NEW HAMPSHIRE ROAD TRIP!

With the 2012 Republican presidential primary race in high gear this fall, students packed buses to nearby New Hampshire to meet presidential candidates as the IOP conducted timely younger voter public opinion research in Iowa and the Granite State.
The 2012 election cycle is in high gear, and the past six months have been fast-paced at the Institute. As you will note in this newsletter, the IOP has been at the forefront of election and campaign-related programming, with events, conferences and younger voter research unavailable anywhere else.

One of my biggest goals since beginning service as the Institute’s Director has been to improve how the IOP utilizes technology – in an effort to maximize efficiency internally and best distribute and share our content externally to audiences interested in politics and public service.

Toward this end, we are very pleased this month to unveil the new online home for John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum programming at www.jfkjrforum.org (see feature on next page). The new microsite not only has a state-of-the-art design but also can broadcast Forum programming in a format allowing Forum events to be streamed live or viewed later on any computer or device, including iPads and iPhones. We are also hard at work building a new IOP-wide website – scheduled to be completed next fall – which improves our current website layout and better integrates key online content from Institute students and student publications like the Harvard Political Review.

Our fall semester focused on the January 2012 New Hampshire Presidential primary and Iowa caucuses, which included Resident Fellow and undergraduate trips to the Granite State to meet presidential candidates; polling and focus group research conducted with Saint Anselm College on likely voters in the New Hampshire Primary; and organizing a joint focus group on Iowa Millennials with Simpson College’s Culver Public Policy Center. November was marked by a special ceremony in the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum as IOP Senior Advisory Committee Chair Caroline Kennedy presented the eighth annual John F. Kennedy New Frontier Awards to Luke Ravenstahl, mayor of Pittsburgh, PA, and Jennifer Staple-Clark, founder and chief executive officer of Unite for Sight. Finally, in December the Institute released a new national poll on the political views of America’s 18- to 29-year-olds and hosted its biennial program for newly elected mayors, featuring participation by over twenty new city leaders.

Please visit our homepage at www.iop.harvard.edu to learn more about our programming and to sign up for our weekly e-newsletter – sent on Fridays during the semester – featuring recent photos and information on upcoming IOP events.

Working together with staff, students and our University colleagues to promote politics and public service is always exciting – especially as we enter 2012. I hope to see you this spring. Thanks again for your interest in the IOP.

Trey Grayson
Treasure Trove
The John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum’s expansive event library revitalized on cutting-edge platform with social sharing tools

A priority for the Institute this fall was the creation and completion of a new website housing searchable and downloadable John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum event content. The new microsite, available at www.jfkjrforum.org – designed and developed in collaboration with ISITE Design – is the first product of an ongoing effort to rethink and revitalize the Institute’s entire online presence.

The Forum’s new online home will allow visitors to fully enjoy over three decades of event programming, now offered in a format compatible for live streaming and downloadable to any device. Understanding the Forum’s remarkably rich and topical content can help inform ongoing political discussions throughout the blogosphere, the new microsite allows users to connect using social media and share commentary on Forum events.

Key features of the microsite include:

- A rich, responsive user experience capable of reaching the widest possible audience across desktops, laptops and mobile devices
- A modern, elegant and dignified interface befitting the JFK Jr. Forum
- Improved quality and delivery of both archived video content and live streamed video
- Enriched interactivity for online Forum attendees
- Integrated social media, extending the conversation to the online space
- Construction on the popular Drupal Web content management platform and the flexible and user-friendly Kaltura higher education video delivery system

The new microsite’s successful utilization of social networking allows visitors to share, bookmark and comment on Forum videos in a variety of ways – including the opportunity to embed on blogs and social networks – integrating Forum conversations with today’s ever-changing political discourse and extending the Forum’s reach far beyond the venue’s stage.

The Institute is confident the new website for the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum will enhance online political and public service discussion and ensure the Forum’s expansive content library is fully accessible for today’s generation and beyond.
Peter Buttigieg ’04, a past president of the IOP’s Student Advisory Committee, ran successfully for mayor of South Bend, IN, last fall. He was interviewed during his December participation in the IOP’s biennial Seminar on Transition and Leadership for Newly Elected Mayors, a three-day seminar on leadership and the issues new city leaders will face.

How did your experiences as a member of the IOP’s Student Advisory Committee inspire you to consider a public service career?

Being at the IOP was incredibly inspiring, being exposed to so many leaders of the present day and also historically. One memory I have is watching the movie “Thirteen Days” with Ted Sorensen and Robert McNamara in the room and having a chance to hear firsthand about some of the most consequential crisis management decisions ever made. There’s no way you wouldn’t be inspired, I think, to be involved in public service and want to have an impact. I don’t think my trajectory would have been the same if it weren’t for the IOP.

You’re elected mayor seven years after graduating. How can young people emulate your fast-track to elected office?

It’s amazing to think that I’m here as a newly elected mayor, when fewer than eight years ago I was a student volunteer at this very conference. The best advice I can give is to think about what results you want to achieve, before you think about what kind of job title you’d like to have. Being a mayor, or holding this or that elected office, is much less meaningful than what you can accomplish in your career. Opportunities to run for office come about as a mix of timing, effort, support, and chance; they are hard to predict. What you can predict is your commitment to certain issues. In my case, I really wanted my hometown to prosper, and being mayor is my shot at helping South Bend to prosper. Looking back later, I’ll care much more about whether I succeeded in that purpose than about the fact of having held the job title of mayor. I think if talented and motivated students at the IOP focus first on what contributions they want to make...then getting the right job title will sort itself out.

What are your goals for the city in your first term?

I ran because we need to have a new economic direction. Mine is one of those midwestern cities struggling to think about what we are going to be now that the auto industry isn’t part of our fabric as it used to be. That doesn’t mean we are done with manufacturing; we can succeed with manufacturing as part of the answer, but we have to be smarter about it and use our assets like the river and our universities. I also want us to be a safer city and have the best possible education, and a more connected city – one that reaches out to other cities in the region and the rest of the world. Lastly, I think we have to have cost-effective, efficient and transparent city services – that’s so important for citizens’ ability to feel like their government is looking out for them. Being here at Harvard is a great chance to pick up techniques, tactics and ideas on how to meet that goal.
Producing events and research focused on the 2012 Republican presidential primaries and caucuses — particularly around the first-in-the-nation New Hampshire primary and Iowa caucuses — was a key Institute priority this fall.

In this effort, the IOP conducted public opinion research with the New Hampshire Institute of Politics (NHIOP) at Saint Anselm College and Culver Public Policy Center at Simpson College, both partner schools within the IOP National Campaign for Political and Civic Engagement, a consortium of twenty-three colleges and universities committed to creating politically and civically engaged campuses. All IOP political research is available online at http://bit.ly/IOPResearch.

Responding to strong Harvard undergraduate interest in observing and tracking presidential campaign activity in nearby New Hampshire, the IOP’s student survey group members and polling director John Della Volpe joined with the NHIOP in conducting a September focus group with Granite State Millennials and an October polling effort exploring the political views of likely voters in the New Hampshire Republican primary.

As the Institute has been examining the political beliefs of America’s young adults for over ten years, research efforts focused on the political views of the Granite State electorate included a particular emphasis on examining the key younger voter demographic. Released one day prior to the October presidential debate at Dartmouth College, the IOP’s poll was covered extensively by local and national media outlets, including the Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, CBS News, Fox News, Politico, CNN, Time, Slate, The Hill, Roll Call and dozens of other news organizations. IOP Director Trey Grayson (Fox 25 Boston) and Polling Director John Della Volpe (New England Cable News) both appeared on primetime local television to discuss the poll’s findings.

In December, the Institute was pleased to collaborate with the Culver Public Policy Center to conduct focus groups with Republican and Democratic Iowa Millennials (18- to 29-year-olds), again just days before a major Republican presidential debate in the same state. The insightful research sessions explored Millennials’ perspective on the upcoming Iowa caucuses and generated news coverage in key media outlets including ABC News.

Finally, IOP fall Resident Fellows did an excellent job of integrating eager Harvard students into the frenetic and exciting presidential campaign atmosphere and activity in New Hampshire. Fellows Linda Moore Forbes, Christina Bellantoni and Steve Grand organized several bus trips for dozens of undergraduates to the Granite State for tours of major political spots and visits to presidential campaign offices. The Fellows also helped arrange New Hampshire meetings between students and a number of Republican presidential candidates throughout the semester (see photos at right).
In late November, John F. Kennedy Library Foundation President and IOP Senior Advisory Committee Chair Caroline Kennedy presented the eighth annual John F. Kennedy New Frontier Awards to Luke Ravenstahl, mayor of Pittsburgh, PA, and Jennifer Staple-Clark, founder and chief executive officer of Unite for Sight, in an evening ceremony in the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum.

The John F. Kennedy New Frontier Awards were created by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation and the Institute to honor Americans under the age of 40 who are changing their communities and the country with their commitment to public service. The awards are presented annually to two exceptional individuals whose contributions in elective office, community service, or advocacy demonstrate the impact and the value of public service in the spirit of John F. Kennedy.

“In a time of great economic challenge, Luke Ravenstahl is helping to lead the transformation of Pittsburgh’s economy to create a sustainable future for all its citizens. Jennifer Staple-Clark is mobilizing thousands of ordinary people all over the world to conquer the problem of unnecessary blindness,” said Caroline Kennedy. “They both are inspiring public servants who exemplify my father’s belief that every person can make a difference.”

In 2003, at the age of 23, Luke Ravenstahl became the youngest person ever elected to the Pittsburgh City Council, going on to serve as president of the Council in 2005. Ten months later, after the untimely death of then-mayor Bob O’Connor, Ravenstahl was sworn in as Pittsburgh’s 58th mayor at 26 years old when Pittsburgh was on the brink of bankruptcy. Through 2010, Pittsburgh posted a year-end surplus in each of the four consecutive years after Ravenstahl took office, and the city has improved its bond rating several times since his election. Ravenstahl has supported key reforms in Pittsburgh’s public schools, including a landmark $40 million grant from the Gates Foundation aimed at maximizing teacher effectiveness and announced plans in 2010 to increase the city’s sustainability by encouraging residents to follow “green” practices outlined in a city-provided guidebook.

In 2000, then a 19-year-old college sophomore, Jennifer Staple-Clark took a summer work position as a clinical researcher of glaucoma in the office of her childhood ophthalmologist in New Haven, CT. Shocked by the scores of low-income and homeless patients whose glaucoma had needlessly progressed into blindness, she created Unite for Sight and began sending college volunteers into the New Haven community to educate people about the importance of regular eye exams and the availability of free screening programs. Today, Unite for Sight supports over 1,000 volunteers in more than 50 university chapters throughout North America, each of whom serves as a community advocate for underserved patients. To date, Unite for Sight has provided eye care for more than 1.2 million people, including nearly 50,000 sight-restoring surgeries.
ECONOMIC FOCUS
America’s economic challenges were front and center throughout the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum’s fall calendar of events. October Forum events explored the “Occupy” movement (“We are the 99%: From Frustration to Occupation”), reasons behind the ongoing economic downturn (“Financial Crisis déjá-vu”) as well as activist Van Jones’ ideas on how to stop it (“Rebuild the Dream: the Next American Economy”). U.S. representative (D-MA) Barney Frank spoke to a Nov. 9 Forum audience on “The Deficit, the Pentagon and the Quality of Life in America,” and a Dec. 1 panel covered the persistent “Challenge of Growing Inequality.” Two endowed lectures late in the semester brought top experts in the field to the Forum: Internal Revenue Service Commissioner Douglas Shulman (2011 Glauber Lecture: “Making the Tax System Work for All of Us”) and World Bank president Robert Zoellick (2011 Robert McNamara Lecture on War and Peace).

THE MEDIA AND POLITICS
A reporter’s perspective on politics is frequently represented throughout Forum programming. A series of Forum events marking the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks included a retrospective from the media’s standpoint, “Reporting from a Transformed America: Echoes of 9/11,” featuring IOP Senior Advisory Committee member and New York Times assistant managing editor Rick Berke. The Daily Beast’s Andrew Sullivan delivered the T.H. White Lecture in the Forum on the conservative movement today: “Conservatism and its Discontents.” Other Forums with a media and politics focus included a look at the PBS series Women, War and Peace and “Campaign 2012: How Americans Will Select Their Next President.”

DOMESTIC ISSUES
The Forum’s fall domestic affairs calendar began on Aug. 31 with a call to “Ask What You Can Do: Inspiring Public Service” moderated by HKS Dean David Ellwood. Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich packed the house for a frank discussion with IOP Director Trey Grayson on Nov. 18, an appearance well-timed with his ascension in national polls that month. Other Forum events looking at American politics featuring IOP fall Fellows (“The Politics of Polarization: Perspectives from D.C. and Beyond”), Visiting Fellows (A Conversation with Ed Rendell) and former IOP Directors (“Civility in Politics: Is There Hope?”) were popular events.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
International and foreign affairs were also hot topics this fall. A September Forum event ventured “Inside the Arab Awakening” to explore the dramatic grassroots uprisings and events which captivated the world in 2011. Later that month, Sebastián Piñera, president of Chile, addressed a capacity Forum crowd on “The Chilean Path to Development.” Other internationally focused Forum events included appearances by Council of Foreign Relations president Dr. Richard Haass, International Criminal Court prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo, Hong Kong CEO Donald Tsang, and a panel discussion on “How Deng Xiaoping Remade China.”
**Millennials Poll**

Latest national survey of 18- to 29-year-olds’ political views reveals key insights on 2012 presidential race

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**Release of the IOP Survey Project’s 20th Poll**

In mid-December, the Institute released its latest national poll of the political views of America’s Millennials and revealed young adults’ perceptions of President Barack Obama’s job performance, the Republican presidential candidate field and thoughts on the “Occupy Wall Street” demonstrations.

“Our new polling data clearly shows Millennials are growing more concerned over the direction of the country and effectiveness of Washington, D.C., to solve problems,” said IOP Director Trey Grayson. “The opportunity exists for all political parties and campaigns to re-engage this generation – those who do can maximize results in 2012.”

“While we are more than a year away – it’s important to note that with enthusiasm about politics and Washington down and nearly three-quarters of Millennials seriously concerned about jobs and the economy – and more believing that the president that they helped elect will lose, rather than win re-election – this survey may well serve as an ominous sign for Barack Obama’s 2012 chances and the political engagement of America’s largest generation,” said IOP Polling Director John Della Volpe.

The IOP’s polling team discussed the poll’s findings during a Dec. 15 conference call with over two dozen major media sources. The week of the data’s release, IOP Polling Director Della Volpe appeared on Fox News’ O’Reilly Factor, MSNBC’s Dylan Ratigan show and also joined IOP Director Grayson on New England Cable News’ Broadside program to discuss the findings in detail. The poll’s findings were covered by USA Today, the Washington Post, CNN, Bloomberg News, Reuters, The Hill, PBS’ NewsHour program, U.S. News and World Report, the Chronicle of Higher Education, WBZ television and radio, and other local and national outlets.

A summary of the poll’s major findings:

- **Plurality of Millennials predict Obama will lose bid for re-election.** Among all 18- to 29-year-olds, more believe that Barack Obama will lose re-election (36%) than win (30%), with almost a third (32%) not sure – the margin is nearly identical among students enrolled in four-year colleges (37%; lose, 31%; win, 31%; not sure). Among survey respondents who voted for Barack Obama in 2008, less than half (48%) believe he will win re-election at this time (19% say Obama will lose, with 33% undecided).

- **Mitt Romney leads among young Republican primary and caucus goers.** Among young Republican and Independents indicating they are at least somewhat likely (definitely, probably or 50–50) to vote in their state’s primary or caucus (n=637), Mitt Romney leads the field with 23 percent, followed by Ron Paul (16%), Herman Cain (15%) and Newt Gingrich (13%). Examination and allocation of Cain supporters’ second-choice selections for president shows Romney would...
continue to lead (25%) among Millennials with Cain out of the race, with Ron Paul (18%) and Newt Gingrich (17%) in a statistical tie for second place (Herman Cain suspended his campaign on Dec. 3, the final day of the interviewing period for the IOP’s fall poll).

- Approximately one-third of younger voters following “Occupy” movement; less than one-in-four supportive. Thirty-two percent of 18- to 29-year-olds say they followed the “Occupy Wall Street” demonstrations either very (6%) or somewhat closely (26%), with 66% saying they were not following the demonstrations closely. Twenty-one percent (21%) of Millennials say they supported the “Occupy” movement, with one-third (33%) not supportive and 46% either unsure or refused to answer.

- Job approval ratings continue to slide for President Obama as well as Democrats and Republicans in Congress. President Obama’s job performance rating among America’s 18- to 29-year-olds is currently at the lowest point since IOP polling of the Obama administration began in the fall of 2009. Forty-six percent (46%) of Millennials approve of the job Obama is doing as president – a decrease of nine percentage points from Feb. 2011 IOP polling (55%) – with 51% saying they disapprove. Obama’s job approval has also fallen among college students, from 60% in February to 48% today. Views toward Democrats (33% approval; down from 45% in February) and Republicans in Congress (24% approval; down from 30% in February) have also slipped significantly over the same period.

- In 2012 preview, Barack Obama holds moderate lead over “generic” Republican, but is ahead of potential Republican challengers by double digits. With the general election less than one year away, Barack Obama leads a matchup against “the Republican Party’s candidate for president” by six percentage points (35%–29%), a smaller margin than found in February IOP polling (twelve percentage points; Obama: 38%-Republican: 26%). On college campuses, the matchup is a statistical dead heat (Obama: 37%–Republican: 34%). When Obama is matched against specific candidates, he leads Mitt Romney by eleven percentage points (37%–26%) and Newt Gingrich and Rick Perry (39%–23%) by sixteen percentage points.

- By a margin of more than 4–1, Millennials believe U.S. is headed in wrong direction. Only twelve percent (12%) of young Americans believe things are “headed in the right direction,” with fifty-two percent (52%) saying things are “off on the wrong track,” a more pessimistic view than identified in February 2011 IOP polling (20 percent: “right direction,” 39 percent: “wrong track”). Importantly, less than one-third (32%) of 18- to 29-year-olds approve of the way that President Obama is handling the economy, a ten percentage point drop since February (42%).

Harvard students designed the poll in consultation with IOP Polling Director John Della Volpe, whose firm SocialSphere, Inc. commissioned Knowledge Networks to conduct the survey. Complete results are available – along with past surveys – online at www.iop.harvard.edu.
The IOP’s fall Resident Fellows were a top draw on Harvard’s campus all semester long and highly sought after by both undergraduate and graduate students as speakers, mentors and counselors.

The Institute’s fall Fellows came to Cambridge to lead not-for-credit study groups based upon their diverse professional experience in campaigns and presidential politics, banking and lobbying, international politics, policymaking, and the news media. Fellows also made themselves available to student groups across the Harvard campus and participated in many events outside of the regularly scheduled IOP study groups. Several Fellows even offered additional programming for the undergraduate community, including instructional workshops led by Diane Casey-Landry (writing and communications), Tad Devine and Steve Grand (political advertising) and Christina Bellantoni (conducting media interviews).

Just some of the Fellows’ popular guests appearing in weekly discussion groups this semester included David Axelrod, senior strategist for President Barack Obama (below right, with fall Resident Fellow Linda Moore Forbes and students); Rich Beeson, political director, Romney for President; Tucker Carlson, editor-in-chief, the Daily Caller (via Skype); Robert Davis, executive vice president for government relations, American Bankers Association (via videoconference); Seán Dorgan, general secretary, Fianna Fáil; John Dugan, immediate past comptroller of the currency; Michael Grimm, U.S. representative (R-NY); Dr. Faith Harding, former candidate for president of Guyana (via videoconference); Peter Hart, pollster for NBC News and the Wall Street Journal; Valerie Jewett, director of federal affairs, PhRMA; Steven Law, president, American Crossroads; Brett Loper, policy director, U.S. House speaker John Boehner; Mark McKinnon, media strategist and founding member of “No Labels” and “Americans Elect;” Neil Newhouse, pollster and campaign strategist to Mitt Romney and Scott Brown (below center with fall Resident Fellow Steve Grand); Tracy Selk, Democratic consultant; Bob Shrum, veteran speechwriter, campaign strategist and senior fellow, New York University; Michael Steele, former Republican National Committee chairman (below left with fall Resident Fellow Christina Bellantoni); and Elizabeth Vale, external affairs director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
This fall, the Institute selected a strong group of Visiting Fellows and a Special Guest, all of whom joined the Institute for a week and maximized their time meeting with students, faculty and Harvard research center staff. Fall Visiting Fellows included Ed Rendell, two-term Pennsylvania governor (2003–11) and Tim Roemer, U.S. ambassador to the Republic of India (2009–11). The semester’s Special Guest was David Muir, former senior advisor to U.K. Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Although former Chicago, IL, mayor (1989–2011) Richard M. Daley was unable to serve as a Visiting Fellow this semester as planned, the Institute is hopeful he will be able to join the IOP at another time in the future.

Ambassador Tim Roemer (see photo top right) served as a Visiting Fellow during the week of October 3 and focused on meeting with as many students and faculty across the University as possible. As a former high-level diplomat to India, Roemer enjoyed meeting with Harvard President Drew Faust to brief her before she embarked to the country on behalf of the University.

Governor Edward Rendell’s fellowship with the Institute occurred the week of October 10. His stay was highlighted by his participation in two well-attended events in the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum: a frank political conversation with IOP Director Trey Grayson and a timely panel discussion exploring the impact of the “Occupy” movement. Rendell also met with countless numbers of students from the College and University’s graduate schools. Grayson was also able to coordinate inspirational speaking appearances by the governor with the Harvard football team (at right, center) as well as with basketball coach Tommy Amaker and his undergraduate squad.

Special guest David Muir joined the Institute the following week and offered a unique and timely point of view on the European financial crisis. Muir skillfully conducted a study group on the “Crisis of the Euro Zone,” participated in a John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum event on the same topic (at right, bottom) and engaged with the graduate and undergraduate community throughout his stay.

Each visit by such high-profile public servants allowed the Institute to effectively reach out to dozens of students not traditionally engaged in IOP programming. Visiting Fellows also helped IOP campus outreach efforts by fielding interview requests from a variety of student publications, including the Harvard Crimson, the Harvard Political Review, and Harvard Kennedy School’s student newspaper, the Citizen.

Former Fellows: If you have interest in continuing to engage with the IOP and its students or would like to suggest a fellowship candidate, please do not hesitate to contact IOP Fellows & Study Groups Program Director Eric Andersen at 617-495-1360 or eric_andersen@harvard.edu.
Mayoral Meeting
Over twenty new city leaders gather for IOP leadership seminar

This past November, two dozen newly elected big city mayors from across the United States gathered at the Institute for the 19th Seminar on Transition and Leadership for Newly Elected Mayors. The biennial conference is co-hosted by the IOP and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The Institute introduces recently elected mayors to the perspectives of current successful mayors and others who have dealt with the challenges of governing in the complex environment of urban politics. The new city leaders are given access to the most respected thinkers and practitioners in the public policy arena and provided the opportunity to become acquainted in a relaxed setting with colleagues from across the country.

The Institute was thrilled to welcome back four new mayors with Harvard ties, including Peter Buttigieg ’04, mayor-elect of South Bend, IN. Joining Buttigieg were Angel Taveras ’92, Providence, RI; Karen Freeman-Wilson ’82, Gary, IN; and Portland, Maine’s Michael Brennan, a participant of the Harvard Kennedy School’s Senior Executives in State and Local Government program in 2004.

Joining the Harvard alumni were (alphabetically by city): Marc Williams, Arvada, CO; Kim McMillan, Clarksville, TN; Teresa Pike Tomlinson, Columbus, GA; Michael Hancock, Denver, CO; Aquanetta Warren, Fontana, CA; Alex Morse, Holyoke, MA; Sly James, Kansas City, MO; Madeline Rogero, Knoxville, TN; Chase Ritenauer, Lorain, OH; Greg Fischer, Louisville, KY; Mike Caldwell, Ogden, UT; Owen Henry, Old Bridge Township, NJ; Timothy DeGeeter, Parma, OH; Vaughn Spencer, Reading, PA; Dan Rizzo, Revere, MA; David Condon, Spokane, WA; Sharon Wolcott, Surprise, AZ; Bob Buckhorn, Tampa, FL; and Heidi Williams, Thornton, CO.

The new mayors were joined in discussion with some of the country’s best long-serving mayors, including Joseph Curtatone, Somerville, MA; Walter Maddox, Tuscaloosa, AL; Thomas Menino, Boston, MA; Michael Nutter, Philadelphia, PA; and Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Baltimore, MD.

Other officials who spoke to the newly elected mayors at the seminar included David Agnew, White House intergovernmental affairs deputy director; David Cicilline, U.S. representative (D, RI-01) and former Providence, RI, mayor; HKS Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management executive director Christine Cole; Harvard University’s president emeritus Larry Summers; and HKS senior associate dean for strategic program development Peter Zimmerman.

“Summer in Washington” (SIW) program for Director’s Interns in D.C. offers students dozens of exciting events with political power brokers.

“After participating in the IOP’s Summer in Washington program for two years, I have met not only amazing political leaders but also other Harvard students working in different areas all across D.C. From lunch with Elaine Chao to breakfast with U.S. Senator Scott Brown and BBQs with fellow students, each and every SIW event provides another exciting opportunity to make use of the amazing resources in D.C. and have some fun. By expanding the scope of my summers beyond my internship, SIW has made what already were great summers absolutely exceptional.”

-Derek Bekebrede ’13, IOP Director’s Intern, the Heritage Foundation

“The Summer in Washington program could be described as a lifetime of internships packed into one summer. Living in Washington, D.C., as a student is always exciting, but as the 2011 SIW coordinator, I had the opportunity to take a peek at the many professions available in the D.C. area and see important issues, like the debt ceiling, discussed on all levels both public and private. Every week, I had the chance to meet new and interesting people, including my fellow students, alumni, IOP Fellows (future and former) and a large array of Washington professionals. It was an incredibly informative experience to meet with congressmen, lobbyists, journalists and activists. I don’t think I truly understood the breadth of what “public service” encompasses and its importance until I had this wonderful opportunity.”

-Jenise Ogle ’12, IOP Summer in Washington Student Coordinator

“My Washington, D.C., summer was transformed by the opportunities I received through SIW. I developed a deep understanding of what it means to live and work in politics and in Washington, which has been helpful in moving forward with post-college plans.”

-Leah Reis-Dennis, ’13 IOP Director’s Intern, EMILY’s List

“The IOP’s Summer in Washington is an incredible program that turned my summer into one that I’ll never forget. After meeting Fellows from the past and present, watching a taping of NBC’s Meet The Press, and interacting with the numerous other students in the program, I hope I will have the opportunity to participate in SIW once again. There is nothing like spending a summer in the nation’s capital with a countless number of Harvard students, opportunities and unforgettable experiences.”

-Eric Cervini ’14, IOP Director’s Intern, Democratic Governors Association
IOP News Briefs
Institute remembers Milt Gwirtzman; National Campaign and Career Services go “2.0”; Fall Fellows gather for Grant Street Thanksgiving

IOP SADDENED BY PASSING OF LONGTIME INSTITUTE ADVISOR MILT GWIRTMAN
Longtime Kennedy family political advisor, aide and dedicated IOP Senior Advisory Committee member Milt Gwirtzman passed away on July 23. A constant fixture at Institute board meetings for over three decades, Gwirtzman was never too busy to speak to and counsel undergraduates and will be remembered as one of the most tireless and engaged stewards of the Institute, created as a living memorial to President John F. Kennedy. Harvard students may best remember Gwirtzman for graciously hosting a reception at his home each summer for IOP undergraduates interning in Washington, D.C. (see top corner photo). Major local and national media outlets published lengthy obituaries on Gwirtzman’s many accomplishments in politics and public service, including a touching piece in the New York Times (http://nyti.ms/rjzysD).

FELLOWS HOLD FIRST-EVER GRANT STREET THANKSGIVING
IOP fall Fellows Steve Grand and Christina Bellantoni hosted the first-ever Fellows Thanksgiving at the IOP’s Grant Street apartments, where Institute Fellows live in residence throughout the semester (see photo at left). Twenty-five of the Fellows’ friends and family attended the celebratory meal, where delicious home-cooked Thanksgiving food was the main attraction — event participants even contemplated starting an “Occu-PIE” movement in light of the seven freshly-baked pies on the table. Special thanks is also due to fall Fellows Linda Moore Forbes and Diane Casey-Landry, who offered use of Grant Street ovens and chairs.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN PUTS VOTER REGISTRATION IN “TURBO”
This summer, the Institute’s National Campaign for Political and Civic Engagement contracted with a Harvard Kennedy School alum-led company, “TurboVote,” to more seamlessly register students to vote and request absentee ballots — completely online. The Institute used the technology at the early September Harvard freshman voter registration drive (at left), which generated lengthy features in Harvard Magazine and the Harvard Crimson.

NEW JOBS AND INTERNSHIPS DATABASE HELPING CAREER SERVICES PROMOTE PUBLIC SERVICE
The IOP Office of Career Services launched its new Job and Internship Database for Harvard undergraduates and recent alums this fall, now available at www.harvardiop-csm.symplicity.com. The database focuses on listing positions in federal, state and local governments, think tanks, research and policymaking entities, campaigns, political journalism and advocacy organizations. Students can access the database to sign up for upcoming IOP-sponsored workshops, recruiting seminars and career fairs, career roundtables and evening events, like the IOP’s Sept. 26 dinner conversation on foreign service with U.S. State Department recruitment and outreach officer Kathleen Eagen (see photo at left). Employers can also access the database to post public service jobs or internship opportunities.
Christina Bellantoni (Fall 2011 Fellow) has joined PBS’ *NewsHour* program as political editor.

Rick Berke (IOP Senior Advisory Committee) is serving as an assistant managing editor at the *New York Times*.

Anurima Bhargava (SAC 1996) is the chief of the Educational Opportunities Section of the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division.

Sarah Bianchi (IOP Senior Advisory Committee) is deputy assistant to President Obama and chief economic advisor to Vice President Biden.

Sylvia Mathews Burwell (Spring 2001 Visiting Fellow) is serving as president of the Walmart Foundation.

Joe Cari (Fall 2001 Fellow) is the CEO of Integration Capital & Trade.

Stephanie Cutter (Fall 2009 Fellow) is now a deputy campaign manager for the Obama for America Campaign.

Mario Draghi (Fall 2001 Visiting Fellow) is the president of the European Central Bank.

Daniel Dunay (SAC 2006) was recently elected president of the Fair Lawn Republican Club in Fair Lawn, NJ.

Al Felzenberg (Spring 2006 Fellow) is director of strategic communications (Republican) for the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress.

Jonathan Gould (SAC 2010) is pursuing a joint JD-PhD degree at Harvard Law School and Harvard University.

Mark Isaacson (SAC 2011) is now serving as a speechwriter at the Republican National Committee.

Christopher Kirchhoff (SAC 2001) has been named a special assistant to General and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey.

Caitlin Monahan (SAC 2006) is an associate in the Boston office of WilmerHale.

Ellen Qualls (Spring 2011 Fellow) is the director of surrogate and allied group outreach for the Democratic National Committee.

Aneesh Raman (SAC 2001) is a presidential speechwriter at the White House.

Noelia Rodriguez (Fall 2007 Fellow; IOP John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum Director) has been named to the inaugural Viva Broadway Advisory Board, an effort aiming to bridge the world of Broadway with Hispanic audiences across the country.

Tim Roemer (Fall 2011 Visiting Fellow) recently joined APCO Worldwide as senior vice president in the company's Washington, D.C., office.

Elise Stefanik (SAC 2006) has joined the Foreign Policy Initiative as director of communications and external affairs.

Jane Swift (Spring 2003 Fellow) is CEO of Middlebury Interactive Languages.

Caitlin Talmadge (SAC 2003) is now an assistant professor of political science and international affairs at George Washington University.

Zeeshan Zaidi (SAC 1996) is a performer, songwriter and co-producer for New York-based indie rock band “The Commuters.”
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