

# NEWS AND EVENTS

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## 2011 SUMMER AT THE WHITE HOUSE BY RAJESH REDDY (T '12)

After weeks of working at the White House, the grandeur of the building and its history began to fade, but what remained was a growing admiration for the internal processes that sustain the presidency. As a summer White House intern in the Domestic Policy Council (DPC), I had the pleasure of working with the Administration's experts in issues varying from health care reform to education. This particular arm of the Executive Office of the President was especially exciting to me because, as

then-Special Assistant to the President for Steve Croley put it, "The Domestic Policy Council's role is policy entrepreneurship." Nestled in an office in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, my fellow DPC interns and I pursued various projects covering prominent areas like immigration and health care reform and more modern fields like urban affairs and mobility & opportunity. In particular, I worked under Jeffrey Crowley, Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP).

With over a million people in the United States living with HIV/AIDS, the Obama administration has committed itself to an aggressive policy of reducing HIV incidence, increasing access to care and optimizing health outcomes, and reducing HIV-related health disparities. In 2010, the Administration outlined these goals in its National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS), where the President affirmed, "Our country is at a crossroads. Right

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## EXPLORE A MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE THURSDAY, MARCH 1ST, NOON PACKARD HALL, SECOND FLOOR

The Department of Political Science will host their *Majors Week* event on Thursday, March 1st at noon in Packard Hall, second floor.

If you are considering a major or minor in political science we strongly encourage you to attend.

Students will have an opportunity to meet the Po-

litical Science faculty, learn about the PS subfields, the Tufts in Washington program, and Pi Sigma Alpha. The Department of Political Science established the Rho Omicron Chapter of the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society. It is student driven and organizes discussions and guest lectures.

To learn more about the Department of Political Science please visit: <http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/default.htm> or call or visit our offices in Packard Hall to set up an appointment with a member of our faculty (617-627-3465).

**BUFFET LUNCH WILL BE SERVED!**

**SEE YOU THERE!**

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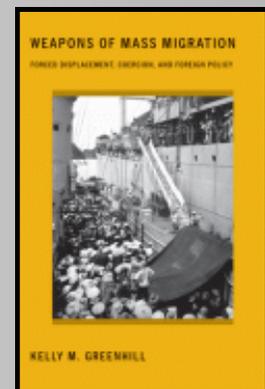
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## 2011 SUMMER AT THE WHITE HOUSE

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now, we are experiencing a domestic epidemic that demands a renewed commitment, increased attention, and leadership.” As 2011 marked the 30th anniversary of AIDS emergence, the summer was an ideal time to be part of President Obama’s progressive campaign to end the domestic epidemic. Last year also saw the exciting advances in the biomedical domain, including the release of a study confirming treatment as prevention. However, as all Americans know, last year also saw a debt showdown in Congress and a very real budgetary crisis. Such economic woes has clear and calculable effects on the HIV/AIDS effort, squeezing funding sources for those most in need. This context made working in health policy more challenging and exciting as the Administration had to find ways to meet its goals in a strained economy.

As someone looking into a future in health policy, working for Mr. Crowley provided me guidance in navigating the intricacies of the policy process. Each day of the internship, I found myself communicating with the stakeholders in the HIV/AIDS struggle: Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes for Health, and the numerous HIV/AIDS non-governmental organizations. In the first week of the internship, Mr. Crowley brought me to an HHS event

across town. As I followed him through the building, I expected to sit in the back and take notes. Instead, I was guided into a room and introduced to Secretary Katheen Sebelius and Assistant Secretary Dr. Howard Koh, leaders who I have long admired for championing the fight for health care reform. Later on, I sat in the audience and heard the testament of NIH experts like Dr. Anthony Fauci and leading advocates from the non-profit sector. During the Q&A session, several audience members stood up to give their remarks. Among them was a mother whose son was among the first stricken by HIV during the 1980s. She recounted how her family had few resources in a decade when anti-retroviral therapy was not yet created and many in the government, including President Reagan, failed to acknowledge the epidemic. With the assistance of innovative researchers and advocates, her son was able to manage his infection and is now a successful physician. Such stories emphasized for me the vital importance of progressive health policy and robust relationships between government, research institutions, and advocacy organizations.

Like other interns in the program, my duties included preparing briefing books, organizing events, drafting remarks, communicating with stakeholders, and compiling research. Working in the DPC,

however, had the added benefit of allowing me to assist on projects in the other policy offices. A highlight of the summer included assisting at an event, hosted by the Office of Social Innovation and Civic Engagement, that gathered together members of Giving Pledge, a group of billionaires who have committed their wealth to philanthropy. As I stood by the entrance to the East Wing, I tried to maintain my composure as I escorted guests like Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, and Tufts’ own Pierre Omidyar. Later that week, I helped a friend in the Office of Education Policy prepare a meeting in which private sector leaders sat with the President, General Colin Powell, and DPC Director Melody Barnes, to discuss potential partnerships with the government. Helping other interns across the White House offices with events was a common occurrence. It highlights the most rewarding component of the White House internship: the other interns. Since the program attracts students in all stages of life, I had the opportunity to work with established professionals, military veterans, and accomplished graduate students. Among these was Tufts graduate Dave Cavell, who caught me up on his career in speechwriting; first with Governor Deval Patrick and now as an intern for the President.

As part of the Domestic Policy

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*A HIGHLIGHT OF THE SUMMER INCLUDED ASSISTING AT AN EVENT, HOSTED BY THE OFFICE OF SOCIAL INNOVATION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, THAT GATHERED TOGETHER MEMBERS OF GIVING PLEDGE, A GROUP OF BILLIONAIRES WHO HAVE COMMITTED THEIR WEALTH TO PHILANTHROPY.*

## 2011 SUMMER AT THE WHITE HOUSE

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Council, I had the advantage of seeing the policy process from inside the executive branch. What I found was that this process is highly collaborative, calling on the respective abilities of federal agencies, private stakeholders, states, and Con-

gress. Interning in an economic recession and during an acute debt crisis, what became increasingly clear was that future policymakers will have to find innovative ways to do much with less. Coming back to Tufts for my final year, I look forward to exploring how to do just this.

**About the author:** Rajesh Reddy, T '12, is a senior majoring in Political Science and studying for a dual MPH degree. Last summer he worked as a White House intern in the Domestic Policy Council where he worked on health issues ranging from AIDS to disability policy. He has pre-

viously interned at Massachusetts General Hospital, Tufts Medical School and Physicians for Human Rights. On Campus, he has been a member of BUILD Guatemala and India, NI-MEP: Iraqi Kurdistan, and Let's get Ready.

## THIRD ANNUAL POLITICAL SCIENCE ALUMNI-STUDENT OUTREACH EVENT MONDAY, MAY 21ST - FRIDAY, JUNE 8TH

The Department of Political Science will host their third annual Alumni-Student Outreach Event. The Event is open to all political science majors to encourage and generate dialogue with our PS alumni who will help students answer many of the questions they have regarding resume and career building strategies. In short, it is a wonderful forum to develop mentors in areas that our political science majors aspire towards and we thank our Political Science Alumni

for their overwhelming support!

- The Event is divided into three weeks.
- A week in advance of the Event, Ms. Lenehan will forward each major a spreadsheet of the participating Political Science Alumni. In addition, it will list the year they graduated, their current position, when they can be contacted, their preferred method of contact (either email or phone), and some

additional notes to help better acquaint you.

We ask all Political Science majors who are participating to:

- Be prepared. Have a list of questions ready.
- Be a good listener.
- Remember to call only during the times listed.
- Remember, this is not a job interview, this is a mentoring session.
- Remember to follow up

with a "thank you" to your mentor(s).

- Most importantly, enjoy! This is a great opportunity to build your understanding of the field you're interested in and, possibly, develop lifelong connections.

For questions, please contact Jeannine Lenehan, Communications Coordinator, Department of Political Science, x 75769 or via email [jeannine.lenehan@tufts.edu](mailto:jeannine.lenehan@tufts.edu).

## TAKE YOUR PROFESSOR TO LUNCH WEEK MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH - FRIDAY, MARCH 2ND

Get to know your professor outside the classroom!

The Office of Undergraduate Education is hosting *Take Your Professor To Lunch Week!* All enrolled undergraduate students will receive an email with a voucher included.

Using money from the Spirit Fund, the University compensates students for their lunch and for the professor they invite.

The money in the Spirit Fund is available throughout the year and is intended for both students and professors to initiate

meetings with each other in a more relaxed learning environment.

The Office of Undergraduate Education encourages students to connect with professors during this week and enhance their learning experience at Tufts. It is also a won-

derful opportunity for faculty to mentor students as they navigate their Tufts experience and beyond.

For more information contact Joanne Ferguson at [joanne.ferguson@tufts.edu](mailto:joanne.ferguson@tufts.edu) or call 617-627-4239.

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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
[JEANNINE.LENEHAN@TUFTS.EDU](mailto:JEANNINE.LENEHAN@TUFTS.EDU).  
FACULTY AND STUDENTS ARE  
ENCOURAGED TO SHARE THEIR  
STORIES AND THEIR IDEAS.

## STUDENT RESEARCH BRIEFING SERIES

The *Student Research Briefing Series* is designed to cover a broad range of topics in American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory & Philosophy. The briefings are also intended to enhance student appreciation of student research completed in the Department of Political Science. In addition, the publication hopes to serve as outreach to interested undergraduates and prospective students considering a major in Political Science.

The publication is student-produced and the research was conducted during their undergraduate studies.

The latest in the *Series* is *The Crying Double Standard: Addressing the Issues of Gender and Context in the Effect of Candidate Tears on Voter Affect* by political science major Kira Hessekiel, T '13. In *The Crying Double Standard* Hessekiel seeks to prove her hypothesis: In scenarios where the voter perceives the source of a candidate's tears as emotional instability, a male candidate will be more penalized for crying than a female candidate, but when compassion is used to explain a candidate crying, a female candidate will be more chastised. To read *The Crying Double Standard: Addressing the Issues of Gender and Context in the Effect of Candidate Tears on Voter Affect* please visit <http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/studentresearch/CryingDoubleStandard.pdf>.

If you are a student interested in contributing to the *Student Research Briefing Series* or a professor within the Department of Political Science and have a student paper you would like to highlight, please contact [jeannine.lenehan@tufts.edu](mailto:jeannine.lenehan@tufts.edu) or visit <http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/studentresearch/> to learn more.

## IN THE NEWS

**The Worcester Telegram & Gazette reports *Incumbents pile on cash: US Rep. Neal prepares to fend off two challengers and quotes Professor Jeffrey Berry.*** In the February 7, 2012 issue of the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* reporter Morgan True raises the question as to whether a run for government office can be successful without adequate funding. True compares U.S. Rep. Richard E. Neal's, D-Springfield. \$2.4 million campaign treasury to Democrat challenger Andrea Nuciforo's \$136,000.

"To run without adequate funding is to lose," said Jeffrey Berry, citing the difficulty in overcoming the name recognition of a well-established member of Congress. In discussing Mr. Nuciforo's war check, Professor Berry said, "If that's all he raises we're talking about chump change."

**Professor Jeffrey Berry weighs in on Brown's and Warren's agreement by candidates to block third-party ads.** On January 24, 2012 **WBUR** reported on Sen. Scott Brown's, and his Democratic challenger, Elizabeth Warren's agreement to keep superPAC ads out of state. They have each signed a pledge that would require each candidate to donate half the cost of any outside ad to charity, if that ad either supports their candidacy or attacks their opponent. "If it does, in fact, work," said Berry, "then the pressure will grow in the next election cycle for candidates to agree to this kind of truce."

**ISA recognizes Associate Professor Kelly Greenhill and her book *Weapons of Mass Migration: Forced Displacement, Coercion, and Foreign Policy.*** Associate Professor Kelly Greenhill's *Weapons of Mass Migration: Forced Displacement, Coercion, and Foreign Policy* was published in 2010 as part of Cornell University Press's Cornell Studies in Security Affairs book series. Greenhill is also the recipient of the 2011 International Studies Annual Best Book Award. It has been conferred for the best book in the field of international studies with a copyright dated the year before the nomination. Recipient of the Best Book Award will receive \$500 along with an award plaque and will be automatically nominated for the ISA Book of the Decade Award.

**The World Peace Foundation highlights Associate Professor Kelly Greenhill's *Dead Reckoning: Challenges in Measuring the Human Costs of Conflict.*** On February 10, 2012 The World Peace Foundation highlighted Greenhill's piece *Dead Reckoning: Challenges in Measuring the Human Cost of Conflict*. "Determining what is "old" and "new" about conflict demands attention to how we know what we know" writes the WPF. "While there are increasing demands for conflict data, as Greenhill argues in this post, "accurately assessing the human cost of conflict can be difficult at best." To read Greenhill's piece in its entirety visit <http://sites.tufts.edu/reinventingpeace/>.

**Brown University hosts Associate Professor Deborah Schildkraut at their 2011-2012 Political Science Seminar Series.** On February 15, 2012 Associate Professor Deborah Schildkraut presented *The Complicated Constituency: A Study of Immigrant Opinions about Political Representation* at Brown University's 2011-2012 *Political Science Seminar Series*.