

# STANLEY MILLER FELLOWSHIP

## A MILLER FELLOW SHARES HER SUMMER EXPERIENCES

By Justina Wong

From the moment I first stepped out of Union Station, Capitol Hill made an indelible impression on me. I glanced around at the white marble buildings and imposing structures, the fountains and flags of all the states in the rotary, and caught a glimpse of the Capitol dome through an avenue lined with flowers and trees. I followed the conservatively dressed throng, clutching onto briefcases and *Washington Posts*, heading towards the Senate and House office buildings to start the day. A street musician playing the trumpet greeted the morning crowd, dodging the tourist buses that zipped by. Taking this entire scene and atmosphere in slowly, I knew that I was heading into something important and something entirely new and different.

I soon discovered that this morning commute into work was all part of a certain rhythm on Capitol Hill.

It began with the Metro ride, and then continued throughout the day. Every morning, the interns would walk into the office, and the deliveryman dropped off the morning stacks of mail. One TV would be turned onto CNN Headline News, while another showed the gallery actions on C-SPAN. In the background, the same deep, monotone voice would announce the roll call for the senators in the alphabetical order that we would all soon memorize. While some interns sorted and distributed the mail delivered in the morning, others would pass around the sections of the *Washington Post*, *New York Times* and *Boston Globe* to get updated on the day's happenings. One of the many phones would begin ringing in our intern room, and we would be called down to do anything from run a document over to the cloakroom in the Capitol building or to find a transcript from NBC nightly news about gun control or to draft a constituent letter. The legislative buzzers and signal lights would go off, convening the Senate, and the day started off like usual.

Each morning and throughout the day, I would check in with the person that I was assigned to for the summer. Each intern was assigned to two different staff members, although still responsible to the whole office for any necessary errands or projects that would arise. Simon was the legislative correspondent who dealt with defense, arms control, foreign policy, veterans, and human rights. Since I was especially interested in areas of policy and the constituent mail that he handled, I found my research and projects for him compelling and learned more about the international influence of the U.S. I had a variety of projects, such as finding articles about the North Korea and missile defense. I also drafted constituent letters about a variety of topics such as U.S. aid to Afghanistan, China's bid for the Olympics, and Nepal and the Ex-Import Bank. My other assigned staff member was Jaime,

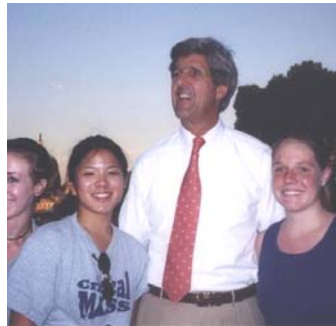
the legislative correspondent (LC) in charge of transportation, education, trade, and telecommunications, as well as the legislative aid for transportation. Jaime gave me a broad range of projects such as picking out the pertinent information from an amendment about alternative education, looking over floor statements for errors, and researching topics pertaining to NAFTA and Amtrak. I would be asked to call agencies such as the Federal Trade Commission to inquire about the Chevron Texaco merger, or the Massachusetts offices on elderly care to find out services for transporting seniors to health facilities. I would mainly draft constituent letters such as about primary elections, the education bill, tourism, and other transportation related topics.

Kerry's office persuaded all the interns to attend events around D.C. and take advantage of being on Capitol Hill. I attended Congressman Joe Moakley's Memorial Service

in the Capitol and heard from various speakers about the Congressman's life and his impact on other people. Many times we were encouraged to go to Small Business hearings.

In those hearings, we got the chance to see Senator Kerry interviewing panel members. We got to watch Kerry speaking to the Prime Minister of Hong Kong, while a crowd full of journalist and reporters from Asia asked questions. We attended the press conference called by Kerry, speaking about his concern over drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge.

My experience has made me seriously consider pursuing a future in public service. This unique glimpse gave me a more distinct understanding of how the government works. To a young college student, it does appear quite exciting, fascinating, and important. Perhaps the greatest lesson this summer taught me is to venture out into the unknown. I had no idea of what to expect from Washington, D.C. I had no direction and no real preconceived notion of what I would be doing all summer. I knew that being an intern would not be the most glamorous or impressive job, but rather an unimportant position in the hierarchy of the office. A vague notion crossed my mind that I would be filing or standing by the Xerox machine for nine weeks straight, regretting the fact that I had ventured out of the security of Boston. However, looking back at my anxiety and fear, my experience on Capitol Hill taught me to always take the risks and opportunities that come by, because you never know what to expect. In the end, the risk was worth it because I left with tons of memories, good friends, and an unforgettable summer. Walking out of the Russell Senate Office Building, I felt a distinct wave of sadness of leaving such an amazing experience as well as an incredible yearning to come back to D.C. one day and prove that I'm not only an intern, but capable of much more.



**Miller Fellow Justina Wong (left) with Sen. John F. Kerry at the intern baseball game**

# STANLEY MILLER FELLOWSHIP

## A MILLER FELLOW SHARES HIS SUMMER EXPERIENCES

*By Nathaniel Adams*

I spent eleven weeks this summer working in the education office of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, and living in the Foggy Bottom section of Washington, D.C. While I expected that I would have an educational experience on the job, I never imagined how enjoyable it would be to work in the heart of American politics. What started as an enriching service opportunity ended up being the most personally fulfilling work experience of my life.

I moved into my dorm at the George Washington University on Memorial Day weekend, at the end of my first week at the office. While most of that week was spent getting to know the other people in my office and finding my way around the Senate office buildings, we received a bombshell that Thursday: Senator James M. Jeffords of Vermont, then the Chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee, was mulling a switch to Independent party affiliation. Such a move would have huge ramifications for our office. Senator Kennedy, the third most senior Senator in Congress, was the ranking minority member of the committee, and Jeffords's move would give Democrats control of the Senate – and, more specifically, Senator Kennedy would be the new committee chairman. Waves of anticipation swept the office, and when Senator Jeffords finally made his announcement, we geared up for the coming transition.

Meanwhile, work continued on the major education bill that was before the Senate. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, which establishes most federal funding levels and priorities for education, was up for its septennial reauthorization, so our entire office was focused on preparing Senator Kennedy for floor debates and



**Miller Fellow Ernani DeAraujo with Randy Beardsworth, former National Security Council Defense Director**

amendment proposals. As interns, we were mostly reduced to performing clerical tasks: photocopying the text of the bill and amendments, answering constituent about progress on the reauthorization, and running messages to the floor of the Senate comprised the bulk of our work days for the first two weeks of June. The result was a two-part, 1600-page amalgam of policy and pork that would be drastically pared down in July and September when the bill went to conference between the House and the Senate. Still, I like to think that my Miller Fellowship offered me a role, however small, in shaping the educational experiences of American youth for the next seven years.

My work for the rest of the summer followed a fairly consistent routine, but there was rarely a dull moment in the office. When not busy working on responses to constituent mail regarding various education issues, I devoted most of my time to preparing memos for the Senator and office staffers. My two short-term assignments – a summary of an inner-city education study released by a non-profit interest group, and a description of education reform efforts in Louisiana – were both enlightening, but the success of my long-term project is the yardstick against which I measure my work experience. An office staffer designated me as his assistant on a project to seek alternatives to the SAT as a selection criterion in college admissions. My research on the topic led me to explore such various ideas as the use of standardized assessments in high school, recent affirmative action lawsuits that have been brought against public universities, and the concept of K-16 education, a progressive plan that would drastically alter our concept of the transition from high school to college. I offer these as only a few highlights of the work I was allowed to do in our office. Words cannot express how much I enjoyed every day I spent in the Hart Senate office building.

Finally, life in Washington was incredible. I know of few cities that offer such an amazing balance of political, cultural, and intellectual nourishment to its residents. I passed the White House and the Capitol on my way to the office every morning and afternoon, and spent my weekends visiting museums, playing basketball with the locals, and reading for fun in any of the coffeeshops that abound in the colorful neighborhoods. Kennedy office policy also ensured that I had the opportunity to give back to the D.C. community, as I spent three Mondays volunteering at a summer academic enrichment program in one of the city's poorer neighborhoods. In sum, the Miller Fellowship offered me an educational experience that I will always appreciate and never forget.

# STANLEY MILLER FELLOWSHIP

## MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM DELAHUNT

On Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, the Miller Fellows met with 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Congressman William Delahunt, who represents the South Shore and Cape Cod. However, we soon learned that the Representative's areas of expertise and interest extend far beyond his own district.



**Congressman Delahunt**

When we arrived at his office, the Congressman and an aide promptly escorted us to the House dining room in the Capitol, where Mr. Delahunt treated us to breakfast. Over coffee and juice, we discussed various aspects of American foreign policy, especially as they relate to Central America. Our own Latin American expert, Ernani DeAraujo, peppered the Congressman with questions about American dealings in Colombia, especially in recent years since the intensification of that country's civil war.

Congressman Delahunt was very informative, deftly responding to Ernani's inquiries with the sort of knowledge that can only be held by a prominent member of the Foreign

Relations Committee in the House. From there our conversation moved to personal histories: Mr. Delahunt briefly outlined his own start in politics, and then asked about our own academic backgrounds, future plans, and career aspirations as we munched on granola and yogurt.

Finally, the Congressman revealed one of his own private passions, American history, as he laid out his support for the proposed Adams family Memorial in Washington, D.C., and offered succinct summaries of two recent, prominent works of historical scholarship. The morning was capped with a photo session involving the Miller Fellows, Congressman Delahunt, and the prominent civil rights activist and Congressman John Lewis.



**The Miller Fellows after breakfasting with Rep. Bill Delahunt and Civil Right Activist Rep. John Lewis**

## MEETING WITH REVEREND MARK SCOTT

Having attended Boston Latin School was a great blessing this summer, twice over. Not only did our high school offer the program that landed us in Washington in the first place, but it also secured a connection to one of the most interesting, informative men that we had the pleasure of meeting: the Reverend Mark Scott, the father of one our classmates at BLS and the Deputy Directory of the White House's Office of Faith-Based Initiatives.

Our meeting with Rev. Scott was straightforward and keenly focused on one topic of interest. Unlike other conversations with speakers that briefly covered a variety of topics, Rev. Scott dedicated most of his time to explaining the mission of his office, and how they hoped to accomplish their goals. The most refreshing aspect of this meeting was Scott's own ambiguity on the political nature of his position: he freely admitted that he wasn't a Republican, but that his belief in the power of his office convinced him to transcend political differences with the administration and do what he felt was right for the people of America.

Rev. Scott also addressed the challenges that the faith-based initiatives program may face when it is proposed before Congress, and explained how the concept of charitable choice will benefit the poorest members of society, who wouldn't otherwise have access to much-needed services from the government. The meeting was especially impressive given the controversy surrounding the initiative, and proved to be one of the most enlightening events for the Miller Fellows.

# STANLEY MILLER FELLOWSHIP

U.S. AID ADMINISTRATOR ANDREW NATSIOS

*By Justina Wong*

In a meeting with one of Washington, D.C.'s top officials, Andrew Natsios spoke to the Miller Fellows about his experience in public service and his duties as Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).



**Fellows Justina Wong and Ernani DeAraujo with Natsios**

Natsios gave us a brief background about his own path and experience that led him to this new position. Having attended Georgetown and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, Natsios served in the Massachusetts House of

Representatives from 1975 to 1987, and later as Secretary of Administration and Finance under Gov. Paul Cellucci. He was chairman and chief executive officer of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority from April 2000 to March 2001 working to improve the financial situation of the embattled agency's Big Dig project.

Natsios has much experience at USAID, having served as director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance from 1989 to 1991 and then as assistant administrator for the Bureau for Food and Humanitarian Assistance (now the Bureau for Humanitarian Response) from 1991 to January 1993.

In an historical overview of USAID, Natsios told us how USAID was deeply influenced by Secretary of State George C. Marshall, who initially proposed the plan. The Marshall Plan of 1947 originally was supposed to help rebuild Europe after the destructive toll of World War II, but started the movement towards relief for foreign countries. When Congress passed the bill enacting the plan, on November 3, 1961, President John F. Kennedy established USAID.

Taking into perspective the enormity and importance of USAID, the FY2002 budget has included requests of over \$7 billion for USAID-administered programs as well as jointly administered programs with the State Department.

Appointed on May 1, 2001, Natsios has begun his new job with a focus on what he calls "The Four Pillars: The Global Development Alliance,

Economic Growth and Agriculture, Global Health, and Conflict Prevention and Developmental Relief."

Natsios touched briefly upon these issues by highlighting the situation in Africa. He spoke about AIDS in Africa and the U.S. focus on helping the continent cope with such a devastating and crippling epidemic. Of the 36.1 million people worldwide living with HIV/AIDS, 90 percent live in developing countries, and 75 percent reside in Sub-Saharan Africa. With these statistics, AIDS in Africa is obviously a concern of the United States and global humanitarian concern. Natsios stressed the importance of U.S. intervention in the form of prevention and education. He pointed out that more individuals who have HIV/AIDS do not survive because of weak immune systems that cannot fight off other diseases. The lack of basic vaccinations demonstrates the need to focus early on and intervene before the situation becomes hopeless.

Natsios emphasized that USAID is not only trying to provide a service and relief to countries, but also tries to implement change and development. He underscored the importance of shoring up the infrastructure of developing countries so that the citizens can become independent and resourceful. Foreign aid is not only about giving out and lending money to countries in need, but the core goal is providing realistic assistance such as teaching about farming or providing clean water. These are simple steps that will make a big difference in the long run, and with Andrew Natsios at the helm, the U.S. will continue its role in helping the parts of the world that need us most.



## 2001 Stanley Miller Fellows:

Haris Hardaway  
Ernani DeAraujo  
Justina Wong  
Nathaniel Adams