

*A discussion with
Assistant Secretary of
State Christopher Hill
and Director of
Policy Planning
Stephen Krasner*

Public Intellectuals Program Inaugural Conference



The first meeting of the National Committee's Public Intellectuals Program (PIP) Fellows was held in Washington, D.C., September 22-27.

Generously funded by The Henry Luce Foundation and the Starr Foundation, PIP has two major goals: 1) to help instill greater breadth in the younger generation

of China scholars and forge deeper connections among those in different disciplines, and 2) to encourage promising China specialists to play significant roles as public intellectuals and equip them with the tools to do so. As a corollary, through a series of interlocking and mutually reinforcing programs aimed to fulfill the above goals, PIP will help upgrade the quality of American public understanding of China by strengthening links among U.S. academics, policymakers, and opinion leaders.

The first 20-member class of PIP Fellows was selected last May from a very competitive pool of 126 applicants. (See below for a complete list and our website for full bios of the Fellows.) Our hard-working Academic Advisory Committee (John Berninghausen (Language, Middlebury College), Timothy Cheek (History, University of British Columbia), Tom Gold (Sociology, University of California, Berkeley), Cheng Li (Political Science, Hamilton College), Barry Naughton (Economics, University of California, San Diego), Alan Romberg (retired Foreign Service officer), Anne Thurston (History, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University) and Ezra Vogel (Sociology, Harvard University) selected a class impressive not just in its knowledge of China, but in its gender, geographic, institutional, and disciplinary diversity as well.

2005-2007 PIP Fellows

Dr. Allen Carlson

Assistant Professor of Government,
Cornell University

Dr. Mark Frazier

Luce Assistant Professor of East Asian
Political Economy & Assistant Professor
of Government,
Lawrence University

Dr. Mary Gallagher

Assistant Professor of Political Science,
University of Michigan

Dr. Ann Huss

Assistant Professor of Modern Chinese
Literature and Language,
Wellesley College

Dr. Jan Kiely

Assistant Professor of History and
Asian Studies,
Furman University

Dr. Helen McCabe

Assistant Professor of Education
& Affiliated Faculty of Asian
Languages and Cultures,
Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Dr. Evan S. Medeiros

Political Scientist,
The RAND Corporation

Dr. James Millward

Associate Professor of History,
Georgetown University

Ms. Allison Moore

China Resident Representative,
Asia Law Initiative,
American Bar Association

Dr. Jonathan S. Noble

Visiting Assistant Professor of East Asian
Languages and Literatures,
University of Notre Dame

The September meeting was designed to give the Fellows an overview of the D.C.-based China policy community and introduce them to its key players. In five jam-packed days, they had meetings on Capitol Hill, at the National Security Council, the State Department, and the two Congressionally-mandated committees on China; discussions with officials in the intelligence community and in Commerce and USTR, as well as think tank representatives, the media, lobbyists, and academics; media training; and, equally important, opportunities to learn from each other through panels led by Fellows and constant informal discussion.

All of the meetings and discussions were productive and candid, and the Committee was pleased that the policy community recognized the importance of providing access and time to the next generation of China-related public intellectuals. In fact, as other China watchers buzzed with questions about what being a “stakeholder” would mean for China, our PIP Fellows received clarification straight from Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick, who, having delivered a major policy address at the Committee’s gala several nights before (see page 6), spent 40 minutes with the group.

Though the schedule left little free time, it was not filled exclusively with

work. The afternoon of media training included a mock television interview activity in which each Fellow simulated a live interview in front of everyone else. The mix of serious and lighthearted questions and the witty answers had everyone laughing while learning. On Sunday night, the Fellows relaxed and bonded over a crab dinner at the scenic and historic Potomac Boat Club.

The success of the meeting is best expressed by the participants themselves:

Ed Steinfeld, (PIP Fellow) –

“Thanks so much for making our first PIP meeting such a smashing success. Heading into the conference, I didn’t really know what to expect, particularly since the program was new and, frankly, different from the standard academic fare. Heading out five days later, I couldn’t believe how fantastic it had all been, how comprehensive, and again, frankly, how different from the standard academic fare! ... This sort of thing is unfortunately rare in academia, and especially across disciplines. Having the opportunity to be part of this group is great for each of us individually, but also great – I believe – for the overall mission of better informing broader audiences and public policy about China.

Kellee Tsai (PIP Fellow) –

“I returned to the ivory tower with a sense of responsibility for clarifying the

misconceptions of China that we have heard, and just as importantly, I’m grateful that I had a chance to meet and learn from the other Fellows.”

John Berninghausen (PIP advisor) –

“It was a most stimulating session and has launched something that I believe could turn out to be historic in the continuation of the best side of our China studies profession.”



This spring, our focus is on various other aspects of the PIP project: primarily public education outreach programs at the regional and local levels, organized by individual fellows themselves and/or in conjunction with community organizations. We are also preparing for the first PIP delegation to China this June. ■

Above Right: Steve Orlins with PIP Fellows Mark Frazier (center) and Jim Millward (right) at the Potomac Boat Club.

Dr. David Pietz

Assistant Professor of History,
Washington State University

Dr. Phillip C. Saunders

Senior Research Professor,
Institute for National Strategic Studies,
National Defense University

Dr. Kristin Stapleton

Associate Professor of History,
University of Kentucky

Dr. Edward Steinfeld

Associate Professor of Political Science,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Dr. Kellee Tsai

Assistant Professor of Political Science,
Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Joseph Tucker

Internal Medicine Resident,
University of California San Francisco

Dr. Wang Hongying

Associate Professor of Political Science,
Maxwell School of Public Policy,
Syracuse University

Dr. Susan H. Whiting

Associate Professor of Political Science
& Adjunct Associate Professor
of International Studies,
University of Washington

Dr. Wu Weiping

Associate Professor of Urban Studies,
Geography, and Planning,
Virginia Commonwealth University

Roslyn Brock

Director, Fund Development,
Bon Secours Health System, Inc.;
Vice Chair, NAACP
Marriottsville, Maryland

Dr. Yang Hong

Associate Professor
of Environmental Studies,
Bryant University