The Thomas S. Foley Institute for Public Policy and Public Service

INTERNING THE 2008 ELECTION

One of the core missions of the Foley Institute is to involve students in public service. Foley internships offer a unique learning opportunity while providing an important service to the public. Over the last two years, the Foley Institute has facilitated well over one hundred student internships in various federal, state, and local agencies. Students have recently served in the offices of Senator Patty Murray, Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Secretary of State Sam Reed, and the Department of Homeland Security. This year, the presidential election provided many opportunities for students to gain first hand experience in campaigns.

“We are lucky enough to have been able to support many of our interns with Thomas S. Foley undergraduate scholarships,” said Cornell Clayton, director of the Institute. “We will continue to support as many WSU students as possible, recognizing that an internship is one of the best introductions to a career in public service, and often creates a lasting experience that benefits not just the individual, but also society.”

Find out more at www.foley.wsu.edu/internships.

SPEAKER FOLEY CELEBRATES 80TH BIRTHDAY

March 2009 marked Speaker Thomas S. Foley’s eightieth birthday; the Foley Institute will celebrate its tenth anniversary in 2010. To honor his achievements, the Foley Institute, Washington State University, and the City of Spokane are working to establish a lasting commemoration of the Foley legacy in Spokane. This will include a more significant role for the Institute on the WSU Spokane campus, including displays from the Foley Archives and other remembrances from his time in office. It will also include the production of a documentary of his life, and an annual public policy lecture series in Spokane. To find out how you could be involved this campaign, please contact Richard Elgar at 509-335-3477.
It was an exciting year at the Foley Institute. We witnessed the stirring election of the first African American president of the United States, the start of what appeared to be a global economic melt-down, and continuing debates about the role of the United States in promoting democracy around the world.

The programming of the institute over this year has reflected these shifting currents. The 2008 presidential election energized young people across the country toward a more proactive approach to politics and a positive view of government and of public service. At WSU, many more students became involved with political campaigns than in past elections and we experienced a banner year in the number of students wanting to pursue internships in government agencies and offices. In the words of one student, “it’s cool again to be more concerned about your community and the issues facing society than in just making a big paycheck.”

One of my priorities as the new director of the institute is to build on this renewed interest in public service by increasing internship opportunities available to our students. Generous donations from former alumni and friends of the Foley Institute have contributed to a number of endowments that provide financial support to interns needing assistance. But we need to do much more. With the rising cost of tuition, fewer and fewer students are able to afford the extra expenses associated with completing an internship or service-learning opportunity, so we must find ways to help.

Another priority of mine as the new director is to build the public affairs and education mission of the institute. We should serve as a major center within our state for fostering exchanges between elected officials, the university community, and the public. This year we sponsored policy forums on the financial crisis, water conservation, and global climate change. In addition to our existing series of featured lectures and policy forums, we also initiated a new “Coffee and Politics” series, which brings elected officials and other policymakers to campus to engage students and faculty in smaller, informal discussions.

This year also marked a milestone in the life and public service of Tom Foley, who celebrated his 80th birthday in March. Speaker Foley was an honored guest at the presidential inaugural ceremony in Washington, D.C., in January, where he reported that “the atmosphere was electrifying.” In commemoration of his many years of service to the citizens in eastern Washington, the institute undertook a new initiative this year with the City of Spokane to develop programs that specifically recognize the Foley legacy in eastern Washington and Spokane. These initiatives will eventually include an annual Foley public affairs lecture in Spokane and a permanent exhibit on the WSU Spokane campus.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Ed Weber, who stepped down as director of the institute in 2008. Ed worked tirelessly during his seven year tenure at the institute. On a different note, I am sad to report the passing of Lance LeLoup, who was director of the institute from 1998 to 2001. Lance was one of the nation’s foremost congressional scholars and his leadership of the institute was critical for its early success.

As I look forward to my second year as director I hope to continue to build on our successes from last year. I would also like to hear from you. Whether an alum of WSU, a current student or faculty member, or especially if you are an alumni of one of the many Foley programs, we welcome your ideas for how the Foley Institute can better fulfill its mission and serve the university community and the citizens of the state of Washington.

Cornell W. Clayton, Director
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Congressional Election 2008

Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05) visited Pullman a week before the election, meeting with students in the Honors College Lounge. The congresswoman discussed her career and fielded questions from students over a range of issues including education reform, healthcare, the presidential election, and the government bailout bill.

Mark Mays, the Democrat challenger, met with students in early October. Mays' top concerns were education and health care reform. He suggested that more steps should be taken to measure student progress, and that there should be additional funding for teachers, mentor programs, and better access to new technologies.

Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed discussed his office's efforts to solve voting problems in Washington and the decision to change Washington's elections to a vote-by-mail system.

Susan Nathan, author of The Other Side of Israel: My Journey Across the Jewish/Arab Divide, discussed her experience living as an Israeli Jew in an Israeli Arab town with WSU students.

Fabrice Hourquebie, professor of public law at the University of Toulouse, discussed the presidency of Nicolas Sarkozy and how recent constitutional reforms affect the power of the president and the French parliament.

Doug Sutherland, public lands commissioner for Washington State, discussed the responsibilities of managing the Department of Natural Resources and five million acres of public lands that generates $200 million annually.

Epifanio San Juan Jr., director of the Philippines Cultural Center, discussed the Filipino diaspora and human trafficking.

Michael Baumgartner, WSU and Foley alum, presented his view from inside the Iraq Surge, based on his ten-month experience in the Office of Joint Strategic Planning and Assessment at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

The Foley Institute’s Coffee and Politics Series connects WSU students and faculty with local and national members of government, political scholars, and experts in public policy. The meetings are small and informal, giving students and faculty the opportunity to interact with our visitors directly.
Christopher Hitchens visited Pullman in February 2009 to present an evening lecture on the subject of “Religion and Politics: The Place for Religion in Public Life.” Speaking to an audience of almost 500, his lecture provoked a thoughtful dialogue with audience members during an extended question and answer session. Hitchens expounded on the thesis that his audience was lucky to live in a country like America, one of the few countries of the world with a defined separation of church and state. He discussed some of the problems inherent in countries that allow religion to dominate politics, although he did also note that one way to ensure a more secular country is to institute a state religion, as is the case in the United Kingdom. Following his speech, Hitchens signed copies of his book and met with members of the audience. The following day, Hitchens met with students, faculty, and others as part of our Coffee and Politics series. He addressed a wide range of topics including the political situation in Cuba, the re-emergence of the political left in Latin America, the Palestinian–Israeli conflict, and Afghanistan. Christopher Hitchens’ most recent book is entitled God is not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything.

Washington State Supreme Court

The Washington State Supreme Court visited Pullman the week of September 25 and held hearings on campus open to students and the public. The justices also participated in a roundtable discussion about the role of the court in state government. The roundtable discussion, featuring Chief Justice Gerry Alexander, Associate Chief Justice Charles Johnson, and Justice Richard Sanders, reviewed various contemporary issues including judicial campaign costs and same-sex marriage.

VANCOUVER PUBLIC AFFAIRS LECTURE SERIES

2009 Lecture—Kweisi Mfume

Kweisi Mfume, a former president of the NAACP and a five-term member of congress from Maryland, delivered a public address on the subject of “Race, Class and Economic Recovery in Obama’s America” at Fort Vancouver High School Auditorium on April 15. Mfume discussed growing financial disparities between socioeconomic classes in the United States, which he argued were exacerbated by sexism, classism, and racism, and by what he referred to as a crumbling and noncompetitive educational system. Mfume’s talk also focused upon personal empowerment, citing the example of President Obama as a way in which individuals can overcome obstacles. However, he also noted that although the Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965, fewer than 10 percent of elected officials are of color in the United States, and that women are also underrepresented in politics.

The annual series is co-sponsored with ASWSU Vancouver and the Vancouver Chancellor’s Office.
The Foley Institute sponsored a series of events in the lead up to the 2008 presidential election. On October 30, the Foley Institute presented its traditional Pre-Election Panel to discuss the 2008 elections. Political scientists Cornell Clayton, Lance LeLoup, and Travis Ridout, and Bruce Pinkleton of the Murrow College of Communication, offered predictions and insights to a crowd of nearly 400. All four participants predicted an Obama victory and that the Democrats would retain control of both houses of Congress, although they disagreed about the size of the Democratic victory and its significance. To check on the exact predictions go to www.experience.wsu.edu and search by date. The Foley Institute also co-sponsored (with ASWSU and the Center for Civic Engagement) a “Rocking the Vote” event. This campus-wide event helped to inform students about candidates and encouraged students to register and vote. Foley t-shirts were added as an incentive to help engage students who had to answer an election-based question correctly in order to obtain one. On election night, the Foley Institute and ASWSU sponsored an Election Night Party at Dupus Boomers, a new restaurant in the CUB. More than 100 students and faculty gathered to watch the election results live.

The Global Economic Crisis: What’s Ahead?

October 16, 2009. In the face of the global economic crisis, a group of experts spoke to a packed room about potential economic problems facing the world within the next few years. Professors Lance LeLoup (Political Science), John Nofsinger, and Richard Sias (WSU Department of Finance) were joined by Brad Williamson, director of banks for Washington’s Department of Financial Institutions, and Bert Caldwell of the Spokesman Review. The five members of the panel discussed various issues, including the falling stock market, banking failures, the real estate crisis, and the potential for global inflation.

This forum is still available for viewing at www.experience.wsu.edu (search for event by date).
Results from a recent survey supported by the Foley Institute show that both current and past interns are well aware of the advantages gained by an internship, and have acquired valuable experience in the process.

The Washington State Legislative Service Survey Project, undertaken by Francis Benjamin and Nicolas Lovrich of Washington State University, focuses on engaging and preparing the next generation of citizens for public service and examining legislative bipartisan collaboration. As part of the project, current and past legislative interns were surveyed. More than 100 current and former interns responded to the survey.¹

Virtually all interns who responded found the intern program to be so valuable that if they had the opportunity to go back in time they would very likely serve again. Similarly, when asked how beneficial their service as an intern was, over 90% rated it very highly. Both current and past interns were in agreement when asked about the most worthwhile aspects of being a legislative intern, which included:

- Experiencing and learning the legislative process
- Networking and meeting people
- Improving and learning work skills
- Working with legislators and staff
- Mock legislative experiences
- Career advancement opportunities
- Constituent work
- Having actual impact on the legislative process

“This opportunity on the whole has given me confidence in my abilities. Every day I have been forced into situations where I wouldn’t normally be comfortable. Whether giving speeches, meeting with constituents, talking on the phone, or just generally making things happen…the internship has taught me to be resilient and self-confident,” one intern commented.

For all interns, the hands-on aspect of an internship in the legislature was one of the highlights of the experience. One noted, “I did a lot of research for my office. When the senator I worked for used my research for handouts at committee meetings and floor debates, I was nervous and excited. It was amazing to have my work affect public policy. Even if it didn’t get adopted into law it contributed to the public conversation.”

Improving future job prospects was also perceived as a crucial aspect of interning: “Gaining the experience and connections needed to move into a legislative aid position,” and “Because of the internship I have found several jobs related to campaigns and the legislature.”

Interns also responded that the experience greatly increased their understanding of state government and enhanced their college classroom training. Many interns echoed the comment that “I learned far more about politics and government in four months than I had in two previous years of study.”

The process of gaining political and legislative experience was the main reason cited for becoming an intern. Other reasons included building a résumé and contacts, supplementing classroom education, doing something challenging, or to earn money while gaining experience.

Most of the interns surveyed admitted to not being fully prepared for their internship experience and suggested that it would be useful to have more prior study of the legislative process and training in clerical, presentation, and networking skills.
When asked about what effect the intern program had on individual career goals, many former interns noted that the internship experience and contacts they developed were key for obtaining future jobs. One intern said: “The senator for whom I interned introduced me to a lobbyist whom he knew would be hiring. I have now worked in this lobbying firm for eight years, since I graduated from college.” Many interns also indicated that the internship experience helped them to clarify their career goals. For some, the internship confirmed an area of study. For others it revealed a different direction of study. “I realized that policy analysts are not political science majors, they are experts. So I changed to economics and ended up being hired by the state as an economist,” said one.

The intern experience had a positive influence on how individuals viewed public service. More than 90% said the experience had a “positive” to “highly positive” effect on how they viewed public service. Many expressed future plans for involvement in campaigning, lobbying, non-elected public service, and exercising influence as a private citizen.

Responses to the intern survey clearly demonstrate the value of the internship program. Students who participate gain a better understanding of the legislative process, acquire needed professional experience and contacts, and are positively influenced toward public service. Many also built lasting friendships. The interns’ experience can be summed up by the following comment:

“The relationships I built with other interns have proven very valuable to me, personally and professionally. Where else could I have met 65 people who were roughly my age, at the same point in their careers, and interested in the same type of work? In the years since the internship, many of us have kept in touch and helped each other find jobs in public and nonprofit service and do those jobs better.”

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1. **About the survey:**

The intern surveys were administered during the last month of the 2009 Washington State legislative session (April). Current and past legislative interns were contacted by intern coordinators and provided the link to their respective surveys. Interns participated in the surveys anonymously. Of the 74 current interns, 39 responded to the survey, a 53% response rate. Of the 527 past interns contacted, 61 responded to the survey for a 12% response rate.

The interns who responded to the survey were slightly more likely to be women. Just less than half of the interns were political science majors. Most interns attended high school in the Puget Sound region, with 80% having graduated from a Washington high school.
Internships: Spring and Summer 2009

Over the past year, the Foley internship program has continued to expand both in terms of quantity and quality of internships. This past year the Foley Institute helped to arrange internships at the state legislature in Olympia, in Washington, D.C., and at a wide variety of other public and nonprofit agencies. Melissa Stuart interned at the Public Service Academy in Washington, D.C. (see her story, opposite), while Veronica Mitchel and Thomas Tupling worked on Senator Patty Murray’s staff on Capitol Hill. Michelle Maley interned at Senator Murray’s Spokane office. James Charles worked at the Department of Homeland Security. Jack Habenicht interned at the Canadian Consulate in Seattle, and Lauren Menor at the World Affairs Council.

Other summer 2009 placements include Starcia Ague, who interned in the Spokane County Public Defender’s Office, Chris Beattie at the Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office, Nicole Bush and Tamara Tatum at the Spokane County Juvenile Court, and Crystal Neifert, Andrea Oliver, Cameron Pardon, and Joanna Puryear all interned with ASWSU Legal Services.

In the spring semester, the six WSU students who worked in the Washington State Legislature were Carlos Algara, Brandt Cappell, Josh Davies, Drew McCollum, Trae McInroe, and Chelsea Stanton.

The Foley Institute also supported student interns at the WSU Police Department: Curtis Alexander, Sam Broeker, Alex Gordon, Michael Keith, Wendy Koslicki, Timothy Lynch, Crystal Simpson, Doug Smedley, Kevin Smith, Frank Stevens, Andrew Valentino, Erin Westfall, and Brandon Wilson.

Three students interned at ASWSU Legal Services in the fall—Hardy Awadjie, Sinamariam Demsash, and Peter Ludwig. Other placements were Tanashaya Griffin, who interned in a law office, Ian Hallenius at the Parks Law Enforcement Academy, and Shawn Hoey as an ASWSU lobbyist.

Internships: Fall 2008

During fall 2008, WSU interns gained practical experience in a number of fields, including law enforcement, legal services, and political campaigning. For example, ten students worked as interns with the WSU Police Department: Phillip Caalim, Joshua Calendine, Alex Gordon, Evan Michael, Kenneth Ragsdale, Kevin Smith, and Nathan Wick. Prospective law student Erika Thorsness interned at ASWSU Legal Services.

Nine students also worked for the Obama presidential campaign: Abdirahman Ahmed, Mohmanud Ali, Sirak Berhe, Yosan Berhane, Achille Davission, Caitlin Foster, Vhonda McElroy, Trae McInroe, and Beilul Ogbazghi. These students made outstanding efforts to register hundreds of new voters.
Navigating Washington
By Foley Intern Melissa Stuart

As so many Cougs before me, I chose to spend a semester interning for academic credit in the nation’s capitol. But more than that, I came to work for the initiative to create the U.S. Public Service Academy, a civilian counterpart to the military service academies. The other Washington intimidated me to the core. My first day on the Hill, I met with the staff of Senator John McCain. Nothing like easing into it!

“My most cherished success in the process of gaining cosponsors for the academy legislation was gaining the support of Congressman Tom Perriello (D-VA). I attended an event he was speaking at, positioned myself in the front row, and took advantage of the opportunity to introduce myself to the congressman during the Q&A session. After the concluding remarks, I bolted from my seat, shook his hand, and requested a meeting with him to discuss the academy. After a couple of days of phone tag with his staff, we secured a meeting with the congressman in the back room of the Capitol, in between his other engagements. The meeting only lasted about six minutes, but we were fairly confident we had his support when he said, “I like this. It’s about turning the community service generation into the public service generation.” Within days of the official call for cosponsors via a “dear colleague letter,” Perriello signed onto the bill.

This internship gave me countless opportunities to speak with and attend events with public figures I otherwise only knew from CNN, including Senators Cantwell, Murray, Dodd, Miller, Mikulski, McCain, Hatch, and Matsui; Colin Powell; Tim Shriver (son of the first Peace Corps director); Maria Shriver; Martin Luther King III; Richard Stengel from TIME Magazine; and dozens of pioneers in the public and national service field.

As I get ready to leave the city and return to my Washington, the intimidation I once felt walking to Capitol Hill has been replaced by a mix of respect and frustration. Respect for the success of the great American experiment, frustration for the hesitance that it engrains in our lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. Someday, I just might like to have an office of my own on Capitol Hill to do what I can to remedy the situation.

Melissa Stuart (right), pictured with a fellow intern at the Lincoln Memorial.

Melissa Stuart is a senior at Washington State University. She is earning a bachelor’s degree in communication with an emphasis in journalism and a bachelor’s degree in political science with a minor in environmental science and regional planning. She is from Port Orchard, Washington, and received a Foley Intern Scholarship in spring 2009 and the John & Ardith Pierce Scholarship for the 2007–2008 academic year. Melissa is currently in Moldova, where she is serving with the Peace Corps. For more information on the internship program go to www.foley.wsu.edu/internships or write to foley.interns@wsu.edu.
FELLOWSHIPS

The Foley Fellows Program was initiated this year to bring internationally renowned scholars to Washington State University to conduct research and to share their knowledge with WSU colleagues and students.

Senior Foley Fellow 2008–2009

Clive S. Thomas was appointed as our first Senior Foley Fellow in summer 2009. He is professor of political science at the University of Alaska, Juneau. He holds a doctorate in political science from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and is one of the world’s leading scholars on political parties and interest groups. He has published extensively in the areas of interest groups, including Western politics, Alaskan politics, Latin American politics, and comparative politics.

Recently, Thomas was invited by the Brazilian Ministry of Justice to be the keynote speaker at a conference on lobby regulation. He is also working with a joint taskforce of the Ministry of Justice and the Prevention of Corruption Secretariat, located in the office of Brazilian President Lula da Silva, to help draft a lobby transparency law. About the conference, Thomas remarked, “Many participants were very serious about the need for lobby regulation and were genuinely seeking information. Others were skeptical of any form or regulation either because they believed it cannot help to stamp out corruption in Brazil or because they feared they, their organization, or business would lose out if such reforms were enacted.” During his fellowship, Dr. Thomas taught a graduate level seminar in the summer 2009 on the subject of U.S. Interest Groups and in Comparative Perspective.

Summer Graduate Fellowship 2008

The Foley Summer Fellowship for 2008 was awarded to Denise Mowder, a doctoral candidate in political science. The subject of her research is “The Effect of U.S. Immigration Policy on the Plight of Immigrant Women.” Her project looks specifically at both documented and undocumented immigrant women and focuses on these primary questions: (1) Does undocumented immigration status place battered women in greater harm of being victimized? (2) Does the fear of deportation negatively influence an undocumented battered woman’s decision to contact the police or other community agencies? (3) What, if any, impact exists on the safety of undocumented battered women when local police agencies participate in federal immigration enforcement? In particular, does the department’s immigration enforcement participation influence the decisions made by battered immigrants?

Mowder expects that her study will aid legislatures, law enforcement agencies, and women’s agencies to understand how to keep women and children safe while holding offenders accountable. The funding provided by the Foley Summer Fellowship enabled her to gather data in the Tri-Cities area of Washington, where she spent the summer conducting interviews and carrying out a survey.
Michael Baumgartner

Foley scholarship recipient Michael Baumgartner (1997–98) recently worked as a foreign advisor with an Afghan counternarcotics team that advises governors from the main opium growing provinces in Afghanistan.

Prior to arriving in Afghanistan, Baumgartner was deputy director of economic affairs in the Office of Joint Strategic Planning and Assessment at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq. In Afghanistan he was working with local governors to physically remove poppy plants, the main component of heroin and opium.

Baumgartner presented an overview of his experiences at the inaugural Coffee and Politics event in September 2008, where he discussed the effectiveness of the Iraqi Surge from the perspective of U.S. military operations.

Jutta Tobias

Foley scholarship recipient Jutta Tobias is a doctoral candidate in social psychology. The award enabled her to spend a year as a government relations intern with the American Psychological Association in Washington, D.C.

In addition to her experiences as a lobbying intern, Jutta connected with George Mason University’s Enterprise Africa project, a think tank focusing on policy and economic development in Africa. Tobias was offered a part-time research fellowship to assist her with a research study on economic liberalization and its link to intergroup reconciliation in Rwanda.

How Can You Help? Pledge Your Support Today!

The Foley Institute’s funding for student scholarships and many of our programs comes from endowments supported by people like you. We would like to do more. Please help the Foley Institute by supporting our public affairs education, student scholarships and internships, and public policy research with a tax deductible gift.

Areas most in need of support:
- Student scholarships to support interns
- Foley Fellowship Program
- Public lecture series
- Increasing access to the Foley Archives

Call 509-335 3477 today to make your pledge!
FOLEY GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS 2008–2009

Five Foley Graduate Fellowships were awarded to graduate students for the 2008–2009 academic year. The Alice O. Rice Fellowship in Political Institutions and Democracy was awarded to Barbara Salera (Political Science). Her research focuses on how nongovernmental organizations behave as political institutions in developing nations, and their effect on the development of democracy.

The Alice O. Rice Fellowship in Legislative Studies was awarded to Aaron Ley (Political Science). His research looks at the ways in which stakeholders selectively utilize different policymaking arenas to further their goals.

The Burlington Northern Fellowship was awarded to Justin Smith (Environmental Science and Regional Planning), whose research examines the dynamics of community food systems.

Two Scott and Betty Lukins Fellowships were awarded to Travis Paveglio (Natural Resource Sciences) and Katie Searles (Political Science). Paveglio’s research focuses on natural resource policy and community sustainability, and Searles’ research investigates the ways in which effective environmental policy messages are crafted.

Pictured left to right are Barbara Salera, Aaron Ley, Director Cornell Clayton, Justin Smith, Travis Paveglio, and Katie Searles.