



"One of the things that requires the most courage is hearing from people who don't agree with you, and being able to work together on behalf of the country. This group of Fellowship alumni can help point the way forward." – President Barack Obama

President Obama Welcomes WHF Alumni at the 47th Annual Leadership Conference

On October 27, 2011, President Obama kicked off the 47th Annual Leadership Alumni Conference by hosting 150 White House Fellows and guests at the White House. The President spoke about his appreciation for the bipartisan nature of the White House Fellowship and how he is inspired every time he meets with a new class. The President stayed to take questions on subjects varying from the economy and Congress to how his family has adjusted to life in the White House.



The program also included a panel of Fellowship alumni currently serving in the Obama administration. Cheryl Dorsey, Vice Chair of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships, moderated the discussion which included presentations by Lael Brainard, Undersecretary of the Treasury; Michael Froman, Deputy Assistant to the President; Juan Garcia, Undersecretary of the Navy; and Daniel Poneman, Deputy Secretary of Energy. Each participant shared an anecdote from their Fellowship and an update on their current work in the administration before taking questions.

One of the current Fellows, Albert Cho, offered the following summary of the morning's events:

The courtyard quickly fills with friendly faces who go out of their way to welcome us to the Fellowship as we chat and enjoy coffee.



During the alumni panel, Deputy Secretary Poneman mentions that he was a Fellow at DOE and gives a shout-out to our friend Ted Johnson, this year's White House Fellow at DOE, who has big shoes to fill!

President Obama arrives to a standing ovation and speaks passionately about the White House Fellows Program and this year's conference theme: Courage.

He praises the White House Fellows Program for bringing together promising young people from remarkably different backgrounds and worldviews: civilian and military, Republican and Democrat, scientists and philosophers. One of his remarks sticks with me: "One of the things that requires the most courage is hearing from people who don't agree with you, and being able to work together on behalf of the country." He points at the

crowd. "This group of alumni can help point the way forward."

President Obama takes extra time for questions, leading a spirited discussion about issues both personal and political. I had not anticipated the degree to which watching President Obama engage a live, private audience is a totally different experience from seeing him on television. There is a spontaneity, warmth and humor that video transmission simply cannot capture. It was a memorable morning with friends, mentors and the President of the United States, and one that leaves us all with a better understanding of the White House Fellows motto: with a vision of greatness.

Letter from the Director



Over the last three years, the President's Commission on White House Fellowships has continued to attract the most talented individuals interested in cultivating their leadership skills and giving back to the country through public service. President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama are dedicated to the program's success and ensuring the Fellows who serve during this Administration are provided with an enriching experience and important exposure to Federal government. They continue to keep President Johnson and John Gardner's vision alive.

Each year, the President and the First Lady spend time meeting with the Fellows and answering their questions. The President continues to welcome each group into the Oval Office. This year, President Obama also welcomed the White House Fellows alumni to the White House at the beginning of their Leadership Conference in October. The President spoke passionately about the importance of the program and the need to cultivate more leaders in public service – like the current and former Fellows gathered in the room - who are willing to listen to new ideas and put aside partisanship to work toward common goals for the benefit of our nation. In the true spirit of the Fellowship, after his remarks the President answered questions from the alumni about leadership and policy.

President Obama and the First Lady have strengthened and supported the Fellowship Program in other significant ways. The President appointed prominent national leaders to his Commission and they have remained so committed that we have achieved near perfect attendance at the Midyear Meeting and Selection Weekend. I'm pleased to welcome the newest Commissioner, Keith Harper, the Chair of the Native American Practice Group at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Keith will join a group of Commissioners who have dedicated their time, talent, and resources to the Fellowship and left their own distinctive mark on the program. I'd like to thank the many Commissioners who have hosted a dinner or reception for the Fellows, participated in our education program, and encouraged qualified individuals to apply for the Fellowship.

I'd also like to extend a special thank you to Commissioner Vartan Gregorian and the Carnegie Corporation for generously devoting a full page ad in the *New York Times* highlighting the White House Fellows Program. John Phillips, Susan King, and Eric Baker all helped make this acknowledgment possible. The tribute was published on November 30, 2011 and the headline read:

As it Celebrates One Hundred Years of Philanthropy
Carnegie Corporation of New York

Salutes the 2011-2012 White House Fellows and our Former President John Gardner, Who Inspired and Launched the Country's Most Prestigious Public Service and Leadership Fellowship

The ad also included the bios of the Class of 2011-2012 who, like every class before them, have brought their own unique talents and skills to their work placement and education program. The Fellows represent the dynamic young leadership in America. With diverse backgrounds and experiences, they have all come into their year together with high hopes, and I'm sure, a bit of trepidation; but they are embracing their new experiences and helping each other get through some of the challenges of public service.

The White House Fellows program has played a unique role in supporting public service leaders for over 47 years. The bipartisan nature of the program and the military-civilian exchange create a unique fellowship during that year and relationships that endure over decades. It is a privilege to be the Director of this program and to work with such an extraordinary group of individuals that support the program: our distinguished Commission, the civic leaders that make up our regional panels, and the alumni of the program. On behalf of the program, I thank all of you for your dedication and commitment to the Fellows and the ideals of the program. Please continue to help us recruit qualified emerging leaders for next year's Class. The deadline to submit is January 13, 2012.

Warm regards,
Cindy Moelis

HELP RECRUIT THE NEXT CLASS OF FELLOWS

Do you know someone who would be perfect for the White House Fellowship?

We are currently accepting applications online for the Class of 2012-2013 White House Fellows. Applications are due by the close of business on January 13, 2012 at 5:59PM.

More information is available at: www.whitehouse.gov/about/fellows.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 6, 2011

From the earliest days of our founding, our Nation has been shaped by people who have dared to dream and use their unique talents to serve the greater good. Since its establishment by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964, the White House Fellows Program has helped carry this tradition forward by offering emerging leaders the opportunity to strengthen their skills and serve our country.

Public service is an admirable calling and a central theme in the story of our union. Government alone cannot meet the challenges we face, and America needs the passion and ideas of leaders from all disciplines to spur innovation and take us to new heights in the 21st century.

Working alongside public servants at the highest levels of the Executive Branch, White House Fellows gain invaluable experience and tools relevant to all fields and careers. After their year in our Nation's capital, they move on with a renewed sense of purpose to lift up the lives of others, to collaborate on the great challenges of their time, and to advance the ideals upon which America was built.

We hope you consider applying to the White House Fellows Program and helping chart the course of America's unwritten history.



Michelle Obama

WELCOME CLASS OF 2011-2012 FELLOWS

Lindsay Barenz, Centerville, UT – Office of Management and Budget

Lindsay was a lawyer at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP working on complex corporate transactions. Prior to that, she served as a law clerk for the Honorable Betty Binns Fletcher and as a union organizer. Lindsay is earned a J.D. from Yale Law School and a B.S. from the University of Utah.

Reggie Chambers, Harlem, NY – National Economic Council

Reggie most recently served as an Investment Executive with 3i Group plc and as an Adjunct Professor at Brooklyn College. He has also worked as an investment banker and corporate lawyer and served on numerous non-profit boards including at CUNY's Graduate Center. Reggie holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School and an A.B. from Duke University.

Albert Cho, Tempe, AZ – U.S. Department of State

Albert was an executive at Cisco and an engagement manager at McKinsey. He is a Rhodes Scholar, Truman Scholar, and term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He holds an M.B.A. and M.Sc. in development economics from Oxford and graduated with an A.B. from Harvard.

Elizabeth Coté, Bangor, ME – U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Elizabeth has worked to improve health care delivery to earthquake victims in Haiti, orphaned neonates in India, the Iraqi people during reconstruction, and Massachusetts schoolchildren. She holds an M.D. from Harvard Medical School, an M.P.A. from the Harvard Kennedy School, and a B.A. from Wellesley College.

Kisha Davis, Gaithersburg, MD – U.S. Department of Agriculture

Kisha is a family physician who works with underserved populations and has conducted research on the effect of Medicaid expansions. She sits on the board of the Maryland Academy of Family Physicians and is active with the American Academy of Family Physicians. She completed her residency at the University of Maryland and received an M.D. from the University of Connecticut, an M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins, and a B.S. from Duke University.

Felice Gorordo, Miami, FL – Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs

Felice most recently served as Chairman and CEO of Roots of Hope, a national non-profit he co-founded that focuses on youth empowerment in the U.S. and Cuba. He also helped organize the "Peace Without Borders" concert in Cuba in 2009. Felice has previously held jobs leading government sales for Liberty Power and as a trade specialist at the U.S. Department of Commerce. He is a graduate of Georgetown University.

Ziad Haider, Washington, DC – U.S. Department of Justice

Ziad was a foreign policy aide in the U.S. Senate and a professional staff member of the House Committee on Homeland Security. He was a Fulbright Scholar in Malaysia and received a J.D. from Georgetown University, an M.P.A. from the Harvard Kennedy School, and a B.S. from Yale University.

Theodore Johnson, Raleigh, NC – U.S. Department of Energy

Theodore is a Commander in the U.S. Navy. His thirteen years of service include time spent teaching at the Naval War College, deployments throughout Asia and the Middle East, and as aide-de-camp to the Director of the National Security Agency. He holds an A.L.M. from Harvard University and a B.S. from Hampton University.



The Fellows meet with Ms. Susan Eisenhower in Gettysburg, PA.

WELCOME CLASS OF 2011-2012 FELLOWS

Debra Kurshan, Brooklyn, NY – National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Debra most recently served as a consultant with the Recovery School District in New Orleans, LA. She has previously held numerous leadership roles at the New York City Department of Education. She received an M.B.A. from Columbia Business School and a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Jennifer Lee, Fairfax, VA – U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Jennifer was a practicing emergency medicine physician and Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at George Washington University. She was also appointed to the Virginia Board of Medicine by Governor Tim Kaine. She completed her residency at Johns Hopkins University and holds an M.D. from Washington University School of Medicine at St. Louis and a B.S. from Yale University.

Rodney Lewis, Oklahoma City, OK – Office of the First Lady

Rodney is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force and was previously the 4th Airlift Squadron Commander. He has also worked in the Office of Legislative Liaison in the Pentagon. In 2004 he received the Bronze Star for service in Iraq and in 2010 he was awarded the Air Force Association National Medal of Merit. Rodney holds an MSSM from the University of Southern California and a B.S. from the United States Air Force Academy.

Clay Pell, Providence, RI – National Security Staff

Clay is a JAG and Lieutenant in the United States Coast Guard. He has previously worked for the State Department and CIA and speaks Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic. He holds a J.D. from Georgetown, an A.B. from Harvard, and graduated first in his class from the Coast Guard Commission Officer School.

Wizdom Powell, Norfolk, VA – U.S. Department of Defense

Wizdom was an Assistant Professor at UNC-Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Public Health and Lineberger Cancer Center. She testified about healthcare disparities before the 2009-2010 President's Cancer Panel. Wizdom is an RWJF Health & Society Scholar, American Psychological Association-Minority, and Ford Fellow and holds a Ph.D. and M.P.H. from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and a B.A. from John Jay College.

Jaron Wharton, Birmingham, AL – U.S. Agency for International Development

Jaron is a Major in the U.S. Army. He has been deployed four times to Iraq and Afghanistan and earned three Bronze Stars, including one for valor, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Ranger Tab, and Combat Infantryman's Badge. He holds a B.S. from West Point and an M.P.A. from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Tony Woods, Fairfield, CA- Office of Personnel Management

Tony most recently worked for ServiceNation, a national nonprofit. A former aide to the governor of New York, he has previously run for an open U.S. House seat in California. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army and holds a B.S. from West Point. He also holds an M.P.P. from the Harvard Kennedy School.



*John R. Phillips, Chairman, and
Cindy S. Moelis, Director, President's
Commission on White House Fellowships,
held a reception to welcome the
2011-2012 Class of White
House Fellows on September 19, 2011*

Special thanks to:

Commissioner John Phillips and Linda
Douglass for hosting the welcome
reception for the Class of 2011-2012
White House Fellows.

ORIENTATION REPORT

I came to orientation week prepared to learn the “nuts and bolts” of being a White House Fellow – the speaker series protocol, ethics, and fine differences between business casual dress and White House Fellows business casual dress. Yet it quickly became evident that this orientation would be about so much more. During our first day, we had the exceptional privilege of meeting Susan Eisenhower. Hearing her speak with such compassion at Gettysburg College and the Eisenhower Farm about her grandfather’s leadership legacy truly touched me. I am a firm believer in the power of personal narrative to humanize and connect. Before coming to Gettysburg, my knowledge about the Eisenhower family was a constellation of facts gleaned from textbooks. However, I left that day with a sense that General & Mrs. Eisenhower were simply parents who loved Christmastime, one another, and who made tremendous everyday sacrifices to serve our nation. In 4th grade, I had to learn the first few lines of the Gettysburg address. But, I didn’t really understand the events that inspired them. I surely could never imagine that I would be standing on the Gettysburg battlefield with Brigadier General Hal Nelson. When Ziad recited the Gettysburg Address at the National Cemetery, I think we were all moved. Although I was quite nervous to present General Nelson with a White House Fellows coin, I felt honored to do so with these words, “On behalf of the White House Fellows 2011-2012, and on this sacred ground, we would like to thank you for your sharing your time, energy, and wisdom.”



*Wizdom Powell,
Department of Defense*

When I was selected to join the 2011-2012 class, I knew intellectually that I would be spending the next year with 14 other extraordinary people. However, I was unprepared emotionally for the depth of bonding to my Fellows classmates I experienced during orientation week. We were asked to give presentations about our lives. I came prepared to talk mostly about my career path. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that we each decided to move beyond our resumes and bios. The openness displayed by the fellows inspired me to share more of myself. I am so grateful I did.

The orientation culminated in the Challenge Ropes Course. I might still be strapped into my bus seat if someone fully explained what the course would entail. With the support of my Fellows class, I confronted my fear of heights. I now know that if I had not shared openly, they would not have known how to support me during this course. This, I believe, was one of my most valuable orientation takeaways. When I confront placement challenges, I know I will remember Jennifer standing on the other side of a 20 ft. beam and shouting “walk towards me Wizdom,” Felice touching my shoulder and saying, “Wizdom, after what you have done in your life, this is nothing... you can do this.” When I look back on this year, I believe I will be most proud of the connections we dared to initiate.



Fellows on the Ropes Course

PLACEMENT UPDATE

My passion for public service and transformative social change grew out of listening to my parents' stories about what drove them to flee communist Cuba – freedom and opportunity in the U.S. Prior to being selected as a White House Fellow, I ran a nonprofit I co-founded called Roots of Hope, focused on youth empowerment in the U.S. and Cuba. As the son of exiles and a first generation American myself, I am truly humbled and honored to serve as a fellow in the White House Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs. Every day I am reminded how truly fortunate and blessed I am to serve in this awe-inspiring building and work under truly talented and transformational leaders.



*Felice Gorordo, Office of
Public Engagement and
Intergovernmental Affairs*

I can assert that the Fellowship is already proving to be one of the most defining personal and professional development experiences of my life. From the first day, I have had the unique opportunity to directly contribute to the Administration's engagement with diverse constituencies and state elected officials across the country. I kicked off my year with the launch of National Hispanic Heritage Month, and helped organize numerous briefings, events and meetings with key national, regional and local leaders on issues important to the Latino community. On the heels of a historic immigration announcement, I have also had the chance to learn both about public policy making and implementation. I have even had the great opportunity to staff the President, Vice President and other senior Administration officials – witnessing firsthand their leadership in action.



*The Fellows meet with
Cecilia Munoz*

Nevertheless, I feel that the greatest learning experiences for me have been a result of my weekly one-on-one meetings with my principal: Cecilia Munoz, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. In addition to staffing and working with Cecilia throughout the week, I am very thankful for how generous she is with her time to help me reflect and make the most of my Fellowship – sitting down for an uninterrupted half hour every week to discuss what I have learned or experienced. Cecilia's thoughtfulness and hands-on approach in my own continual development process have made all the difference in my placement. Drawing from these experiences and the invaluable lessons-learned, I aspire to be an accomplished public servant leader quick to respond to the needs of my community, and a social entrepreneur that cultivates innovative approaches to solving social challenges and problems.



*The White House Fellows
Class of 2011 – 2012
Orientation
Was Held in August 2011 in
Gettysburg, PA*

Special thanks to:

Susan Eisenhower, Jeffrey Blavatt, and the Eisenhower Institute for hosting the Class of 2011-2012 Orientation in Gettysburg, PA.

SERVICE PROJECT

WHF Community Service Kicks off with KaBoom!

At the White House Fellows opening retreat in Gettysburg, the 2011-12 Fellows class committed to finding meaningful ways to give back once a month to the greater Washington, D.C. community. These monthly service projects are designed not only to show gratitude for the opportunity to join the Fellowship, but also to reflect the diverse backgrounds, interests, and passions of our Fellows class.

As a class, we could think of no better way to honor the memory of those lost on 9/11 than to serve members of the military community. The response to 9/11 has placed a heavy burden on members of our armed forces and the families they leave behind during long deployments overseas.

On September 10, 2011 – in recognition of the sacrifices made by military families – we served alongside volunteers from Blue Star Families and KaBOOM! to build a playground for military kids at Fort Meade's Burba Park.



Blue Star Families, a national non-profit, was formed by a group of military spouses to raise awareness about the challenges of military family life across the country. They represent families from all branches of service, active duty, the National Guard, and Reserves. KaBOOM! is a national non-profit dedicated to saving play for America's children. Their mission is to create playspaces with community participation and they envision a place to play within walking distance of every child in America.

We started the late-summer morning with a military style warm-up and got to work turning an empty field in the heart of Fort Meade into a vibrant play space where military kids and families could gather and play. Our group of 15 Fellows (and one spouse) divided into groups of two or three to work alongside active duty service members, military spouses, volunteers from the community, and retirees under the skillful guidance of members of the KaBoom! staff.

Later in the morning, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta – recently returned from his trip to visit troops overseas – greeted the volunteers to thank them for serving and reflected on the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Following his remarks, the Secretary rolled up his sleeves to help put the finishing touches on the beautiful new playground.

The day was a success and paves the way for many more opportunities to give back over the coming year.



Tony Woods, Office of Personnel Management



Completed playground at Fort Meade

Policy Trip to Chicago and Detroit

This summer, the White House launched the Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) initiative in order to help the pilot cities leverage expertise in using federal assistance and forging public - private partnerships. Detroit, an SC2 city which has lost nearly sixty percent of its population in the last several decades, provided a unique opportunity to view many of the nation's current challenges in one locality. More importantly, Detroit introduced us to the leaders and citizens that are resolute in its revitalization. But before we would proceed to Detroit, we caught a glimpse of a striking counterbalance to Detroit in the highly-functional and desirable city five hours west by Interstate: Chicago.



*Ted Johnson,
Department of Energy*

The tone for Chicago was set in our first stop at the city's Millennium Park. This public space was a mammoth venture between the public sector and private donations and philanthropic contributions. In our meetings with members of the Pritzker family, the Steans Family Foundation, and Mayor Rahm Emanuel, the pride and love Chicagoans have for their city is infectious and on full display in the partnerships that have brought the city's most ambitious projects to fruition. And where government could not or would not act, whether at all or in a timely fashion, philanthropy filled the gap. Some of the most indigent and underperforming neighborhoods and school districts have been adopted by philanthropies and are making a difference at an accelerated pace not hindered by bureaucratic red tape.

This public-private partnership thread continued in Detroit. The city is revitalizing its Midtown district that promises to be a crown jewel in the Detroit of the future. It has begun constructing a public space river walk that spans the downtown corridor. Vacant downtown buildings and residential housing areas are largely addressed through private donations since banks remain stingy with lending. It became clear rather quickly that the future of Detroit will be forged by private dollars and public will.

The local government, while certainly working toward a brighter future, is mired in severe financial stress that accompanies loss of populace, high unemployment, expansive topography at nearly 140 square miles, and horrendous mismanagement. During our visit, Mayor David Bing delivered a tough speech to the city outlining the drastic measures that would have to be taken to ensure the city does not default on its obligations, an occurrence that could happen as early as next spring. This speech was the highlight of the trip as it made local government a tangible experience and accentuated the immediate impact it has on its citizens' daily life. Whereas private donors can embark on long-term projects that do not necessarily need to adhere to election cycles, the government does not have the luxury of spending large amounts of time on strategic vision when public transportation and street lights are barely operable.

If there is any part of the city worse off than its ledgers and violent crime rate, it is the education system. The entire school system was recently turned over to an Emergency Manager with vastly expanded powers to correct the systems' deficiencies. We met with this manager and additional staff from the city's education efforts who are trying to right the ship. The problem education faces in Detroit are not uncommon for urban areas in large cities – poverty, truancy, drop-outs, unstable families, poor test scores, and lack of sufficient early childhood education. But, the confluence and magnitude of these things has put Detroit into a crisis. However, we met with a group of diverse students, school administrators, and community leaders who reaffirmed the notion that the district can be saved.

No trip to Detroit would be complete without a visit to the institutions that inspired its nickname Motor City. We met with the President of the United Auto Workers union and the President and CEO of Ford Motor Company. Though these two men have vastly different political leanings, it was refreshing to hear they agreed on the importance of Detroit's revitalization, the courage of and necessity of President Obama's bailout of the US auto industry, and the necessity for seamless communication and compromise between the union and the automakers.

We capped our trip with a community service event with City Year Corps to renovate an abandoned, dilapidated building for use as a community art studio and entrepreneurial site. The students that constitute City Year Corps are a fresh and inspirational reminder that despite all the challenges faced, there is hope for the future.

CLASS OF 2010-2011 WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Samar Ali

Samar is currently living in Doha, Qatar working for the Department of Homeland Security under the direction of Secretary Napolitano on a project between Qatar and the U.S. that began toward the end of her Fellowship.

Pat A. Basu

Pat is the Chief Medical Officer of Virtual Radiologic Corporation and the President of the Virtual Radiology Physicians Practice. He received a University of Chicago Business School Distinguished Young Alumni Award.

R. Erich Caulfield

Erich has taken a position as the New Orleans Federal Team Lead for the Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) initiative. He is working closely with Mayor Landrieu's staff on a number of projects including: economic and workforce development; criminal justice; health and human services; sustainability; IT; and New Orleans operations.

Jason Dempsey

Jason is currently working in OMB on the President's veteran hiring and military family initiatives. In early 2012 Jason will report to the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky to lead a team that will be deployed to Afghanistan in the fall of next year to train and fight with the Afghan Army.

Harley Feldbaum

Harley is a Senior Public Health Policy Advisor at USAID and the State Department. He is also the soccer coach for his son's not quite award winning first grade Montgomery County Soccer team.

Thomas Fisher

Thomas is Vice President of Health Care Management at Health Care Service Corporation. He will also attend in the Emergency Department as a Clinical Associate at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

Holly Harrison

Holly returned to the Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC, to serve in the Office of Enterprise Strategic Management and Doctrine for the next few months. In the spring she will be headed to Portsmouth, VA as the Commanding Officer of USCGC NORTHLAND.

Erica Jeffries

Erica wrapped up a 90 day extension at the Environmental Protection Agency where she worked on an international initiative on urban sustainability in Rio, Brazil. Erica will be taking on new challenges in the finance industry beginning early next year.

Jeffrey Prescott

After a 90 day extension, Vice President Biden hired Jeffrey to remain on staff working on policy.

Kubby Rashid

Kubby returned to her job at Gallaudet University and in early October she and three other faculty members were interviewed on the Kojo Nnamdi show about their work helping deaf people in developing countries.

Sunny Ramchandani

Sunny is stationed at Naval Medical Center San Diego and is working as an internist.

Rachel Thornton

Rachel rejoined the faculty at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor and will continue work with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in an advisory capacity



STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sophie Kim, Special Assistant to the Director

Sophie is responsible for coordinating the Education Program and supporting the work of the Director and the Commissioners. She officially joined the staff in mid-August after serving as a White House intern this past summer. Sophie has previously worked as a policy consultant in the California State Legislature. She holds an M.P.P. from Georgetown University and a B.A. in political science from Wellesley College.



Patrick Rodenbush, Communications Associate

Patrick is responsible for communications and outreach for the WHF Program. He previously worked at the Democratic National Committee and in the United States Senate. He holds a B.A. from Holy Cross.

Interns

We'd like to thank Deborah Chesser and Sam Moss, our fall interns, for all of their hard work in the office and we'd like to welcome Deborah Kobrin and Fatimeh Shamseddine, who will be joining our office as interns for the winter and spring.

WHF 2011-2012 EDUCATION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Speakers

Susan Eisenhower, The Eisenhower Group
Jay Carney, White House Press Secretary
Chris Lu, Cabinet Secretary
Richard Wolffe, MSNBC Commentator
Cecilia Munoz, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
Tony Blinken, National Security Advisor to the Vice President
Governor Jack Markell, Governor of Delaware
David Sanger, New York Times
General Colin Powell
Administrator Charles Bolden, NASA
Melody Barnes, Director of the Domestic Policy Council
John Podesta and Judge Richard Leon
Senator Tom Daschle
E.J. Dionne, Washington Post
Secretary Kathleen Sebelius
Ben Hecht, President & CEO of Living Cities
Thomas Friedman, New York Times
Justice Stephen Breyer
Secretary Ray LaHood
Valerie Jarrett, Asst. to President and Senior Advisor
Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
Tom Brokaw and David Gregory, Meet the Press
Secretary Shaun Donovan
Secretary Steven Chu
Administrator Rajiv Shah, USAID
Secretary Elaine Chao, Heritage Foundation
Bob Woodward, Washington Post
First Lady Michelle Obama

Service Projects

9/11 Service Project with KaBoom!
Gleaning with the Washington Area
Gleaning Network and Capital Area Food Bank
Motor City Blight Busters and City Year Detroit
School Pantry Program at Garrison Elementary in D.C.

Events

White House Fellows Orientation in Gettysburg, PA
Welcome Reception at John Phillip's House
47th Annual Alumni Leadership Conference
Supreme Court Visit
White House Holiday Party
Republic of South Korea State Arrival Ceremony

Domestic Policy Trip

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of Chicago
Austan Goolsbee, Former Chief Economist of the Council of Economic Advisers
Mayor Dave Bing, Mayor of Detroit
Roy Roberts, Emergency Manager, Detroit Public Schools
John Covington, Superintendent, Michigan Education Achievement Authority
Bill Vlasic, Detroit Bureau Chief of the New York Times
Matthew Cullen, QuickenLoans
Bob King, President of the United Auto Workers
Alan Mulally, President & CEO, Ford Motor Company
Governor Rick Snyder, Governor of Michigan

HOW YOU CAN STAY INVOLVED

Help Recruit the 2012-2013 Class of White House Fellows

Do you know an emerging leader who is dedicated to public service? Someone who would benefit from the experience of the White House Fellowship?

Applications for the White House Fellowship are currently available online at www.wh.gov/about/fellows/2012-2013-applications and the deadline to submit is January 13, 2012 at 5:59PM ET.

You can learn more about the program from a recent live chat with Cindy Moelis, Director of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships, and two former Fellows at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2011/11/10/open-questions-white-house-fellows> or you can visit the White House Fellows website at www.wh.gov/about/fellows.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email the program office at whitehousefellows@whf.eop.gov.

Reading Applications

Please volunteer to host and/or participate in a reading group. This year's applications are due January 13, 2012. We are hoping to have alumni reading groups scheduled throughout the month of February. Your active participation is essential to maintaining the rich legacy of the program. Reading groups are also a fun way to reconnect with WHF alumni. If you are interested in helping, please email Erika Henderson, at ehenderson@whf.eop.gov

About the White House Fellows Program

Founded by President Johnson in 1964, the non-partisan White House Fellows Program offers exceptional young leaders first-hand experience working at the highest levels of the Federal government.

Criteria for Selection

- ❖ A record of remarkable professional achievement early in one's career.
- ❖ Evidence of leadership skills and potential for growth.
- ❖ A demonstrated commitment to public service.
- ❖ The knowledge and skills necessary to contribute successfully at the highest levels of the Federal Government.

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 communications to
WhiteHouseFellows@whf.eop.gov*