SIG Prepares for 50th Anniversary

By Stefan Norgaard ’15

Stanford in Government (SIG) was founded with the help of Jamie Hunter LLB ’64 when Armin Rosencranz JD ’62, MA ’63, PhD ’70 secured a number of Congressional summer internships for Stanford students in the winter of 1963. Since then, SIG has expanded to include international, state, and local fellowships, and on-campus programming for the greater Stanford community. For 50 years, SIG has been the flagship public policy student group on campus.

Alumni mentorship and support have always been essential to SIG’s success and we are making a special effort to encourage all alumni to re-engage with SIG in 2012-13. We hope you will both join us in celebrating 50 years of outstanding public service and help define SIG’s future.

As part of these outreach efforts, we have launched a new “Alumni Testimonial” section on our webpage, sig.stanford.edu. Alumni of all ages and backgrounds have provided their perspectives on the importance of our organization, as well as personal reflections on their experiences with SIG. Many alumni have pursued prestigious public policy careers and attribute their successes to their work with SIG. Aron Kirschner, SIG Chair in 2006, writes in his alumnus testimonial: “I credit my SIG experience with inspiring me to pursue greater social change in all of my work.”

SIG will host alumni events during Stanford Homecoming weekend, October 4-7, 2012. We plan to run a “Classes Without Quizzes” (CWOQ) featuring Professor Larry Diamond, Director of the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law (CDDRL), as the moderator with three SIG alumni panelists including Michael Ortiz ’05, Executive Office of the President, White House, Gary Rosen ’88, Weekend Editor, Wall Street Journal, and Gretchen Welch ’78, Olympic Coordinator, U.S. Embassy London, Department of State. We will also gather to further kick off a year of activities at the Haas Center’s alumni brunch on Sunday, October 7th. All alumni are also encouraged to join us at any or all of SIG’s Big Speaker events next year with reserved seating.

Please keep SIG’s 50th Anniversary Celebration—planned for Spring 2013—in mind. The anniversary will include a large gala and we hope to see all alumni, faculty members, and friends at our event.

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Outgoing Chair Otis Reid ’12

Reflects on a Successful Year with SIG

Dear SIG community,

It’s hard to believe that it has been a whole year since I wrote a letter introducing myself. My year as SIG Chair has been one of the best of my life and has reinforced my belief in the importance of Stanford in Government as a lifelong community of people who are passionate about policy, politics, and making the world a better place. As we’ve kicked off our 50th Anniversary planning for 2012-13, many alumni have recounted how SIG impacted their lives, both at Stanford and beyond. I, too, am excited to stay engaged and return for SIG’s big celebrations in 2013.

This year marked a second consecutive year of three amazing Big Speakers. We hosted Kofi Annan, Nicholas Kristof, and an intense political debate between Karl Rove and Robert Gibbs. We’re also exploring opportunities for next fall to capitalize on the election and to inspire students to think critically about policy and get more engaged in politics. Campus Community Partnerships (CCP) has been teaching middle policy and public service, and leadership that is necessary to carry SIG towards an amazing 50th Anniversary celebration and I know she will recruit a strong team, both from within SIG and from the greater Stanford community.

Thank you for all of your support – see you at the 50th Anniversary next year!

Sincerely,
Otis Reid
oreid@stanford.edu

Celebrating SIG’s 50th with Alumni Participation

Continued from Page 1

SIG is taking time to remember and honor our amazing alumni. SIG has been a formative experience for many and it will continue to shape many more lives in the future. In the words of Chuck Ludlam ’67, “The key to SIG’s success is that it is utterly non-partisan. It promotes public service and public policy internships because they are critical to our nation and the world. Having worked with thousands of SIG participants over the years, I can say unequivocally that these are sophisticated and idealistic students who give me confidence in our nation’s future. For over nearly half a century, SIG has exposed 4-5,000 Stanford students to the world of public policy and helped Stanford to attain its rightful place as a leading thinker on solutions to national and world challenges.” Here’s to another 50 great years!

We’ve successfully filled 36 fellowship placements with great fellows and gave 11 stipends to an impressive group of students. Attending my last fellowships orientation of my Stanford career, I was inspired by the group of students that we assembled and I’m looking forward to hearing their stories of service from around the globe. Read more about all of these placements and the 2012 SIG fellows on our website, sig.stanford.edu.

We encourage our fellows and stipend recipients to reach out to local alumni with similar interests, so I hope that some of you will have a chance to meet them personally.

Finally, I want to introduce next year’s chair, Elise Timtim ’13. You can read about her vision in her letter, but I want to say how excited I am that she is taking over SIG next year. She has exactly the sort of vision and leadership that is necessary to carry SIG towards an amazing 50th Anniversary celebration and I know she will recruit a strong team, both from within SIG and from the greater Stanford community.

Thank you for your support – keep pace with the changing policy environment and get more engaged in politics.

Sincerely,
Otis Reid
oreid@stanford.edu

Re-Engage with SIG

SIG is creating a small advisory board of interested alumni to help plan SIG’s 50th Anniversary events, and we appreciate any input or suggestions. If you are interested in assisting with Stanford alumni re-engagement initiatives, please contact the 2012-2013 Director of Communications, Stefan Norgaard (stefan.norgaard@stanford.edu), the 2012-2013 Director of Outreach, Matt Anderson (andersme@stanford.edu), or the 2012-2013 Vice Chair of Explanatory Planning, Lina Hidalgo (linahidalgo@stanford.edu). Also, if you would like to contribute an alumni testimonial, please visit sig.stanford.edu and click on the “50th Anniversary” tab.

Incoming Chair Elise Timtim ’13

Outlines Vision for SIG in 2012-2013

Dear Friends,

It is an honor and a privilege to accept the position of Stanford in Government Chair for the 2012-2013 academic year. Since joining SIG nearly three years ago, the organization has become a core part of my Stanford experience. As a freshman premied and prospective engineering major, I applied to SIG in search of a community that shared my zest for politics. SIG has been just that. Whether in the form of a lunchtime talk about the Euro crisis, a speech by Kofi Annan, or a simple debate among friends about an upcoming election, SIG has offered, and will continue to offer, an amazing breadth of opportunities for members of the Stanford community like myself to engage in policy and public service.

My experiences as a freshman fellowships committee member and as a SIG fellow in Sacramento led me to change academic directions entirely. I will never forget how intimidated I was as a freshman when interviewing fellowship applicants with one well-known professor. Between interviews, our discussions of the candidates were interspersed with chats about our backgrounds and research interests. By the end of the afternoon, he offered to be my advisor if I declared in his department. Not only did I gain an amazing mentor and advisor that day, but this experience also affirmed that I could be a contributing member of the Stanford academic community. I took my first political science class in the winter of my sophomore year and am currently working towards an honors thesis in the department while finishing up my premed requirements. I relish the opportunity as Chair to help other SIG members, particularly freshmen, incorporate politics and public service into their Stanford experience, regardless of their field of study.

With SIG’s 50th anniversary just one year away, I look forward to the chance to continue and to advance past successes. My major goals as SIG Chair include: 1) expand the Stipend program, evolving it from the pilot stage to a fully-fledged complement to our outstanding Fellowships program; 2) place a greater focus on science and technology in SIG to keep pace with the changing policy environment and reach a broader student audience; 3) increase engagement with the local community; and, 4) reconnect with SIG alumni with the help of our growing social media presence. We assembled next year’s Board of Directors this spring and will immediately begin work on these goals. If you would like to share your ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Elise Timtim
etimtim@stanford.edu

Photo by: Kate Morton
The 2012-2013 SIG Director of Directors.

Outgoing Chair Otis Reid ’12

Reflects on a Successful Year with SIG

Photo by: Kate Morton
The 2012-2013 SIG Board of Directors.

Photo by: Kate Morton
Incoming Chair Elise Timtim ’13 and Outgoing Chair Otis Reid ’12 at the Board of Directors Transition Meeting.

Photo by: Kate Morton
The 2012-2013 SIG Board of Directors.

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SUMMER 2012 13
**Rove v Gibbs: Political Party Approaches to Tackling America’s Problems**

**By Joel Kek ’15**

**Which political party is best prepared to tackle America’s problems going forward?** Republican political strategist, Karl Rove, and President Obama’s former press secretary, Robert Gibbs, tackled this question head-on when they engaged in a heated debate on Tuesday, April 24, 2012. Associate Professor of Political Science Rob Reich moderated the debate, co-hosted by Stanford in Government and the Stanford Speakers Bureau. Billed as the biggest political debate in years at Stanford, the event packed Memorial Auditorium.

Based on questions submitted online by students, Rove and Gibbs discussed a variety of topics, including immigration reform, superPACs, psychological stress in the military, America’s governmental structure, and the sincerity of both parties.

In light of the upcoming presidential election, most of the debate revolved around the campaign. The debate started with Reich asking both candidates to make a strong case for the victory of the opposing party’s presidential candidate. Gibbs initially joked that Romney’s “hair and chin” gave him the edge, though Reich pressed both Gibbs and Rove to give genuine answers to the question rather than promoting Republican or Democratic platforms. Throughout the debate, both sides expressed their perspectives of the opposing party. Gibbs depicted Republicans as a party of ‘no,’ alleging that even when they engaged in a heated debate on Tuesday, April 24, 2012. Associate Professor of Political Science Rob Reich moderated the debate, co-hosted by Stanford in Government and the Stanford Speakers Bureau. Billed as the biggest political debate in years at Stanford, the event packed Memorial Auditorium.

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Despite the energy of the debate, with its raised voices and frantic gesturing, the relationship between Gibbs and Rove was amiable and neither resorted to ad hominem attacks. The audience participated actively as well, breaking into cheers and applause every few minutes for both Rove and Gibbs. Aaron Sekhi ’15 felt that the debate was a “valuable experience for the fact that some very difficult subjects were addressed in a large, public forum,” and that he was glad that the debate managed to “increase political discourse at a school where political engagement is waning.”

The debate offered an insightful look at both political parties’ points of view on a variety of important issues facing America today and will hopefully continue to encourage friendly political debate and conversation within the Stanford community as we approach the 2012 election.

**SIG Launches Stipends Program with 11 Student Recipients**

In Winter 2011, SIG conducted a survey of 500 undergraduates in which 40 percent reported that if they had been offered stipends for a public policy or politics-related internship, their summer plans would have been different. Additionally, 20 percent had turned down public policy internships due to the fact that they were unpaid. In hopes of connecting more students to internships in policy and public service, SIG has awarded stipends to 11 students for Summer 2012. Stipend recipients will receive a $4,000 base stipend for a 9-week fellowship and financial aid, which may reach a total of $6,100.

**By Krista Ryu ’14**

This year, with the generous support of alumni and donors, Stanford in Government launched its Stipends Program to fund policy-related summer internships for students who traditionally have limited opportunities to receive public policy funding from the University. Although our successful Fellowships Program has funded hundreds of talented students for the past five decades, students not studying in the traditional fields of political science, public policy, international relations, and area studies have often found it difficult to find financial support to pursue their passion for policy. These “non-traditional” majors, including engineering, history, philosophy, and natural sciences, are at a disadvantage when applying to programs that support public policy internships. Similarly, energetic freshmen and sophomores face difficulties exploring the public policy field due to a lack of prior experience. Finally, students in financial need are often unable to accept offers of unpaid positions for public policy internships.

Noting such problems, the SIG Operations Committee conducted a university-wide survey in 2011 to assess the demand for a stipends program. The survey results confirmed the need for this new program and SIG boldly launched the Stipends Program to award stipends to students who have already secured a public policy internship for the summer and have met a set of stringent qualifications.

In this pilot year, we received 46 applications from students who found internship positions in various governmental and non-governmental organizations, ranging from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs to the Ghana Department of Social Welfare, and from the United States Embassy in Beijing to the American Center for International Labor Solidarity Center in Sri Lanka. In two separate application rounds, we accepted 11 outstanding students as the first class of Stipend Recipients. Among these 11 students, six students are serving in positions abroad, in countries including Sri Lanka, France, Brazil, Ghana, China, and India. Since our first class of Stipend Recipients are all serving in organizations with which SIG has not previously worked, they will also create new valuable relationships and resources for future students interested in pursuing policy internships.

We anticipate the pilot experience to be a great success this summer and SIG is committed to expanding the program to serve up to 40 talented students. Indeed, it was a heartbreaking decision to accept only 11 students from this year’s large, outstanding applicant pool. The SIG Stipends Team will continue to strive to provide valuable opportunities for more student participation in policy-related internships in the future.
**CCP Starts 2012 Election Education Campaign**

*By Gillie Collins ‘14*

This spring, Campus Community Partnerships (CCP) launched a civic education pilot program at Jordan Middle School in Palo Alto. SIG worked in four sixth grade classes in April and May, running workshops about political ideology and electoral processes. During the first class, CCP coordinated a debate simulation about school lunch regulation. Some students argued that the federal government should define mandatory, healthy lunch menus, while others contended that schools should decide their own lunch plans. The conversation sparked fierce debate about the role of government and party platforms.

In the second session, CCP introduced the sixth grade students to political institutions associated with the 2012 presidential election. We asked students to brainstorm ideal presidential candidates, including both policy priorities and personal qualities. We then introduced the class to the actual 2012 candidates, and students teamed up to represent a given candidate’s position on education. We then provided students with online resources to follow the election season more closely.

This fall, CCP hopes to return to Jordan to conduct monthly lunch meetings about evolving campaign issues. We will meet regularly with a small group of students interested in sustained dialogue about candidate rhetoric, campaign strategies, and emerging electoral results. SIG also hopes to take the curriculum to the Boys and Girls Club in East Palo Alto.

Based on the success of this spring’s pilot program, our fall program will harness the excitement of the 2012 campaign season to initiate more community-based conversations about citizenship and voting. CCP looks forward to continuing to spread SIG’s mission of political awareness beyond Stanford’s campus.

**Campus Awareness Hosts Prominent Speakers**

*By Uttara Sivaram ‘15*

In between SIG-hosted events with leaders like former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, Campus Awareness held its own with weekly policy lunches with prominent visitors and faculty. Two such lunches garnered substantial student interest – John Taylor, senior fellow at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research and Kavita Ramdas, Executive Director for Program on Social Entrepreneurship at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford. Taylor, who teaches graduate courses and the introductory economics class, discussed the current state of the economy on Monday, February 13th. “Professor Taylor was very engaging with the students, using his strong knowledge of free market principles to explain the fundamental problems with our economy,” said Liam McSweeney ’15, a member of CA. “He was able to make our complex economic challenges seem approachable.”

As a former economic advisor in the administration of Presidents Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush, Taylor emphasized the importance of learning from failed policies to avoid the same mistakes. “He made sure to substantiate his own economic stances with concrete examples and personal experiences in former administrations,” said Megan Costello ’15. “Plus, he was my professor for Econ 1A, so it was really awesome to sit down and talk to him in a smaller setting.”

The Kavita Ramdas lunch was also highly anticipated. Ramdas is the executive director of Ripples to Waves, a program on social entrepreneurship and development at Stanford’s Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, and former president and CEO of The Global Fund for Women. On March 14th, she spoke about gender equality and the future of women’s health. “She was incredibly inspirational,” said Ayna Agarwal ’14. “[Ramdas] was able to use her experiences growing up as a major motivation to achieve incredible things for women and the impoverished.”

These are only two of the many policy lunches CA recently hosted. Additional lunches this spring feature the much-loved computer science professor, Mehran Sahami, and nuclear proliferation expert, Professor Scott Sagan.

**SIG Fellows in Sacramento Gain Years of Guidance and Inspiration from Jim Hartley ’80**

*By Syndee Journel ’11*

As Stanford in Government approaches its 50th anniversary, it is easy to identify numerous milestones since SIG’s founding. But perhaps the most important aspect of SIG’s early legacy is the incredible dedication and support of alumni. As Director of State and Local Fellowships and a past Sacramento SIG fellow myself, I have been fortunate enough to interact with numerous alumni who provide housing and support placements. And one alumnus has played an especially important role – Jim Hartley.

Some SIG Fellows underestimated Sacramento’s potential. However, every spring, Jim Hartley ‘80 visits the Farm to welcome the Sacramento-bound fellows and to prove that “Sacramento is more than just a pit stop on the way to Tahoe.” Jim knows how to turn Sacramento into a home away from home, whether it’s by attending a River Cats baseball game, visiting the state Fair, river rafting on the American River, or attending outdoor concerts.

Jim Hartley ’80 graduated from Stanford with degrees in civil engineering and Italian, and received his Masters in Geotechnical Engineering from UC Berkeley in 1982 (as a loyal Stanford Cardinal, of course). He is currently the Principal Technologist in Environmental Services at CH2M Hill in Sacramento, working with teams around the country to solve underground contamination problems. His prior work at CH2M Hill involved working on legislation related to public projects. Since 2005, Jim has been the liaison between the Sacramento network of Stanford in Government alumni and the Haas Center for Public Service, connecting students with alumni through events such as the Take a Fellow to Lunch (TFL) program, receptions, and potlucks. In the past few years, Jim has been influential in connecting SIG with public policy agencies in Sacramento and doubling the number of Sacramento fellowships. His commitment to students, support for public service opportunities, and leadership in the alumni community led to Jim being awarded the Stanford in Government Distinguished Service Award in June 2007 and the Award of Merit by the Stanford Associates in April 2008.

Jim Hartley’s enthusiasm and dedication to SIG inspires students to take advantage of all that SIG and Sacramento has to offer. When Jim describes all the fun activities that Sacramento fellows can expect to be involved in, he is able to turn his daily bike commute of over 25 miles along the American River Bike trail into an enviable commute and a “rare and beautiful escape.” Jim not only engages students with stories of his time at Stanford but also provides advice and guidance, and encourages students to introduce themselves to alumni wherever their future may take them.

SIG is truly fortunate to have Jim Hartley. Thank you, Jim, for the years of support and dedication to SIG!

**SIG Fellow Published for Her Public Policy Research**

*By Julia Brownell*

Julia Brownell ’12 completed a SIG fellowship in Washington, DC last summer with Ahmed Calvo ’77 and she will be listed as the first author for her paper and research in public health policy research in the *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*. Congratulations Julia and good luck after graduation!
Stanford in Government is a student-led affiliate of the Haas Center for Public Service. SIG 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. Support SIG’s mission to engage students and faculty in civic dialogue and provide student public service opportunities with the coupon below or by giving online by clicking on “donate” at sig.stanford.edu. Thank you to all who have given to SIG!

Yes, I’d like to support Stanford in Government’s programs!

Enclosed please find my check (payable to Stanford University with “Stanford in Government” on the memo line) in the amount of:

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Thank you, we appreciate your support!