

August 2006

The President's Commission on White House Fellowships



"We are bound by ideals that move us beyond our backgrounds, lift us above our interests and teach us what it means to be citizens."

— George W. Bush, Inaugural Address, 2001

Upcoming Events

August 17, 2006

Retreat for Outgoing 2005-06 WHF Class at the Occoquan, Virginia home of Julia Taft.

September 7-8, 2006

Retreat for the incoming 2006-07 WHF Class at Airlie House in Virginia.

October 19-21, 2006

WHF Alumni Association Annual Meeting and Seminar, Washington, DC.

COMMISSIONER REPORT

Judge Edith H. Jones on Being a WHF Commissioner



Edith Jones is Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in Houston, TX.

America, it has been said, is as much an idea as a country. The American "idea" comprises liberty, equality, and self-government. Anyone who is a citizen with the willingness to work hard and to accept the American idea can attain as much success in our country as his/her talents allow. Being a member of the White House Fellows Commission has given me the privilege of watching our "idea" in action. For five years, I have participated in selecting the Fellows from among the best and brightest of the generation that will lead this country in the coming decades. The Commissioners, the finalists and Fellows, and the Program have confirmed to me the unique success of the American idea.

The Bush Administration, no doubt like its predecessors, has appointed Commissioners who come from different geographic regions and whose resumes reflect achievement in business, politics, the military, law and medicine. Most of us were unacquainted with each other before our appointments. As this isn't a "decorative" Presidential commission, we meet to work, and in working to select and monitor the Fellows we have become friends and gained valuable cross-professional insights. Our common goal is to select the best Fellows from among the many talented finalists vetted by equally hard-working regional panels. We pursue this goal because we all believe in the sustaining power of the American idea. But enough about us.

The Fellows are the point of the program. Their achievements already embody what some of us Commissioners might have envisioned in Walter Mitty dreams. (In describing the Fellows, however, I generically include the national finalists who, but for a turn of fate, might also have been chosen.) They are, as our brochures state, leaders at a young age in their fields and, sacrificing their personal time, have already made significant contributions to their communities. They are articulate, burning with the desire for public service, and charming. They are people one wants to befriend and mentor: I have kept up with several former Fellows, and with some who weren't selected. What is perhaps most striking is the number of Fellows who came from humble backgrounds or are immigrants or children of immigrants. In this country, today as it has always been, one need not be a member of a certain tribe or social class in order to have one's talents nurtured. The Fellows' personal stories, as well as their charitable endeavors, remind us of the duty to support organizations that will help identify and assist tomorrow's leaders.

Class of 2006 - 07 Placements

Chris Caballero

Department of Agriculture

Jason Dean

Department of Education

Jeff Eggers

National Security Council

Miguel Howe

Millennium Challenge Corp.

Eugene Huang

Department of the Treasury

Bedouin Joseph

Office of Management &
Budget

Fred Kacher

Homeland Security Council

Wes Moore

Department of State

Jocelyn Pickford

Internal Revenue Service

George Ruiz

Department of Veterans
Affairs

Lena Sene

Department of Housing &
Urban Development

Mark Smith

National Aeronautics &
Space Administration

Jeff Stern

Department of the Interior

Mark Vlasic

Department of Defense

Because the finalists and Fellows are such outstanding individuals, one might suggest that the selection process is irrelevant; the Commissioners should just draw straws. Happily for us Commissioners, that is a misguided notion. The intense Selection Weekend enables us to become surprisingly familiar with the finalists, through their interviews, of course, but also through our common meals, social events, and observations. I won't divulge the "secrets" of making selections, but one of the lighter insights is how, each year, certain topics resonate in the interviews. One year, many of the candidates, when asked to describe an Administration policy they disagreed with, stated "President Bush's agricultural policy." What? Could they be trying to game the process? In several years, the oft-identified greatest political figure in America was Gen. Colin Powell. The most-read news source? The Economist magazine. The finalists are shrewd, but they are also determined, as they should be, to rise above partisanship in seeking to assist with policymaking at the highest levels of the government.

And that brings me to the Program, and how it embodies the American idea. Our Founders shivered at the notion of political parties. Madison's brilliant Federalist No. 10 endeavored to explain and suggest a counterweight to the vicious impact of "factions". Liberty, equality and self-government all presuppose fundamental mutual respect among our citizens and the shared pursuit of the common good. In our time, for many reasons including the influence of factions, those presuppositions are under stress. If mutual respect crumbles, and if we all begin to burrow in for ourselves at the expense of the common good, the American idea will be doomed. This is not to say that all political strife is bad; as iron sharpens iron, and compromise polishes the result, political competition is as valuable as economic competition. The White House Fellows Program defends our idea by inculcating in the Fellows a realistic understanding of the political process, both its potential and its limitations. The Program exposes the Fellows to the breadth of national, and even international, challenges to our idea. The Program imbues them, we hope, with civility and further desire to serve the common good. The Program propagates the American idea by training tomorrow's leaders in the service of today's leaders. I am proud to have assisted this Program.

Contributed by Edith H. Jones, WHF Commissioner

ALUMNI REPORT

A Call to Former Fellows From the 70's to 80's

"In midlife," says UCLA neurologist George Bartzokis, "you're beginning to maximize the ability to use the entirety of the information in your brain on an everyday, ongoing, second-to-second basis. Biologically that's what wisdom is."¹

With the first of the 77 million baby boomers turning 60 this year, the United States will begin to experience the aging of its population.

Answering the Call

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Susan Stautberg (74-75) is
President of PartnerCom
Corporation.



Within their companies and within society as a whole, these 55+ year old baby boomers—are typically perceived as lame ducks, slower than their younger comrades, and, in a business sense, a drag on the economy. They are being phased out of their companies at a time when they still have much to offer, most particularly: wisdom.

At the same time as this long term, almost certain demographic trend occurs, developed nations are participating in a global race to see who out-innovates the other. Those companies and nations with the best ideas and ways to implement them will be globally dominant.

Inspiring and harnessing innovation typically is a matter of making seemingly disparate connections. Yet connections between and among people with the highest amount of knowledge—those of us over 55—are currently very underutilized. This knowledge and wisdom is not being optimized for corporate or societal benefit, and certainly are not being maximized as a driving force towards innovation and economic growth. I am in the process of drafting a business plan for The Breakthrough Link™ which will do something about this enduring and serious problem.

The goal of The Breakthrough Link™ is to make connections and intersections of people over fifty-five around the world members of the Wisdom Generation™ who are making breakthrough achievements. This community will interact via the Internet, at conferences, and through a databank that will enable these innovators to meet while traveling. The purpose would be to share their productive insights, to inspire and mentor each other and younger colleagues, promoting more quantum leaps/productive discoveries in science, technology, sustainability, advocacy, art, education, health, and commerce.

I envision enabling proven and mature innovators, in all fields, to bridge their worlds, to recombine ideas, and to learn how they can help each other go farther and do more than they ever could have imagined. We can also pose questions to each other and conduct surveys such as what these trailblazers think made them become innovators. These members of the Wisdom Generation™ will have already shaken the fields of medicine, human rights, governance, media, entertainment-and many other areas of endeavor-with their pioneering insights, practices and applications.

The Breakthrough Link™ will target the top .5% of the Wisdom Generation™—people who are extraordinary innovators. Several enduring trends in the marketplace make this market a highly addressable market. **The Aging Population:** In 2005, there were 60 million Americans over age 55; in 2030, it is projected that there will be 108 million. **Innovation:** Companies are innovating faster and faster, as evidenced by the dramatic rise in the number of annual patents issued—from 71,000 in 1981 to 355,000 in 2004. **Social Networking:** As an Internet phenomenon, Social Networking is relatively new and very high growth. The Breakthrough Link™ will converge and capitalize on these three trends. As a membership group, a consultancy, a social networking site, a conference company, a think-tank and a club altogether.

In a world of information overload, personal connections will be important to fuel innovation. As the Internet dominates discourse, social interaction of proven innovators is key in fostering intuition and creativity. A trusted network, similar to what we have formed with the White House Fellows Association, will marshal and disseminate breakthrough ideas.

The fate of young and old are intertwined. The young are eager to demonstrate their potential; those over fifty-five have already accomplished a great deal. The zeal, inspiration, and further innovation of their elders can only serve to inspire younger cohorts as well as each other. We shouldn't under imagine the future.

If The Breakthrough Link™ is of interest, let me know. Please send an email to partcom@verizon.net.

1. Jeffrey Kluger, *The Surprising Power of the Aging Brain*,
Time Magazine, January 16, 2006.

Contributed by Susan Schiffer Stautberg (74- 75)

REFLECTIONS ON LEADERSHIP

Kellogg's Board Fellows Program

In 1997 I left Prevent Child Abuse America after 17 years as its Executive Director to enjoy a one year fellowship supported by the Chicago Community Trust. Akin to a sabbatical, my intent was to study local child-serving organizations. After years of addressing child abuse issues at the national policy level, I thought there would be value in better understanding the discrepancies, if any, between national policy and actual local need.

Upon learning about my fellowship, Don Haider (WHF 76-77 and Director of the Kellogg School of Management's Nonprofit Program) offered me an office at Kellogg as "a place to hang your hat". I readily accepted. After one week, Don had a second offer. The professor who taught the school's Non-profit Board Governance course would be away all year. He wondered if I would teach the course. I said "yes" and have continued teaching at Kellogg in this area ever since.

Several years ago, three enterprising Kellogg students proposed the development of a Kellogg "Board Fellows Program"—a program that has become a central feature of Kellogg's Master's program. I immediately related their proposal to my year as a White House Fellow and agreed to serve as the Faculty Director. While appreciative that the Kellogg School offered courses in nonprofit management including the one I taught on Board Governance, the students thought their education lacked real world experience with nonprofit organizations and limited opportunities to offer their skills and knowledge to nonprofits. They envisioned a program that would have the dual mission of preparing Kellogg students for roles as future civic leaders by working with and in fact serving on a nonprofit Board while also providing support to nonprofits by applying Fellows' energies and business skills to the challenges facing participating Boards.

In its first year, 2003, the three student initiators participated in the program. Their enthusiasm resulted in 15 students serving as fellows in 2004. We have seen a steady increase in the program since then with 35 in 2005 and 48 for this coming academic year (selected from 98 applicants or close to 20% of the first year class). This is a remarkable statement about the interests of "business" majors in doing public service.

Today interested Kellogg MBA students apply to become a Board Fellow early in their first year; a group of current Fellows select the new class of Fellows who are then appointed by the faculty. Once appointed, the students take Kellogg's basic course in Nonprofit Board Governance. Following successful completion of the course, each Fellow is placed on a Chicago-area nonprofit board, serving as a non-voting member of a Board for a year and actively contributing to the Board's work by matching their unique skills to the organization's needs. Projects have been as diverse as helping a board design a new marketing plan to revamping the organization's financial statements so that all board members could read and understand them. Fellows also take a year long Advanced Board Governance seminar, which I teach, to further their education about governance issues as well as to exchange insights and best practices with other Fellows.

The structure of the program parallels some of the key elements, and thus benefits, of the White House Fellows Program. First, through "the work experience," the Fellows have an opportunity to see first hand how boards function, how decisions are made, and how an individual can bring added value to the boardroom. Through "the educational program", the Fellows grapple with cutting edge issues and build their knowledge about governance. And importantly, through the fellowship itself, as a result of the regular seminars throughout the year, the Fellows get to know each other and each others' organizations. As one Fellow put it "at the end of the year it was as if I had served on 15 boards not one, I had learned so much from my fellow Fellows about their organizations."

Kellogg Board Fellows Program continued

Annual evaluations from the Fellows themselves suggest that this is one of the most meaningful experiences they have during their two years at Kellogg. And, mentors at participating nonprofits consistently report very productive experiences with the Fellows. Most Fellows will go on to work in the corporate world. All are committed to volunteering on nonprofit boards—and all are well prepared to do so.

While I do serve as Faculty Director for the effort, the program remains student driven and student led.

Contributed by Anna Donnelly (79-80)

Behind the Scenes at the Library of Congress

This year, we will have a special Saturday session at the WHF Foundation and Association's Annual Meeting and Seminar.

On Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006 — 8:30am -12:30 p.m., please join us for a special private tour behind the scenes of the World's Largest Library. Learn about the Library's rare collections, research centers, and revolutionary developments underway to meet the digital information needs of the 21st Century.

Alumni Update

Catherine Anderson (82-83) has retired as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District in Minneapolis and is now doing consulting work in the field of arbitration. She is splitting her time between Minneapolis and a new home in Florida.

Lew Cramer (84-85) has been named President and CEO of the newly established World Trade Center of Utah in Salt Lake City.

Susan Fink Yoshihara (96-97) has retired from the Navy and is now the Executive Vice President for the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute in New York City.

Richard Hooker (92-93) relinquished command of his brigade at Ft Bragg, NC, and has been reassigned to the National Security Council at the White House.

Ray Jefferson (00-01) is a Leadership Consultant with McKinsey & Company in Singapore.

Tom Leppert (84-85) will be presented the prestigious American Jewish Congress Torch of Conscience Award at a gala dinner in Dallas, TX, on October 19, 2006.

Jerome Loughridge (03-04) is the President and CEO of Appian International, Inc., in McKinney, TX.

Barrye Price (99-00) has assumed command of the Eastern Sector of the Military Entrance Processing Command in Great Lakes, IL.

Sharon Richie (82-83) is President of the non-profit Vital Connections and the for-profit Cross Roads, both of which focus on the needs of abused women.

Bobbi Shea (01-02) has returned from her deployment as the Communications Officer with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Force to assume duties as a speechwriter in the Headquarters, USMC, in Washington, DC.

Clara Shin (98-99) has been named a Director in the San Francisco law firm of Howard Rice Nemerovsky Canady Falk & Rabkin.

FELLOWS FORUM

GUEST SPEAKERS AUGUST 2006

Fran Townsend,
Assistant to the
President for
Homeland Security
and
Counterterrorism

Sanjay Gupta,
CNN Medical
Correspondent

Michael Chertoff,
U.S. Secretary of
the Dept. of
Homeland Security

**Judge Philip
Montante,** U.S.
Immigration Court

Clay Johnson,
Deputy Director,
Office of
Management &
Budget

Fellows Survive AK Grizzly Bear Encounter

Lee Nunn (72-73) exclaims, "That sure can water your eyes!"

In July, the White House Fellows traveled to Alaska. From the onset of class deliberations, there was little doubt that Alaska was the highest and best use of the final domestic policy trip. Alaska promised something for everyone. The "bridges to nowhere" controversy promised to expose the line separating constituent representation and fiscal discipline. The ANWR oil drilling debate would pit Caribou and environmental factors against an unquenchable thirst for oil and the big money politics of energy. The failed North Korean missile launch required a briefing on the nation's missile defense system (largely situated in Alaska). The war on poverty, including education and health initiatives, could closely be evaluated with a visit to one of the hundreds of remote villages in Alaska. And Fellows could debate global warming while observing receding glaciers or discussing increased deaths among polar bears. Finally and as a special bonus, a hotly contested Governor's race focusing on a proposed oil and gas taxation regime would offer up an exciting side show for political aspirants.

Alaska delivered. Assisted by nearly twenty hours daily of sunlight, and the gracious travel support of the National Guard and The White House Fellows Foundation, trip coordinators crammed the schedule with provocative and educational encounters. Program Alumni assisted greatly in making the Alaska trip a success. Upon arrival, John Havelock (67-68), James Muller (83-84) and Lee Nunn (72-73) joined the group for dinner, answering questions and providing background for the week long adventure.



Sean McLaughlin (05-06) is currently placed at the IRS.

The Fellows invested one day of the trip in a pilgrimage to Newtok, Alaska, a native Alaskan village of roughly 300 Qaluyaarmiut or "dip net people." Among other pressing issues, Newtok is falling into the sea due to beach erosion. A land swap with the Department of the Interior will enable them to move their village to a safer site on Nelson Island in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Among the smiling children, drying fish, ATV's, and government-funded health, education and power buildings, the Fellows experienced life at the extremities of the country (type [Newtok, Alaska](#) into [maps.google.com](#)).

The Fellows also found time to educate themselves on the unique splendor of our nation's largest state and last frontier. Alaska, with the nation's tallest mountain, largest salmon runs, most amount of coast line and fewest people per square mile refused to be ignored.



Class of 05-06 arrives in Bethel, Alaska .

While there were many highlights to the week long trip, the Fellows were especially appreciative of Lee Nunn. Aside from assisting with planning and logistics, Lee also introduced the Fellows to wild jumping salmon and the grizzly bears who love to eat them (as the headline denotes...all survived). He told stories ranging from his tour in Vietnam to his fellowship in the Nixon administration and beyond. Yes, Fellows...There *is* life after the fellowship. With his actions, Lee set a high bar for this class as it transitions to alumni status.

Contributed by Sean McLaughlin (05-06)



Current White House Fellow Sean McLaughlin with Alaskan Native children from the village of Newtok.

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

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.

WHF ALUMNI:

Please watch your mailbox. In early August, you will receive your ballots for the election of next year's officers and directors; ballots are due by C.O.B. September 15, 2006. You will also receive the registration packet for this year's Annual Meeting and Seminar.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deepest sympathy the White House Fellows community mourns the loss of our friend, Joseph Jessup, who passed away in January, 2006. Joe served as an Atlanta Regional Panelist for many years and is well known to many Fellows for his ongoing role as mentor and friend.

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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