In October Harvard University President Drew Faust led Harvard University through an historic week-long celebration of public service. More than two generations before, President John F. Kennedy had proclaimed that every educated citizen has an obligation to serve the public. Announced just three years later, the mission of this Institute has in this year been embraced by every unit of the University. It is the time for which we were created and the result of the life and vision of John F. Kennedy, and the commitment of our Senior Advisory and Student Advisory Committees, students and staff to that legacy.

In this semester the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum has most broadly presented the leading political practitioners of our time from across the political spectrum and around the world. Similarly, our resident and visiting Fellows have examined their own lives of public service and brought to the Institute the widest range of guests for study groups and seminars of every type. Our students remain the most committed of any generation since the time of President Kennedy, and their understanding of politics and commitment to lives of public service is advanced daily in their work here.

In November, the Institute hosted its biennial program for newly elected mayors featuring participation by nearly twenty new city leaders and over a dozen sitting mayors from large cities across the country. In December, we released a new national poll of the political views of America’s 18-29 year-olds assessing President Obama’s job performance generally and on specific issues including the economy, health care and Afghanistan. In March, we release the results of our major poll analyzing youth attitudes toward public and community service and a variety of political issues.

Please be sure to visit our website at www.iop.harvard.edu to learn more about our programs and events and to sign-up for our weekly e-newsletter featuring recent photos and information on upcoming IOP programming. The Institute’s e-newsletter is sent every Friday during the semester, keeping thousands of our friends up-to-date on IOP happenings.

The importance and success of our Institute is in largest measure the result of the personal commitment of our greatest leader and champion and friend, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, and for all the years to come we will have the benefit of his legacy of leadership. Senator Kennedy assured that this Institute is forever committed to providing for our students the paths to public life and service in the enduring vision of his brother, the President. I hope to see you soon at the IOP where that legacy is rekindled every day.

Bill Purcell
In late November in the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum, IOP Senior Advisory Committee Member Caroline Kennedy presented the sixth annual John F. Kennedy New Frontier Awards to U.S. Representative Patrick Murphy of Pennsylvania, the first veteran of the Iraq War to serve in Congress, and Rebecca Onie, co-founder and chief executive officer of Project HEALTH, a national organization that mobilizes college students to provide assistance to low-income patients at urban hospitals and health centers.

The John F. Kennedy New Frontier Awards were created by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation and the Institute of Politics to honor Americans under the age of 40 who are changing their communities and the country with their commitment to public service. The awards are presented annually to two exceptional individuals whose contributions in elective office, community service, or advocacy demonstrate the impact and the value of public service in the spirit of John F. Kennedy.

“Patrick Murphy is giving voice to a new generation of men and women who have served in our armed forces in two of the most difficult conflicts in our history. Rebecca Onie is giving thousands of families the tools they need to lead healthier lives and break the cycle of poverty and illness in places where resources are few. They embody two vital values in our society – leadership and community – values that we need to build our own New Frontier,” Caroline Kennedy said in presenting the awards.

Patrick J. Murphy, 36, became the first Iraq war veteran to serve in the U.S. Congress when he was elected to the House of Representatives in 2006. Since his election, Murphy has become a leader in the debate on Iraq and Afghanistan and on military and veterans policy. In his first month in Congress, he introduced legislation calling for the responsible withdrawal of troops from Iraq in order to refocus on the fight in Afghanistan. In July 2009, he became the House leader of a legislative effort to repeal the 1993 “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” law, which prohibits gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals from serving openly in the U.S. Armed Forces.

At the age of 19, Rebecca Onie founded Project HEALTH, a non-profit health agency that seeks to break the link between poverty and poor health. As a volunteer in a pediatric clinic at Boston Medical Center, Onie found that many patients returned to the clinic with recurring illnesses stemming from poor living conditions, inadequate diets, and other consequences of poverty. Onie conceived Project HEALTH to mobilize her peers to help break the cycle. Project HEALTH volunteers – college students who are competitively selected and rigorously trained – serve as patient advocates at hospitals and clinics where patients’ health problems are often traced to or exacerbated by inadequate access to food, housing and other basic needs.
The mission of the Institute’s National Campaign for Political and Civic Engagement is to foster youth civic engagement at Harvard and throughout the Campaign’s nationwide consortium of colleges. This fall, that meant continuing voter registration, absentee balloting and election awareness efforts on Harvard’s campus.

The National Campaign’s principal voter registration drive this fall was conducted during the Harvard University study card day for freshmen – an event which new students are required to attend. The Institute presence at the study card event enabled National Campaign staff and students to offer new Harvard undergraduates an opportunity to register to vote. Such assistance is important since a lack of uniformity and clarity in registration deadlines, voter identification requirements, and other information can make voting confusing and difficult for our nation’s students – many of whom vote by absentee ballot. In addition, the National Campaign was able to hold another voter registration drive in freshman dining halls and establish an in-dorm registration system to ensure freshmen could pick up and drop off voter registration forms in designated dorm areas. In total, the Campaign’s cumulative efforts helped approximately 500 undergraduates register to vote this semester.

This fall, a significant effort was also made to assist students in voting via absentee ballot in local elections. In the absence of a national election, the National Campaign’s efforts in this area focused on gubernatorial races in New Jersey and Virginia as well as numerous mayoral races in large cities throughout the country including New York City, Boston, and Houston. The Institute ensured that absentee ballots were provided to students eligible to vote in such local races at all National Campaign voter registration drives and ongoing activities throughout the semester.

In addition, the National Campaign student committee hosted a fall panel discussion analyzing the 2009 New York City mayoral election. Panelists included Harvard Kennedy School’s Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston director David Luberoff, political campaign advisor Clarence Tong and Harvard undergraduate and Bloomberg for Mayor summer campaign worker Jonathan Yip ’12. The insightful panel was moderated by IOP Fellow and New York City native Leah Daughtry and covered topics exploring the competitiveness of and the impact City borough presidents had on the 2009 New York mayoral race.

Looking ahead, the National Campaign student committee is preparing for the 2010 midterm elections and for assisting the large number of students expected to vote via absentee ballot.
Newly Elected Mayors
New city leaders gather for seminar on leadership and key issues

In mid-November, nearly twenty incoming mayors from large cities across the country gathered at the Institute for a three-day seminar on leadership and the issues they will face.

Hosted by IOP Director and former Nashville, TN mayor Bill Purcell and co-sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the 18th biennial Seminar on Transition and Leadership for Newly Elected Mayors offered the new city leaders a variety of sessions led by academics, practitioners, and current and former mayors. Focusing on training for new city leaders, topics include the economic crisis, transitioning from the campaign to City Hall, and education.

Participating newly elected mayors included Linda Balzotti, Brockton, MA; Bryan Baum, Longmont, CO; Julian Castro, San Antonio, TX; John Curtis, Provo, UT; John Dickert, Racine, WI; William Flanagan, Fall River, MA; Bill Foster, St. Petersburg, FL; Ted Gatsas, Manchester, NH; Harvey Johnson, Jackson, MS; Tom Norton, Greeley, CO; Joe O’Brien, Worcester, MA; Judy Paul, Davie, FL; Andre Quintero, El Monte, CA; Todd Rogers, Lakewood, CA; Robert Sabonjian, Waukegan, IL; Dayne Walling, Flint, MI; Setti Warren, Newton, MA; A C Wharton, Memphis, TN; and Mike Winder, West Valley City, UT.

An impressive group of sitting mayors from across the U.S. spoke to the newly elected mayors as seminar panelists: Jerry Abramson, Louisville Metro, KY; Byron Brown, Buffalo, NY; David Cicilline, Providence, RI; Mick Cornett, Oklahoma City, OK; Manny Diaz, Miami, FL; Robert Duffy, Rochester, NY; Bill Finch, Bridgeport, CT; Kevin Johnson, Sacramento, CA; Elizabeth Kautz, Burnsville, MN; Greg Nickels, Seattle, WA; Michael Nutter, Philadelphia, PA; Doug Palmer, Trenton, NJ; and Don Plusquellic, Akron, OH. Other high-level city officials speaking at the seminar included mayoral spokesman Mike Brown (Columbus, OH); Ronal Serpas, chief of police, Metropolitan Nashville, TN Police Department; and chief financial officer Lisa Signori (Boston, MA).

Harvard president Drew Faust greeted the newly elected mayors during the seminar and Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) dean David Ellwood and Harvard Graduate School of Education Academic dean Bob Schwartz also had an opportunity to meet with and address the new mayors at the conference. Other Harvard Kennedy School officials briefing the new city leaders included professor Steve Goldsmith (former Indianapolis, IN mayor) and lecturers Linda Bilmes, Anthony Williams (former Washington, D.C. mayor), Julie Wilson, Ken Winston and HKS senior associate dean for strategic program development Pete Zimmerman. Panelists also included IOP fall 2009 Visiting Fellow and former St. Paul, MN mayor Norm Coleman and the Institute’s John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum director and former Los Angeles, CA deputy mayor Noelia Rodriguez.

TOP PHOTO: IOP director Bill Purcell and U.S. Conference of Mayors CEO and executive director Tom Cochran stand with new city leaders during the Institute’s newly elected mayors program.

SIDE PHOTOS: New Memphis, TN mayor A C Wharton meets Harvard University president Drew Faust as Akron, OH mayor Don Plusquellic and Burnsville, MN mayor Elizabeth Kautz look on. Below, Setti Warren, the new mayor of Newton, MA, greets and talks with Harvard students at a breakfast event.

Harvard president Drew Faust greeted the newly elected mayors during the seminar and Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) dean David Ellwood and Harvard Graduate School of Education Academic dean Bob Schwartz also had an opportunity to meet with and address the new mayors at the conference. Other Harvard Kennedy School officials briefing the new city leaders included professor Steve Goldsmith (former Indianapolis, IN mayor) and lecturers Linda Bilmes, Anthony Williams (former Washington, D.C. mayor), Julie Wilson, Ken Winston and HKS senior associate dean for strategic program development Pete Zimmerman. Panelists also included IOP fall 2009 Visiting Fellow and former St. Paul, MN mayor Norm Coleman and the Institute’s John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum director and former Los Angeles, CA deputy mayor Noelia Rodriguez.
In September the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum played host to three world leaders from countries on three different continents. Prime Minster Raila Amolo Odinga of Kenya spoke to a capacity audience and outlined his vision for “Making Democracy Work in Africa.” The following day President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia addressed a full Forum crowd on efforts to promote capitalism and a strong national security in his country. September concluded with an address by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, leader of the democratic nation with the largest Muslim population.

In one of the semester’s highlights, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi discussed “Leadership in an Era of Reform” in November just days after the passage of historic health care reform legislation in the House. The previous month, the Forum hosted former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich who outlined his vision for a “Tri-Partisan Majority for Real Change.” Leaders from the financial sector speaking in the Forum included chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission Mary Schapiro and former chairman of the Federal Reserve Paul Volcker, who discussed the current financial crisis and how to protect against future downturns.

In one of the semester’s opening events, the Forum hosted Republic of Korea (ROK) ambassador to the U.S. Han Duk-soo and U.S. ambassador to the ROK Kathleen Stephens for a discussion on the U.S.-ROK relationship and the dangers of nuclear armament in the region. The following week, the Forum assembled a panel moderated by HKS professor and former U.S. ambassador R. Nicholas Burns on U.S.-Iran relations entitled “Iran: War...or Peace?” Other timely international discussions included a look at the Middle East with former U.S. ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker and a panel analyzing President Obama’s decision to boost troop levels in Afghanistan.

Fall in the Forum also showcased some of our country’s most influential presidential advisors, past and present. Ted Sorensen (chief counsel and speechwriter for President Kennedy) was joined onstage by President Reagan’s White House chief of staff Ken Duberstein and HKS professor David Gergen for a discussion on “Advising the President,” which drew a capacity audience and coverage by C-SPAN. On October 21, the Forum hosted back-to-back events: Samantha Power, President Obama’s national security council director for multilateral affairs, participated in a panel discussion on human rights as public service; later that evening David Axelrod, senior advisor to President Obama, was interviewed by students on “The First Year of the Obama White House.”
The IOP’s fall Resident Fellows were popular fixtures on Harvard’s campus all semester long. Their not-for-credit study groups covered interesting political discussion topics that appealed to students, faculty and the general public, including: crisis management; faith, values and politics; political organizing and organizing across progressive movements; the U.S. Supreme Court and the National Security Council in Wartime; and creativity in journalism, in politics and in life.

Fellows also attended events outside the IOP including dinners with student groups, speaking appearances and panel discussions on key issues with student organizations, and meetings with Harvard affiliates throughout the university community. The fall Fellows class also collaborated extensively with John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum staff to help bring in numerous high-profile study group guests also able to speak to larger audiences in the Forum while visiting Harvard.

Just some of the popular Fellows’ guests appearing in weekly discussion groups this semester included: David Alexrod, senior advisor to President Obama; Cornell Belcher, founder and president, Brilliant Corners Research & Strategies; David Brooks, columnist, the New York Times and commentator, PBS’ “The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer;” Ryan Crocker, U.S. ambassador to Iraq (2007–2009); Anita Dunn, White House communications director; Patrick Gaspard, White House political director; Ed Goeas, pollster and strategic counselor to U.S. Sen. John McCain’s (R-AZ) presidential campaign; Dolores Huerta, civil rights leader and activist; Joe Leonard, assistant secretary for civil rights, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Lt. General Doug Lute, assistant to President Obama and deputy national security advisor for Iraq and Afghanistan; David McCullough, renowned author and historian; Eli Pariser, Board president and former executive director, MoveOn.org; Cecile Richards, president, Planned Parenthood; Mitt Romney, former governor of Massachusetts; David Satterfield, senior advisor to the Secretary of State and coordinator for Iraq; Ted Sorensen, special counsel, adviser and speechwriter to President John F. Kennedy; Lesley Stahl, CBS’ “60 Minutes” correspondent and co-founder of wowOwow.com; Richard Wolffe, former Newsweek White House correspondent, MSNBC commentator and author; and Evan Wolfson, founder of “Freedom to Marry.”

This fall, the Institute hosted three Visiting Fellows, each joining the Institute for a week and maximizing their time meeting with students, faculty and Harvard research center staff. Fall Visiting Fellows included: Norm Coleman, former U.S. Senator (R-MN; 2003–2009); Terry McAuliffe, former Democratic National Committee chairman and recent Democratic candidate for governor of Virginia; and Ursula Plassnik, member of the Austrian Parliament, special envoy for the International Women’s network of the Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs and former minister for foreign affairs of Austria and former president of the Council of the European Union.

The IOP’s fall Visiting Fellows were very popular with students and faculty, each hosting captivating study groups and engaging throughout the Harvard community. The IOP’s fall Visiting Fellows also met with faculty throughout the university and responded to interview requests from a variety of student publications including the Harvard Crimson, the Harvard Political Review, the Harvard Salient and Harvard’s radio station, WHRB. Terry McAuliffe joined the Institute in early October and spoke in the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum on the future of the Democratic Party, sat down with the Harvard College Women’s Center and Harvard Kennedy School’s Women and Public Policy Program (WAPPP) and participated in numerous events hosted by student organizations including the Harvard College Democrats, Democratic clubs of Harvard graduate schools and undergraduate and graduate level business-focused students.

In late October, Ursula Plassnik served as a Visiting Fellow and met with students from WAPPP’s “Harvard Square to the Oval Office” program, Harvard’s Center for European Studies, HKS’ Kokkalis Program on Southeastern and East-Central Europe, and a variety of international students and student groups including HKS’ European and German/Austrian clubs, the Harvard Islamic Society, the College’s International Relations Council, the Woodbridge Society of International Students, the Harvard European Law Association and student human rights advocates.

Former U.S. Senator Norm Coleman, who previously served as the mayor of St. Paul, MN, joined the Institute as a Visiting Fellow in mid-November – the same week the Institute hosted its biennial Seminar on Transition and Leadership for Newly Elected Mayors – and participated in several of the seminar’s sessions including a briefing for the new city leaders on intergovernmental affairs. Coleman also spoke on political leadership issues at an event hosted by HKS’ Center for Public Leadership, met with graduate students from throughout the University, and sat down with numerous student organizations including Harvard Hillel, the Harvard College Republicans and the Harvard Undergraduate Council.

**Former Fellows:**

If you have interest in continuing to engage with the IOP and its students or would like to suggest a fellowship candidate, please do not hesitate to contact IOP Fellows Director Eric Andersen at 617-495-1360 or eric_andersen@harvard.edu.
In early December, the Institute of Politics released the results of the IOP’s most recent national poll of the political attitudes of America’s young people. The poll was covered extensively throughout local and national press including by the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Politico, Reuters, the Boston Globe, and the Nation and cited in dozens of online media outlets and political blogs including Huffington Post, AOL’s Politics Daily, Political Wire and others. IOP polling director John Della Volpe also appeared and discussed the poll’s findings on C-SPAN’s popular “Washington Journal” morning program in a 30-minute live segment on December 21.

The online survey of 2,087 18-29 year-old U.S. citizens with a margin of error of +/- 2.2 percentage points (95% confidence level) conducted with research partner Knowledge Networks for the IOP between November 4 and 16, 2009 found a majority (58%) of America’s 18-29 year-olds approve of President Obama’s job performance generally but disapprove of the President’s handling of major issues. Regarding the President’s early December call for 30,000 additional U.S. troops to serve in Afghanistan, in mid-November when the IOP’s poll was conducted two-thirds (66% oppose, 31% support) of young adults said that they opposed such a buildup. In addition, nearly one in two young Americans (48%) say that the economy is the national issue that concerns them most, more than double the next highest issue, health care (21%).

“The Institute of Politics polling project is the preeminent source of public opinion for understanding young adults and tracking their views on politics and public service,” said Bill Purcell, IOP director. “This is a voting block now critical to the outcome of our elections and they know it.”

“We’ve been tracking this generation since they came of age nearly ten years ago and have seen young people become a political force,” said John Della Volpe, IOP polling director. “Our government and our political parties need to continually challenge and inspire young adults, whose support should not and cannot be taken for granted.”

More information on the poll’s major findings:

**Majority of young adults approve of President Obama’s job performance generally, but disapprove of the President’s handling of major issues.**

Exit poll results from the 2008 presidential election indicate that Barack Obama won the 18-29 year-old segment of the electorate by a 34-point margin (66%-32%), more than five times the difference of Obama’s next best age group (30-44 year-olds: margin of 6 points). The IOP’s fall poll indicates 18-29 year-olds are now in line with the general population: a majority of young adults approve of him generally but disapprove of his handling of major issues asked about in the poll.
When asked about President Obama’s job performance, nearly six in ten (58% approve, 39% disapprove) young Americans say they approve – a similar level of approval (54%) found in national polls of the entire electorate conducted by other organizations during the same time period. Among the segment of the youth electorate who are attending a four-year college or university, the President’s approval rating is slightly lower than the youth cohort as a whole – 57 percent approve and 42 percent disapprove of his job performance. However, a majority of 18-29 year-olds also disapprove of his handling of every major issue asked about: Afghanistan (55% disapprove, 41% approve), health care (52% disapprove, 44% approve), the economy (52% disapprove, 44% approve), Iran (53% disapprove, 42% approve), and the federal budget deficit (58% disapprove, 38% approve).

Two-thirds of young adults oppose sending more troops into Afghanistan. Regarding the President’s recent call for 30,000 additional U.S. troops to serve in Afghanistan, a strong majority of young adults said in mid-November they would oppose such a move. The IOP’s Nov. 4-16 poll revealed two-thirds (66% oppose, 31% support) of 18-29 year-olds would oppose such a buildup.

Economy is unquestionably the top national issue of concern for young people today. Almost half of 18-29-year olds today (48%) say economic issues are their top national concern, more than double the second highest issue (health care: 21%) and nearly five times the third highest (War: 10%). More young Americans believe that the government’s efforts to improve the economy will hurt (30%) rather than help (26%) their financial situation, and a plurality, 41 percent, say these efforts will have no impact.

Concerning health care reform, youth are more supportive of specific reform elements than reform in general. On the subject of reforming the American health care system, 18-29 year-olds seem more supportive of individual elements of reform (76% favor requiring insurance companies to sell coverage to people, even if they have pre-existing conditions; 57% favor a “public option”) than they are of the concept in general (48% supportive of passing major reform, 30% supportive of more limited reform, and 22% think we should leave reform for another time).

Majority of young adults who volunteered for Barack Obama in 2008 would do so again. Among the 19% of 18-29 year olds who told us that they volunteered on behalf of the Obama campaign in 2008, 55 percent reported that they would be very likely to engage in similar activities in 2012 – and 34 percent indicated that they would be very likely to engage on other political issues between now and 2012 if asked.

Harvard students designed the poll, in consultation with IOP polling director John Della Volpe, whose firm SocialSphere, Inc. commissioned Knowledge Networks to conduct the survey. Complete results and past surveys are available online at www.iop.harvard.edu.
Summer Director’s Internships provide memorable experiences and paths to public service careers

“It was an incredible learning experience to be working for the most talented, dedicated staff on the Hill. Quotes and pictures of Ted Kennedy throughout the office inspired us each and every day. From delivering dozens of copies of the 600-page first draft of the Affordable Health Choices Act to helping create talking points for the Democratic Senators of the HELP Committee, I thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of my internship. In the future, I hope to help implement and improve the transformative health care reforms that will hopefully pass before the end of the year.”

“One of the things I love about working in D.C. is the feeling of always being a witness to meaningful action, whether it is the passage of a piece of legislation or the ferment of special interest activity. As a journalist, my job was literally to draft the pieces of our collective history every day. And this summer in particular, I and many others had never seen a place as dynamic as Washington, D.C. At Politico, I worked with a group of people who meticulously tracked and recorded the goings-on in Washington. Just when I thought that I could predict what would happen next, Mark Sanford, Town Hall meetings, or climate change legislation would happen. The experience of actually witnessing the wheels of our democracy turning every moment far outshines the understanding that I would have gleaned from reading about and observing these events from a distance.”

“Finding a haven of tried and true conservatives rejuvenated my love for intellectual scholarship and politics. But it also rejuvenated my interest in strengthening civil society. I researched social policy and learned so much about how to promote ethics, family, marriage, and integrity in communities that I can no longer view politics as significant without a strong bias toward building up communities and families. After all, politics is downstream from culture – there is no greater call than serving people and communities.”
– Rachel Wagley, Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C.
Women’s Initiative in Leadership
Women’s leadership program motivates and inspires

Created in the fall of 2006, the Institute of Politics’ “Women’s Initiative in Leadership” (WIL) program aims to offer female undergraduates at Harvard instructive seminars and workshops with high-profile women leaders in government, politics, business and non-profit fields that help to nurturing development of leadership qualities and abilities. The Institute is proud to have helped nearly 250 Harvard women gain valuable skills and experiences through completion of the semester-long WIL program.

The fall WIL schedule of events was packed with exciting and inspirational discussion groups and skills workshops on key topics including communications, negotiations, and networking designed to help cultivate women leaders on campus. In addition to events listed in the column to the right, highlights of this semester’s schedule included an insightful look at how leadership is perceived and expressed in today’s world entitled, “Leadership in Crisis,” led by Harvard Business School professor of management practice Bill George. Students also responded to an engaging tutorial on preparing young women for success in entering the job market, “Three Things Women Should Know about Gender in Job Negotiations,” given by Harvard Kennedy School associate professor of public policy Hannah Riley Bowles.

Finally, WIL participants enjoyed an instructional session on “Communicating Across the Gender Gap” led by Harvard Kennedy School chief of staff Sarah Wald, and benefitted from question and answer, skills and discussion sessions with fall 2009 IOP Fellows Leah Daughtry, Kim Gandy and Peggy Noonan.
U.S. Sen. John Kerry joins IOP’s Senior Advisory Committee
The Institute is pleased to announce the appointment of U.S. Senator John Kerry (D-MA) to the Institute’s Senior Advisory Committee. Senator Kerry, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, began his three-year appointment by participating at the Institute’s recent biannual committee meeting in Cambridge on Monday, November 23. The Advisory Committee, chaired by former U.S. Senator John C. Culver (D-IA), is responsible for guiding and advising Institute staff and students toward fulfillment of the IOP’s mission of inspiring young people to careers in politics and public service.

IOP Proud Participant in JFK 50th Celebrations
The Institute is pleased to be a part of an upcoming inspirational effort – in partnership with the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the John F. Kennedy School of Government and an evolving group of partners – to help create the 50th anniversary program of the presidency of John F. Kennedy. As a living memorial to President Kennedy aiming to inspire young people to consider careers in politics and public service, the Institute is looking forward to supporting the JFK 50th program’s public outreach programs by hosting events and conversations on the modern legacy of President Kennedy and his notable achievements in the context of today’s challenges. The Institute will also help promote JFK 50 events on college campuses via its National Campaign for Political and Civic Engagement, a consortium of twenty colleges and universities around the country committed to creating more politically and civically engaged campuses.

Institute’s 2008 Campaign Managers Book Now Available
Senior presidential campaign managers gathered in Cambridge in December 2008 for the latest in the IOP’s ongoing “Campaign for President” discussions. A Harvard tradition since 1972, the series brings together managers, political journalists, and analysts – every four years for two days between Election Day and the presidential inauguration – to examine the electoral process and review campaign decision-making, strategies and tactics. The conversations are transcribed, lightly edited and published by the Institute to allow future candidates, managers, journalists and scholars to better understand the nature of modern presidential campaigns. Campaign for President: the Managers Look at 2008 is published by Roman Littlefield Publishing and available through most major book sellers including Amazon.com, Borders and Barnes & Noble. The book has been featured in numerous media outlets including the Washington Post, the Politico, and Campaign and Elections’ Politics magazine. The sessions are also referenced in Dan Balz and Haynes Johnson’s New York Times bestselling book, The Battle for America 2008: The Story of an Extraordinary Election.
IOP on the Move
Professional updates from Institute alumni include:

Sydney Asbury (former IOP Fellows Assistant) is now serving as campaign manager for Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick’s re-election campaign.

Stephen Brokaw (SAC 2006) is a first year law student at the University of Illinois’ College of Law.

Peter Buttigieg (SAC 2004) has launched an exploratory committee for a possible run for Indiana state treasurer.

Alex Castellanos (Fall 2008 Fellow) is serving as a senior communications adviser for the Republican National Committee.

Trey Greyson (SAC 1994), currently the secretary of state of Kentucky, is running for the U.S. Senate.

Christopher Kirchhoff (SAC 2001) has been named special advisor to U.S. deputy secretary of defense Bill Lynn.

Tony Leon (Fall 2007 Fellow) is now serving as South Africa’s ambassador to Argentina.

George Moose (Fall 2006 Fellow) has joined strategic consultancy firm LMI as a senior fellow.

Meghan O’Sullivan (Fall 2007 Fellow) has been named the Evron and Jeane Kirkpatrick professor of international affairs at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Ryan Ripple (SAC 2004) is now attending Harvard Law School.

Ari Ruben (SAC 2008) is serving as deputy finance director for Steve Grossman’s campaign for Massachusetts state treasurer.

Elyse Schoenfeld (SAC 2009) is the special assistant/scheduler for U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro (CT-3) in Washington, D.C.

Elyse Stefanik (SAC 2006) has launched “American Maggie,” an interactive website for conservative and Republican women to share views online about politics and public policy available at www.americanmaggie.com.

Jesse Ventura (Spring 2004 Fellow) is hosting a new program, “Conspiracy Theory with Jesse Ventura” on TruTV.

Jeff Yarbro (SAC 1999) is a candidate to represent Tennessee’s 21st district in the State Senate.

Zeeshan Zaidi (SAC 1996) is serving as the head of global at software development company Lime Wire.
Institute of Politics Staff

Director
Bill Purcell (bill_purcell@harvard.edu)

Executive Director
Catherine McLaughlin (catherine_mclaughlin@harvard.edu)

Director of the Fellows Program
Eric Andersen (eric_andersen@harvard.edu)

Forum Assistant
Jeff Barnes (jeff_barnes@harvard.edu)

Staff Assistant
Kerri Collins (kerri_collins@harvard.edu)

Website Specialist
Katherine Delaney (katherine_delaney@harvard.edu)

Director of Polling
John Della Volpe (john_della_volpe@harvard.edu)

Director of Conferences & Special Projects
Christian Flynn (christian_flynn@harvard.edu)

Director of the Internship Program
Amy Howell (amy_howell@harvard.edu)

Fellows Program Coordinator
Cathey Park (cathey_park@harvard.edu)

Director of Communications
Esten Perez (esten_perez@harvard.edu)

Forum Director
Noelia Rodriguez (noelia_rodriguez@harvard.edu)

Staff Assistant/Internships
Maggie Sasso (maggie_sasso@harvard.edu)

Executive Assistant to the Director
Julie Schroeder (julie_schroeder@harvard.edu)

Director of National Youth Engagement
Laura Simolaris (laura_simolaris@harvard.edu)

Forum Coordinator
Sean Tierney (sean_tierney@harvard.edu)

Financial Administrator
Theresa Verbic (theresaVerbic@harvard.edu)

PHOTO CREDITS:
Michael Casey: page 2 (6), page 6 (top corner)
Tom Fitzsimmons: cover, page 2 (top corner), page 6 (photos 1, 3 and 4)
Marcus Halevi: page 6 (2)
Harvard News Office: page 2 (9)

Suggestions or comments can be directed to the newsletter’s editor, Esten Perez (see contact information above).