



# THE INSIDER

The Science & Technology Policy Internship Program's Alumni Network

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## FROM CONGRESS TO THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

**The Policy** Internship Program prides itself on its ability to place students in internship experiences capable of altering their career expectations and perceptions of engineers' role in public policy. Unlike with typical Washington internships, the program attempts to introduce budding engineers to public service and catapult them to the forefront of policymaking. For Class of 2010 alumna Kelly Anderson, the policy bug — what Jim Turner terms Potomac fever — led her to extend her experience well past August and has, in all likelihood, made a permanent impression on her career goals.

When Jim Turner approached Kelly in early January 2010 with an opportunity to intern in the office of Virginia's 5th Congressional district Rep. Tom Perriello, she met the idea with a mix of enthusiasm and apprehension. A second-year student at the time, Kelly had all the credentials needed to land a coveted internship position on Capitol Hill. She was a bright and optimistic honors student studying biomedical engineering, and she had the poise and social grace needed to survive the trials of a "Hill-tern." Yet, despite these glowing qualities, she was not sure how her conservative-leaning political tendencies would be received in the office of a repre-

sentative who would be running for re-election on the Democratic ticket. However, after a reassuring discussion with Jim, Kelly accepted the internship offer and began preparing for what would become one of the most influential summers of her life.

"On first arriving in Tom Perriello's office," Kelly recounted, "I was struck by how young many of the staffers were." Kelly soon found that age was not the only similarity she shared with her new co-workers. "I was amazed at how many of the staffers maintained their own political beliefs, regardless of political affiliation," Kelly said. As the summer progressed, she, like her full-time co-workers, grew to admire the integrity and sincerity with which Rep. Perriello conducted his public office. She began to understand that politics wasn't a matter of voting based on your beliefs, but a balancing act involving finding resolution between staying true to

*Continued on page 2*



Image courtesy of Taylor Irvin (Col '11)

## PIP WELCOMES 2011 INTERNS

The Policy Internship Program is happy to welcome the 2011 intern class. Students (pictured on page 8) are listed alphabetically.

Cari Bergner  
Erin Boehmer  
Todd Chatlos  
John Davis  
Bela Dhamankar  
Cammie Genda  
Olivia Jeffers  
Molly Kampmann  
Zachary Levin  
Sara Persily  
Tim Pianta  
Rachel Schmidt  
Kelly Wagner  
"Z" Wang  
Danqing Zhu

## FROM CONGRESS TO THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL *Cont'd.*

your own convictions and doing what is necessary for the constituents whom you represent — a fact impressed upon her while working first-hand with Rep. Perriello and his staff. Having acquired a great deal of respect for her boss, she naturally jumped at the opportunity to become involved in his re-election campaign upon her return to Charlottesville. Although the campaign ended in disappointment for her, Kelly emerged with more than textbook knowledge of politics and public policy.

Now in her third year, Kelly admits that her experiences in Perriello's office and subsequent political cam-



Kelly Anderson, PIP '10

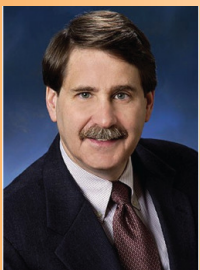
paign have convinced her to pursue a career in public policy. With her typical modesty, she downplays the idea of running for political office herself one day. Instead, she intends to explore other avenues into the world of policy. Still in contact with her summer co-workers, Kelly plans to enter the Frank Batten School of Public Policy upon graduating from the Engineering School.

Kelly's experience has left her with a better perspective concerning Washington politics and vision for how policy may become a part of her own future.

— C. Reilly, PIP '09

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This spring, the interns had a class in which they delved into the belly of the beast itself: the federal budget. Guided by online "do-it-yourself" budget scenarios, the class was divided into three teams, each with a different set of policy priorities but with the same goal of balancing the budget within 10 years. The "Green" team focused on protecting natural resources and the environment, the "Red" team on enhancing national security, and the "Blue" team on avoiding new taxes.



Michael Rodemeyer

Through various combinations of sweeping budget cuts and painful tax increases, all of the teams managed to balance the budgets, but only on paper. All the teams agreed that

while their proposals were politically infeasible, the status quo was unacceptable.

Tackling first-hand the very real and politically challenging budget choices faced by policymakers is one way the PIP helps connect students to the significance of real-world policy choices. Budget decisions shape fundamental directions of the country for decades to come, in areas such as energy, transportation, science, security, infrastructure, education and economic growth. Those choices will have real significance not only for the nation as a whole, but also for the engineering profession. Will there be a manned space program for aerospace engineers to work on? How do we cope with the challenges of adapting to the effects of climate change? How do we inspire kids to become the next generation of scientists and engineers?

Behind almost every policy debate

and budget choice, there are significant scientific or technical issues that are often poorly understood by the policymakers and the public. Helping engineers appreciate the intertwined impacts of engineering on policy and policy on engineering is one of the goals of the Policy Intern Program. Today's budget battles — and the underlying policy disputes and divided public opinion that drive them — demonstrate all too clearly that this goal remains as relevant and urgent as ever.

As we see in this issue of *The Insider*, our program alumni have found a variety of ways to engage with the policy world. Whether in government, NGOs or the private sector, they are showing us that there is no single model for the role of the engaged engineer. As they always have, the Policy Intern alumni are showing us the way.

— Michael Rodemeyer  
Executive Director

## ALUMNI SUPPORT IN A NEW POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

**It looks like** another amazing class has emerged from the most competitive pool of prospective interns ever. Unfortunately, we have had to turn down students who would have been program leaders in our early years. They also are coming to Washington when distinctly different visions of the role of government are competing for supremacy. What better time to come to Washington to learn? We have a diverse group coming, and they seem to be focused on many of the topic areas in which an engineer with an understanding of policy can make the biggest difference: energy, environment, health, IT.

Despite the major changes in personnel on Capitol Hill and elsewhere

in Washington, the PIP program still has friends throughout the city — some of whom are program alums — who respect what we are doing and who understand just how unique our students are compared to the average intern. I will do my best to help guide the intern experience, but to paraphrase Hillary Clinton, it takes a village to give the best possible experience to our new interns arriving from Charlottesville. Our program is unique in that our students learn by day, interact with interesting, important people in the evening, and soak in the city and have fun the rest of their time here. We need help from our friends in all of these areas.

I, of course, share the Washington responsibilities with our very talented Washington alumni board, which is

being headed by Brooke Yamakoshi. It is thrilling to see our interns from past years move into key positions in the city, bringing talents generally in short supply. I am hopeful that, more and more, they will be stepping forward to make the current class's experience second to none. So, please think about your experience with PIP: what was good about it and what could have been better. Then think about what you do now and how you got from there to here. Finally, think about what you can share with your successors. Making the journey that you have already begun easier for our new class is what PIP is all about. Brooke, the board, and I look forward to hearing from you.

— James Turner  
Washington Coordinator

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### Class of 2000

**Courtney Wright** received a graduate degree in operations research from Georgia Tech and now works at NASA's Johnson Space Center on the Constellation Program.

### Class of 2001



**Stacey (Benzel) Flood** entered U.Va.'s Darden School of Business in August 2007, and in December she married Ben Flood (Col '02, Darden '09). Following the completion of her M.B.A. in May 2009, she accepted a

position with M&T Bank's Greater Baltimore Middle Market team as a relationship manager. Stacey and Ben are enjoying exploring Baltimore and are excited to take advantage of all that the city has to offer.

After working at AAAS, **Emmanuel Smadja** realized that his impact on the world could (and should) be more than just technical. After writing an M.S. thesis that combined systems engineering with business and ethics, he went into the world of international business and enrolled in a global M.B.A. program at INSEAD. He now works on public sector and economic development projects for the Brussels office of McKinsey & Co.

**Coral (Jessica) Sheldon-Hess** worked for a couple of years as a government consultant before going back to school to be a librarian. She is now the Web services librarian at the UAA/APU Consortium Library in Anchorage, Alaska.

**Glen Michael** attended medical school at UCSF and completed his

residency in emergency medicine at U.Va. He is now a practicing emergency physician at U.Va. Using the skills and interests that were nurtured while he interned as a PIP scholar, he has conducted research and published numerous works on the interface between health policy and public health.

### Class of 2002



**Ed Hallen** is currently getting his M.B.A. at MIT after spending the last six years in the software and private equity fields.

## ALUMNI UPDATES *Cont'd.*

**Erica (Kohr) Rolston** is currently a senior consultant at Kurt Salmon Associates, a management consulting firm focusing on retail and consumer products.

**Natalie Exum** is currently working at the World Bank as a water resources specialist.

**Ryan Ewalt** is a project management specialist for Volkswagen Group of America LLC, Chattanooga Operations. His plant will open in April and will make the new 2012 Passat.

Since PIP, **Ryan Murphy** has gone on to receive an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and is currently working for McKinsey & Co. in their Atlanta office.

**Korina Kalopsidiotou** is working as a systems analyst at Synergy International Systems Inc.

### Class of 2003



**Melissa (Yingling) Counihan** graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine in 2009. She is now in obstetrics and gynecology residency at Emory University in Atlanta.

**Ahson Wardak** finished his Ph.D. coursework in systems engineering at U.Va. and is working toward completing his doctorate. He will be joining the Small Business Administration as an advisor to the Assistant Administrator for Investment.

**Soham Sen** is currently a consultant with the agricultural and rural development department of the World Bank.

**Tiffany Nichols** recently joined the Philadelphia office of DLA Piper LLP. Her practice focuses on intellectual property litigation and prosecution and on general litigation.

### Class of 2004



PIP exposed **Brooke Yamakoshi** to environmental policy issues around the world. She stayed at U.Va. to earn an M.S. in systems engineering, researching methods of household drinking water treatment and sanitation in rural Cameroon. She now works for the World Bank in Washington, D.C., in a unit focused on water resources management issues in transboundary river basins in Africa.

**Jason Manto** currently works for One Acre Fund in Rwanda, a registered 501(3)(c) non-governmental organization operating specifically with the goal of alleviating hunger in East Africa by purchasing and distributing farming inputs under a microcredit system to small-scale farmers, and by educating them in farming techniques.

Living in Detroit, **Alex Genetos** works for Deloitte, having got his M.B.A. from Indiana University.

**Brigitte Hoyer** is finishing her M.B.A. at Yale School of Management in May 2011 and will be starting work for The Bridgespan Group in San Francisco in August 2011.

Following a summer spent working on NSF's Information Technology Research initiative, **Erwin Gianchandani** sought to return to Washington to work in science policy. He pursued graduate degrees from U.Va., earning M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in biomedical engineering in 2007 and 2009, respectively. He later was an AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow at the NSF, where he worked on a "smart health & well-being" initiative. He is now director of the Computing Community Consortium, an NSF-funded organization of leading computing researchers that facilitates visioning and messaging about future research directions within the field.

After teaching in Texas as part of Teach for America, **Brock Riggs** returned to U.Va. to pursue his graduate degree in materials science and engineering, followed by entry to law school. He hopes to combine his graduate engineering background in nanotechnology and materials science with a law degree to help navigate some of the difficult questions posed by nanotechnology.

**Dan Bowman** currently works in King of Prussia, Pa., as a product manager for GSI Commerce, where he focuses on developing the company's first mobile commerce solution.

After graduating from U.Va., **Peter Milligan** attended Cornell Law School and the Johnson Graduate School of Management. Peter graduated last May with J.D. and M.B.A. degrees and is now a corporate attorney in the New York office of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP.

## ALUMNI UPDATES *Cont'd.*

### Class of 2005



**Alison Tramba** has been employed by Bain & Company since graduation in 2007. She spent nine months on leave in 2009 to work for TechnoServe in Swaziland, focusing on operational support for a baby-vegetable farm and a strategic growth plan for the national cotton and textile industries. She returned to Bain in 2010, spending five months in Australia before moving to Johannesburg.

**Ben McGinnis** recently left his position as a product manager at Datan Media to join Citrus, a Washington-D.C.-area startup dedicated to helping large enterprises go mobile. He plays a diverse set of roles at Citrus, working within sales and marketing, project management and software development.

**Katharina Ley** is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in industrial and operations engineering at the University of Michigan. She plans to focus on financial engineering; specifically, studying how financial aid affects tuition prices in the U.S. undergraduate education market.

**Rodrigo Lopez** continues to work for Capital One in McLean, Va., as a business manager for the Secured Card team. He plans to move to either Philadelphia or Chicago in the fall to pursue an M.B.A. He is planning to attend the U.Va. Class of '06 five-year reunion in June.

**Julianne Carroll** currently works for the Senate Democratic Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

**James Sumner** works for U.S. Representative Rick Boucher's office.

### Class of 2006



**Emily (Hesaltine) Walker** is a senior analyst in strategic planning at The Advisory Board Company in Washington, D.C. She focuses on developing products to support hospital CFOs on challenges posed by recent reform regulation and the increasingly complex payment landscape.

A senior business analyst at McKinsey & Co. in Washington, D.C., **Erin McElroy** is working on a startup venture, the McKinsey Hospital Institute, an organization that advises hospitals on health care reform, organizational health and operations.

**Jeffrey Rominger** is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in environmental engineering at MIT. His research focuses on phenomena that exist at the nexus of physics and ecology in aquatic environments.

**Jenny Saik** is researching angiogenesis in Dr. Jennifer West's lab at Rice University and continues to publicize the lab's work.

**Jon Carrier** is attending the Darden School of Business at U.Va. as a member of the M.B.A. class of 2012.

## SAVE THE DATE

The Policy Internship Program always encourages alumni to stay active within the program's network. Accordingly, PIP cordially invites all alumni to the following program social events:

### Alumni Barbeque

Wednesday, June 19

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Location TBD

### James Turner Research

#### Symposium

Friday, July 29

9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Association of Public &  
Land-grant Universities  
1307 New York Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

**Ben Cooper** will graduate from U.Va. School of Law in May and spend the summer studying for and taking the bar exam. He plans to start his career as an associate at Hogan Lovell's D.C. office. He has been blessed with seven years — each wonderful and unique — in Charlottesville.

After graduating from the Engineering School, **Sarah Foster** has shifted from technology consulting to a career in medicine, working with human systems. She currently works as a clinical technician in an intensive care unit and is in the process of applying to medical school.

**Valerie Skinner** is a systems integration consultant with Accenture. She currently lives and works in Reston, Va., and is planning to begin business school in August 2011.

ALUMNI UPDATES *Cont'd.*

## Class of 2007



**Hy Martin** lives in Cape Town, South Africa, where he has started the southern African office of a venture capital fund focused on environmental and social development. He completed his term with the Princeton in Asia Fellowship in August 2010.

**Andrew Bradley** is currently a third-year medical student at the University of Michigan.

Since graduating from the biomedical engineering department in spring 2009, **Jenna Zhang** has been working

as a patent examiner at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Since August 2008, **Kevin Richards** has worked at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as a patent examiner. He is now a first-year law student at U.Va.

**Kimberly Naden** is attending medical school at U.Va.

**Morgan (Rush) Newsome** is attending medical school at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Georgia campus.

**Suzanne Collier** has been working as a software engineer for BBN Technologies in Arlington, Va., since August 2009. She started part-time on a masters degree in systems engineering at George Washington University and will graduate in Spring 2012.

**Vinu Ilakkuvan** is currently pursuing a master's degree in health communications at the Harvard School of Public Health. She loves her classes and Boston, but is excited to gradu-

ate in May and begin the job-search process.

## Class of 2008



**Brendan Hart** has been working for ExxonMobil Chemical Co. in Baton Rouge, La., since summer 2009.

**Dustin Cable** completed his M.P.P. at the Batten School and has been working as a researcher for the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. He has completed demographic studies on health reform law and the redistricting process in Virginia.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**I believe** that if you're proactive about creating opportunities, and keep yourself open to new things, good things will find you. That's how I got to the position I'm in today.

Like most people, I started at U.Va.



**Christina Stamper** (third from left) with Dean Aylor, Kathie Olsen and Arden Bement

without a clue of what I wanted to do with my life or even what I wanted to study. After spending one summer working in academia and one working for a chemical company, I realized neither of those career paths suited me. However, during my third year, on a recommendation from James Villarrubia (PIP '07), I decided to apply for PIP. When Jim Turner asked if I'd like to work at the NSF for then-deputy director Kathie Olsen, I accepted — and the rest is history.

Working in that office, and for Kathie, was a whirlwind. I remember working at my desk when Kathie called me into her office, and I ended up pitching my recommendation regarding my summer work on water scarcity and capacity building in

sub-Saharan Africa. Kathie agreed to implement my idea and I created a draft implementation strategy on my last day in the office.

When I went back to U.Va. in the fall, I was hooked by both international and sustainable development. This interest, along with my firm belief in creating one's own opportunities, ultimately led me to complete an Engineering for Sustainable Development master's program at the University of Cambridge, U.K., and later to apply to be a Presidential Management Fellow. These decisions have led me to my current position with the Green Management Program Services at the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs and toward a career in public policy.

— *Christina Stamper, PIP '08*

## ALUMNI UPDATES *Cont'd.*

**Hallett Connor** began working for ExxonMobil outside Houston.

**Jen Wilson** is currently a graduate student in the biological engineering program at MIT, where she is pursuing computational modeling in breast cancer. Her motivation to delve more deeply into science was largely inspired by PIP and the advice she received from many of the speakers and mentors in the program.

**Nick Olson** is now working as a business technology analyst within Deloitte's federal practice.

**Tallie Faircloth** currently works in the Office of Science & Technology in the Bureau of Policy, Planning, and Learning at the U.S. Agency for International Development. As a policy analyst, she focuses on integrating science and technology into the development work of the agency.

**Todd Gerarden's** experience in the Policy Internship Program contributed to his successful application for the Truman Scholarship and has guided him in his plans to use his mechanical engineering background in energy policy. He plans to study economics in graduate school.

## Class of 2009



**Jessica Vasconcellos** works for Accenture as a system integration analyst. Her first client is the Department of State. She currently lives in Herndon,

Va., and still enjoys cooking for her friends!

Following graduation in May 2011 with a B.S. degree in systems engineering, **Chris Reilly** will begin working for Cornerstone Research, an economic consulting firm, as an analyst in Washington, D.C. This summer he will be traveling with friends through Europe.

After his summer experience, **Joshua Scott** took some time out of school to contemplate his academic pursuits and life after college. He has since decided to minor in electrical engineering and pursue a major in government, with a concentration in political theory.

**Matthew Hanna** works as an analyst at NewFields, an environmental stewardship and asset protection firm in Atlanta.

Following graduation, **Rohan Sebastian** will work for IBM's Global Business Services as an IT specialist for public sector contracts.

**Ryan Turner** has chosen to pursue further study in science and technology policy and is working on a Ph.D. in engineering and public policy from Carnegie Mellon University. He is currently a student in the CMU-Portugal joint partnership program, and enjoys the Lisbon high-life and learning to speak Portuguese.

**Whitney Morgan** is working as a cyber security analyst for SRA International Inc.

Following graduation, **Yi Cai** will work for McKinsey & Co., a management consulting firm, as a business analyst in San Francisco.

**Grace Stuntz** will graduate from the Batten School of Public Policy in May 2011.

## Class of 2010



**Hannah Meredith** is interested in further pursuing synthetic biology and nanotechnology in graduate studies.

A third-year biomedical engineering student, **James Muller** plans to intern with a biotechnology company this summer.

PIP provided an unparalleled opportunity to observe the intersection between the worlds of engineering, public health and Spanish. Her experience was both challenging and eye-opening, and has led **Lauren White** to consider future career options in public health and policy.

His PIP experience encouraged **Michael Backhus** to consider a career at NASA, and it was a huge learning experience that will stay with him throughout his professional life.

As a third-year at U.Va, **Ray Lee** continued his interest in policy while interning at U.S. Sen. Al Franken's office during winter 2010-11, and he is taking more economics classes dealing with policy.

**Sara Hoffberg** will graduate from SEAS in May. She'll spend the summer traveling through Europe, then start her career as a systems engineer at High Performance Technology Inc.

**Katie Dove** will spend her summer in Charlottesville performing research.



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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Science & Technology Policy Internship Program relies on the support and dedication of benefactors and its ever-growing base of alumni to ensure that the high-quality internship experiences for which our program is now renowned remain available for future generations of Wahoos. PIP would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their gifts:

Stephen J. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation  
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Ann Lindsay Flower  
American Roller Bearing Co.  
Ted Gerarden

## SUPPORTING THE PROGRAM

If you would like to make a contribution to the Policy Internship Program so that PIP can continue to provide U.Va. Engineers with life-changing experiences, please visit [www.seas.virginia.edu/support](http://www.seas.virginia.edu/support) and designate in the special instructions box your gift to the Policy Internship Program.

For young alumni: Please consider making a smaller contribution on a per-month basis. Visit [www.seas.virginia.edu/10in2010](http://www.seas.virginia.edu/10in2010) and designate in the special instructions box your gift to the Policy Internship Program.

To donate by phone, or for more information about all giving opportunities, please contact Truin Huntley at 434.924.3551



PIP Intern Class of 2011