

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2007



WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS

Leadership & Public Service

Program Calendar

September 1
Fellowship Year
Began

September 5–7
Orientation at
Arlie House in
Warrenton,
Virginia

September 25
Welcome
Reception for
New Class
712 Jackson Place
6:00 - 8:00 pm

October 25–27
White House
Fellows Alumni
Association and
Foundation
Annual Meeting

**October 29–
November 2**
Domestic Study
Trip #1

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

—John F. Kennedy

ON FELLOWSHIP

The 2006-2007 Fellows concluded their year on August 31.

On July 20, the White House Fellows Foundation and Association Board of Directors treated our class to a wonderful farewell dinner at the Army-Navy Club. It is hard to believe that a full year has passed since we attended the welcome dinner hosted by board president Judy Walter (75-76) at her home during our Placement Week in 2006. Surrounded by new friends in Judy’s living room, we took turns trading funny stories about our selection experiences. At the farewell dinner, we had another opportunity to take the floor.

First, we listened as the Board members relayed comments about their Fellowship years and alumni participation. Over and over, we heard about the spirit of friendship and the power of networking made possible by the unique privilege of being a White House Fellow. As we each rose individually to contribute our own remarks, the same themes emerged. Amid laughter (and a few mild groans) over many of the once-in-a-lifetime experiences we’ve shared this year, each one of us touched on the ways in which we as colleagues have challenged, aided, and inspired each other. We pledged to keep the spirit of our bond alive as active alumni in the years to come—a pledge I know we’ll strive to keep.



*Jocelyn Pickford (06-07)
was placed at the Internal
Revenue Service*

During our retreat in September 2006, we were tasked with defining our values and operating principles for the Fellowship year. It became clear during our farewell dinner that what we have experienced together transcends anything we could put down on paper. We each have 13 brothers and sisters for life—and a community of over 600 other family members to get to know better and better as the years progress. Thank you to everyone in the alumni community. We are lucky to join you.

—Contributed by Jocelyn Pickford

REMEMBERING LADY BIRD

Lady Bird Johnson was the wife of the White House Fellows program's founder, a former commissioner, and a longtime friend of the program. Following her death in July, John Saxon (78-79) took some time to reflect on her legacy. The below article was adapted from The Birmingham News, where it originally appeared on July 15.



Lady Bird Johnson's official White House portrait

My first image of Lady Bird Johnson was that of a loving wife, saddened by tragedy, standing behind her husband on Air Force One as he took the oath of office as our 36th president. My next image of Mrs. Johnson was when I was a finalist for the White House Fellows Program. President Carter had appointed Mrs. Johnson to his White House Fellows Commission. I met her in the spring of 1978. Thirty-three finalists spent three days with the commission headed by John W. Gardner.

Small in stature, Mrs. Johnson was a remarkable woman—unassuming, unpretentious and friendly. She had the face of someone who had lived life and could be at once warm and distant, as if her natural inclination toward Southern friendliness was tempered by the rough and tumble of politics.

Her eyes reflected understanding, determination and grit, with an outer shell of charm, grace, and dignity, not unlike many Southern women. I was struck by her friendliness. Maybe she warmed to me because of our Alabama connection—she was quick to point out that her mother was born in Alabama and she still owned property here.

For my interview, Mrs. Johnson was paired with Commissioner Stephen Muller, the President of Johns Hopkins University. President Carter had taken office a little more than a year before. Muller wanted to know what I thought about a Southerner being President. I replied that Carter served as a role model to young people in the South. I noted that in its earliest days, our nation was led by a host of Southern leaders, but that it had been many decades since our nation had been led by a Southerner. The minute those words rolled off my lips, I looked to my left where Mrs. Johnson sat on a sofa. I froze.

I could see my life flashing before me. I had just insulted the former First Lady of the United States, implying that her husband was not a leader. I debated whether to explain myself (at the risk of digging the hole deeper). Do I assume she will understand, given her Alabama connection, that here we view Texas as the Southwest? I chose words over silence. I apologized. I explained my Deep South view of “the South.” She said nothing, but had a twinkle in her eyes and a bemused smile.

It wasn't fatal; I was one of fifteen White House Fellows selected.

Mrs. Johnson and I corresponded afterward. At the end of my Fellowship, I wrote, thanking her for helping make possible the single greatest year of my life. She sent a prompt reply. Her written words were as warm as her spoken words. “How pleased I was to hear from you!” She closed with her “warmest wishes for bright and rewarding days ahead!”

REMEMBERING LADY BIRD (CONTINUED)

Four years later, I served as President of the White House Fellows Alumni Association. I invited her to the Fellows' annual meeting to be held in Washington, at which time we were honoring John Gardner. She declined, writing that "my association with the White House Fellows has always been exciting and rewarding...I would love seeing all you bright young folks...as well as having a good visit with my dear friend, John Gardner."

She begged off for good reason. She wrote that "my life these days is nearly totally enveloped with work on the dear-to-my-heart National Wildflower Research Center...We are approaching a 'make or break' situation financially, and I am trying to do everything I can to ensure its success." A major fundraiser was being held at the LBJ ranch around the same time as our annual meeting. She closed with a handwritten note: "The White House Fellows program was dear to Lyndon's heart—and mine."

Over the years, I kept up with Mrs. Johnson through her daughter, Lynda Johnson Robb, and former Louisiana Congresswoman Lindy Boggs, her dear friend. At a Washington dinner, I sat at Mrs. Boggs' table. She had spoken to Mrs. Johnson a few days before, not long after her stroke. The stroke had affected Mrs. Johnson's speech, but Mrs. Boggs said she was still inquisitive and still asking about issues.

My last update of Mrs. Johnson came last October when I saw her daughter, Lynda, at the Legacy of Leadership dinner honoring Tom Johnson, one of President's Johnson's closest friends and advisers. Lynda brightened when I asked about her mother. She told me that she was still struggling from the effects of the stroke, but her mind was still good.

Our country has lost a grand lady, one of our first great environmentalists. Though I cannot claim to have known her well, I will always carry with me the image of her bemused smile as I attempted to explain Southern geography as related to her late husband. She was a special lady.

2007-2008 FELLOWS PLACEMENTS

The new class began service in their placements on September 1, 2007

Jaime Areizaga:

Department of the Treasury

Louis Bremer:

Homeland Security Council

Patrick Conway:

Department of Health and Human Services

Bobbi Doorenbos:

Department of Agriculture

Dawn Dunlop:

Department of Energy

John Gallagher:

National Security Council

Stacey Hawkins:

Small Business Administration

Julissa Marengo:

Environmental Protection Agency

Travis Matheson:

Department of Transportation

Anne Neuberger:

Department of Defense

Eric Patterson:

Office of Personnel Management

Jaewon Ryu:

Department of Veterans Affairs

Kristine Singley:

National Economic Council

Andrew Smarick:

Domestic Policy Council

Kathryn Spletstoser:

Department of State

WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS HISTORY

A HISTORY OF 712 JACKSON PLACE

The townhouse now known as 712 Jackson Place was constructed for Admiral James Blair in 1869, but it was soon sold to its most famous occupant: Major Henry Rathbone. A former military aide to President Lincoln, Rathbone and his then-fiancée Clara had accompanied the President and Mrs. Lincoln to Ford's Theater on the night he was shot. The couple had three children in the home but Rathbone never got over the assassination: he shot Clara in 1883 in Germany, and, after a failed suicide attempt, was committed to an insane asylum.

Several distinguished Americans followed Major Rathbone as occupants of the residence, which was part of the extremely fashionable neighborhood surrounding Lafayette Park. The building was converted to government use at the turn of the century, when it housed a number of Department of Justice attorneys.

The address—then 8 Jackson Place—regained prominence during World War I as the home to the Committee for Public Information, which produced government propaganda. During this period, the office was the site of a murderous early-morning gun duel between a nightwatchman and a custodian. Ironically, the building also briefly served as a headquarters for the vociferously anti-war Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

In succeeding decades, 712 Jackson Place was home to a number of businesses, including a book shop, an antique store, and a real estate office. The National Candy Wholesalers moved in in 1948, followed by the National Trust for Historical Preservation.

The building was slated for demolition in 1957 to make way for Federal Office Building Number 7, but First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy intervened in 1962 to save the historic Jackson Place townhouses. After a renovation, the Truman Scholarship Foundation moved into 712 in 1975, followed by the President's Commission on White House Fellowships.

Though its occupants have remained the same for some three decades, the historic townhouse still sees its share of excitement. Most visitors to the Program are scheduled, but some are not: in 1980, while on his way to meet President-elect Ronald Reagan for a top-secret CIA briefing in the adjacent #716, then-Vice President-elect George H.W. Bush bounded up the steps of 712 Jackson Place and began shaking hands with stunned program staff.

Today, 712 Jackson Place is host to over 100 distinguished guest speakers and numerous special events each year. For White House Fellows alumni, it remains a home away from home.



Spies and Lies

German agents are everywhere, eager to gather scraps of news about our men, our ships, our munitions. It is still able to get such information through to Germany where thousands of these fragments—often individually harmless—are patiently pieced together into a whole which spells death to American soldiers and danger to American homes. But while the enemy is most industrious in trying to collect information, and his systems elaborate, he is far surpassed by the often very stupid, and would fail to get what he wants were it not deliberately handed to him by carelessness of loyal Americans.

Do not discuss in public, or with strangers, any news and transport movements, or bits of gossip as to our military preparations, which come into your possession. Do not permit your friends in service to tell you—rite you—"inside" facts about where they are, what they are doing and seeing.

Do not become a tool of the Hun by passing on the mails, disheartening rumors which he eagerly snags. Rather he asks no better service than to have you spread his filth to our soldiers and sailors, gross scandals in Red Cross, cruelties, neglect and wholesale executions in camps, drunkenness and vice in the Expeditionary Force and other tales certain to disturb American patriots to bring anxiety and grief to American parents.

And do not wait until you catch someone putting a bomb under a factory. Report the man who spreads pessimistic stories, divulges—or seeks—confidential military information, cries for peace, or belittles our efforts to win the war.

Send the names of such persons, even if they are in uniform, to the Department of Justice, Washington. Give all the details you can, with names of witnesses if possible—show the Hun that we can beat him at his own game of collecting scattered information and putting it to work. The fact that you made the report will not become public.

You are in contact with the enemy today, just as truly as if you faced him across No Man's Land. In your hands are two powerful weapons with which to meet him—discernment and vigilance. Use them.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION
8 JACKSON PLACE, WASHINGTON, D. C.



Document released by the Committee for Public Information during World War I. The address at the bottom—8 Jackson Place—is now the White House Fellows program office.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Paul Applegarth (81-82) is the Chief Executive Officer of Value Enhancement International in Greenwich, CT.

Esther Benjamin (99-00) is Executive Director for Resource Development for the International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM).

Chris Caballero (06-07) is President of Jackson Place Consulting, LLC, in Tallahassee, FL.

Charles Garcia (88-89) is President of Sterling Hispanic Capital Markets Group (vFinance Investments, Inc.) in Boca Raton, FL.

Patricia Davis (75-76) is Deputy Chief Financial Officer of the Washington, DC, Public School System.

Richard Hooker (92-93) has returned to Washington, DC, where he is assigned to the Iraq Office of the National Security Council.

Jerry Johnson (04-05) has joined RLJ Equity Partners as a Vice-President focused on middle-market buyout and expansion investment opportunities.

Dennis Murphy (92-93) is Vice President and Chief Engineer at Amgen.

Stuart Munsch (00-01) is the Executive Assistant to the Director, Submarine Warfare, at HQ, US Navy.

George Robinson (74-75) has been named Director-in-Residence for the University of Texas Dallas School of Management's Institute for Excellence in Corporate Governance.

Teresa Smith (84-85) is the Northrop Grumman Corporate Lead for the IED Integration Group and Asymmetric Threat in Linthicum, MD.

Jon Spaner (02-03) has returned to HQ, USCG, where he is the Deputy Chief of the Coast Guard Office of Budget and Programs.

Loree Sutton (96-97) is Special Assistant for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injuries to the Assistant Secretary of Defense of Health Affairs in Washington, DC.

Felicia Wong (98-99) is the Director, Investment Services, for Democracy Alliance in Washington, DC.

Ken Zeff (05-06) has been appointed Chief Operating Officer of the Inner City Education Foundation in Los Angeles, CA.

Save the Date and Register NOW— October 25-27, 2007! WHFFA 2007 Annual Meeting and Seminar

Your registration packet should be on your desk—and is also posted at the on the homepage at www.whff.org. Hotel rooms at special WHF Rates are available at the Hotel Washington (202-638-5900) and the Capital Hilton Hotel (Internal Reservations: 202-393-1000). Book now as Washington, DC, is sold out for a major convention during our reunion and both hotels have gone to extraordinary measures to reserve a block of rooms.



The 2006-2007 Class of White House Fellows beams outside the West Wing after the first of their two meetings with President Bush, during which they spent nearly two hours in the Roosevelt Room and the Oval Office.

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