

Highlights Fall 2011—Winter 2012

First, an earthquake. Then, a hurricane. Later, a visit from a Supreme Court Justice, and by the end, our 302nd student. It was a busy year.

Welcome to Washington

Mother Nature did her best to rattle Washington, DC in the late summer of 2011, less than a week before the fall semester students arrived. A 5.8-magnitude earthquake shook much of the East Coast at 1:51 p.m., Tuesday, August 23. The epicenter was in the small town of Mineral, Virginia, 84 miles south of Washington. The shaking lasted one minute, but it cracked the Washington Monument and toppled finials on the Washington National Cathedral's spires, damaging the roof. Minor casualties were reported, but no one was killed. Buildings were evacuated as a precaution and the federal government closed for the rest of the day.

Five days later, Hurricane Irene swept up the East Coast and hit the nation's capital with tropical-storm-force winds of up to 60 miles an hour. Nearly four inches of rain fell overnight Saturday—Sunday, August 27—28. Sunday was move-in day for the Fall 2011 students, and families who drove their students to Washington had a soggy arrival. Luckily, UCDC was undamaged, so students started moving into their new digs, as planned. Air travel was disrupted, so those students who were flying into Washington arrived late, as air carriers rescheduled customers up to five days later than originally planned.

Friday afternoon, September 1, some of the newly arrived walked around the outside of the Washington National Cathedral, looking at the 500-ton crane that had been erected on the south side of the cathedral, near small buildings that housed the bishop's office and gift shop. Five days later, Wednesday, September 7, during a microburst in a sudden thunderstorm, that crane crashed to the ground, grazing the small buildings, missing the cathedral itself and the busy Wisconsin Avenue traffic. No one was injured, although news reports said the crane operator was "shaken up" when the crane cab fell, tipping 90 degrees.

Students who worked on or near the National Mall could see an engineering team dangling on ropes through the top window of the Washington Monument daily between September 25 and October 6 as this fearless foursome surveyed each stone from the top down, all 555 feet of it. Repairs on the Washington Monument and the National Cathedral continue to this day. The cathedral is open to visitors; the monument is not. Suffice to say the fall semester began with a bang.

Fall 2011 and Winter 2012 Students

A total of 49 Michigan juniors and seniors worked a minimum of 32 hours per week at their internships in 34 organizations: the offices of members and committees of the U.S. House and Senate; federal departments and agencies; law, lobbying, and public relations firms; think tanks; the news media; and, non-profit groups. Although a majority of program participants are political science, economics or public policy majors, students from fields as diverse as Biomedical Engineering, Microbiology, Financial Math, Performing Arts Management joined their colleagues from Afroamerican and African studies, the Program in the Environment, German, Spanish, English, Philosophy, Sociology, and Communications Studies. Tables 1 and 2 at the end of this document show the internship placements and majors of the participants.

Off-campus study programs at universities nationwide tend to attract more women students than men; however, over time, MIW has been successful at recruiting classes that are more evenly divided between the sexes. The men outnumbered the women 13 to 9 in the fall, but in the winter, the women outnumbered the men 17 to 10.

One student had an unexpected benefit from his internship: a trip to Prague to work at a conference about international law. Another student had an unusual excuse for delaying the start of internship for a few days: she had to play the clarinet in the Michigan Marching Band at the Sugar Bowl.

Required Research Seminar

Each student is required to take a four-credit course on the basics of research design and execution, taught by Neill Mohammad. Each student may choose his or her own topic for a 25- page paper that includes a literature review and original research. Topics range widely across domestic and international policy areas.

MIW recognized four students this school year for outstanding research papers. Christine Kim and Victor Jones are co-winners of the competition, and each received a \$50 cash prize. Honorable mentions went to Amanda Urban and Michael Brandon.

Christine Kim found the more Chinese and U.S. national security policy preferences agreed, the less aggressive North Korea's actions were. Christine analyzed Chinese and American government policy documents between 1998 and 2009 on nuclear non-proliferation.

Self-confidence is a critical factor in whether college freshmen from less privileged backgrounds can compete with other students. Victor Jones surveyed UM freshmen and sophomores in the Lloyd Hall Scholars Program and Comprehensive Studies Program about what psychologists call self-efficacy. Strong self-efficacy helps students get better grades, although it does not close the gap between students with privileged backgrounds and those from less privileged circumstances.

Amanda Urban compared measures of states' environmental commitment and water quality policy effectiveness in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island. Restructuring state enforcement regulations and procedures may help to increase water quality, perhaps independent of the percentage of a state's budget spent on the environment.

Michael Brandon wondered whether gubernatorial or U.S. presidential candidates who survive tough primaries do better or worse in the general election. Michael found they do far worse. Two-thirds of gubernatorial candidates and three-quarters of presidential candidates who survive divisive primaries lose in the general elections.

Collaboration with Notre Dame, Berkeley, Washington University in St. Louis, and Penn on Elective Courses

Michigan versus Notre Dame may be a great football rivalry, but in Washington, the two universities cooperate. Our respective internship programs share elective classes. Here's how: MIW students live and go to class in the 11-story University of California Washington Center near Scott Circle on Rhode Island Ave., NW at 16th Street, about six blocks due north of the White House. UCDC is the home of undergraduate internship programs for all UC campuses, and it rents space to Michigan, Notre Dame, the University of Pennsylvania, and Washington University in St. Louis. The UC semester campuses, Berkeley and Merced, with Notre Dame, Penn and Wash. U., share elective classes, so Michigan students can take UC, Notre Dame, Penn or Wash. U. classes, and vice versa. For the students, this collaboration meant that instead of choosing between only two Michigan electives, they could choose among the classes below:

Fall 2011 Electives

Michigan's Ari Roth, artistic director of Theater J at the Washington Jewish Community Center in Washington, DC, offered ***"The Politics of Theater: The Theater of Politics."*** MIW Board member Martha Bindeman hosted an informal dinner at her office Oct. 20 for the class members from Michigan, Notre Dame and Berkeley before they attended a play about American veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan at a theater four blocks away. The class went to nine plays in 16 weeks, including Arthur Miller's *After the Fall* and *The Crucible*.

Michigan Prof. Kathy Hill taught ***"Environmental Policymaking in the Global Economy."*** One highlight of the class was a field trip to the Great Falls of the Potomac River in Maryland, not far from Washington, DC.

UC-Berkeley's Genevieve Lester and Robert Dietz, former Senior Councillor to the CIA Director, offered ***"Spies: Intelligence Fact and Fiction."***

UC-Berkeley's team of brothers, Jess Bravin, Supreme Court correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal*, and Nick Bravin, former clerk for Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and now in private practice in New York, taught ***"U.S. Supreme Court."***

Washington University Prof. Steven Kelts taught ***“James Madison and the Constitution.”***

Notre Dame Prof. Steven Billet taught ***“Lobbying, Money and Influence in Washington.”***

Notre Dame’s Carlos Lozada, Opinion-Editorial Page Editor of *The Washington Post*, held his class on ***“American Political Journalism”*** in the conference room at the *Post* where editors meet daily to decide which stories go into the paper.

Winter 2012 Electives

UCDC Director and Berkeley Prof. Bruce Cain taught ***“Political Reform and Regulation.”***

UC-Berkeley Prof. Henry Ekperigin taught ***“Ensuring Food Safety: Role of Producer/Consumer/Federal Agency.”*** Prof. Ekperigin is a veterinarian with a Ph.D. in nutrition and advanced training in epidemiology.

Michigan’s Dr. Michael Robbins, Research Associate at the Pew Research Center, taught ***“Middle East Politics and The Arab Spring.”***

Michigan’s Ari Roth reprised his theater appreciation course, and Notre Dame’s Carlos Lozada and Steven Billet reprised their classes on journalism and lobbying, respectively.

Speakers

At least once a week, students had the opportunity to hear a guest speaker at UCDC from government, journalism, business, or the arts. The most well known of this year’s 24 guests was ***U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Stephen G. Breyer***, who smiled broadly when the students clapped enthusiastically when he entered the room, flanked by Secret Service agents, Feb. 27. Justice Breyer was invited to UCDC by Jess Bravin, *Wall Street Journal* correspondent, who co-taught an elective on the Supreme Court, as noted above. Justice Breyer was on a book tour to discuss his latest work, *Making Our Democracy Work: A Judge’s View*. He raised as many questions for the students to ponder in his talk as he answered. The fundamental question: why do Americans obey judicial decisions delivered by courts with original or appellate jurisdiction? Justice Breyer said he is asked this question by many visiting dignitaries from countries developing governmental institutions. Justice Breyer said he did not have the answer to this fundamental question, but he knew that this was a basis of stability in our democracy. A philosophy major himself, he urged the assembled to study the liberal arts and humanities, so they would “know how others live.” Asked whether he thought there were too many lawyers, he replied, “Law is a pretty good profession. It requires a head, and it requires a heart... an understanding of human nature.” Justice Breyer spent an hour talking to the students as a group and another hour autographing copies of his new book.

Several Michigan alumni talked to the students. ***First Amendment attorney Marvin Ammori*** told the students about how innovations in Internet technology demand innovations in law. ***Equity Capital Markets Managing Director and Equity Analyst David Schick*** asked students about

their beliefs and understanding of capitalism and the extent of business regulation in the U.S. **Campaign Media Analysis Group President and CEO Ken Goldstein** previewed the 2012 presidential campaign advertising. “It’s still all about television ads and super PACs,” he said, even though campaigns are expanding their use of social media. Ken Goldstein received his Ph.D. in political science at Michigan and is a tenured professor on leave from the University of Wisconsin. He will offer an elective in campaign media at UCDC for Michigan this coming Fall 2012 semester.

Berkeley and Michigan co-hosted a discussion about careers in security and intelligence with **Dr. Nora Bensahel, Deputy Director of the Center for a New American Security**, and **Jolynn Shoemaker, Director of Women In International Security at the Center for Strategic and International Studies**.

Table 3 lists all 24 guest speakers at California Center.

National Gallery of Art Treasure Hunt

UM Alumnus Steve Shindler hosted the third annual National Gallery of Art treasure hunt for the Winter 2012 semester participants. A company that specializes in devising treasure hunts, Watson Adventures, developed nearly three dozen mind-tickling questions about paintings that hang in the West Wing of the National Gallery in Washington. The students competed in teams to see who could answer the greatest number of questions correctly in 90 minutes. Afterwards, the winning team went to the nearby Capital Grille restaurant on Pennsylvania Avenue, and while Mr. Shindler treated them to steak dinners, he and the students compared notes on what it’s like to be a Wolverine as a student and as an alum.

Congressional Breakfast

Winter semester students were guests of the University of Michigan’s Washington, DC Alumni Club for its 61st Annual Congressional Breakfast March 28. **Breakfast Co-Chair and MIW Advisory Board Member Martha Bindeman** recognized the program and students during her introductory remarks at the Hyatt Regency Washington ballroom. **Rep. Sander Levin**, keynote speaker, discussed the challenge of federal funding for higher education, and **UM President Mary Sue Coleman** reviewed advancements in academics and fundraising. A number of UMDC Club members serve on the MIW DC Advisory Board and work with students as mentors while the students are in Washington.

Former Students In Washington and Ann Arbor

Once an MIW^{er}, always an MIW^{er}. Former program participants are a great resource. In Washington, those who have graduated UM and are building their careers volunteer to mentor current program participants. The guest lists for the traditional opening and closing buffets at UCDC have grown ever larger as mentors, newly graduated and well established alumni, advisory board members, faculty and current students meet and greet each other. Eighty-five guests attended the largest of the events this school year. The former MIW^{ers} and UM alumni provide a much

needed circle of friendly support for the current students, and they help the newly graduated get started in the District with job and housing information.

MIW accepts juniors and seniors to the program, so a number of students who complete the program must return to Ann Arbor to complete their degrees. They've turned their energetic organizational skills, honed at their internships, to enhancing MIW recruitment and preparation of new MIW'ers in Ann Arbor. Four former MIW'ers helped to generate a number of applications from students across campus and developed a mentoring program for the newly admitted students. A student is admitted to MIW at least one semester before coming to Washington. During that semester, the student attends a preparatory class, taught by Matt Wells; now, thanks to the work of the aforementioned foursome, the newly admitted are paired with former MIW'ers in a mentoring program in Ann Arbor, which featured a scavenger hunt in the fall and a reception for 45 former and current students in the winter that included lessons on appropriate etiquette, dress and behavior in social situations.

Graduation

Red, white and blue cords with matching colored tassels, signifying participation in MIW, contrasted nicely with the black academic attire of those going through graduation ceremonies in Ann Arbor this spring. Thirty-five program participants donned mortar boards and gowns. This is the first year MIW graduating students wore the patriotically colored cords for commencement.

Public Service

The emphasis in the Michigan in Washington Program is attracting students to public service, whether by vocation or avocation, an age-old concern. President John Adams wrote to his son, "Public business, my son, must always be done by somebody. It will be done by somebody or other. If wise men decline it, others will not; if honest men refuse it, others will not."¹ Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates uses this quotation in his commencement addresses and asks, "(W)ill the wise and honest among you come help us lead America?"² Exactly 302 University of Michigan undergraduate students have taken full course loads and worked semester-long internships in the "public business" since MIW's inaugural Fall 2005 semester. As Prof. Edie Goldenberg, MIW Program Director, often tells program applicants, a semester in the Michigan in Washington program may be the hardest, but the most rewarding semester, of their college careers.

Margaret M. Howard, Ph.D.
MIW Program Manager

¹ John Adams letter to Thomas Boylston Adams, Sept. 2, 1789, Adams Papers Series II, Adams Family Correspondence, Vol. VIII, p. 407.

² Robert Gates interview, *The Charlie Rose Show*, PBS, May 16, 2012.

Table 1
Internship Placements
Fall 2011 and Winter 2012 Semesters

American Association of Universities
American Enterprise Institute
Brookings Institution
Campaign Media Analysis Group
Center for American Progress
DC Public Schools Urban Education Leaders Internship Program
Emily's List
GeniusRocket Online Video Advertising Agency
Hudson Institute
International Institute For Strategic Studies
Medical Service Corporation International
National Defense University Industrial College of the Armed Forces
National Republican Senatorial Committee
National Women's Law Center
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
Partnership for Public Service Education and Outreach Team
Rep. Bill Huzienga (R-Michigan 2nd District)
Rep. Nita Lowey (D-New York 18th District)
Rep. Sander Levin (D-Michigan 12th District)
Sen. Al Franken (D-Minnesota)
Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Michigan)
Senate Agriculture Committee Majority Staff (Democratic)
Senate HELP Committee, Labor and Pensions Division, Majority Staff (Democratic)
Smithsonian Institution Museum of American History
The Alliance for Health Reform
Urban Institute
U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Office
U.S. Department of Treasury Office of Economic Policy
U.S. Department of Education Legislative Affairs
U.S. Taiwan Business Council
Women Thrive Worldwide
Women's National Democratic Club
Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars
World Jurist Association

Table 2
Student Majors
Fall 2011 and Winter 2012 Semesters

Majors	Fall 2011	Winter 2012
Afroamerican and African Studies	1	
Biomedical Engineering		1
Communications Studies		1
Economics	3	1
English		1
Environmental Studies		1
Financial Math	1	
General Studies	2	1
German		1
History	1	1
International Studies	1	2
Management (at UM-Flint)	1	
Microbiology	1	
Performing Arts Management		1
Philosophy	1	
Political Science	6	12
Program in the Environment		1
Public Policy	1	2
Sociology	1	
Spanish	1	
Undeclared		2
Totals	21	28

Table 3
Guest Speakers
Fall 2011 and Winter 2012 Semesters

Name(s)	Organization
Roya Soleimani & Amir Bagherpour	Voice of America's Persian News Network
Molly Hooper	<i>The Hill</i> news columnist
Nick Papas	White House Assistant Press Secretary, Obama Administration
Ezra Klein	<i>The Washington Post</i> columnist
Sam Sankar	U.S. Department of Justice Environmental and Natural Resources Division
Sarah Kennel	Associate Curator, Specialty in Photography, National Gallery of Art
Thomas Helbling	International Monetary Fund
Daniel Byman	Counterterrorism and Middle East Security expert at the Council of Foreign Relations, Brookings Institution, and Georgetown University
Tom Countryman	Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Nonproliferation
Vince Frankes	Federal Policy Director Center for Health Transformation
Sarah Pompei	Communications Director for the Majority Whip, U.S. House of Representatives; now Deputy Communications Director, Mitt Romney for President
Winifred Conkling	Children's book author on Supreme Court civil rights case
Jon Cohen	Director of Research and Polling for <i>The Washington Post</i>
Stephen Kappes	Deputy Director, CIA, Bush and Obama Administrations
The Hon. Justice Stephen G. Breyer	Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court
Priscilla Labovitz	Immigration Attorney
David Willman	<i>Los Angeles Times</i> investigative reporter
David Hildebrand	Colonial Music Institute
Mike McCurry	White House Press Secretary, Clinton Administration
Marvin Ammori	First Amendment attorney
David Schick	Equity Capital Markets Managing Director and Equity Analyst
Ken Goldstein	President and CEO, Campaign Media Analysis Group and Political Science Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Nora Bensahel	Deputy Director of Studies, Center for a New American Security
Jolynn Shoemaker	Director of Women In International Security at the Center for Strategic and International Studies