

Josette Sheeran speaks at Annual Luncheon

The Executive Director of the UN World Food Program Delivers Keynote Luncheon Address



Josette Sheeran

Washington, DC – The Women's Foreign Policy Group honored Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of the UN World Food Program (WFP) on September 29, 2008 at its Annual Luncheon at The Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, DC. Ms. Sheeran delivered the keynote address on the global food crisis, *Hunger as a National Security and Global Stability Issue*, to an audience of nearly 300. The event was chaired by Mary Catherine

Toker of General Mills and was attended by senior officials from government, corporations, international organizations, and NGOs, as well as numerous ambassadors. Lara Logan, CBS News Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent, was the Event MC and moderated the Q & A.

This year's luncheon highlighted the Women's Foreign Policy Group's commitment to issues of particular concern to women, such as the global food crisis. At the WFPG's 2008 UN Study Visit, UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro pointed out that rising food costs are causing a "development emergency" that takes its heaviest toll on women.

In her keynote address, Ms. Sheeran focused on the connection between hunger and national security stating that "We have learned that food is not just a soft power issue but also a hard power issue...hunger must not be viewed solely as a humanitarian challenge, but also as a vital security issue for the United States and indeed for the world."

She described the causes of the global food crisis and the steps that can be taken to resolve it. For example, she pointed out the critical difference a cup of food can make to the hungry in general and especially in keeping girls in school in countries such as Pakistan.

She noted that in September the UN Food and Agriculture Organization reported that the estimated number of hungry people has reached more than 923 million, largely due to the increase in food prices. That number, Sheeran said, could continue to rise to well over one billion if the trends continue. On an optimistic note, Ms. Sheeran pointed out that, despite the current crisis, the overall number of urgently hungry people has decreased by 20 percent since 1969.

Despite her optimism, Ms. Sheeran spoke of the challenges facing the WFP. In describing the current situation, she explained, "We could either cut the kilocalories per person by 40 percent, or cut 40 percent of those receiving emergency help." Ms. Sheeran concluded by calling for the one percent of the world food supply that is used for humanitarian aid to be exempted from bans and excessive taxation.

We have learned that food is not just a soft power issue but also a hard power issue . . . hunger must not be viewed solely as a humanitarian challenge, but also as a vital security issue for the United States and indeed for the world.

-Josette Sheeran



WFPG Board Members with Josette Sheeran, Event MC Lara Logan, and Event Chair Mary Catherine Toker

ANNUAL LUNCHEON



World Food Programme Executive Director Josette Sheeran



CBS News Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent Lara Logan with Josette Sheeran



WFPG Board Chair Maxine Isaacs



Annual Event Chair Mary Catherine Toker, Vice President, Government Relations, General Mills, Inc.



Lara Logan, Josette Sheeran, WFPG President Patricia Ellis, Mary Catherine Toker, and Maxine Isaacs



WFPG Board Treasurer Dawn Calabia and Ambassador Raymond Joseph of Haiti



Patricia Ellis with Josette Sheeran and World Bank President Robert Zoellick



WFPG Board Member Debbie Dingell and Board Chair Maxine Isaacs



WFPG Board Member Susan Rappaport, Patricia Ellis, WFPG Board Vice Chair Gail Kitch, and Mary Catherine Toker

Visit www.wfpg.org for more luncheon photos and the transcript of Josette Sheeran's remarks and Q&A with Lara Logan.



WFGP Board Secretary Donna Constantinople speaks with guests



Frederick Tipson of UNDP and Ambassador Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic of Croatia



Barbara Slavin talking with WFGP Pro Bono Counsel Sarah Kahn of Arnold & Porter, LLP



Patricia Ellis with WFGP Board Member Isabel Jasinowski and Devry Bougher of Cargill



WFGP Board Chair Maxine Isaacs, Ambassador Giovanni Castellaneta of Italy and Patricia Ellis



Guests at the WFGP Annual Luncheon Reception



WFGP Board Vice Chair Gail Kitch with Barbara Slavin of the Washington Times and Amanda Ellis of the World Bank



WFGP Board Member Theresa Loar (center) with luncheon guests



Patricia Ellis and Josette Sheeran with WFGP staff, interns, and volunteers

The WFGP Annual Luncheon was made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of the following corporations and organizations*:



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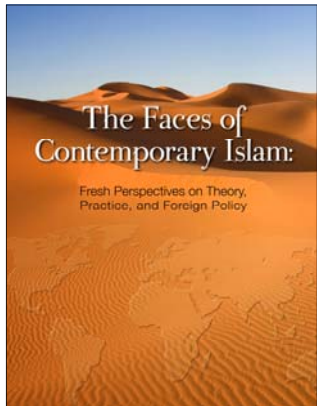
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The WFPG's Conference on Islam with Carnegie Scholars

The Faces of Contemporary Islam: Fresh Perspectives on Theory, Practice, and Foreign Policy



Conference Report available at
www.wfpg.org

On November 18, 2008, the Women's Foreign Policy Group held a conference on "The Faces of Contemporary Islam: Fresh Perspectives on Theory, Practice, and Foreign Policy" at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, DC. The conference, supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, focused on the diversity and complexity of Islam and on ways to promote a better understanding between the Muslim world and the West. Eight

Carnegie scholars explored key issues including the compatibility of Islam and democracy, the myths and realities regarding women's rights, policies and attitudes toward Muslims in Europe, media coverage of Islam, and US-Muslim relations. The conference also featured two keynote speakers, who were instrumental in connecting the scholars' work to pressing foreign policy issues: Professor John Esposito, Founding Director of Georgetown University's Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding and H.E. Dr. Hussein Hassouna, the Arab League Ambassador to the US.

The in-depth, nuanced presentations of all the speakers addressed realities facing the majority of Muslims that do not receive sufficient attention in the West. The speakers cited examples from history, polls, and their own research to contradict pervasive myths, stereotypes, and misconceptions prevalent in the West. In addition, analysis of situations facing Muslims across Europe and of the American and British media's coverage of Islam helped to enhance understanding of today's realities.

Scholars presented historical and contemporary examples of the compatibility of Islam and democracy to address whether the two can successfully function together. Asma Afsaruddin pointed out that there was once similar skepticism of Christianity's

compatibility with democracy, and that in the case of Islam, the democratic principles of consultation, consent, and consensus – which have roots in the Quran and traditional Muslim practices – provide the building blocks for Islamic democracy. Elizabeth Thompson recounted the beginnings of an Arab democracy in 1920 in Damascus that included a constitutional assembly, a democratic constitution, and a burgeoning women's suffrage movement, which was derailed by an impending French invasion. Elora Shehabuddin criticized Western disregard for Islamic history and politics and rejected the concept of "the moderate Muslim," terming it a creation of think tanks, media and popular memoirs which are not representative of Muslims, especially women. Alternatively she urged the West to view the lives of Muslims – both as individuals and as groups, states and ideologies – in contemporary and historical context.

Lila Abu-Lughod, along with the other speakers, called on the Western media to end the rampant and dangerous stereotyping of Muslim women as prisoners of culture and faith and for the media to include the diverse voices of Muslim women. Madhavi Sunder highlighted the work of Muslim women reformers across the world, which she termed, the "new enlightenment." She explained how these grassroots movements have made unprecedented strides in promoting women's rights and supporting democracy and equality from within the spheres of Islamic culture and religion. Speaking about the situation of women in her native Iran, Farzaneh Milani lamented the West's ignorance of Iran's complexity, the role women are playing in changing the country, and all the changes occurring for women outside the political arena. For example, she pointed out that books by Iranian women cultural icons go largely unread in the West, while books promoting the image of Iranian women as prisoners regularly make the *New York Times* bestseller list.

John Bowen cautioned against generalizing about European attitudes and policies towards Muslims. He went on to explain that the unique relationship each country has with their Muslim populations is shaped by historical colonial ties, transnational pathways of Muslims from their countries of origin, and the particular opportunity structures.

(cont. on page 6)



Visit www.wfpg.org for the WFPG's Islam Conference podcasts, pictures, transcripts, and report.



Professor John Esposito, Founding Director of the Prince Al-waleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at the Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University



H.E. Dr. Hussein Hassouna, Ambassador of the League of Arab States to the United States



Judy Woodruff, Senior Correspondent and Political Editor for the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer



Professor Shireen Hunter, Georgetown University, Patricia Ellis, WFPG, and Patricia Rosenfield, Carnegie Corporation of New York

Carnegie Scholars



Professor Asma Afsaruddin
University of Notre Dame



Professor Elizabeth Thompson
University of Virginia



Professor Elora Shehabuddin
Rice University



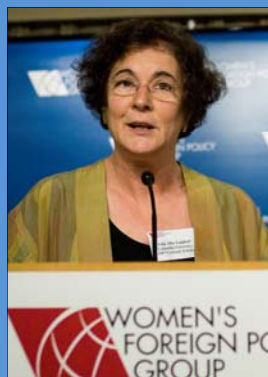
Professor Susan Moeller
University of Maryland



Professor John Bowen
Washington University in St. Louis



Professor Madhavi Sunder
University of Chicago Law School



Professor Lila Abu-Lughod
Columbia University



Professor Farzaneh Milani
University of Virginia

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Carnegie Scholar Islam Conference (cont.)



Susan Moeller discussed the impact of the US and UK media's "broad brush" coverage of Islam on shaping and reinforcing Western misconceptions. In particular, she discussed the effect three pivotal issues of media coverage – audience, language, and content – have on attitudes and policies.

Keynote speaker John Esposito discussed the causes of both Western and Muslim misperceptions, which have hindered US-Muslim relations and analyzed what Muslims and Americans really think based on recent polls. Luncheon speaker, Ambassador Hussein Hassouna, emphasized the need for the US to understand that while Muslims are linked by their faith, they are otherwise quite diverse. Esposito

pointed out that most Muslims want democracy that reflects religious values but do not see sharia as the only source of law. Both speakers agreed that the essential rift between the Muslim world and the West is not over religion or culture, but over differences on foreign policy, particularly over a prevalent view among Muslims of the US government's double standard towards the Muslim world. Both men view the arrival of a new administration as an opportunity to improve US-Muslim relations and promote understanding through a greater emphasis on diplomacy and dialogue.

By providing an opportunity for scholars and foreign policy practitioners to engage in a dialogue and discuss these important aspects of contemporary Islam in depth, the conference served as an important step in promoting a better understanding of Islam and Muslim world.



Visit www.wfpg.org for the WFPG's Islam Conference podcasts, pictures, transcripts, and report.

WFPG Author Series: Reporting from the Frontlines *Breathing the Fire, Fighting to Report-and Survive-the War in Iraq* by Kimberly Dozier



WFPG President Patricia Ellis, Kimberly Dozier, WFPG Board Member Susan Rappaport, and WFPG Board Chair Maxine Isaacs

Washington, DC – On January 14, 2009, the Women's Foreign Policy Group held its first Author Series Event of 2009 at the home of Susan Rappaport where CBS News correspondent Kimberly Dozier spoke about and signed her book, *Breathing the Fire, Fighting to Report-and Survive-the War in Iraq*. Ms. Dozier, who has covered Iraq and the Middle East extensively, worked primarily in Baghdad starting in 2003. On Memorial Day 2006 she was among the victims of a 500-pound car bomb attack by insurgents that killed two of her colleagues and left her critically wounded. She discussed her recovery from the near fatal attack, and the pressures of reporting from a war zone like Iraq.

Ms. Dozier also described how her reporting was criticized by both conservatives and liberals given the polarized view of the Iraq war in Washington. Yet she explained how this criticism signaled to her that she was getting things right, "I was 50/50 and both sides hated me." Problems, including rising security costs and a waning audience, increased pressure to report new and exciting stories in risky and dangerous situations such as her trip to a notorious neighborhood in Southern Baghdad where she was attacked.

Kimberly Dozier is currently based in Washington DC where she covers the Pentagon and the White House. She told the audience that she thinks that it is a great time to be in DC. Despite her 2006 experience, she would still like to return to Iraq and Afghanistan in the future to be able to report both sides of the story.

WFPG Author Series with Author Linda Robinson

Tell Me How This Ends: General David Petraeus and the Search for a Way Out of Iraq

On September 11, 2008 in Washington, DC and on October 27, 2008 at the Austrian Consulate General in New York, Linda Robinson, author in residence at the Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies at the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies and author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Masters of Chaos*, discussed her new book, *Tell Me How This Ends: General David Petraeus and the Search for a Way Out of Iraq* at WFPG Author Series programs. Drawing on her experience and time spent in the region, Robinson offered her expertise and insight concerning General Petraeus' efforts to turn the tide in Iraq. The General, she explained, played an important role in the reconstruction effort through his leadership, commitment, and accessibility. She gave particular credit to the strong partnership between General Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker as a key factor that ensured success. Working together, the General and Ambassador Crocker understood the military and political dimensions of the conflict, and were committed to addressing both. Additionally, Robinson offered policy proposals for the next administration. "The way ahead," she stated, "is a needed reevaluation of the United States' position in Iraq," and she argued that the US must place conditions on a continued American presence in the country. She also argued that the Iraqi government needs better representation of the population and extensive constitutional reform.



Consul General Brigitta Blaha,
Linda Robinson, and Patricia Ellis

2008 Election Series: America and the World

Susan Eisenhower on the Obama Campaign and Carly Fiorina on the McCain Campaign



Susan Eisenhower

On October 17, 2008, Susan Eisenhower, a former long-time Republican and granddaughter of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, spoke about her views on American foreign policy and her decision to support Senator Barack Obama. She addressed WFPG members and guests at the 2008 Election Series event in Washington, DC. Ms. Eisenhower is

president and founder of the think tank named for her grandfather, The Eisenhower Group, which provides strategic counsel for business and public affairs. She is also the author of three books, and numerous articles on national security topics.

Ms. Eisenhower explained that two factors, which have intensified in the last eight years, played a major part in her decision to become an Independent and to publicly endorse Barack Obama for president: first, a strong feeling that the US lacks a strategy for the future, and second, a sense in America that there are no consequences for actions. She said that these factors are responsible for what she termed the country's recent "derailment." When Obama first reached out to her she explained to him that "a complex interwoven set of challenges threaten the viability and the long-term security of this country." She was impressed that Obama understands that the US desperately needs a strategy to deal with these challenges. Ms. Eisenhower called Obama and his campaign staff "extraordinary" listeners and found that the Obama campaign was talking – and listening – to people across the political spectrum.

In conclusion, Ms. Eisenhower talked about what an honor it was to speak at the Democratic National Convention. She said the Obama team did not ask her to change a word of the speech she wrote and never asked to look at it in advance.

On October 3, 2008, Carly Fiorina, Victory '08 Chairman of the Republican National Committee, shared her perspective on Senator John McCain's foreign policy plans and presidential campaign. She addressed WFPG members and guests at the 2008 Election Series event in Washington, DC. Ms. Fiorina is the chairman and CEO of Carly Fiorina Enterprises, a bestselling author, sought-after speaker, and business commentator. She is also a strategic advisor to government, business, non-profit organizations, and serves on numerous corporate and nonprofit boards. As chairman and CEO of Hewlett Packard Company between 1999 and 2005, she was the first and only woman to lead a Fortune 20 company.



Carly Fiorina

Ms. Fiorina spoke about her first impressions of Senator McCain when she met him after he lost the Republican presidential nomination to George W. Bush in 2000. Instead of embittered, she found McCain to be focused and knowledgeable about the role of innovation in driving the economy forward. Ms. Fiorina said she is most impressed by the Senator's consistency, explaining that, "he walks the walk, he doesn't just talk the talk." She also stressed that McCain has a decades-long track record of being an internationalist and shared her view that, while the relationship between Europe and the US would be less comfortable with a President McCain than a President Obama, it would be more productive.

During a lively Q&A, Ms. Fiorina was asked about her own political aspirations and she replied that she has always made choices in her life by considering whether they would be challenging and would provide the opportunity to learn something new and make a positive difference.

Embassy Series Event and Mentoring Fairs

Embassy Series Event with Ambassador Vimont of France

France's Presidency of the EU: A Conversation with Ambassador Vimont

On December 10, 2008, French Ambassador H.E. Pierre Vimont hosted an event at his residence in Washington, DC for WFPG members and friends. The event included a reception and program on "France's Presidency of the EU" which was moderated by Margaret Warner, a Senior Correspondent for the Newshour with Jim Lehrer. In his overview, Ambassador Vimont spoke about the EU presidency rotation and how each country inherits issues and brings its own ideas to the presidency. France inherited the issue of climate, and brought the issues of immigration, European defense, and cooperation with Mediterranean neighbors. Yet, as he explained, the French presidency of the European Union focused on the three main challenges which were not anticipated: the Irish vote against the Lisbon Treaty, the Georgian crisis, and the global financial crisis. According to the Ambassador, "we hadn't foreseen [these challenges] at all." He also stressed the importance of the transatlantic partnership between the EU and the United States since today's problems and challenges are of such a magnitude that they require working together.

In her interview with Ambassador Vimont, Margaret Warner questioned the Ambassador about anticipated changes in US-EU relations under President Obama, and how the US and Europe would be working together on pressing issues including Afghanistan, Iran, the Middle East peace process, the financial crisis, Russia, and Africa. On behalf of the European nations, the Ambassador expressed hope to see "America playing its role as a major leader" again. He pointed out the optimism and different way America is being perceived. He also spoke of ongoing US-European cooperation despite differences over Afghanistan and Iran, and of the important partnership between Europe and the US in the Middle East. In addition, Ambassador Vimont discussed the importance of working together on the financial crisis since the US and the EU are "facing more or less the same problems," and commented on the impact of the crisis on the French and American economies. The Ambassador also spoke about the importance of cooperation on the issue of Russia and on bringing peace and stability to Africa.



Ambassador Vimont with Margaret Warner



WFPG Board Treasurer Dawn Calabria



Ambassador Vimont with WFPG Board members

Mentoring the Next Generation of Leaders

The WFPG hosts Annual Mentoring Fairs in New York and Washington, DC to encourage and promote the next generation of leaders. WFPG members and friends share their career expertise with young women and men interested in international affairs. Mentors discuss careers in fields including the Foreign Service, international law and business, NGOs, and national security. WFPG Mentoring Fairs give busy professionals the opportunity to give back to the community. The WFPG would like to thank the mentors who participated and encourage all of its members to take the time to mentor a student or young professional this year.

The first mentoring fair of 2009 was held at Georgetown University in February. The event drew over 140 students and young professionals from the Washington, DC area. Universities represented include Georgetown, George Washington, American, Johns Hopkins, and Howard. The fair was co-sponsored by Women in International Security (WIIS) and Georgetown's School of Foreign Service Career Development Center.

This year's New York Mentoring Fair will be held on February 25th at New York University. The event will be co-sponsored by NYU's Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and Wasserman Center for Career Development, with additional support from several NYU student groups, NYU Wagner's International Public Service Association, NYU Stern's Women in Business, and NYU's International Relations Society.



WFPG Board Member Tracy McMinn, Government Relations Manager for Shell, talks to a student about international business and government relations

2008 OAS Study Visit and UNDP's Kathleen Cravero

Organization of American States Study Visit Democracy and Women's Leadership in the Americas

Washington, DC – On July 23, 2008, the Women's Foreign Policy Group hosted its first OAS Study Visit at the Organization of American States. OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza delivered the keynote address to WFPG members and guests. Senior-level OAS officials also delivered remarks and a panel of women Ambassadors to the OAS discussed current issues facing the Americas, including democracy, human rights, security, and development challenges. The conference drew over 60 participants from academic, diplomatic, business, governmental, and non-profit communities. Senior-level OAS officials, Irene Klinger, Director of the Department of International Affairs and Ambassador Suzanne Laporte, Secretary for External Relations, discussed the political, economic, and social role of women in the Americas, and how the OAS works to promote democracy, human rights, and security. Carmen Lomellin, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) moderated the panel discussion, which featured Ambassadors to the OAS: H.E. María Zavala Valladares of Peru, H.E. Glenda Morean-Phillip of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and H.E. María del Lujan Flores of Uruguay. The program concluded with a tour of the historic OAS building and the Museum of the Americas.



From Left: H.E. María Zavala Valladares, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Peru to the OAS; H.E. Glenda Morean-Phillip, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the OAS; H.E. María del Lujan Flores, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the OAS; Carmen Lomellin, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM); Irene Klinger, Director Department of International Affairs, Secretariat for External Affairs, OAS; Suzanne Laporte, Secretary, Secretariat for External Relations, OAS; Jose Miguel Insulza, Secretary General, OAS

Violence Against Women in Crisis: From Advocacy to Action UNDP's Dr. Kathleen Cravero on Combating Sexual Violence against Women in Conflict and Post-Conflict Zones

On July 17, 2008, Dr. Kathleen Cravero, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Director of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, and Chair of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, spoke to an audience of WFPG members and guests at the Law Offices of Arnold & Porter, LLP. Dr. Cravero spoke about sexual violence against women in conflict zones and in post-conflict nations. Noting both milestones and challenges, she spoke of the present as a "historically optimistic moment" since it has seen world leaders move rape from a solely humanitarian issue to a foreign policy priority. However she also explained that women are now, more than ever before, targets of war and that sexual violence is being used as a tactic of war on an unprecedented scale.



Kathleen Cravero, Dawn Calabia, Patricia Ellis, Ambassador Hawa Olga of Malawi

Dr. Cravero called for greater visibility in prosecuting sexual violence so that potential perpetrators see that women's lives matter to the community and that they will be held accountable. She discussed the June 19, 2008 unanimous adoption of Resolution 1820 by the Security Council. Resolution 1820, which raises the political, military and economic cost of sexual violence, acknowledges that "durable peace can never be built on women's silent suffering." Dr. Cravero laid out four reasons that illustrate the significance of 1820: (1) it links sexual violence as a tactic of war with the international peace and security agenda, (2) it brings the policy framework squarely into alignment with international law, (3) it affirms the importance of women's participation in all processes related to ending sexual violence, and (4) it requests the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive report on implementation and to devise a lasting solution for improving the flow of information on sexual violence to the Security Council.

In closing, Dr. Cravero called on the audience members to find ways, in their respective spheres of influence, to keep sexual violence on the agenda of the media and elected officials and to thus "capitalize on the current momentum as a message of hope to women the world-over." Dr. Cravero asked the audience to visit www.stoprapenow.org to learn more.

Visit www.wfpg.org for pictures and transcripts of this and other WFPG events

WFPG

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Reflections on the Progress of Burmese Relief

by WFPG Board Treasurer Dawn Calabia

I visited Burma with colleagues from Refugees International, a privately funded advocacy group three months after last May's fierce cyclone struck Burma's delta bringing torrential winds, flooding, impacting 2.4 million and killing over 100,000. It has now been nine months into the response to the crisis and emergency relief is still needed in many areas.

Burma's military dictatorship initially rejected relief but then relented after holding a constitutional referendum. Head of State, Than Shwe, opened up the ravaged communities to international relief, perhaps because of the staggering need estimated at over \$3 billion and perhaps in response to pressure from the United States, the United Kingdom, neighboring states, and the UN, including a visit by the Secretary-General.

Over a thousand international experts and relief workers have since responded. The UN requested \$482 million for basic humanitarian needs for 12 months. Only 60% of the funds have been raised with the remainder needed for food security, drinking water, shelter, and the restoration of livelihoods particularly for the landless and former fishermen.

Women were the primary victims of the storm and their families lost their caretakers as well as their belongings. Many children cannot return to school, some because 4,000 schools were destroyed, others must now care for siblings or work to survive. Burmese groups and individuals have demonstrated courage and ingenuity in aiding their fellow citizens and exhibited lively interest in building new skills and capacities for self-reliance.

With Burma off the front pages, international response, including the US, has dropped off and recovery has slowed. Some critics complain any aid should go to more worthy nations. Meanwhile, the survivors are threatened by a poor harvest, rising prices, destroyed local economies and inadequate shelter. The US, initially a generous donor, has been unwilling to commit the additional \$20 million in disaster or humanitarian funding that would help impoverished families survive, develop new livelihoods, and build civil society.

Even before the storm, Burma was one of the world's least developed countries: its citizens have half the incomes of Bangladeshis or Cambodians. Its government is one of the worst human rights oppressors: over the years, 2.5 million Burmese have fled to neighboring states for economic survival, hope and freedom. Provinces bordering Thailand have seen a long-term conflict between the central government and ethnic groups. The leader of the National League of Democracy, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and her colleagues, victors in the 1988 elections, remain under house arrest, imprisoned, silenced and forbidden to run in the 2010 elections.

Without increased international humanitarian aid inside the country and through cross border operations, more Burmese will needlessly suffer the consequences of communicable diseases, hunger, water shortages, illiteracy and stunted hope. A number of independent NGOs now operate small humanitarian programs but far more is needed.

Burma's neighbors in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) stepped in to broker international cyclone relief via a tripartite core working group (TCG) of government, UN and ASEAN representatives that meets weekly to resolve issues. The TCG has succeeded beyond expectations. Teams of World Bank and donor experts, with the government, conduct independent initial and periodic disaster assessments and evaluations of aid effectiveness. According to my research these humanitarian programs have proven cost-effective and able to reach those in need.

Recently released ASEAN assessments show that the US and other countries concerned about the survival of the people of Burma and the development of its civil society should fund this new appeal. They should work with the UN to press the regime to expand humanitarian programs in the Delta and other parts of the country to reach those in dire need of aid.

Welcome WFPG Winter Interns



From left: Caitlin Crotty, a junior at American University, Paula Katrina Drago, a senior at the George Washington University, Kaitlyn Neuberger, a junior at Georgetown University, Avni Mehta, a sophomore at Georgetown University, and Katie Fricke, a sophomore at the University of California-Irvine

"Being able to participate in discussion on current events and crises with influential members of society and experts was exciting, invaluable and educational. I learned so much from the women I met, both at the WFPG and at our events."
-Helah Robinson, 2008 intern

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As a WFPG Member you will receive:

- ◆ Special member rates for frequent international issues programs in Washington, DC and New York
- ◆ Opportunities to network with senior women officials and the foreign policy community including ambassadors, foreign ministers, and US officials
- ◆ Invitations to members-only events
- ◆ Opportunities to mentor students and young professionals

Members are drawn from across the international affairs community and include international organizations, the government, and the corporate, non-profit, diplomatic, and media sectors. WFPG membership is open to women, men, and organizations that are committed to global engagement and the promotion of women's leadership in international affairs. For more information and to sign-up online, please visit www.wfpg.org.

The Women's Foreign Policy Group offers individual, leadership circle, student, young professional, institutional, and corporate memberships. See www.wfpg.org for details.

Members in Action: WFPG Member News

Sheila Avrin McLean was recently elected to the Board of Directors of IFES, a bipartisan international nonprofit organization that supports countries building democratic societies by focusing on elections, rule of law, good governance and civil society.

Professor Yvonne Captain spoke at the 16th Annual Conference of AMPEI (Mexican Association for International Education) in Mérida, Mexico on the best practices for internationalization within an organization before seeking partnerships with like-minded institutions.

Kelly Castagnaro, Director of the Communications Program at the International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC) helped release the IWHC's *A New Agenda for Girls' and Women's Health and Rights* in conjunction with the Better World Campaign. The publication outlines a new agenda for international cooperation on women's health and rights and is part of a series of recommendations for the next Administration called *Don't Go It Alone: America's Interest in International Cooperation*.

Barbara Crossette, a former New York Times foreign correspondent and United Nations bureau chief, joined The Nation as UN correspondent and writer on international affairs in September.

Payal Dalal recently gave remarks at the World Bank in front of an audience, that included Managing Director of the World Bank, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, on the importance on investing in young girls and women in emerging market economies.

Helen R. Desfosses, who still teaches public administration part-time at SUNY-Albany, spent two weeks in early December on a USAID-funded project in Kyrgyzstan to help strengthen municipal councils.

Maria Ferris published and wrote, *Finding My Life Through Poems, Proverbs and Dreams*, second edition. A series of poems and dreams compiled in chronological order, the book takes the reader through a difficult period in Ferris's life and shows how her life unravels through a series of poems and dreams.

Margaret Lehrman of NBC News spent five weeks in St. Paul, MN, this summer, setting up and producing the 15-camera television "pool" coverage of the Republican National Convention for five TV networks (ABC, CBS, CNN, FOX and NBC), plus C-SPAN, NPR, PBS News Hour, HD Net, and other subscribers.

Kezia McKeague has joined the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations as a Legislative Assistant.

Sherry Mueller with coauthor Mark Overmann wrote a book entitled *Working World - Careers in International Education, Exchange, and Development*, published in October by Georgetown University Press, is an intergenerational dialogue on building a career (not just finding a series of jobs).

Jenni Rothenberg recently joined the U.S. Global Leadership Campaign, a broad-based coalition of 400 businesses and non-governmental organizations that supports continued global engagement and a robust U.S. International Affairs Budget, as their new Field Director.

Jeanine B. Scott served as an NGO delegate, in October, representing Inter-Action at UNHCR's Executive Committee meetings in Geneva. She was a member of the Assistant Secretary of State's delegation from the Bureau of Population, Refugees & Migration. In November she presented a paper in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil to the first African and African Diasporan Women's Colloquium, reflecting on the challenges of poverty, racism and gender.

Johanna Vargas recently completed her MBA in Finance from Rutgers University. She also received a job promotion as a Corporate Social Responsibility Analyst at Intertek.

Rosa Whitaker was recently honored by Bennett College for Women with the "Woman with the Audacity to Excel Award" and was also appointed to the Board of Directors for the global charity, Mercy Ships.

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Women's Leadership, Global Engagement

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New WFPG Publication

The Faces of Contemporary Islam Fresh Perspectives on Theory, Practice, and Foreign Policy Leaders

*A report covering the Carnegie Islam Series Conference
Now available on the WFPG website*

www.wfpg.org