

WARD FELLOWSHIP 2014

Alumni Newsletter



*"One must act as if one can make a difference"
- John William Ward*

THE 2014 WARD FELLOWS AND THEIR SPONSORS

Hannah Givertz (Coordinator)

Tamira Acce
Eden Bekele
Amias Callendar
Emily Carrara
Margaret Coppinger
Kenneth Cruz
Angus Cusack
Zoe Dinneen
Alexander Hsia

Dan Conley, District Attorney
Honorable Judge Patti Saris
Senator Linda Dorcena Forry
Joni Belfiore, Massport
Glenn A. Cunha, Inspector General
Mayor Marty Walsh
Brian Golden, BRA
Joseph P. Kennedy, U.S. Rep.
Francisco Ureña, Veteran Services

Honorable Judge Mark L. Wolf

Zoe Huang
Natasha Karunaratne
Louis Messier
Helen Skerrett
Phung Vo
Edward Wang
Victoria Wu
Jennifer Zhang
Shirley Zhou

Rachel Madden, MWRA
Tito Jackson, City Councilor
Speaker Robert DeLeo
Michelle Wu, City Councilor
Matt O'Malley, City Councilor
Jack McCarthy, MA School BA
Senator William Brownsberger
Patricia Filipone, UMass BA
Martha Coakley, A.G.

THE 2014 MILLER FELLOWS AND THEIR SPONSORS

Isaac Buck
Liz Jiang

Congressman Kennedy
Senator Markey

Wan Li Tan
Edalina Wang

Congressman Capuano
Senator Warren

ZOE HUANG



“It made me ecstatic that Rachel not only included me in her Apprenticeship for Veterans program, but also had me be in charge of the preliminary research and writing the proposal.”

EMILY CARRARA



“I grew a sense of pride for living in Boston and MA. Although we have a tremendous amount to work on, it’s nice to live in a place where government can actually be productive.”



MEETING WITH LARRY DICARA

By Angus Cusack

We gathered in the lobby of 100 Summer Street. After receiving our visitor passes and being buzzed through the gates, we eagerly filed into a large elevator, whose doors soon opened to Nixon Peabody’s Boston office. The group was then lead to a conference room, in which we found Mr. DiCara awaiting our arrival, and after taking our seats and settling in, he introduced himself.

Mr. DiCara told us about his past, from the house where he was raised in Boston to his experiences as president of the Boston City Council. His dedication to the city of Boston was perspicuous; he told us about his neighbors, the people who influenced him, and what mattered most to him about the city and its residents. Mr. DiCara grew up in the southern portion of Dorchester. After successfully completing the exam school entrance test, he was admitted to Boston Latin School. Mr. DiCara excelled at Boston Latin, taking part in programs such as Boys State, the school play, and more notably, he ran an extremely successful campaign for senior class president. While at Boys State, Mr. DiCara was selected to attend Boys Nation, an exceptionally prestigious program which selects two boys from each state to spend a week in our nation’s capital and immerse themselves into the mechanics of United States government and politics. While at Boys State, Mr. DiCara developed a political slogan that he would later use in his race for class president: “Fly high with LSD.” LSD is not only short for lysergic acid diethylamide, a psychedelic drug, but also happen to be Mr. DiCara’s initials. In the heart of the “psychadelic 60’s”, it’s easy to see why such a slogan caught so quickly with DiCara’s peers. Needless to say, he won the race for class president with flying colors, joining, as he likes to describe, “a very exclusive club.”

After graduating from Latin School in 1967, DiCara continued onto Harvard College, earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Government and graduating cum laude. A year after completing his four years at Harvard in 1971, Mr. DiCara was elected to the Boston City Council, becoming the youngest person ever to serve on the Council. DiCara served on the City Council for nine years, during which he assumed the position of City Council President after being elected in the 1978 race. Although leaving the council in 1981, he remains highly involved in public service and with the City of Boston.

Today, Mr. DiCara is partner at the world-renowned Nixon Peabody, a law firm with offices across the United States, Asia, and Europe. Mr. DiCara continues to utilize his skills in politics and his natural charisma with the public, as he specializes in government relations and real estate. He has also been a counselor at Boys State for forty-seven years, overseeing the academic program, teaching the Staters’ government course, and pitching in the annual Counselors versus Staters softball game.

After speaking about himself and what he has done, Larry turned to us. He asked the group to pose questions, all of which he answered readily and thoroughly. Many of us asked what advice he would give to aspiring public servants, and many others asked about issues that he had faced within his political career, such as the turmoil related to busing in the Boston Public Schools. Mr. DiCara described the events clearly and without trouble; he rattled off names and dates like a human encyclopedia. By the time he had finished answering every question posed and the meeting had come to its resolution, each fellow who was in attendance left amazed not only at what Mr. DiCara had accomplished in his life, but at how well he managed to remember every last detail.



WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

By Alexander Hsia

The trip started inauspiciously enough: nineteen tired, coffee-deprived teenagers huddled together in Terminal C of Logan Airport. However, as we sleepily trudged through security and got onto the plane, excitement and anticipation started to set in. Finally, after a one and a half hour plane ride later, emerging from the clouds at Reagan International Airport, we were greeted with a breathtaking view. Out of the port windows we were greeted with a picturesque view of the National Mall: with the Washington Monument, Capitol Hill, and the White House gleaming majestically in the noon sun. Out of the starboard side, we saw the Pentagon, Arlington Cemetery, and the Potomac River.

Yet all this was only a taste of what was in store for the next few days.

After landing, we took the metro—with which we'd soon become very familiar—downtown to visit all the monuments. They each evoked a wide range of emotions, from the solemn Lincoln Memorial to the dignified White House. After the monuments, we rushed back to meet Hilary Krieger and Julia Brookins at the Washington Post. There, amongst funny anecdotes about their times at Boston Latin School, life lessons, and fascinating stories about their professional

experiences, they gave us insight into how public service applied to journalism and history, respectively. This depiction of public service was an interesting and new perspective, as we'd only been exposed to public service with regards to city and state government beforehand. Finally, at the end of the day, we returned to the hotel, exhausted from all that we'd done that day, but even more excited for what was to come.

On our second day in D.C., we woke up bright and early for a day of meetings on Capitol Hill. After making it through the oppressive D.C. heat and humidity, we finally arrived at Representative Kennedy's office. The rest of the day was spent bouncing between the Senate offices and House offices, where we met a variety of people, including staffers for Massachusetts Congressmen and even Representatives Capuano and McGovern themselves. Everyone we met told us their story: how they got into politics and what they do now in their respective offices, all the

while answering the plethora of questions we had, topics of which ranged from congressional gridlock to education reform. Overall, each of the people we met gave us a unique insight into the world of federal politics and was able to inspire each of us to make a change in our immediate community.

On the final day of our trip, we had a choice. Some of us visited local D.C. colleges in preparation for applications in the winter, while others of us visited the State Department with Ambassador to Paraguay James H. Thessin. We got the chance to view the Diplomatic Reception Rooms and talk to the ambassador about his work and experiences working in Paraguay. We all grouped up in the afternoon for special tours of the Supreme Court and the Capitol Building, even having the opportunity to view the House in session.

All in all, the trip to Washington D.C. was a once in a lifetime opportunity to get a close-up view of our federal government in action. It expanded our views beyond the city and state level, and gave us an incredible privilege to meet with the people who work every day to make our lives and country better. They've given us advice, insights, and inspiration to pursue public service going into the future, wherever our careers may take us.



A NEW DIRECTION FOR THE GLOBE

By Zoe Dinneen

It is hard to deny the hardship that newspapers have faced as the Internet has been monopolizing the distribution of content to a vast, more tech-savvy generation. Checking news outlets online or “Google-ing” a current issue is free, easy, and convenient as opposed to buying the daily paper to reference. The internet affords people the freedom to find out what they want to know without limiting them to what the editor decides is important. Peter Canellos, however, is optimistic about *The Globe* and newspapers in general. Canellos cites that, although, budgets have been curtailed and the scope of the paper has been diminished with the shutdown of foreign offices, *The Globe* has not lost momentum. In this new smartphone and convenience-dominated market, editorials thrive. Since there are no longer Globe offices abroad that can report news first hand, the Editorial Board has taken responsibility for a good portion of foreign affairs reporting. Instead of just providing the facts of an issue, the editorial board gives each story context and a specific perspective on how an issue translates in the big picture. It seems that news is becoming a “niche product.”



Canellos and the board offer an artisanal take on current events, the articles are more thoroughly developed and are seasoned with more than just the cold hard facts. Canellos and the rest of the editorial staff sell their partisan views of what’s politically, socially, and economically best for Boston, Massachusetts, and the nation as a whole. The question is, however, does this new more subjective news best inform an already polarized political climate? As the Editorial section grows and continues to lean left, we are mixing politics with press which forces Bostonians to chose a newspaper that appeals to, rather than develops their political ideology. Shouldn’t the news broaden a citizen’s exposure to various issues and ideas, not appeal to one party and effectively further intensify the political divide? When searching for information shouldn’t people be able to avoid the politics and form their own opinion? On the other hand, *The Globe* is informing citizens by providing more complex takes on issues that could ultimately lead to a better understanding. It is a fine line that must be maintained through standards and integrity.

Canellos did in fact speak on the integrity of news. When asked about other news sources, Canellos relayed his distaste for the frequented website *Buzzfeed*. Since *The Globe* maintains both Boston.com and Bostonglobe.com, the Globe staff is very aware of their online competition. Interest from readers is measured by the number of clicks onto a certain article, called impressions. Sensationalist sites such as *Buzzfeed* attract up to millions of impressions per article. Canellos concedes that *The Globe*, especially the website division, wrangles with the need to maintain the integrity of the news and the desire to reach an exceeding number of viewers. Canellos asserts that *The Globe* prides itself on the quality and integrity of its reporting and since impressions are not yet linked directly to income, *The Globe* tries to steer clear of inflammatory headlines. Hopefully when money is linked to impressions, the same will be true.

VICTORIA WU



“No other program allows a summer with such a diverse array of meetings, such rare opportunities, and a common goal of helping others.”

TAMIRA ACCE



“Being a Ward Fellow this summer is the best job that I’ve done simply because it is so much more than just a summer job.”

MEETING WITH CHIEF JUDGE SARIS

By Tamira Acce

The meeting with Chief Judge Saris was definitely one of the most memorable meetings of summer. The Ward Fellows started off by meeting fifteen minutes in advance outside of the Moakley Courthouse in South Boston on Wednesday, July 30. After going through security for what seemed like the 100th time, and actually getting our phones taken away for the very first time, we all nervously walked to the elevators which led to our meeting place. We weren't exactly sure what to expect having never met the judge before, but Eden, her 2014 Ward Fellow, assured us that "The Judge is great!" and that we had nothing to be afraid of. Sure enough, the Judge met us as soon as we got off the elevators and we were all greeted with a big smile.

Our meeting place was held in the Judges' lunch room, where we all sat around a big conference room-like round table. Unlike any other meeting we had attended this summer, Judge Saris began by introducing herself as the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. She gave us a brief description of her role as the Chief U.S. District Judge of Massachusetts and told us that we would be talking a little about sentencing today. She passed around two index cards and a pencil to each fellow and explained to us that she was going to be telling us a hypothetical but not rare story about a couple-- boyfriend and girlfriend.

The boyfriend was a drug dealer and the girlfriend would sometimes help him out with his distributions. She explained that they were both young in their early to mid twenties. One day, while the girl was helping her boyfriend on a sale, she was caught with 28 grams of crack-cocaine in her possession by police officers and arrested. After being arraigned the girl was released on bail and instantly she left the boyfriend and moved out of the city. Now we fast forward to a few years later, the same girl now has a different boyfriend but also a child and she is attending school. She works to provide for her child and it seems as if she has her life together and is on the right path. Because of a less insignificant infraction, she has once again been brought to the attention of law enforcement officials and has been arrested due to the warrant out for her arrest.

After hearing the entire story, we are told by the Judge that we will be sentencing this girl, keeping in mind everything that she has told us about her back-story. After a short consideration of the different factors that played into an appropriate sentence for the girl, everyone wrote their sentence on the index card and passed it around to the Judge. Next, Judge Saris told us to keep in mind everything that she had just told us about the girlfriend and to apply it to the boyfriend considering that he had been caught, skipped out on bail, and was now leading a healthy lifestyle. We each then sentenced the boyfriend and turned in our index cards once more.

Judge Saris read each of our sentences, which ranged from a few months to a few years for both the girl and the boy, with the longer sentences going to the boy. We all engaged in a conversation about how we each came to the conclusion of how much time to give two people with almost the same case scenario. We discussed the factors which played a role in our decision making such as the fact that the guy was higher up in the business than the girl and that they had both skipped on bail

once before. The Judge then spoke to us about the War on Drugs and the Mandatory Minimum Sentencing Laws which she shared some opposition to with many other judges who also felt as if the sentences weren't always reasonable, and she told us that both the boy and the girl would actually get a sentence of at least 5 years each.

After a quick Q&A with the judge in which we asked both personal questions and professional advice, the meeting concluded on a very good note as the judge reminded us to always exercise our right to vote because positive change can be made as long as we really make an effort.



MEETING WITH SENATOR FORRY

By Emily Carrara

Linda Dorcena Forry is a mother of four, first generation woman who in addition to representing her district, which includes parts of Hyde Park, Mattapan, Dorchester, and Southie, represents “every Haitian in Massachusetts,” as she is the only Haitian elect in the Commonwealth. As she has gotten married, had kids, earned a graduate degree, and been successful as a State Representative, she has also run for Senator and continued to be successful in that position. It all seems utterly impossible until you meet her. Once you do, her undiluted optimism as well as enduring strength is not only undeniable but contagious.

But how does she do it? She tries to keep a consistently light attitude. She says, “I won’t let this job give me an ulcer.” She says you need to take it a day at a time; if you don’t laugh and smile, you’ll cry, especially when faced with the difficult and at times heartbreaking issues she confronts day to day. Settled in a conference room of the State House, after briefly explaining how she got to where she is today, Forry offered us tokens of advice in a mostly question-and-answer style meeting. Her helpful hints applied to not only a career in public service but to life itself growing up and developing careers, such as forming relationships with people who support you and your endeavors, especially when dating seriously and considering marriage, as well as speaking and treating others as you would like to be spoken to and treated; you never know when you will need that person in the future.

She answered questions about issues and projects she’s worked on throughout her career including working in the House of Representatives and the Senate. She has recently worked on redoing Gallivan Boulevard, and in the past has served on a committee for drug addiction, for which her responsibilities included listening to experts and trying to figure out ways to fix the problem. She would say her biggest accomplishment is working for small businesses. Although she loved working in the House, she feels confident in her decision to move to the Senate and loves the smallness of it (now only working with forty people).

Forry of course answered questions addressing being a woman of color in her position, especially considering the controversy surrounding her seat in particular, which has for the majority of its history been held by a white Irish man. She spoke of how questions were raised “Can she really represent Southie?” Forry laughed at this, “Of course I can represent Southie- anyone can.” She has on her wall a commemoration of Rosa Parks, to serve as a reminder for all those who worked with tremendous courage to allow her to be where she is today. She says she refuses to let being a woman and a minority serve as a “handicap,” it’s amazing from a historical perspective to be able to live in honor of the blood, sweat, and tears of others in the past to get to this point. She is equally as capable and qualified to serve in her position as anyone else. She would like to challenge young women of color and remind them to just know they can do it. She also spoke about her responsibility now for the future, “As a black woman, there are issues I just need to speak up for.” Speaking about race in Boston today, she said although we have come a very long way, there is still a long way to go. As she first went for the Southie seat, she received criticism and questioning- how could she want to represent a place with such a horrifically racist past? (In reference to the incidents that occurred during busing.) Forry insists, “It’s a different place now.” She believes, however, there is still work to be done with the ugly mess of racial conflict that was revealed by busing. She thinks there still needs to be reconciliation between the communities and individuals involved; too many never received closure or a sense of peace.



If there is anyone who can work to make a positive change for Boston, it is Forry. From the moment she walked into our meeting to the final snap of a group picture, we could tell just as she was poised and inspiring, she was also confident, determined, and not to be messed with, encouraging us all to be the same. She said, “If you’re going to say something about me, who are you? Do you know me? Do you matter?” Of every public official and agency and employee we met with, Forry was the one to inspire us to be confident in ourselves and challenge us to prove the world wrong.

MEETING WITH COUNCILOR JACKSON

By Phung Vo

After an informative and fascinating meeting with the Inspector General Glenn Cunha, we walked over to City Hall for our second meeting with Councilor Jackson. The blazing heat only added fatigue and intensified our hunger. The Piedmonte Room, like many other conference rooms we have encountered, did not have enough seats for all the Ward Fellows. We quickly rearranged the tables to accommodate our number and ironically, the table was arranged into a T-shape. Natasha, Councilor Jackson's Ward Fellow, entered the room with a pleasant surprise that the Councilor had kindly bought us pizza for lunch. We happily ate while waiting for the Councilor to arrive.

The Councilor inconspicuously entered the room, took a slice of cheese pizza and sat down in center of the table. He greeted us and informed us that this is his third year hosting a Ward Fellow. The Councilor, with a compelling voice, began telling us about himself. Tito Jackson was born and raised in Roxbury, a part of the city which he represents today and is one out of seven adopted children. Tito Jackson went to the Lawrence School and then Brookline High School. Afterwards, Tito desperately wanted to go to a Historically Black College, but ended up in the University of New Hampshire, where he was one of only fifty four Black students out of twelve thousands. Tito decided to take on the challenge and formed the first Black Students Union to challenge the administration. The Union demanded an active recruitment of women of color among others things. By 2014, the number of Black students increased from fifty four to five hundred and fifty four.

Due to some academic problems, Tito Jackson left UNH and took a job as a pharmaceutical salesman for Johnson & Johnson. In 2009, he ran for City Councilor at-large against Councilor Pressely and lost. According to Councilor Jackson, failure is an opportunity because after the election, he was offered a job as the Political Director for Governor Deval Patrick. When asked how Councilor Jackson got involved in politics, he told the story of the murder of Carol Stuart. The suspect described by her husband was a large, black male. The murder evoked strong prejudice against black males, who were being "stop and frisk"-ed based on the color of their skin. The policy of "stop and frisk" dehumanized black males. Tito Jackson along with numerous youth joined the NCCP Youth Council and that brought the political love out of him.

As City Councilor, Tito Jackson serves as Chairman of the Boston City Council's Committee on Education. His focuses are on achievement gap and turnaround schools. For the achievement gap problem, he plans on fighting for fair schools by means of the budget and buses. He also wants a strong student voice in the school system. As for turnaround schools, he wants to extend the school days and also replace the majority of the staff and hire new one. He is very involved in the Madison Park High Vocational School. According to the Councilor Jackson Charter Schools are problematic. The teacher population is not diverse and Charter Schools do not accept students with disabilities. Councilor Jackson has no regrets about going to UNH. There, he was forced to be a leader and those qualities he still uses today as City Councilor.



NATASHA KARUNARATNE



"I have learned that a successful life is a happy life, and happiness to me is making other people happy. The only question left is how many lives can I change, and I look forward to finding out that answer for myself."

ALEXANDER HSIA



"Through the meetings, I've gained a newfound appreciation for all that goes into running and improving the city and the commonwealth, while also catching an insider glimpse into the world of politics and government."

JENNIFER ZHANG



“Meeting all these different people who do public service was eye opening because every one of them had a different story. Listening to their stories and learning about their jobs was truly inspiring.”

AMIAS CALLENDER



“I had preconceived notions about the inner workings of government and the type of people who worked in the public sector. Since Ward I learned that much of what I thought was indeed false.”

MEETING WITH RACHEL MADDEN:

By Jennifer Zhang

This meeting was unlike any other. Not only did we not set foot in any office, but we even spent the entire day outside. Rachel Madden, the director of the Administration and Finance department, thought it would be more fun to show us the facilities on Deer Island and then to sit down, talk and ask questions. Before the tour, Daniel O’ Brien, who retired from the Deer Island Treatment Plant, gave us a power point presentation on of the history of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), how the water is treated, and the sustainability of the treatment plant.

First, we learned about the history and the construction of the Authority and the treatment plant. The MWRA was established in 1985 and they are governed by an eleven member Board of Directors. They are an independent authority charged with raising its revenue from ratepayers, bond sales and grants. The MWRA provides wholesale water to over 2.5 million people in 61 communities, which is 34% of the population in Massachusetts. Every day, the treatment plant collects and treats 365 million gallons of wastewater, with their peak at 1.2 billion gallons. In addition to wholesale water, they also provide sewer needs and infrastructure to the 61 communities. Interestingly, Deer Island used to be a prison and a World War II fort, Fort Dawes Bunker. And the island has 50 acres of green space as a buffer between the treatment plant and the public. The Deer Island Treatment Plant is the second largest plant right after Detroit.

Next, we learned about how the wastewater is treated. First off, all the wastewater is brought here by a tunnel. The longest tunnel at the plant is the Outfall tunnel, which is 9.5 miles long. The primary stacked clarifiers slow down the velocity of the wastewater so that the solids can settle down and then the scrapers collect the solids. The target is to collect the basic pollutants which are the organic material. There are bugs in the stream that consume the organic material. The bugs in the stream then settle down in the secondary clarifiers and about 90% of the water is cleaned out. The second step of treating the water is in the disinfection/de-chlorination process area. Interestingly, we are able to use most of the stuff that comes out of the water in the cleaning process. From anaerobic digestion, methane gas is produced and the methane gas is used to heat the treatment plant. Because of the methane gas, the treatment plant saves \$3.9 million in electricity. The waste from the water is also dried and made into pellets, which becomes a fertilizer. They produce about 34,000 tons of pellets and these pellets can also be become fuel.

After the presentation, we finally started the tour of the whole treatment plant. We went exploring through the underground tunnels and rode on huge elevators that you see in the movies. We finished off the meeting with pizza that Rachel bought us. While we ate, Rachel and Dan told us their stories about when they were sixies at Boston Latin School. Rachel told us about how she used to carry a huge gym bag to carry all her textbooks. She also told us the story of how when she was a sixie, she went sailing in the Charles River, and when she capsized she had to be hosed down because of how dirty the water used to be. Thanks to the MWRA, we now have clean water that we can drink from, sail in, and thoroughly enjoy together as a city and state.



EDWARD WANG



“In the end, the Ward Fellowship has done what nothing else could do: take off my blinders and open me up to another world of opportunities.”

MARGARET COPPINGER



“While I was there they made me feel like I was part of what was happening and as a rising senior in high school that was a very good feeling to have among adults.”

MEETING WITH COUNCILOR WU

By **Natasha Karunaratne**

As the nineteen Ward Fellows congregate in front of the security desk of City Hall, there is an unprecedented excitement in the air. We are not only excited about this speaker’s age, gender, and nationality, but also because among us Ward Fellows stands her younger sister, Tori Wu. City Councilor Michelle Wu is the youngest and only Asian-American Councilor in office, and for the first time we feel like we are talking with one of our own.

She begins with her life story, one very different than the others we have heard so far. She grew up in Chicago with her immigrant parents, making her the family translator. Once she moved to Cambridge as a Harvard undergrad, her mother became very sick, so she had to move back home to take care of her family and take over the family teahouse business. Upon waiting several months for a restaurant permit, she realized how frustrated she and other small business owners were with their city government. This is what sparked the Councilor’s interest in city government and public service.

Councilor Wu moved back to Cambridge for Harvard Law School, where she proceeded to take an assortment of electives that catered to her interests. With her mother’s illness and her teahouse experience, she focused on policies concerning small business and mental health. During that time in her life, Councilor Wu also taught citizenship classes to the elderly community of Chinatown. She realized that these people gave up their families and professions in return for democracy, and she found it devastating that the language barrier impaired them from becoming citizens of a nation founded upon immigration.

Councilor Wu told us her favorite thing about public service is that she is able to help people on a small scale during their everyday lives, while designing systems that influence lives on a larger scale. When she makes a new policy she doesn’t think about whether the decision will get her reelected, but rather if it will better the community. She admitted that government can be slow, but she doesn’t think it has to always be that way. She found that the thing that slows down government the most is when people say they’ve always done things a certain way, so they can’t change now. Councilor Wu believes change is not only feasible, but necessary, and that is what young people bring to the table.

The Councilor was twenty-eight years old when she ran for office, and she got elected at age twenty-nine. She said a lot of people hesitate to get involved at such a young age because they always think they need that extra degree, but as history shows, innovation usually comes from those under thirty, so we shouldn’t hesitate. She wasn’t saying the same old saying that so many adults had told us, that the future is up to us; she was telling us that the *present* is up to us.

As we came to the end of our discussion, she left us with some wise words. She said the most important thing in politics is knowing your reason for being a part of it. She reminded us that as young folk, we are not always going to completely understand the historical tensions of an issue, and while we should try to understand others’ points of view, we should also maintain our beliefs. She advised us to take advantage of our resources, such as technology, that allow us to find the newest ways to do things. She stressed establishing credibility early on, because once you prove to someone you know what you’re talking about, they will see you as an equal.

Councilor Michelle Wu has the honor of being the youngest, the only Asian-American, and now the only pregnant city councilor. She’s the definition of wonder-woman and the American Dream all at the same time, and I could not be more proud to have her as an elected official of my city.

ANGUS CUSACK



“The Ward Fellowship has taught me the importance of public service and how rewarding helping others can be.”

PHUNG VO



“I understand my government more; the bad and the good sides, and that was my goal all along.”

MEETING WITH COUNCILOR O’MALLEY

By Louis Messier

After climbing the brick steps leading to City Hall, and passing through the security checkpoint, we filed upstairs into the Curley room and were warmly greeted by Councilor O’Malley who insisted that we help ourselves to the spread of bagels and juice. Within minutes the majority of the food had disappeared, showing how naturally the councilor connected the interests and ideals of his younger constituents early on a Tuesday morning.

Matt O’Malley, a former Ward fellow himself and graduate of the BLS class of ‘97, began the meeting by proclaiming his full support and appreciation of the Ward fellowship and reminding each of us how lucky we are to have such an amazing institution available to give us these kinds of opportunities. Next he went around the room asking each fellow about themselves and who they worked for. Councilor O’Malley knew nearly all of the sponsors personally and occasionally offered up an anecdote or fact about a few in particular.

Councilor O’Malley made it a point to give himself a brief introduction so as to allow for as much time for questions. He was raised in Roslindale and attended Boston Latin School. He first became interested in politics while campaigning in his spare time after school for a candidate for city council. The campaign was a success and he was offered an internship in City Hall. His desire to become a city councilor originated with this experience. After graduating from Boston Latin, O’Malley wanted to continue in the field of politics and attended George Washington University in Washington D.C. He described the time he spent in D.C. as one of the most exciting and eventful times in politics which further heightened his drive to be involved in it all. As he describes the significance of the election of 2000, his genuine enthusiasm for politics is made even clearer. O’Malley returned to Boston and was elected City Councilor on his third attempt in 2010. He represents the neighborhoods of West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain as well as parts of Roxbury and Roslindale.

After his introduction, Councilor O’Malley began to take questions from the fellows. When he addressed a question about how he got to where he was today, he described his journey as “a lot of hard work, and a lot of luck. The harder you work, the luckier you get.” This quote made me excited to work hard and put myself out there and made it clear how important it is to make these eight weeks count. I glanced around the table to gauge the reaction of the other fellows and I could tell that they felt the same. A few of the fellows asked Councilor O’Malley about specific public work projects. To the ones he knew about he gave honest and clear answers about their progress and importance. To the ones he did not know about, usually because they were outside his district, he insisted that he would research the issue and respond personally to the fellow later via email. A large part of what makes Councilor O’Malley so likable and successful is how available he makes himself to his constituents. He runs all of his social media pages himself and even gives out his personal cell phone number. He is constantly going from event to event around the city, giving himself almost no free time. He spoke about last Winter’s snow storms and how he walked the streets of his district making sure that roads were being plowed and that there were no safety issues endangering the community. Presently in government, especially on the federal level, it seems that most politicians are more concerned with the interests of big corporations and special interest groups than the concerns of their own constituents. City Councilor Matt O’Malley shows that there still are some politicians who are genuinely working for the people they represent in order to benefit their communities, their states, and the nation as a whole.

MEETING WITH THE SPEAKER

By Shirley Zhou



On Tuesday, July 15th, the Ward fellows gathered at the Statehouse to meet with Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo. We were led to DeLeo’s office and promptly seated in the waiting room for a few minutes. Upon entering DeLeo’s office the Ward fellows were greeted by rows upon rows of framed black and white photographs that lined the walls around the whole room. These were DeLeo’s predecessors—all the previous Speakers of Massachusetts. Speaker DeLeo’s office gave off a homey vibe complete with ornate carpeting and comfy leather couches which we all took seats in.

Robert DeLeo, a Boston Latin School alum of the class of 1967 sported a purple BLS tie and warmly welcomed the fellows. He started off the meeting by

stating that Latin School students are the brightest out there, a point which he reiterated throughout the entirety of the meeting. DeLeo reminisced about his days at Latin school when it was still an all-boys school, and how of the five hundred or so students who had enrolled, only half had made it to graduation.

Presiding over the 19th Suffolk District, Speaker DeLeo represents roughly around 40,000 people from Winthrop and parts of Revere. DeLeo has so far been elected for three terms and as the Speaker of the House, he is responsible for setting the agenda for the House of Representatives, meaning that he decides which issues should be taken up. He also appoints the committee chairs and makes sure the meetings proceed in an orderly manner. The House meets every 72 hours and consists of 160 members.

DeLeo spoke to us a little about a recent and important legislation: the gun bill. He started off discussing the shooting at Sandyhook elementary school and how it raised many issues about the United States gun laws and whether or not the country should change them. The new gun bill for Massachusetts gave local police more authority to consider a person’s suitability to own a gun, and entered the state of Massachusetts into a national database for criminal as well as mental health background checks. The bill also assured that all private sales of firearms would occur under the presence of a licensed dealer. The bill was cleared through the House with a 112-38 vote. However, DeLeo told us that although the large gap between number of votes for the bill and the number of votes against it may make the passing of the bill seem a deceptively quick and easy process, it nevertheless took a lot of effort. DeLeo explained that he had to speak to different groups and try to negotiate with them about why the gun bill would be a beneficial piece of legislation in the long run.

Speaker DeLeo also explained to us, in answer to one fellow’s question, that in comparison to the federal House of Representatives, the Massachusetts House contains a lot less grid lock and tension. Especially since the state level House contains a democratic majority whereas the federal level is the complete opposite.

After speaking to us, DeLeo led us to the House of Representatives Chamber, a large blue-carpeted room with the names of the representatives listed on a board near the front of the room and rows of desks circling around the Speaker’s chair. DeLeo showed us the box machines on each desk which contained three buttons for voting on legislation: yes, no or abstained. Lastly, the Ward Fellows took a group photo the speaker, marking the end of the visit.

HELEN SKERRETT



“This summer, I’ve learned a lot. Even though government isn’t at the top of my list of careers I find myself interested in, I think that I’m a better citizen after this summer.”

KENNETH CRUZ



“My parents were used to a country where the government only served its citizens if they were bribed or had some personal connection. The Ward Fellowship has helped me (and my parents) learn that the government is there to assist you.”

EDEN BEKELE



“One thing I came to understand from the fellowship was that the ability to work with people and communicate with the people surrounding you is almost equally important to being capable of doing your job.”

LOUIS MESSIER



“It has been the best summer of my life and will be an experience that I believe will shape my final year of high school, my college studies, and my future career.”

MEETING WITH THE D.A.

By Amias Callender

District Attorney Dan Conley is a West Roxbury native and Catholic Memorial graduate. Although he did not attend Boston Latin School his respect and admiration for it was not only visible, but also commendable. As DA, Conley is in charge of prosecuting those who commit crimes in Suffolk County. However, Conley views his job as serving and advocating for victims as well as holding criminals accountable for their actions. To anyone who reads the Boston Herald the recent ridicule of city law enforcement for underperformance in the solving of murders and the conviction of those who commit said crimes is no shock. The area in which the Herald is specifying is Roxbury, Mattapan, and Dorchester where Conley says the culture is to blame. In a society whose biggest self-enforced rule is “No Snitching” or more formally “Unwilling to speak with/assist law enforcement,” it is understandable why numbers would be shockingly low. However, that is still no excuse that only 38% of the 410 cases of black Males killed between 2004 and 2013 were solved for a sector that preaches accountability it too must be held accountable.

However, the physical meeting of District Attorney Dan Conley was delightful. He provided lunch, he was pleasant, and Mr. Conley kept his speaking short and to the point which was a nice in contrast with other speakers. Dan Conley also answered questions clearly and directly, showed interest in not only his ward fellow but also the Ward Fellows as a group, Conley stayed after his speech and conversed with some fellows informally offering anyone in the group employment opportunity post undergrad as a prerequisite to law school. District Attorney Dan Conley answered tough questions about rumored over populated incarceration in which he boasted Suffolk County’s rehabilitation and compassionate approach as opposed to automatic ticket to state penitentiaries. As a person there is nothing to say negatively about Conley from the meeting today.

Dan Conley briefly spoke about his mayoral aspirations and what he hoped to contribute to the race. For example, he spoke of his experience in law enforcement and overall ideas for moving the city forward. One major thing he did touch upon is the possible practice of giving the power and discretion of sentencing to the presiding Judge instead of the District Attorneys’ office. In a society where centralized power is shunned the DA wanting to keep that power instead of spreading it out raised some flags until Conley explained his position. What Conley basically said was if the state elects to spread the power throughout the judges who each have their own set of beliefs it opens the door for things like prejudice and inequality to creep in.

Whereas if one person has that authority it creates uniformity and therefore equality. That was something that stuck out the most to me because it seems so minute, “who cares if the judge or district attorney decides the sentence” but in the grand scheme of things it matters a lot. This attention to detail is one of the things that keeps getting Conley reelected.



COMMUNITY SERVICE: FUTURE STARS CAMP

By Edward Wang



It was a warm day. Most of us Ward Fellows were tired, especially since we had only been in Boston for a day. The D.C. trip had ended yesterday and most of us were tired from the flight. We all made it to the Moakley Courthouse okay, although there were several stragglers. There, we met the Nelson Fellows, and it was a very awkward moment of interaction, especially since all the Ward Fellows clumped together. On the bus, it was split too. Nelsons were in the back while Wards

were in the front. Nobody really talked too much.

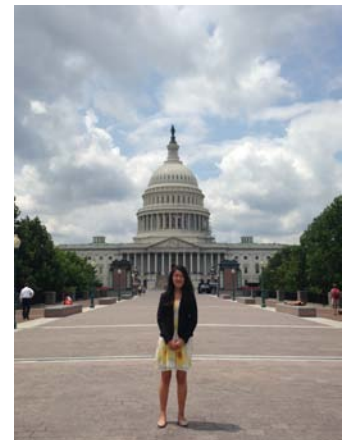
After a long quiet hour long bus ride, we arrived at the Future STARS Camp. The Camp was originally created as a way to get endangered Cambodian youth off the streets of Lowell. The original goal was still very evident, because most of the members at the camp were Cambodian, although now there was also a bigger percentage of Blacks and Latinos. Once off the bus, we were greeted by a commanding woman. She told us that we were going to have three play periods throughout the day and that we'd be mingling with the Future STARS Camp members. With intros over, all of us Ward and Nelson Fellows filed into the gym bleachers and slowly started to get to know each other better. The heat in the gym was stifling, as one of the Future STARS members explained that there were no ceiling fans or AC so they only had a miniature portable fan to cool down everyone.

During the introductions, we learned that the Nelson Fellowship was practically the same as the Ward Fellowship, except it was open to other schools and that they served their fellowships with federal judges while we served ours with city officials.

The rest of the day was very fun. My group started off with soccer, and in our 6-2 loss to the Future STARS, it was evident why BLS was not known for its soccer team. They destroyed us, ran circles around us, and were practically toying with us. We would pass the ball up the field; they'd intercept it, run it past us, do a few tricks, and then put it into our goal. At times, I felt like the mercy rule should have been put in, where the game is stopped because it's so humiliating to one team. Once we finished up, we went back inside and had a lunch while sitting in minute desks. When talking with one Future STAR, they asked us how we were so tall. Practically all of us stood a head above the campers, even though several campers were our age. That fact really struck me, when they were always curious why Bostonians were taller.

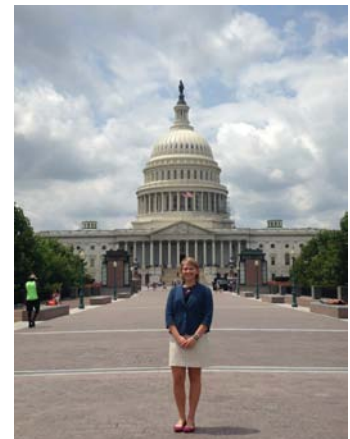
The rest of the day was much more chaotic. The woman in charge left after lunch, leaving another person at the helm. We had two forty-five minute play sessions, but neither was really monitored and people ended up playing whatever sport they wanted. Toward the end, I got to know one of the Future STAR Campers very well. It turned out that he was also a b-boy (breakdancer) like me, and that most of the Future STAR guys all knew how to dance. We started a cypher in the middle of the gym and that one moment bonded all of us. We all knew how to dance and we all loved it. Time flew by and it felt so harsh when we were told we had to go. Although not every Ward or Nelson Fellow bonded with them through dance, I'm sure each Fellow bonded with them in some way or other, whether it was through soccer, basketball, or another hobby. This volunteer opportunity, although unexpected, was my favorite moment of the Fellowship.

SHIRLEY ZHOU



“Through all of this, my respect for public servants grew as many of them had worked hard and beyond their nine to five workdays.”

ZOE DINNEEN



“This fellowship was the best possible experience for me before college. The work uncovered some uncertainties I have about working a desk job and also forced me to evaluate what exactly I can see myself doing 9-5.”

MEETING WITH THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

By Zoe Huang

On a hot and sunny morning, Fellows arrive at the State House fifteen minutes prior to the scheduled meeting with the Inspector General, Glenn Cunha. Once the head count is finished, we all gather to navigate through the narrow streets towards the McCormack Building. Some of the Fellows walk this familiar path every day. But for many of us, the streets we travel through and the building itself is a new sight. It does not take long from the State House until we arrive at our destination. Once in the building, we are welcomed by the usual cold breeze of air conditioning and of course, security checks. Once in the meeting room, the first thing I notice is a group of interns who look about five or so years older than us. The second thing I notice is the large glass window on one whole side of the room, showing a breath-taking view of Boston and the Charles River. We all grab a seat in the first and second row of chairs, but moments after, one of the interns tell us there are donuts and orange juice on the table by the wall and we are welcome to help ourselves. Excited, we head up to the table and grab a donut and some orange juice. Once settled, I munch on my Boston Kreme donut. Within a few minutes, the Inspector General walks in with a smile on his face and greets us. He stands in front of us and begins to tell us his “story.”

Cunha starts with an interesting fact about how John William Ward set up the Inspector’s Office to help get rid of fraud and corruption in the city. He then starts at the beginning of his story on how he got to where he is now. Cunha went to Boston College and had his first experience as an intern at the State House in 1983. Despite having to do tasks such as running to get coffee, he became interested in Public Service. This interest led him to work at the Attorney General’s office for nine years and the Suffolk District Attorney’s Office for six years. In school, he took classes in Economics and Business. And once graduated, he did some work in the business field as well. He claims that the sale skills he acquired were helpful with life and his future jobs as well. However, Cunha soon felt like something was missing from his life and decided that he wanted to do public service work, so he went to law school. He then landed a Public Defense internship at CPCS and learned that he knew he wanted to be in court, but also wanted to see the “other side” (as in the victims of the case). He comments that he went into domestic violence naively.

Once Cunha graduated from law school, he became a prosecutor. He advised us all to always be aware of “parties,” meaning the clerk, judge, etc. He thought that everyone was focused on the defendants’ rights and wanted to make sure that the victim was heard. At the Suffolk District Attorney’s Office, he spent a majority of his time on cases involving child abuse and sexual assault. But once he had kids, he felt disturbed and did not want to continue in his path. Therefore, he went to the Attorney General’s Office where he worked on white collar crime involving corruption and fraud. Two years ago, the

Inspector General position was open, so he went for it and got it.

At the office, his team focuses on fraud, waste and abuse. An example of a recent and big case is the President of the University of Westfield, who took fundraising money and spent it on himself for leisure travel and entertainment. Therefore the president “resigned” because of the Inspector’s office. He tells us some of the intriguing cases the Office has worked on. And then the Fellows ask many interesting questions. Once the very informative meeting is over, we all catch his “bug” for Public Service and maybe we will even follow the tracks of Cunha. I for one, certainly will!



**HANNAH
GIVERTZ
(COORDINATOR)**

“Watching Judge Wolf preside over cases has helped me to discover the judicial branch of government in all its powerful and independent glory.”

Meet the 2013 Miller Fellows



Elizabeth Jiang: This summer I had the wonderful experience of interning in Senator Ed Market's office in the grand Russell building (room 218 for anyone who would like to drop by, grab some Craisins packaged and distributed by our very own MA, and say hello to Grace, the amicable front desk staffer). During this internship, I worked on research projects, wrote letters, attended committee hearings, and handled administrative tasks. Through these responsibilities, I was able to get a better handle on my professional and political interests--foreign relations was certainly the brightest shining star, and global health/health policy emerged as a new interest. If not for this internship, I wouldn't have been able to experience living in D.C. on my own, nor would I have had the life-defining experience of interning in a Senate office, for I intend on pursuing my foreign relations and gh/hp interests. Thank you, Miller Fellowship, for giving me this opportunity!



Wanli Tan: On the wall of Congressman Michael Capuano's office hangs a large centerpiece: a framed photograph of a dark, middle age, Mediterranean man smiling, standing in a local community garden, holding a bundle of sunflowers; behind him are rows of slim three-story multi-family homes. Out of curiosity, I asked who that was. "Nobody," the Congressman replied as he pointed to the smiling man, but that's the type of people that I am working for. After talking with the Congressman, I am quite amazed by how honest and realistic his expectations are for the current House of Representatives and his undying passion to represent the common workers, even after more than 15 years in Congress. Throughout my time here, I've learned what most Congressmen do is go to hearings and meetings, propose bills and vote. Of course there is a lot more involved, but what strikes me most is the team of staffers that stand behind him: his Chief-of-Staff Robert Primus is one of the most intelligent and compassionate men I've ever met, and all of the other legislative aides are extremely. As an intern, my main responsibilities includes going to committee hearings, briefings, writing memos, drafting constituent mail, answering the phone and giving tours of the capitol. It is inspiring to work so hard for the greater future of the District 7 residents. It was truly an honor to work as a Miller Fellow in my own representative's office, and has definitely been one of my most enriching summers in the nation's capital of Washington D.C.



Edalina Wang: I am a rising sophomore double majoring in economics and mathematics at Northwestern University. This summer, I have had the privilege and honor of interning for United States Senator Elizabeth Warren, and it has been a phenomenal experience. At Senator Warren's office, I was able to go to United States Congressional briefings, write memos for legislative correspondents speak with constituents, draft letters for the Senator, and conduct research projects on key economic policies. This extraordinary experience has taught me that there are always ways and means to enact change. Senator Warren started her journey as one woman who worked to fight the big banks to protect the powerless people, the consumers. Her fight has enacted real changes in the world we live in. Being able to work up close with the Senator and to learn firsthand from her have reaffirmed my belief that, yes, one person can in fact make a difference.



Isaac Buck: In 2011, I was a Ward Fellow in Speaker DeLeo's office. That experience encouraged me to continue investigating a career in public service. And so this summer, I worked in the Washington, D.C. office of Representative Joseph P. Kennedy, III. While there, I handled duties ranging from researching issues and bills to brief staff, to answering phones and dealing with constituent concerns. Having already experienced government and public service at the state and local levels through the Ward Fellowship, the Miller Fellowship was an amazing opportunity to learn what the federal level was like. I learned that yes, it is especially difficult to get anything through Congress these days. But I also met and worked with some very hard working public servants. It was an honor to work with these people and for Congressman Kennedy. And that was all possible through the generosity of the Miller Fellowship.

The Honorable Judge Mark L. Wolf

Judge Wolf of the United States District Court, District of Massachusetts, has served as the founder and head of the Ward Fellowship since its creation in 1986. Presiding over the Ward Fellow selection process, Judge Wolf has, for the past twenty-nine years, served as the central point of cohesion among the Fellows, alumni, and the many local and statewide officials associated with the program. Through his role in the Fellowship as well as his position as Federal Judge, he has inspired and empowered young people to believe in and participate in public service. Despite his persistently time-consuming caseload, he has never turned his back on the Fellowship he established, but has rather honored William Ward's legacy by expanding both participation in and breadth of the program. Each year Judge Wolf provides each Fellow the opportunity to ask him about his experience and to share his or her own. His sincere commitment to hearing the input of Fellows from year to year has allowed the program to develop into an enduring component of the Boston Latin School and the Boston community.

Remarks from The Honorable Judge Mark L. Wolf



The John William Ward Public Service Fellowship for Boston Latin School students was established in 1986 to encourage the development of the engaged citizens and honorable public servants that Bill Ward advocated as essential to improving a state government for which the Ward Commission found in the 1970's, "corruption was a way of life." As this newsletter reflects, many fine public officials have provided the Fellows with exceptional opportunities and wonderful role models. As the Fellow's comments demonstrate, they have been inspired to participate in the public life of our Commonwealth and, through the Washington D.C. Stanley Miller Fellowship for former Ward Fellows, of our country. Hundreds of them are now energetically engaged citizens. Boston City Councilor Matt O'Malley (Ward Fellow '96) is an example of a Ward Fellow emerging as an admirable public official himself.

The Ward and Miller Fellows have refreshed the idealism of their elders, and provided Bill Ward and Stanley Miller with vibrant living legacies. We are grateful to them and to all who contribute to making the Fellowships possible.