GAME CHANGE IN THE FORUM

The Institute’s John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum hosted a March 1 premiere screening of the new HBO film *GAME CHANGE*, based on the book by Mark Halperin (Student Advisory Committee ’87) and John Heilemann (above with students at event).
As might be expected in a presidential election year, 2012 has already been exciting here at the IOP. In addition to a strong focus on campaign-related programming, the spring semester featured a continued emphasis on three priorities that I have set for the Institute – outreach, technology, and alumni.

More aggressive outreach and identification of new partners across campus allowed the Institute to increase the number of Director’s Internships that we offered this summer to 90. Our spring Director’s Dinner events helped bring many new student groups to the IOP, including the Harvard College Law Society for American Bar Association president Bill Robinson, the Harvard Student Art Show for Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum director Anne Hawley and the Harvard Mexican Association for life sciences expert and former Mexican government official Juan Enriquez. Finally, a screening of the documentary No Look Pass, profiling former Harvard basketball player Emily Tay ’09 – a Burmese immigrant who balanced sports and academics at Harvard, came out as a lesbian and dated a U.S. service member while playing professional basketball in Germany and tried to please a conservative, demanding and proud family – garnered a huge audience, including members of the Asian American Association, the Harvard Queer Student Alliance and the Harvard basketball teams (men’s and women’s squads).

In January we successfully launched the new website for the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum (www.jfkjrforum.org) and unveiled a new format for our Forum weekly newsletter to match the new website design. In addition, a comprehensive redesign of the full IOP website is on track for a fall 2012 launch. Look for an email announcing its rollout at that time. As always, we are working to better integrate Institute alumni throughout all our programming, particularly through participation in our Career Services information sessions, recruitment of future Fellows and review of internship candidates and opportunities. Our spring semester also featured well-attended and exciting Forums, inspirational Women’s Initiative in Leadership events, fantastic Fellows – including a great month with Visiting Fellow and Egyptian activist Wael Nawara – and unprecedented attention for our latest national poll on the political views of America’s Millennial Generation.

Please visit our website’s homepage at www.iop.harvard.edu to learn more about IOP programming and to sign up for our weekly e-newsletter – sent on Fridays during the semester – featuring recent photos and information on upcoming IOP happenings. Also, please follow us on Twitter and Facebook at user names HarvardIOP and JFKJrForum.

We are enjoying collaborating with our students and Harvard colleagues to inspire the next generation to pursue careers in public service. I hope to see you this fall. Thanks again for your interest in the IOP.

Trey Grayson ’94
As he wrapped up his undergraduate career at Harvard College, Jay Lundy ’09 – like many of his peers – received an offer to work in the investment banking industry. Unlike many of his peers, however, he turned it down.

“Without the Institute of Politics, I question whether I would have left college as firmly committed to politics and public service as I did,” said Lundy, who credits the IOP – the place he felt most comfortable and where he spent much time as an undergraduate – for turning his interest in public service into a career path. Instead of going into financial services in New York City after graduating, Lundy has spent his three post-graduate years “as a public school teacher with Teach for America, regional finance director on a highly contested U.S. Senate race in Florida and the public affairs officer at a $160 million foundation.”

Lundy learned about domestic and international politics, sharpened viewpoints and perspectives, and made strong friendships at the Institute. “It was at the IOP where I met many of my closest friends, spent my free time and grew as a leader committed to public service.” Lundy’s IOP involvement began immediately in his freshman year working as a student liaison to Spring 2006 Resident Fellow and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Ken Cooper and as a John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum lead. He later served as managing coordinator for the 2008 “Campus Voices” digital journalism project on the New Hampshire primary. Finally, Lundy was elected as vice president of the Institute’s Student Advisory Committee (SAC), where he worked to improve outreach to other student organizations, simplify pathways for IOP student involvement and successfully advocated for a greater commitment to public service career counseling for undergraduates.

In recognition of his commitment to public service and improving our communities, the Institute is pleased to announce Lundy has been named the 2012 IOP Alumni Scholarship winner in support of his work toward a two-year Master in Public Policy degree. The IOP Alumni Scholarship is a merit-based opportunity for students active as undergraduates with the Institute’s programming to receive financial support toward a graduate degree at Harvard Kennedy School (HKS). As the Institute is dedicated to inspiring students into a life of politics, public service and leadership, the scholarship furthers that mission by providing a full, two-year scholarship to IOP alumni to enhance their educational experience at HKS.

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Past recipients of the IOP’s Alumni Scholarship include Frankie Assaf (HC 2010), Quinnie Lin (SAC 2008), Meghan Haggerty (HC 2006), Emily Nielson (SAC 2004) and Eli Rosenbaum (SAC 2005).
INTERNSHIPS

For the past several years, the IOP’s Internship program has placed a large emphasis on additional campus outreach to ensure that Director’s Internship program resources are accessible for a diverse range of students seeking public service opportunities. Director’s Internships, one of the most, if not the most, popular summer internship programs at Harvard, are full-time, fully funded merit-based opportunities enabling students to participate in a substantive, unique political or public service experience.

To accomplish this goal, the IOP identified and collaborated with a number of additional non-IOP funding sources and partners – including the College’s Center for European Studies, international centers, academic departments, athletic teams, and student groups. These new partnerships allowed the Institute to increase the number of 2012 Director’s Internships from 62 to 90 – highlighted by more opportunities in governmental and international areas – and again receive a record-breaking number (1,010) of student applications.

In light of the program’s strong popularity, the Institute recognizes the need for additional guidance to keep the growing program effective and strong. In December, the IOP created an Internship Selection Committee – comprised of 20 recent Institute alumni working in politics and public service across the globe – which has already offered invaluable advice and helpful suggestions for future internship placements. The Committee has also offered ways to help strengthen the IOP’s “Summer in Washington” program for Harvard undergraduates interning in Washington, D.C., over the summer months. Summer in Washington is an eight-week program aiming to connect interns with recent graduates and public service leaders to discuss their paths from Harvard to Washington, D.C., and provide insight and practical information on how to pursue public service career goals. The program will again feature two student assistants in Washington helping to coordinate the summer’s event calendar and capture and share photo and video content encapsulating the interns’ on-the-job experiences.

CAREER SERVICES

In the two years since its inception, the IOP’s Office of Career Services (OCS) continues to steadily build its public service practice centered on helping undergraduates understand the range of possibilities and opportunities in the field. During the Spring semester, the Institute saw a significant increase in undergraduate attendance (over 350) at Career Roundtable events, Skills Workshops and Recruiting Sessions and in the number of subscribers (nearly 300) to the IOP Job and Internship Database, which currently features over 200 opportunities in politics and public service. OCS has also broadened its Career Roundtable events, offering engagement with top representatives working in state and federal government, economic and immigration policy, national security, non-governmental and non-profit organizations, think tanks, campaigns and energy and environmental fields.
More than sixty state and local election officials, voter advocates, academics, congressional staff, election technology experts and federal agency representatives took part in a special elections forum: “The Future of U.S. Elections: State/Federal Relations Summit” on May 7 at the Institute.

Hosted by IOP Director and former Kentucky secretary of state Trey Grayson, the event – organized by the IOP and co-hosted by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) – focused on the future of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and its role in the 2012 presidential election cycle. Grayson, a former NASS president (2009–10), offered welcoming remarks and served as a roundtable moderator along with Alabama secretary of state Beth Chapman, HKS lecturer David King, Washington secretary of state Sam Reed and West Virginia secretary of state Natalie Tenent.

Participants discussed the long-term viability of the independent federal agency, which has recently been targeted for elimination by some members of Congress. Established by the Help America Vote Act of 2002, critics noted that the EAC has spent too much money on bureaucratic infrastructure and not enough on programs that it was meant to create for the benefit of state and local election officials, while others said the agency has simply fulfilled its purpose according to federal law. Supporters called for keeping the EAC in existence, pointing out that the agency continues to oversee functions that are vital to the health of U.S. democracy such as the testing and certification of voting equipment, the collection of election data and the creation of resources for local election officials and voters. A few attendees even called for Congress to expand the EAC’s role and authority, suggesting that it should become more of a watchdog agency for future federal elections.

The NASS Task Force on the Disposition of EAC Duties, charged with producing recommendations on the reassignment of the agency’s core functions in the event that it is ultimately terminated or significantly downsized, plans to use the IOP forum exchanges to help inform its conclusions. A key concern for the group is the oversight of voting equipment testing and certification, including the establishment of qualified test laboratories to carry out this work. The event concluded with a frank examination of priorities to invest wisely in the future of U.S. elections.
The IOP’s spring Fellows were a top draw on Harvard’s campus all semester and highly sought after by both undergraduate and graduate students as public service mentors and counselors. Spring Fellows’ not-for-credit study groups covered interesting political and issue-based topics that appealed to students, faculty and the general public, including: social media and technology, 2012 campaign analysis and issues, citizenship, exploring public service careers, social and economic inequality and the politics of public education.

The varied and topical nature of spring study group focus areas made Fellows popular speakers at dozens of events throughout Harvard College, Harvard Kennedy School (HKS), other Harvard graduate schools and the entire university community. A few memorable examples include Margaret McKenna guest speaking in HKS public policy lecturer Tom Glynn’s class, Artur Davis and George Nethercutt co-hosting a student workshop and luncheon event on running for U.S. Congress and Farai Chideya moderating a John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum panel discussion on race and the presidential campaign, featuring Artur Davis and former Resident Fellows Ron Christie, Fall 2011, and Callie Crossley, Spring 2002.

Just some of the Fellows’ popular guests appearing in weekly discussion groups this semester included: Matt Bai, chief political correspondent, *New York Times* and *New York Times Magazine*; Brad Carson, Spring 2005 IOP Resident Fellow and former U.S. representative (D-OK); Lanhee Chen, policy director, Romney for President; Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president, Children’s Defense Fund; Mark Edwards, executive director, Opportunity Nation; Wendy Kopp, founder and CEO, Teach for America; Brian Lamb, founder and executive chairman, C-SPAN; Ken Levit, executive director, George Kaiser Family Foundation; Carmel Martin, assistant secretary for research and evaluation, U.S. Department of Education; Susan Neuman, former assistant secretary, elementary and secondary school, U.S. Department of Education; Nancy Carlsson-Paige, author and co-founder, Save Our Schools; Lisa Replogle, steering committee member and former chair, Colorado River Tea Party (Southwestern Arizona); Edward J. Rollins, CNN and Fox News contributor; Alec Ross, senior advisor for innovation, Office of U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton; Baratunde Thurston, director of digital, *The Onion*; Dennis Van Roekel, president, National Education Association; Reihan Salam, author and print and television commentator; Andy Stern, former president of SEIU; and Vin Weber, prominent Republican strategist.

Wael Nawara, Egyptian writer and politician, co-founder and former secretary general of Egypt’s El Ghd Party (2005–11), joined the IOP in mid-February for a Visiting Fellowship and attracted students to all events in which he was featured. Nawara’s month-long stay at the Institute was marked by a successful weekly study group on Egypt and a frenetic pace – engaging with undergraduate and graduate students, speaking with student organizations, doing interviews with campus publications and authoring an inspirational op-ed in the *Harvard Crimson*.  

### Spring 2012 Resident Fellows

**Farai Chideya ’90,** author, online journalist and host, NPR’s “News and Notes” program (2006–09)

**Artur Davis ’90,** U.S. representative (AL-7, D; 2003–11)

**Margaret McKenna,** president, Walmart Foundation (2007–11); president of Lesley University (1985–2007); former deputy under secretary of education and deputy White House counsel to President Jimmy Carter


**Steven Schrage,** former chief of staff, U.S. senator Scott Brown (R MA); 2008 foreign policy and trade director, Romney for President campaign; former senior State Department, White House/USTR and G8 official


**Kathy Taylor,** mayor of Tulsa, OK (2006–09); Oklahoma secretary of commerce (2003–06)
Spring in the Forum
Venue focuses on top U.S., international issues and technology, arts & entertainment

INTERNATIONAL INSIGHTS
Top international issues were consistent fixtures on the Forum calendar this spring, which began in January with a moving panel discussion on: “Why Women Won the Nobel Prize.” Fantastic February events included an address by Ireland’s Taoiseach Enda Kenny (top corner photo) and a compelling panel event: “Egypt: From Tahrir Square to Today” (fourth photo at right). A March appearance by former European Central Bank president Jean-Claude Trichet to deliver the Malcolm Wiener Lecture in International Economy packed the Forum, as did a moving retrospective on the 2010 Chilean mining tragedy with Harvard President Drew Faust and the country’s minister of public works and former mining minister Laurence Golborne. Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff (second photo at right) addressed a full Forum house in April to discuss her efforts to improve prosperity in her country and Brazil’s growing role in the world economy. Ten days later, Harvard Kennedy School Dean David Ellwood moderated an insightful address by veteran diplomat and former U.S. ambassador Dennis Ross: “Paradigm Shift: How to Innovate the Peace Process.”

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
Spring Forums also celebrated entertainment and the silver screen, featuring film premiers, actors, directors and television personalities. Cuba Gooding, Jr. – Academy Award-winning actor and star of Red Tails – appeared in a panel discussion (bottom right photo) on the film inspired by the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African American pilots in the U.S. armed forces. The Forum also hosted two well-attended premiere screening and discussion events featuring the new HBO film on the 2008 presidential race Game Change and the engaging documentary No Look Pass chronicling the life of former Harvard women’s basketball captain Emily Tay ’09. In April, MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” co-hosts Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski engaged on: “Big League Chew: Joe & Mika Talk Politics, Media and Baseball.”

TECHNOLOGY
The importance of technology becomes more prominent in Forum programming each semester. February events included discussions with Wael Ghonim, head of marketing for Google Middle East & North Africa, on the 2011 Arab Spring uprising and Peter Thiel, founding CEO of PayPal. The Forum also hosted an insightful discussion with Reid Hoffman, executive chairman and co-founder of LinkedIn.
Photos from the Spring
Great events and inspiring interactions between students and top political practitioners contribute to spectacular semester.

TOP CORNER: Student Advisory Committee members participate in the IOP’s Apr. 26 Senior Advisory Committee meeting; FIRST ROW (L to R): Juan Enriquez, founding director of Harvard Business School’s Life Sciences Project, and IOP Director Trey Grayson at a Mar. 26 Director’s Dinner; spring 2012 Resident Fellow George Nethercutt with student liaisons and Mar. 7 Study Group guest David Rehr; PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel during an interview with student Ibrahim Khan prior to his Feb. 6 Forum appearance; SECOND ROW: Spring 2012 Resident Fellow Farai Chideya talks with Coast Guard cadets on Mar. 27; veteran campaign organizer and Spring 2009 Resident Fellow Teresa Vilmaint speaks during the IOP’s 2012 National Campaign conference; Director Trey Grayson talks with 2012 Director’s Interns during spring “send-off” event; THIRD ROW: Harvard Law School clinical professor of law Ronald Sullivan, Academy Award-winning actor Cuba Gooding, Jr. and Red Tails producer Rick McCallum discuss the inspiring story of the Tuskegee Airmen in the Forum on Jan. 27; MSNBC’s Joe Scarborough and Morning Joe co-host Mika Brzezinski talk politics with Spring 2012 Resident Fellow Ted Strickland in the Forum on Apr. 19; IOP Internship Director Amy Howell stands with summer 2012 Director’s Interns.
TOP CORNER: Wael Ghonim, head of marketing for Google Middle East & North Africa, discusses the incredible role technology played in the 2011 Egyptian revolutions with HKS Center for Public Leadership director David Gergen; FIRST ROW (L to R): Former U.S. secretary of state Madeleine Albright talks with IOP Women in Leadership program students on Apr. 27; spring 2012 Resident Fellow Farai Chideya, Personal Democracy Media co-founder Micah Sifry, IOP Polling Director John Della Volpe and Spring 2012 Visiting Fellow Wael Nawara at a Feb. 29 social media discussion; Spring 2012 Resident Fellow Kathy Taylor leading her Study Group: “Defining Your Path to Public Service”; SECOND ROW: Feb. 21 Forum panel discussion on: “Fiscal 911: Washington to the Rescue”; high school students from throughout the U.S. participate in a “We the People” competition event in January; LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman addresses an Apr. 4 Forum audience; THIRD ROW: Spring Fellows, IOP staff and students volunteer on Feb. 10 at Boston non-profit Cradles to Crayons; students learn about IOP programs at the Jan. 31 “state fair” themed open house event; Obama 2012 senior strategist and IOP Senior Advisory Committee member David Axelrod talks politics during an Apr. 26 Director’s Dinner event.
The Institute’s spring survey release took place in New York City on April 24. IOP Survey chair Matthew Warshauer ’14 and member Eva Guidarini ’15 accompanied Director Trey Grayson and Polling Director John Della Volpe to New York for a sneak-peek briefing attended by IOP alumni, friends and Institute Senior Advisory Committee Chair Caroline Kennedy. Immediately following, the Institute’s survey team conducted a press briefing via conference call with over forty reporters and visited MTV’s headquarters to discuss the new poll’s results with a couple dozen members of the network’s 2012 election team and company executives. Before leaving the “Big Apple,” Grayson and Della Volpe also appeared live on the set of MSNBC’s Dylan Ratigan show to review the survey’s top findings and impact on the 2012 presidential race. Press attention for the IOP’s survey data throughout local and national media outlets was extensive, highlighted by an Apr. 28 New York Times op-ed focused on the spring polling materials.

“Over the last several months, we have seen more of the Millennial vote begin to solidify around President Obama and Democrats in Congress,” said IOP Director Grayson. “At the same time, there has been effectively no change in their support for Mitt Romney and Republicans in Congress. We will continue to track this demographic, which we know is critical to success at the polls.”

“Although this generation is not as supportive of President Obama and Democrats as they may have been in the historic 2008 campaign, this in no way implies that the Republican Party has successfully captured the hearts, minds and votes of Millennials,” said IOP Polling Director Della Volpe. “Instead, Millennials have clearly shown that they are a generation that cares deeply about our country, their role in it – and feel that the political system as represented by both parties has not effectively engaged them on the issues that will shape their and our nation’s future.”

A summary of the poll’s major findings:

• Barack Obama widening the gap over Mitt Romney. April polling showed Barack Obama had grown his lead over likely Republican presidential nominee and former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney to seventeen points (43%–26%), a six point larger margin than seen in IOP polling from late November/early December.

• Job approval ratings generally beginning to stabilize for President Obama, especially among Hispanics – but still struggling among white Millennials. While November IOP polling showed Millennials’ overall job performance for President Obama hitting all-time lows, the Institute’s April poll showed the President beginning to regain Millennials’ approval. Obama’s job approval rating among America’s 18- to 29- year-olds has risen six percentage points to 52% (46%; Nov. 2011).
Among Hispanics specifically, Obama’s job approval increased by fourteen percentage points from 52% in November to 66% in April, a level consistent with pre-fall 2011 levels (68%: Feb. 2011; 62%: Oct. 2010; 69%: Feb. 2010). In a potential 2012 general election match-up with Mitt Romney, Obama leads among Hispanics by 39 points (50%–11%). Despite these positive developments for the President, he continues to struggle with white Millennials — maintaining only a 41% job approval rating; according to 2008 exit polls, this demographic was not only the largest cohort of the Millennial segment but one which favored Obama over U.S. senator John McCain in the 2008 presidential race (54%–44%).

• By multiple measurements, the economy remains the top issue of concern for this generation. As has been the case in past IOP surveys, more Millennials cited “jobs and the economy” (58%) in an open-ended question on which national issue concerns them most — far outpacing any other answer. Additionally, the Institute tested the relative importance of twenty issues facing the United States; respondents were shown two issues and asked to choose which was a more important concern for America. “Creating jobs and lowering the unemployment rate” was considered the more important issue, winning match-ups 77% of the time against the field and winning a majority of match-ups against every single other issue by a statistically significant margin. For example, 66% of Millennials felt it was more important than “ensuring affordable access to health care”; 75% said it was more important than “preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons”; and 65% said it was more important than “reducing the federal deficit.” When 2012’s undecided voters were isolated – “creating jobs” again remained the number-one priority (75% win percentage). A more robust breakdown of the 20 issues tested and match-up results are available on the Institute’s homepage www.iop.harvard.edu.

• Millennials place more trust in the United Nations than in the federal government, Congress or Wall Street. Levels of trust Millennials place in public institutions measured in the IOP’s polling project have remained relatively constant over the last 12 months — however, some comparisons are still worth noting. Overall, 38% of America’s 18- to 29-year-olds trust the United Nations to do the right thing all or most of the time — a greater proportion than those saying the same about the federal government (27%), Congress (23%) or Wall Street (13%).

• In contrast to four months ago, a plurality of America’s 18- to 29-year-olds predict Obama will win bid for re-election. Late-November IOP polling showed a greater proportion of 18- to 29-year-olds believed that Barack Obama would lose re-election (36%) than win (30%), with almost a third (32%) not sure. When asked the same question this April, more than four in ten (43%) said they believe the President will win-re-election with twenty-seven percent (27%) predicting Obama would lose and three in ten (30%) not sure.

Complete results – along with all the Institute’s past surveys – are available online at www.iop.harvard.edu.
Public Service: 2.0

Institute’s Gov 2.0 grant program and spring programming highlight link between technology, social media, social movements and public service

GOV 2.0 WINNER: POLITOSCAPE

Recognizing technology’s ever-expanding role in promoting public service and the political process, the IOP is proud to offer “Gov 2.0” grant program funding for the second straight year. Made possible by a generous gift to the Institute, the initiative supports student entrepreneurial ventures relating to domestic politics or government aiming to reshape civic life. After receiving nearly a dozen impressive applications this spring, a committee of Harvard Kennedy School affiliates, IOP staff, Student Advisory Committee members, and technology and new media experts selected Harvard undergraduate George Ko ’15 as the IOP’s 2012 Gov 2.0 grant winner. Ko will receive a $5,000 stipend to further develop his winning initiative “Politoscape,” a political news aggregator that places articles on the political landscape from the left to the right. Ko’s Politoscape team is based in the Harvard iLab and mentored by professors from the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) and hopes to launch the site this summer ahead of the 2012 elections. “I look forward to working with my team, the IOP, the iLab and SEAS to make this idea into a reality and influence the U.S. political process,” said Ko.

FEBRUARY SOCIAL MEDIA PANEL A HIT AT KIRKLAND HOUSE

An early-semester programming highlight was a February panel discussion on the importance of technology to democracy in today’s world: “Social Media, Social Movements,” held at Kirkland House, part of the popular “Conversations with Kirkland” speaker series. The event, moderated by IOP polling director John Della Volpe, featured: author, online journalist and Spring 2012 IOP Resident Fellow Farai Chideya; activist and Spring 2012 IOP Visiting Fellow Wael Nawara; and Personal Democracy Media co-founder and HKS Visiting Murrow lecturer of the practice of press and public policy Micah Sifry. Nawara, known for his prominence as an online activist in Egypt during the Arab Spring, stressed social media’s growing power should not be overlooked – particularly by unpopular regimes presiding over an active, engaged citizenry. Chideya emphasized how social media can energize and organize a population and greatly affect modern-day politics – and drive revolutions. Sifry compared our new ability to publish content directly from handheld devices whenever we choose to “...the perfection of moveable type 500 years ago and the democratization of printing. Imagine – we all have printing presses in our pockets, and they’re all connected to everybody else.”

POLITICAL NEWS “2.0”:

Harvard Freshman George Ko, shown above during an IOP focus group describing his Gov 2.0 winning initiative “Politoscape,” plans to launch the political news aggregator this summer as the 2012 race for president intensifies.

SOCIAL MEDIA, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS: IOP Polling Director John Della Volpe (left) and Egyptian activist and Spring 2012 IOP Visiting Fellow Wael Nawara (at right with screen reflection) during a February discussion on the power of social media in organizing and today’s political movements.

New JFK Jr. Forum Microsite

This January, the Institute’s John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum launched a new microsite – www.jfkjrforum.org – in support of the venue’s premier speaker series, where all events are broadcast live and archived. The Forum’s new online home features a clean design, improved layout, dynamic video platform and more ways for viewers to share and interact with Forum events in real time. Join the conversation online and follow the Forum’s official twitter feed @JFKJrForum for event footage and highlights as they happen.
Women’s Initiative in Leadership (WIL)

Engaging speakers, new programming and fantastic workshops mark program’s most successful semester

The Institute’s spring semester was marked by many positive developments and steps forward for the Women’s Initiative in Leadership (WIL), created in the fall of 2006 in response to the strong interest shown by female undergraduates at Harvard in developing leadership skills.

Continuing the program’s cornerstone weekly sessions featuring a dynamic line up of speakers, the program’s spring workshops focused on cultivating public speaking skills, networking, and negotiation skills and featured top women leaders from varied professional backgrounds and areas of expertise. The semester began with a successful orientation weekend featuring a session with Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Women and Public Policy Program director Victoria Budson, a skills-based leadership workshop facilitated by non-profit consultant and community volunteer Nancy Grayson, a luncheon with Spring 2012 IOP Fellows and an alumni reception. Other featured speakers included Harvard Women, Gender, and Sexuality director of studies Dr. Caroline Light, Spring 2009 IOP Resident Fellow Teresa Vilmian and Massachusetts state senator Katherine Clark as well as a panel of HKS mid-career students with backgrounds in finance, global banking and city government. The semester’s highlight was a late-April question and answer session with former U.S. secretary of state Madeleine Albright (top corner photo).

In addition, the Institute extended WIL beyond its conventional format and produced events and initiatives highlighting program alumni and collaboration with other Harvard centers. In early March, WIL staff convened a great discussion for the University’s “Women’s Week” calendar, featuring trailblazing Harvard alumni. Moderated by Spring 2012 Resident Fellow Farai Chideya, the well-attended panel event: “Women Leaders at Harvard: Then and Now” (third photo at right) featured some of the first women executives of Harvard’s largest student organizations – including the Harvard Crimson and Harvard Student Agencies – engaging with current students on leadership successes and challenges. Later that month, the program sent several representatives to New York City to attend the 2012 “Women in the World Summit” – bringing together extraordinary women leaders and advocates to find solutions to the challenges facing women and girls and featuring leaders from around the globe, including Albright, current U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton and International Monetary Fund managing director Christine Lagarde. In April, the WIL program hosted a successful pilot launch for “Women in the World on Campus,” an effort coordinated by the Women in the World Foundation offering college women mentoring, leadership development and internship opportunities.

Looking ahead, WIL staff and students plan to continue to develop connections with other Harvard student groups and academic departments, reach out to the University community and explore new means of empowering women leaders.
FORUM ON THE ROAD: LOS ANGELES

In March, the Institute was proud to continue collaboration with Harvard Kennedy School’s (HKS) Alumni Office and bring John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum programming “on the road” beyond Harvard walls – to Los Angeles. Chosen for the high number of HKS/IOP alumni in the metropolitan area, Los Angeles proved to be a great venue for a fantastic and timely panel discussion: “Campaign 2012: The Candidates and Their Strategies.” The exciting event featured Barack Obama 2012 senior strategist and IOP Senior Advisory Committee member David Axelrod, CNN political contributor and Fall 2008 IOP Resident Fellow Alex Castellanos, ABC News analyst and National Journal columnist Matt Dowd, Politico senior political reporter and Spring 2008 IOP Resident Fellow Lois Romano and an introduction by Maria Shriver. The Institute hopes to replicate the highly successful event – attended by close to 500 alumni – in Washington, D.C., and other cities across the nation in the years to come.

IOP THESIS PROGRAM SUPPORTS HOOPES PRIZE WINNER

The IOP is proud Will Eger ’12 (at left) was chosen by Harvard College’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences in May as one of eighty-one student winners of the University’s highest honor for undergraduate writing, the “Hoopes Prize.” The prize, funded by the estate of Thomas T. Hoopes ’19, is awarded to students from a wide variety of concentrations on the basis of outstanding scholarly work or research and must receive an instructor’s nomination. Eger received IOP Summer Thesis Program funding in 2011 in support of his winning senior thesis: “Hanging Together: Overcoming Divisions in the Tea Party Movement.”

NETHERCUTT, STUDENTS PROMOTE CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

Spring 2012 IOP Resident Fellow and former U.S. Representative (WA-5, R; 1995–2005) George R. Nethercutt, Jr. (below left) not only led a study group on the importance of civic education, he enlisted the help of Harvard undergraduates in a national awareness effort on the subject. Nethercutt’s student liaisons helped create a questionnaire testing the civic knowledge of candidates seeking federal elected office. The exam will be available this summer at www.americanaptitude.com and is modeled after the immigrant citizenship exam applicants must pass to become American citizens. The George Nethercutt Foundation will contact and encourage candidates for federal office to participate. Candidate exam scores recorded before the November elections will also be made available online. In order to assure test accuracy, the Foundation will require candidates to certify they personally took the test without looking up answers or receiving help from others. “Since most Americans routinely fail basic citizenship education surveys, my Harvard students and I believe it is important for the public to determine candidates’ civic literacy before November’s elections,” said Nethercutt. Nethercutt also published two op-eds on civic education and its connection to a healthy democracy in the Boston Globe and the Seattle Times (co-authored with HKS lecturer Richard Parker).
Sam Barr (SAC 2011), currently working as a preparation assistant in the Major Economic Crimes Bureau of the Manhattan District Attorney’s office, will pursue a JD at Harvard Law School this fall.

Barbara Barrett (Spring 1999 Fellow) has been named interim president of Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale, AZ.

Mary Beth Cahill (Spring 2005 Fellow) is serving as a consultant on strategy and spending for super PAC “Priorities USA.”

Michael Camunez (SAC 1991) is serving as assistant secretary of commerce for market access and compliance at the International Trade Administration.

Andrei Cherny (SAC 1997) is running for U.S. Congress as a Democrat from Arizona’s ninth district.

Adam Gann (SAC 2012) has received a Fulbright grant to teach English and study education policy in South Korea.

Kimberley Harris (SAC 1992), who recently served two years in the White House counsel’s office as deputy counsel and deputy assistant to the President, is rejoining Davis Polk & Wardwell’s Litigation Department as a partner.

Angus King (Fall 2004 Visiting Fellow) is running for U.S. Senate from the state of Maine.

Susan Molinari (Fall 1998 Fellow) is now serving as vice president of public policy for Google.

Greg Nickels (Spring 2010) is running for secretary of state in Washington.

Ryan Rippel (SAC 2004) graduated from Harvard Law School this spring and is returning to the Gates Foundation as a program officer to work on urban poverty issues.

Lois Romano (Spring 2008 Fellow) has joined Politico as a senior political reporter.

Ben Sheffner (SAC 1993) is now working as vice president for legal affairs for the Motion Picture Association of America.

Emma Sky (Spring 2011 Fellow), a visiting professor at the War Studies Department of King’s College in London, will join Yale University this fall as a senior fellow at the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs.

John Timoney (Fall 2010 Fellow) is assisting the Bahrain government on police policy and reform.

IOP ALUMNI: Please send all professional news and updates you would like to share with the Institute community to Katie Delaney at katherine_delaney@harvard.edu.
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- Silvia Mautner: page 13 (corner)
- Martha Stewart: cover, pages 1, 4, 5, page 6 (1), page 7 (1, 4, 5, 6), page 8 (corner, 4), page 13 (2)