the need for risk-taking, and the voltage that can be generated through sheer boldness.

Though the Fellowship year is not yet over, my kit bag of insights on executive leadership is already full to overflowing. These lessons will stay with me long after I leave DHS.

Contributed by Mike Studeman (05-06)

Friends of the White House Fellows

The White House Fellows Program Staff is seeking ways to acknowledge and honor individuals who have been particularly supportive of the Program over the years. We invite you to provide the names and contact information of one or two people you believe had the most impact on you during your Fellowship year. The individuals you submit will be invited to attend a special event in their honor at the Annual Meeting October 19 - 21, 2006. To request an invitation for your principal, a guest speaker, mentor or other patron of the Program, please visit the White House Fellows Association website (www.whff.org) and click on "Invitation Request Form," fill in the appropriate fields and click "Submit Form" at the bottom of the page.



Phil Merrill

1934 - 2006

It is with tremendous sadness that the White House Fellows community mourns the loss of our dear friend, Phil Merrill. Phil served as a Regional Chairman and Panelist for the White House Fellows Program for many years in both Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. He will be missed very much by many White House Fellow Alums and by his fellow regional panelists.

Alumni Update

Tom Bostick (89-90) is the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Ft. Knox, KY.

David Cleary (76-77) has been named by the University of Notre Dame as the 2006 winner of the William D. Reynolds Award for exceptional work with youth for the betterment of life for his longstanding work as founder and supporter of Stop Child Abuse Now of Northern Virginia.

Kimberly Connors (01-02) has been promoted to the position of Deputy District Attorney for Santa Clara County, CA.

Craig Coy (84-85) is leaving his position as President and CEO of Massport to become the head of the newly established Homeland Security Group at L-3 Communications in Washington, DC.

Phil Cullom (94-95) has been promoted to Rear Admiral, United States Navy.

Melissa Goldstein (94-95) is the Director, Health with the Markle Foundation in Washington, DC.

Heather Graham (02-03) is the Policy Officer, Education, for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle, WA.

David Lussier (99-00) has completed his course work for his Ed.D in the Urban Superintendent's Program at Harvard and is now the Special Assistant to the Superintendent of the Austin Independent School District in Austin, TX.

Lou O'Neill (04-05) has been named OSCE Head of Mission and Ambassador to Moldova.

Dan Poneman (89-90), currently with Scowcroft Associates in Washington, DC, continues to make the Style Page of the Washington Post with reports on his band, Coalition of the Willing, that is the focus of a new documentary "Rockin' the Beltway."

Stefanie Sanford (96-97) has been promoted to Deputy Director, National Initiatives, with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Washington, DC.

Julia Taft (70-71) is the interim President and CEO of Inter-Action in Washington, DC.

Bill Thornton (02-03) has left the National War College in Washington, DC, to assume responsibilities as Operations Group Commander of the 46th Test Wing at Eglin AFB, FL.

Leigh Warner (89-90) is now an Innovation Strategist with Interchange in Westport, CT.

Mike Wheeler (78-79) has left SAIC to join the Institute for Defense Analyses in Alexandria, VA.

About the White House Fellows Program

The White House Fellows Program is a non-partisan program that offers exceptional young leaders first hand 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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