and how we teach students about the Congress will certainly change for the better, and my teaching will probably be viewed as more credible than before I had experience on the inside. From an academic perspective, my time in the CFP will clearly inform all of my future research on Congress. Theory building for future research will undoubtedly be influenced by this experience, and many of the relationships I build will last beyond these 10 months to shape and inform all aspects of my academic career. I think CFP provides an un-replicable chance for scholars to advance their knowledge and increase their institutional value.

In closing, I hope that this essay will encourage more scholars who are actively engaged in research to explore such opportunities. Whether a professor on the tenure track, or a Ph.D. candidate pushing forward on the dissertation, CFP can provide many, many benefits. Please contemplate the benefits of such an experience, beyond the possible inconveniences or setbacks that can easily come to mind, and evaluate the possibility that these things are clearly overshadowed by the vast, potential benefits of the APSA Congressional Fellowship Program. ■

NOTE

1. In this case, unlike most offices, I was able to meet the representative during the interview process. In fact, most of the interview was conducted by the representative.

Congressional Fellowship Program 2008–2009 Office Assignments

Founded in 1953, the APSA Congressional Fellowship Program is the nation's oldest and most prestigious congressional fellowship. More than 50 years later, the program remains devoted to its original objective of expanding knowledge and awareness of Congress. For nine months, select political scientists, journalists, doctors, federal executives, and international scholars gain "hands on" understanding of the legislative process by serving on congressional staffs. Through this unique opportunity, the association enhances public understanding of policymaking and improves the quality of scholarship, teaching, and reporting on American national politics. For more information, please visit www.apsanet.org/content_3031.cfm?navID=41. The 2009 office assignments are:

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