

FALL 2009

## WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS

*Leadership & Public Service*



*“We are thrilled that these exceptional men and women will be joining us here in Washington for the next year. 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.” First Lady Michelle Obama*

### Welcome 2009-2010 class of White House Fellows!



Ms. Laura Bacon, U.S. Department of Energy  
Dr. Mehret Mandefro, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Ms. Nicole Campbell, NASA  
Ms. Annie Maxwell, Office of the Vice President  
Mr. Jonathan Finer, Office of the White House Chief of Staff  
Mr. Emil Michael, U.S. Department of Defense  
Mr. Zheng Huang, U.S. Agency for International Development  
Major Kendric Robbins, Office of Personnel Management  
Ms. Kellee James, U.S. Department of Commerce  
Mr. Marc Sternberg, U.S. Department of Education  
Dr. Sarah Stewart Johnson, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Mr. Adam Taylor, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Cabinet Affairs  
Lieutenant Colonel Robert Lyman, U.S. Department of Transportation  
Mr. Raúl Torrez, U.S. Department of Justice  
Dr. Anish Mahajan, Office of Management and Budget

## ORIENTATION

The Class of 2009-2010 started our White House Fellow experience much like many of the past classes—with a retreat focused exhaustively on all the policies and procedures for newbies (some of us required more than others). We took great comfort in the fact that no skit was required.



*Lt. Col. Rob Lyman,  
Dept. of Transportation*

Our trek to Gettysburg began with our first big test, designed as multiple car-pool pick-ups from all over the Washington Metro area before heading to Liberty Mountain Resort in Gettysburg, PA. There we learned our committee assignments, began our own inputs on crafting our year, and most importantly

began our Fellow Forums where we get to know one another as people and teammates, without our “interview personalities” on. I think I can speak for us all that these have been a remarkably valuable tool in creating the “fellowship” that underscores the program.



*Fellows met with Ms. Susan Eisenhower*

Another highlight was lunch at the Eisenhower Institute at Gettysburg College, where Susan Eisenhower spoke to a group made up not only of our class, but also a number of Eisenhower Institute Fellows. If the comments and discussion generated by the speaker were any indication of what we can expect from speakers this year, then we have much to look forward to.

We ended the retreat on a challenge course, which included team building exercises, a climbing wall and a zip line. We all looked dapper in the safety helmets, although those of us with previous climbing and rappelling experience didn’t necessarily excel making our way up the wall. Both overcoming fear and the lessons in humility were a great start to the year.



*Fellows participated in ropes course activities.*

Our class was welcomed shortly thereafter by the DC community at a great reception, hosted by John Phillips, the Commission Chair, and his wife Linda Douglass. The reception was the first event hosted in their newly renovated home, which was finished just in time. To say that it is a beautiful home would be a great understatement. When paired with wonderful refreshments and an interesting and notable guest list, including members of Congress, Commissioners, journalists and many of the Fellows’ principals, we felt truly welcomed to Washington.

These events served to get us all focused and whet our appetites for the Fellow experience. We are very grateful for the warm welcome we’ve received from the entire community and are looking forward to a rewarding year.

*Contributed by Rob Lyman*



## LEGACY OF SERVICE DAY

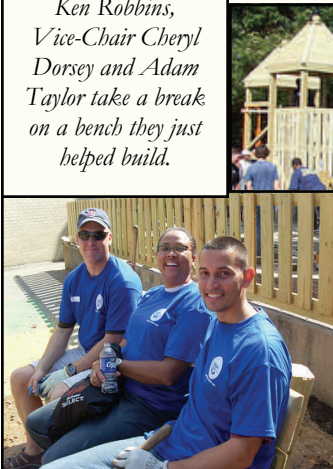
White House Fellows have a strong legacy of service to their communities. To highlight that life-long commitment, the White House Fellows program launched the “Legacy of Service” initiative on October 3 in three cities across America. Fellows and friends joined together to build a playground for elementary students in Washington, D.C., plant trees in a neighborhood park in New York City, and paint schools in Aurora, CO.

In Washington, D.C. the current class of Fellows, several Commissioners, and friends of the program assembled for a day of service at the DC Prep Benning Campus, a Washington-based charter elementary and middle school. They spent the day completing construction of a playground for the students, which involved laying bricks, moving dirt, building bridges, and digging tunnels. This was really a “roll up your sleeves” kind of exercise, and a great day for all. They were joined in the work by members of the DC Prep staff, families from the DC Prep community, and other volunteers who support the school.

This work was part of the kick-off for the year-long effort among the current Fellows to make a difference in the Washington, D.C. community. Throughout the year, the Fellows will give back to the community by working alongside three non-profit organizations. A team of five Fellows will continue to work with DC Prep this year to support the development of an alumni program for the school, and the transition to high school for the current class of eighth graders.

In New York city, alumni and friends of the program joined together with hundreds of volunteers to support the beautification efforts within Van Cortlandt Park. Located in the Bronx, Van Cortlandt Park is New York City’s fourth largest park with 1,146 acres full of playing fields, forests and playgrounds. The service day, coined “Dig It,” was a great success. Volunteers planted over 1000 trees, painted light posts and benches, cleaned up trash, lay new wood chips over walking paths, and removed weeds. The Fellows focused their efforts on planting seedlings of native trees in the park. Their efforts were part of a larger initiative across the city to plant one million trees within ten years—called “MillionTreesNYC.”

*Below (left to right):  
Ken Robbins,  
Vice-Chair Cheryl  
Dorsey and Adam  
Taylor take a break  
on a bench they just  
helped build.*



*Above: Sarah Johnson and volunteer prepare the ground for a park bench.*

*Left: Fellows and friends helped build a playground in Washington D.C. for a local school.*

## LEGACY OF SERVICE DAY

*Fellows and volunteers planted seedlings in Van Cortlandt Park as part of the beautification efforts.*



In Aurora, Colorado, a suburb of Denver, a group of local alumni met to paint schools and talk about the White House Fellows Program. The alumni group concentrated on recruiting volunteers who are also interested in applying for the Fellowship, either this year or several years from now.

Volunteers first met early Saturday morning at Gateway High School (home of the Olys) for a presentation from alumni and Superintendent of Aurora Public Schools John Barry, Gail Klapper and several other Colorado-based alumni. Each recounted highlights from their year as a Fellow.

Following the program briefing, yellow school buses transported volunteers to two schools where they got to work with paint brushes and rollers. Working alongside Aurora Public School staff, volunteers conjured up their best artistic and home improvement techniques to paint the schools. Once the dust settled, three Aurora Public School gymnasiums had several shining fresh coats of paint. After lunch, Superintendent Barry passed out applications, matched alumni with applicants and encouraged volunteers to apply.

As you can see, this year's "Legacy of Service" day was a great success, with over 150 Fellows and volunteers working on a variety of projects in three cities. Next year we hope to triple the number of volunteers and include additional cities. Thanks to everyone who participated and made a difference in these three communities.

*Content contributed by Marc Sternberg, Sarita James and Gabe Cohen.*



*Alumni and volunteers painted several high school gyms in Aurora, Colorado.*



## LEGACY OF SERVICE DAY

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

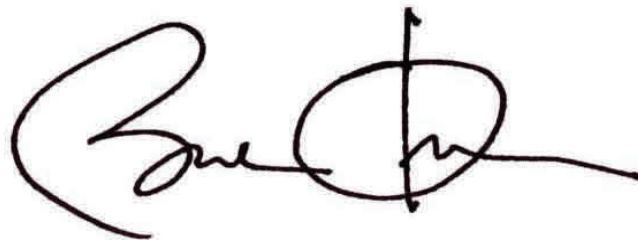
September 29, 2009

I am pleased to send greetings to all those serving their communities on the White House Fellows' "Legacy of Service" day.

The President's Commission on White House Fellowships was founded on the ideals of leadership and service, and the journey of Fellows does not end after a year spent in Washington, D.C. Some alumni return to public service, including several former Fellows who are serving in my Administration. Others are leaders in business, science, the military, and the non-profit sector. All are united by their dedication to our country, and I thank you for your commitment.

Nothing is more powerful than enlisting the talent and passion of the American people to help others. By investing your time in your community, you are setting a strong example for future generations and bringing our country closer to a brighter day. I hope you will continue to uphold the values of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships, and encourage others to join you in service.

Michelle and I wish you all the best on this special occasion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, written in a cursive style.

## DIRECTOR'S UPDATE



*This article was published as one of four op-eds about the Fellows program on the Washington Post's website entitled "On Leadership" on October 2, 2009. The other three pieces were written by Commissioner Roger Porter, Mr. Jack LeCuyer and Dr. Michael Lindsay of Rice University. Dr. Lindsay released a report about the White House Fellows program on October 2, which documents the impact of the program. To read the report, please visit: [www.whitehousefellowsproject.org](http://www.whitehousefellowsproject.org).*

### **The Newest Leaders**

***By: Cindy S. Moelis***

Forty-five years ago this week, President Lyndon B. Johnson formed the White House Fellows program because he saw the potential of America's next generation. Today, President and Mrs. Obama are carrying on this tradition by ensuring the non-partisan White House Fellows program remains one of the nation's most prestigious fellowships for leadership and public service.

White House Fellowships have three main components: strong work placements, a robust education program and opportunities to serve the Washington, D.C. community. As a White House Fellow, individuals work on special projects alongside Cabinet Secretaries, White House staff and other senior officials. For example, Marc Sternberg, founder and former principal of the Bronx Lab School, is taking on new challenges this year at the U.S. Department of Education where he is supporting the "Race to the Top" competition.

Annie Maxwell, former COO of Direct Relief International, has the unique opportunity to work in Vice President Joe Biden's office on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Ken Robbins is a Major in the U.S. Army who most recently served in Iraq, and now shares his expertise on veteran's initiatives at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

In addition to the work placement, the education program increases the fellows' exposure to renowned leaders from the private and public sectors through speaker seminars, travel and special events. The current class of White House Fellows has gained valuable insight from leaders such as U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, former U.S. Senator Tom Daschle, and General Electric CEO Jeffrey Immelt.

White House Fellows have a strong legacy of service to their communities and participate in service projects throughout their year in Washington, D.C. This year, the White House Fellows program has partnered with three non-profit organizations dedicated to community service. Throughout the year, Fellows will make a difference in the Washington community by mentoring children, delivering meals to individuals struggling with life-challenging illnesses, and helping students reach their full potential in preparation for college.

The Obama Administration continues to invest in this leadership program because it works. Research from Rice University's D. Michael Lindsay finds that 96 percent of White House Fellows describe their fellowship experience as being an important component of their development as a leader.

## DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

President Obama is building on this historic legacy by appointing a strong commission, welcoming a new diverse class of fellows, and supporting the program's commitment to community service. The President's recently appointed Commission has national and community leaders including Army Generals, a renowned architect, university leaders and others that represent the best in their fields.

This Commission selected the 2009-2010 class of Fellows through a non-partisan and highly competitive process. Each Fellow's story is distinct and their journeys are compelling; one third are first generation Americans whose families arrived from Ethiopia, China, Jamaica, India and Egypt. And each Fellow holds unique potential to reach a new level of leadership, whether as a General, a CEO, or a Senator.

In addition to serving the Washington D.C. community, White House Fellows are committed to improving their communities nationwide. Dr. Lindsay's report revealed that 92 percent of Fellows are actively engaged in volunteer work and "volunteerism tends to be a lifelong activity of Fellows that is only heightened by the Fellowship experience." So this year, the White House Fellows program is launching the "Legacy of Service" initiative to make a difference in local communities and to highlight the Fellows' volunteer work. On October 3, alumni and friends will build a playground for elementary students in Washington, D.C., clean up a neighborhood park in New York City, and paint schools in Denver.

The White House Fellows program has positively impacted the lives of hundreds of Fellows, and because of their leadership and commitment to service, the results are far reaching. Today's rising leaders should consider applying to the White House Fellowship or partnering with us next year on "Legacy of Service" day. In the years ahead, the White House Fellows program will continue to equip a new generation of leaders with the skills to make a difference in their professions, communities, and our country.



*On Sept. 21, the Fellows attended a Marine One departure on the South Lawn of the White House.*

*President Obama and Dr. Jill Biden board Marine One.*



## EDUCATION EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

Orientation, Gettysburg, PA | September 1-2

Ms. Susan Eisenhower, Chairman Emeritus, Eisenhower Institute | September 2

Mr. Christopher Lu, Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary, The White House | September 15

Secretary Ray LaHood, Department of Transportation | September 16

Marine One Departure, South Lawn | September 21

Ms. Anita Dunn, Director of Communications, The White House | September 22

Mr. Jeffrey Immelt, CEO, General Electric Company | September 23

Senator Tom Daschle, Special Policy Advisor, Altston & Bird | September 29

Senator Tim Wirth, President, United Nations Foundation | October 1

Legacy of Service Day | October 3

Aspen Institute Book Talk | October 6

General Colin Powell | October 9

White House Tour, East Wing | October 10

Secretary Arne Duncan, Department of Education | October 14

Mr. David Axelrod, Senior Advisor, The White House | October 19

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Admiral Dennis Blair, Director of National Intelligence | October 22

Welcome Reception for 2009-2010 class of White House Fellows, Willard Intercontinental Hotel | October 22

Commissioners' Luncheon, U.S. Chamber of Commerce | October 23

Legacy of Leadership Reception and Dinner, Capitol Hilton Hotel | October 23

Holocaust Museum Tour | October 24

Tour of Ford's Theater | October 27

Ms. Valerie Jarrett, Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor, The White House | October 27

West Wing Tour | October 29

Chancellor Michelle Rhee, District of Columbia Public Schools | October 30

Shadow Member of Congress | Nov. 4

Domestic trip to New Orleans, LA | Nov. 9-13

Vice President Joe Biden | Nov. 17

White House Situation Room | Nov. 18

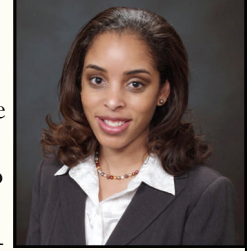
Secretary Gary Locke, Department of Commerce | Nov. 19



## PLACEMENT UPDATE

### **Kellee James, Department of Commerce**

Orientation, ethics briefings, community service projects, work placement, Fellows' forums. The first 6 weeks of the Fellowship have been a whirlwind. Even with all of the preparation involved in becoming a Fellow, nothing compares to the realization, somewhere around the third week for me, that this program is the equivalent of working two jobs. It has already been an exceptional experience, with both the challenge and the opportunity of being a Fellow immediately following the transition to a new administration.



My placement has taken me to the Department of Commerce (DOC), which Deputy Secretary Dennis Hightower has described as a 'holding company'. This is an apt description since DOC encompasses departments as diverse as the U.S. Census Bureau, the Patent Office, the International Trade Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It has been wonderful getting a look at each of these functions and at NOAA in particular. I have found the linkages between NOAA and Commerce quite interesting, as Undersecretary Jane Lubchenco works to advance rigorous economic analysis of ecosystem services associated with marine resources and climate change adaptation. This is an opportunity for me to observe and participate in the infrastructure being built to support a new US economy, where growth and wealth generation will increasingly come from innovative, often market-based incentives to manage natural resources, transition to clean energy, and create 'green jobs'.



### **Raúl Torrez, Department of Justice**

As the blue and white executive jet with the United States of America written on the side lifted off from Reagan National Airport, I couldn't help but think about my friends, my family, and my extraordinary journey to becoming a White House Fellow. Only a few months before, I was working in Albuquerque alongside my dad, as a state/federal prosecutor of armed career criminals, cases of police brutality, and Internet crimes against children. I was also working to make some meaningful contributions to the local bar, various community service organizations, and to get a new charter school off the ground. Beyond all of that however, I was learning to be a new husband, preparing to be a new father and looking, as I always have, to the remarkable example set by my family.

As the Attorney General's jet touched down in Albuquerque, I reflected on that moment not as a sign of personal achievement but rather a testament to generations of sacrifice and hard work. I thought about my grandfather who worked as a cook in Roosevelt's CCC camps, and about his second son – my father – who grew up speaking Spanish in a tiny speck of a town in the hills of Lincoln County. At that moment I recognized that this was their day as much as mine and every moment of the journey I could feel them watching over me.

Of course, that was also literally the case, as my father was the first one out of his chair when we entered into the grand ballroom of the Hotel Albuquerque; less I think to pay his respects to the Attorney General of the United States, than to catch a glimpse of the son he spent a lifetime encouraging, teaching and coaching.

I can't really describe the look on his face when the Attorney General introduced me to a roomful of friends, colleagues, and distinguished members of the New Mexico Bar as the first White House Fellow of the new administration to work at the Department of Justice. Nor can I describe my own feelings, as the motorcade passed by my elementary school and my old office in the community bank building downtown. But I realized in that moment, that my first day as a Fellow had been an incredible gift, not from the Attorney General or even the White House Fellows program, but from the family and the community that has given me so much throughout my life. And as we boarded the plane that evening, to return back to D.C., I was more determined than ever to go home and begin repaying the debt.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Jaime Areizaga (07-08)** is the Principal Advisor for Latino Affairs, Deeds for Virginia.

**Balan Ayyar (02-03)** is the Military Assistant for the Secretary of Defense.

**Joe Broz (91-92)** is the Vice President for Strategic Initiatives for the Midwest Research Institute in Denver, CO.

**César Conde (02-03)** has been named President and COO of Univision Networks in New York City.

**John Danaher (89-90)** is the President of the School of Nursing, Kaplan Higher Education, in Chicago, IL.

**John Fenzel (00-01)** is now the Operations Officer for the U.S. Army Accessions Command in Ft Monroe, VA. His novel, *The Lazarus Covenant*, was published on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Bill Graham (66-67)** is Chairman of the Cape Fear Health Policy Council in Cape Fear, NC.

**Scott Gray (91-92)** is the Staff Vice President, Strategic Planning, General Dynamics (corporate) in Falls Church, VA.

**David Greenberg (88-89)** is the Founder and President of the Denver School of Science and Technology in Denver, CO.

**Ray Johns (91-92)** has been confirmed by the Senate for promotion to 4 stars and as Commander of the Air Force Mobility Command at Scott AFB, IL.

**Frank Klotz (82-83)** is the Commander of the Air Force Global Strike Command at Barksdale AFB, LA.

**Doug Kmiec (82-83)** has been confirmed by the Senate to be the U.S. Ambassador to Malta.

### 2008-2009 CLASS UPDATE

**Brian Alexander:** Resident, Harvard Radiation Oncology Program

**Margaret Angell:** Director of Secondary School Transformation, D.C. Public Schools

**Dan Fletcher:** Associate Professor of Bioengineering and Biophysics, UC Berkeley & Deputy Director, Physical Biosciences, Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory

**J. Nadine Gracia:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**Mike Hayes:** Director of Defense Policy and Strategy, National Security Council

**Sarita James:** Writer, *Indian in Indiana* (book in progress)

**Ryan Janovic:** Battalion Commander, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Knox, KY

**David Loaiza:** Senior Vice President for Quantitative Research, JP Morgan

**Nicole Malachowski:** Chief, International Developmental Fighter Programs

**Chris Meyer:** Special Assistant to the Louisiana State Superintendent of Education

**Eyrique Miller:** Vice President for Natural Resources, JP Morgan

**David Rawlinson:** General Counsel and Vice President for ITT Electronic Services

**Jason Snyder:** Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education

**Everett Spain:** Commanding Officer, U.S. Army Garrison-Schweinfurt, Germany

(Continued on page 11)

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Chuck Kubic (85-86)** published his book, *Bridges to Baghdad: The U.S. Navy Seabees in the Iraq War*, on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Kai Lee (76-77)** is the Program Officer for Science with the David and Lucile Packard Foundation in Los Altos, CA.

**Mickey Levitan (94-95)** is the Founder and CEO of Courseload, LLC in Indianapolis.

**Lewis Long (96-97)** is the VP for Residential and Small Businesses for ADT Security Services in Boca Raton, FL.

**Bruce McClintock (01-02)** is the Commander of the 96<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing, Air Armament Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Eglin AFB, FL.

**Lee McGoldrick (00-01)** is the VP for Growth Strategy, Teach for America.

**Mark Montgomery (98-99)** is the Chief of the Navy's Strategy Group at HQ, USN.

**Dan Orcutt (04-05)** is a student at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at the National Defense University in Washington, DC.

**Steven Parker (05-06)** has left his battalion command in the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division and is now the Deputy Executive to the Commander of USAFRICOM in Stuttgart, GE.

**Kien Pham (85-86)** is now the Vice Chairman of VMG Media JSG in Hanoi, Vietnam.

**Barry Price (99-00)** is the CJ1 of the Multi-National Force – Iraq at Camp Victory, Iraq.

**Mary Sarotte (01-02)** is a Professor of International Relations at the University of Southern California.

**Jon Spaner (02-03)** is the Commanding Officer of USCG Air Station Traverse City, MI.

**Cliff Stanley (88-89)** has been nominated by the President to become the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

**Dan Sullivan (02-03)** is the Attorney General for the State of Alaska.

**Bill Thornton (02-03)** is the Commanding Officer of the 412<sup>th</sup> Test Wing at Edwards AFB, CA.

**Adis Vila (82-83)** is a Scholar in Residence at Rollins College Winter Park Institute and a Professor of Ethics and International Business Law at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Recruitment Events

This fall, recruitment events will be held around the country. Planning is underway in the following cities:

**San Diego, CA**    **Los Angeles, CA**  
**St. Louis, MO**    **Washington, DC**  
**New York, NY**    **Boston, MA**  
**Seattle, WA**    **Dallas, TX**

If you are interested in hosting an additional event or attending, please contact Diane Yu at [Diane.yu@nyu.edu](mailto:Diane.yu@nyu.edu) or 212-998-2340. Watch your email for dates and more details.



### WHF Fall Intern

Jamie Friedland joined our office this fall as a White House intern. He recently graduated from Duke University, with a major in Public Policy Studies and a Minor in Environmental Science. He is interested in energy and climate change issues, and was a political columnist for *The Chronicle* while at Duke.

### Reading Applications

If this year is anything like last, we will need help reading and judging applications during the month of February. Reading is easy and can be done in a group or as an individual. If you are interested in helping, please e-mail Gabe Cohen at [gcohen@whf.eop.gov](mailto:gcohen@whf.eop.gov).

## IN MEMORIAM

**Robert O. Heavner**  
**Class of 1977-78**  
**November 20, 1941 - April 12, 2009**

## 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

Phone: 202-395-4522 Fax: 202-395-6179

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