



2013-2014 Fellows: An Extraordinary Year

On Friday, August 8, 2014 the 2013-2014 Class of White House Fellows participated in a Closing Ceremony to mark the end of their Fellowship. The ceremony and reception was hosted at Blair House, thanks to the generosity of Ambassador Peter Selfridge and Office of the Chief of Protocol. Among the invited guests were friends and family of the Fellows, Commissioners, Regional Hosts, and senior administration officials. Dr. Cynthia Hale, a White House Fellows Commissioner, delivered an inspiring keynote address, reflecting on lessons of the Fellowship and the responsibilities that now lay with the 2013-2014 Class.

Dr. Hale emphasized that the Fellows have a unique role in making our nation and the world a better place due to the privileges afforded to them through the course of the Fellowship, and implored the Fellows to respond to the needs of others as they are uniquely qualified to do. She gave them one last piece of advice, "If you're going to lead and lead well, your attitude must be: I cannot keep this privilege to myself."

The Closing Ceremony served as an important opportunity for each Fellow to reflect on their year and to celebrate with their loved ones. The audience at the ceremony had the chance to hear

about the many accomplishments of the Fellows and the variety of projects they have contributed to throughout the year, including the White House Maker Faire, My Brother's Keeper Initiative, and the Promise Zones Presidential Initiative. The Fellows have also worked on policy areas ranging from technology commercialization to the upcoming democratic elections in Myanmar.

After being presented with a Presidential certificate of recognition by Chair Mary Zients and Director Jennifer Kaplan, each Fellow shared highlights and reflections from their time in the Federal government. The remarks focused on pivotal moments throughout the year, the lessons they had learned, and the appreciation they felt for their placement offices. They also expressed a deep appreciation for their loved ones and the bonds that had grown within their Class. The Fellows voiced great optimism for both the future of their Class and the future of the nation.

It was with great pride that the White House Fellows program recognized the 2013-2014 class. We are excited about the great things they will undoubtedly achieve, carrying the legacy of the White House Fellowship to new heights.



Left to right: Dr. Cynthia Hale delivers her address to a crowd of enthralled friends and family; the 2013-2014 Class poses in the Blair House garden before the start of the Closing Ceremony.



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Commissioners, Alumni, Fellows and Friends,

What an incredible time this has been for the White House Fellows program! In the past few weeks, we have had a policy trip to New York City, selected and placed 15 new Fellows, hosted a Closing Ceremony for the 2013-2014 Class, and met with leaders such as Secretary of State John Kerry and David Brooks, a columnist for the New York Times.

On behalf of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships, I want to offer my sincere congratulations to the current class and their families. I have really enjoyed getting to know each of the Fellows, and it is a bittersweet time when one class ends and another begins. The 2013-2014 Class is one of integrity, character, and compassion, and they have made significant contributions in each of their placements.

We are all very excited to welcome the incoming class and begin a new year of the Fellowship. The 2014-2015 Fellows are from all around the country and represent a diverse set of professions, including military, business, law, and medicine. This cycle, we have been fortunate to have great interest from departments, agencies, and offices across the Administration and we appreciate their support. We look forward to strong placements and another year of impactful work for the Fellows.

While we prepare for the incoming class, we are also focused on the future. In fall of 2014, we will reopen the online application portal. We ask you to help broaden our outreach by encouraging the exceptional leaders in your lives to apply to the Fellowship. Please consider hosting an outreach event or sharing program and application information on social media; these efforts are both immensely helpful and much appreciated.

Finally, I want to thank the people who have made my transition to the Directorship a smooth one: Cindy Moelis, our former Director; Mary Zients, Chair of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships; and the White House Fellows Foundation and Association (WHFFA). WHFFA Director Jack LeCuyer, Board Chair Kinney Zalesne, and all of the alumni have been an incredible resource. Their continued investment of time and energy is inspiring and serves as an important source of support for each incoming class.

The 2014-2015 Fellowship year will be particularly special as we approach the 50th anniversary, and I feel truly privileged to be a part of this community. I look forward to working with all of you in the weeks ahead.

Warmest regards,



Jennifer Yeager Kaplan



New York Policy Trip

NEW YORK, NY — This June, the Fellows had the opportunity to travel to New York City and meet with various private and public sector leaders. Brent Cohen reflects on his experience below.

I had the unique privilege of traveling to my home city with 11 of my closest friends, and in true New York fashion, I hustled them through the streets and subways at break-neck pace so that we could make all of our meetings on time. We had an absolutely packed schedule that primarily focused on education, criminal and juvenile justice, and finance. All of our meetings offered something meaningful to our learning experience; however, there were two meetings that proved especially impactful to me.

As a class, we voted to have “criminal justice” as one of our three focus areas for our trip. Given my prior experience working to reform the criminal and juvenile justice systems in New York, I set up two meetings with my former colleagues. It was a wonderful experience to introduce my fellow Fellows to three people whom I respect immensely, and to peel back the curtain on my work prior to the Fellowship. We visited the New York City Department of Probation’s Harlem Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON) where we met with Deputy Commissioner Clinton Lacey, and met with the former Commissioner of Probation (and my former boss), Vincent Schiraldi, who is currently a Senior Advisor within the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice, and with Glenn Martin – a longtime friend, frequent media contributor, and founder of JustLeadershipUSA.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my work at my placement this year; however, during the meetings with my former colleagues, I realized just how much I missed working on juvenile and criminal justice reform efforts. Hearing and talking about the work that I had done for the previous five years – explaining its necessity and urgency, sharing our grand suc-

cesses and disappointments, and discussing the ongoing challenges and opportunities – made me excited to return to the field.

In addition to our criminal justice meetings, we had several outstanding finance-related meetings. I consider authenticity to be the most critical leadership characteristic, and Jamie Dimon is the epitome of authenticity. Our meeting with him was inspiring! In addition to other topics, Josh Steiner, head of Industry Verticals at Bloomberg LP, spoke with us about his career path, and how he made his career decisions – factoring in family, finances, and public benefit. His comments were insightful and valuable. Those two meetings, together with our visit to the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, sparked an interest in business that I had previously dismissed. I may never make the leap from policy to business, but a temporary break from government to enter the business world is now a consideration for me.

Perhaps the most moving part of our trip was the time we spent at the 9/11 Memorial with Brenda Berkman, a ’96-97 Fellow. Brenda was a First Responder; she walked us through the Memorial, and shared her story from that day. Our visit to the Memorial was a deeply meaningful and introspective moment.

Through this trip, I was able to see federal policy in action in a familiar setting. It was also a unique opportunity to bring the Fellows further into my world and share aspects of my life that influence my outlook and motivate me to make a difference. I am grateful to have had that opportunity.

BY BRENT COHEN



2013-2014 Class meets with Brenda Berkman, a '96-97 Fellow and First Responder, at the 9/11 Memorial.

MAY 2014 TO PRESENT

SPEAKER SEMINARS

- ◆ David Simas, Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Political Strategy & Outreach
- ◆ President Barack Obama
- ◆ Broderick Johnson, Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary
- ◆ John Podesta, Counselor to the President
- ◆ Richard Leon, Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia
- ◆ Ambassador Michael Froman, US Trade Representative
- ◆ Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service
- ◆ Senator John McCain, Arizona
- ◆ Secretary Elaine Chao, The Heritage Foundation and former Secretary of Labor
- ◆ Katherine Archuleta, Director of the Office of Personnel Management
- ◆ Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy, & Tom Hicks, Deputy Under Secre-

- ary of the Navy
- ◆ Ross Douthat, New York Times Columnist
- ◆ Vice President Joseph Biden
- ◆ Jeff Zients, Director of the National Economic Council
- ◆ John Kerry, Secretary of State
- ◆ David Brooks, New York Times
- ◆ David Rubenstein, The Carlyle Group

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- ◆ KaBOOM! Playground at Seabrook Elementary School
- ◆ Wounded Warriors Community Service Event
- ◆ Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens

NYC POLICY TRIP

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Harlem Children's Zone
- ◆ Harlem NeON
- ◆ Bloomberg LP
- ◆ Jamie Dimon, President and CEO of JP Morgan Chase
- ◆ New York Stock Exchange

- ◆ Carmen Farina, NYC Schools Chancellor
- ◆ Glenn Martin, President and Founder of JustLeadershipUSA
- ◆ Clinton Foundation
- ◆ Federal Reserve Bank of NY
- ◆ 9/11 Memorial

SPECIAL EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ 4th of July on the South Lawn, White House
- ◆ NPR Tour & Tiny Desk Concert
- ◆ The Lion King at the Kennedy Center
- ◆ Placement Dinner with 2014-2015 Class at Harmon-Seder Residence
- ◆ Transition Dinner with the White House Fellows Foundation and Association
- ◆ DC Scholars Luncheon
- ◆ Situation Room Tour
- ◆ Air Force One Visit
- ◆ Placement Visits
- ◆ 2013-2014 Closing Ceremony



Clockwise from the top left: 2013-2014 Class meets with Jeff Zients, Director of the National Economic Council; Fellows meet with host David Gegory on the set of Meet the Press; the 2013-2014 Class pose with Katherine Archuleta, Director of the Office of Personnel Management, after their speaker seminar; Victor Wu and Justin Finnegan explore the broadcasting studio at NPR.

Meet the 2014-2015 Class!

Andrew Buher, New York, NY, formerly served as Chief Operating Officer of the New York City Department of Education, an organization with a \$25 billion annual operating budget and a workforce of 135,000 employees.

Megan Carroll, San Diego, CA, led the United Nations Development Programme's Democracy and Participation portfolio in South Sudan, the world's newest country. As the first person to hold this role, she served as the focal point for the constitutional review process and elections.

Jacob Donnelly, San Francisco, CA, was a Senior Vice President at New Island Capital. He was responsible for private equity investments in companies that generate meaningful social, environmental, and community benefits alongside financial returns.

Jonny Dorsey, Woodside, CA, is a social entrepreneur and most recently served as Co-Founder and Director of the Impact Careers Initiative, an Aspen Institute program researching how to recruit talent to public-impact work.

Kari Fleming, Naperville, IL, is a Major in the United States Air Force. She served as a Special Action Officer to the Commander, Air Mobility Command, where she developed professional development courses and prepared the Commander for strategic engagements.

Scott Handler, Miami, FL, a Major in the United States Army, was second-in-command of the 782nd Military Intelligence (Cyber) Battalion, which conducts full-spectrum cyberspace operations in support of joint force commanders.

Kate Higgins-Bloom, Norfolk, VA, is a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Coast Guard. She commanded a Coast Guard ship in the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and led search and rescue operations off the coast of New England.

Wrendon Hunt, Midland, MI, was the Associate Commercial Director for Dow Solar at Dow Chemical Company. He was responsible for strategy development, marketing, and sales in the business to business, government contract, insurance company, and college and university markets.

Marguerite Rose Jiménez, Missoula, MT, was a postdoctoral fellow at American University's School of Public Affairs. She taught public policy, worked with undergraduate students in the global health program, and was a faculty adviser for the graduate student research journal.

Francisco Leija, Los Angeles, CA, is a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army. He conducted operations in the Global War on Terrorism as a Military Strategist and as a Commander of Troops in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Tiffany McNair, Voorhees, NJ, is an obstetrician-gynecologist and preventive medicine physician. She completed a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/Gyn) followed by General Preventive Medicine at Johns Hopkins.

Marisa Porges, Penn Valley, PA, was a research fellow at Harvard's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. Her work focused on terrorism and counterterrorism, particularly strategies to combat radicalization.

Mario Ramirez, McAllen, TX, is an emergency medicine physician who most recently served in the United States Air Force as a Major and led a Critical Care Air Transport Team based at Bagram, Afghanistan from 2012-2013.

Lindsay Rodman, Kent, CT, is a Captain in the United States Marine Corps, a judge advocate and a foreign area officer (Latin America). She most recently served as Deputy Legal Counsel in the Office of the Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where her portfolio included military justice, space law and human rights law issues.

Edward Sheen, Irvine, CA, is a board-certified internist and was a Clinical Fellow in Liver and Digestive Diseases at Stanford University, Executive Chair/Senior Partner of the Stanford Healthcare Consulting Group and Course Director of Leadership/Strategies for Healthcare Delivery Innovation.

Recruit the 50th Anniversary Class!



DO YOU KNOW A FUTURE WHITE HOUSE FELLOW?

It's not too soon to be thinking about the next selection cycle! Alumni are our best ambassadors and there are many ways to support our recruitment and selection efforts.

HOST AN OUTREACH EVENT — If you'd like to host an outreach event, please let us know how we can best support you. We also welcome any suggestions on outreach and recruitment opportunities through your professional and social networks.

SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA — Consider sharing information about the White House Fellows program and the application process on social media platforms you may participate in, or even email listservs.

ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT — Hosting or attending an application reading group can be a nice opportunity for regional alumni to reconnect, or for classes to host a mini reunion. We are always looking for regional diversity among our reading groups, so we hope you'll consider serving as a host! We also hope you'll volunteer to read applications during the series of reading groups we will coordinate throughout the country and at the White House Fellows office in Washington, DC.

Finally, if your professional bios do not already note your affiliation with the White House Fellows program, we hope you will consider highlighting your connection. We have found that references like these are extremely helpful in expanding our reach to broader audiences.

If you have any suggestions and/or are interested in participating in any of the above, please feel free to contact our Deputy Director, Sophie Kim Goldmacher at sgoldmacher@whf.eop.gov.



About the WHF 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.

For more information, please visit:
www.whitehouse.gov/fellows

Please send any comments, submissions or other newsletter related communication to:
whitehousefellows@who.eop.gov

THANK YOU

- ◆ We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the staff at the St. Regis Hotel, who were exceptionally accommodating and helpful during Selection Weekend.
- ◆ We worked with many departments, agencies and offices across the Administration during the placement process. We are very thankful for the support of those staff members, from assistants to White House Liaisons to Chiefs of Staff.
- ◆ We are grateful to Ambassador Peter Selfridge, Chief of Protocol, for co-hosting the Closing Ceremony at Blair House. On the heels of a busy summer, he and Assistant Chief Randy Bumgardner enabled an elegant and memorable celebration of the class. We appreciate their on-going support for the program.
- ◆ We would like to thank our two exceptional summer interns, **Marla Trinidad** and **Kevin Zeithaml**. Marla is starting law school at Mortiz College of Law at Ohio State University, and Kevin is returning to the University of Virginia to complete his senior year of college, where he is majoring in Political Philosophy, Policy and the Law.