

Ward Fellowship Alumni Newsletter

Inside: Two New Sponsor Spotlights, Friend of the Fellowship Larry DiCara, Miller Fellowship Report, and more!

WARD FELLOWS GO TO WASHINGTON

By Jerome O'Grady & Marlie Philiossaint

This summer the Ward Fellows had the great opportunity to visit Washington, DC. With a former native as their guide, they set out to explore the city from the unique perspective of someone who'd been behind the scenes. They arrived on Saturday and hit the ground running. Not only did they manage to fit in most of the regular tourist attractions like the Arlington Cemetery, and the Smithsonian Museum of American History, which is soon to close in order to undergo renovation; but they also had the opportunity to visit places needing more thorough background checks before access could be allowed, and even some lesser known sites of interest like the American Craft Museum. The Arlington Cemetery was a powerful display of the country's appreciation of its deceased veterans. It was a humbling experience to walk by the graves of the men and women who fought and gave their lives to impact our nation. Despite the oppressive heat, the fellows visited the graves of John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, William Howard Taft, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. One of the most moving portions of the cemetery was the Faces of the Fallen exhibit, which consisted of numerous artists' portraits of the men and women who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. The fellows were also extremely lucky to visit the Smithsonian Museum of American History because not only was it about to undergo extensive renovations but they had the expertise of US history teacher Ms. Elliott at their side. The museum was truly impressive and contained important but unexpected historical artifacts such as the table and chairs where Robert E. Lee signed the surrender of the Civil War and a piece of the World Trade Center.

They had the opportunity to tour the Capitol building through the office of Senator Kennedy. In addition to history, facts, and traditions, the fellows were happy to learn the anecdotal information which helped the giants of the past seem more human. A favorite was the infamous whispering trick of the original House chamber which allows the savvy to listen to conversations held in any part of the chamber. They rode the train through the underground passage which allows senators to arrive on the Senate floor in time for important votes. While there, they observed the Senate in session.

The students also took advantage of their location to speak to people of interest working in the political center of the United States. The Fellows spent an interesting hour exchanging ideas,



2006 WARD FELLOWS MEET WITH ASST. SEC. FOR STRATEGIC PLANS RANDY BEARDSWORTH

MS. MEREDITH ELLIOTT

views, and question with, Randy Beardsworth, the Assistant Secretary for Strategic Planning within the Department of Homeland Security. He offered insights into how government policy is formed and what is considered when researching methods of dealing with matters of national import. National security is obviously a key issue in our day and time, and Mr. Beardsworth did an excellent job of addressing all of the fellow's questions and concerns. One of the most surprising pieces of information that came up during the meeting was the high level of attention that's directed towards immigration in terms of national security. Mr. Beardsworth also brought up the recent issues dealing with immigration control and was very keen to hear the diverse opinions of the fellows. The students came away with a greater knowledge of how security decisions are made concerning the greater United States and the different paths into government service. They benefited from the invaluable opportunity to talk to one of the people in charge of deciding issues that engage the nation, such as border security and immigration. Looking back, this opportunity becomes even more priceless when one realizes that a few weeks later, security forces disabled a major terrorist attack planned against the United States.

In the end, the Fellows came away with a better sense of how the government works. They also learned much more about the personalities involved in building the United States and continuing its legacy. However, just as important to them, they were bound together into a closer, more tightly-knit group that will have ample opportunity to look back on this experience.

WARD FELLOWS 2006

Michael Baskin	Inspector General Gregory Sullivan
Hui Feng	Editorial Page of the Boston Globe under Robert Turner
Michael Kolton	Mayor Thomas M. Menino
Rodline Louijeune	Senator Jarrett Barrios
Adrian Madaro	Chief of Environment and Energy James Hunt
Khue Nguyen	Governor Mitt Romney
Jerome O'Grady	District Attorney Daniel Conley
Natanaelle Orisma	Representative Linda Dorcena Forry
Ashley Pereira	City Councilor Michael Ross

Marlie Philiossaint
Rashanna Roach
Dalia Shapiro
Lauren Shapiro
Nghi Tran
Jesse Yang

Franklin Ho
Qingni Lin
Tenisha Callender

MILLER FELLOWS 2006

Representative Marie St. Fleur
Judge Patti Saris
Judge Roanne Sragow
Corporation Counsel Bill Sinnott
Attorney General Thomas Reilly
BHA Office of Civil Rights under Michelle Ekanem
Senator John Kerry
Senator Ted Kennedy
Congressman James McGovern

New Sponsor Spotlights

Rep. Linda Dorcena Forry



By Natanaelle Orisma

Energetic, motivated and accomplished are just a few descriptive qualities of Linda Dorcena Forry, Boston's 12th Suffolk District State Representative. She oversees a diverse urban and suburban section of the city that stretches from Dorchester to Milton and has consistently handled the various issues and worries of her constituents. As a first time legislator, Representative Forry has continued to uphold the promises that she vowed since her first days campaigning and has in turn contributed to many reforms in education, housing, transportation, jobs, public safety, health care and recreation facilities. She currently serves on the Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security as well as the Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy. As Executive Staff of the Chief of Housing and Director of the Department of Neighborhood Development for the City of Boston, she manages concerns and questions raised by residents regarding housing development. Representative Forry has been active in resolving the concerns that recently surfaced around

the closing of the MBTA's Red Line Ashmont Station and has successfully arranged for alternative modes of transportation to appease constituent concerns during the reconstruction. Her work has earned her several honors including the 'Young Woman of the Decade' award from the Marr Club. She continues to maintain close contact with the residents in her district, address their problems and encourage their participation in community matters.

Representative Forry came from very humble beginnings and was raised by Haitian immigrant parents in Dorchester's Uphams Corner. She graduated president of her class at Monsignor Ryan Memorial High School and went on to earn a BS in Management from Boston College. She is currently a Masters Degree candidate in public Administration at Suffolk University. Although she was reluctant to pursue a career in government at first, Representative Forry has enjoyed her contributions to public service.

She currently lives with her husband and their son in Dorchester.

Bill Sinnott



By Lauren Shapiro

We've seen his daughters on BLS TV, but not many BLS students know that their father is also a Latin alum class of '75, who went on to Holy Cross college and Suffolk Law School. Bill Sinnott, now in charge of Boston's Corporation Counsel has had an amazing career in public service.

Before being appointed to Boston's Corporation Counsel by Mayor Menino Bill Sinnott was a prosecutor and served in the United States Marines. In fact he was recently sent to serve in Iraq in the Marine Corps Reserve. His post there was a great responsibility; he oversaw the security for hundreds of military and civilian personnel in Baghdad. He was also recently appointed to be a trustee of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. But before serving for his country overseas Bill Sinnott served his country here in Boston.

In 2002 after a career as a prosecutor for over 15 years 1985 2001, Sinnott ran for District Attorney here in Boston. His credentials were clearly in his favor with a re

sume that included: assistant district attorney, assistant United States Attorney, and constitutional and criminal law instructor. However, Dan Conley came out of the election victorious, leaving Sinnott able to accept the position he now holds as head of Corporation Counsel; overseeing 60 lawyers and paralegals. Filling the shoes of Marita Hopkins, Bill Sinnott continues to represent the best that Boston has to offer. As corporation counsel he handles many different areas of the law, such as taxes, real estate, personal injury, criminal, civil rights; an easy way to think of it is that whenever the City of Boston is sued Bill Sinnott and his team are the ones to defend the city. Though he is new to the job Bill Sinnott is doing a wonderful job in overseeing the legal dealings of the city of Boston and we can only expect more such accomplishments from him in the future.

Bill Sinnott lives in Hyde Park with his four daughters Sinead, Shayla, Shannon, Shawna and his wife Susan.

Mayor Menino: A Man Providing Great Change for the City of Boston

By Rashanna Roach

Mayor Thomas M. Menino is serving his fourth term as the mayor for the city of Boston. He is the longest serving mayor in Boston's history, serving over 10 years. He is also the first Italian-American to become mayor in the city of Boston. Mayor Menino has played an active role in developing the city of Boston through education, affordable housing, health care, public safety, and neighborhood revitalization. The Ward Fellows were privileged with the opportunity to have a discussion with the mayor and ask many questions about his active role as a public servant.

Menino began by discussing the increasing violence in Boston. He stated major causes of the increase including guns, retaliation, domestic violence, and teen pregnancy. "It's every body's responsibility," says the mayor, in order to create a safer

environment for all of us. He also mentioned C.O.R.I., a law stating that crimes committed by juveniles will be dismissed after a certain amount of time and will not be able to be accessed by employers or courts after this amount of time.

The mayor has made many advances towards living in a safer Boston, including a new initiative called Senior Street Workers that will provide a connection with young people. The mayor was also asked about the Witness Protection Program which he felt was a "very good" program to help stop violence on the streets. He encourages everyone "to stay positive as a city and individuals, it's about making the right choices."

The Mayor was questioned about a subject that made him slightly uncomfortable: teen pregnancy. Menino, who is in favor of the distribution of condoms in schools, also highlighted his Clean Needle Exchange Program. He said

that he wanted to see more school based health centers and more initiative from parents to discuss sex with their children. Leading from teen pregnancy, we then discussed health care, specifically The Healthy Futures Program. Next we discussed the number of homeless people and families throughout the city, for which he suggested that cut backs in federal funds, mental health issues, and drug abuse were the key issues in this growing problem.

In a room full of aspiring students the major topic was education. The Fellows questioned about the high school dropout rate, to which Menino highlighted the Day and Evening Academy, the Work Force Development programs and the new breaking down of the larger high schools into smaller, more focused high schools. The Fellows also questioned about the development of the art programs. Menino stated that he was "a big fan of the arts"

and wanted to see more, making the correlation between involvement in the arts and better testing skills. The mayor ended this segment by stating that Boston is the "pioneer in public forms of education."

The Ward Fellows also questioned about neighborhood redevelopment, segregation issues in Boston, immigration, and the mayor's job. The mayor ended by talking about "the complacent America" stating that we needed "a revolution, a revolution to change things." This was a great way to end the discussion because in this statement he encouraged us, as the up and coming generations, to "raise our voices as said by the author Samantha Powers" and never get to comfortable because change is what makes the world go round. As Ward Fellows we have been learning a lot about making differences and Mayor Thomas M. Menino was a great example of a public servant making that difference.

A Different Type of Public Servant

By Jerome O'Grady

Before starting this article, if anything at all seems biased in Mr. Turner's favor I apologize but he did begin the meeting by providing all of us Fellows with a bountiful and more importantly, free) breakfast.

While many people don't immediately view newspapers as a form of public service, Robert Turner's background and passion at his position as Deputy Editor of the Editorial Page clarify just how relevant the news is to public service. Mr. Turner spent much of his time at the Boston Globe reporting on politics as both a state political reporter and a political columnist before being promoted to the Deputy Editor

of the Editorial Page. During Turner's long career at the Boston Globe, in which he ascended from a copy boy to his current position as Deputy Editor of the Editorial Page, Turner also worked as a study group leader at the Institute of Politics at Harvard College and was a member of the Bench Bar News Committee of the Massachusetts Bar Association. These positions as well as his job at the Globe illuminate Robert Turner's experience with public service as well as where his enthusiasm for public service originates from.

After settling down with our breakfasts, Mr. Turner began by explaining what his job entailed and how the editorial section of the Boston Globe comes together. But Mr. Turner seemed much more enthusiastic about

our experiences with the Ward Fellowship thus far and our questions for him, which he answered with much zeal and demonstrated his immense knowledge of public service and politics. It was in the question and answer portion that I got to see Mr. Turner's gratitude for public service despite the fact that he doesn't have a governmental position. What surprised me the most during Mr. Turner's interview was his appreciation of the counterpoints and criticism sent in by the readers to the editorial page. This highlighted the fact that Turner truly believed that the newspaper and more importantly the editorial section is a tool or forum for the people, not a way to push sales or opinions to the public.

Another one of Mr. Turn

er's statements that made an impression on me was when he said that the greatest impact newspapers can have is when the press covers something deeply enough to inspire action. Again, it's a statement like this that showcases just how important the press is to public service and the change it can generate in the public. I'm sure we are all familiar with Thomas Jefferson's saying, "And were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter" but our interview with Robert Turner, Deputy Editor of the Editorial Page of the Boston Globe, proved that these sentiments still thrive in the present.

Final Report:

One Miller Fellow's "Time on the Hill"

By Tenisha Callender

Before heading into my summer as an intern for U.S Representative James McGovern of the 3rd congressional district of Massachusetts, I thought what most people thought about formal government: that it was stuffy. When shopping for work attire, I pictured a stoic office staff in perfectly immaculate suits. Throwing open the door to Room 430 in the Cannon Office Building, I got the shock of my life. In the whirlwind that would be my 10 weeks in the office, there was laughter, anger, passionate politics, new babies and camaraderie. These sorts of things I never expected during my TIME ON THE HILL.

But I am getting a little ahead of myself. My name is Tenisha Callender. I am a Stanley Miller Fellow. Years ago in Boston Latin School, I was graced with the honor of being a William Ward Fellow. The position placed a handful of the school's students into jobs in the private and public sector for the summer. As a rising senior at Loyola College in Maryland, once again I was graced with the honor of being part of this elite group. As a Stanley Miller Fellow, I chose to work in the office of Congressman McGovern. The advice that trickled down to me from former fellows was that the office was nothing I would expect. Ever.

Many people in larger

offices complain of never seeing their representatives. Friends who intern in Senate offices moan about an over abundance of interns in and the lack of substantial work for each of them to do. This was not the case in McGovern's office. When the congressman was in town, he was in the office. His smiling face would linger in the office as he bantered with staff and interns alike. Don't get me wrong, there are days when it seemed like the mail stacks never got shorter and the phone never stopped ringing. There were days where I felt like I had a personal intimate relationship with the fax machine.

One big thing that made the difference between my office and other offices was the staff's willingness to trust its interns. It takes a few weeks for the trust to set in. Interning is mostly about getting out of your own way so that you can help the office. There will be blunders. The phone system will confuse you, as it confused me. The staff will chuckle with you. But they will help you with whatever you need. When they saw confidence and competence in me, they began assigning actual work to my schedule. That was the greatest feeling of accomplishment for me, being trusted in my office.

In between office hours, there is a summer intern lecture series which allow interns to be bathed in the wisdom of former Hill interns. Colin Powell, Tom Daschle,

U.S. Senator Barrack Obama, U.S Representative Nancy Pelosi and Chief Justice Roberts were some of the speakers. As a Miller Fellow, I had the opportunity to see behind the scenes. Each personal meeting taught me something new about government. U.S Representative Michael Capuano of the 8th congressional district of Massachusetts was passionate in his views and believes in the power of educating children. Judge Webster was a shining example of the versatility of and the opportunities in government, starting out in the CIA and ending in a private firm.

Two meetings competed for top spot this summer. The first was Congressman McGovern's. With his liberal views and broad care for humanity, McGovern remains a sought after signature for many humanitarian and foreign aid bills. As he spoke to the Miller Fellows, his passion on issues like the war in Iraq and the School of the Americas was in plain view. The second meeting of the two was with U.S Representative William Delahunt of the 10th congressional district of Massachusetts. His comfortable style and attentiveness to the needs of the Miller Fellows undoubtedly reflects his congressional manner. Often he stays late and takes on special topics on the House floor, coordinating with other members of Congress to speak about the issues that mean so much to the American people.

These "special orders" probe at the nation's problems and trace the paths to effective solutions.

Finally, the tour of the Supreme Court showed me exactly where great decisions are made. As an aspiring lawyer, as some other Miller Fellows who come after me will undoubtedly be, I was amazed to see the faces of judicial history in friezes on the four walls of the room. Balanced scales, Lady Justice and the faces of those great men whose judicial codes have been adapted all over the world: Hammurabi, Suleiman, Alexander the Great and Napoleon grace the walls. Knowing that the men and woman who sit on the bench pause and give great thought to the needs of the American people as they rule made the experience that much more breathtaking.

In May, I thought I'd be a small fish in a huge pond. My experience in the incredibly cohesive and friendly office of Congressman McGovern helped to cement my decision to return to Capitol Hill in the future. After giving tours of the Capitol, I learned more about American history than I thought I would ever know. Seeing the grand pillars of the Supreme Court Building, the Library of Congress and the Senate building for these months reminded me that government is a force by the people, for the people. I can't believe I ever thought it would be stuffy, it was far from it.

Friend of the Fellowship: Larry DiCara

By Adrian Madaro

There is one word to describe Larry DiCara: brilliant. Larry is smart, funny, and amicable; and he seems to know the whole world. From Queen Elizabeth to Bill Clinton, everyone seems to be in Larry's network. A graduate of Boston Latin School, followed by Harvard University, Suffolk Law School, and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, his credentials speak for themselves. On August 17, 2006 the Ward Fellows had the pleasure of meeting him, and becoming part of his extensive network.

Upon arrival at the Nixon Peabody LLP building in Downtown Boston, we were showered with gifts of mints, notepads, and pens, all with the Nixon Peabody LLP logo. We met in a large conference room with a stunning mahogany table and extremely comfortable chairs. A wonderful array of food was awaiting us. There were fresh bagels, muffins, pastries, and drinks galore. After a few minutes of feasting like hungry vultures, in walked the focus of our attention: Larry DiCara. This energetic Italian man with horn rimmed glasses greeted us with a big, warm, welcoming smile and told us all to eat as much as we wanted.

Taking his seat at the head of the table (I had the pleasure of sitting directly next to him), he began to speak, silencing the whole room: "Hello everyone, I'm Larry DiCara!" Growing up in Dorchester

and speaking Italian at home gave Larry a very interesting accent; a fast fusion of Boston silent r's and open Italo American vowels.

We started going around the room and introducing ourselves, the neighborhood we live in, and our Ward Fellow sponsor. As we proceeded, everyone was shocked because Larry knew each and everyone of our sponsors personally, and gave a funny little anecdote about each of them. Talking about my sponsor, James W. Hunt III, he explained that he knew him before he was born and was even present at his baptism.

After introductions, Larry began to speak about his life. He was the son of Italian immigrants and grew up in Dorchester. He attended Boston Latin School, graduating in 1967 as the class president. He then headed off to Harvard University. During his graduating year at Harvard, Larry decided to run for City Councilor at the ripe young age of 22. A few months and 61,000 votes later, Larry found himself sitting in City Hall as the youngest City Councilor to ever be elected in Massachusetts. At that time there were only nine city councilors, so Larry's vote counted on every issue. Instead of idling around and listening to his elder statesmen, Larry was very outspoken. He served



five terms as City Councilor, from 1972 to 1981; and from 1978 through 1981 he was the Council President.

As City Councilor, Larry DiCara chaired the committee that oversaw the renovation of Copley Place, and the Committee on Planning and Development, which was responsible for the creation of Quincy Market. Larry, led the floor fight to create the City of Boston Water and Sewer Commission, and was a major force in the redevelopment of the Charlestown Navy Yard. He was also the first person to suggest that the City ban smoking, and put in place a recycling program. He was also against forced busing and against legislation to create a curfew for people under the age of 18.

Upon completion of his fifth and final term as City Councilor, Mr. DiCara decided to run for state treasurer; a race which he unfortunately lost. Soon after that, he ran for Mayor of the City of Boston against Ray Flynn. Although this race was close, once again Larry fell short of the target.

So, Larry decided to practice law; a career he has continued for many years. His law practice focuses on real estate development and he handles many of the high publicity cases that go through his

firm. Due to his work, Larry knows Boston better than almost every other Bostonian, with the possible exception of Mayor Menino. He told us that he loves his job and that it gives him a chance to have more time to spend with his wife and triplet daughters whom he adores. However, when asked if he would ever run for political office again, DiCara smiled and stated that maybe when his daughters get a little older he might get a second wind to run because he loves the thrill of the political campaign and being a big part of the action. His dream is to be the Mayor of Boston, but for right now he is happy where he is, working as a development lawyer for Nixon Peabody LLP right in the heart of Beantown.

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Stephanie Lovell: Committed to the Future of Public Service

By Jerome O'Grady

Our meeting with First Assistant Attorney General Stephanie Lovell had a level of enthusiasm I think many of the Ward Fellows were unprepared for. We gathered at 9:30, half awake, with most of the fellows taking scattered trips to Dunkin Donuts, for our last meeting of the summer. This haze of drowsiness quickly dissipated after our meeting with Lovell began. First Assistant AG Lovell has been passionate about public service and law since the age of 13, after a controversial police shooting took hold of her neighborhood in New York City. Lovell attended Hamilton College and then the Boston University School of Law. After some time in the private sector working for a large law firm, Lovell turned her attention to public service. Lovell spent time as the General Counsel and then Executive Director of the State Ethics Commission and as a lawyer for the School Department of the City of Boston before entering the Attorney General's office. Lovell is currently second in command



as the First Assistant Attorney General.

What set our meeting with Lovell apart from our other meetings was how enthusiastic she was not just about her job but about our jobs this summer. Instead of having us ask questions about her day-to-day work, Lovell asked us the same question and made sure everyone shared their summer experiences. Lovell was very keen to hear about not just the work we were doing but our opinions and reflections about our offices. None of the fellows

were silent and it was interesting to hear how people felt about their offices looking back on the summer.

Besides asking us questions and discussing our opinions, First Assistant AG Lovell also gave us great advice for our futures in public service. One of the pieces of information that stuck out to me was she said that she never has a predictable day but always had a full day. Lovell also gave us three pieces of advice she gives to all people entering public service. The first is to ask

yourself, "What do you do for fun?" Lovell strongly believes that the purest part of every person is what they do for fun, and if you stop having fun because of work, you lose that part of yourself. The second piece of advice she gave us was to not stay in the moment during our hardest day. Lovell encouraged us to go right back into work the day after our hardest day and not let it weigh us down. Lastly, Lovell stressed to the fellows to truly find out what we'd like to do as a career. Lovell told us not to do what we think we should do or what makes the most money because those things would never sustain us. Lovell wrapped the meeting up by giving each of us her card and warmly inviting us to call her at any time if we had any questions about public service or our future. First Assistant AG Lovell was extremely optimistic about all of our futures and the fact that she would take the time out of her day to meet with us individually is proof of this. It was encouraging to see a person so dedicated to public service that Lovell wanted to help shape its future leaders.

Rep. Linda Dorcena Forry

By Lauren Shapiro

After the first meeting of the Ward Fellows, a boat ride with James Hunt out to Spectacle Island, naturally our second meeting at the State House was expected to be somewhat less exhilarating. However, if there is one person who can follow such an act it is Representative Linda Dorcena Forry. Though there was not such a beautiful backdrop as the Boston Harbor, Rep. Forry's energetic and enthusiastic personality more than made up for the lack of scenery. The meeting consisted of questions and answers that often went on a

tangent to the delight of all into a conversation about a variety of topics.

Forry came from humble beginnings, raised in Uphams Corner, Dorchester by her parents who were Haitian immigrants. However, she never let her background affect where she was going, she was president of her class in high school, earned a degree in management from Boston College and is currently a Masters Degree candidate in public administration at Suffolk University.

During our meeting with Rep. Forry a number of different topics were touched upon and she was willing to give us

her views and opinions on the multitude of questions thrown at her. Ranging from public transportation to gun control, the conversation never lagged and Rep. Forry's passion and enthusiasm for each topic was always demonstrated. Not only were all our questions on the political process answered, but she often made note of topics we mentioned that she would like to further investigate. Rep. Forry was well spoken on all her issues and answered our questions honestly, without shying away from heated political issues. She was kind enough to share a more personal side of politics with us, explaining how she decided to

run for office and the effect it had on herself and her family.

After the conversation had ended Rep. Forry was kind enough to show us where the House of Representatives meets within the State House. She introduced us to other representatives who were only too happy to greet us and to sing her praises. Though serving her first term as an elected official, from meeting Rep. Forry I have no doubt that it will not be her last; and whatever else she may go on to do her accomplishments will surely be a great service to the community and set a great model for what a public servant should be.

Senator Jarrett Barrios

By Nghi Tran

My first encounter with Senator Jarrett Barrios was not only an enjoyable experience but an enriching one as well. From his warm greeting to his charming smile, Senator Barrios made sure to make a first class impression on the fifteen interns situated in front of him. Making a note to know all of our names, the Senator started off by covering his beginnings in public service.

He encouraged us to give back to the community as much as possible, emphasizing the importance of our leadership and skills in helping to shape our community.

By sharing his experience in public service. The Senator made it clear that the feeling of fulfillment in helping others was more than enough reason to join in public service.

Senator Barrios really believes that the people can make a difference by working together combining their efforts. He strongly believes in providing equal opportunity so that everyone has a chance to achieve his or her full potential. This could be a result of his own humble beginnings where it was more difficult for him to achieve his goals. Nevertheless, Senator Barrios prevailed with hard work and ambition and is now using his success to

help others.

The Senator gave us invaluable amounts of advice for us to not only apply to our futures in public service but for us to also apply to our lives. Referring to *Huckleberry Finn* in his son's story books, the Senator offered a metaphor of a forked river representing our lives and the decisions that we make in them. Whichever way we turned the river would guide us somewhere else. This really made me think about the choices that I make in life and how they affect not only me but also those around me. This metaphor made me realize that I have a lot of choices in life in terms of what I want to do with

my career. After this meeting I knew indefinitely that whatever route of the river I took it would involve public service.

The Senator's achievements in public service and his genuine desire to help the people has left a great impression on me. Through his leading example he has shown to me that even someone from average beginnings can make a difference in the community. I had always thought that the small strides that I took in helping in the community would probably never amount to much. But the Senator has really made me believe that whatever I do big or small, will make a difference in its own way.

A Visit with Judge Patti Saris

By Dalia Shapiro

As we walked into the pristine marble Moakley Courthouse for the third or fourth time, the hairs on my arms raised not only from the brisk air conditioner, but also from knowing that famous cases continue to be held in this federal building. The current controversy over whether or not a murderer should be federally funded for a sex change could be decided on anywhere in the building. Along with this controversial case, the federal courthouse is used for trials, pre trials, hearings, and sentencing guilty verdicts as we learned from Judge Patti Saris, Rashanna

Roach's Ward Sponser.

The first thing the Ward fellows saw after riding through the marble elevator, was a case Judge Patti Saris is currently presiding over. The Ward Fellows, along with a jury, listened to the civil case where one company was suing another for a dollar. The case, as we learned, was not really about the money; it was about one company seeking justice. Although we entered the courtroom in the middle of a trial, we followed as best we could the interrogations of a witness. Apparently, this witness ran a sewer commission that hired a contractor to help run it. Instead of spending money to help the company, the witness and

another associate created a separate account that funded their trips to restaurants, hotels, strip bars, and drug deals. While one of the associates already served time, the other just got probation for the same crime. In this case, the town was suing the company for a dollar because the town claimed the company knew about the happenings of their criminal employees.

For me, this case was a little difficult to understand since it involved two businesses feuding and most of the questions were about details of the company's everyday routine. However, because Judge Saris asked questions over the attorneys that cleared up some

confusion, the case became easier to understand. After we watched part of the trial, we had a chance to speak directly with Judge Saris. We learned that she attended Girls Latin in high school and she said it was the most difficult years of her life, including Radcliffe and Harvard Law School. After law school, she worked for Senator Ted Kennedy in Washington D.C. In 1986, she became a judge and was appointed as a federal Judge when Bill Clinton became President. Although she spent most of her children's adolescence in court, she said she would not have been able to do it without her loving husband and caring family.

Michael Contompasis: From BLS to BPS

By Jesse Yang

Probably one of the most enriching and inspiring moments the Ward Fellows has experienced since the beginning of the summer was meeting with Michael G. Contompasis, the Interim Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools. During the meeting, Contompasis displayed his profound knowledge of many departments in the Boston Public School system, because he served as Chief Operating Officer of 13 different offices for almost a decade. He effectively supervised these offices and evaluated them continuously to ensure maximum productivity. What created a close and familial touch to the meeting was the fact that Mr. Contompasis served

as Headmaster of Boston Latin School which we all attended for 22 years and the fact that he was a member of Class '57. We spent a great deal of time relating and contrasting the two time periods and discussed major issues that were present in his day and recent occurring issues. Anyone who speaks with Mr. Contompasis will immediately observe that he knows what he's talking about, that is why from 1996 to 1998 he was appointed Cluster Leader for Cluster Seven. As cluster leader, he used his experience to mentor principals and headmasters of ten schools. He adeptly explained to us problems and solutions he had for issues such as Health Education policy and the major problem of under proficient teachers.

During his years as head

master of Boston Latin School, he successfully maintained the tradition of excellence in education in Boston by creating new services for students such as a Summer Orientation program for incoming students and tutoring sessions for current students. He has improved computer technology for students in order to provide a helpful learning environment. Mr. Contompasis has not only positively influenced his own school for its future, but set a model for other schools in the district and beyond.

Mr. Contompasis was no doubt a remarkable man but his early years in Boston Latin School and his path of ups and downs inspired us most deeply. Although we were having a formal meeting with an Interim Superintendent, he continuously

caused us to break out in laughter with entertaining yet significant points in his childhood when he got in trouble. These stories were intriguing because they are common experiences among young adults. However, his success in college (Bachelor of Arts degree, Master's degree in Administration, Planning and Social Policy from Harvard University, and an honorary Doctorate from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences) has proven that a person can achieve anything despite the obstacles. His personality, educational background, effective position in public service, and current success has made him a role model among the Ward Fellows.

James Hunt- Fellow Turned Sponsor

By Michael Baskin

The Ward Fellowship seeks to inspire each of us to take a lead in the world of tomorrow through a life of public service. Throughout the summer, we meet with many amazing public servants who have made significant contributions to America. The idea is that we will see the possibilities to make a difference. But are we really able to affect such change?

James Hunt is living proof that we can. As an alumnus of the Ward Fellowship, Hunt's experiences and advice were especially poignant to all of us. While in college, Hunt began work in the state legislature. After then passing through law school at

night, Hunt moved on to work in the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA). He spoke about the special challenges he encountered as a Democrat working in a Republican administration. It was interesting to hear how politics affected his position and the way that he went about his work. The work was centered on his administration of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). He spoke specifically about his role in reviewing LNG's role in the Commonwealth and quite passionately about Cape Wind.

This passion pervaded Hunt's words throughout the meeting. In a truly excited manner, Hunt described the solar panels that he was working to put on schools and his role in

promoting sustainable growth. He overflowed with energy as he led us up a short hike on Spectacle Island while chatting animatedly with the gracious Park Rangers who took us on tour. It was invigorating to see a public servant working on something that they truly cared about. To Hunt, saving the environment with projects such as Spectacle Island was more than just a job. To him it was about life, like that of the red winged birds he instantly identified for me. After his charismatic, if soft-spoken, nature procured a ride through the bay on the Harbormaster's boat, Hunt snatched the opportunity to point out all the islands around us and answered all our questions with an incredible depth of knowledge.

From his Cabinet position as Mayor Menino's Chief for Environmental and Energy Services, Hunt oversees the Inspectional Services Department, the Environment Department, Parks Planning, Transportation Planning and Boston's Recycling program. Although Hunt holds an appointed office, he nonetheless was able to shed the light on the another side of public service, elected office. He urged us all to run for office while calling his own experiences running some of the most valuable experiences of his life. Hunt began by inspiring us with who he used to be, a Ward Fellow. He ended by inspiring us to who we could become by and, even if we didn't always win, taking away the lessons of "acting as if we could make a difference."

WE WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE WARD FELLOWSHIP MAILING LIST (OR EVEN TO UPDATE YOUR CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION), PLEASE FEEL FREE TO E-MAIL ERNANI DEARAUJO (WF '98) AT ERNANI@POST.HARVARD.EDU OR ASHLYN GARRY (WF '05) AT AGARRY@FAS.HARVARD.EDU!

Housing and Civil Rights in Boston

By Ashley Pereira

It seemed to be an unacknowledged fact that the visit to the Boston Housing Authority would most definitely be interesting due to Jesse Yang's constant description of it being "eye opening". By the end of the day we would all know what an understatement "eye opening" truly was.

We entered the room where Michelle Ekanem, the BHA civil rights specialist and Jesse's sponsor, would be meeting us and after she graciously offered us much appreciated munchkins and juice she asked us to introduce ourselves. However unlike every other sponsor we had met with she did not ask the by then seemingly automatic "What's your name, neighborhood, sponsor?" instead she asked us to talk about our names. In the next fifteen minutes we discovered the stories some of us had never before heard about

our names it was only a taste of what other discoveries were to come.

We watched a short, retro styled, and information packed video on what fair housing exactly was. From it we learned that fair housing means not only that people should not be discriminated against when it comes to housing, but that fair housing is one of our inviolable civil rights. We also learned that housing discrimination has evolved into far more subtle forms, instead of having "whites only" or "blacks only" signs there are other abstruse means of discriminating, like telling a white person that an apartment is available and then telling a black person that the apartment is not. To help us completely grasp the importance of enforcing fair housing, we then did an identity activity. We were asked to choose four of the brightly colored pipe cleaners laying in the middle of the table and to then twist and bend those pipe cleaners into

physical representations of our selves. In under fifteen minutes. Some of us began immediately, others sat almost numbly in our chair pondering how to sculpt ourselves into just four pieces of dyed plastic twined around wire. By the end of those fifteen minutes though we had all completed the activity.

Mrs. Ekanem then asked that we each rise and explain our sculptures/selves to the rest of the group, and one by one we all did. In those twenty or so minutes we spent presenting ourselves some of us discovered more about each other than we had in those four entire days we spent together in our country's capitol. She then asked us one more thing, to remove the central part of our sculpture, the core of ourselves. It seemed almost impossible, but just like before we all managed. We then discussed how the removal of the central piece affected our sculptures and began to talk about how it would feel like if

we had to hide the core part of ourselves. Pretty soon we began to understand how the activity related to fair housing. We slowly understood that unfair housing promotes not only segregation but also the damaging concept that people should hide who they are by rejecting them exclusively based on their identity. Fair housing keeps the sculpture intact by accepting people for who they are and giving them the same rights as everyone else.

After having a wholesome lunch we met with Sandra Henriquez, the CEO of the Boston Housing Authority. She gave us fascinating insights into how the BHA functions and how she came to run it, in addition to giving an ample amount of background information and patiently answering all of our questions. We all left the BHA that day with our eyes most definitely opened and, perhaps even more importantly, our perspectives most definitely enlightened.

Councilor Michael Ross

By Natanaelle Orisma

"You could do nothing and never get in trouble" City Councilor Michael Ross started and finished with "but ere on the side of doing more." These were the first words of wisdom that Boston's youngest city councilor advised sixteen smiling, Munchkin-eating and attentive John William Ward Fellows as he joined them around a table at City Hall. Having held office for well over seven years, Michael Ross has lived and breathed these words throughout his career. Sipping on a Starbucks drink, he vividly begins to share

his experiences, mistakes and future goals.

The son of a Holocaust survivor Steve Ross, Michael Ross developed a system of values at an early age that would teach him to appreciate the blessings in his life and would later influence his persona. His childhood is marked with an appreciation for hard work, an eagerness to give back to the US and an ambition to make something of himself. "Know who you are and be real" he continuously warned and went on to stress the importance of his declaration. He explains how he took advantage of every opportunity that was given to him including making the most

of his first job, a position that he jokingly admits he "took way too seriously". He gained more experience in public service when he worked in the Mayor's office and operated the city of Boston's first official website. Michael Ross's dedication and drive won him the election for Boston City Council for District 8, a collection of neighborhoods of Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway, Mission Hill, Kenmore Square, Audubon Circle and the West End. He summarized his experience in an unexpected revelation, "my first year, I made mistakes. Then my second year, I figured it out." Today, District 8's constituents can rest easy knowing that

their city councilor comprehends their concerns, spends much of his time with the neighborhoods' youth and works to better their way of life.

With the Munchkins disappearing and the orange juice dropping low, the councilor reveals that he is currently working to earn his law degree, an education move he remarks the press is constantly reporting on. Following a few laughs and various questions, City Councilor Michael Ross exits the room to begin his day, one that consists of tackling new bills, finding solutions to constituents' problems and coaching Hill House's little league at six.

The FJC: A New Face of the DA's Office

By Michael Kolton

On July 17th, the 2006 Ward Fellows met with Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel Conley at the newly opened Family Justice Center in Allston. Upon first seeing the façade of the FJC, I was not very impressed. But as the old saying goes, the proverbial book is more impressive than its cover would have you judge. Located in what used to be a night school for young adults, the FJC brings three agencies together under one roof do deal with domestic abuse issues and offer a haven for those who have been victims of violence women, men, and children.

After entering the building and helping ourselves to some complimentary muffins, we began our meeting with Daniel Conley. Mr. Conley, a Stonehill College and Suffolk law school graduate, started the meeting off by telling the fellows about

himself and how he came to be a public servant. After Graduating Suffolk Law School in 1983, Mr. Conley joined the District Attorney's office, first prosecuting in the Boston Municipal Court and Juvenile Court, eventually working his way up to a prosecutor in the Massachusetts Superior Court. Mr. Conley credited this time in his life as shaping his views on violent crimes and witness intimidation, which would influence his major policies implemented as District Attorney. In 1993 Mr. Conley left the District Attorney's office and became the district five City Councilor for the city of Boston, followed by a successful run for District Attorney of Suffolk County. Mr. Conley concluded his talk by reminding the Fellows of what a great opportunity they were offered through the fellowship, and letting us know that he always loves to hire former BLS students in the DA's office, a thought that brought a smile to a few Fellow's faces.



After Mr. Conley's talk, he fielded some questions from the fellows, mostly about violence in the city of Boston. In response to questions about why the level of violence is so high in the city compared to years past, Mr. Conley talked openly about city policies that were and were not working, such as the Mayor's Aim for Peace and gun buyback programs. Mr. Conley also explained the process of re entry, as well

as what the District Attorney's office is trying to do to quell it. After answering our questions, Mr. Conley thanked us for talking with him and encouraged us to stay involved in public service, saying that it offers some of the most fulfilling work one could ever do.

Before we left the FJC, we were given a tour of the building and its three different agencies; the therapists and child advocates, the police department, and the District Attorney's office. The department I found most interesting was the child advocacy agency, with its state of the art interviewing technology and its attention to detail in regards to the comfort of the people who pass through their doors.

The Fellowship's trip to the Family Justice Center and our meeting with Daniel Conley were truly humbling for all of the fellows, leaving us with a new sense of respect and admiration for the work of the District Attorney and his office.

State Representative Marie St. Fleur

By Rodline Louijeune

During her meeting, she captured everyone in the room with her enthralling and informative speech. Along with her amazing personality, her ability to make eloquent speeches is one of two characteristics that got Marie St. Fleur to where she is today. While speaking, she covered a variety of topics that are plaguing her district today. Her district includes parts of Mattapan, Dorchester, and a small portion of Roxbury and South Boston. Throughout her time as a State Representative, she has had a series of fiascos with the press. However, that has not stopped her from representing her district. Today, as a Chairper

son for the House Committee on Ways and Means, Representative St. Fleur holds one of the most powerful seats in the Massachusetts State Legislature.

She began the meeting with a speech about different governments around the world which reminded all the listeners how lucky we truly are. We live in a democracy and we are able to speak our minds under the protection of the law, while in other parts of the world people are suffering from political oppression. She also stated that most of the listeners were born in the "me" generation where people do not care about any thing but their own personal problems. She let us know that we are the leaders of tomorrow and that we have to be the ones to remind people

about the world around us.

Soon thereafter, Representative St. Fleur delved into the story about how she got to where she is today. The daughter of two Haitian immigrants, and an immigrant herself, St. Fleur grew up in Uphams Corner in Dorchester. After going to a parochial School for high school, St. Fleur matriculated to University Of Massachusetts Amherst and then Boston College Law School where she got her law degree. Subsequently, she served in a series of jobs in the public service sector before deciding to run for elected office.

When asked about her experiences running for elected office, she said that before running that she had to do a "gut check." This way she could assure herself

that she was able to meet all the requirements for becoming an elected official. This "gut check" consisted of her looking into herself and making sure that she was ready for all the long hours and relentless critics and in the end she believes that she made the right decision. She encouraged us to perform our own "gut checks" so we could know exactly what we want to do within the public sector.

Nevertheless, this meeting was similar to all the others; however, it had its own unique twist to it. Her story was of a person who struggles daily with the challenges of public service and all the baggage that comes along with it but at the same time she could not picture doing anything differently with her life.

Justice at Work in the Cambridge District Court

By Khue Nguyen

Walking into the dimly lit building, we were all a bit intimidated by the tight security and somber atmosphere of the Cambridge District Court. However, in contrast, when we approached the floor where Judge Sragow worked, we were greeted by our bubbly speaker who was ready to welcome us into her world as a judge. She brought us into one of the few air conditioned courtrooms and introduced us to her colleagues who were just as welcoming. Judge Sragow introduced herself by talking a little about her background. She talked about her education at Tufts, her experiences as an attorney, and her current role as a judge. After she graduated from Tufts University, Judge Sragow attended Boston College Law School. She spent numerous years as an attorney and then worked her way up to becoming a judge. As a judge, she is not allowed to

have any political views. Judge Sragow told us about how when her husband ran for office, she could not wear a button endorsing him even though he was her husband. The code for conduct is very strict for judges and they are restricted from displaying certain beliefs. However, Judge Sragow adamantly pointed out that judges are free to publicly worship their God just like everyone else, but they are not allowed to attend fundraisers held in a religious institution if the fundraisers support a certain cause.

After Judge Sragow talked, one of her colleagues told us about a true case which he resided over in which an adult bought beer for a nineteen year old who then later gave it to another minor as part of an initiation into a group. The minor eventually died. The judge then asked what sentence we would have given the adult if the maximum sentence is six months in prison and 1000 fine. Most of us agreed that the adult should be put in prison for

a few weeks since it was his first offense and he was not directly responsible for the minor's death. The judge then told us that since he resided over this case, he decided to sentence the adult to three months in prison and to pay half the fine.

Besides hearing from the judges, we also heard someone from the Victim's Advocacy speak about how the Victim's Advocacy helps people to get restraining orders. We learned that most who get restraining orders are victims of domestic abuse. We also heard from a probation officer who explained the probation process in which a person who is put on probation have certain restrictions such as a curfew and that he or she must report to a probation officer regularly.

After hearing from all these wonderful speakers and eating pizza for lunch, we headed into Drug Court. In Drug Court, we heard many success stories about the program as well as some that were not so successful. Drug

Court is where certain people who use drugs are put into special programs in hopes of recovery. It is a very promising program, especially after hearing from a graduate who completed the program. The graduate found a job and an apartment and appeared very happy with the new progress he has made in his life. He expressed his gratitude for his second chance at life. In addition to Drug Court, we also attended a trial in which a man was convicted of DUI. The jury found the man guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt" after an hour of discussions. It was the man's third DUI and it was really interesting to sit in on a trial even though we were not able to attend most of the trial except for the end of it.

We spent the whole day with Judge Sragow and it was a very interesting, insightful visit. It was one of the best meetings that we went to because it gave us a glimpse into the justice system of America.

Ward's Legacy: the Office of the Inspector General

By Hui Feng

Gregory Sullivan has been the Inspector General of Massachusetts since 2001. A graduate of Harvard College, he later went on to Harvard law school to complete his studies.

A lawyer by profession but a public servant at heart, Mr. Sullivan has presided over an office whose mission is to prevent fraud and waste in the state. The Ward Commission created the office of the Inspector General as part of the solution to reduce corruption. The Massachusetts Inspector General office was the first in the nation when it was established in 1981.

In order to achieve its mission, the office has a three part prevention strategy. First, the office tries to intervene before

the abuses actually take place through actions such as filtering the bills filed in General Court and adding amendments onto bills that seem potentially prone to waste. Then, the Inspector General conducts investigations and passes the information to relevant companies. The general public also has complete access to published reports on the IG's website. Lastly, the office also provides training for officials so that they will not participate in cases of cheat and fraud.

Of the many stories Mr. Sullivan shared, one stood out from the Big Dig tales and all others. A local librarian, loved by the townspeople, was elected into the position of town treasurer. When the taxes came in, she kept the money in shoe boxes at her house. Some residents needed help to cover the bills.

Being the kind hearted being she is, she took taxes that someone paid to help relieve those in need, thinking she will replace the money later. However, soon she lost track, and the numbers did not add up. She had no idea she was abusing public funds.

The example displayed a unique case and the unique role of the Inspector General's office. That treasurer did not know what she was doing and was not trained properly. The office now trains individuals before they go into their job to avoid another unintentional case such as this. Not everyone who uses the state's money in a wrong way is a bad person.

Of course, there is no better example to show the significance of the Inspector General than the infamous Big Dig. The office had published numer-

ous reports about problems in the construction ever since the project began. This includes everything from the faulty bolts to excess cost. They uncovered the potential dangers of the Central Artery long before the unfortunate death.

Despite his position in such a crucial office of the government, Mr. Sullivan spoke to the students with a casual friendliness. His stories illustrated just how many problems the state is facing and how each one of them affects every single individual in the state. Accompanied by his right hand man Jack McCarthy, a Boston Latin alum, and more importantly a close friend, the pair encouraged the students to consider a career in making a difference, a career in public service.



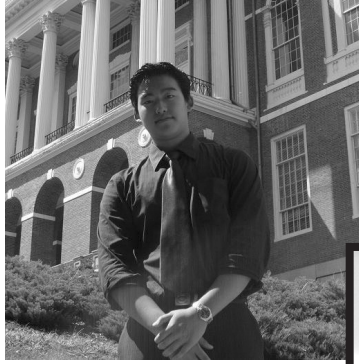
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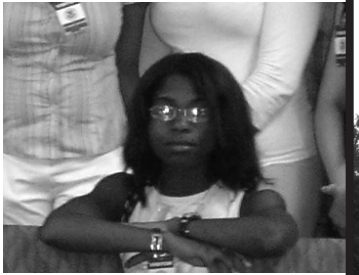
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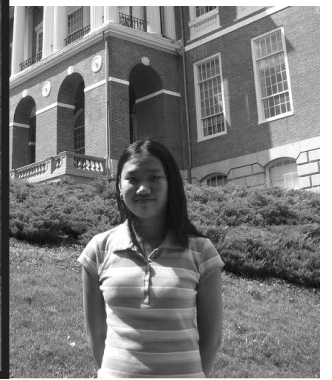
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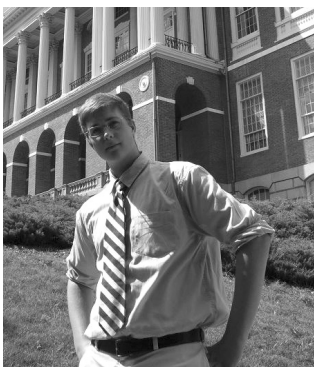
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