



# Sustenance

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The Congressional Hunger Center Newsletter

## Victory Against Hunger Awards

By Lauren Flax, CHC Staff

CHC is excited to announce that 25 organizations have been awarded \$1,000 grants this November through the Victory Against Hunger Award Program.

The VAH Award Program is an annual program administered by CHC and Victory Wholesale Group. **David Kantor**, president of Victory Wholesale Group, established the VAH Awards 16 years ago to recognize outstanding organizations in the United States that work to end hunger and improve nutrition and health at the local level.

Each year we work with **Leslie Kantor**, of Victory

Wholesale Group, to pick a theme for the award program. Partnering with Feeding America, this year's awards go to food banks that establish innovative anti-hunger initiatives. Organizations become eligible for an award by submitting a description of the creative project(s) they have created in effort to increase participation in federal child nutrition programs and/or for submitting a description of an innovative initiative(s) at the community or state level that aim to fight child hunger. Not only do organizations submit written descriptions about the creative work they are doing,

but many organizations send us proof of their outreach efforts. We received clips of TV commercials, printed media, flyers to events and promotional materials. Each form of outreach is generated and targeted to increase participation in federal child nutrition programs or to highlight community and state based opportunities for families.

In addition to the detailed applications submitted directly by each organization, we encourage applicants to obtain support letters from Members of Congress. By seeking letters of support, organizations are making Members

of Congress aware of the efforts to eradicate hunger in the United States on the local and state level. The Kantors created the VAH Awards to not only recognize outstanding organizations throughout the U.S., but to keep Members of Congress involved in local, state, and national efforts to end hunger.

After reviewing all of the nominations and support letters from Members of Congress, a selection committee met on November 12th to choose awardees. We applaud all of the organizations who applied for an award this year. It is always *continued on page 12*

## CHC is now accepting applications for both Hunger Fellows Programs!

Former Representatives Mickey Leland and Bill Emerson (see photo on right) were bi-partisan leaders in the U.S. Congress in the fight to end hunger and poverty. In their memory, CHC administers the Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellowship and Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship programs. Mickey Leland Program applications are due Friday, January 7, 2010, and Bill Emerson Program applications are due Tuesday, January 18, 2010. For detailed information and access to the online applications, please visit [www.hungercenter.org](http://www.hungercenter.org).



Marty LaVoi



# Greetings from the Executive Director

By Edward M. Cooney



This fall has been a busy travel season for me. As a board member of the Community Food Security Coalition (CFSC), I traveled in mid October to the Annual Meeting on Food, Culture and Justice in New Orleans. Fourteen current Emerson Fellows and three CHC staff also attended this annual meeting, and we attended challenging sessions at the conference covering nutrition policy, model Farm to School programs, and urban agriculture. My next stop was in San Francisco at the CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) Roundtable Conference which is sponsored by the California Department of Education, California Food Policy Advocates and the California Endowment. The conference provides educational workshops for sponsors of the Child and Adult Care Food Program. I was on a plenary panel session highlighting developments in the Child Nutrition Reauthorization legislation. The National CACFP Sponsors Forum is held in conjunction with the conference and I also serve on their board. I finished this West Coast tour at the end of October in Seattle, Washington. **Linda Stone** of the Children's Alliance invited me and **Julie Paradis**, Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, USDA to address anti-hunger and poverty issues at their Summit meeting. We

addressed 80 attendees about the 2010 Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill. At each stop on this trip I was able to have dinner with Emerson Program Alumni and current Fellows.

The Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy had its fall meeting on November 8th. I am on the Board of Overseers and an active participant in the school's activities, policy discussions and initiatives. CHC recruits at Tufts for the Emerson and Leland Programs and a former CHC staff member, **Elizabeth Whelan**, is now a student at the Friedman School.

In the coming year I will have the opportunity to be an advisor to a new National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) public/private partnership. This is a one year initiative to raise the visibility of hunger in America and offer innovative and lasting solutions to this urgent national challenge. Private sector sponsors will join state legislators, and NCSL staff and non-profit sponsors in this effort to improve the availability of healthy food for families in need. Current private sector sponsors include Walmart, Yum! Brands, AARP and the Food Marketing Institute. As an advisor to this partnership, I joined the Hunger Partnership members as they met in Phoenix, Arizona on December 8th as part of NCSL's Fall Forum.

The Emerson and Leland Fellows are now serving

throughout 10 states in the U.S. and across the globe as well as at placement sites in Washington, DC and in Rome, Italy. The 17th class of Emerson Fellows held their mid field placement retreat in Santa Fe, New Mexico in early November. The retreat allows the fellows to meet and exchange field placement experiences. The Leland Fellowship staff is currently accepting fellow applications for 18 placements in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Plans are also underway for a Country Policy Study in Senegal in April, 2011, for the 5th class of Leland Fellows.

Led by our Director of Operations, **Kristin Anderson**, CHC staff have begun to create a new communications strategy that will include an enhanced website and more interactive formats for our partner

organizations and for those interested in our work. As part of this effort, the Emerson and Leland Hunger Fellowship applications are now in an efficient online format, which will enable us to more easily process and review the hundreds of applicants to our fellowship programs. A further enhancement includes an online document library of over 200 Hunger Free Community Reports, authored by the Emerson National Hunger Fellows. We are grateful to C&S Wholesale Grocers, which has given CHC a \$30,000 grant to make this online document library possible. The reports will be available online in mid 2011. Stay tuned for more exciting developments at CHC as we gear up for new outreach and engage more partners to fight hunger! ●



CHC staff at the 4th Annual Congressional Hunger Center Awards Ceremony

# Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program Report

## New Beginnings

By Aileen Carr, Emerson Program Co-Director

The 16th class of Emerson Fellows finished up their policy projects in August and wrapped up a year of learning, growing, and reflecting together. We celebrated their Commencement with a keynote address from Sam Kass, White House Assistant Chef and Senior Policy Adviser For Healthy Food Initiatives, and a vocal advocate for improving the health of children through local, sustainable, and affordable foods. He spoke about his work with the Let's Move! Campaign to ensure that healthy food is accessible and affordable to all Americans, praised the Fellows for their work, and affirmed the importance of their passion and leadership. The Fellows had an opportunity to honor excellent field and policy site supervisors, mentors and leaders. They presented Bill Emerson

Leadership Awards for Excellence to Cammy Watts and Danielle Andrews from the Food Project in Boston for Field Work and Lisa Griffith of the National Family Farm Coalition for policy Work.

The 16th class made great contributions to their respective field site communities and policy site organizations, taught and learned from one another, built lasting bonds, and strengthened the broader CHC community of fellows, alumni, and colleagues. It was a pleasure to learn with them and we expect great things from them in the years to come.

CHC welcomed the 17th class of Emerson Hunger Fellows to Washington D.C. for their field training in August. These 20 bright, energetic, passionate leaders came together to learn about hunger and poverty in the U.S. and prepare for 6 months



16th Class of Emerson National Hunger Fellows at their Commencement Ceremony

in the field. They come from all corners of the country: from Vermont to Utah, from Illinois to Appalachia, and from Brooklyn to Los Angeles to share their knowledge and experiences. They explored issues of identity, race, class, and gender. They attended skills training workshops on field research, program development, and incorporating community perspectives in local programs. As the Fellows

left for the field in early September, the U.S. Census Bureau reported sobering data on poverty in the U.S.; the number of people struggling with poverty in the U.S. is the highest it has been in 51 years of counting. In this time of economic hardship, the fellows, their field sites, and most especially the community members with whom they will collaborate have their work cut out for them. ●

## Looking Back: Reflections from A Recent Alumna

By Amber Roberts, Nonprofit Policy Advisor and Research Assistant to the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance

*"When someone makes a decision, [she] is really diving into a strong current that will carry [her] to places [she] had never dreamed of when [she] first made the decision."*

—Paulo Coelho

When I accepted my position as a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow, there

was no way I could have guessed what that choice would mean. I figured it was an opportunity to work in a community and learn about real social policy. I honestly wasn't expecting it to change the course of my life in the way that it has.

I didn't know how uninformed and out of touch I was with the realities of systemic hunger and poverty. I didn't know how challenged I would

be when I moved to Portland, Oregon. I didn't know how much I would come to depend on my CHC advisor and my fellow fellows (shout outs to the Sweet Sixteenth Class!). I didn't even know how much I would come to love my field and policy sites (Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon and Families USA).

That's the beautiful thing about the program: it's continued on page 6



Amber Roberts, 16th Class Emerson Alumna

# CHC Welcomes the 17th Class of Emerson National Hunger Fellows



17th Class Bill Emerson  
National Hunger Fellows

Emerson Fellow	College	Hometown	Field Site Organization	Field Site Location
Aisha Amuda	University of North Carolina	Shelby, NC	The Food Project	Boston, MA
Cara Brumfield	Lafayette College	Brooklyn, NY	The Food Project	Boston, MA
PaHua Cha	Stanford University	Aurora, OR	Baltimore City Health Department, Healthy Homes and Communities	Baltimore, MD
Stefani Cox	Stanford University	Davis, CA	Logan Square Neighborhood Association	Chicago, IL
Kyle Dechant	Wheaton College	Franklin, PA	Philadelphia GROW Project/Witnesses to Hunger	Philadelphia, PA
Hannah Emple	Macalester College	Swampscott, MA	University of Maryland School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics	Baltimore, MD
Lisa Hahn	Scripps College	Los Angeles, CA	California Association of Food Banks	Oakland, CA
Corbin Laedlein	Rutgers University	Brooklyn, NY	Midtown Partners, Inc.	Jackson, MS
Marie Lawrence	Duke University	Richardson, TX	Arizona Community Action Association	Phoenix, AZ
Jessica Luna	Harvard University	Weaverville, NC	Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties	San Jose, CA
Page May	Mount Holyoke College	Jeffersonville, VT	Growing Power, Inc.	Chicago, IL
Matthew Mellon	Xavier University	Cincinnati, OH	Association of Arizona Food Banks	Phoenix, AZ
Milla Sanes	Haverford College	Cambridge, MA	Northwest Harvest	Seattle, WA
Sarah Sherman	Illinois Wesleyan University	Sandwich, IL	Hunger Solutions Minnesota	St. Paul, MN
Rebecca Shively	University of Oregon	Portland, OR	Community Food Advocates	Nashville, TN
Tammie Smith	Emory College	Atlanta, GA	Community Food Advocates	Nashville, TN
Brian Stone	Morehouse College	Columbia, SC	Philadelphia GROW Project/Witnesses to Hunger	Philadelphia, PA
Kate Taylor	Brown University	Chicago, IL	Main Street Project	Minneapolis, MN
Rebecca Van Maren	University of Utah	Sandy, UT	Food Lifeline	Seattle, WA
Lindsey Walker	Berea College	Hiwassee, GA	Mississippi Food Network	Jackson, MS

## Voices From the Field: Fellows Begin Work in Jackson, Mississippi

*This is the first time in the history of the Emerson Program that we have fellows in Mississippi for their field placement. Special thanks to the great folks at Midtown Partners and the Mississippi Food Network, as well as Charles Dennis of Feeding America and 8th class alumna Mary Elizabeth (May) Evans for helping to build this partnership with CHC.*

*By Corbin Laedlein, 17th Class Emerson Hunger Fellow*

One of the aspects of the Bill Emerson hunger fellowship that initially attracted me was the possibility of being placed in a completely new environment for my field placement. I saw it as a unique opportunity to deepen my understanding of the issues of poverty and hunger in the U.S. by learning from the perspectives and experiences of those working at the grassroots level to eradicate poverty and hunger in their communities. Although I'm sure that I would still have developed my understanding of these issues even if I had been placed in an area I already knew, I was very excited when I learned that I would be going to Jackson, Mississippi. The prospect of living in Mississippi especially excited me because it a place I've perceived as being among the most different from where I grew up in Brooklyn, New York. I hoped that my experience in Jackson would provide a rich learning experience as well as challenge many of my assumptions about Mississippi and the south in general.



Corbin Laedlein, 17th Class Emerson Hunger Fellow

Since I am new to the community, I can't say that I truly know Jackson, much less have a concrete understanding of Mississippi. However, I have already learned a lot and had a great time both working at my field site organization and exploring Mississippi with my field site partner, Lindsey Walker. I feel very privileged to be able to work at Midtown Partners, Inc., and witness the important and innovative work they are doing to connect service provision with community development in the Midtown neighborhood of Jackson. Midtown Partners runs a wide array of services and programs in the areas of educational development, community outreach, and economic and housing development to address community needs, and has a staff of community members who are dedicated to building a vibrant, safe and healthy environment in Midtown.

At Midtown Partners, my projects include (1) developing a marketing strategy for the newly developed Prosperity Center, a "one-stop

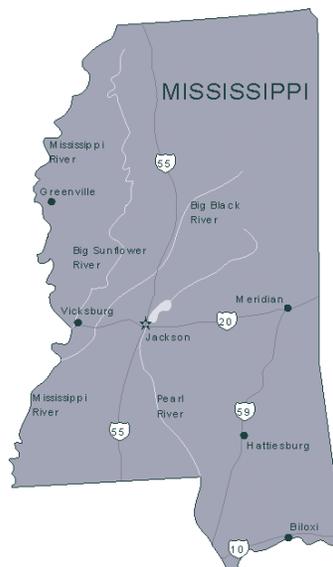
shop" where community members can access public benefits as well as a wide variety of services such as GED classes, financial counseling, and job placement assistance, and (2) helping to develop a new community garden at the site of their afterschool program and conducting outreach to promote community investment in the garden's long-term success and sustainability. In addition to starting my work on these projects, I've also had the opportunity to prepare and deliver meals to local seniors, and learn about Midtown Partners' housing initiatives, such as their current project with the Jackson Housing Authority to construct Mississippi's first solar-powered housing development, which is directed by Mary Elizabeth Evans—an 8th class Hunger Fellow alumna!

Lindsey and I have also had a great time taking advantage of what Jackson and Mississippi have to offer. We've been sampling

the mouth-watering catfish, learning about Jackson's rich history, travelling up and down Mississippi's historic Natchez Trace Parkway, and have already managed to become regulars at a local "juke joint." We've started volunteering with the Jackson Inner-City Growers, an organization that aims to increase the availability of organic produce and develop youth leaders through urban agriculture projects.



Although Jackson is in many ways very different from where Lindsey—a native of the rural Appalachian community Hiawassee, Georgia—and I are from, it has been interesting to see how we can both draw parallels between our impressions and observations of poverty and hunger in Jackson and our experiences in our respective home communities. Lindsey and I hope that as our time here in Jackson progresses, so will our understanding of the unique dynamics of hunger and poverty here in Mississippi. We hope that we can leave in February knowing we've made meaningful contributions to our respective organizations' efforts to fight poverty and eradicate hunger in Jackson and throughout the state. ●



# National Policy Report

By Edward M. Cooney

On November 4th the Washington, D.C. based anti-hunger groups (FRAC, CHC, Bread for the World, Center on Budget Policy Priorities) and Feeding America met to discuss the impact of the mid-term elections on anti-hunger initiatives and to discuss each group's priorities in key focus areas such as policy, research, communications and state-level work.

The 112th Congress will see many changes including new Chairs and Ranking Members of House and Senate Agriculture Committees and significant Congressional Member changes on key appropriations committees in both chambers.

CHC will focus on policies improving access to federal nutrition programs, restoring any SNAP (formerly the Food Stamps program) benefit cuts and opposing

legislation ending or altering the entitlement status of any nutrition program or any deficit reduction proposals in those programs. CHC is also opposed to legislative proposals that create a list of "good foods" and "bad foods" and deny SNAP participants access to proposed "bad foods." CHC will work with U.S. Department of Agriculture staff to implement all aspects of the 2010 Child Nutrition Reauthorization, if enacted.

## 2010 Child Nutrition Reauthorization

As our readers will recall, the Obama Administration is committed to ending childhood hunger in the U.S. by 2015. The Administration has acted boldly on this commitment by providing \$20 billion in new higher benefit levels to participants in the SNAP program. This funding was part of the American Recovery and

Reinvestment Act (Stimulus Act). In the fiscal year 2011 budget, the President also proposed \$10 billion over 10 years for improvements and expansions in child nutrition programs.

The Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) bill, which Congress has yet to enact, is a key component of ending childhood hunger. On a bipartisan basis, the Senate Agriculture Committee did approve legislation containing important program improvements and expansions, such as increasing school meal reimbursement, requiring improved meal quality, expanding authority to establish nutrition standards for competitive foods, and expansions of the after school supper program. Initially, the Committee offset (paid for) this legislation (S. 3307) by cuts in agriculture programs. Prior to bringing the bill to

the Senate floor, a \$2.2 billion cut in SNAP benefits was substituted for one of the agriculture program cuts. This decision has caused some division of opinion in the anti-hunger/nutrition community. Many nutrition policy groups secured their legislative objectives in S.3307 and believe that this bill represented the best deal that they could achieve. Some anti-hunger, union and child care groups believed that the House should fund the more progressive bill (HR5504) which has more nutrition program improvements and expansions without cutting SNAP benefits.

In the end Congress adopted S.3307, the Senate bill, but many members and President Obama stated that the SNAP cuts would be replaced in the near future. On December 13, 2010 President Obama signed S.3307 into law. ●

## Looking Back: Reflections from A Recent Alumna

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designed to be transformative. When you move to a new community, meet dozens of new people, log over 12,000 miles of fellowship-related travel, work on a few big projects on teams at two amazing nonprofit organizations and consistently reflect on that experience with 19 peers... what else would you expect?

I'm not going to lie—the process wasn't always pretty. I experienced a wide range of emotions that took me places I didn't always want to be. Sometimes, I was exhausted

by how much I thought about poverty. Or I was upset by how little I could change. Other days I felt guilty for how privileged my life has been. Some days, I was just a selfish crybaby.

Without such a structured evaluation process, I'm not sure how productive all of those conflicted feelings would have been. I'm grateful for the dozens of emails, phone calls, chats, check-ins and messages I exchanged within our network of CHC staff, fellows, and alumni. Our

community is really unique. Nothing beats a hug or word of encouragement (or a sobering reality check) from people who have so much to share.

The professional development component of the fellowship has also been invaluable to me. I have my current position because I applied some of the networking techniques shared with me during an alumni-led training. Seriously, I chased someone down in a hallway after hearing them speak at a conference (I didn't say all the

techniques were sophisticated) and asked for an informational interview. Two months later, I had an offer. In a great twist of fate, I sit less than 30 feet away from another former Hunger Fellow.

When I look back on my year in the fellowship, I am awed by how much I learned. I know that it has changed my life and my perspective—but I think it's going to take years to process that change. My fellowship may be over, but I'm not done with the experience. ●

# Leland International Hunger Fellows Program Report

By Leland Program Staff

## Spotlight on Leland Alumni Serving in the U.S. Government

By Kyle Beach and Margaret Zeigler

The United States government has been a global leader in providing humanitarian relief and foreign aid to countries around the world. It has accomplished much of this lifesaving work through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which was created in 1961 by the Kennedy Administration as an independent federal agency. USAID administered aid in the form of economic and social development programs throughout the world, which quickly became a key part of U.S. foreign policy during the Cold War. Helping poorer nations develop their economies stemmed from the desire to restrict the spread of communism, a central tenet of American foreign policy at the time. At the height of the Cold War, USAID had over 16,000 Foreign Service officers deployed around the world.

After the Cold War ended, American foreign policy priorities shifted dramatically as reduction of the federal budget deficit became a political priority. Foreign Service missions and staff were scaled back, and USAID was forced to cut its budget significantly throughout the 1990's.

As the national budget consistently ran deficits, Congress felt considerable pressure to justify foreign development funding. The Department of State was given responsibility to administer development

through Eastern Europe in 1992, further muddying the purpose of USAID. By 1996, only 1,197 Foreign Service officers with technical capacities remained at the agency. This loss of core staff capacity forced the agency to become a less flexible contracting and grant-making agency, reliant on for-profit contractors as well as non-governmental organizations to implement development programs.

Foreign aid and international development were re-emphasized in the U.S. following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, coinciding with military involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq. During this period, USAID's budget authority was incorporated into the Department of State. USAID had to compete for influence and funding with other government agencies conducting international relief and development programs, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Center for Disease Control, and the Department of Defense.

In 2004, Congress created the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a Bush Administration initiative that expanded the US government's development toolbox and complements the work of USAID. The MCC operates by partnering with developing nations that are committed to good governance, economic freedom, and investing in their citizens.

More recently, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and supporters of foreign development assistance have advocated for USAID to be restored to its central role as the lead U.S. development agency. Some in Congress envisioned a larger development strategy for the U.S., and committed funds to strengthen USAID. In addition, funding levels have increased with U.S. military action abroad, allowing the agency to grow.

The Obama Administration has continued the expansion of U.S. international development efforts, making it a central tenet of foreign policy. The Administration is currently focusing on rebuilding the technical staff capacity at USAID and bolstering effective cooperation among all U.S. development agencies and offices. Under the leadership of USAID Administrator **Rajiv Shah**, and with a new focus on rebuilding technical expertise in agriculture, health and nutrition, USAID will be better equipped to help countries meet the Millennium Development Goals and other U.S. foreign policy objectives.

Alumni of the Leland International Hunger Fellowship have proven to



Grace Jones, Leland Co-director, with Daniele Nyirandutiye, Leland Alumna and USAID Foreign Service Health Officer

be prime candidates for positions within USAID and other development agencies in the U.S. government. Leland alumni possess many of the technical and managerial skills, along with the vital field and policy experience needed to help revive the Foreign Service workforce. In 2009, the Obama Administration, under the leadership of Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton**, launched the Feed the Future Initiative, a comprehensive plan to support small scale farmers and improve nutrition around the world. Fellowship alumni are being hired in increasing numbers to support the Feed the Future Initiative at USAID and to work in other international development agencies of the U.S. government, such as

the Peace Corps, USDA, and MCC.

The following alumni are now serving throughout the U.S. government to end hunger, promote economic and social development, and provide humanitarian assistance around the world:

- **Melody Mc Neil**, an alumna from the 1st class of Leland Fellows (2001–2003) now works as an Agricultural Foreign Service Officer in Malawi for USAID. She will be implementing aspects of the Feed the Future Initiative.

- **Tammy Palmer**, also an alumna from the 1st class of Leland Fellows (2001–2003) is a Program Officer for USAID Peru, working on alternative development strategies.

- **Elizabeth Brown**, 2nd class alumna (2003–2005), has been based in Afghanistan and more recently in Iraq with USAID, where she works on project development and program analysis.

- **Charlie Ehle Sanner**, 2nd class alumna (2003–2005), works in Washington

D.C. for the Peace Corps as a Program Specialist in the Office of Aids Relief where she provides day to day support to overseas posts implementing HIV/AIDS activities. She serves as the technical authority on small grants for Volunteers and provides oversight to PEPFAR programs in 18 countries.

- **Damiana Astudillo**, 3rd class alumna (2005–2007) is a Program Officer at the Millenium Challenge Corporation (MCC) in Washington, D.C. She provides technical oversight and contributes to design and implementation for Agriculture and Rural Economy programs.

- **Sylvie Doutriaux**, 3rd class alumna (2005–2007) worked for the Millenium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and more recently has been hired by USAID in Bangkok to be the Senior Regional Food Security Advisor. She will oversee the implementation of the Feed the Future Initiative for the Southeast Asia Region of USAID.



Leland alumna Sylvie Doutriaux at Patara Elephant Farm in northern Thailand

- **Francisco del Pozo**, 4th class alumnus (2005–2007) has been hired by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as an Agricultural Economist in the Trade, Biofuels, and Food Security Analysis Division of the Foreign Agriculture Service. Francisco is based in Washington, D.C.

- **Ira Frydman**, 4th class alumnus (2005–2007) joined USAID as an Agricultural Foreign Service Officer, based in Nicaragua, and will be working on the Feed the Future Initiative.

- **Alexis Jones**, 4th class alumna (2005–2007) also joined USAID as an Agricultural Foreign Service Officer, to be based in Lusaka, Zambia where she will support agriculture programs and the Feed the Future Initiative.

- **Adam Norikane**, 4th class alumnus (2005–2007) was hired by the USAID Office of Food For Peace, in the Bureau of Democracy,

Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance. Adam works on evaluating applications and providing grants to procure food locally and regionally.

- Also in the 4th class, (2005–2007), alumna **Daniele Nyirandutiye** was hired by USAID as a Foreign Service Health Officer. Daniele is now based in Ethiopia, working on health and nutrition programs.

Congratulations to these Leland alumni who are becoming the next generation of leaders in the development and diplomatic corps of the U.S. government! ●

## Leland Fellow Promotes Biodiversity in India

As an agricultural researcher for Bioversity International, Mickey Leland Fellow **Curan Bonham** finished out his field year in India by organizing a Pearl Millet Farmers' Field Day that brought together area farmers, scientists, and seed vendors. The adoption and distribution of indigenous grains, such as pearl millet, can improve the livelihoods and food security

of smallholder farmers. The Field Day event was part of a wider celebration of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity to raise awareness about the loss of biodiversity on earth. To view photos and read more about this successful event, please refer to Bioversity's home page: <http://www.bioversityinternational.org/home.html>. ●

# Leland Fellows Complete Field Year, Train for Policy Placements

In July, the 5th class of Leland Fellows completed its field year and returned to Washington, DC to reconnect with one another and receive training for the policy year.

The fellows spent the first three days on retreat in West Virginia, where they had the opportunity to share their professional and personal experiences with each other and Leland Program staff. A few fellows volunteered to give informal presentations on specific issues to the group—**Carlos Centeno** presented “The Anatomy of an Emergency” based on his experience responding to massive flooding and mudslides caused when Tropical Storm Agatha hit Guatemala at the end of May. **Lindsay Dozoretz** educated the rest of the fellows on the permaculture approach to agricultural development and its application in South Africa’s townships. **Kerri Agee** and **Steve Myers** explained the various facets of the integral relationship between HIV/AIDS and food security.

After the retreat, the fellows returned to Washington, DC for a week of intensive issues and skills training. The political momentum around international food security manifested in the Obama Administration’s Feed the Future initiative and the bipartisan Global Food Security Act served as both backdrop and framework. The training was designed around two objectives: first, to give the fellows a complete introduction to both the ‘what’ and the ‘how’ of these initiatives; and second, to help the fellows make a transition from the concrete work of direct service in the field to the bigger picture work of policy change.

The ‘what’ sessions specifically emphasized those issues given special treatment in the Feed the Future implementation guide: gender, climate change, and regional market development. These topics were addressed in panel discussions by experts from a variety of organizations and U.S. government agencies,

including two current fellows. Based on his field placement with Bioersity International, **Curan Bonham** gave a thorough overview of the relationship between food security and climate change and explained how public agricultural research institutions are working to help farmers adapt to changing climatic conditions. **Gabriela Prudencio** discussed the important role that functioning markets play in ensuring food security, using examples from Mercy Corps, with whom she is currently working in Jakarta, Indonesia.

At the end of the week, the fellows heard directly from those who are designing and implementing the new U.S. government food security initiatives. The fellows spent a morning on Capitol Hill, where they received an in-depth briefing on the Global Food Security Act. **Connie Veillette**, then senior staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for Senator **Richard Lugar**, and **Peter Frosch**, legislative director for Representative **Betty McCollum**, walked the fellows through the history and process of crafting this bi-partisan, bi-cameral legislation. If enacted, the legislation will provide authorization for the Obama Administration’s Feed the Future initiative. It was introduced by Senators Lugar and Casey in the Senate, and Representative McCollum in the House.

The following morning, the fellows visited the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), where Ambassador **Bill**

**Garvelink**, Feed the Future’s Deputy Coordinator for Development, provided an overview of the initiative. The fellows also heard from **Jon Brause**, Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, **Brooke Isham**, Director of the Office of Food for Peace, and 4th class Leland Fellow alumnus **Adam Norikane** on USAID’s ongoing work to combat both emergency and chronic hunger. The fellows left USAID with both a wealth of information about how the agency operates and a useful insight into complexities of the day-to-day working relationship between the legislative and executive branches of government.

The fellows also received a thorough introduction to the process of policymaking and effective ways to influence that process—the ‘how.’ **Vanessa Dick** (InterAction), **Sue Schram** (ACDI/VOCA), **Heather Hanson** (Mercy Corps) and **Kevin Anderson** (WFP USA) gave a fascinating and candid summary of the hard work of building, maintaining and activating a coalition in support of the U.S. government’s food security initiatives.

To help place international food security in its political context, the fellows met in small groups with staff of the Senate Foreign Relations regional subcommittees. These staff shared perspectives on the major issues in the regions where fellows served during their field placements. The meetings helped to give the fellows a sense of the full range of the



Emily Byers with Fellows Tiffany Imes and Sonia Lee at a retreat

U.S. government's foreign policy priorities vis-à-vis the world's major developing regions. Finally, the fellows had an informal discussion with CHC board co-chair, **Rep. James P. McGovern**,

who outlined his thoughts on the politics and prospects for strong food security legislation in the House of Representatives.

In order to help the fellows prepare for the shift

from field to policy work, **Kathleen Campbell** (Save the Children) and **Megan Murphy** (4th class Leland Fellow alumna currently with the QED Group) kicked the week off by sharing their own

experiences doing both types of work and perspectives on the pros and cons of each. Each fellow also practiced translating their field experiences into a short eight minute presentation appropriate for a policy audience. Fellows were required to distill the knowledge gained from their field work into the three most important points relevant to policymakers looking for effective solutions to food insecurity. The fellows shared these concise presentations with their class, CHC staff, and D.C. based policy placement supervisors.

The training ended with two case studies in leadership. First, **Lawrencia Adams-Simpson**, Team Leader at the Ghana Research and Advocacy Programme (GRAP), who was in town for the annual Africa Growth and Opportunity Act Forum, *continued on page 11*



Leland Fellows with Representative Jim McGovern

## Policy Placements

The 5th class of Leland Fellows began their policy year in August. Here is a list of their placements.

Name	Policy Organization	Policy Location
Kerri Agee	Catholic Relief Services	Baltimore, MD
Blake Audsley	World Food Program	Rome, Italy
Curan Bonham	Biodiversity International	Rome, Italy
Carlos Centeno	World Food Program	Rome, Italy
Lindsay Dozoretz	Afristar Foundation	Johannesburg, South Africa
Maielle Helman	World Food Program	La Paz, Bolivia and Rome, Italy
Erica Holzaepfel	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Washington, DC
Susan Ilyin	Land O'Lakes	Arlington, VA
Tiffany Imes	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Washington, DC
Sonia Lee	Fonkoze USA	Washington, DC
Amy Margolies	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)	Washington, DC
Steven Myers	Save the Children	Washington, DC
Gabriela Prudencio	Mercy Corps	Jakarta, Indonesia
Jillian Waid	Helen Keller International	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Emily Wei	Mercy Corps	Washington, DC

# International Policy Report

By Margaret Zeigler

The number of hungry people around the world in Africa, Asia and Latin America now exceeds one billion. Improving global food security is one of the most critical development challenges of the 21st century. Having a food secure world will enhance U.S. security and will also provide greater opportunities for trade, economic growth, and the improvement of conditions for women and vulnerable children.

Through the Feed the Future (FTF) initiative, the Obama Administration is demonstrating strong U.S. leadership in confronting global hunger. FTF will mobilize all the U.S. government agencies in a whole of government approach to focus on key food security objectives, in partnership with developing country governments.

In particular, the initiative will enable poor farmers to produce more food, increase their household income, and improve the nutrition of their children in critical growth years.

The Obama Administration must work hard in 2011 to implement the FTF initiative to show real results in countries where hunger and malnutrition persist. CHC is working alongside over 30 humanitarian organizations to support the FTF initiative by conducting the following activities:

- Educating and advocating in Congress to pass authorizing legislation;
- Requesting strong U.S. bilateral and multilateral funding for agriculture, food security and nutrition that meet our international commitments;



Elizabeth Whelan

- Ensuring public transparency about Feed the Future activities so that the American people and Congress can understand and support these results; and,
- Partnering directly with FTF programs to assist implementation within the countries selected to participate.

Feed the Future is a dynamic and sustainable approach to achieve food security and reduce global hunger. CHC looks forward to sharing promising news with our readers about the implementation of this exciting initiative in the coming year. ●

## Leland Fellows Complete Field Year, Train for Policy Placements

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talked with the fellows about what drove her to get involved in working against poverty in Ghana. Lawrencia works to build the capacity of civil society organizations to push African governments to address economic justice and social development. Closer to home, D.C. Central Kitchen Founder and President **Robert Egger** brought the week to a close with an energizing discussion of what it takes to lead in the

fight against local hunger in our own cities and the U.S. As training ended, the fellows reported being challenged and inspired to tackle their work during the policy year.

Leland staff would like to thank all the many speakers, trainers, and alumni who gave their time and expertise to make the training a success! ●

Fellows Steve Myers and Kerri Agee give informal presentation on HIV at retreat



## Victory Against Hunger Awards

continued from page 1

hard to select the 25 award-ees, as all of the organizations who apply are doing great work. We would like to thank **Karrie Deniston** and **Lindsay Baker** from

Feeding America for the assistance with the 2010 VAH Award Program, and for the generosity of the Kantor family and Victory Wholesale Group.

For more information about the Victory Against Hunger Award program, please visit [www.hungercenter.org](http://www.hungercenter.org). ●

### Congressional Hunger Center, Victory Wholesale Group and Feeding America congratulate the following awardees:

Association of Arizona Food Banks Phoenix, AZ

Bread of the Mighty Food Bank Gainesville, FL

Capital Area Food Bank Washington, DC

Capital Area Food Bank of Texas Austin, TX

Community Food Bank, Inc Tucson, AZ

Community Food Share Longmont, CO

East Texas Food Bank Tyler, TX

Feeding America San Diego San Diego, CA

Food Bank of Delaware Newark, DE

Foodbank of Santa Barbara County Santa Barbara, CA

Food Bank of South Jersey Pennsauken, NJ

Greater Chicago Food Depository Chicago, IL

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank Duquesne, PA

Harvest Hope Food Bank Columbia, SC

Harvesters Community Food Network Kansas City, MO

Long Island Cares Hauppauge, NY

Los Angeles Food Bank Los Angeles, CA

Northern Illinois Food Bank St. Charles, IL

Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks Columbus, OH

Oregon Food Bank Portland, OR

San Antonio Food Bank San Antonio, TX

Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida Orlando, FL

Second Harvest Food Bank Greater New Orleans and Acadiana New Orleans, LA

Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz Watsonville, CA

Vermont Foodbank South Barre, VT



Representative Jo Ann Emerson  
Member of Congress  
CHC Board Co-Chair

Representative James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress  
CHC Board Co-Chair

Senator Al Franken  
Member of Congress

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Ashley Aakesson  
Executive Director  
Children's Nutrition Program of Haiti

Pamela G. Bailey  
President and CEO  
Grocery Manufacturers Association

David Beckmann  
President  
Bread for the World

Karen Coble Edwards  
Principal  
KCE Public Affairs Association

Katharine Emerson  
Manager, Government Affairs  
Monsanto Company

Vicki B. Escarra  
President and CEO  
Feeding America

Brian Folkerts  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
Kraft Foods

Lou Gerber  
Communications Workers of America (Retired)

Dennis Hertel  
Member of Congress (Retired)  
Attorney at Law  
The Livingston Group, L.L.C.

Daniel S. Kahn  
U.S. Department of Justice

David Kantor  
President  
Victory Wholesale Group

Alejandra Lopez-Fernandini  
Senior Policy Analyst  
New America Foundation

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Kimberly Perry  
Strategist  
International Children's Rights

John R. Sander  
U.S. Department of State (Retired)

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Executive in Residence  
Hamline University

Mary Catherine Toker  
Vice President, Government Relations  
General Mills, Inc.

Edward M. Cooney  
Executive Director

Dr. Margaret M. Zeigler  
Deputy Director

Ambassador Tony P. Hall  
Founder

Ambassador Arthur E. (Gene) Dewey  
Founding Director

In Memory Of:  
Honorable Bill Emerson  
Honorable Mickey Leland

Congressional Hunger Center  
Hall of the States Building  
400 N. Capitol Street NW,  
Suite G-100  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Tel: 202-547-7022  
Fax: 202-547-7575  
[www.hungercenter.org](http://www.hungercenter.org)

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## Welcome Back Joy!

We are proud to officially welcome **Joy Wiskin** back to CHC. After working at CHC for the Emerson Program, Joy attended graduate school at George

Mason University and graduated this past spring with a Master's Degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution. While working towards her degree, Joy was a consultant

for the Leland Program, and in October 2010 she was hired as the Leland Program Coordinator. Welcome back Joy! ●

## 5th Annual Congressional Hunger Center Awards Ceremony

On Tuesday April 12, 2011, we will honor **Senator Jerry Moran, Representative Betty McCollum** and two alumni of the Emerson/Leland

Fellowship Programs at the United States Botanic Garden. For detailed information please visit [www.hungercenter.org](http://www.hungercenter.org) and/or contact

**Margaret Zeigler** at [mzeigler@hungercenter.org](mailto:mzeigler@hungercenter.org) to inquire about participating in this celebration! ●