

The President's Commission on White House Fellowships



"It should be the highest ambition of every American to extend his views beyond himself, and to bear in mind that his conduct will not only affect himself, his country, and his immediate posterity; but that its influence may be co-extensive with the world, and stamp political happiness or misery on ages yet unborn."

*George Washington, letter to the Legislature of Pennsylvania
September 5, 1789*

Upcoming Events

June 8-11, 2006
Commission Meeting & Selection Weekend
Annapolis, MD

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

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**
- Seattle**

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

Class of 2005-2006 Travels to South America

What do the Panama Canal, the President of Chile, Eva Peron's palace balcony, a platoon of Colombian drug interdiction soldiers, and a dance troupe of Brazilian street kids all have in common? As you might have guessed, these were some of the many highlights of the WHF recent international trip through Latin America. The class journeyed through Panama City, Panama; Bogotá, Colombia; Santiago, Chile; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Brazilia and Sao Paulo, Brazil.



Prior to becoming a WHF, Ken Zeff (05-06) was Broad Resident to the Superintendent of San Diego City Schools.

The class decided to visit Latin America because of its strategic importance to the U.S. and because of the opportunity to probe a complex set of leaders and societies in our nation's backyard. Our first stop was Miami at the U.S. Southern Command. General Craddock, the Combatant Commander, reminded us at the beginning of our trip that each country has its own unique set of challenges and opportunities. The media tends to talk about the continent as a single unit, but that is a vast over-simplification. We observed that the headlines may be bad, but the trend lines are good.

Throughout the trip the class probed and prodded leaders from government, businesses and NGOs to build a deeper understanding of the region. Although the lessons were varied, a few main themes emerged:

Vast disparities between the rich and the poor were visible throughout our trip. If large groups of citizens do not share in the wealth, you can count on disruptive behavior. They will not sit quietly while others profit and they remain impoverished. Panama is experiencing this conflict. The government has called for a referendum to expand the Canal by 50 feet which would allow the waterway to permit the passage of today's largest ships. Although the business case for the expansion is sound, there is some concern that the referendum will not pass because many of the citizens in the countryside have not seen promised benefits from the Canal and question why they should cast a vote so others can prosper.

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WHF Program in the News!

“Best Power Boost”

From Reader’s Digest
America’s 100 Best
May 2006 issue

“You want elite? The **White House Fellows** program lets young achievers work for a year for big-name government brass, like Cabinet secretaries or agency directors. Whether the fellow is a Navy SEAL commander or the founder of an investment software firm -- both are in this year's class of 12 (out of some 1,000 applicants) -- all share a commitment to public service. Consider these alums: former Secretary of State Colin Powell, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, Levi Strauss chairman Robert Haas and former CNN chairman Tom Johnson.”



The Fellows get a first hand glimpse of the immense poverty in Sao Paulo, Brazil as they tour a favela with Sister Angela of Projeto Sol.

Good government is difficult when institutions are not firmly established. Argentina has experienced a lot of instability since the millennium (five presidents in one 18-month period!), so it is challenged to build a balanced government, media and civil society that will live beyond a charismatic leader. Chile, on the other hand, has made a slow and steady drive to democracy so its long-term health seems more assured.

The regional perception is that the U.S. does not have a comprehensive Latin American policy beyond free trade, and that may be okay. ‘Plan Colombia’ is a runaway success, but that type of substantial investment by the U.S. might not work in Argentina or Brazil where there is much greater suspicion of American motives. We were fortunate to meet with the Colombian general who leads the daily fight against the country’s cocaine industry, which supplies 90% of the cocaine that enters the US. They are true allies in a difficult war.

Throughout it all, the class benefited from the in-depth knowledge of each country’s embassy team. They acted not only as guides, but also as cultural interpreters who took us to some of the finest churrascarias in South America. (If you have never been, imagine lots of meat coming at you from all directions.) All the Ambassadors took time from their schedule to share their thoughts with us and added to the richness of our experience. The class left convinced that the U.S. should continue to focus attention on Latin America – as a friend of free trade, an ally in the war against terrorism, a defender in the war against drugs, and a partner in the growth of a better hemisphere.

Contributed by Ken Zeff (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.



WHF alumni and guests on architectural tour of Shanghai.

China Revisited 25 Years Later

In 1981, only a few years after the end of the Cultural Revolution in China and the renewal of US/China diplomatic relations, fourteen White House Fellows Alumni traveled in China to get a glimpse of the challenges and opportunities that were ahead for this country. In April of this year, a quarter of a century later, a number of that original group joined by other WHF alumni returned to China to assess the changes that had occurred and to

understand the challenges ahead.

We were there in one sense as traditional tourists but supplemented our travel by meeting with the US Embassy staff, students at Beijing University, members of the US-China Business Council, and the China University of Petroleum while in Beijing.

In Shanghai we were hosted by a senior member of a major architectural and engineering firm who helped us to understand the explosion of real estate development in Shanghai. We also met with two principals of a leading executive search firm to learn of the staffing and management challenges given the rapid growth of China's economy.

We did not miss the opportunity to visit the Ming Tombs, the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square, walk on the Great Wall, see the terracotta soldiers, visit the wartime headquarters of "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell, cruise down the Yangtze River to see the largest hydroelectric power plant in the world, the Three Gorges Dam, or marvel at the world's tallest hotel where the lobby is on the 52nd floor and the rooms go up to the 88th floor. Travel in China in 2006 is easily and conveniently done in a country well-equipped to handle visitors, a far cry from what we experienced 25 years ago.

We learned China is a country that has made tremendous progress in the last 25 years - more automobiles than bicycles, more construction cranes than one thought existed, airports as modern as any in the world, and people more energized and self-confident than we saw in the past.

The students we met with at the University of Beijing were full of energy and hope for the future and not bashful about their ability to handle the challenges ahead. When we visited Xian in the past we saw only a few terracotta soldiers in a muddy country town. Today Xian is a lovely, very large city showing off its treasures with the likes of a World's Fair quality presentation.

There are many challenges ahead for China without doubt, but the Chinese have an undeniable head of steam. A recognized high quality workforce coupled with an emerging energy strategy including hydroelectric power, nuclear energy, and both a domestic and foreign oil sourcing strategy gives them a strong economic hand to play. Managing our country's relationship successfully in the future with China will require skill, patience, and wisdom.

Contributed by Bruce Henry (73-74)

**WHITE HOUSE
FELLOWS
GUEST**

**SPEAKERS
JUNE 2006**

Strobe Talbott,
President, Brookings
Institution

Alberto Gonzales,
U.S. Attorney
General

Judge Richard Leon,
U.S. District Court for the
District of Columbia

John Podesta,
President & CEO of the
Center for American
Progress

Sam Brownback,
U.S. Senator (KS)

Bill Luti, Special
Assistant to the President
& Sr. Director for
Defense Policy and
Strategy, NSC

Karen Hughes, Under
Secretary for Public
Diplomacy and Public
Affairs, State Dept.

Dina Powell, Assistant
Secretary, Educational
and Cultural Affairs, State
Dept.

**THE ACADEMY OF
NATIONAL
ACHIEVEMENT**

The Fellows will travel to Los Angeles, CA in June to attend the Academy of Achievement's International Achievement Summit." The Academy of Achievement is a non-profit organization that allows young people the opportunity to meet some of the greatest leaders of today. Each year the Academy holds a summit to recognize 50 exceptional honorees.

**WHF Regional Meeting in Seattle, WA
May 18-20, 2006**

Twenty-three WHF and guests met in Seattle, WA, on May 18-20 for this year's WHF Regional Meeting. We began the session with a Board of Directors Working Dinner on the 21st floor at the Top of the WAC (Washington Athletic Club) on Thursday night, where the Directors were joined by John McKay and Steve Hill of the Seattle organizing committee and Claire Topp of Dorsey & Whitney, LLP. Needless to say, the views of Seattle were spectacular and discussions of WHF business were most amicable!

Meeting organizers Chuck Hirsch (84-85), Steve Hill (78-79), Nelson Dong (78-79), and John McKay (89-90) outdid themselves in putting together a meeting agenda that would qualify for an annual meeting agenda — enticing Mel Masuda (70-71) from Hawaii and John (78-79) and Betsy Saxton from Alabama to join us.

Our Friday sessions included an early morning meeting with Dr. Raj Shah of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and a wide-ranging discussion on Gates Foundation global health initiatives. We then adjourned to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center for meetings with Nobel Laureate Dr. Lee Hartwell and in-depth discussion on cancer and a meeting with Dr. Larry Corey for a discussion on the HIV Trial Vaccines Network. The "Hutch Center" hosted us for lunch at Daniel's Grill, where we were treated to some very interesting thoughts from scientist Dr. Mark Rock on metabolic hibernation (death and when death really occurs and the implications of those thoughts for public policy).

Our venue for Friday afternoon was Amazon.com, where we toured a customer "fulfillment center" (aka FC) managed by Kristin Toth, who we immediately tried to recruit as a potential WHF candidate.



WHF Alumni get a sense of "scale" at the 777 Assembly line at Boeing in Everett, WA.

We then spent nearly three hours with the second-tier of management, including Kim Rachmeler (VP, Worldwide Discovery), Verner Vogels (VP and CTO), and Jeff Wilke (SVP, Operations). The key phrases were global strategy, “an online store that meets the needs of everyone,” and “scalability,” as we gained insights into the Amazon.com long-term view of the world and its current 33 “internal stores” that serve 47 million customers in six countries. Wall Street pundits notwithstanding, the Amazon execs made a very coherent case for the Amazon business plan and the long-term view taken by Jeff Bezos and his management team.



Friday night found us at “Wild Ginger,” a world-renown pan-Asian restaurant and a WHF dinner meeting with Joseph Borich, Executive Director of the Washington State China Relations Council, who offered his insights on China based on his more than 30 years as a diplomat in China and the Far East.

WHF Alumni are welcomed at baseball game courtesy of Mel Masuda's (70-71) son, Maka, Mariners' Coordinator for Client Services.

Saturday began with a visit to the 13th District of the U.S. Coast Guard and discussion on control of navigation in Puget Sound and port security. Our visit occurred just following the arrest of the captain of a large cruise ship for being under the influence of alcohol while the ship was docking. Following our briefings on Coast Guard activities, we boarded the USCG Cutter Swordfish for a 2-hour cruise in Puget Sound that ended in Everett, WA, the home of the Boeing manufacturing center for civilian airliners. Our tour at Boeing included a discussion of the new Boeing 787 and an extremely interesting “down and dirty” tour of the assembly lines for the Boeing 747, 767, and 777 aircraft. Again, and echoing the keywords from Amazon.com., the concepts were clearly that of global markets and scale. We all left the Boeing plant with a sense of awe at the complexity and enormous size of our nation’s largest producer of passenger airliners.

To top off our visit to Seattle, we adjourned to Safeco field, to take in a baseball game between the Seattle Mariners and the San Diego Padres – a game won handily by Seattle after an unpromising start to this year’s season.

Your Board of Directors is looking for a location for next year’s regional meeting. In the past four years, we have been to San Diego, Boston, New York, and Seattle. Please contact Kevin Monroe (kmonroe@deloitte.com) or Jack LeCuyer (whffdn@aol.com) with your thoughts and candidates for the spring-summer 2007 regional meeting.

Contributed by Jack LeCuyer (77-78)

White House Fellows Electronic Newsletter

In this fourth edition of our electronic newsletter, we have featured our regular “Fellows Forum” by a member of the current class, as well as travel reports from the current class and the alumni association. In featuring the policy trips, we hope to remind our alumni and friends that one of the tenets of the Program is a commitment to lifelong learning. Next month, the two or three alumni reflections which have proved so popular will return. If you have a story of how the Fellowship year changed your life, or a reflection on leadership and service, or if you would like to recommend that we contact one of your classmates, please send an email to Page Archer at parcher@whf.eop.gov. Articles featured in the White House Fellows Newsletter represent the viewpoints of individual contributors and in no way represent the opinions of Members of the Commission or its representatives. Your suggestions and comments on the newsletter as well as other aspects of the Program are most welcome.

FELLOWS FORUM

“To give the Fellows first hand, high-level experience with the workings of the Federal government and to increase their sense of participation in national affairs.” - President Johnson

As I began my White House Fellowship I could not have known just how true President Johnson’s words would become.

In late September, Secretary Johanns asked me to lead his efforts to respond to the threat of highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (AI). At the time I knew very little about infectious disease, much less highly pathogenic H5N1 AI. I was amazed by the trust and confidence the department had in me to lead such an important issue and credit White House Fellow Wes Hallman (04-05) who helped set the stage for the Department’s AI preparedness during his Fellowship year.

Our initial efforts focused on supporting the development of the President’s National Strategy for Avian and Pandemic Influenza. This effort was led by Special Assistant to the President and White House Fellow alumnus, Dr. Rajeev Venkayya (02-03), who is *the* President’s lead on all Pandemic issues. His leadership has been nothing short of outstanding.

Concurrent with supporting the drafting of the National Strategy, the Secretary directed the formation of a USDA joint working group. This team, which I had the honor of leading, was comprised of members drawn from every major mission area and agency within USDA and remains the central response organization within the Department for all AI issues.

The working group drafted doctrine that would drive the Department’s preparedness, while quickly providing support to our international partners who were engaged combating AI within their borders. USDA, along with USAID and other interagency partners provided over \$353 million worth of goods and services in support of the international partners. This international effort allowed me to work with senior State Department principals and have a seat at the table during high-level meetings with critical international partners. In November, I was charged with leading a series of bilateral meetings with Canada to ensure that our North American plans were on solid ground before any possible H5N1 event within North America.

On the domestic front, our working group coordinated existing interagency plans and ensured that they were suitable for use during an H5N1 event within our shores. During this period, I had the opportunity to visit Capitol Hill many times and work directly with Members and staff within both houses of Congress. In March, our team, working in support of the Homeland Security Council, had the opportunity to facilitate several Cabinet level meetings that resulted in members of the President’s Cabinet being briefed on our AI plans and procedures.

This amazing year as a White House Fellow at USDA has provided me with unique insight into the inner workings of our government. I have had the opportunity to lead and experience the interagency process first hand while working on a compelling issue. Most importantly, I remain constantly inspired by the selfless dedication displayed by every government servant working on this critical issue facing our nation.

I have little doubt that President Johnson would view my year as meeting his vision for the White House Fellows, and I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve.

For more information on the US government pandemic plans please see www.pandemicflu.gov.

Contributed by Dan Caine (05-06)



Dan Caine, (05-06) is currently placed at the Dept. of Agriculture.

With deepest sympathy we mourn the loss of former White House Fellow and friend, Tanya Pikel, (95-96) on May 22, 2006 and of our friend, Linda Rose Weathersby, wife of WHF George Weathersby (72-73) who passed away on May 28, 2006.

White House Fellows Alumni On the Move

Ajay Amlani (03-04) has moved to San Francisco to become the Vice President for Strategy for Pay by Touch.

Cesar Aristeiguieta (02-03), currently Director of the California Emergency Medical Services Authority, has been appointed to the National Board of Governors of the American Red Cross.

Phil Cullom (94-95) is the Director of the Strategy and Policy Branch (N5SP) of the Navy, in Washington, DC.

Gene Dewey (68-69) was honored as one of seven Distinguished Graduates of the United States Military Academy at a full Corps review at West Point on May 23, 2006.

Jim Eisenhower (95-96) is now with the law firm of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, LLP in Philadelphia, PA.

John Fryer (72-73) has retired as Superintendent of Duval County Schools in Jacksonville, FL, to become President and CEO of the National Institute for School Improvement (NISL), which is headquartered in Washington, DC.

John Gallagher (00-01) is the Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Jon Jennings (97-98) is the State Director, Office of Senator John Kerry, in Boston, MA.

Bob Marbut (89-90) is Professor of Criminal Justice and Professor of Government at Northwest Vista College in San Antonio, TX.

Barry McBee (89-90) is now First Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas in Austin.

Mark Montgomery (98-99) is the Reactor Officer aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVG).

Pat O'Hanlon (04-05) has been named as the Director for Business Management and Development for Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC in New York City.

Dan Oliver (82-83) has moved from New Orleans and is now Executive Vice President for Apogen Technologies in McLean, VA.

Joyce Razor (89-90) is the President and CEO of Integrated Systems Management in Silver Spring, MD.

Kimberly Till (90-91) is now President of TNS North America in New York City.

Susan Fink Yoshihara (96-97) is retiring from the US Navy to become Executive Vice President of the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute in New York City.

Howard Zucker (01-02) has left the Department of Health and Human Services to become the Assistant Director General for Health Technology and Pharmaceuticals with the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

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>.

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