

SUMMER 2009

WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS

Leadership & Public Service



“I often say that the beauty of serving others is that anyone can do it. You don’t have to be President, and you don’t have to be a pro football player. All you need to do is to have a desire to make a difference, to give back to your community and to contribute to your nation.” — President Barack Obama



Fellows meet with President Obama in the Roosevelt Room and Oval Office.



The 2008-2009 class of White House Fellows meet with President Obama

On June 16, 2009, the Fellows met with President Obama in the Roosevelt Room for an engaging policy discussion.

2009-2010 CLASS OF FELLOWS

On June 25, 2009, the White House announced the appointment of 15 outstanding men and women to serve as White House Fellows. The 2009-2010 class of White House Fellows represents a diverse cross-section of professions including medicine, business, media, education, science, non-profit, state government, as well as two branches of the U.S. military.

“We are thrilled that these exceptional men and women will be joining us here in Washington for the next year,” said First Lady Michelle Obama. “The program not only allows for a variety of perspectives to come together, offering expertise and experience to benefit the administration’s efforts, but these Fellows in turn carry what they’ve learned to their own communities to benefit Americans far beyond the walls of the White House.”

The members of the 2009-2010 class of White House Fellows are listed below. For more information about the 2009-2010 class of Fellows, please visit our website: www.whitehouse.gov/fellows.

2009-2010 Class of White House Fellows

Laura Bacon - Weymouth, MA
Nicole Campbell - Brooklyn, NY
Jon Finer - Norwich, VT
Zheng Huang - San Jose, CA
Kellee James - Chicago, IL
Sarah Johnson - Lexington, KY
Rob Lyman - Walkersville, MD
Anish Mahajan - Poughkeepsie, NY
Mehret Mandefro - Alexandria, VA
Annie Maxwell - Santa Barbara, CA
Emil Michael - Miami Beach, FL
Ken Robbins - Albion, ME
Marc Sternberg - New York, NY
Adam Taylor - Washington, DC
Raúl Torrez - Albuquerque, NM

WHF COMMISSION

On June 17, 2009, President Obama announced 28 individuals to serve on the President's Commission on White House Fellowships. This accomplished group of citizens representing a broad range of backgrounds, interests, and professions are responsible for recommending a group of exceptional men and women to the President for selection as White House Fellows.

"The men and women of this Commission embody what makes the White House Fellows program so special," said President Obama. "These leaders are diverse, non-partisan, and committed to mentoring our next generation of public servants. I'm confident that they will select a class of White House Fellows that demonstrate extraordinary leadership, strong character, and a deep commitment to serving their country."

The members of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships are listed below. For more information, please visit our website: www.whitehouse.gov/fellows.

Mr. John Phillips, Partner, Phillips & Cohen LLC (*Chair*)
Dr. Cheryl Dorsey, President, Echoing Green ('97-98) (*Vice-Chair*)
Director John Berry, U.S. Office of Personnel Management
Mr. Tom Brokaw, Special Correspondent, NBC News
General Wesley Clark, U.S. Army, (Ret.), Founder, WesPAC ('75-76)
U.S. Senator Tom Daschle, Special Policy Advisor, Alston & Bird LLC
Judge Nelson Diaz, Of Counsel, Cozen O'Connor ('77-78)
Dr. Helene Gayle, President and CEO, CARE USA
Dr. Vartan Gregorian, President, Carnegie Corporation
Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale, Senior Pastor, Ray of Hope Christian Church
Ms. Debbie Harmon, President, Harmon & Company
Ms. Christy Haubegger, Executive, Creative Artists Agency
Dr. Peter Henry, Konosuke Matsushita Professor of International Economics,
Stanford Graduate School of Business
Mr. John Hockenberry, Host, *The Takeaway* Radio News Program
Lieutenant General Claudia Kennedy, U.S. Army, (Ret.)
Ms. Maya Lin, Architect, Maya Lin Studios
Mr. George Muñoz, Principal, Muñoz Group
General Lloyd Newton, U.S. Air Force, (Ret.)
Mr. Pierre Omidyar, Co-Founder, Omidyar Network
Dr. Roger Porter, IBM Professor of Business and Government,
Harvard Kennedy School of Government ('74-75)
U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes
Dr. Ruth Simmons, President, Brown University
Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng, Teacher, La Pietra: Hawaii School for Girls
Dr. George Thibault, President, Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation
Dr. Bryan Traubert, Ophthalmologist, Eye Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago
Mr. Laurence Tribe, Carl M. Loeb University Professor, Harvard Law School
Ms. Kaye Wilson, Consultant, Kaye Wilson Consulting
Ms. Judy Wise, Senior Director, Facing History and Ourselves

SELECTION WEEKEND 2009

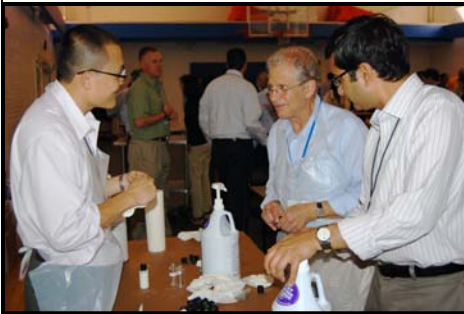
Selection Weekend for the 2009-2010 class of White House Fellows was a great success. The event was held at the Madison Hotel in Washington, D.C. from June 17-20, 2009 and involved 30 National Finalists and a new Commission. The Commission had some tough choices to make among the very talented pool of National Finalists. But after three full days of interviews, meals, events and group activities, the Commission decided upon 15 outstanding individuals for the 2009-2010 class of White House Fellows.



Left to right: Senator Tom Daschle, Dr. Helene Gayle, Mr. George Muñoz, Dr. Cynthia Hale, Finalist Victor Glover work together during JCC service project.

Selection Weekend got off to a strong start with a meeting of the new Commission. We are fortunate to have such a distinguished and accomplished group of individuals on our Commission – a Commission that truly adds to the prestige of the program.

Following the meeting, the Commissioners and Finalists enjoyed a cocktail reception and dinner, where they met for the first time. Before dinner, the Finalists were given the task of introducing a Commissioner seated near them with a pre-scripted index card of notes. Some clung tightly to the script with nervous hands, and some happily added to the script with humorous insights – but all did a terrific job and survived their first test. During dessert, four members of the current class of Fellows gave a presentation about their year as Fellows, and did a great job representing the program. The energy level was high in the room that evening as everyone eagerly anticipated the first round of interviews.



Left to right: Finalist Zbeng Huang, Mr. Laurence Tribe, and Finalist Anish Mahajan assemble kits for homeless.

The Commissioners and Finalists jumped right into the interviews on Thursday morning. Interviews were conducted by the Commissioners in panels, and each panel made it through 17 interviews on the first day alone. The Commissioners seemed to thoroughly enjoy their groups, because laughter was often heard coming from the rooms – as well as serious policy discussions and sometimes even tears. Each panel seemed to bond well together and enjoyed getting to know the Finalists.

That evening, everyone participated in a service project at the DC Jewish Community Center (JCC). The team at the JCC organized and facilitated the event, and were terrific hosts. The goal of the project was to assemble kits for the homeless, which were donated to two local organizations.

The room was divided into stations with a large assembly line down the middle to assemble the kits. University professors pumped hand sanitizer and soap into smaller bottles, distinguished lawyers and famous architects labeled those bottles, former U.S. Senators assembled the kits, and retired four-star generals oversaw the entire production. The project was a great success and quite a sight to behold as everyone worked diligently to assemble over 300 kits by the end of the evening.

SELECTION WEEKEND 2009

Following the service project, we gathered to enjoy dinner and remarks from General Wesley Clark. Chair John Phillips introduced General Clark, and spoke about their time serving together on the Commission during the Clinton Administration. General Clark's comments were insightful and humorous about his experience as a White House Fellow in 1975 at OMB and later as a Commissioner.



Left to right: Commission Chair John Phillips, and Finalist Sarah Johnson label bottles for kits.

On Friday morning, the Finalists and Commissioners were divided into two rooms for the group activities. The activities were created and led by Steve Redfield from CORO, an educational institute dedicated to training individuals for leadership in public affairs.

One activity required the Finalists to design and draw a city on a large piece of paper without talking to one another, and the second activity required the Fellows to develop interview questions for a potential guest speaker. The Commissioners were able to observe group dynamics in action and used their professional expertise to give feedback. Maya Lin gave in-

sightful commentary to the Finalists on the map activity, while Tom Brokaw challenged the Finalists on their questioning during the interview activity.

Another round of interviews followed the group activities and at lunchtime, the Finalists and Commissioners divided into separate groups. The Commissioners spent their lunch hour sharing observations from the morning activities and the Finalists used that time to put the final touches on their skit for the evening.

Friday evening was particularly enjoyable because we were honored with special guests. Several guests from the White House and Administration joined us, as well as volunteers and the current class of Fellows and their spouses. The evening consisted of a cocktail reception, followed by dinner and entertainment from the Finalists. The Finalists created their skit during the weekend, and impressed everyone with their creativity. After dinner, the DJ played music for another hour while the Finalists said their goodbyes to the Commissioners.

The deliberations and voting process on Saturday began shortly after breakfast and concluded by lunch. Each Commissioner added unique perspective to the conversation and a healthy debate ensued over the candidates and their qualifications. In the end, the Commission settled on 15 candidates for next year's class of Fellows, and the President approved their recommendations a few days later. The White House announced the 2009-2010 class of White House Fellows on June 25, 2009. We look forward to welcoming this new class of talented young leaders to Washington, DC this fall.

—Reported by Lindsey Trent, WHF Communications Director



Left to right: Finalist Maura Sullivan, Finalist Sudip Bose, and General Wesley Clark tally results.

TRIP REPORT

From 18-20 May, the 2008-2009 Fellows traveled to New York City for their final domestic study trip, designed to explore how the economic crisis has impacted the city. Our conversations reached from finance to education and from Wall Street to Yankee Stadium.



*Margaret Angell,
Department of
Housing & Urban
Development*

Our trip opened on the executive floor of Goldman Sachs with Lloyd Blankfein, CEO; Dina Habib Powell, Director of Global Corporate Engagement; and Robert Reffkin (05-06), Vice President, Principal Investment Area. Ms. Powell shared with us her incredible personal story of immigrating from Iran to Texas, becoming an Assistant Secretary of State, and now leading social engagement for Goldman Sachs, specifically supporting women entrepreneurs around the globe. When Mr. Blankfein arrived, he jumped right in. He spoke energetically for an hour on topics ranging from the financial crisis and the state of Goldman Sachs to the projection of American culture abroad. He emphasized that in a competitive, globalized world, reaction time matters far more than content knowledge.



Nadine Gracia and Everett Spain near poster of Dr. Sanjay Gupta (97-98) at CNN.

In the afternoon, we ventured uptown for a tour of CNN and a meeting with the team that covers economic and financial news. We met with Jon Klein, President of CNN; Darius Walker, NY Bureau Chief; Greg D'Alba, Chief Operating Officer, Sales & Marketing; and Christine Romans and Ali Velshi, who host the business TV show *Your \$\$\$\$\$*. Walking around, we were struck by how everything is mixed together in large, open-plan floors. The TV producers sit next to the website writers and designers and in the middle of all that, there is a camera and a live feed.

The final event of our first day was riding the subway up to Yankee Stadium where, much to the chagrin of the Red Sox fans among us, we watched the Yankees beat the Minnesota Twins!

On the second day, we covered every sector of the city from government to private industry. We started the day with Kevin Sheeky, the Deputy Mayor for Government Relations in NYC. Mr. Sheeky was an energetic force of nature. When describing his job, he said he would sum it up in a compliment he once received: he was Michael Bloomberg's Karl Rove. He relayed stories and anecdotes of how to get things done in New York City.

Our next stops were to hubs of the financial world – the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the New York Stock Exchange (which is now NYSE Euronext). We received briefings on the state of the economy in New York city and the history of the business cycle in the city compared to the rest of the country. At NYSE Euronext, Marsh Carter (75-76), Chairman of the New York Stock Exchange and Deputy Chairman of NYSE Euronext, talked with us about the origins of the crisis and the current state of the economy.

The final event that day turned our focus to local business. We



*Jason Snyder and Eyrique Miller
enjoy a New York Yankees game.*

TRIP REPORT

rode the subway uptown (no one got lost) to Union Square, where we sat down with Danny Meyer, restaurateur and CEO of the Union Square Hospitality Group. Mr. Meyer has opened ten restaurants in New York City, which are all known for their hospitality. Many of his restaurants are named for their neighborhood, including Union Square Cafe and Gramercy Tavern. Mr. Meyer was incredibly warm and gracious and explained how the culture of hospitality permeates his business.



Jason Snyder invites Chancellor Klein to sign the WHF speaker book.

Our final day in New York started with a wonderful breakfast with WHF alumni. We really appreciated meeting everyone and hearing about their experiences in the city. Afterwards, we quickly walked the two blocks to Tweed Court House to meet Joel Klein, Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education. Chancellor Klein was the fourth urban school superintendent that we've met this year, and he provided a fascinating contrast to the others from Chicago, Detroit and Washington, DC. Our next stop was to meet Ray Kelly, Commissioner of the New York City Police Department. A dapper dresser, Mr. Kelly was kind and calm and certainly fit the part of the two-time Commissioner.



Fellows with Mr. Dick Parsons at Apollo Theater

The class then piled into a bus to head uptown to Harlem for three important stops: Sylvia's Soul Food Restaurant, Abyssinian Baptist Church with Dr. Calvin Butts, and the Apollo Theater with Dick Parsons. We made the Fellowship proud as we sampled the food at Sylvia's with enthusiasm! Our visit to the Abyssinian Baptist Church was equally interesting. It is impressive how the church has become an intellectual and economic force in the neighborhood and the city. From the platform of the church, Dr. Butts is the President of a university and runs an economic development corporation, in addition to providing services through the church such as a day care center.

Our final stop of the trip was to the Apollo Theater on 125th Street. Dick Parsons, Chairman of Citigroup and Chairman of the Board of the Apollo Theater Foundation, sat down with us to talk about his experiences from Washington to New York and from finance to entertainment. He then led us downstairs, where we watched hopeful artists rehearse for Wednesday's Amateur Night. It was a beautiful and inspiring end to a fabulous trip.



Fellows on Apollo Theater stage

— Contributed by Margaret Angell

SIGNING CEREMONY

As a young girl, I was inspired to serve my country as an Air Force officer by the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) who flew in WWII. But it wasn't until I became a Thunderbird pilot that I truly began to understand their legacy and un-told story.

The WASP of WWII were America's first women military aviators – flying fighter, bomber, and training aircraft during a time of war. They faced overwhelming cultural bias against women in such non-traditional roles. The WASP received unequal pay and were barred from becoming officers, the military rank given to all male pilots. Following WWII, they were disbanded without any recognition of their achievement or contribution to the war. In fact, their military records were classified and unavailable to WWII historians until the 1980s.

History has shown, time and again, the priceless contributions these heroines have made to America. Their superb flying record paved the way for thousands of women military aviators to follow in their footsteps. Today, there are over 550 women pilots in the USAF, with approximately 75 serving in combat aviation.

Because of their outstanding achievement, I felt their story should be told and officially recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal. So I gathered a team of volunteers and we began working toward that goal in September 2008. After many months of research, planning and presentations, bi-partisan support was built across both chambers of Congress, thanks to the superb leadership of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), Senator Barbara Mikul-



ski (D-MD), Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA).

On July 1, 2009, in a special ceremony in the Oval Office, President Obama signed S. 614 into law – awarding WASP the Congressional Gold Medal. I had the unique privilege of attending the ceremony along with three WASP and four female U.S. Air Force pilots. Two of the Air Force pilots are former White House Fellows: Colonel Dawn Dunlop (07-08), and Lieutenant Colonel Bobbi Doorenbos (07-08).

President Obama captured this historic moment best in his own words: “The Women Airforce Service Pilots courageously answered their country's call in a time of need while blazing a trail for the brave women who have given and continue to give so much in service to this nation. Every American should be grateful for their service, and I am honored to sign this bill to finally give them some of the hard-earned recognition they deserve.”

Of the 1,074 WASP who served in WWII, approximately 300 are still alive and will be honored at a ceremony in Washington, DC in the spring of 2010. If you are interested in learning more about the event, or if you would like to congratulate WASP on their accomplishment, feel free to contact me at FiFiF15c@hotmail.com. Please join me in thanking these women for their outstanding service to our country!



*Nicole Malachowski,
General Services
Administration*

EDUCATION EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

Secretary Eric Shinseki, Department of Veterans Affairs May 27	Ambassador D. Héctor Marcos Timerman, Embassy of Argentina July 7
Director Plácido Domingo, Washington National Opera June 3	U.S. Chamber of Commerce Dinner July 8
Mr. Walter Isaacson, Director, The Aspen Institute June 4	Ms. Desiree Rogers, White House Social Secretary July 9
Tour of the National Archives June 9	Mr. Van Jones, Special Advisor for Green Jobs, The White House July 13
Mr. Robert Gibbs, White House Press Secretary June 10	Deputy Assistant Secretary Christopher McMullen, U.S. State Department July 15
Judge Richard Leon, U.S. District Court and Mr. John Podesta, President and CEO, Center for American Progress June 15	Ambassador Antoni de Aguiar Patriota, Embassy of Brazil July 15
Secretary Robert Gates, U.S. Department of Defense June 16	Visit to Walter Reed Medical Center July 16
President Barack Obama June 16	White House Fellows Foundation & Association Dinner July 17
Mr. Laurence Tribe, Carl M. Loeb University Professor, Harvard Law School June 17	Ms. Valerie Jarrett, Assistant to the President & Senior Advisor July 20
Annual Congressional Baseball Game June 17	Secretary Madeleine Albright, Former Secretary of the U.S. Department of State July 21
Secretary Shaun Donovan, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development June 24	Ms. Carol Browner, Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change July 22
Open Session of U.S. Congress June 25	Administrator Lisa Jackson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency July 29
Ms. Penny Pritzker, President and CEO, Pritzker Realty Group June 29	White House Press Briefings July 27 & 28
Attorney General Eric Holder, U.S. Department of Justice June 30	International policy trip to Brazil and Argentina July 31– August 10
White House Fireworks on South Lawn July 4	
Kennedy Center Performance: The Color Purple July 5	

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Kurt Campbell (92-93) has been confirmed as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Patrick Conway (07-08) is now Chief Medical Officer for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Marty Evans (79-80) has been named Acting Commissioner of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA).

Sonny Garg (99-00) has been named Senior Vice President for Human Resources at Exelon Corporation in Chicago, IL.

Wes Hallman (04-05) recently graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and has assumed command of the 325th Operations Group at Tyndall AFB, FL.

Ray Jefferson (01-02) has been nominated to be Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training in the U.S. Department of Labor.

Ray Johns (91-92) has been nominated for a fourth star and the command of Air Mobility Command at Scott AFB, IL.

Frank Klotz (82-83) was confirmed as first commander of Air Force Global Strike Command.

Doug Kmiec (82-83) has been nominated and confirmed to become U.S. Ambassador to Malta.

Peter Levin (95-96) is the Senior Advisor to the Secretary and Chief Technology Officer for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Jerry Loughridge (03-04) is the Chief Operating Officer for Great White Energy Services in Oklahoma City, OK.

Julissa Marenco (07-08) has been named President of ZGS Station Group in Arlington, VA.

Dan Poneman (89-90) has been confirmed as Deputy Secretary of Energy.

Ann Rondeau (85-86) has been reappointed as Vice Admiral, USN, and named as the President of the National Defense University.

Jaewon Ryu (07-08) is Assistant Medical Director for Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic Region.

Clifford Skelton (97-98) has become Chief Information Officer for GMAC LLC in Detroit, MI.

Pat Walsh (88-89) has been reappointed as Admiral, USN, and will soon become Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE FELLOWS COMMUNITY

WHF Commissioner Dr. Peter Henry

On July 28, 2009, Commissioner Dr. Peter Henry was named as dean of NYU's Leonard N. Stern School of Business.

He will assume the deanship effective January 15, 2010.

WHF Alum Clayton Christensen

Clayton Christensen's (82-83) *Disrupting Class*, has been recommended as number 14 on *Newsweek's* list of Top 50 Books.

WHF Alum Eric Greitens

On September 9, 2009, U.S. Navy SEAL and Former White House Fellow Lieutenant Eric Greitens (05-06) will receive the inaugural Major Smith Memorial Award at the National Conference on Citizenship in Washington, DC.

2008-2009 CLASS THANKS WHF FOUNDATION & ASSOCIATION



The entire class, and our extended families, thanks the WHF Foundation & Association for providing funding for our Family BBQ and Sports Day! On July 11, 2009, we assembled at Fort Hunt Park for an afternoon of food, festivities, and feats of strength (aka "Touch Football"). The picture above is one of the best of the year because it best represents a FAMILY and captures our appreciation for all who have supported us during this great year. Thank you for making such an event possible.

UPCOMING EVENTS



White House Fellows Program Directors attending reception at 712 Jackson Place. Left to right: Jocelyn White (President Bush), Landis Jones (69-70) (President Carter), Jackie Blumenthal (President Clinton), current Director Cindy Moelis

IN MEMORIAM

Harold A. Richman
Class of 1965-66
May 15, 1937 - July 30, 2009

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

WHF Foundation & Association
Annual Meeting, Washington DC,
October 22-24, 2009

“The Challenge of Change —
Making Things Happen in a
Democracy”

Special Room Rates at Capitol Hilton,
202-393-1000, Mention code WHF for
\$289/night

WHF Summer Intern

Shauna Myers joined our office this summer as a White House intern, and has proved to be an invaluable addition to our team! We will miss her cheerful personality when she heads back to the University of Richmond in a few weeks for her senior year.



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
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