

WFPG Hosts Second Annual UN Study Visit

Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad Delivers Keynote Luncheon Address on U.S. Priorities at the UN

New York – On May 2, 2007 the Women's Foreign Policy Group hosted its second annual UN Study Visit focusing on "The UN under New Leadership." The newly arrived U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Zalmay Khalilzad, delivered the keynote luncheon address outlining the latest U.S. priorities at the UN. The conference also featured briefings by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's new team including John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Robert Orr, Assistant-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning, Alicia Bárcena, Under-Secretary-General for Management, and David Nabarro, UN Coordinator for Avian and Human Flu. Ambassador Karen Pierce, Deputy Permanent Representative of the UK Mission to the UN, also spoke about the pressing issues under debate at the UN Security Council.

The second annual conference drew over 100 participants from corporations, non-profits, foundations, international organizations, the diplomatic community and the media. The VIP Luncheon was attended by senior-level UN officials, the Ambassadors to the UN from China, El Salvador, Finland, Iraq, and New Zealand, in addition to representatives from the Missions of



Zalmay Khalilzad, U.S.
Ambassador to the United Nations

Grenada, Jamaica, Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Switzerland, Thailand, the UK, and the U.S. to the UN. "I personally know that the United

Nations can make a profoundly positive impact if it has the right mandate and if it is properly employed," Ambassador Khalilzad said. As the former U.S. Ambassador to Iraq and Afghanistan, he worked closely with UN representatives, both in Afghanistan and Iraq, and said that "this collaboration was a key factor in enabling us to make vital political progress in both countries."

Only eight days into his position as U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Ambassador Khalilzad emphasized that the top U.S. priorities at the UN would be promoting stability and peace in the Middle East, advancing non-proliferation, addressing the situation in Darfur, and strengthening the capacity of UN peacekeeping missions. Increasing transparency and accountability of UN entities and agencies, he added, is also "imperative in order to preserve broad-based support for the United Nations in the United States."

On the current state of U.S.-UN relations, Robert Orr, Assistant-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning, said, "today we have a very, very good relationship with the UN." Orr attributed the current positive relationship to the reality on the ground: "There is a demand for the UN in some of the toughest places and the U.S. recognizes that and wants the UN to help." Orr explained that the U.S. had been instrumental on several Security Council resolutions asking the UN to do more in all parts of the world. "This is something that shows the U.S. valuing the UN in a very real way that may not have been as much the case in recent years."

In her remarks on UN reform, Alicia Bárcena, Under-Secretary-General for Management, said the new Secretary-General stressed the importance of improving peacekeeping delivery. "It means that we deliver timely, opportunely, and where we have



Alicia Bárcena, Under-Secretary-General for Management



John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator



Robert Orr, Assistant-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning



David Nabarro, UN Coordinator for Avian and Human Flu

to go with efficiency, with transparency, and most of all with a human face." She explained that the Secretary-General's proposal for restructuring the Department of Peacekeeping Operations involved creating a new Department of Field Support that would focus on better delivery to field missions, special political missions, and peacekeeping operations.

Bárcena said that reforming the gender imbalance at the United Nations was also a priority. She noted that gender equity has improved in the lower levels of the secretariat, "but as soon as you start escalating a little bit upwards the situation becomes disastrous." The solution is not only to make sure that the Secretary-General considers women for his senior appointments, she said, but also that he gets good candidates. "You can help us. Everyone can help us."

Robert Orr also spoke about Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's urgent push to address climate change. "We are at a global inflection point on climate change," Orr said. He explained that there is a real push from below to address climate change which is different than when the Kyoto Protocol was negotiated in 1997. "Now with the global community united behind the science and a push from below, we have a whole new political environment on this, but that does not translate itself easily or automatically into a new global agreement for how to govern the question of climate change."



Dawn Calabria,
WFPG Board Member

The climate change debate was recently brought to the Security Council during the United Kingdom's Presidency in April. Ambassador Karen Pierce, Deputy Permanent Representative of the UK Mission to the UN, explained there was a "full day's debate with more speakers than had ever been achieved for a thematic debate."

Robert Orr also shared his thoughts on the Secretary-General's personality and leadership style. "I think the new Secretary-General, like the former Secretary-General, is a very good listener." Characterizing Ban Ki-moon as a truly engaged and interested person, very hungry for information, and who likes to know what's going on throughout the system on a wide range of issues, Orr said, "He's looking for ways to improve the system and he's looking for ways to make a difference around the world. I think that is striking almost to anyone who meets with him."

Describing how the Secretary-General has spent his time since his arrival, Orr said, "The greater Middle East and Darfur have been the areas of greatest concentration in geopolitical terms." Other top priorities of the new Secretary-General include achieving the targets of the Millennium Development Goals and strengthening the capacity of the UN as a field-based organization and as a peacekeeper.

Ambassador Karen Pierce expressed her hope that UN peacekeeping operations would be backed by stronger

mandates in the future. In the wake of the war in Bosnia and the breakup of Yugoslavia, she said, "we ended up with some very tough Chapter 7 Security Council resolutions that gave UN forces, or forces like NATO acting under a UN mandate, very powerful mandates to complete their mission." In the Security Council now, she explained, there is a reversion to a softer mandate. "It runs a very high risk that the forces, when push comes to shove on the ground, will not actually be able to discharge their missions."



Ambassador Karen Pierce,
Deputy Permanent
Representative, UK Mission
to the UN

Recently returned from a visit to Darfur and eastern Chad, John Holmes, Under-Secretary General for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and Emergency Relief Coordinator, elaborated on the UN's future as a peacekeeping force but also acknowledged its limitations. "Peacekeeping forces can only keep the peace if there is a peace to keep," he said. "When you look at the enormous humanitarian effort being made, it brings you very forcibly back to the politics. Without political solutions keeping people alive is a worthwhile activity in itself, but it doesn't solve anything."

Holmes also spoke about the creation of the Central Emergency Response Fund which will ensure that money is available for humanitarian crises that do not get a lot of media coverage. "Everybody knows about Darfur, but there are lots of crises going on in the world which are not in the CNN spotlight and which still need money and don't tend to get it, because political donors respond to what's on the television like everybody else does so that the distribution is not always ideal," he said. The goal is to have \$450 million annually in the fund and to address forgotten crisis such as those in Chad, Congo, and the Central African Republic.

The final morning briefing session featured David Nabarro, UN Coordinator for Avian and Human Flu, who discussed the seriousness of an avian flu pandemic, what the UN is doing to prepare for a large-scale outbreak, and how it is coordinating with national governments, development banks, and NGOs. "The pandemic threat due to this avian influenza virus is a very strong probability," Nabarro said. He explained that governments throughout the world, particularly in Asia, have discussed with the Secretary-General the need to get more organized in dealing with this threat. "On this issue we've probably got the best fully functioning movement of actors that I have ever seen in the United Nations system working effectively together."

The Women's Foreign Policy Group UN Study Visit is an annual conference held in May at the UN headquarters. This year the event was supported through generous contributions from the UN Foundation and Maxine Isaacs and James A. Johnson.



Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and WFPG Board Members



From left: Susan Myers, UN Foundation, Ambassador Liu Zhenmin, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the UN, and Dawn Calabria, WFPG Board Member



From left: WFPG Staff Members Kimberly Kahnhauser and Emily Harter, Patricia Ellis, WFPG President, Alicia Barcena, Under-Secretary General for Management, and Susan Rappaport, WFPG Board Member



Maxine Isaacs, WFPG Board Chair, and Susan King, Carnegie Corporation of New York



Ambassador Karen Pierce, UK Mission to the UN, with WFPG Board Members Gillian Sorensen and Maxine Isaacs



David Nabarro, UN Coordinator for Avian and Human Flu, speaks during the morning briefing session about influenza pandemic preparedness



Ponchitta Pierce, WFPG Board Member



Ambassador Hamid Al Bayati Mission of Iraq to the UN



Warren Hoge, *The New York Times*



Donna Constantinople, WFPG Board Member

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Celebration of Women Diplomats

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the WFPG held a "Celebration of Women Diplomats." The evening program was hosted by WFPG Member Geraldine Kunstadter. The event was attended by 19 women diplomats including:

- ◆ Ambassadors to the UN from Estonia, Latvia, and New Zealand
- ◆ The Consul Generals of Angola, Barbados, Belgium, The Netherlands, Norway, The Philippines, and Slovenia
- ◆ Women diplomats from the Missions of Finland, Macedonia, Mali, New Zealand, Sweden, and the UK to the UN



From left: Dawn Calabia, WFPG Board, Hostess Geri Kunstadter, Ed Kitch, Patricia Ellis, WFPG President, and Gail Kitch, WFPG Board



H.E. Solveiga Silkalna, Ambassador of Latvia to UN



Jessica Odle, Consul General of Barbados



Cecilia Rebong, Consul General of the Philippines



Julia Machado, Consul General of Angola



From left: Renilde Loeckx-Drozdiak, Consul General of Belgium, Liv Mørch Finborud, Consul General of Norway, Patricia Ellis, WFPG President, and H.E. Rosemary Banks, Ambassador of New Zealand to UN

"The reason why I became a member of the Women's Foreign Policy Group is something that might be of interest: I felt powerless. I felt powerless when I saw how women were doing in the world, and I'm not speaking of us, the privileged, in the United States, in Europe, in Australia, and in New Zealand, and in a few other countries. I am speaking of the other women: the ones who commit suicide everyday because they cannot survive, the ones who cannot go to school because the Taliban locked the doors, and the ones who are purchased as child soldiers, get violated, or get beaten up. All the women in war situations are so powerless, and I know that we have to plug in somewhere in a network to get working. I think solidarity is sometimes lacking between women, even in our countries when it's bringing women to the top. But I want this solidarity and I care for it. I think [the Women's Foreign Policy Group] leads us to interesting speakers, or other interesting networks, and one network has to meet the other network. That is why I am so happy that you bring my colleagues here, because I also hope that they will all join this."

-Renilde Loeckx-Drozdiak, Consul General of Belgium, WFPG Member

Mentoring the Next Generation of Leaders

The Women's Foreign Policy Group hosted two mentoring fairs this spring in Washington, DC and New York. Continuing the WFPG tradition of promoting the next generation of leaders, WFPG members and friends shared their career experiences and expertise with young women and men in the field of international affairs.

The first mentoring fair was held at Georgetown University on February 5, 2007. The event drew over 100 undergraduate and graduate students from the Washington, DC area. It was



WFPG Member Jeannine Scott, Africare, participated in both fairs

co-sponsored by Women in International Security (WIIS) and Georgetown University's MBNA Career Education Center and School of Foreign Service Career Development Center.

The second mentoring fair was held at Columbia University and was co-sponsored by the Columbia University Center for Career Education. Over 100 students from the New York area attended.

WFPG mentoring fairs are a great way for busy professionals to give back to the community, and the WFPG would like to thank the mentors who participated in this year's events.



Gillian Sorensen, WFPG Board Member, opens the mentoring fair at Columbia University



Dawn Calabia, WFPG Board Member, speaks to students at Georgetown University about her career with the United Nations

"The mentoring fair was the most inspiring event I have attended in a very long time. So many times since graduation I've had moments when I felt lost and discouraged. Now that I am not surrounded by professors, the most important thing missing in my life is guidance and support from those who have experience. It was unbelievably inspiring, informative, and exciting to talk to each and every mentor."

-Oberlin College student

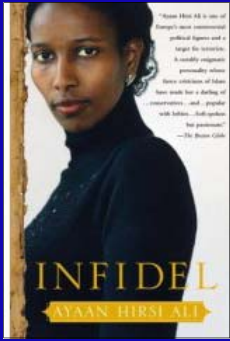


Ambassador Robert Pelletreau speaks to students about careers in the U.S. Foreign Service

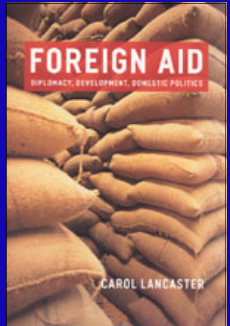


Gillian Sorensen, UN Foundation and WFPG Board, and Kate Burns, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, speak about working for the UN

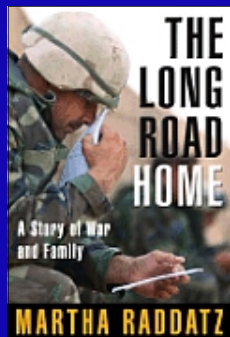
WFPG Authors Series features Ayaan Hirsi Ali



Ayaan Hirsi Ali, *Infidel*



Carol Lancaster, *Foreign Aid: Diplomacy, Development, and Domestic Politics*



Martha Raddatz, *The Long Road Home: A Story of War and Family*

Given its ongoing focus on the role of Islam worldwide, the Women's Foreign Policy Group was pleased to feature Ayaan Hirsi Ali as part of its Authors Series this spring. Ms. Hirsi Ali is a Resident Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and author of her recently published memoir, *Infidel*. The book traces her life growing up in a strict Muslim family enmeshed in the politics of Somalia's tribal clans through her journey to the Netherlands to escape an arranged marriage, her campaign as a Dutch Parliament member to protect the rights of women in Muslim societies, and her transformation from a devout Muslim to its fervent and controversial critic.

Ayaan Hirsi Ali was named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2005, one of the Glamour Heroes of 2005, and Reader's Digest's European of the Year. In 2004, together with director Theo van Gogh, she made a film called *Submission* which focused on the oppression women face in conservative Islamic societies. This film resulted in the assassination of Theo van Gogh by an Islamic fanatic and death threats against Hirsi Ali herself. Despite the risks to her life, she continues to speak out about the injustices

against Muslim women and to engage the world on her views of Islam.

WFPG members and guests gathered at the home of Maxine Isaacs, WFPG Board Chair, to hear from Ayaan Hirsi Ali and to engage with her in a dialogue on tough issues surrounding Islam.

Isabel Jasinowski, WFPG Board, with Ayaan Hirsi Ali spoke softly and elegantly as she told the story of why she decided to write *Infidel*. Reluctant to play the role of the victim, Hirsi Ali moved beyond her personal experiences as a Muslim woman and delivered a powerful argument against the tenets of Islam. She unapologetically made the case for why Islamic principles are incompatible with a democratic society, why she rejects the idea of multiculturalism, and how the practices of female genital mutilation and honor killing are linked to the Qur'an.

Despite her controversial views, the audience was impressed by her frank, honest and thoughtful presentation which allowed for a non-emotional and in-depth interchange of ideas. The back and forth discussion with Hirsi Ali could have continued well into the night, but came to an end with a book signing. A long line of guests holding their copies of *Infidel* formed behind Hirsi Ali: some wanted her autograph, some wanted to share their newfound insights and ask additional questions, and some wanted to thank her for being so brave.



Isabel Jasinowski, WFPG Board, with Ayaan Hirsi Ali



Other Authors Series Events



On June 14, 2007 Martha Raddatz, ABC News Chief White House Correspondent, spoke about her new book: *The Long Road Home: A Story of War and Family*. The program included a book signing by the author and was hosted by Donna Constantinople, WFPG Board Member.



On January 16, 2007 Carol Lancaster, Director of the Mortara Center for International Studies at Georgetown University, spoke about her book: *Foreign Aid: Diplomacy, Development, and Domestic Politics*.

Spring Embassy Series Event: Spotlight on Colombia

The spring Embassy Series event was hosted by H.E. Carolina Barco, Ambassador of Colombia to the United States, at her private residence in Dupont Circle. Ambassador Barco previously held the position of Foreign Minister of Colombia and her knowledge and experience were evident in her eloquent presentation on the current status of the U.S.-Colombian partnership.

Ambassador Barco delivered a candid assessment of the successes that Colombia has had in controlling violence and terror and the challenges that remain in stabilizing the country. A strong U.S.-Colombian partnership, she noted, has played a vital role in these efforts. She informed the audience that there were two pieces of legislation in the U.S. Congress that would be important to maintaining the strength of the U.S.-Colombian partnership.

First, Barco urged approval for changes to *Plan Colombia*, a program designed to foster social development. Second, Barco expressed her support for a free trade agreement between the U.S. and Colombia, which she said is vital to providing legitimate jobs for Colombia's workers. "[The agreements] will allow us to continue along this wonderful path of success of which the U.S. has been a



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Theresa Loar, CH2M Hill and WFPG Board, H.E. Carolina Barco, Dawn Calabia, WFPG Board, and Patricia Ellis, WFPG President

very important part," she concluded.

The WFPG Embassy Series takes place at embassies in Washington, DC and highlights international issues pertinent to the host country. This series rotates to cover different regions of the world.

Ambassador of Egypt Hosts Special Corporate Dinner Event

On May 23rd H.E. Nabil Fahmy, Ambassador of Egypt to the United States, hosted a private dinner at his residence for WFPG corporate members and sponsors. Some of the corporate and institutional members that attended were Janet Howard and Michael Goltzman, The Coca Cola Company; Theresa Loar, CH2M Hill; Rudy Cohen, Raytheon Company; and Steve Moseley, Academy for Educational Development. Other corporate representatives present included ConocoPhillips, Lockheed Martin, UBS Financial Services, and Washington Group International. Ambassador Fahmy, an honorary WFPG member, spoke at the dinner about the Egyptian-American relationship and the future of the Middle East. The WFPG offers special invitations, such as to this exclusive dinner event, as a benefit to its corporate and institutional members and sponsors.



From left: Janet Howard, The Coca Cola Company, Heba Bassily, Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Mary Kay Larcom, ConocoPhillips, Patricia Ellis, WFPG, and Michael Goltzman, The Coca Cola Company



From left: Donna Constantinople, WFPG Board, Theresa Loar, CH2M Hill and WFPG Board, Ambassador Nabil Fahmy, Patricia Ellis, WFPG, and Sarah Kahn, Arnold & Porter LLP and WFPG Pro Bono Legal Counsel

WFPG Board Welcomes Isabel Jasinowski, Newest Board Member

WFPG Board Members

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Gillian Sorensen
United Nations Foundation



Isabel H. Jasinowski is Vice President, Government Relations, and a Corporate Officer of Goodyear. She serves as the company's senior registered lobbyist and has worked at Goodyear since 1981. Having started her career as director of local issues for Governor Jimmy Carter's 1976 presidential campaign,

she has more than 25 years of government relations and Capitol Hill experience.

Gaining most of her international trade and business experience at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Jasinowski set up and ran the Office of Business Liaison, reporting to the Secretary of Commerce.

Jasinowski was born in New York City to a family with a long tradition of transatlantic business and government involvement. She graduated cum laude with honors from Barnard College, holding a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, and completed her master's degree at Columbia University. She speaks French fluently.

New: State Department Series

The WFPG launched a new program series which features senior-level women officials in the U.S. Department of State. Henrietta Holsman Fore, Under Secretary of State for Management, was the first speaker in the new series. On April 11, 2007 she spoke at the U.S. Department of State on: "How Do You Transform a Department and Transform Our Diplomacy for the Future?" The second State Department Series event featured Ellen Sauerbrey, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration, who spoke on the occasion of World Refugee Day about "The U.S. Response to Refugees Worldwide." Assistant Secretary Sauerbrey also spoke to the WFPG in New York on "The U.S. Role in the Protection of Refugee and Displaced Women and Girls."



Ellen Sauerbrey, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration, spoke in New York City



Henrietta Holsman Fore, Under Secretary of State for Management, spoke at the U.S. Department of State

Members in Action: WFPG Member News

Betty Cole Dukert was recently re-elected to serve a third term as president of the Public Members Association of the Foreign Service-USA. (Membership consists of people who have served on Department of State promotion panels as Public Members). In June she will receive a newly established award of "Member of Distinction" from Pi Beta Phi Fraternity at their annual convention in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Joanne Fox-Przeworski, former UNEP director for North America, resigned after seven years as founding director of the Bard College Center for Environmental Policy and creator of its innovative master's program. She is advising on environment, sustainable development and corporate social responsibility.

Diane R. Holt has been appointed to the board of the newly formed Czech Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. The Czech Committee will both support the museum's efforts and support Czech women artists. The Czech Committee is a Czech not-for-profit company and Holt will serve as Vice-Chair and liaison to the museum.

Katherine Marshall co-authored a book with Maria B. Van Saanen on "Development and Faith: Where Mind, Heart, and Soul Work Together," World Bank, July 2007.

Eileen Meier was recently elected to the Board of Directors for UNIFEM (the United Nations Development Fund for Women), 2007-2008 term.

Sherry Mueller was named Alumna of the Year by her undergraduate alma mater, the School of International Service at American University. The award was presented during a dinner celebrating the 49th anniversary of the School at the German Embassy. She published an essay, "Professional Exchanges, Citizen Diplomacy, and Credibility" in *America's Dialogue with the World*, a volume on American public diplomacy (Ed. William P. Kiehl, Public Diplomacy Council, Washington, DC, 2006).

Barbara Rochman received an award from The Center for Women in New York as a "feminist who changed America."

Lange Schermerhorn served as an election observer for Nigeria's April 21st Presidential election.

Anne B. Zill, Director of the Women's Center for Ethics in Action, mounted a fine art exhibition in Cape Town, South Africa in connection with a Vital Voices Women's Leadership Summit in January. Her traveling photography exhibition, Women on War, has just completed its eighth venue at the Theater for the New City in New York.

NAFSA's leading role in working with policy makers and the international education community to develop a national study abroad program resulted in a victory in early June when the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1469. The Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act seeks to dramatically increase the number of American college students who participate in study abroad each year to one million.

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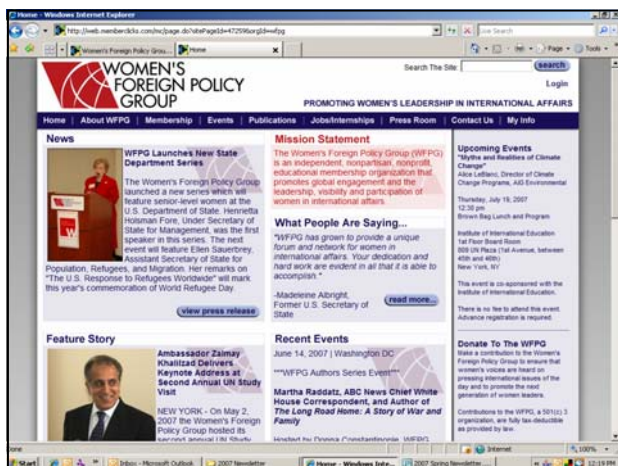
INDEPENDENT WOMEN'S FORUM



New: WFPG Website

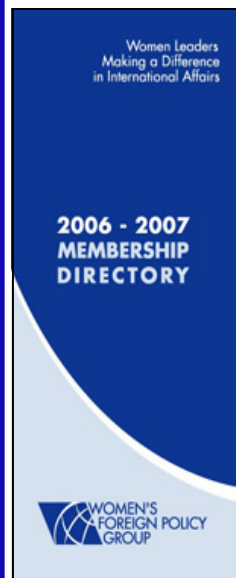
The WFPG is pleased to announce the launch of its new website which includes a sleek and more user-friendly design, feature articles about WFPG events, and links to sign-up online for events and membership, to join the email list, and to donate to the organization. The new site also allows WFPG members to sign-in to their account, manage contact information, and view receipts online.

See the new website:
www.wfpg.org



Membership Directories On Sale

Identify and contact top women
International affairs experts!



The 2006-2007 WFPG Membership Directory is available for purchase. The directory includes information on hundreds of women leaders and experts including their contact information, profiles, and areas of expertise.

The directory is extensively used by the media, government, non-profits, young professionals, universities, and corporations who are looking to identify women candidates, speakers, and interviewees.

Directories are available for \$50 plus \$3 shipping and handling. Members who wish to purchase additional directories may do so for \$25 plus shipping. To order your copy visit www.wfpg.org or call (202) 884-8597.

Intern Corner: Summer Interns



WFPG summer interns, from left: Mollie Braverman, Becca Balis, and Carly Rush

Becca Balis is from St. Louis, Missouri and will be starting her sophomore year at the University of Pennsylvania in the fall. She is studying International Relations, and is focusing on development and international politics. She also plans to continue studying French Language and Art History.

Mollie Braverman is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This fall she will be entering her senior year at the University of Pennsylvania. She is majoring in History with a concentration in Diplomatic History. In addition to speaking French, she has recently started to learn Spanish.

Carly Rush grew up in McLean, Virginia and is now a rising senior at Brown University. She is concentrating in Political Science with a focus on American Politics. She is particularly interested in the gender dynamics of the political arena. She just came back from studying abroad in Prague. Throughout the semester, she visited fifteen countries.

Reflections on My Time with the WFPG

Upon reflection on my time with the Women's Foreign Policy Group over the past two years, I feel incredibly fortunate to have had such exciting experiences and the opportunity to learn so much. Looking back on the countless events the WFPG has hosted, my favorite programs have been the annual spring mentoring fairs. For many WFPG members this is a one-night commitment of sharing their career experiences and offering their advice, but for many young women like me, the advice they hear and the experiences they learn about will leave a lasting impression.

I have been able to participate in several WFPG mentoring fairs and I feel privileged to have been surrounded by so many women role models. One of the most important observations I have had is that there is no clear and straight path to one's dream job. Some of the most interesting and successful women I have met have worked in variety of different fields. As an aspiring diplomat, it was helpful to hear from Board member Theresa Loar, Vice President of Global Strategies at CH2M Hill, who explained to me that she had entered the U.S. Foreign Service after working in advertising, subsequently served in the Clinton administration, and then worked at Vital Voices before going to the corporate sector.

It has also been incredibly valuable to hear how WFPG members began their careers. When I graduated from college two years ago, I was dying to get right into the international affairs community because that was what I cared about. Armed with only my undergraduate degree, I found the job search humbling and the opportunities available frustrating. At a recent mentoring fair Tracy McMinn, Manager of International Government Relations at Shell, said that while it was great that graduating students were so ambitious, they also needed to be realistic about the amount of work experience they would need before landing their ideal job.

Many young women are also concerned about the realities of being a woman in the field, for example, as a Foreign Service Officer (FSO) or humanitarian aid worker, but they seldom get to ask about this. At a recent mentoring fair Jessica LeCroy, a former FSO, explained that many of the senior-level women at the U.S. Department of State are in fact single like her and do not have children, but she said she was very happy with her career decision. Martha Raddatz, ABC News Correspondent, spoke to the WFPG about her experience covering the lives of soldiers in Iraq, and described how it was sometimes difficult to be a mother, wife, and embedded journalist at the same time, but that she involved her family in her work by sharing her experiences and visiting wounded soldiers together in the hospital.

From my boss and mentor Patricia Ellis, I have learned that being creative and persistent can make a big

difference in how opportunities play out for you. "When something does not exist, make it yourself," she tells me. As a journalist covering foreign affairs she realized that there were very few women involved in the field, and thus in 1995, she co-founded the Women's Foreign Policy Group to bring these women together. Working very closely with her over the past two years, she has also given the phrase "don't take no for an answer" new meaning for me. When projects have not worked out as planned or when speakers have fallen through at the last minute, she has shown me that there is always, always another way to make things work.



I feel incredibly lucky to have worked at the WFPG right out of college not only because of what I learned from my boss and WFPG members, but also because of the tremendous amount of responsibility I was given for my age. For a long time the WFPG staff consisted of solely my boss and me, and so fresh out of college, I was planning conferences at the UN, developing programs on foreign policy issues, and meeting with diplomats and government officials. Over time I realized that the WFPG could grow if we enhanced our image and introduced new technology. Encouraged by my boss, I took the initiative and asked if I could focus on promoting the organization's visibility. She created a new position for me as the Director of Communications and Development, and in this capacity, I developed a new WFPG logo, designed a new website, and improved our communication with WFPG members and funders.

Occasionally people ask me why there is still a need for the WFPG given that there are now many women leaders like Condoleezza Rice, Nancy Pelosi, and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. From my perspective, organizations like the WFPG are becoming increasingly more important. When young women like me can see such women leaders or others like Madeleine Albright or Michelle Bachelet speak, it raises the bar for what we expect from ourselves and makes our plans seem possible. Perhaps now more than ever before young women today need strong women role models, and the Women's Foreign Policy Group provides the perfect forum to connect these women leaders with the next generation.

Emily Harter, Director of Communications & Development, will leave the WFPG in July to pursue a M.A. in international affairs at Johns Hopkins University (SAIS) in Bologna, Italy. She will study American Foreign Policy.

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Women's Leadership, Global Engagement

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<p>UN Study Visit 1 <i>U.S. Ambassador to the UN Zalmay Khalilzad delivered the keynote address on "The U.S. Priorities at the UN" at the Second Annual WFPG UN Study Visit.</i></p> <p>Celebration of Women Diplomats 4 <i>Nineteen women diplomats joined the WFPG for a celebration on the occasion of International Women's Day.</i></p> <p>Mentoring Fairs 5</p> <p>Authors Series 6 <i>Carol Lancaster, Foreign Aid: Diplomacy, Development, and Domestic Politics</i> <i>Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Infidel</i> <i>Martha Raddatz, The Long Road Home: A Story of War and Family</i></p>	<p>Embassy Series 7 <i>H.E. Ambassador Nabil Fahmy of the Arab Republic of Egypt hosted a private dinner for WFPG corporate members at his residence.</i></p> <p>Member News 9</p>
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Upcoming Event:

Alice LeBlanc, Director of Climate Change Programs, AIG International
"Myths and Realities of Climate Change"
 July 19, 2007, 12:30 p.m.
 Institute of International Education, First Floor Board Room
 809 UN Plaza, New York
 Sign up online at www.wfpg.org