



Michigan in Washington Program Highlights Fall 2010—Winter 2011

Celebrating Our Fifth Anniversary



The Costons, with Cynthia Wilbanks

Michigan in Washington (MIW) celebrated its fifth anniversary with a series of events October 22-24, 2010 in the nation's capital, **attended by 145 current and former program participants, UM alumni, supporters and well-wishers.** A Friday night buffet dinner at the law offices of Venable LLP kicked off the weekend, hosted by MIW DC Advisory Board members **Susan Liss, Robin Barnes Chandler** and anniversary events subcommittee chair **Barbara Carney Coston and her husband, Venable partner William D. Coston,** all UM

alumni. MIW DC Advisory Board anniversary events subcommittee member and event planner **Martha Bindeman** coordinated the three days of activities.

Friday Opening Ceremony

The serving tables at the Friday buffet groaned with barbeque beef and chicken, baked beans, potato salad, green salads, cheeses and vegetables, rolls and buns, and a range of desserts to tempt even the most disciplined Wolverine. Ms. Bindeman made her signature dark chocolate bars in the shape of the Capitol dome, wrapped in cellophane and tied with maize and blue ribbons, as party favors for each guest.



MIW Advisory Board Chair Laura Miller, a UM graduate and partner at Nixon Peabody LLP, welcomed all and introduced another UM alumnus, the weekend's master of ceremonies, the **Honorable Dan Glickman**, former U.S. Representative of the 14th District of Kansas, Secretary of Agriculture, President of the Motion Picture Association of America, and currently a senior fellow of the Bipartisan Policy Center.

The mood was light, and after a few funny stories about remembrances of Ann Arbor, Mr. Glickman invited those assembled to enjoy an **a cappella performance of Michigan songs from members of the UM DC alumni glee club**, who entertained the dinner guests with a blend of wistful tunes and rousing anthems, finishing the night with a sing-along.



Friday Night Sing Along

Blessed with good weather, fifth anniversary participants gathered Saturday, Oct. 23 at the University of California Washington Center, where MIW rents housing, classroom and office space. **Program Director Edie Goldenberg**, political science and public policy professor and former LSA dean, opened the day's activities by reminding everyone that **UM has a proud history of public service**, and MIW is one way to encourage current UM students to continue that tradition.

Saturday Activities

Next on the program were **jobs panels** designed to help current and former MIW'ers find jobs and plan their careers. Over lunch, hosted by UM alumna and MIW advisory Board member **David Trott**, UM alumni who live in Washington and have built careers in various areas sat in groups around tables in a large multi-purpose room and **engaged students in discussions about how they could build their careers** in the same four areas: **government, law, lobbying/ advocacy and elective politics, and non-profit work.**



Students and Speakers at Jobs Panels



Keynote Panel

A panel of distinguished UM alumni considered **whether dysfunctional politics could yield a federal government that works** at a two-hour discussion Saturday afternoon. Bear in mind that this was just a few weeks before the November 2010 election; so, much of the discussion revolved around whether having one political party in power in both houses of Congress and the presidency was good or bad for democratic government. Drs. **Norm Ornstein** of the American Enterprise Institute and **Tom Mann** of the Brookings Institution, both UM PhDs and authors of *Congress: The Broken Branch*, were not



optimistic that Congress would forsake bitter partisan arguments long enough to find compromises on pressing problems. **Dan Glickman reminded everyone that the most pressing problem was the enormous national debt** and the refusal of either party to address domestic entitlement or defense expenditures. That said, the U.S. needed **thoughtful leaders of the federal bureaucracy to rise to the challenge**, declared former Deputy Secretary of the Office of Management and Budget **Sally Katzen**.

On Saturday night, guests turned their attention from the weighty affairs of government to the **humor and pathos of the famous Neil Simon comedy, *The Odd Couple***, directed by MIW faculty member and Washington, DC Theater J artistic director **Ari Roth**. Sunday morning, the anniversary events came to a close with an informal continental breakfast, hosted by UM alumnus and MIW Board member **Rick Frank**, where current and former students made new acquaintances and caught up with old friends.

MIW Program Participation

MIW has hosted 251 undergraduate students in Washington, D.C. since its inaugural Fall 2005 semester. As Table 1 at the end of this document shows, women students have outnumbered men students in nine of the 12 semesters. 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. In remarks during the Saturday anniversary events, Rick Frank pointed out that progress that has been made and things are not the same as they were in the Fall 2005 class, when only one student was male and 17 were female.

Fall 2010 and Winter 2011 Semesters

A total of 47 Michigan undergraduates came to Washington, DC for the Fall 2010 and Winter 2011 semesters. These juniors and seniors **worked a minimum of 32 hours per week** at their internships in 35 organizations including:

- The White House
- U.S. House and Senate
- Federal departments and agencies
- Law
- Lobbying
- Public relations firms
- Think tanks
- News media
- Non-profit groups.

Although a **majority of program participants are political science or public policy majors**, students from fields as diverse as **theater, biochemistry, English and philosophy** joined their colleagues from **economics, sociology, communications studies, organizational studies, regional area studies, and history**, working and studying in the District of Columbia. Tables 2 and 3 at the end of this document show how many students have participated in the program by semester, the internship placements, and majors of the participants.



MIW Fall '10 student with Senator McCain

Collaboration with Berkeley and Penn on Elective Courses

MIW students live and go to class in the 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. The Center was built in 2001 and was designed to accommodate up to 276 students and a dozen visiting faculty members in its 11 stories. **UCDC is the home of undergraduate internship programs for all UC campuses**, and it rents dorm rooms, classrooms and office space to Michigan, the University of Pennsylvania, and Washington University in St. Louis. The UC semester campuses, Berkeley and Merced, with Penn and Wash. U., shared elective classes, so Michigan students could take UC, Penn, or Wash. U. classes, and vice versa. For the students, this collaboration meant that instead of choosing between two Michigan electives, they could choose among the several classes below:

Fall 2010 Electives

Michigan Prof. 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.”***

Michigan Prof. Sally Katzen, former Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the Office of Management and Budget, taught ***“A Window Into How Washington Works,”*** on administrative law and process.

UC Prof. Robert Guttman offered ***“The Politics of U.S. Foreign Policy.”***

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



Winter 2011 Electives

Michigan Prof. Ari Roth, artistic director of Theater J in Washington, DC, *offered “The Politics of Theater: the Theater of Politics.”*

Michigan Prof. Kathy Hill taught *“Environmental Policymaking in the Global Economy.”*

UC Prof. Lee Drutman attracted half a dozen Michigan students to his class, *“Interest Group Politics/Lobbying and Influence.”*

UC Prof. Matt Dallek and Mr. Philip Wolgin covered U.S. immigration patterns in history and current policy debates in *“The Re-Peopling of America.”*

Penn Prof. Josh Gottheimer taught *“Behind the Bully Pulpit: The History of Presidential Speeches.”*

Penn Prof. Eileen Doherty offered *“International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Global Arena.”*

Window on Washington

Prof. Katzen’s Fall 2010 class on regulatory policy **listened to oral arguments at the U.S. Supreme Court and met afterward with Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.** The class visited Mr. Cass Sunstein, the current Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) at the Office of Management and Budget, a position Prof. Katzen had held in the Clinton Administration.

Theater and Politics

Prof. Roth’s Fall 2010 and Winter 2011 theater classes emphasize appreciation of scripts, playwrights and productions, not on learning to act or direct. **Roughly half of the time is spent going to metropolitan theaters and engaging in conversations with actors and directors** after the productions. Several of the plays in both semesters at various theaters in D.C. dealt **with tensions in the Middle East**, as well as a trilogy of plays presented all on one Sunday that addressed current and historical **conflicts in Afghanistan.** Many other themes were explored, from racism in the U.S. to sexism in scientific research. The performances ranged greatly in style and genre, from Edward Albee’s, *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Wolff?* to the landmark musical *HAIR* and the comedy *Sabrina Fair*, adapted by Hollywood twice for movies.

Environmental Studies

Prof. Hill’s class on **global environment and energy policy operated like a graduate seminar**, with discussion, rather than lecture, dominating many class meetings. Among the **field trips** was an afternoon spent just outside Washington at the Great Falls of the Potomac River, which is not only dramatic and beautiful scenery, but a critical part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.



Speakers

University of Michigan Political Science Professor **Dan Levine** started the process of bringing the MIW program into existence, so his visit to UCDC during the winter term to talk about his research to the students was a happy homecoming. Prof. Levine was spending the semester in Washington at the **Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars**, continuing his lifelong study of the influence of the Roman Catholic Church on Latin American politics. Prof. Levine's talk was part of the **Monday night speakers series** held every week in the UCDC auditorium.

Students from all programs housed in the building are invited to serve themselves a light supper of pizza, sandwiches, or Chinese food at 6:15 p.m. every Monday, as they return to the UCDC building after working at their internships. The guest speaker's talk starts at 6:30, usually with an informal presentation or interview led by a faculty member, as the students enjoy their free repast. From 7:00 to 7:30 is set aside for questions from the audience. In keeping with the Latin American theme of the evening for Prof. Levine's visit, MIW provided empanadas for those in attendance.

Minister Ioannis Vrailis of the Embassy of the Hellenic Republic discussed a range of topics with the students from Greece's economic challenges to its role in NATO and relations with neighbors during his MIW-sponsored Monday evening guest appearance. The students asked a number of questions about what the deputy chief of mission does as second-in-command at the consular office in Washington and how he puts to use his training in economics and politics. **Minister Vrailis delighted the Michigan students** by telling them that he bleeds Maize and Blue as a sports fan. His aunt and uncle served on the University of Michigan's faculty and staff for many years, so he considers Ann Arbor a second home.

MIW is a Milestone for Students

A number of MIW participants describe their experiences in Washington as "life-changing," and we were reminded of that in a poignant way this year. One of the students who came to Washington in the fall semester and returned to UM for the winter semester to resume his studies was killed in an auto accident near Ann Arbor in late March. His family chose a picture of him in Washington with the Capitol behind him as the cover of his funeral program, saying it was the most important time in his life. His favorite comment while in the nation's capital was, "I'm living the dream!" While we grieve the loss of one of our participants in our fifth anniversary year, we remember his enthusiasm for the program and his joy at being able to come to Washington, D.C.

A semester is 16 weeks long. As Prof. Goldenberg 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



Table 1
Number of Men and Women Students
By Semester

		WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL
FALL	2005	17	1	18
WINTER	2006	11	12	23
FALL	2006	14	3	17
WINTER	2007	14	3	17
FALL	2007	13	7	20
WINTER	2008	18	5	23
FALL	2008	12	8	20
WINTER	2009	15	10	25
FALL	2009	14	6	20
WINTER	2010	8	13	21
FALL	2010	8	13	21
WINTER	2011	15	11	26
TOTAL		159	92	251



Table 2
Internship Placements
Fall 2010 and Winter 2011 Semesters

American Enterprise Institute
Amnesty International
Association of Diplomatic Studies
BGR Group
Center for Advanced Defense Studies
Center for American Progress
Center on Budget Policy & Priorities
The City Paper
CNN
Congressional Management Foundation
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
C-SPAN
Embassy of Afghanistan
Food and Drug Administration In Vitro Diagnostics
Federal Judicial Center
Fleishman Hillard
National Defense University
National Organization for Women
National Women's Law Center
Olsson, Frank & Weeda, PC
Rep. Dave Camp (R-Michigan 4th District)
Rep. John Dingell (D-Michigan 15th District)
Rep. Mark Schauer (D-Michigan 7th District)
Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-Michigan 11th District)
Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minnesota)
Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Michigan)
Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Illinois)
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-Rhode Island)
Smithsonian Institution Plants and Fishes Divisions
U.S. Department of Education Legislative Division
U.S. Department of Justice Public Affairs
U.S. House, Education & Labor Committee
United Nations Information Centre
White House, Office of Health Reform
White House, Office of the First Lady
Women's National Democratic Club



Table 3
Student Majors
Fall 2010 and Winter 2011 Semesters

Majors	Fall 2010	Winter 2011
Biochemistry		1
Communications Studies		1
Economics	2	1
English	1	1
International Studies		1
Middle East and Central Asia History	1	
Near Eastern Studies	1	
Organizational Studies		2
Philosophy	1	
Political Science	10	16
Public Policy		1
Sociology	2	
Theater		1
Double Majors		
Political Science and Communications Studies		1
Political Science and Economics	1	
Political Science and English	1	
Spanish and Communications Studies	1	
Total	21	26
