Election Night in the Forum

The Institute’s John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum was packed on election night as hundreds watched the 2012 results roll in at the IOP’s watch party.
Last year was an exciting time to be at the IOP. Election 2012 was front and center at the Institute all year long, and events in the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum – our own panel discussions and watch parties for the national party conventions, debates and election night – were very well attended. Our Resident Fellows and guests helped break down, analyze and forecast what would happen next in the election cycle in real time, which was very exciting for students and staff alike. Just two weeks before the elections, we were proud to partner with The New York Times to exclusively release our highly anticipated fall Millennials and politics poll, resulting in coverage throughout national media for our cutting-edge research.

After the country voted on November 6, the IOP set out to produce two popular post-election events: our “Campaign for President” discussion series and the Bipartisan Program for Newly Elected Members of Congress. The campaign series – bringing together presidential campaign strategists, political journalists, and analysts to examine the electoral process and review campaign decision-making – was a great success, and press attention of our release of audio recordings of the discussions (available online at http://hvrd.me/Vgytbl) was extensive. Our New Members program featured high levels of participation – nearly 50 new U.S. Representatives attended – for discussions on how to legislate effectively in Washington, D.C.

The Institute has also been working hard to expand our reach globally using technology, particularly video. In addition to launching a redesigned IOP website, allowing us to better reach users on campus and around the world, we brought on a full-time Social Media Coordinator who has helped generate short-form videos (3-4 minutes in length) capturing the energy and inspiration of Institute speakers in lively interviews. A three-question series, which we have dubbed “3 with IOP” is a great way to offer topical discussions and inspirational public service messages from our Study Group, Brown Bag and other event guests to more people. We have also started to highlight IOP staff, students and Fellows, such as in debate reaction pieces, a really great election night watch party highlight video and a feature with IOP polling director John Della Volpe and me discussing our latest survey results. On iTunes U, YouTube and our website, these videos have together been viewed over 45,000 times. In addition, we have greatly improved our Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages (HarvardIOP) – prompting an undergraduate to remark that we are witnessing “a new IOP,” which makes all of us proud and excited about the future.

I enjoy working with committed and passionate Harvard students, staff and colleagues in carrying out our mission to inspire. I hope to see you this spring. Thanks again for your interest in the IOP.

Trey Grayson ’94

The Institute also convened a Sept. 4 event at the DNC in Charlotte featuring youth vote advocates, media and public opinion experts on the engagement and importance of young voters in the 2012 election cycle. IOP pollster John Della Volpe kicked off the event by emphasizing that turnout by Millennials – America’s 18- to 29- year-olds – was “incredibly important” to Barack Obama securing a presidential victory in 2008, particularly in battleground states like Virginia, Indiana and the 2012 DNC host state of North Carolina.

Della Volpe also highlighted a new finding from spring 2012 IOP polling: that younger Millennials today – the group eligible to vote in their first Presidential election that upcoming fall – were significantly more conservative in their political ideology than older Millennials. A panel discussion that followed examined youth political engagement and featured Della Volpe and *MTV News* correspondent Andrew Jencks, Campus Progress Director Anne Johnson, and Rock the Vote President Heather Smith – moderated by IOP Director Trey Grayson. A similar IOP event and panel discussion was planned at the Republican National Convention in Tampa but unfortunately was cancelled – along with many other events – due to the effects of Hurricane Isaac.

IOP Election 2012 watch parties also packed the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum throughout the fall. Broadcasts on the Forum big screen of the Republican National Convention (Aug. 29-30), Democratic National Convention (Sept. 5-6), vice presidential debate (Oct. 11) and presidential debates (Oct. 3, 16 and 22) were very popular. The Institute’s election night watch party was also extremely successful, as hundreds were riveted to television coverage bringing results to the crowd in real-time.
The Institute took major steps forward in the fall of 2012 to do more with technology and social media to achieve our mission of encouraging youth to consider careers in politics and public service. Adding digital strategist Kellie Ryan to the IOP staff on October 1 to build out the Institute’s Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and other social channels has helped achieve these goals and has enabled the Institute to better leverage our inspiring guests, events and research.

Hundreds of top political figures visit the IOP every year, but most of their captivating discussions – especially by Fellows guest speakers – are only seen by Harvard students attending in person. By creating shareable digital content, like video interviews with guest speakers and other features, the Institute can inspire thousands more via their computers or phones to think about public service as a career path.

In October, the Institute launched its now very popular “3 with IOP” video project, featuring the biggest names in politics answering three topical questions on participating in the political process. These interviews with top policymakers included sit-downs with U.S. Homeland Security secretary Janet Napolitano, Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick, former U.S. senator Tim Wirth, and key campaign tacticians including Obama for America campaign manager Jim Messina, Romney for President, Inc. policy director Lanhee Chen, and Republican strategist and Fall 2008 IOP Fellow Alex Castellanos. Many top journalists were also showcased, including RealClearPolitics.com editor and Spring 2007 IOP Fellow Carl Cannon, political analyst and editor and publisher of “The Cook Political Report” Charlie Cook, Washington Post political writer Melinda Henneberger, senior correspondent of “PBS NewsHour,” managing editor of “Washington Week” and former IOP Senior Advisory Committee member Gwen Ifill, CNN chief national correspondent John King, and Politico chief political reporter Mike Allen. The interview series has also featured undergraduates as both hosts and guests – causing the videos to become very popular on campus as fun ways to amplify public service messaging.

In November, Apple’s iTunes University – the place to go for education videos and content – put our “3 with IOP” video series in its “What’s Hot” section, which has generated over 15,000 views and has grown the IOP profile globally.

The Institute also is using video to promote its research and capture the energy of IOP events. A video created around the fall IOP Millennials poll quickly generated nearly 3,000 views and helped spread the data across the country and throughout online and social media, and a moving highlight video chronicling student reactions at the IOP’s election night watch party event received nearly 250 “likes” and has been watched over 25,000 times. These and dozens of other videos have increased subscriptions to the IOP’s YouTube page by over 600% and video views by over 30,000 since October 1. Finally, creation of Facebook photo albums are helping to spread the IOP’s promotion of public service. The IOP’s popular “Why I’m Voting” button collection, featuring personal statements on why voting is important, reached nearly 2,000 users leading up to Election Day.
Just three weeks after Election Day, the Institute hosted the principal campaign managers of the 2012 presidential campaigns on Nov. 28 and 29 to discuss campaign strategies and tactics employed during the recent presidential election. The Institute’s “Campaign for President” series, a Harvard tradition since 1972, brings together presidential campaign managers, political journalists, and analysts – every four years in the weeks between Election Day and the presidential inauguration – to examine the electoral process and review campaign decision-making.

This year, the Institute released audio recordings of discussion sessions just days after completion of the conference, resulting in massive coverage throughout national media outlets and thousands of downloads and plays – all of which are available with selected photos at: http://hvrd.me/Vgvybk. An unprecedented event disrupted the conference – a late afternoon power outage affecting a sizeable area of Cambridge – causing the cancellation of a highly anticipated John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum discussion that evening with Obama for America senior advisor and Institute of Politics Senior Advisory Committee member David Axelrod, Romney for President, Inc. senior advisor Eric Fehrnstrom, Obama for America campaign manager Jim Messina, Romney for President, Inc. strategist Stuart Stevens and NBC’s “Meet the Press” host David Gregory (moderator).

Campaign managers participated in sessions covering the Republican presidential primary, a frank discussion on strategies employed leading up to and including the Democratic and Republican Conventions, and a detailed examination of the impact of independent expenditures on the campaign and the general election. Moderators for these sessions featured top political reporters, including Washington Post chief political correspondent Dan Balz and New York Times assistant managing editor and IOP Senior Advisory Committee member Rick Berke (Opening Reception and Dinner); Politico senior political reporter Jonathan Martin and CBS News political correspondent Jan Crawford (Republican Primary and Convention); ABC News senior political correspondent Jonathan Karl and Politico senior political writer Lois Romano (Democratic Strategy and Convention); former IOP Senior Advisory Committee member, “Washington Week” managing editor and “PBS NewsHour” senior correspondent Gwen Ifill and Rick Berke (Independent Expenditures); and CNN chief political analyst Gloria Borger and National Journal editorial director Ron Brownstein (General Election).

As in the past, the sessions’ conversations have been captured and edited, and will soon be published by the Institute of Politics in an effort to allow future candidates, managers, journalists and scholars to better understand the nature of modern presidential campaigns. “Campaign for President: The Managers Look at 2012” will be published by Roman Littlefield Publishing in early spring and can be purchased through most major booksellers, including Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble. For the first time, it will also be made available in a digital version.
In December, the Institute of Politics held the 20th Bipartisan Program for Newly Elected Members of Congress. Forty-seven new U.S. Representatives from both sides of the aisle participated in discussions on a broad range of policy issues, including the economy, the federal budget, American power and Middle East policy, as well as communications and navigating the legislative process.

The group also participated in a discussion with former Obama National Economic Council Director and past Harvard University President Larry Summers about the economy and trade. In addition, Institute Senior Advisory Committee members William Delahunt (former U.S. Congressman; MA-10, D) and Sarah Bianchi (deputy assistant to the president and senior policy advisor to vice president Biden) spoke to the newly elected members about working with and in Congress in the session, “Lessons You Can Use.” Former Institute Director and U.S. senator (R-WY) Alan Simpson also addressed the group via videoconference. Program speakers also included two Fall 2012 IOP Fellows, Fortune magazine senior editor and Washington columnist Nina Easton and “No Labels” co-founder Mark McKinnon.

Harvard Kennedy School Dean David Ellwood addressed the new members at the conference and moderated a topical discussion on “Prospects for the Economy.” Other program panelists included Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs director Graham Allison – who moderated an insightful discussion on foreign policy issues – and Harvard Business School professor Michael Porter, who joined Nina Easton in a fascinating look at “American Competitiveness.”

The New Members attending the program (listed alphabetically) included Andy Barr (KY-6th, R), Joyce Beatty (OH-3rd, D), Amerish Bera (CA-7th, D), Jim Bridenstine (OK-1st, R), Susan Brooks (IN-5th, R), Julia Brownley (CA-26th, D), Cheri Bustos (IL-17th, D), Matt Cartwright (PA-17th, D), Joaquin Castro (TX-20th, D), John Delaney (MD-6th, D), Elizabeth Esty (CT-5th, D), Lois Frankel (FL-22nd, D), Tulsi Gabbard (HI-2nd, D), Pete Gallego (TX-23rd, D), Joe Garcia (FL-26th, D), Alan Grayson (FL-9th, D), Denny Heck (WA-10th, D), Richard Hudson (NC-8th, R), Jared Huffman (CA-2nd, D), Hakeem Jeffries (NY-8th, D), Joseph Kennedy III (MA-4th, D), Dan Kildee (MI-5th, D), Derek Kilmer (WA-6th, D), Ann McLane Kuster (NH-2nd, D), Alan Lowenthal (CA-47th, D), Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM-1st, D), Dan Maffei (NY-24th, D), Sean Maloney (NY-18th, D), Grace Meng (NY-6th, D), Patrick Murphy (FL-18th, D), Richard Nolan (MN-8th, D), Beto O’Rourke (TX-16th, D), Robert Pittenger (NC-9th, R), Mark Pocan (WI-2nd, D), Tom Rice (SC-7th, R), Raul Ruiz (CA-36th, D), Brad Schneider (IL-10th, D), Carol Shea-Porter (NH-1st, D), Kyrsten Sinema (AZ-9th, D), Steve Stockman (TX-36th, R), Eric Swalwell (CA-15th, D), Mark Takano (CA-41st, D), Juan Vargas (CA-51st, D), Marc Veasey (TX-33rd, D), Randy Weber (TX-14th, D), Brad Wenstrup (OH-2nd, R) and Ted Yoho (FL-3rd, R).
On November 19, John F. Kennedy Library Foundation President and IOP Senior Advisory Committee Chair Caroline Kennedy presented the ninth annual John F. Kennedy New Frontier Awards to Stacey Abrams, house minority leader for the Georgia General Assembly, and Veronika Scott, founder of the Detroit Empowerment Plan, at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

The John F. Kennedy New Frontier Awards were created by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation and the Institute of Politics 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 when partisan gridlock too often stands in the way of real solutions, Stacey Abrams is working across the aisle to push for progress for the people of Georgia. Veronika Scott turned a class project into an engine of opportunity and hope for the citizens of Detroit. They both are inspiring examples of my father's belief that every person can make a difference,” said Caroline Kennedy.

Stacey Abrams is the first woman to lead either party in the Georgia General Assembly and the first African American to lead in the Georgia House of Representatives. First elected in 2006, Abrams has made a mark as a thoughtful, open-minded legislator and a master of detail in the formulation of public policy. In 2010, Georgia House Democrats elected Abrams to lead their caucus, and Abrams quickly earned a reputation – and respect – on both sides of the aisle for working across party lines on important legislation. In January 2012, Governing magazine named Abrams one of twelve state legislators to watch. Prior to her election to the Georgia House, Abrams was deputy city attorney for the city of Atlanta. Before that, Abrams was a tax attorney at an Atlanta law firm where she focused on tax-exempt organizations, health care and public finance.

In 2010, Veronika Scott, an industrial design major at Detroit’s College for Creative Studies, began working on a class assignment: “Design to fill a need.” She spent months at a community shelter, learning about the needs of the homeless men and women she met. For her class project, Scott designed a winter coat that converted into a sleeping bag. In less than two years, Scott has transformed her class project into a non-profit enterprise (called the “Empowerment Plan”) that stands to make a difference in the lives of thousands – now employing homeless women to make self-heated, waterproof, convertible coats for Detroit’s homeless population. Her initiative has already enabled one of her employees to move out of the shelter and into her own apartment. Others may soon follow. By the end of 2012, Scott had sewn and shipped 800 coats and hopes to make 2,000 more coats in 2013.

A highlight video on the ceremony is available at http://bit.ly/TrtQJT.
Fall Fellows
Resident and Visiting Fellows big hit on Harvard campus

The IOP’s fall Fellows were popular fixtures on Harvard’s campus all semester. Fall Fellows’ not-for-credit study groups covered interesting political and issue-based topics, including the economy, technology and innovation, political disruption, politics as a “noble pursuit,” religion in the 2012 campaign, presidential debates and communication and redesigning Europe.

The varied and topical nature of fall study group focus areas made the Fellows popular guest speakers at dozens of events throughout Harvard College, Harvard Kennedy School and other Harvard graduate schools. Fellows were willing participants in the IOP’s Civics program, eager volunteers at Boston non-profit Cradles to Crayons, and guest lecturers in HKS public policy classes and met with dozens of graduate and undergraduate student organizations. Resident Fellows also appeared in the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum throughout the semester on a variety of topics.

Just some of the Fellows’ popular guests appearing in weekly discussion groups this semester included Peter Ackerman, founder, Americans Elect; Mike Allen, chief political correspondent, Politico; Carl Cannon, Spring 2007 IOP Fellow; editor, RealClearPolitics.com; Alex Castellanos, Republican strategist and Fall 2008 IOP Fellow; Lanhee Chen, policy director, Romney for President, Inc.; Susan Crawford, HKS visiting Stanton Professor of the First Amendment; Sam Feist, vice president of Washington-based programming, CNN; Peter Flaherty, advisor and religious outreach leader, Romney for President, Inc.; Rev. Derrick Harkins, faith outreach director, Democratic National Committee; Melinda Henneberger, political writer, The Washington Post; Reed Hundt, chairman, Federal Communications Commission (1993-97); Marne Levine, vice president of Global Public Policy, Facebook; Mats Karlsson, vice-president, World Bank; David Maraniss, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist; Bill McInturff, co-producer, NBC/Wall Street Journal poll; Janet Napolitano, United States secretary of Homeland Security; Jennifer Pahlka, founder and executive director, Code for America; Todd Park, United States chief technology officer; Deval Patrick, governor of Massachusetts; Buddy Roemer, former governor of Louisiana, leading advocate for campaign finance reform and Spring 1992 IOP Fellow; Larry Summers, former Obama National Economic Council director and past Harvard University president; and Tom Udall, U.S. senator, New Mexico.

George Papandreou, prime minister of Greece (Oct. 2009–Nov. 2011) joined the Institute as a Visiting Fellow for much of the fall and attracted a wide range of students and faculty to any event in which he was featured, including a conversation in the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum with former Massachusetts governor and presidential candidate Michael Dukakis on December 3. In addition, in late October the Institute was also pleased to welcome special guest Douglas Alexander, UK Parliament member and shadow secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs.

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**Fall 2012 Resident Fellows**


**Nina Easton**, senior editor and Washington columnist, Fortune magazine

**Mark McKinnon**, co-founder, No Labels; chief media advisor to President George W. Bush; vice chair, Hill+Knowlton Strategies

**Brett O’Donnell**, president, O’Donnell and Associates, Ltd.; chief strategist, Bachmann for President campaign; director of messaging, McCain-Palin campaign

**Sonal Shah**, deputy assistant to the president and director, White House Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation (March 2009-August 2011)
INTERNATIONAL INSIGHTS
Leading international speakers were top draws on the Forum calendar this fall. September featured a strong event with Mongolian president and Harvard Kennedy School alum Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj as well as a huge double-header on September 27: addresses by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi—who delivered the Edwin L. Godkin Lecture—and Argentinian president Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner. An early December event showcased Fall 2012 Visiting Fellow George Papandreou in conversation with former Massachusetts governor and presidential candidate Michael Dukakis. Other foreign affairs-focused events included “The Middle East: U.S. and Israeli Perspectives” and “Economics & Security in American Foreign Policy: Back to the Future?” with former World Bank president Robert Zoellick.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

ELECTION 2012
Without question, the highly anticipated November elections were a key focus on the Forum calendar all year long—especially during the fall semester. In addition to the national party convention and debate and election night watch parties detailed on page two, the venue also produced a great deal of programming examining the 2012 cycle. A September event entitled “Protecting the Vote: Suppression, Fraud and the Future of Voter Identification Laws,” was moderated by former Kentucky secretary of state and IOP Director Trey Grayson. October election-focused events included “Health Care in 2013: Why the Race for the Presidency Matters,” “From Prep to the Podium: Behind the Scenes of the Presidential Debates,” and a unique 2012 election discussion and taping for BBC Radio’s “The Public Philosopher” show, featuring Harvard professor Michael Sandel. On November 15, New York Times columnist David Brooks delivered the 2012 Theodore H. White Lecture on Press and Politics, entitled “Election 2012: The Big Questions” as the Forum also served as the backdrop for presentation of the David Nyhan Prize for Political Journalism to Universal Press Syndicate columnist Cynthia Tucker. Fall 2012 IOP Fellow and former United States Conference of Catholic Bishops executive director (Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development) John Carr moderated a December event on “Religion and Politics: Election 2012 and Beyond.”
RELEASE OF THE IOP SURVEY PROJECT’S 22ND NATIONAL POLL

The IOP survey team exclusively released results from their new fall poll with The New York Times, which highlighted the data in its popular “TimesCast” video interview series and in substantial features online and in the paper’s Oct. 18 print edition. The IOP also conducted a press briefing via conference call with dozens of reporters, helping generate record coverage throughout national media – including a mention on the “NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams.”

“As enthusiasm for voting continues to slip among America’s 18- to 29-year-olds, the IOP’s latest poll shows a clear sentiment by young adults that Washington is broken,” said Institute of Politics Director Trey Grayson. “We must work together to reengage youth in the political process – a goal critical to the health and future of our democracy.”

“Despite telling us that they are far less likely to vote this year, Millennials still yearn to make this country great – and it is our hope that as we approach Election Day both presidential campaigns work to connect with young adults in more meaningful ways and better engage on the issues that will shape their future and ours,” said Institute of Politics Polling Director John Della Volpe. “It’s not only good politics – it’s good for the country.”

A summary of the poll’s major findings:

• President Obama more trusted than Governor Romney to handle major issues; majority believe problems president inherited are complex and require more time to solve. When America’s 18- to 29-year-olds were asked which presidential candidate they trusted more to handle a number of top issues, late-September IOP polling showed President Obama favored over Governor Romney on health care (+23 percentage points), foreign policy (+23), to be the Commander-in-Chief of the military (+22), immigration reform (+20) – and the economy (+19). Obama was also trusted more to handle “issues of concern to someone your age” (+31) and “issues of concern to women” (+33).

In addition, six-in-ten Millennials (62%) said the statement “the problems that President Obama inherited are so complex it takes more than four years to do the job” came closer to their own view, while only a third (33%) said the same about the statement “despite his best efforts, President Obama has failed.”

• Romney voters seemed more likely to turn out than Obama voters; less than half of America’s young adults expected to “definitely vote” in November. 18- to 29-year-olds favoring Governor Romney were more likely (65%) than those favoring President Obama (55%) to say they would “definitely” vote in the fall. Overall,
forty-eight percent (48%) said they would “definitely” vote in the November elections, with another ten percent (10%) saying “probably” and sixteen percent (16%) saying “50-50.” African Americans (59%) and Whites (54%) were both significantly more likely to say they would vote in the fall than Hispanics (31%), as were college students (55%).

• Obama led Romney by nineteen percentage points with young adult “likely” voters, continued to be the preferred candidate among 18- to 29-year-olds generally and was ahead on college campuses. At the time the IOP’s new fall poll was conducted, 18- to 29-year-old “likely” voters gave President Obama a nineteen-percentage (19%) point lead over Governor Romney (55%: Obama; 36%: Romney), a slight improvement from March IOP polling (51%: Obama; 34%: Romney). Among young adults enrolled in a four-year college “likely” to vote, Obama led 48%-38%, with fourteen percent (14%) undecided. The IOP’s poll also showed Obama had continued to grow his lead among young adults generally to twenty-two percentage points (48%: Obama; 26%: Romney; don’t know: 22%), five percentage points greater than seen in March IOP polling (43%-26%) and eleven points greater than December IOP polling (37%-26%). Obama led Romney among 18- to 24-year-olds by twelve percentage points (41%-29%) and 25- to 29-year-olds by 23 percentage points (46%-23%).

• President Obama enjoyed strong leads in “Blue” and “Swing” states – and was ahead in “Red” states. President Obama was favored over Governor Romney among likely 18- to 29-year-old voters in Swing states by 16 percentage points (54%-38%) and in Blue states by 34 percentage points (61%-27%) – he led by 6 percentage points in Red states (49%-43%).

• Governor Romney’s VP pick unhelpful. When young adults were asked how Governor Romney’s selection of Congressman Paul Ryan as his running mate affected their likelihood to vote for him, by more than a 4:1 margin more respondents said the Ryan pick made them “much less likely” to support Mitt Romney (40%: much less likely; 9%: much more likely). Among likely Republican voters, thirty-four percent (34%) said the Ryan pick made them “much more likely” to vote for Romney, with six percent (6%) saying “much less likely.” Among likely Independent voters, nine percent (9%) said the Ryan pick made them “much more likely” to support Mitt Romney, with thirty-seven percent (37%) saying that it made them “much less likely.” Among likely voters who are Democrats, three percent (3%) reported that the pick made them “much more likely” to vote for Romney, with 65 percent saying “much less likely.”

Complete results – along with all the Institute’s past surveys – are available online at www.iop.harvard.edu.
“Interning at the Heritage Foundation not only exposed me to a broad array of policy areas, but also solidified my conservative principles. I worked for Heritage Libertad, the Spanish language department of the Heritage Foundation. At Libertad, I was able to produce and participate in two bilingual podcasts. There, I worked closely with my supervisor, Israel Ortega, to book guests, analyze research, prepare talking points, and write blog posts. I will treasure the relationships I built with the interns and staff, and I am grateful for an incredible summer experience.”

– Luciana Milano ’14, IOP Director’s Intern, the Heritage Foundation

“This past summer, I had the honor of serving as an intern in Congressman John Lewis’s office in Washington, DC. I got a glimpse of what life is like for the thousands of Hill staffers who work behind the scenes to ensure that Congress passes legislation and addresses the needs of everyday Americans. The Congressman also went out of his way to introduce the interns to several members of Congress, and even President Clinton. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to work for such an important and iconic American.”

– Trevor Nash ’15, IOP Director’s Intern, Office of U.S. Congressman John Lewis (GA-5th, D)

“I interned in the Office of the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. I worked in several offices, picking up projects as they appeared, and was trusted to take on large responsibilities throughout my internship. I left with many friends, professional advice, and a much stronger idea of how a federal agency works. Most importantly, I saw firsthand how politics intersects with education on the federal level and learned how happy I could be working in that environment.”

– Julia Konrad ’13, IOP Director’s Intern, Office of U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan
States Project
Former IOP Fellow, IOP students collaborate to release new report on finances of U.S. states

Following the November elections, the Institute of Politics partnered with the University of Pennsylvania’s Fels Institute of Government and the American Education Foundation (AEF) to produce and distribute a new report painting a dour picture of the finances of U.S. states. Similar to other IOP research initiatives, Harvard undergraduate and graduate students played a key role in helping the project’s small, elite team of economists, accountants, writers, and graphic designers to analyze data. The Institute was also proud that Spring 2004 IOP Fellow and AEF executive director Meredith Bagby served as publisher of the report. All information is available at www.thestatesproject.org.

The “State of the States” report, offering nonpartisan analysis on the FY 2011 finances as well as the budgets of four U.S. states: Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, found state and local governments are carrying over $7 trillion in debt, and an end to federal fiscal stimulus is causing states to close widening budget gaps by cutting funding in education, infrastructure and other key programmatic areas. The report also shows states facing budget gaps totaling $55 billion in FY 2013; twenty percent of Americans are on Medicaid, which is “crowding out” spending on other state priorities (as a percentage of state expenditures, total K-12 education spending has dropped 2% since FY 2008, while spending on Medicaid has increased 2%); and state pension plans are carrying roughly $2.5 trillion in liabilities.

Aiming to stimulate conversation about the fiscal challenges of state governments at a time when U.S. states are struggling with budget deficits, falling tax revenues and strapped social programs, the report – based on Harvard Political Review’s Annual Report of the USA – offers reliable, clear, straightforward examinations of state budgets, public policy and the overall fiscal health of each state. The analysis addresses overall economic trends, including unemployment rates, the finances of pension programs and educational budgets – and offers a context for understanding how public policy affects all citizens.

Release of the report dovetailed with the explosion of “fiscal cliff” coverage in November, generating media attention in over a dozen outlets, including the Los Angeles Times, CNBC, Yahoo Finance, Reuters, and Bloomberg News; numerous local market newspapers, including the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, Philadelphia Inquirer and the New York Daily News; and in online columns in U.S. News & World Report, Fortune magazine and Real Clear Politics.

The States Project also published rankings of states based on fiscal stability, levels of debt, economic opportunity for citizens, educational attainment, and health and wellness. States which had the best overall fundamentals included Virginia (#1), Minnesota (#2), New Hampshire (#3), Utah (#4), and Massachusetts (#5). The states that scored the lowest in the rankings were Mississippi (#50), Nevada (#49), Louisiana (#48), West Virginia (#47), and Alabama (#46).
Institute launches new website, earns coveted design award
This fall, the IOP unveiled a redesigned online home (www.iop.harvard.edu) that has grown the Institute's online reach by twenty percent. The new website offers a rich, responsive user experience, a modern and elegant design, integrated social media to extend the IOP’s impact in the online space and construction on the popular Drupal Web content management platform and the flexible and user-friendly Kaltura higher education video delivery system. The site, developed by ISITE Design, was modeled after the Institute’s new microsite for the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum (www.jfkjrforum.org). The Forum microsite, launched early last year, was recently honored by Interactive Media Council, Inc., with a 2012 “Best in Class” award for a university.

Women’s Initiative in Leadership class shines in fall semester
The Institute’s fall semester was marked by strong participation and continued positive developments and steps forward for the Women’s Initiative in Leadership – created in the fall of 2006 in response to great interest shown by female undergraduates at Harvard in developing leadership skills – which attracted thirty-four students for the fall program, double the participation from the spring semester. The program’s cornerstone weekly sessions again explored development of public speaking, networking, and negotiation skills and featured proven women leaders from varied professional backgrounds and areas of expertise. Class sessions included an informative discussion on gender diversity and leadership by John Hancock Financial senior vice president of brand communications and corporate social responsibility Carol Fulp; a discussion on work-life balance with Fall 2012 IOP Fellow and Fortune Washington editor and columnist Nina Easton; and a session on successful negotiation by Susan Hackley, managing director of Harvard University’s Program on Negotiation.

IOP student Alex Palmer ’12 named 2013 Marshall Scholarship winner
Institute Student Advisory Committee alum Alex Palmer ’12 has been named a 2013 Marshall Scholarship winner. One of only thirty-four nationwide recipients of the honor, Palmer will travel to universities in the United Kingdom this fall for fully funded graduate study. According to coverage of the honor in the Harvard Crimson, Palmer plans “…to pursue a year-long masters program at King’s College London, studying Conflict, Security and Development – a program focusing on the relationship between poverty and security – and possibly also attend the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.” Palmer told the Crimson, “In the modern world, when there is a threat, we can’t just think about security, but also whether kids can still go to school and whether people have running water. We need to take a more holistic approach.” The Marshall Scholars Program was created in 1953 after World War II by the British government to recognize the post-war funding assistance the U.S. provides to European countries to aid in recovery from the conflict.
IOP on the Move

Esko Aho (Fall 2000 Fellow) has been appointed as a senior fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government at Harvard Kennedy School.

Victor Ashe (Spring 2004 Fellow) has been presented the Bene Merito Award, the highest honor which the Republic of Poland can present to a non-Pole for work fostering Polish American relations.

David Axelrod (Senior Advisory Committee) is now the Inaugural Director of the Institute of Politics at the University of Chicago.

Meredith Bagby (Spring 2004 Fellow), executive director of the American Education Foundation, collaborated with IOP staff and students to produce and release the 2012 “State of the States” report.

Brian Bolduc (SAC 2010) is serving as a communications advisor on the U.S. House Budget Committee.

Farai Chideya (Fall 2012 Fellow) has started “Work and Us,” a new book-in-progress and multimedia storytelling project engaging people across America on work/life balance, family, community and creativity.

Ken Cooper (Spring 2006 Fellow) recently trained nearly two dozen investigative journalists in Sierra Leone for the U.S. State Department.

Ron Fournier (Spring 2005 Fellow) is now serving as the editorial director of National Journal.

Kim Gandy (Fall 2009 Fellow) is now serving as the president and CEO of the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

Bob Inglis (Spring 2011 Fellow) is the executive director of the Energy and Enterprise Initiative at the Center for Climate Change Communication at George Mason University.

John Kerry (Senior Advisory Committee) has been nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as the U.S. Secretary of State.

Angus King (Fall 2004 Visiting Fellow) has been elected to the U.S. Senate from the state of Maine.

Tom Luce (Fall 1990 Fellow) was recently named by U.S. News & World Report as one of the inaugural STEM Solutions “Leadership Hall of Fame” honorees.

Andrew McCarthy (SAC 2010) is in New Orleans, LA, teaching mathematics with Teach for America.

Bill Nelson (Fall 1992 Fellow) was reelected to the U.S. Senate from the state of Florida.

Bill Purcell (former IOP Director) has joined Nashville, TN-based law firm Jones Hawkins & Farmer, PLC.

Jeff Solnet (SAC 2012) worked as a Web developer for Obama for America and is now the program coordinator for internships and student civic engagement at the University of Chicago’s Institute of Politics.

Kristen Unruh (SAC 2010) is now serving as a senior analyst at CEB, a member-based advisory company headquartered in Arlington, VA.
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*Martha Stewart*: page 1, page 2 (corner, 4), page 4, page 5, page 7, page 8 (corner, 2, 4), page 11 (corner)

**NOTE:** page 11 (photos 1, 2, 3) courtesy of the offices of (in order) the Heritage Foundation, U.S. Congressman John Lewis (GA-5th, D) and U.S. Department of Education