“No Vote, No Voice”  
“Campus Voices” Heard  
New Board Members  
New Mayors Gather  
Fall Survey Released  

New IOP Director Jim Leach with 2008 Student Advisory Committee leaders (left to right) Jay Lundy, Ana Mendy, and Tejas Sathian aboard C-SPAN’s Campaign 2008 Bus at the Kennedy School in December.
As many of you know, in mid-September I joined the Institute of Politics as its Director after former New Hampshire Governor Jeanne Shaheen left the post to run for the U.S. Senate in that state. I want you all to know how very appreciative I am to have this opportunity come to the IOP.

In addition to welcoming new fellows and hosting fantastic forums and special events, we have launched two new exciting projects designed to put America’s youth on the front lines of the 2008 presidential race: “Campus Voices” and “No Vote, No Voice.” It is our goal to help increase youth participation in the 2008 primaries and caucuses, as well as the general elections in November.

The new web-based initiative, “No Vote, No Voice” focuses initially on the 2008 presidential primaries. It is designed to be both a “one-stop shopping” center for information about this year’s election and a cyberspace platform for political discourse and civic activism in the future. You may check out the project’s homepage at www.novotenovoice.com.

This fall, the Institute created a unique opportunity for students to experience the 2008 presidential campaign and the final “100 Days” of the 2008 New Hampshire Primary firsthand: the “Campus Voices” project. Check out highlights from the students’ weekly trips chronicling the remarkable campaigns in the Granite State via a new IOP website, www.campusvoices.org.

At the end of November, we welcomed a group of mayors from across the country to Harvard for our Newly Elected Mayors Program. The conference, co-hosted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, helps new mayors take on the practical challenges of urban governance.

Our latest national survey of America’s college students (see pages 11 and 12) finds a plurality (37%) of young people saying the Democratic and Republican parties are doing such a poor job of representing the American people that they would welcome alternative candidate options. Most consequentially, the poll reveals that American youth have an idealistic commitment to engagement in the world reminiscent of the sentiments that John F. Kennedy evoked in creation of the Peace Corps.

We work every day to stay at the forefront of political activity, research, discussion, and debate. To learn more about our programs and events, please visit our website – www.iop.harvard.edu – and know you are always welcome in Cambridge.

* Photo courtesy of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public & International Affairs at Princeton University
The IOP is pleased to announce that Emily Nielson (SAC 2004) is the 2007 recipient of the Institute’s recently created Student Advisory Committee (SAC) Alumni Scholarship for incoming Kennedy School of Government students. Nielson is currently enrolled in the KSG’s Master in Public Policy Program.

After receiving additional Harvard University endowment funds in 2006, the Institute decided to create an additional funding resource for Harvard alumni interested in pursuing a career in public service. The SAC Alumni Scholarship is an opportunity for alumni of the Institute’s Student Advisory Committee to receive financial support towards a graduate degree at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

“As Chair of the Community Action Committee at the IOP, I sought methods to connect politics and public service in ways that would improve society. From voter registration to citizenship tutoring to teaching civics, I helped others learn about and prepare to use the political system as a way of bettering their lives and our world. Politics is clearly important for getting things done, but it requires public service to enable people to participate effectively in our democracy,” Neilson said.

Nielson comes to the Kennedy School after serving as a Teach for America corps member, where she worked as an instructor in Texas’ Rio Grande Valley (front row in picture above). After graduating, Nielson hopes to work for a non-profit focusing on education research and policy.

“By pursuing an MPP at the Kennedy School, I hope to enhance my policy skills so that I may better serve my former students and others like them around the country. With improved proficiency, I intend to work for a non-profit that researches education policy and works with stakeholders to implement solutions. This would also prepare me for serving in the government and creating thoughtful education policy.”

The inaugural recipient of the IOP’s Kennedy School scholarship was Eli Rosenbaum (SAC 2005), who began studying at the School in the fall of 2006. Rosenbaum is currently pursuing a joint J.D/M.P.P. program at the Kennedy School and Harvard Law School, where he is focusing on local and regional government, U.S. campaigns, redistricting and campaign finance.
In late fall, the IOP launched a new web-based initiative, “No Vote, No Voice,” aimed at increasing youth turnout at the polls and focused particularly on the 2008 presidential primaries. The project’s homepage, www.novotenovoice.com, offers numerous ways for young people to register to vote and get news and information about the candidates and campaigns of the 2008 presidential primary process.

A key component of the “No Vote, No Voice” project is a Facebook.com application young people can download to their online profiles. Using the application, youth who “pledge” to vote in an upcoming presidential primary or caucus will be sent important state-specific voting deadline reminders to their Facebook.com page, including those for registering to vote and sending in an absentee ballot.

Navigating the logistics of where and how to vote can be confusing, particularly for those who have never voted before or who choose to vote by absentee ballot. Intended to be an easy-to-navigate voter education web portal, www.novotenovoice.com will offer – all in one place – links to voter information and registration websites to help first-time voters. For example, a visitor to the “No Vote, No Voice” project’s homepage can quickly learn more about presidential candidates and their positions on various issues via a searchable website (www.votegopher.com), find youth-oriented news and perspective on the 2008 race, and get links to candidate websites if interested in volunteering on a presidential campaign. Additionally, the website will offer a selection of video clips from inspirational speeches given by political leaders over the past several decades.

Young people who forward the Facebook.com application and encourage their friends to vote will be automatically entered to win weekly prizes including gift cards and an Apple iPod “Touch.” All eligible participants will also be entered to win the “No Vote, No Voice” grand prize, an all-expenses paid trip for two to watch a taping of Comedy Central’s “The Colbert Report” in New York City in the Spring of 2008. The Institute is also inviting young people to create their own original or mashup video showing “Why Voting Matters,” and upload the video to the “No Vote, No Voice” YouTube.com channel (www.youtube.com/group/novotenovoice). Submitted videos will be played on the channel until the conclusion of the contest period (February 15, 2008), and the creator of the best video will receive an Apple iPod “Touch.”

Director Leach and “No Vote, No Voice” students have been interviewed by numerous media outlets including the CBS Evening News with Katie Couric, C-SPAN, and The Washington Post.
This fall, the Institute created an exciting and unique opportunity for students to experience the 2008 presidential campaign and the final “100 Days” of the 2008 New Hampshire Primary firsthand: the “Campus Voices” project. The project was led by Sue Casey, a veteran of New Hampshire presidential politics and an advisor to five presidential campaigns.

Beginning in mid-September, “Campus Voices” students travelled to New Hampshire to observe and follow the candidates, campaigns and events of the 2008 presidential race, activities they continued until the New Hampshire primary. The students then shared these weekly experiences and activities with the world using a new website, www.campusvoices.org, where they posted their own original video, and photographic and written reports.

While in New Hampshire, students attended debates, rallies and other events; interviewed candidates, key campaign staffers, members of the media and the general public; produced original video and written content analyzing candidates, campaign events and policy positions; and generally observed and documented different aspects of the 2008 presidential primary campaign in New Hampshire. “Campus Voices” students conducted dozens of interviews with numerous presidential candidates, campaign aides, reporters, and pivotal figures in the primary process. Examples of project highlights include interviews with numerous Democratic and Republican presidential candidates, coverage of the candidate filing process at the New Hampshire state capital in Concord, and sit-downs with New Hampshire Secretary of State Bill Gardner.

The Institute also collaborated with The New York Times on the project, which exclusively featured selected “Campus Voices” dispatches and reports in the political section of its website (www.nytimes.com/politics) throughout the fall. The newspaper featured nearly twenty “Campus Voices” videos and written reports leading up to the New Hampshire primary.

Since launching the “Campus Voices” website in early fall, students have produced more than fifty original videos and over twenty original articles. The project has received good media attention in both local and national media, including great feature pieces on the project on C-SPAN’s “Road to the White House” program and New England Cable News’ weekday show “News Day LIVE.” “Campus Voices” videos also appeared on YouTube.com, The Boston Globe’s website and the Huffington Post blog.
The Institute is proud to announce the appointment of four experienced political practitioners to the Institute’s Senior Advisory Committee.

Victoria Clarke, Former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs; William D. Delahunt, U.S. Representative for Massachusetts’ Tenth Congressional District; Kenneth B. Mehlman, former Chairman of the Republican National Committee; and Maggie Williams, former Chief of Staff to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton officially began their three-year appointments on November 19 at the Institute’s biannual meeting in Cambridge. The Committee is responsible for guiding and advising Institute staff and students toward fulfillment of the IOP’s mission of inspiring young people to careers in politics and public service.

“We are very excited to add these dedicated and broadly experienced individuals to the Institute’s Senior Advisor Committee,” said IOP Senior Advisory Committee Chairman and former U.S. Senator (D-IA) John C. Culver. “Working with the Institute’s staff and students our new Committee members will help ensure that IOP programs and initiatives are even more engaging and effective.”

“The Committee is fortunate to have such an extraordinary bipartisan group of leaders and experts on national priorities, and I look forward to working with them,” said U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), a long-standing member of the Committee.

Currently a Senior Advisor for Comcast Corporation and consultant for ABC, Victoria Clarke recently served as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs and served as press secretary for President George H.W. Bush’s 1992 re-election campaign.

William D. Delahunt represents the Tenth Congressional District of Massachusetts. Delahunt came to Congress in 1997 with a distinguished career in public service and law enforcement and has since been reelected five times.

Kenneth B. Mehlman is a partner at Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer, and Feld, where he advises clients on crisis management, legislative strategy and sensitive transactions. Mehlman previously served as chairman of the Republican National Committee and campaign manager for Bush-Cheney 04.

Maggie Williams is a partner in Griffin Williams LLC, a management consulting firm which helps clients navigate organizational challenges, transition and change. Williams previously served as chief of staff to former President Bill Clinton at the Clinton Foundation in New York, and also served from 1993-1997 as chief of staff to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.
New Frontier Awards
In mid-November, IOP Senior Advisory Committee Member Caroline Kennedy presented the annual John F. Kennedy New Frontier Awards to Mayor Jay Williams, of Youngstown, Ohio and to Zainab Salbi, an Iraqi native and American citizen who founded the non-profit organization Women for Women International. Williams and Salbi were honored at a luncheon ceremony at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston.

The 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 country - with their commitment to public service. The awards are presented annually to two individuals whose contributions in elective office, community service or advocacy demonstrate the impact and value of public service in the spirit of John F. Kennedy.

Jay Williams, 36, made history in November, 2005 when he became the youngest and first African-American Mayor of Youngstown. Williams won a six-way race on a platform calling for the city to acknowledge its diminishing population and poor economic health, and to improve its circumstances by shrinking. Zainab Salbi, 38, founded Women for Women International in 1993 to help women in war-torn regions restart their lives in ways that are independent, productive, and secure. To date, the organization has delivered $39 million in aid and microcredit loans to 120,000 women.

Seminar on Transition and Leadership for Newly Elected Mayors
Twenty-three newly-elected mayors of large U.S. cities attended the three-day, 17th biennial seminar, co-sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Mayors-elect attended a variety of sessions and workshops, led by leading Harvard and Kennedy School faculty, current Mayors and key city aides, on transitioning from the campaign to City Hall, leadership, crisis management, ethics, financing, public safety and intergovernmental affairs.

Former Harvard President Larry Summers and Kennedy School Dean David Ellwood both had an opportunity to meet with and address the new mayors, hosted by IOP Director Jim Leach. Other panelists included over ten current U.S. mayors from cities across the country, Belfer Center Fellow Cristine Russell, and IOP Fellows Bill Purcell, Noelia Rodriguez and Maralee Schwartz.

Senior Advisory Committee member Caroline Kennedy (middle) with 2007 New Frontier Award winners Zainab Salbi, founder of Women for Women International and Jay Williams, Mayor of Youngstown, OH at John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

Newly-elected mayors Bill Finch of Bridgeport, CT and Konnie Lukes of Worcester, MA at Mayors Conference in December
Fantastic Fall Forums
Iraq and domestic issues remain hot topics among Harvard students

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
International issues and foreign policy challenges were front and center at the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum this fall, particularly those dealing with Iraq. In October, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari spoke on “The Future of Iraq,” while U.S. Army Chief of Staff George Casey discussed “Meeting the Challenges of Persistent Conflict in the 21st Century” in November. A capacity crowd also came to the Forum to hear insights from Partners in Health Founder Paul Farmer and Clinton Global Health Director Ira Magaziner on “Global Health Challenges & Avenues for Student Engagement.”

DOMESTIC ISSUES
In one of the semester’s highlights, The New York Times Columnist Maureen Dowd led a discussion on press and politics. SEC Commissioner Christopher Cox addressed “The Role of Government in Markets,” and U.S. Heath and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt discussed U.S. health care policies and the health care system. The Forum also welcomed former NBA player and author John Amaechi to address “How Homophobia Hurts America.”

NOBEL LAUREATES
In October, Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Muhammad Yunus discussed “Social Business Enterprise and a World without Poverty” and Nobel Laureate in Economics Thomas Schelling delivered the Edward L. Godkin Lecture on “Managing Nuclear Proliferation.” In November and December, the Forum welcomed back two other prominent Peace Prize winners: former South African President F.W. de Klerk on “From Apartheid to Democracy” and former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev who gave the Albert H. Gordon Lecture on “Overcoming Nuclear Danger.”

ANNIVERSARIES
The Forum also helped mark two prominent anniversaries in our nation’s history. In September, the Forum was the venue for a powerful premiere of the HBO documentary, “Little Rock Central: 50 Years Later,” which explored the legacy of segregation on the 50th Anniversary of the forced integration of Central High School. In October, President Kennedy’s Special Counsel Ted Sorensen, Belfer Center Director Graham Allison and IOP Director Jim Leach reflected on the “45th Anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis.”
Fellowship Program
Fall Fellows make an impact with the Harvard community

The IOP’s fall Fellows brought an uncanny breadth and depth of experience to share with Harvard students this semester, each leading weekly, not for credit study groups that discussed national politics, international development, foreign policy, urban policy issues, and the media. The Fellows, however, were not solely fixtures in the their study groups, but also throughout the Harvard community. The fall Fellows class ventured to University classes and speaking engagements with student groups, and also allotted substantial amounts of time for individual meetings with Kennedy School and Harvard students during office hours, dinners, and casual chats in the IOP’s hallways.

In addition, this semester’s Fellows class connected students and the Harvard community with high-profile study group guest speakers, including: Bill Archer, former U.S. Representative (R-TX); Major General Kevin Bergner, Spokesman and Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Effects Multinational Force—Iraq; Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, former head of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq; Andy Card, former White House Chief of Staff; Tad Devine, Democratic Strategist and advisor to several presidential campaigns; Ari Fleischer, former Press Secretary to President George W. Bush; Porter Goss, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Tom Freston, founder and former CEO of MTV Networks; Hector Hernandez, Special Agent, U.S. Secret Service (see photo top right); Walter Kansteiner, former Assistant Secretary of State for Africa; F.W. de Klerk, former South African President; Mary Matalin, advisor to Fred Thompson’s 2008 presidential campaign; Welile Nhlapo, South African Ambassador to the U.S.; Richard J. Riordan, former Mayor of Los Angeles; Samir Samaidaie, Iraqi Ambassador to the United States; and David Satterfield, Member of the National Security Council and former Ambassador to Syria.

In addition, former Egyptian parliamentary member Mona Makram Ebeid and former U.S. Ambassador and U.S. Senator (D-IL) Carol Moseley Braun came to the Institute of Politics as Visiting Fellows this semester, leading popular events that engaged undergraduate and graduate students and faculty.

Formal Fellows:

If you have interest in continuing to share your wisdom and expertise with eager Harvard students, there are conferences and discussion panels offered every semester on a wide range of topics that would benefit from your participation! Please do not hesitate to contact IOP Fellows Coordinator Eric Andersen (eric_andersen@harvard.edu) for more information about staying in touch with the IOP.
In early December, the Institute of Politics was hosted by the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. at a well-attended event to roll-out the results of the IOP’s most recent national poll of the political attitudes of America’s young people. The event featured perspectives from former chief of staff to President Ronald Reagan and Institute Senior Advisory Committee member, Ken Duberstein. This fall’s poll again featured an expanded sample size (first used in our fall 2006 poll) to examine the political views of all 18-24 year olds, whether or not they are attending a four-year college or university. The poll uncovered a great amount of useful information for political parties and candidates looking to court a demographic that will be critical to the outcome of the 2008 elections.

As in the spring, the fall 2007 IOP poll showed former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and U.S. Senator Barack Obama as 18-24 year-olds’ first choices for President in 2008 among likely young voters of both parties. The poll also found while only eighteen percent (18%) of likely Democratic voters who choose a candidate say they are dissatisfied with the choice of candidates for their party’s nomination, the percentage doubles (36%) among likely Republican voters who choose a candidate concerning choices in their party. Another of the poll’s key findings showed only three in ten (30%) young people believe that the Democratic and Republican parties do an adequate job of representing the American people, with a plurality (37%) saying the two parties are doing such a poor job that a third major party is needed.

The online survey of 2,526 18-24 year old U.S. citizens conducted by Harris Interactive® for the IOP between October 28 and November 9, 2007 found—

- **Young Democrats still favor U.S. Senator Barack Obama over U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton for President in 2008, particularly “on campus,” while Clinton edges Obama among non-college youth.** The poll shows more than one-third (38%) of likely 18-24 year-old Democratic voters maintain that U.S. Senator Barack Obama would be their first choice for President in 2008, followed by U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton (33%) and former U.S. Senator John Edwards (7%) – similar margins seen in March 2007 IOP polling (35%, 29%, 9% respectively). This contrasts with most national polls of registered voters, where Senator Clinton leads Senator Obama and former Senator Edwards (44%, 25%, 14% – CNN poll of registered Democratic Voters 11/2 – 11/4). On college campuses, Senator Obama enjoys an even greater lead over Senator Clinton (44%-23%), but Senator Clinton takes the lead over Senator Obama among 18-24 year-old Democrats who have never enrolled in any college (38%-31%).

- **Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani still leads challengers among young Republicans, but “undecided” voters and those favoring former U.S. Rep. Ron Paul are growing.** While former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani
leads U.S. Senator John McCain and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney among young likely Republican voters (26%, 15%, 6%), all three have lost some ground since March (31%, 8%, 8%). Factors in the drop may include the addition of former U.S. Senator Fred Thompson (9%) into the presidential race, growing support for former U.S. Representative Ron Paul (1% in March 2007, 6% in November) and an increase in “undecided” voters (28% in March 2007, 30% in November).

- **Nearly two in five young people say the Democratic and Republican parties aren’t representing them well enough; support exists for a major third party candidate.** Only thirty percent (30%) of 18-24 year-olds today believe that the Democratic and Republican parties are adequately representing the American people, and nearly two in five (37%) say that the two parties are doing such a poor job they would welcome alternative candidate options. A third party candidate is likely to be better received from the left than the right, as forty-one percent (41%) of young registered Democratic voters believe a major third party is required, with only twenty-nine percent (29%) approving of the job the two major parties are doing. In contrast, more than four in ten young registered Republican voters (47%) approve of the job the two major parties are doing in representing the American people, with thirty-two percent (32%) saying a poor job by the two parties necessitates a third major party.

- **Healthcare becomes the second most pressing national issue of concern among young people today.** Although Iraq and the War in general is still the top national concern of America’s youth today (37%), nearly one in ten young people (9%) say that healthcare is the “national issue” that concerns them most – more than double the number seen in March 2007 IOP polling (4%). In addition, twice as many young people today favor a universal healthcare system (50%) than those who favor the current system (25%).

- **Young people are politically engaged and looking forward to participating in the 2008 presidential election.** Consistent with findings from March 2007 IOP polling, America’s 18-24 year-olds appear politically engaged as we approach the presidential primary and caucus season. Forty-one percent (41%) of 18-24 year-olds say they will definitely be voting in a presidential primary or caucus (March 2007 – 42%) and sixty-one percent (61%) say the same about voting in the general election (March 2007 – 61%). Six in ten (60%) say they follow news about national politics either very or somewhat closely, and – as in March – more than one-third (35%) consider themselves politically engaged and active.

More findings and data from this and other IOP surveys, including our New Hampshire Primary youth exit poll, are available online at [www.iop.harvard.edu](http://www.iop.harvard.edu).
2007 marked a year of growth for the IOP Internship Program. This year, the IOP sponsored 40 Harvard College undergraduates in 39 political offices around the world, including:

- Global Health Chile, Santiago, Chile (NEW)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Vienna, Austria
- Lord Mayor of London, England
- Ministry of Health, Mexico City, Mexico
- Parliament: Roseau, Dominica (NEW)
- Parliament: Seoul, South Korea
- The Valley Trust, Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa
- The Vietnam Program at the KSG/The Fulbright School, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam (NEW)
- Ukraine Mayor’s Office, Kiev, Ukraine (NEW)

TOP CORNER PHOTO: IOP 2007 Summer in Washington (SIW) Interns with U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NE) (Courtesy of Senator Hagel’s Office); LEFT TO RIGHT: SIW Interns on west balcony of U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi’s (D-CA) Office (Courtesy of Speaker Pelosi’s Office); Welcome greeting for SIW Interns attending a Washington Nationals game at RFK Stadium; U.S. Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) and SIW Interns on steps of U.S. Capitol building (Courtesy of Senator Obama’s Office).

For another summer, our internship program placed Harvard students in high-profile political and governmental offices in New York, N.Y., Washington, D.C., and other cities across the country. Here are some testimonials from students about their experiences:

“I had not considered taking on an unpaid internship over the summer until I learned about the IOP grant this summer. I’ve worked most every summer since I was 12, either at my grandparent’s farm or holding other jobs. I’ve worked for carpenters, plumbers, a utility company, Apple Computers, and many other small jobs, all of them paid. I can say that this opportunity was wholly made possible because of the IOP grant.” – David Chiles ’08, 2007 IOP Summer Stipend Recipient, Office of U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO)

“My favorite part of the internship was having intern meetings with Senator Hagel. From discussions with other Senate interns, many senators rarely come into contact with their interns. More than once, we had hour-long meetings where he would discuss his opinions on legislation, his own political life, and open the discussion to questions we had for him. Senator Hagel always made an effort to ensure that we felt we made a worthwhile contribution to his office.” – Katie McCabe ’09, 2007 Director’s Intern, Office of U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel (D-NE)

After launching the campaign stipend program for returning Kennedy School students in 2006, which support Kennedy School students on summer internships with political campaigns, two stipends of $3500 were awarded to Dan Grandone and Emily Schmitt in 2007. For more information on the stipends, contact the IOP’s Karin Kane Bloom (karin_kane@harvard.edu) or Amy Howell (amy_howell@harvard.edu).
The IOP’s “Women’s Initiative in Leadership” (WIL), created in the fall of 2006 to address the interest and importance of female students at Harvard in developing leadership skills, had another successful semester this fall offering helpful seminars and interactive workshops with well-known women leaders in politics, government, and business. Here are just a few testimonials from participating Harvard students on their experiences:

• “The Women’s Leadership Program has been challenging, thought-provoking, empowering, and inspiring. Not only are we privileged to meet strong, accomplished women who share their stories with us, but we’re given tools to equip ourselves with elements that made those particular women so successful and happy.” – Jieun Baek ’09

• “With the opportunity to hear how successful women became successful leaders, developing a ‘leader’s skill set’ and given the opportunity to test my ability to lead through WIL events, I have a better understanding of myself and the falsity of ‘barriers’ to women’s leadership. WIL gave me the opportunity to meet brilliant Harvard women, develop my leadership skills and gave me the courage to stand tall next to President Faust and any other leader I might meet in the future. Through WIL, my dreams to lead became a WILL to lead.” – Fiona Cunningham ’10

• “The Women’s Initiative in Leadership has been one of the most rewarding programs I have participated in at Harvard, and I wish that it didn’t have to end! I would highly recommend it to any young woman who wants to hone her leadership skills and, most importantly, to connect with a network of amazing women.” – Meaghan Dempsey ’10

• “WIL has been an amazing opportunity for me this semester. It has made me realize how open and inviting the IOP can be and the amazing programs they have. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to meet some amazing female leaders and learning from them. It has been an unforgettable experience.” – Hue Le ’09

• “The WIL program experience encompasses exposure to all facets of leadership that one must understand and develop in order to effect real change in the world. It allows participants to cultivate the skills and perspectives necessary for taking on greater social responsibility, and helps young women discover the leadership potential in themselves, regardless of particular backgrounds, personalities, passions, activities, and interests.” – Lauren Zletz ’10
Shaheen’s campaign for U.S. Senate in New Hampshire underway
In mid-September, Jeanne Shaheen resigned from her position as Director of the Institute to become a candidate for the United States Senate. During her tenure as Director, which began in July 2005, Shaheen enhanced programming in the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum; strengthened the Institute’s Fellows program and campaign and elected officials conferences; created a new initiative fostering women’s leadership; expanded internship opportunities for students; developed and hosted a successful youth voter conference on the 2006 election; and broadened the reach of the Institute’s younger voter research, polling, and outreach activities.

C-SPAN’s Campaign 2008 Bus stops at Kennedy School
In December, Harvard and Kennedy School students, faculty and staff hopped aboard C-SPAN’s Campaign 2008 Bus when the vehicle stopped at the Kennedy School as part of the “Road to the White House” tour. One of the most sophisticated rolling TV studios in use today, C-SPAN has placed the 45-foot mobile production studio on the campaign trail to promote and enhance the network’s political coverage. IOP visitors to the bus included Institute Director Jim Leach and 2008 Student Advisory Committee leaders Ana Mendy, Jay Lundy, and Tejas Sathian (see newsletter cover photo).

Institute hosts D.C. roundtable for women members of Congress in late January
In late January, the Institute hosted a bipartisan roundtable meeting in Washington, D.C. for women members of Congress in conjunction with Rachel’s Network, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a network of women conservation funders to be an influential voice for the environment. Coinciding with the President’s annual State of the Union address, the meeting included policy briefings on a number of critical issues. The roundtable agenda was developed at a December dinner meeting with members of the Congressional Women’s Roundtable Steering Committee (see photo above).

IOP to debut a new website for the Spring semester
After a year-long website redesign process, in the beginning of Spring 2008, the Institute will debut a new online home that will allow visitors to find content more quickly and easily. The new, better-organized website will allow up-to-the-minute updates and feature a comprehensive multimedia center. Following the launch of the new website, the IOP also plans to build and develop an “alumni network” where student advisory committee alums and former fellows can create profiles and share event information, mentor students, and exchange news and ideas. Make sure to check it out!
Carl M. Cannon (Spring 2007 Fellow) has been named the new Washington Bureau Chief of *Readers Digest*.

Joe Cislo (SAC 1984) has been appointed the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Healthcare and Elder Law Programs Corporation (H.E.L.P.) based in California.

Ken Cooper (Spring 2006 Fellow) has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to spend the spring 2008 semester at Cairo University in Egypt evaluating the content of four Egyptian daily newspapers.

Trevor Dryer (SAC 2002) has recently moved back to San Francisco to join the law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson.

Martin Frost (Fall 2005 Fellow) has been named President of America Votes, a coalition of membership-based groups aiming to increase voter registration, education and participation in electoral politics.

Trey Greyson (SAC 1994) has been re-elected to a second term as Secretary of State of Kentucky.

Theresa House (SAC 2004) graduated from Harvard Law School in June and has begun working as an associate at Hogan & Hartson LLP in New York, New York.

Bobby Jindal (Spring 2004 Visiting Fellow) was elected Governor of Louisiana this past October.

Jody Kellman (SAC 2005) is currently pursuing a Master’s Degree in International Studies at the University of Sydney through June 2008 on a Fulbright scholarship.

Alan Khazei (Fall 2006 Fellow) has launched “Be the Change, Inc.,” a new Boston-based organization aiming to build a national youth service movement network among social entrepreneurs.

Adam Lauridsen (SAC 2001) is an associate at the San Francisco law firm Keker & Van Nest.

David Michael (SAC 1987) was recently promoted to Managing Director of the Boston Consulting Group’s Greater China practice based in Beijing.

Jill Long Thompson (Spring 1995 Fellow) is running for Governor in Indiana.

Danny Yagan (SAC 2006) entered Harvard’s PhD program in Economics this past fall.

Send all news and updates that you would like to share with the IOP community to Karin Kane Bloom (Karin_Kane_Bloom@ksg.harvard.edu).
Institute of Politics Staff

Director
James A. Leach (jim_leach@ksg.harvard.edu)

Executive Director
Catherine McLaughlin (catherine_mclaughlin@harvard.edu)

Fellows & Study Groups Coordinator
Eric Andersen (eric_andersen@harvard.edu)

Internships Program Administrator
Karin Kane Bloom (karin_kane_bloom@harvard.edu)

IOP Staff Assistant
Kerri Collins (kerri_collins@harvard.edu)

Director of Polling
John Della Volpe (john_della_volpe@ksg.harvard.edu)

Assistant Director for Conferences & Special Projects
Christian Flynn (christian_flynn@harvard.edu)

Internships Program Administrator
Amy Howell (amy_howell@harvard.edu)

Fellows Assistant
Kevin Larivee (kevin_larivee@harvard.edu)

Forum Coordinator
Kamron Mitchell (kamron_mitchell@ksg.harvard.edu)

WIL Program Coordinator and IOP Staff Assistant
Cathey Park (cathey_park@harvard.edu)

Director of Communications
Esten Perez (esten_perez@harvard.edu)

Executive Assistant to the Director
Julie Schroeder (julie_schroeder@harvard.edu)

Director of National Youth Engagement
Laura Simolaris (laura_simolaris@harvard.edu)

Forum Assistant
Sean Tierney (sean_tierney@ksg.harvard.edu)

Financial Administrator
Theresa Verbic (theresa_verbic@harvard.edu)

Digital Media Coordinator
Greg Wilson (greg_wilson@harvard.edu)