One of the principal reasons the Rose Institute has been so successful in educating our students in critical thinking skills, problem solving, presentation abilities, and the fundamentals of public policy is that we land major grants and contracts from real-life clients who expect that the research findings we provide them (with major involvement from our students) will help them address real-world problems. We land (and subsequently provide the deliverables for) most of these grants and contracts because of three consultants who serve as Senior Fellows and Fellows of the Institute. These remarkable individuals include Steven Frates ’69 (MPA, Ph.D., USC), a Senior Fellow directing our work in the area of fiscal and economic impact analysis; G. David Huntoon ’65 (MBA, USC), a Fellow directing our work in the areas of survey research and legal and regulatory analysis; and Douglas Mark Johnson ’92 (MBA, UCLA and Ph.D. candidate, CGU), a Fellow directing our work in the areas of redistricting and demographic analysis.

As you will note, all three of these consultants are CMC alumni; all three are “CMC to the bone” and are committed to providing our Rose Institute students with the same remarkable educational experience they received when they were CMC students. In this edition of the Rose Report, I want to focus on the major recent contributions of Doug Johnson; he was a student employee of the Rose Institute for all four of his years as a CMC undergraduate, and he served as student manager of the Institute during his senior year.

Upon graduation from CMC, Doug was selected as a Coro Foundation Fellow in Public Affairs, after which he served in Washington, D.C., as Legislative Director and Systems Manager for U.S. Congressman Stephen Horn. He later earned his MBA at the Anderson Graduate School of Management at UCLA, whereupon he returned to CMC and the Rose Institute as one of our consulting fellows. Since returning, he has worked, hand-in-glove, with our student research assistants, on a wide variety of projects. They include:

• managing two statewide Rose Institute surveys of California voter opinions on redistricting;
• managing “Competitive Districts in California” – a case study of California’s 1991 redistricting released in 2005;
• managing “Restoring the Competitive Edge: California’s Need for Redistricting Reform and the Likely Impact of Proposition 77” – a report released in September 2005 and cited or quoted in virtually every major newspaper in California.
• launching our “Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on Proposition 77” website in 2005;
• managing the production of our “Most-Gerrymandered Districts” library, now available on the Rose Institute website;
• testifying before multiple state Assembly, state Senate, and state Joint Legislative hearings on redistricting;
• managing our 2004 research on the results, bias, and gerrymanders in districts drawn nationwide in the 2001 round of redistricting;
• assisting in the preparation of reports for our 2004-2005 conference series on “Governing California in the 21st Century,” including preparing our Model Redistricting Reform Bill; reviewing and suggesting edits to redistricting reform letters and bills for various state senators and various political organizations.
• advising the staff of Governor Schwarzenegger on redistricting reform and appearing with the Governor at a press conference on the issue in 2006;
• being interviewed by scores of newspaper and radio and television media outlets, including “Special Report with Brit Hume” on Fox News Channel and on a local TV news broadcast in San Francisco;
• writing op-ed pieces, including one in the Fresno Bee and three in the Los Angeles Times;
• serving as a redistricting panelist at a regional Common Cause forum in San Diego, at national redistricting conferences in Utah and Texas, and on a Voices of Reform editorial board Q&A session and on a Voices of Reform redistricting panel in Sacramento.

continued...
Additionally, he provides continuous training to our Rose Institute students on basic and advanced Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and on the basic and advanced uses of Excel – all the while providing advice, mentoring, and other training to our students.

Doug Johnson is also involved in other activities that bring acclaim to the Rose Institute: he has been a government relations/public outreach/survey consultant to the Los Angeles County Fair Association/Fairplex – continuing the Rose Institute’s long history of involvement in Pomona civic life; has served as an expert consultant to the city of Modesto during its 2007 charter review project analyzing its city council election systems; and served as a redistricting consultant to numerous city, school district, and special district jurisdictions across California, Nevada and Arizona. Especially noteworthy, he served as redistricting consultant to Arizona’s Independent Redistricting Commission and the Florida State Senate (both after the 2000 census).

We at the Rose Institute are very fortunate to have such a talented and committed CMC alumnus giving so much of his talents and time to us – and to our students.

---

**David Hodge: He Will Be Missed**

David Hodge, a 1972 graduate of Claremont Men’s College passed away last May after a year long battle with cancer. While at CMC, David worked with founding Rose Institute Director Alan Heslop on the 1972 reapportionment, just as computers were starting to come into use as a redistricting tool. He graduated *cum laude* (only one of two in his year) with a double major in political science and history. After graduation he worked with the Assembly Republican Caucus before going to UC Davis Law School. He was a staff member of Bill Bagley’s 1974 controller race while still in law school, and he then worked on the Commodities Trading and Futures Commission when Bagley was chairman. After a stint with the law office of Chering and Gregory in San Francisco, he eventually went into private practice in Mill Valley, where he was a dedicated community volunteer: he served as president of the Mill Valley Rotary Club and volunteered with Mill Valley’s Boy Scout Troop 1 and the Marin Council. David is survived by his wife of 25 years and his two sons Robert and Michael.

---

**Student Managers’ Notes**

Student research assistants have returned to the Rose Institute again this year after another exciting summer of internships and experiences. Six Rose Institute students spent the summer in Washington, D.C. working at internships ranging from the Center for American Progress to the State Department. Senior Colin McDonell spent his summer in D.C. interning for the National Taxpayers Union Foundation, a non-profit think tank focusing on fiscal policy. Colin also spent two weeks at the beginning of summer on a trip to China with the Claremont Colleges Debate Union, during which he traveled to Beijing, Shanghai, and Xi’an. Senior Nick Le Du’s Washington Internship was at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the Office for Iraq Reconstruction. At USAID, Nick designed a domestic communications outreach strategy aimed at securing congressional budgetary support for the agency’s Iraq operations.

Sophomores Ilan Wurman and Abhi Nemani also worked in D.C. this past summer. Ilan interned for *The Hill* newspaper, where he reported on over two-dozen stories, and Abhi interned for the Center for American Progress, where he researched and wrote on current political issues.

Other Rose Institute research assistants participated in internships abroad through the McKenna International Scholarship program. Junior Ritika Puri received a McKenna International grant to volunteer in a New Delhi

---

*continued...*
Kosmont Survey-Update

The Kosmont Survey Is Becoming More Efficient Everyday

By Ritika Puri '09

The 2007-2008 school year marks a pivotal moment for the Kosmont-Rose Institute Cost of Doing Business Survey, as the management team continues to develop and implement improvements initiated last year. In fall 2006, current student manager Emily Pears and Kosmont Manager Ritika Puri succeeded in cutting data collection time in half. In spring ’07, the Kosmont Survey team revamped the publication’s executive summary and developed comprehensive Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps of cost ratings in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego Counties.

This fall, the Kosmont Survey team welcomes three more improvements. Claremont Graduate University student Murray Bessette has joined the Institute to oversee the 2008 and future editions of the Kosmont Survey: he will provide valuable support to current and future managers. The Institute, in partnership with Kosmont Companies, also plans to launch a Kosmont-Rose Institute website by second semester. In 2005, the Institute digitized the Kosmont Survey, and we envision a website as an enhancement to customer accessibility. We also thank eight newly hired freshmen for their dedication to the Kosmont Survey’s success.

The Kosmont Survey is now in its fourteenth year of publication and its sixth year of publication by the Rose Institute. The publication combines business tax information with details on economic programs in over 400 U.S. cities. The Kosmont Survey connects realms of business with state and local government and allows clients to compare cities of interest. Frequent customers include real estate agents, business owners, government officials, and economic associations. The publication has received press in the Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Business Journal, San Jose Business Journal, and The Economist. Nearly three-fourths of the Institute’s undergraduate research assistants have been credited with authorship of the Kosmont Survey.

As Kosmont Survey manager, I look forward to a great year with Murray Bessette, our eight-member freshman research team, and two managerial assistants, senior Ann Harvey and sophomore Keith McCammon.
Redistricting In California
When Will Changes Happen?

Each year politicians promise to change the way California redistricts, and each year they fail to deliver. California and most other states let the legislature draw districts, essentially allowing politicians to decide who their voters are rather than letting the voters decide who they want to support. This is a clear conflict of interest, and for years politicians on both sides of the aisle have agreed that change is necessary. The history of this debate, though, is a story of unfulfilled promise.

The current debate centers on a 2005 initiative, Proposition 77. Although there was support for general reform, the initiative’s specific language posed a number of political problems. The leaders of the legislature opposed the initiative and promised instead to propose a better solution that would go through the legislature. Senate Constitutional Amendment 3 (SCA 3) was passed in the Senate at the end of last year’s session; however, it never was voted on in the Assembly. Nonetheless, after the session ended, negotiations continued on new legislation and possible initiatives.

At the start of the 2007 session, the Senate tried again. In June, they handed the Assembly two bills, one by Senator Lowenthal and the other by Senator Ashburn, each promising substantive reform. Thus, the Assembly had multiple options and the rest of the session to resolve the redistricting issue.

Ten months later, the Assembly and its leader have yet to take much action on these bills. Instead, the focus has been more on the term limits issue, even though the Governor had previously stated that he would not support a term limits reform without redistricting reform also on the ballot. The deadline for the February election is early November and so far no redistricting proposal is on the ballot. This has spurred some talks regarding a possible initiative with the Governor’s office and other political organizations.

The Governor also hinted about calling a special session for the purpose of discussing possible redistricting reforms. Senate Leader Pro Tem Perata, however, stated that he would refuse to address the issue because, according to him, “There is no urgency in redistricting.”

There is still the possibility that a measure could go on the February ballot or one of the two others (June and November) next year. If there is a proposal put before the voters, the Rose Institute will be ready to act.

The Rose Institute redistricting team has provided valuable research and expert counsel regarding possible language to the various reform bill and initiative authors. We will continue to follow new developments while playing an important advisory role. In 2007, redistricting reform again came close to passage, but has once more fallen through.

By Dan Mitchell ’08

Initiative Project Update
Expanding Focus to Other States

The Rose Institute is continuing its efforts to assist Professor Ken Miller in researching his forthcoming book on the nature of legal challenges to popular initiatives in the United States. Professor Miller, who is nearing completion of the book, will produce the first comprehensive analysis of the varying constitutional foundations for legal challenges to popular initiatives, as well as the results of those challenges. His work spans the entire history of the popular initiative process in the United States, from its origins in the Progressive movement of the early 20th Century to its established position today. He seeks to illuminate the relationship between popular initiatives and the legal foundations of our constitutional system: What types of initiatives are more likely to spark legal challenges than others? What types of principles are frequently invoked in opposition to the initiative process? How has the basis of legal challenges changed over time? These are just some of the questions he will answer, aided by the research efforts of Rose Institute students.

Last year, the Rose Institute helped gather information on initiatives in five “high use” states – California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado and Arizona. Students found records detailing the 443 initiatives passed by the voters of those five states over the past one hundred years and created an extensive database of relevant information. They subsequently aided Professor Miller in discovering the legal challenges to those initiatives and conducting legal analyses of the appropriate cases.

Over the next two semesters, the Rose Institute plans to maintain – and indeed, strengthen – its efforts to assist Professor Miller to conclude the necessary research. With efforts concerning the top five states completed, work is now turning towards the remaining nineteen states that possess popular initiative processes. While none of these states use popular initiatives as extensively as the top five states, the cumulative data for all of them is nevertheless highly valuable.

Professor Miller’s initiative project is currently one of the Rose Institute’s top priorities. With five students devoting their efforts to it full time and other students assisting when possible, the Institute is proud to do its utmost to assist Professor Miller in his research. Moreover, the students participating will continue to gain valuable experience in constitutional understanding and legal analysis.

By Joshua Schneider ’08
In the past few years a new word has entered our digital vocabulary: blog. Web logs are now as common as they are relevant. They are toppling the standard news structure and giving people and organizations a voice of their own. Fittingly, people are increasingly turning to blogs as their source for information. Now, led by Assistant to the Directors Matthew Peterson, the Rose Institute is entering the blogosphere with its own blog, RoseReport.org, providing expert, relevant information directly to the public online.

On the surface, a blog is nothing more than a standard webpage. It has a web address, images, and some text. Thus, one might wonder why the Rose Institute needs another site. A blog, however, is a unique type of webpage that serves an entirely different purpose. Instead of a passively waiting for attention, it actively gathers daily and weekly users. While the focus of the Institute’s work will always be our contracted projects, the blog allows us to broaden our impact and generate more recognition.

This impact will be felt in a number of ways. First, reporters will have a constant source for Rose Institute generated news and commentary. We will post non-proprietary information on our projects, ranging from images of new redistricting maps to fiscal analyses from Dr. Steven Frates. Second, we have the ability to remind the public of the tremendous work we have already done. The California Political History Archive and Database is growing in size, and by linking to it from the blog, it will gain in popularity, helping ground current events with historical understanding. Third, we can post Rose Institute press mentions, potentially multiplying Institute coverage. Finally, the blog provides a new outlet for original opinions and commentary from our experts and students, increasing the publicity of our staff and—with appropriate oversight—opening the door to increased student publication.

The blog does much more, however, than simply publish posts. It also gives us a number of useful marketing tools to increase popularity and readership. New posts can be forwarded, or “blasted,” directly to other blogs or media sources, essentially handing them new stories and potentially multiplying our impact. Moreover, our site can link to other sites, which, in turn, will link to ours. This cooperation is a win-win situation, in effect doubling readership for all sites involved. Furthermore, interested users can subscribe to the blog, so we will have a direct line to distribute our news and analysis.

RoseReport.org will provide a new marketing tool for the Institute, but the value here is not simply marketing. The blog will help fulfill part of the Institute’s overall mission: “Using computer technology, students and faculty in the Rose Institute to advance knowledge about politics, and help create services that make the political process more democratic.” With the blog, the Rose Institute can reach more people—politicians, journalists, and curious citizens—in a more direct manner. We are harnessing new, effective technology to help make politics more democratic and to help opinion-makers and ordinary citizens alike make more informed decisions. While the blog—both the word and the tool—may be new, its goal is fundamental. We are harnessing new, effective technology to help make politics more democratic and to help opinion-makers and ordinary citizens alike make more informed decisions.
A Change In Leadership

Information About The New Chairs

By Adam Sherman '09

The Rose Report is excited to announce new leadership for the Rose Institute Board of Governors. At the last Board of Governors meeting Darryl Wold ’63 was elected to the position of Chairman of the Board of Governors and Shannon Kelly ’82 and R.J. Romero ’89 were elected new vice-chairs. The former chairman and vice-chairs are still on the executive committee of the Board of Governors and will continue to be valuable resources to the Rose Institute.

Darryl Wold served as a commissioner of the Federal Election Commission (1998-2002), including terms as chairman (2000) and vice chairman (1999). Mr. Wold has served as counsel to Reed & Davidson since 1988. He has been an assistant to the speaker of the California State Assembly, a consultant on redistricting plans for the Rose Institute, and has managed political campaigns. Mr. Wold graduated cum laude with a B.A. in Economics-Accounting from Claremont McKenna College and received his L.L.B. from Stanford University. He is licensed to practice in California and the District of Columbia, and before the United States Supreme Court.

R.J. Romero graduated from Claremont McKenna College with a B.A. dual major in Economics and Government. He is president of OREMOR Automotive Group, which owns and operates ten franchises in Southern California. In addition Mr. Romero serves on the board of directors of the Chaffey College Foundation and the Advisory Board for the Assistance League of Pomona Valley. He previously served as a board member of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens for 14 years and was vice-chairman and director of Cerritos Valley Bank for seven years. He is also involved in the Annual Foster Children’s Holiday Program, which provides gifts to over 300 underprivileged children in the community.

Shannon Kelly graduated magna cum laude from Claremont McKenna College with a B.A. in Government. During her tenure at CMC, she worked as a student researcher at the Rose Institute. After CMC, she served as an Assembly Fellow in the Sacramento State Legislature and went on to earn a master of public policy degree from Harvard University. She currently works as a Personal Lines Product Manager for Progressive Insurance. She is responsible for the management of a $350 million dollar auto insurance business across numerous states. Ms. Kelly currently serves on the board of directors for the Hawaii Insurers Council and Arizona Insurance Information Association. She previously spent six years as a consultant with McKinsey & Company, a leading global management consulting firm. She is a lifelong Girl Scout and now serves on the board of directors of that organization. As a board member she served as chair of the 90th Anniversary Committee and has also served on the Urban Campout Committee. Shannon is married to fellow CMC alum, Bryan Ducote, and resides in San Diego.

Buzz Woolley ’59 Named Honorary Member of Board of Governors

By Adam Sherman ’09

The Rose Report is pleased to announce that the Rose Institute Board of Governors has appointed Buzz Woolley an honorary member of the Board. Mr. Woolley is an alumnus of the class of 1959 and a life trustee of Claremont McKenna College. Over the years, he has helped the Rose Institute both financially and intellectually by providing funding for projects and offering encouragement to the Institute’s student research assistants. He has given constant support to the important effort to reform redistricting processes in California, has helped to reform the educational process in the San Diego community and the state, and most recently he started an independent nonprofit news website, ‘Voice of San Diego.’ Mr. Woolley was the honored guest at the April 26, 2007 Board of Governors meeting at which he was presented with a plaque by outgoing Chairman Allan Lunsford and Director Ralph Rossum.
Interview with the New Chairman

Mr. Darryl Wold ’63 Talks to Us About His Background

Interviewed by Adam Sherman ’09

What in your opinion was the most fascinating part of serving on the FEC?

Having a decision-making position like that inside the federal government has so many fascinating aspects that I couldn’t pick out just one. Just being in Washington, D.C. was a fascinating experience – it is a great city, politically, historically, culturally, and socially. On the FEC, I particularly enjoyed working with one of my five colleagues, Commissioner David Mason, CMC ’79, who was appointed at the same time as I was. We didn’t know each other before our appointments, but quickly found common ground in our similar approaches to interpreting governmental regulation of campaign finance – which is really regulation of speech – narrowly, with a respect for the First Amendment. Our similar approaches were grounded in part in the experiences we’d both had at CMC, with the emphasis on principles of federalism and freedom in our government classes.

With all your prior experience practicing law, what in your opinion was the most interesting case that you handled?

Particularly interesting was the redistricting litigation before the California Supreme court in the early 1980’s. I served as co-counsel with former congressman Charles Wiggins for the California Republican Congressional Delegation, in challenging the plan drawn by Congressman Phil Burton – a plan that took the art of the gerrymander from the sublime to the ridiculous. Equally interesting was recent work I did for the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians in Palm Springs on a variety of issues. Among other things, we challenged the attempt by the California Fair Political Practices Commission to assert jurisdiction over the Tribe in California courts for an enforcement action, by asserting the Tribe’s historical sovereign immunity as a defense. In the end, the California Supreme Court ruled 4-3 against us, but I learned a great deal about the constitutional and historical roots of tribal sovereign immunity, and grew to appreciate and respect the Tribe’s interests in that doctrine.

Is there anything that stands out in your memory regarding your time at CMC?

I have a lot of memories, even though in the somewhat distant past at this point, but most revolve around the camaraderie that develops in a fairly small student body, and the close relationship with excellent professors in small classes. When I went on to law school at Stanford, even though the law school was fairly small, I found myself in the middle of a big campus with 15,000 or more undergraduates, and I realized how fortunate I’d been to attend CMC.

What aspects of the CMC education impacted you the most?

I found every position that I’ve handled over the years to be most rewarding, and what are the obstacles in the way?

I always like to be optimistic for an improvement in the ways districts are drawn; however, state legislators have an understandable self-interest in keeping control of drawing the boundaries. This is obviously the largest obstacle that redistricting reform faces. If you are an elected official, there is no reason to want to give up control of how you draw the districts.

Given your wide wealth of experience in different positions, which did you find to be most rewarding, and what drew you towards these positions?

I found every position that I’ve had to be very rewarding. All of them have allowed me to have an influence on public policy but each has also involved solving problems for individuals, so it’s been a good balance.

Do you believe that there will be a more successful way redistricting in California is done, and what are the obstacles in the way?

The opportunity to spend time with current CMC students was a really large attraction to getting involved. It allows for me to continue to stay connected with the students at CMC and to learn about the different projects they are working on, as well as to be able to help them with their research. In addition, I’ve always had an interest in the Rose Institute’s redistricting projects. I worked with CMC’s Dr. Alan Heslop on California redistricting following the 1970 census, when the use of computers in redistricting was just beginning. We created a statewide computerized data base that was the precursor to those at what became the Rose Institute.

Do you expect, as the new Chairman, to make any changes in how the Board of Governors operates?

No, this is a very collegial group of governors and I do not have an agenda going in. Things will change of their own accord, but I have been happy with how the Board operates.
Meet the New Hires

The Rose Institute Welcomes Ten New Students to the Family

**Jeffrey Y. Park** hails from Flushing, NY. He graduated from Milton Academy in Milton, Massachusetts where he served as the Boarding Monitor of the Student Government Association, was a leader in a student support program, and participated actively as a board member of the Asian Society. Jeff spent this past summer interning at Société Générale: Corporate and Investment Banking in New York. He does not have a declared major, but plans to concentrate in government and/or economics.

**Christopher D. Jones** joins the Rose Institute from the great borough of Brooklyn in New York City. Chris attended the Packer Collegiate Institute before coming to CMC. He was a leader of his school’s Harvard Model Congress delegation, a student council representative, and a stage manager for high school plays. This last summer, he worked at Smythe & Co., an auction house in lower Manhattan, interning in the IT department. Chris plans to pursue a major in Economics-Accounting with a sequence in either Financial Economics or Leadership.

**Helen E. Pollock** is from Sacramento, California. She graduated from Rio Americano High School, where she was president of the Mock Trial Club and the Civitas Club, and was a member of the swim team. Helen spent last summer as a swim instructor at the Debbie Meyer Swim School. At CMC, Helen plans to pursue a dual major in international relations and economics.

**Kristie A. Finch** is a junior from Glendale, CA. Kristie is a transfer student from Pepperdine University, where she held leadership positions in her sorority, two dance troops, and the student body government. In Fall 2006, she studied abroad in London. Over the summer, she interned for Allan Lunsford working in several industries including media networks, high tech, real estate and financial management. Kristie is pursuing an Economics-Math degree with a Financial sequence.

**John Michael Whatley** comes to CMC from Washington, DC. In high school, Mike was a nationally ranked extemporaneous speaker in speech and debate, co-edited his high school’s political magazine, and served as treasurer of the student government. Last summer, Mike interned at the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, a trade association of major foreign and domestic car companies. He wants to be a government major and may dual major in either economics or history.

**Kristin A. Finch** is a junior from Glendale, CA. Kristie is a transfer student from Pepperdine University, where she held leadership positions in her sorority, two dance troops, and the student body government. In Fall 2006, she studied abroad in London. Over the summer, she interned for Allan Lunsford working in several industries including media networks, high tech, real estate and financial management. Kristie is pursuing an Economics-Math degree with a Financial sequence.
Ann T. Harvey is from Fullerton, CA and is a senior at Scripps. She is an Economics and Politics dual major. Ann spent the fall semester of her junior year in Washington, D.C. where she interned for the Republican National Committee. She is currently involved with student government at Scripps and serves as the Social Activities Chair. Ann plans to attend law school after graduation and to focus either on corporate law or intellectual property law.

Elizabeth A. Johnson is from Palo Alto, CA. During high school she co-edited the student newspaper and led the Model United Nations club. This past summer, Liz coached a girl’s youth volleyball team. Liz plans to major in Government and to complete a leadership sequence.

Jacinth K. Sohi grew up in Madison, WI. In high school she participated heavily in student government, serving as President of the district-wide Madison Student Senate. Jacinth was also involved in policy debate, DECA, theatre, and mock trial. This summer Jacinth earned her Level 1 certification in high-powered rocketry and interned at the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. She plans to study Government and Financial Economics.

Edward T. Zaki is from Washington, D.C. and spent much of high school on the wrestling team, which he captained in his senior year. Edward also traveled widely, studying abroad in Shanghai and returning from his twelfth visit to Egypt this spring. His past two summers were spent studying at Georgetown University and West Point, in addition to a raucous three weeks in Brazil and Argentina. At CMC he hopes to pursue a major in Economics or PPE.

Riley T. Lewis has lived almost his entire life in Claremont and graduated from the Webb School of California. In high school, he was the co-chairman of the school Honor Committee and a member of the cross country team for four years. This summer, Riley competed in the national finals of the AAA Travel Challenge, a geography contest for high school students, and he climbed Denali (Mt. McKinley), the tallest mountain in North America. His major is still undecided, but he plans to study something involving economics and public policy.
Where are they now?

Former Rose Institute Employees With Fascinating Jobs

By Adam Sherman '09

Gregory D. Wright '05 is a graduate of Claremont McKenna College class of 2005 and the former student manager for survey research at the Rose Institute. Before coming to CMC, he served as a page in the U.S. House of Representatives. Most recently Greg was named Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs by the Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP). In that capacity, he will also serve as Executive Director of the Inland Empire Transportation Coalition (IETC) through a staff-sharing agreement between the two organizations. Mr. Wright was formerly responsible for public policy and government affairs at the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership in Irwindale, CA.

Jeffrey M. Simonetti '05 was a CMC Government and PPE double major and was a research assistant at the Rose Institute from 2002-2005. He served as the Kosmont-Rose Institute Cost of Doing Business Survey manager during his senior year. He is currently the Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and Chief Economist at the Building Industry Association (BIA) Baldy View Chapter in Rancho Cucamonga, CA. In this capacity, Jeff works as a liaison between builders and state and local governments to help facilitate the production of residential and commercial development in San Bernardino County and eastern Los Angeles County.

Melinda B. Baker '04 was an International Relations and Legal Studies dual major while at CMC, and served as a research assistant for the Rose Institute from 2000-2003 and as a co-student manager during her senior year. Following graduation, she spent time working at the European University Institute in Florence and at a Los Angeles law firm before obtaining her masters in International Security and Islamic Politics from the London School of Economics. Mindy currently works as an Analyst for the X PRIZE Foundation, a non-profit organization that creates multi-million dollar inducement prizes to stimulate technology and innovation for a variety of public sector issues. As part of the Prize and Program Development Team at the X PRIZE Foundation, she has worked on areas including social entrepreneurship, preventative health, cancer detection, and alternative energy resources.
**Back From Abroad**

**DUBLIN, IRELAND**  When you arrive in Ireland you learn three things very quickly. First, look right when crossing the street lest you be clobbered by a large bus. Second, clarify all Irish names because “Pádraig” (the Irish version of Patrick) sounds similar to “Audrey” and you wouldn’t want to insult the man giving you keys to your flat. Lastly, rejoice in the fact that you are now living among some of the friendliest people in the world.

During the spring of 2007, I studied abroad at Trinity College in the heart of Dublin, Ireland. The college is almost five-hundred years old, flanked by huge stone buildings, and home to philosophical debates, rugby and cricket tournaments, huge black-tie balls, and the Book of Kells. While at Trinity, I took courses in environmental sociology, Irish politics, and international political theory with other Irish and European students. I learned that Canadians teach hysterical tutorials in American Government courses and that it is not uncommon to have lectures in the local pub with your professor.

While I spent a good deal of time navigating the Trinity library looking for books, I also had the chance to travel. I spent a three-week spring break backpacking around Western Europe and took a road trip through the south and west of Ireland. I hitchhiked in Sicily, went horseback riding in Wales, and experienced a real St. Patrick’s Day in Dublin. One of the best parts of my experience studying abroad was meeting new people in all the different countries I visited. From chatting in Spanish with cab drivers in Barcelona to getting directions from a woman in Sicily who didn’t speak English, I learned to really appreciate the diversity of culture and that sign language is universal. ~Meredith Stechbart ’08

**CAIRO, EGYPT**  Last spring I studied abroad in Egypt, taking classes at the American University in Cairo. I found my courses in Arabic and democratization in Egypt the most interesting. Taking the course on democratization with Egyptian students was fascinating; the range of opinions was incredibly diverse. With secularists, Islamists, Egyptian nationalists and pan-Arabists, all aspects of Egyptian political identity were represented. Despite the varied perspectives, the students did reach a consensus on two points: the government should represent the people as expressed by elections, and President Hosni Mubarak should leave office. As the children of the Egyptian elite, these students had perhaps the most to lose from dramatic change in the political system, but their demands for political change were so direct that, had they not been in a classroom at AUC, they would have been jailed. Every week I looked forward to sharing a room with such inspirational classmates.

In my free time, I worked for Better World, the first Egyptian NGO to be initiated and managed exclusively by students. The organization focuses on increasing the competitiveness of Egyptian university students in the job market. Better World identifies and addresses key weaknesses in the education of university students and graduates to make meaningful employment possible. Training courses in Microsoft Excel, for example, are available to make otherwise competent accounting students employable. My job was to manage the English program, the goal of which was to improve the conversational skills of Egyptians in an international business language. Improved English skills will open the door to jobs in multinational corporations, which consistently offer higher salaries than their Egyptian counterparts.

While I am very happy to be back at CMC, I do plan to return to Egypt. In the meantime, I will continue struggling with Arabic and volunteering at a distance for Better World. ~Nick Le Du ’08
Back From Abroad

WASHINGTON, D.C.  College is an educational experience, but learning takes place outside of the classroom as well. I decided to take the spring semester of my junior year off and travel to Washington, D.C. to get a hands-on experience with political campaigns. I joined the Hillary Clinton Presidential Exploratory Committee as she entered the 2008 presidential Democratic primary. As a full time intern I helped the campaign in a number of ways: I participated in fundraising events, helping staff special guests and setting up venues; I sent out press releases and contacted potential scheduling engagements; and I researched a variety of topics and prepared briefing booklets. I had an assortment of opportunities to interact with the Senator and she did not disappoint. Hillary has a very pleasant manner, always smiling and very enthusiastic. I am excited to follow her campaign and am looking forward to seeing her win the nomination and become the 44th President of the United States. It was an honor to work for her campaign and a terrific learning experience that is a great addition to my Pitzer College education. ~Dan Mitchell ’08

WASHINGTON, D.C.  My semester in Washington D.C. last spring was one of the most exciting experiences of my time at Claremont McKenna. Interning at the Democratic Governors Association gave me a great opportunity to experience political activity first hand, and to see the inner workings of a political organization as it develops campaign strategies and assists friendly candidates. Moreover, the internship was quite substantive, for which I was very thankful given how tedious college internships can be. Courses were very interesting as well and placed a real emphasis on the practical application of knowledge, rather than merely developing it as an intellectual pursuit. With one course focusing on contemporary American foreign policy and another analyzing the congressional budget process, the semester assisted me in gaining a deeper appreciation of the nature of our political system.

A further benefit of the semester was simply being in Washington, D.C. Living and working at the seat of American government was invigorating in itself. The city possesses an air of excitement and activity that cannot be duplicated elsewhere; it results from the majesty of our political system, and a shared awareness of the great deliberations taking place right next to us, in which it is wonderful to imagine oneself playing even the most marginal of roles. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Washington: simply being there made the experience wonderful. ~Josh Schneider ’08