

## **Michigan In Washington Internship Program Highlights of Fall 2005—Winter 2006**

### *Introduction*

Forty-one undergraduate students, representing 15 majors, participated in the inaugural year of the Michigan In Washington Internship Program in Washington, D.C. These students have not only worked at their internships and taken classes, but they have asked questions of some of the most powerful people in the country and enjoyed the hospitality of many generous UM alumni.

### *Internship Work and Classes*

These sophomores, juniors and seniors worked a minimum of 32 hours per week at their internships in 32 organizations throughout the metropolitan area. (A list of the students, their majors and these organizations is appended below.) The students also pursued their studies in at least one of six classes offered by UM lecturers. Besides the required research methods course, the students in the fall could take a political science course on regulatory policy from former OMB Deputy Director Sally Katzen and/or a cultural anthropology about the ethics and ramifications of the work of museum curators taught by Dr. Allyson Purpura, lately of the Smithsonian's Sackler African Art Museum. Students in the winter could take a domestic economic public policy class from 38-year veteran UM professor George Johnson; a political science class on Congress and lobbying, team taught by two UM Law School grads, Broderick Johnson, BellSouth's governmental affairs director, and Perry Apelbaum, the House Judiciary Committee's chief of staff for the minority; and/or a theater class examining politics in plays, taught by Ari Roth, artistic director for Theater J of the Washington, D.C. Jewish Community Center.

### *Field Trips and Guest Speakers*

MIW participants had a range of field trips and guest speakers. The political science classes had a wealth of opportunities. Prof. Katzen arranged for the students to go to the U.S. Supreme Court, hear two oral arguments, and then have a private audience with Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Prof. Katzen's class questioned Josh Bolten, former OMB Director, now White House Chief of Staff, for 45 minutes at the Old Executive Office, and the students had a photo opportunity with Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. Professors Apelbaum and Johnson had 10 guest speakers in their lobbying class, including the heads of some of the most prestigious firms, as well as Assistant Attorney General Will Moschella. Prof. Howard hosted Roger Wilkins, civil rights leader and Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington Post journalist (and MIW Board Member); Prof. Zvi Gitelman of the UM Departments of Political Science and Judaic Studies and a senior fellow at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum this past year; and, Mark Pekala, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs.

The arts classes were not to be outdone by the political scientists. Prof. Purpura's cultural anthropology class toured three museums with the museums' curators: the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History director of public programs, Robert Sullivan; founder and director of the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore, Rebecca Hoffberger; and, Massumeh Farhad, curator at the Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of Art. They discussed the evolution of mounting exhibits, the change in the philosophy of what to present to the public and how, and the challenges of making the exhibits accessible and non-partisan.

Prof. Roth's theater class went to a play in Washington or Baltimore every other week, going to the Shakespeare, Folger, and Studio Theaters, the Arena Stage and the Center Stage. Each time, Prof. Roth arranged for the class to talk to the actors, directors, producers and/or artistic directors of each production or theater. The students were often invited on-stage after the final curtain, and the actors were especially generous in spending time with the students after the rigors of a live performance. None of the students was a theater major, but all of them contributed to lively discussions that impressed the performers, some of whom told Prof. Roth that they preferred the MIW participants' questions and comments to those of others who were supposedly more knowledgeable about the theater.

### *Social Engagements*

From the time the first group of 17 women and one man arrived in Washington, they had a busy social calendar. MIW threw a large reception at the Rayburn House Office Building September 20, attended by: a host of UM dignitaries led by President Mary Sue Coleman; every U.S. senator and representative from Michigan and members of their staffs; alumni; and, the MIW faculty and students. The week before this reception, UM alumni Karen and Langley Shook hosted the students for a Saturday afternoon of swimming, boating and dining at their beach house in St. Michael's, Maryland, on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Co-hosts Sam and Bobbie Chappell and Jack and Jan Buresh helped the Shooks teach the Michiganders how to crack and steam Maryland crabs still in the shells, a new experience for most of these students. Langley delighted in taking the students in his boat for a short jaunt to see the nearby beach houses of Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney.

In January, alumni Jack and Jan Buresh welcomed the second group of 12 men and 11 women to their home in Washington for a lasagna dinner, co-hosted by Sam and Bobbie Chappell and Rick and Beth Frank. In March, the students were recognized at the annual Congressional breakfast, hosted by the UM DC Alumni chapter. In April, all the students interested in becoming attorneys lunched with four UM Law School grads at the law firm of Skadden, Arps, compliments of the UM DC Law Club. The attorneys gave a short presentation on the various kinds of careers in government or private practice they have pursued and offered tips individually to students about law school applications and professional opportunities. The winter semester ended with a trip to the Motion Picture Association of America, where the students and their mentors had a private screening of "American Dreamz," a political farce.

### *Conclusion*

The 18 students in the fall and 23 in the winter worked diligently. The program demands that they do essentially two big jobs at once: pursue their studies (and most carry a full load of classes) and work Monday through Thursday at their internships. On top of that, the students face a number of other challenges—learning to cook for themselves, living six to a small suite away from their Ann Arbor friends, and dealing with the frustration of trying to see the monuments and museums in between laundry and grocery shopping. They not only managed, but they excelled.

The students have benefited from the generosity of a number of people. The faculty, Professors Sally Katzen, Allyson Purpura, Broderick Johnson, George Johnson, Perry Apelbaum and Ari

Roth, have run their classes more like graduate seminars than undergraduate courses. The guest speakers have given of their time without hesitation, gratis. The employers have treated the interns with respect. The alumni have volunteered in a number of ways and are rejoicing that the University of Michigan has a fall and winter internship presence in Washington now.

Several of the students have already returned to Washington for the summer. Some have graduated and are looking for their first jobs. Some have found other internships. Three employers have offered interns immediate, full-time, paid positions, and all the employers have requested more UM interns for future semesters. One graduating senior summed up his experience in Washington three weeks before he was to return to Michigan: “I haven’t even left, and I already miss this place.”

—Margaret Howard  
MIW Program Manager  
May 10, 2006

### **MIW Participants**

Fall 2005: Remi Alli, Alexis Bates, Rasheeda Curry, Yulanda Curtis, Tania Dimitrova, Leah Graboski, Christine Heath, Eunice Huang, Janel Johnson, Candace Kanka, Azmat Khan, Ashley Kranz, Caroline Lai, Rebecca Mark, Ellen Michaels, Daniel Ray, Brett Sickler and Klementina Sula.

Winter 2006: Will Bornstein, Suah Cho, Thomas Church, Jessica Fricke, Kurt Garwood, Scott Goldstein, Jim Grant, Ben Healy, Amy Kamin, Matthew Kunding, Valeriya Kuts, Annalisa Leibold, Katharina Obser, James Peters, Benjamin Power, Polina Polonsky, Nicole Pszczolkowski, Mona Rafeeq, Will Schneider, Lesley Schultz, Jesse Shook, Jennifer Thaxton and Michael Vukich.

### **Majors**

African-American Studies  
Business Administration  
Chemistry  
Communications Studies  
Economics  
English  
French  
German

History  
Organizational Studies  
Political Science  
Psychology  
Sociology  
Spanish  
Women’s Studies

## **Internship Placements**

### *Legislative Branch*

Offices of Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI), Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD) and Ken Salazar (D-CO, a 1981  
UM Law grad)

House Judiciary Committee (Minority staff)

House Committee on International Relations (Majority staff)

House Science Committee (Majority staff)

Government Accountability Office, Division of Education, Workforce and Income Security

### *Executive Branch*

Environmental Protection Agency

Federal Trade Commission

Department of Energy, Office of Science

Department of Justice, Office of Consumer Litigation and International Prisoner Transfer Unit

Department of the Treasury

U.S. Census Bureau

Voice of America

### *District of Columbia Government*

D.C. Public Defender's Office

### *International*

Embassy of Pakistan

Organization of American States

### *Lobbying and/or Research Organizations*

American Enterprise Institute

Brookings Institution

Chamber of Commerce

Center for Advanced Defense Studies

Child Trends

Common Cause

Dykema Gossett, PLLC

Human Rights First

Hudson Institute

Olsson Frank Weeda, PC

One Economy Corp.

Save Darfur Coalition

Woodrow Wilson Center

### *Media*

NBC's "Meet the Press"