

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2008**



# WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS

*Leadership & Public Service*

*“The strength -- the secret of our strength, the miracle of America, is that our greatness lies not in our government, but in the spirit and determination of our people.”*

*—President George W. Bush, January 28, 2008*

## **ALUMNI READERS NEEDED!**

The application deadline for the 2008-2009 class of White House Fellows is Friday, February 1! As you know, alumni are an essential part of the application-review process—we thank those of you who have helped in the past and encourage all alums who are able to participate this year. A list of reading groups scheduled for this year is below; please feel free to contact the host directly. If you are interested in reading on your own, please contact Deputy Director Carol Wessel at (202) 395-4522 or [cwessel@whf.eop.gov](mailto:cwessel@whf.eop.gov). —Janet Eissenstat

## **WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS ALUMNI READING EVENTS, FEBRUARY, 2008**

<u>CITY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>HOST(S)</u>	
<b>Washington, D.C.</b>	Saturday, Feb. 9	10 AM-3PM	Karen Galatz	<a href="mailto:kgalatz@yahoo.com">kgalatz@yahoo.com</a> 202-340-4707 712 Jackson PL Washington DC 20503
<b>New York</b>	Saturday, Feb. 16	10 AM-2:30 PM	Jeff Glueck	<a href="mailto:Jeffrey.Glueck@travelocity.com">Jeffrey.Glueck@travelocity.com</a> 212-372-5195 Travelocity 325 Hudson Street 10th floor New York, NY 10013
<b>Seattle</b>	Saturday, Feb. 23	9 AM-4PM	Nelson Dong, Steven Hill	<a href="mailto:dong.nelson@dorsey.com">dong.nelson@dorsey.com</a> <a href="mailto:steven.r.hill@comcast.net">steven.r.hill@comcast.net</a> 206-903-8871 Dorsey & Whitney LLP 1420 Fifth Ave., Suite 3400 Seattle, WA 98101
<b>Washington, D.C.</b>	Saturday, Feb. 23	10 AM-3 PM	Eileen Stephens	<a href="mailto:eileens@alum.mit.edu">eileens@alum.mit.edu</a> 703-836-2850 712 Jackson Place Washington DC 20503
<b>Boston</b>	Saturday, Feb. 23	9 AM- 4 PM	Kristine Langdon	<a href="mailto:Kristine.Langdon@KornFerry.com">Kristine.Langdon@KornFerry.com</a> 617-790-5750 Korn/Ferry International 265 Franklin Street, 17 <sup>th</sup> floor Boston, MA 02110

## DOMESTIC TRIP REPORT

*From January 14-18, the 2007-2008 Fellows traveled south to Texas and Louisiana for their second domestic study trip, designed to explore issues including immigration, education and post-Katrina rebuilding efforts.*

The trip provided an incredible range of experiences—from meeting with President Bush 41 in Houston to meeting inspirational teachers. We saw a second-term mayor and newly-elected State Representatives. We met individuals who are firmly entrenched in the American Dream to those who have lost it all, or never had it. The diverse array of perspectives and opinions is exactly what the White House Fellows Program is all about and this trip was a perfect demonstration of its intent.

On Wednesday, after a short flight to McAllen, TX, we were privileged to participate in a half-day adventure led by Customs and Border Patrol. We bundled up on this cold morning, donned our life vests, and embarked on a patrol tour on the Mexico/U.S. border...Rio Grande style! Our boats were escorted by the Border Patrol's Special Operations Team, which kept a watchful eye on the Southern shore while our hosts described the border landscape and various crossing scenarios. A vast array of sensors assist the Border Patrol in their duties, but it's clear that the motivated smuggler or immigrant will not be easily dissuaded. Our visit continued with a walking tour of the Port of Hidalgo, where thousands of vehicles cross into and out of the U.S. every day. This area of Texas is one of the most "productive" border areas (in terms of drug busts and illegal crossings) in the country so the Fellows especially appreciated the extended time and detailed tour that they provided us.

We also visited the IDEA Academy, fantastic educational model for low-income students in the border area. Students visit 25+ colleges during the course of their 4 years in high school, all are bi-lingual and they don't earn their diploma unless they've also received an acceptance letter from a 4-year college! Our next stop took us across the border and into Mexico to visit a the Black and Decker maquiladora (factory) in Mexico. The border areas are exploding with similar factories owned by foreign companies allowing them to take advantage of the "speed to market" concept—which is difficult to achieve with long-distance, overseas shipping.

In New Orleans, we met with a representative of the Louisiana Recovery Authority, then took a very memorable tour of the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward and the levee breach areas guided by the Army Corps of Engineers. The devastation is still unnerving, with blocks and blocks of homes clearly uninhabitable. Signs of recovery are slowly emerging, however, and the residents of New Orleans don't seem easily defeated. This was evidenced by our meeting with James Kelly, CEO of Catholic Charities of New Orleans and President of Providence Community Housing. He is leading the effort to rebuild the Lafitte Housing Projects for low-income families, and gave us a tour of the area.

Our last day began with a boat tour of the Port of New Orleans at the mouth of the Mississippi River, followed by a visit with Mayor Ray Nagin, who described his experiences during Hurricane Katrina, and his lessons learned. The last stop of the trip was lunch with two newly-elected Louisiana State Representatives who gave us some insight on Louisiana politics, ethics reform efforts, and why they were compelled to run. They were both inspirational and refreshing; I think we all walked away feeling that New Orleans was going to come back strong with guys like them running the show.

Our sincere thanks to all who have afforded us this incredible opportunity!

—*Bobbi Doorenbos*



*Bobbi Doorenbos is placed at the Department of Agriculture*



*2007-2008 White House Fellows aboard a Border Patrol boat, such as the one pictured at right.*

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

### PROFILE: JON JENNINGS ('97-98)

*The following article appeared in the Salem (Ma.) News on December 28; Jon Jennings' decision to join the Marblehead finance committee exemplifies John Gardner's charge that Fellows return to lead local communities following their time in Washington, D.C.*



MARBLEHEAD - Almost from the opening whistle, Jonathan Jennings, 45, has been at the top of the game. The only question is - which game? He's gone from a scouting role for the 1986 champion Boston Celtics to presidential aide to assistant attorney general to congressional candidate—and that's only a partial resume. He's been a confidant of people including Bill Clinton, Bobby Knight, John Kerry and, most important to him, Red Auerbach. And now he's a member of this town's Finance Committee.

When he appeared before the selectmen seeking their votes, Jennings admitted he hadn't been this nervous when appearing before Congress. "I wanted to give back to the town," he said, explaining why he applied for a job that requires long hours and difficult decisions.

Jennings has had jobs like that before, starting in Indiana, his home state. Attending Indiana University, he was not good enough to play for the famous basketball team, but he worked on the sidelines, learning the intricacies of the game from controversial head coach Bobby Knight. "I learned a lot of incredible things," Jennings said, but added, "I didn't pick up his mannerism." (Knight is famous for flinging a chair across the court in a moment of anger.)

Nonetheless, Jennings learned enough to move on to a job with the NBA's Indiana Pacers, where Celtics coach K.C. Jones once asked him for advice about an upcoming game in Portland. "I gave him some ideas. Then I got a call a week later asking if I wanted to be part of the Celtics." He jumped at the chance, taking a position as a scout. That was how he came into direct contact with the patriarch of a sports dynasty, Red Auerbach. Indeed, the former coach, then general manager, became a surrogate grandfather to Jennings.

"I came in as a young kid," Jennings said. "And to have a guy like Red take an interest in me ..." Not that it was always easy. "Red was demanding. He was not a guy that suffered fools easily." But he was also brilliant - with Jennings an eager pupil. And Auerbach was loyal. "If you were a Celtic," Jennings said, "you were always a Celtic." Though his career later took him to the corridors of world power, Jennings returns again and again to two people as having a major influence on him—his mother and Auerbach. "Red was one of the greatest human beings I've ever known. ... I miss him," Jennings said.

Jennings later worked as an assistant coach for Chris Ford. But as the Auerbach era wound down, new coach Rick Pitino fired Jennings, who promptly landed on his feet, winning a job as a White House fellow. "The president (Clinton) and I just hit it off because of my basketball background," he said. When the chief executive prepared to attend a Chicago Bulls-Washington Wizards game, he asked Jennings for a professional scouting report. "I mentioned that Michael Jordan would try to exploit the Wizards' small guards." That night, when Clinton was interviewed on ESPN, Jennings listened with glee as the president cautioned that the home team had to beware of Jordan working on the Wizards' small guards.

Eventually, Jennings earned an extraordinary posting as an acting assistant attorney general, working for Janet Reno in the Justice Department—despite the fact he is not lawyer. "She didn't think that was a deal breaker," he said. Mostly, he dealt with Congress during controversies like the Wen Ho Lee and Elian Gonzalez cases. In 2004, Jennings ran for Congress as a Democrat in Indiana's 8th District. The whole Celtic family, including Hoosier icon Larry Bird, came out to campaign for him, but he lost to 12-term Republican John Hostettler. More recently, Jennings has worked on the staff of Sen. John Kerry and is currently employed as a consultant while simultaneously trying to put together a group that will form an NBA minor league franchise in Portland, Maine. He's also active in various charities.

"It's been a bizarre life," Jennings joshed with the selectmen. They expressed gratitude for his decision to volunteer. Two openings on the board remain vacant, awaiting volunteers. Jennings first came to Marblehead during his stint with the Celtics, "and I couldn't wait to find an appropriate time to move back," he said. This time he's brought a young family - including a 4-year old daughter. Being a good husband and father is now his priority. There just wasn't enough time for a family before, he said. Lots to do. And the clock was running.

## SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

**David Petraeus**  
Commanding General,  
Multinational Force-Iraq  
(Video Teleconference)

**Thad Allen**  
Commandant, United  
States Coast Guard

**Anne Korin and Gal Luft**  
Co-Directors, Institute for  
Analysis of Global  
Security

**James Loy**  
Senior Counselor, Cohen  
Group

**Supreme Court Fellows  
35th Anniversary Dinner  
with Justice Ginsberg**

**Michael Steele**  
Chairman, GOPAC

**Adrian Talbott**  
Executive Director,  
Generation Engage

**Mel Martinez**  
United States Senator (FL)

**Stephen Johnson**  
Administrator,  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

**USS George Washington  
Aircraft Carrier**

**Leadership Essay  
Discussion**  
“The Servant as Leader”  
by Robert Greenleaf

**Steven Preston**  
Administrator, Small  
Business Administration

**Meet the Press**  
(show taping)

**Stephen Breyer**  
Associate Justice, Supreme  
Court of the United States

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

### BULLETIN FROM THE FRONT LINES

*Lieutenant Colonel Mike Fenzel ('00-'01) recently submitted a brief dispatch—and the accompanying photograph—from Afghanistan’s Eastern Paktika Province, where he is serving his sixth combat deployment as the commander of the Army’s Task Force Eagle.*

The paratroopers in our battalion are stationed on the forward edge of freedom’s front line: Observation Point 4 in Lwara, Afghanistan. It is 7.5km north of Forward Operating Base Tillman, named after the brave former NFL star who gave his life in service of the country five years ago.

This tour of duty with the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry Regiment of the 173d Airborne Brigade out of Vicenza has been tremendously challenging and the fight more fierce than I have seen in five previous combat deployments. We have lost 12 great Americans—killed in action—and 59 other paratroopers have been wounded in the fighting in these first eight months. We mourn the soldiers and brothers we’ve lost; but to see those that carry on with this mission and, with it, their legacy...well, it is inspiring beyond words.

The fighting continues to be a distraction to our main effort which is to make clear to the people along with our Afghan National Army brothers that a democratic Karzai government is preferable to the oppression of the Taliban. More than fighting we are focused on expanding opportunities for education (particularly among women), addressing the vast potential of irrigation in a province where flooding each spring is a humanitarian disaster waiting to happen, and working with the farmers of our 10 districts to identify ways to create agricultural growth where there has been only stagnation for the last 40 years. The Afghans are a proud people that will not accept tyranny, and that fact continues to motivate us, the soldiers on the ground.

All the best in this New Year.

- Mike Fenzel



*New Year's Eve in Afghanistan*

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW

**Balan Ayyar (02-03)** has been named Commander of the 305th Air Mobility Wing and Installation Commander of McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

**Jeff Colyer (88-89)** is a candidate for State Senate in Kansas's 37th District.

**Mike Fenzel (00-01)** is Commander of the Army's Task Force Eagle in Afghanistan's Eastern Paktika Province.

**Charles Garcia (88-89)** has been named by President Bush to the Board of Visitors of the United States Air Force Academy.

**Lawrence Golub (93-94)** has been confirmed by the New York State Senate as a member of the Financial Control Board of the State of New York.

**John Moellering (73-74)** has been elected Chairman of the Board of the United Services Automobile Association (USAA).

**Francis James (97-98)** is now the Director, Justice Unit, Division of Human Rights and Justice in the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB).

**Fred Kacher (06-07)** is the Commanding Officer of the *USS Stockdale*, which will be home-ported in San Diego following commissioning later this year.

**Jim O'Connor (98-99)** is now Managing Director of MVC Capital in Chicago, IL

**Sean O'Connor (97-98)** is the Commanding Officer of the aircraft carrier *USS Lake Champlain*, home-ported in San Diego.

**Pat Piercey (00-01)** is the Commanding Officer of the *USS Bunker Hill*, home-ported in San Diego.

**Robert Reffkin (04-05)** has been promoted to Vice President in the Principal Investment Area at Goldman Sachs.

**Rajeev Venkayya (02-03)** has joined the Gates Foundation as the Director of Global Health Delivery.

**Cory Wilson (05-06)** has been named Deputy Secretary of State in Mississippi.

### Mark Your Calendars!

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

### Pacific Century Fellows

"Hawaii will face numerous challenges in the upcoming years. If our island home is to prosper economically, socially and culturally, we need to identify and support the emerging generation of leaders. By nurturing them, we will ensure the future of Hawaii."

—**Mufi Hannemann ('83-84)**, *Founder and Chairman, Pacific Century Fellows; Mayor, Honolulu*

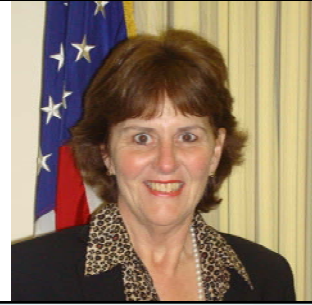


Now in its 10th year, the objective of the Pacific Century Fellows Program is to develop leaders with a greater awareness and sensitivity to the people and institutions of Hawaii. Based on the White House Fellows Program, the Pacific Century Fellows Program annually brings together up to 25 of Hawaii's most promising individuals from all walks of life, fields and professions. They gain a broader view of civic duty through direct contact with senior community, social and government leaders. The program encourages the development of long-term relationships between leaders young and old, united in their commitment to find creative solutions to the challenges facing the state. To learn more, visit <http://www.pacificcenturyfellows.com/>

## MEET THE STAFF

### Carol Wessel, Deputy Director

Carol Wessel joined the Fellows office in November after serving as Director of Presidential Proclamations for the past three years—the latest job of her broad-ranging career. Carol and her husband of 22 years, Paul, have two sons ages 17 and 20, and live in McLean, VA.



*2007-2008 Fellows with President George H.W. Bush in Houston*

## 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](mailto:whitehousefellows@whf.eop.gov)

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*Please send any comments, submissions or other newsletter-related communication to Scott Glabe at [sglabe@whf.eop.gov](mailto:sglabe@whf.eop.gov)*