



PANETTA INSTITUTE

# update

## Panetta Institute's Research Fellows Explore Creation of a National Service Program

As part of their work this fall as Research Fellows at The Panetta Institute for Public Policy, three upper-division students from the Santa Clara University School of Law explored the concept of a new national service program for young people. The issue was raised by the Institute's nationwide survey of college students last spring in which a remarkable sixty-three percent of respondents expressed interest in a program that would have them perform two years of national service in exchange for help with their college costs.

Working with the Institute's chairman, **Leon E. Panetta**, the Fellows researched historical precedents, including the military draft and New Deal programs established by President Franklin Roosevelt; however, their efforts focused mainly on how such a program might be tailored to today's national needs and expectations.

For advice and ideas, the Fellows met with visiting officials such as California secretary of natural resources **John Laird**, who offered his thoughts on a statewide program of environmental public service. They also discussed legislative realities with State Senator **Bill Monning** and former Assemblyman **Fred Keeley**.

In January, a new group of Santa Clara law students will join the Research Fellows program and build on the work conducted so far. "This effort is right in line with our

mission of inspiring young people to lives of public service," says Secretary Panetta, "and it could lead someday to actual legislation."

The national service idea also came up during the Institute's annual lecture series last spring, where former NAACP president **Ben Jealous** said such a program could help the country transcend racial divisions and make citizens feel "more American."

The Fellows, who receive academic credit at Santa Clara for their experience, work under the direction of Institute professor **Richard Kezirian** and senior program coordinator **Ellen Wilson**, along with local attorney **Bill Daniels**.

Volume 17, No. 2  
Autumn 2015

### Inside:

- Participants Praise Congressional Intern Program
- Institute's CEO Commissions New Navy Ship
- Gala Dinner Honors TV Journalists
- Reading Program Draws JROTC Volunteers



Santa Clara law students Haydee Dominguez and Julian LaCasse and intern Eric Rodarte share national service ideas with Institute chairman Leon Panetta.



## Panetta Intern Program Draws High Praise from Student Participants and Experts

**P**articipants in the Panetta Institute's highly regarded Congressional Intern Program have just returned home from eleven weeks of service in Washington, DC, and their letters of praise and thanks for the opportunity are rolling in.

The students from twenty-six California universities, including the campuses of the



The Institute provides the interns air fare, lodging and a DC living allowance so students of all backgrounds can participate.

CSU system and three private universities, typically call the experience “invaluable” and “life-changing.” **Angelina Finau** of CSU Northridge filled a self-published book with accolades for the program, saying she’s learned “I need to help make the system work.”

The interns’ experience starts with a two-week orientation course at the Institute’s Monterey Bay headquarters where they interact with members of Congress, congressional staff, political journalists and other Washington veterans. And during their subsequent service in the Capitol Hill offices of the California congressional delegation, they meet in regularly scheduled seminars with government officials and policy experts, who this year included former Senate majority leader **Tom Daschle** (D-SD), former congressman **Bill Lowery** (R-CA) former federal budget director **Alice Rivlin** and many others.

Former White House counsel **Pat Griffin**, a longtime seminar leader, calls the Institute’s intern program “the best and most respected in the country.”

## Sylvia Panetta Commissions USS Milwaukee

**P**anetta Institute co-chair and CEO **Sylvia M. Panetta** formally commissioned the USS Milwaukee into service for the U.S. Navy at a Lake Michigan ceremony on November 21. Mrs. Panetta serves as ship sponsor for the newly designed littoral combat vessel, which is built for versatility and speed in close-to-shore operations.

The ship operates with a crew of just fifty-four, which increases to about one hundred when a helicopter unit is on board. In her role as sponsor, Mrs. Panetta has visited with crew members several times since christening the

ship with the traditional bottle of champagne two years ago. Officers from the ship have participated in programs at the Institute, speaking with student government leaders from twenty-six California campuses who attend our annual Leadership in Public Service Seminar.

“It’s truly an honor to be asked to serve as a sponsor of this extraordinary ship and to get to know the remarkable young men and women who serve as her crew,” says Mrs. Panetta. “Their service and personal sacrifice for the good of our country are an example for us all.”

## Institute’s “Evening to Honor Lives of Public Service” Salutes Four Broadcast Journalists

On the evening of November 14, the Panetta Institute honored four highly respected television journalists at its sixteenth annual Jefferson-Lincoln Awards gala at The Inn at Spanish Bay.

The tribute required last-minute adjustments as two of the honorees – CBS News anchor and *60 Minutes* correspondent **Scott Pelley** and ABC News chief global affairs correspondent **Martha Raddatz** – were unable to participate because their networks called them to cover the aftermath of the November 13 terrorist attacks in Paris.

On hand, however, were CBS News national security correspondent covering the Pentagon and State Department **David Martin** and NBC News chief Pentagon correspondent **Jim Miklaszewski**, both of whom recounted their experiences covering Institute chairman **Leon Panetta** during his service as U.S. secretary of defense.

In his introductory remarks, Secretary Panetta said all four journalists “deeply understand the importance of their profession and the duty they hold to the preservation of our democracy.”

“An Evening to Honor Lives of Public Service” is an annual event which was launched by the Institute in 2000 to recognize the service



Secretary and Mrs. Panetta with David Martin and Jim Miklaszewski.

of political leaders from both major parties who have shown an exceptional commitment to seeking bipartisan compromise on important issues.

In subsequent years the Institute began bestowing the Jefferson-Lincoln Award also on journalists who maintain high standards of objectivity in their coverage and commentary, and a decision was made to honor journalists exclusively this year.

“A democracy needs accurate and unbiased reporting,” notes Institute co-chair and CEO **Sylvia Panetta**, “and that’s doubly important when it comes to coverage of events that involve our country in life-and-death decisions.”

The gala dinner raises funds to cover the Institute’s program expenses, ranging from travel and lodging for its congressional interns in Washington to books for children in the Monterey County Reads program. Mrs. Panetta reports that this year’s event was the most successful ever.

“A DEMOCRACY  
NEEDS ACCURATE  
AND UNBIASED  
REPORTING.”

Sylvia Panetta

### Called Away to Duty



CBS anchor Scott Pelley and ABC chief global affairs correspondent Martha Raddatz had to receive their Jefferson-Lincoln Awards in absentia as they were called away just before the event to cover the November 13 terrorist attacks in Paris.



had to receive their Jefferson-Lincoln Awards in absentia as they were called away just before the event to cover the November 13 terrorist attacks in Paris.



The Panetta Institute for Public Policy  
 100 Campus Center, Building 86E  
 CSU Monterey Bay  
 Seaside, CA 93955

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 THE PANETTA  
 INSTITUTE

**Donate online at [PanettaInstitute.org](http://PanettaInstitute.org)**



**Our Mission**

The Panetta Institute seeks to inspire and prepare people for lives of public service and greater civic involvement. Please help us with your tax deductible donation.

**Junior ROTC Cadets Join the Volunteer Effort for Monterey County Reads Program**

**T**he highly successful program for helping Monterey County children with their reading, which the Panetta Institute launched nineteen years ago in conjunction with the county’s Office of Education, is now drawing volunteers from Junior ROTC programs at area high schools.

Commander **Paul Tanks**, USN (Ret.), who heads the Naval JROTC program at Monterey High School, describes the effort as an opportunity for his cadets to learn important lessons in leadership and social responsibility while opening doors of opportunity for elementary school children who struggle with the written word.

“Some of these cadets were a little reluctant at first to put this additional burden on their schedules,” he says, “but when they actually got to working with these kids who really need their help, they became enthusiastic.”

The Monterey High group has a standing arrangement for reading assistance at La Mesa and Foothill elementary schools, and a similar effort has been launched with JROTC cadets at Seaside High, with participation by additional secondary schools now likely.

In addition to high school students, Monterey County Reads relies on volunteers from area colleges, businesses, military installations,



**Commander Paul Tanks (left) with NJROTC reading volunteers from Monterey High School.**

faith groups and community organizations. The program trains them and places them in local elementary schools, where they work one-to-one with children who are having trouble with their reading.

“The work of volunteers is at the core of the program,” says **Chris Haubert**, the Institute’s chief of staff and programs. “Our data shows that we’re having a positive impact on children who need help.”

Since its inception, Monterey County Reads has recruited and placed almost 3,000 volunteers, who collectively have devoted nearly 120,000 hours helping about 15,000 young readers. To learn how you can help, go to [PanettaInstitute.org](http://PanettaInstitute.org).

