



The Fellowship Trail

...application ...selection ...indoctrination
...completion

2004 IEEE-USA Fellowship
U.S. State Department

Emily Sopensky



To begin...

- IEEE junkie
- Business interests
- Surfing the IEEE-USA site





IEEE junkie

- Intelligent Transportation Systems Society
- Awards Board
- Electron Devices Society Education Committee + short courses
- Women in Engineering
- CenTex Section

Business interests



THE IRIS COMPANY

Communications with a Global Focus

Corporate Communications Newsletters Technical Documentation

Principal: [Emily Sopensky](#) : [Reports](#)

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<http://www.iriscompany.com/>



[I did relocate from Austin to Arlington...](#)

[News releases and media advisories from IEEE-USA](#)



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Government Fellowships *Linking Engineers With Government*

[Congressional
Fellows](#)

[Engineering &
Diplomacy Fellows](#)

[Government
Fellows Forum](#)

[Fellows on the
Fellowship Program](#)

[Government
Fellows Fund](#)

[Other Fellowship
Programs](#)

[Government
Fellows Committee](#)

[Government Fellows
Alumni Directory](#)



"The fellowship program has been one of the most important initiatives in good government in the past century."

– The Honorable Rush Holt, U.S. Congressman from New Jersey & Former Congressional Fellow

IEEE-USA sponsors Fellowships for qualified IEEE members to spend a year in Washington serving as advisers to the [U.S. Congress](#) and to key [Executive Branch](#) decision-makers. IEEE-USA's Congressional and Executive Fellowships link engineers with government, providing a mechanism for IEEE-USA Government Fellows to learn first hand about the public policy process through personal involvement.

Program News & Notices

NoVA ComSoc Meeting
27 Sept 2005





Requirements

- U.S. citizenship
- IEEE Member 4 years
- 10 yrs in engineering practice &/or Ph.D. in engineering
- Ability to obtain a security clearance (State Dept fellow).





Due diligence

- Website: <http://ieeusa.org/policy/govfel/>
- Interviewed staff and Congressional Fellows
 - What does the Committee look for? What are their guidelines? What kinds of questions do they ask?
 - Given my background, what are my chances?
 - Can I work while on fellowship?
- IEEE-USA budget
 - Supports 2 Congressional + 1 State Dept. annually
 - Other fellowships possible, but currently unfunded.

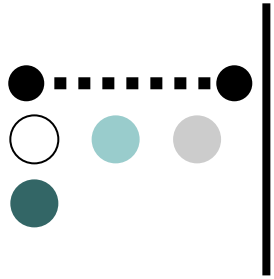




...application

- <http://ieeusa.org/policy/govfel/documents/StateKIT07.pdf>
- Government Fellows Committee screens for:
 - Length of IEEE membership
 - Education
 - Professional experience
 - Previous public service/public policy expertise
 - IEEE volunteer activities
 - Communication skills
 - Demonstrated interest in foreign policy
 - Overall suitability for the Fellowship
- **Cover letter of intent**
- Personal and technical **resume**; including IEEE activities, group/society affiliation.
- **Statement from employer** authorizing a leave of absence
- Three **letters of reference**
- Deadline: mid-February (**20 February 2006**)
- Apply for both Congressional & State

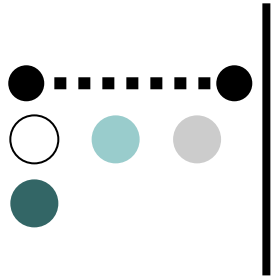




Orals count, but so do degrees

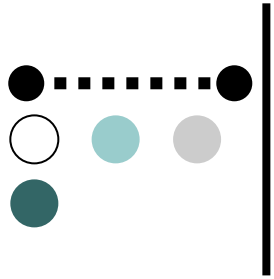
- Interviewed in Washington DC (May)
- 1 of 4 *not* chosen for Congressional Fellow.





...lessons learned

- Contacted each committee person for advice.
- Implemented advice.
- Applied for both again.



...tenacity *rules!*

- Chosen to interview with Government Fellows Committee again.

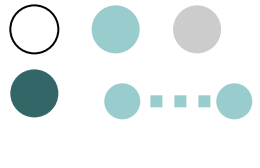




...selection

- State Science Advisor call to reference cinched the deal.



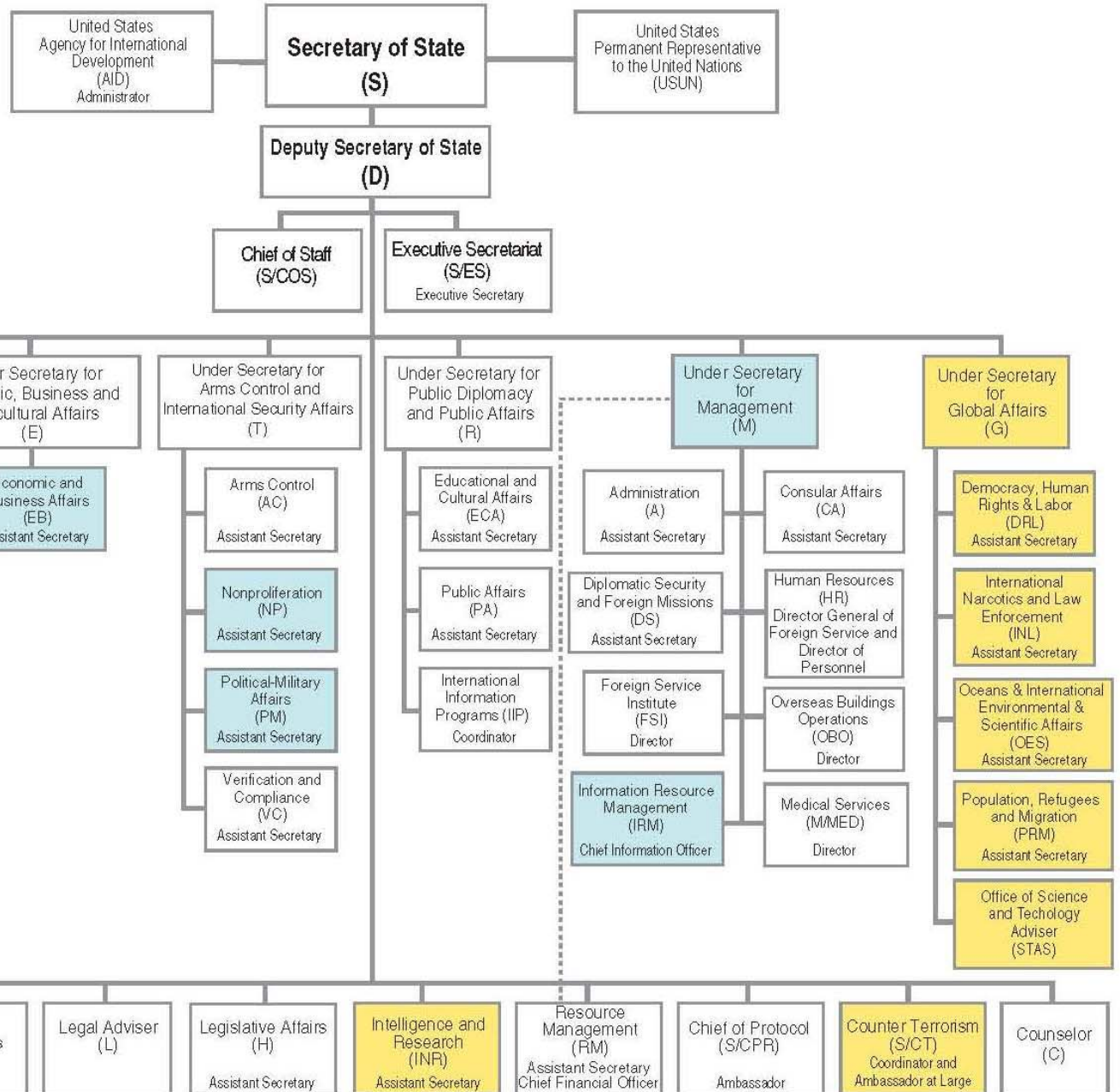


...defining the fellowship

- State website and org chart to determine best fit

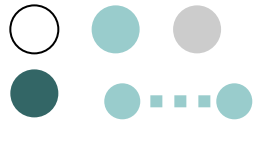
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/43087.pdf>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE



Professional Science & Engineering Fellows

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Diplomacy Fellows



...interviews

- Interested State Bureaus
 - EUR (European & Eurasian Affairs)
 - EB (Economic & Business)
 - Transportation
 - Energy
 - GMO
- 2 projects both led by an Ambassador
 - SMART
 - eDiplomacy
- STAS



...strategy

- Start in October 2003
- Main State
- Ambassadors – 1 project, 1 program
- Policy oriented vs process oriented
- Technology-based
- Where not buried by the polis & econs





...indoctrination

- 2 weeks AAAS training for all fellowships
- Escorted daily until clearance rec'd
- Finding a desk
- Shaping the “portfolio”

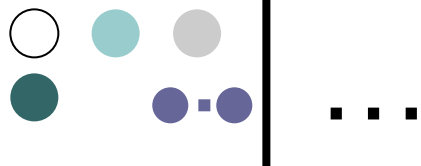




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SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FELLOWS ARE INTRODUCED TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE





Reynolds, Neureiter, Dombrowski, Armitage



Main product = Information


Status quo = Need-to-know only

Result = Product stagnation & Stovepipe culture




...portfolio

U.S. Department of State



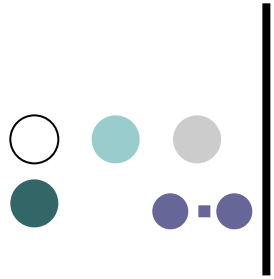
**PROFESSIONAL
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
SOCIETY FELLOWS
PROGRAM**

Where Diplomacy and Technology Engage...



<http://ieeusa.org/policy/govfel/reports/StateFellows.pdf>





...portfolio

- Key City Engagement Strategy
 - **Virtual Presence Posts**
 - World Cities
 - eMap



...portfolio

- Australia: Adelaide
- Australia: Brisbane
- Bangladesh: Rajshahi
- Brazil: Belo Horizonte
- Brazil: Fortaleza
- Brazil: Porto Alegre
- Canada: Northwest Territories
- Canada: Nunavut
- Canada: Yukon
- Egypt: Ismailia
- Philippines: Davao
- Russia: Chelyabinsk
- Russia: Novouralsk
- Russia: Perm
- Russia: Snezhinsk
- Russia: Tyumen
- Solomon Islands
- Sweden: Gothenberg
- UK: Wales
- Vanatu
- Venezuela: Barquisimeto
- Venezuela: San Cristobal
- <http://adelaide.usvpp.gov/Adelaide/>
- <http://brisbane.usvpp.gov/Brisbane/>
- <http://www.usembassy-dhaka.org/rajshahi/index.html>
- <http://virtual.embaixada-americana.org.br/belohorizonte/>
- <http://virtual.embaixada-americana.org.br/portoalegre/>
- <http://www.canadanorth.usvpp.gov/nwt/index.asp>
- <http://www.canadanorth.usvpp.gov/nunavut/index.asp>
- <http://www.canadanorth.usvpp.gov/yukon/index.asp>
- <http://ismailia.usvpp.gov/>
- <http://www.usvirtualconsulatedavao.org.ph/>
- <http://usa.chelyabinsk.ural.ru/>
- <http://usa.novouralsk.ural.ru/>
- <http://www.usa.perm.ural.ru/>
- <http://www.usa.snezhinsk.ural.ru/>
- <http://usa.tyumen.ru/>
- <http://www.usvpp-solomonislands.org/>
- <http://stockholm.usembassy.gov/vpp/>
- <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/wales/index.html>
- <http://www.usvpp-vanuatu.org/>
- <http://embajadausa.org.ve/vppwebsite/barquisimeto.php>
- <http://embajadausa.org.ve/vppwebsite/sancristobal.php>



Virtual Presence Posts <http://usembassy.state.gov/>

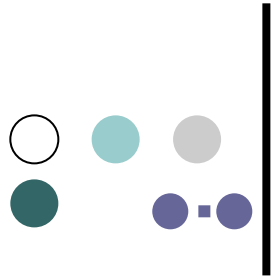


...portfolio



Mapping--The Old Fashioned Way





...portfolio

“Apples & Oranges”

Post Website Inventory

- Public
- I-Net (intranet)
- SIPRNet (classified)

...portfolio

Counting Apples and Oranges: Report on the Post Website Inventory Jan 2004

by Emily Sopensky
sopenskyea@state.gov
IEEE Engineering & Diplomacy Fellow

Office of eDiplomacy
an office of the Information Resource Management Bureau

May 17, 2004



Internal Use Only

Report: Website Inventory

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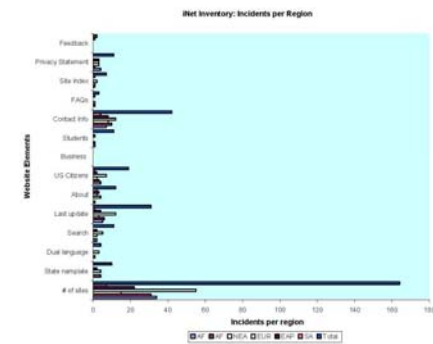


Fig. 2: Net standard web elements Incidents per Region

Report: Website Inventory

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The chart below summarizes the data collected on the post SIPRNet websites:

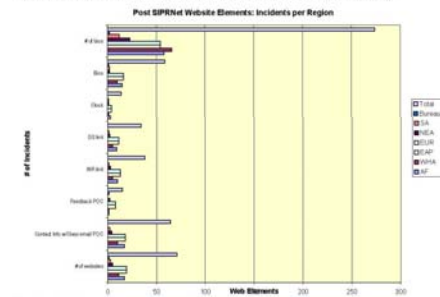
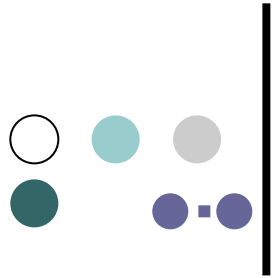


Fig. 3: Post SIPRNet website standard elements Incidents per Region





...portfolio

- NDGTF Conference
 - The Odyssey or the Illiad?
- MOA with ITA is not DOA
- Op-eds
- Diplomats in Residence





...completion

- Final report “Life Changing”

<http://ieeusa.com/policy/govfel/reports/sopensky2.html>



- 2004 Engineering & Diplomacy Fellow Emily Sopensky reflects on a year spent helping the US Department of State master its use of information technology. Click here for her [final report](#).





IEEE-USA

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