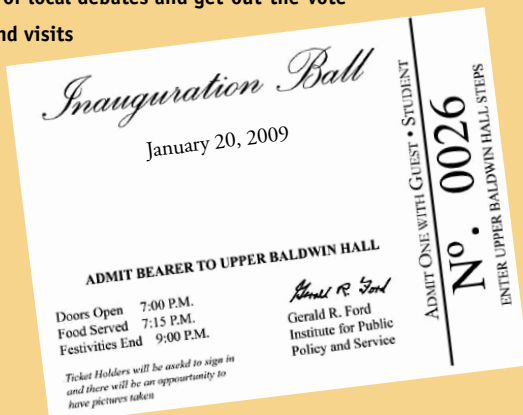


# Gerald R. Ford Institute for Public Policy and Service

## FORD INSTITUTE SPONSORS INAUGURAL BALL

Across the District of Columbia on Tuesday evening, January 20, 2009, people reveled in the glow of Inaugural Balls—in many cases paying hundreds or, in some cases, thousands of dollars per ticket to attend. Not to be outdone, the Ford Institute sponsored its own Inaugural Ball that same evening—but at no cost to the participants. More than 90 people attended the ball, including Fordies and their guests, as well as Albion President Donna Randall, Provost Susan Conner, and their spouses. Upper Baldwin was transformed into an elegant ballroom festooned with patriotic décor and a festive atmosphere. Attendees danced, partied, and spent the evening socializing with their friends while partaking of a buffet of hors d'oeuvres, desserts, a chocolate fountain, and non-alcoholic bubbly. Guests joined in with some of the activities at the Washington, D.C. Inaugural Balls through Albion's state-of-the-art large-screen technology. Freshman Linette Rousseau summed up the evening saying, "I couldn't imagine a group of people I would rather share the celebration with that night. They made the ball a special occasion." Sophomore Josh Freeland echoed her sentiments: "The ball was a neat idea and a great time. I had a good evening with my fellow Fordies." The Inaugural Ball capped off the year's election-related events including parties where students gathered to watch debates and election returns, sponsorship of local debates and get-out-the-vote activities, and visits from local, regional, and national candidates.



## MARK SCHAUER, '84, ELECTED TO CONGRESS

Tuesday, January 6, 2009 was a landmark day for Albion College alumnus and fellow Fordie Mark Schauer. This marked the day he took the oath of office as the U.S. Congressman representing Michigan's Seventh District, which stretches from Battle Creek to Adrian. Albion lies at the center of his district.



Since his graduation from Albion in 1984, Mark's focus has been on serving the region's people. As executive director of the Community Action Agency of South Central Michigan, he oversaw many programs to help the area's children, seniors, and people most in need. Mark continued his focus on children and their education, jobs, access to quality health care, and economic development as a state senator representing Michigan's 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District. During his last term he served as the Senate Democratic leader. For almost 25 years Mark has been a staunch advocate of Albion College, the Ford Institute, and the Operation Bentley program. He has hosted many Ford students as interns in his office and is a regular presence on campus. When asked about the influence of the Ford Institute in his life, Mark replied, "I can't overstate how important the Ford Institute was to my intellectual and personal development within my Albion College experience. The relationships I built and the public service perspective I gained are firmly with me today." Our best wishes and congratulations are with Mark as he embarks on this new pathway of public service.

*After serving in the Michigan State Legislature for 12 years, Ford Institute graduate Mark Schauer took his seat in Congress in January. He has been a highly visible public servant.*

## CALVARUSO HEADS GERALD R. FORD FOUNDATION

Joseph Calvaruso, '78, a member of the Ford Institute's Visiting Committee, has been named the executive director of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation in Grand Rapids, Mich. The foundation promotes awareness of the life and legacy of the 38<sup>th</sup> president of the United States and the principles for which he stood. It further supports the

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programs, exhibits, conferences, and educational efforts of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. "I'm both honored and excited to join the work being done through the Foundation," Joe said. "My interest in the presidency and the political process all began at Albion College. I first met President Ford in the late 1970s when he came to Albion to speak. I did not know then that someday I would serve the presidency and help preserve our great nation's history."

## IMPACTING HEALTH CARE POLICY

### Melissa Lachajewski, '10

As the governmental affairs intern for the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) in Washington, D.C. last summer, junior Melissa Lachajewski built an invaluable skill set. Her career goal is to be a psychologist for under-served populations, and to be successful she will need a strong understanding of health care policy. Because NRHA's D.C. office has a relatively small staff, Melissa was given more responsibility than the average intern and "worked with every aspect of the NRHA," including national health-care policy projects. She is particularly proud of a policy paper she wrote about smoking cessation in rural areas "that will hopefully influence future policy implemented by Congress or state officials." Now back on campus, Melissa is looking toward the future: "Although I was unaware of the great need for psychologists in rural areas before this internship, I'm now committed to making a difference in such regions."



*Melissa Lachajewski visiting Capitol Hill to advocate for rural health.*

## MITCHELL SCHOLAR BLOGS FROM IRELAND

Ford Institute graduate Catherine Fontana, '08, continues her studies at Trinity College in Ireland as a George Mitchell Scholar. In addition to completing her master's studies, Catherine has developed close friendships with students from across the world and traveled to unique and exciting places. Follow Catherine's experiences at her blog on

the Mitchell Web site. <http://www.us-irelandalliance.org/wmspage.cfm?parm1=846>.

## FIRST-YEAR RETREAT—TEAM BUILDING AND SERVICE LEARNING

Each year the Ford Institute sponsors a first-year student retreat during the fall semester. This day-long activity affords new Ford students the opportunity to get to know each other, and build teamwork and leadership skills at the same time. While past retreats were spent at the Sherman Lake YMCA Camp or the University of Michigan's Challenge Program, we went in an entirely new direction this year when we headed to Cass Community Social Services (CCSS) in Detroit, a non-profit organization that works with some of the city's neediest citizens. We arrived in the cold and rain and quickly escaped to the shelter of an apartment building under renovation by CCSS. Everyone participated in "icebreaker" activities and leadership exercises.

Teams of five to six students then went to work on many projects including construction in the apartment building, weaving of mud mats, cleaning of a donated van, and work in the document shredding room that CCSS operates for area businesses. The lunch hour included hearing from Reverend Faith Fowler, '81, CCSS executive director, about program services. The afternoon was spent at the Cass Community United Methodist Church building recycling stations and preparing a stage for the annual Miss Cass Pageant, an opportunity for developmentally disabled men and women to show off their talent and evening wear. After more than 300 hours of service, we boarded the bus for the trip back to Albion, exhausted but happily content with many new friends and a day of satisfying community service.



*Ford students lending a hand in Detroit.*

## ADMISSION

Students are admitted to the Ford Institute only after being admitted to Albion College. Admission to the Ford Institute is selective. Participants are selected based on their proven leadership, interest in public service, academic ability, and previous involvement in political, community, and school activities.

All students are expected to maintain a high level of academic performance once admitted, to continue their involvement in campus and community affairs, and to become involved in Institute activities.

You'll find more about the Ford Institute, including an online application form, at: [www.albion.edu/ford/](http://www.albion.edu/ford/).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Albion College is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability, as protected by law, in all educational programs and activities, admission of students, and conditions of employment.