**SIGnificant News**

**Note from the SIG chair**

Voter registration drive & election night party engage students

White House Chief of Staff Josh Bolten JD ’80 spoke to Stanford students during a tour of the West Wing organized by SIG’s Educational Program Coordinator.

By Eric Showen ’09

I hope the New Year finds you in good health and spirits. Here on the Farm, Stanford in Government enters 2009 having completed one of its most active autumn quarters in recent memory. With election-related programming and events, new fellowships, a student-initiated course, and service projects in local communities, SIG sprinted into the academic year and hasn’t looked back.

The 2008 election played a significant role in many of your lives during the fall, and it did so for us on campus as well. SIG was at Please see “Chair’s Note” on page 2

**Philip Mudd meets with SIG members**

By Cameron Bell ’09

On Veterans Day this fall, members of Stanford in Government met with Philip Mudd, one of the nation’s most senior counterterrorism officials in the FBI and a former CIA operative.

Mudd was appointed by FBI Director Robert Mueller as the Associate Executive Assistant Director of the National Security Branch in 2005. Previously he had been Deputy Director of the Counter Terrorism Center and a CIA specialist in Asian affairs and Iranian state-sponsored terrorism. He has received several departmental awards for his service.

Mudd spoke about his meandering career track through Federal government intelligence agencies, national security concerns of the incoming administration, and the day-to-day life of a national security official. Of particular interest to the seniors in the group was Mudd’s unusual transformation

Please see “Mudd” on page 6

**SIG hosts Musharraf at Stanford**

Former president of Pakistan speaks about terrorism as SIG’s “Big Speaker”

Pervez Musharraf, former president of Pakistan, delivered a lecture on January 16, 2009, in Memorial Auditorium titled “Terrorism and Extremism: The Need for a Holistic Approach.”

The event was co-sponsored by the ASSU Speakers Bureau, the Public Policy Program, Stanford in Washington, the Center for International Security and Cooperation, the International Relations Program, Abbasi Program in International Studies, Bechtel International Center, Stanford Journal on International Relations, and the Muslim Students Awareness Network.

More details about this event will appear in our spring newsletter.
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the forefront of several election-related undertakings. Seeking to reinforce its role as a central resource for campus political groups, SIG worked closely with the ASSU to co-sponsor an extensive voter registration drive. Partner organizations from across the political spectrum collaborated in this effort. At the end of the day, SIG members and partners registered over 500 new voters from California and other states.

Naturally, the highlight of the season occurred on election night, when SIG hosted a nonpartisan, campus-wide celebration at the CoHo. Over 500 people packed the normally low-key coffee house to witness history as Barack Obama was elected the first African-American President of the United States.

Both conservative and liberal groups were invited to participate in the event; the presence of both Obama and McCain supporters contributed greatly to the night’s political dialogue. Students enjoyed free food and beverages while socializing and taking in the occasion. I will never forget the roar that erupted when CNN projected Obama the winner.

Beyond the election, SIG members are hard at work developing new fellowship placements and continuing to offer new and exciting experiences for our summer fellows.

During the past summer, I had the privilege of attending several SIG-sponsored events in Washington, DC, which were organized by our Educational Program Coordinator, Katelyn Baldwin ’09. Students visited the West Wing on a private tour with White House Chief of Staff Josh Bolten JD ’00, met with Senator Max Baucus ’64 JD ’67 and Congressman James Sensen-brenner ’65, and enjoyed outings to baseball games and outdoor movies on the National Mall. I can’t imagine a more stimulating summer experience, and I was pleased to witness the tremendous support network that is provided to SIG fellows.

One of my goals as Chair has been to make SIG, traditionally a top-heavy organization, a genuinely rewarding experience for hardworking committee members. Toward that end, I have been fortunate to work with an innovative and tireless Board of Directors.

Together, we have enacted several subtle yet important changes in SIG’s internal operations. Social events, organized by a newly-created Community Development Director, have replaced a majority of all-SIG meetings in order to allow our members to form meaningful relationships in casual settings.

We have also featured prominent outside speakers in small gatherings for SIG students, such as a recent lunch with Philip Mudd, FBI Assistant Director for National Security. In the spring, SIG members will join together for a Habitat for Humanity build.

Finally, SIG has sought to improve both external and internal communication through a revamped website.

I am always impressed not only by the high caliber of SIG programs and fellowships, but also by the scope and reach of the organization. SIG received 80 applications for membership in the first week of academic year, of which we were able to accept fewer than half. Over one hundred students attended Fellowships Night in November, dozens in local communities have been touched by our Community Partnerships outreach, and over 500 people enjoyed the election night celebration.

As always, we are extremely grateful for the support of our loyal donors and the wonderful staff of the Haas Center. Without your generosity, none of this would be possible.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or comments at cashowen@stanford.edu.

Members of SIG’s board of directors participated in a retreat in Santa Cruz at the beginning of the year to strategize and plan for the upcoming quarter.
Students meet DC policy-makers through EPC program

By Katelyn Baldwin ’09

As SIG’s Educational Program Coordinator (EPC), I was able to offer an action-packed calendar of educational, social, and community service events for the undergraduate Stanford community interning in Washington, DC this summer. Stanford students enjoyed opportunities to meet with high-level policy-makers and government officials, network with Stanford alumni, and experience the capital’s social life.

In an event deemed the highlight of the summer, 35 lucky Stanford students gathered in the White House Press Briefing Room to engage in a discussion with White House Chief of Staff Josh Bolten JD ’80. Students were then treated to a private tour of the West Wing, where they viewed the Cabinet Room, the Roosevelt Room, and the Oval Office.

“Few students get a chance to observe the settings of high-level decision-making,” said Theo Milonopoulos ’09, Communications Director for SIG, who participated in the White House tour. “We were especially fortunate to engage in such an intimate discussion with the White House Chief of Staff.”

In a separate event, students visited the Senate Finance Committee hearing room to attend a discussion on domestic policy issues with the committee chair, Senator Max Baucus ’64 JD ’67. Other highlights of the summer’s program included discussions with renowned presidential historian and Stanford in Washington Professor Robert Dallek, State Department Deputy Chief of Staff Ruth Elliott ’98, and Washington Post National Editor Rajiv Chandrasekaran ’94.

Students also networked with recent Stanford graduates during a Young Alumni in Government Panel, which brought together representatives from all three branches of the federal government. Outside of lectures and discussions, students participated in inter-collegiate mixers at popular DC venues, alumni-sponsored Washington Nationals baseball games, and a July 4th barbecue at the Stanford in Washington house.

SIG endowment fund honoring Jeanne Halleck

By Jon Oram ’96

Jeanne Wahl Halleck's many years of work for Stanford in Washington and the John Gardner postgraduate fellowships is well known, but her contribution to generations of SIG leaders has often gone unrecognized. From the founding days of the Public Service Center in the mid-1980s, Jeanne consistently and caringly advised the student leadership of SIG. She was joined in this role in 1996 by Suzanne Abel, current Associate Director for External Relations.

To honor Jeanne's service to SIG, in 2003, a group of young alumni launched a silent campaign to raise a new endowment in Jeanne's name. Their efforts were not disclosed to Jeanne until her retirement.

Once the fund is endowed, the annual payout will be spent to fund innovative ideas at the discretion of the SIG chair, making the endowment proceeds one of SIG's most flexible sources of funding.

While many SIG alumni and friends have contributed to this effort, and the fund is close to the $100,000 minimum needed to officially endow it, we still need a few more alumni and friends to help us reach this goal.

If you are able to contribute to the fund, on either a one-time or multi-year basis, please contact Suzanne Abel at the Haas Center at sabel@stanford.edu, Jon Oram ’96 at joram@proskauer.com, or Susan Thomas ’95 at susan.thomas@stanfordalumni.org. Thank you for joining us in honoring Jeanne's service to SIG.
SIG HELPS REGISTER, REACH OUT TO EPA VOTERS

By Max Friedmann ’11 and Zev Karlin-Neumann ’11

The Campus & Community Partnerships (CCP) committee embraced several opportunities presented for civics-based public service in the nearby community by the 2008 presidential election. Recognizing that citizens in low-income neighborhoods tend to vote in lower numbers and have more limited access to election information, members of the CCP committee went to East Palo Alto (EPA) to empower residents to participate in our democracy.

Although many EPA residents are not U.S. citizens, our first priority was to register as many voters as possible. After requesting 800 voter registration forms, we quickly became well-versed in the details and bureaucratic pitfalls of the registration process.

Soon enough, we were ready to hit the pavement. Armed with clipboards, forms, and pens, eight of us split into groups of two – each pair always including at least one bilingual person – and fanned out to homes, apartments, parks, and shopping malls to register voters. We knocked on hundreds of doors and approached dozens of people on the street. It was a difficult and time-consuming process. Often, people were not home, were not eligible to vote, or had already registered. “No puedo votar” – “I cannot vote” – was a common refrain as we trudged from one apartment complex to the next.

Despite these obstacles, the experience and success were extraordinary. Every additional registered voter meant one more active voice in the electoral process and community. Voting, after all, is the foundation of democracy.

Over the course of a month, our eight-member team registered roughly 100 people to vote, helping each prospective voter to fill out the deceptively complex registration form. It was a mutually rewarding experience, particularly in light of the importance of election 2008.

SIG members lead student-initiated course on international policy

By Kate O’Connor ’11

SIG members developed and taught a student-initiated course on current issues in international policymaking. Under the direction of course advisor Stephen Stedman, ’79 PhD ’88, a senior fellow at Stanford’s Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Campus Awareness Committee co-chairs Siddhartha Oza ’11 and myself, along with former SIG board member Raffi Mardirosonian ’11, led the course by inviting guest speakers and engaging the students in discussion.

Twenty students were chosen by lottery from an pool of over sixty applicants. The course hosted an exciting array of guest lecturers, including Nick Hope on international economics, James Fearon on the Iraq War, Joel Samoff on international aid, Dan Sneider on nuclear proliferation in North Korea, and Joe Nation on environmental policy.
PPF hosts EngageHer documentary screening and discussion

By Alicia Solow-Niederman '11

SIG's Public Policy Forum (PPF) seeks to encourage political dialogue at Stanford through conversations with leaders from the broader community, and we were delighted to begin the year in collaboration with EngageHer.org. EngageHer is an online organization born out of two women's efforts to create a documentary addressing under-representation of minority women in the American political process. By distributing the film in public libraries and screening it in communities across the country, EngageHer educates and compels minorities, women, and communities to mobilize around issues that affect their lives.

On October 29, 2008, the PPF hosted a screening and organized a discussion with Mina Wilson, a community leader interviewed in the documentary who later became a co-founder of the organization. This exciting evening brought together students, outside community members, and the women of EngageHer to discuss what the organization hopes will grow to become a national movement.

The screening provided a forum for meaningful discussion with women trying to make a positive impact in their local communities and across the country. The documentary's first-person accounts illustrate the emotions and experiences of minority women in America and the role of history in shaping contemporary political trends.

After viewing the documentary, a community member was close to tears as she recounted the horrors of Japanese-American internment during World War II and recognized just how much this stain on the nation's history has affected the political perspectives of Asian-Americans. Several viewers said that they appreciated the film's focus on the Asian-American community. Indeed, the film provided unique insight into many different minority communities: to paraphrase Mina herself, it is quite rarely that we are invited into the kitchen of a single Latino mother to discuss voting while she prepares dinner for her three children. Such a glimpse into the reality of a woman's life proved both informational and inspirational for aspiring future leaders.

The post-screening discussion also revealed the many successes and trials of this grassroots organization. Mina's story exemplifies the power of a social movement to grow and effect positive change in the world. After hearing Mina speak and respond to viewer questions, students had an opportunity to provide feedback on EngageHer's long-term plans to hold officials more accountable for their campaign promises. PPF welcomed the chance to expose Stanford students to such an important and overlooked issue.

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SIG fellow helps promote development in Peru

By Ariana Poursartip ’10

This summer I served as the first SIG Fellow at the Global Center for Development and Democracy in Lima, Peru. Founded by former Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo MA ’72 PhD ’93, who served as the 2008 Payne Distinguished Visiting Lecturer at Stanford’s Freeman-Spogli Institute for International Studies, the organization promotes sustainable democracies and economic self-sufficiency in developing countries through a variety of regional, national, and local projects.

With the assistance of Larry Diamond ’73 PhD ’80, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution who helped establish this placement, I worked on a local economic development project, financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), to strengthen agro-industrial production and public-private water management in the 10 small agricultural districts in the Lurin River basin in the outskirts of Lima. At the office I participated in meetings with IADB representatives and key project directors, pounding out detailed project strategy.

This was a wonderful way to understand the workings of the IADB, and more broadly, to understand infrastructure and institutional challenges to private development in rural Peru. Of course, communicating complex thoughts throughout the day improved my Spanish immensely!

One of my favorite activities was a two-day visit to the village of Antioquia in the Lurin River basin. After days of working on the project, I finally had an opportunity to meet the people who would be affected by our proposal. We interviewed mayors, public-private civil organizations such as the Water Platform, and micro-entrepreneurs about their challenges and goals.

The most significant meeting was with Valle Lindo, an association of 20 women entrepreneurs who recently discovered that making vinegar from low-quality local apples was more productive than selling apples for livestock feed. These women function informally and sell to middlemen who treat and standardize the vinegar. Our project will help them access credit, standardize quality, expand their operations, and directly target supermarkets in Lima. This experience has been wonderfully vast in scope: it allowed me to see the real world application of my academic interests from the perspectives of an international institution, an NGO, government functionaries, and micro-entrepreneurs.

Outside of work I spent time familiarizing myself with Lima and Peru. I lived in an apartment where I learned to cook traditional Peruvian dishes. I read the daily newspaper, El Comercio, on a crazy, crowded bus ride to work each morning. I attended book releases with my boss, a former Minister of Social Development. I visited the Amazon basin, hiked through glaciers in the Andes, and marveled at the ancient ruins in Cuzco.

My SIG fellowship has enriched my studies with faces, legislation, and real projects. It has broadened my perspective on possible careers in international development.
New national fellowships offered for summer 2009

By Rebecca Schindel ’10

As the Fellowships division of Stanford in Government prepares to release applications for summer 2009, we are pleased to announce the introduction of several new placements in California and across the country.

With the assistance of the Stanford Alumni in Government Club in Sacramento, we have secured fellowships with Commissioner Karen Douglas of the California Energy Commission, in the office of State Senator Joe Simitian, and the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell. We will also offer a placement with the Office of the Chancellor of District of Columbia Public Schools. These placements add new breadth to our existing opportunities and already have generated significant buzz on campus. Our Fellowships Night Open House was widely attended by students of various class years, majors, and backgrounds, who listened to 2008 SIG Fellows share their experiences. As interest in public service reaches new heights, Stanford in Government is excited to offer such fulfilling opportunities to students.

### 2008 STANFORD IN GOVERNMENT FELLOWS

**International Fellowships**
- Marcus Williams ’09 (International Relations)
- Center for Democratic Development, Accra
- Ariana Poursartip ’10 (Economics)
- Global Center for Development & Democracy (GCDD), Lima
- Avery Halfon ’10 (Undeclared)
- Institute for Democracy in South Africa, Pretoria
- Tiffany Lin ’10 (Undeclared)
- Institute for National Policy Research, Taipei
- Jane Esberg ’09 (International Relations)
- International Institute for Strategic Studies, London
- Mitali Thakor ’09 (Feminist Studies/Political Science)
- International Labour Organization, Bangkok
- Theresa Zhen ’09 (Sociology/Economics)
- International Labour Organization, Beijing
- Jireh Tan ’10 (Undeclared)
- International Labour Organization, Geneva
- Mark Harrold ’09 (International Relations)
- Non-Profit Enterprise & Self-Sustainability Team, Budapest
- Megan Hansen ’08 (Engineering)
- Secretariat of the State of the Amazonas for Planning and Economic Development, Manaus Brazil
- Meryl Holt ’09 (Public Policy)
- Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, Taipei
- Kathleen Cooper ’09 (Civil Engineering)
- Citrus Growers Association & World Wildlife Fund, Belize
- Raffi Mardirossian ’10 (Public Policy, Economics)
- Reserve Bank of India, New Delhi, India

**National Fellowships**
(Placements in Washington, DC unless otherwise indicated)
- Elena Perez ’08 (Psychology/Spanish; MA Latin American Studies)
- The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA
- Lauren Bishop ’10 (American Studies)
- American Public Health Association
- Sara Normington ’10 (Economics)
- Embassy of Mexico - NAFTA
- Danny Berring ’09 (Chinese/Public Policy)
- Government Accountability Office
- Elizabeth Brody ’09 (Urban Studies/History)
- Center for Legislative Archives
- Kirsten Sencil ’10 (Political Science)
- National Labor Relations Board
- Margaret Tankard ’10 (Psychology)
- Partnership for Public Service
- Vera Eidelman ’09 (Sociology/Economics)
- Roosevelt Institution
- Elise Post ’10 (Geological & Environmental Sciences)
- Stockholm Environmental Institute, Boston, MA
- Andrea Fuller ’09 (American Studies)
- The Hill Congressional Newspaper

**State and Local Fellowships**
- Kevan Christensen ’10 (Earth Systems)
- California Resources Agency
- Roxanne Dickinson ’10 (Civil & Envtl. Engineering)
- Office of Assemblymember Lois Wolk, Sacramento, CA
- Cynthia Liao ’09 (Asian Amer. Studies/Modern Lang.)
- Office of Majority Whip Fiona Ma
- Joy Zhang ’10 (Human Biology)
- Office of Supervisor Liz Kniss, San José, CA
- Kelly Coplin ’09 (Human Biology)
- Planning and Conservation League
- Dana Lindsay ’10 (Political Science)
- San Francisco Board of Supervisors: Michela Alioto-Pier
- Leigh Lucas ’10 (English)
- San Francisco Board of Supervisors: Bevan Dufty
- Victoria Lai ’11 (Undeclared)
- Office of the Mayor, San Francisco, CA

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Stanford in Government is grateful for the generous contributions from donors and alumni who support SIG programming, fellowships and other opportunities that help increase political awareness on campus. We hope that you will consider supporting SIG in its mission to engage students and faculty in a broader civic dialogue and connect students with opportunities in public service.