



Empowering Women Worldwide:

Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women

On April 28, 2011, Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women and Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, addressed WFPG on the role her agency plays in the political and economic empowerment of women internationally. The luncheon was held at the United Nations and moderated by WFPG President Patricia Ellis.

Launched on February 24th of this year, UN Women is already working hard to improve life for women worldwide. Bachelet outlined the five main goals of UN Women for the audience: encouraging women's economic empowerment, increasing female political participation and leadership, engaging women in peace and post-conflict processes, involving women in national development planning, and ending violence against women and girls. To help achieve these goals, UN Women will build partnerships with other UN agencies such as UNESCO, UNICEF, and UN HABITAT, as well as international NGOs and locally-based women's organizations.

Bachelet has firsthand experience in encouraging women's political leadership. During her term as President of Chile, Bachelet created gender parity by appointing equal numbers of men and women in her first cabinet and other politically appointed positions. Bachelet believes that gender quotas are an effective means of creating female political participation. She noted that in states with quotas,

an average of 34% of the government is comprised of women, as opposed to an average of 12% in states without quotas. She also stressed the importance of women's leadership on a local level.

One of UN Women's aims is to "build the political voice and institutional capacity of women's organizations" because "[o]ne of the most important factors in women's political

The reality is that it is difficult to separate economic and political empowerment for women, since they go hand in hand... Despite some progress, there is still a long way to go.

empowerment is providing spaces for effective engagement with their governments so that they can negotiate for gender equality priorities." In keeping with this goal, UN Women hopes to foster women's political leadership in Tunisia and Egypt. Bachelet talked about the role of women in the recent political uprisings in these countries. While women played a very active role in organizing political demonstrations and engaging social media, they have primarily been excluded from the political decision-making process during the transition. UN Women will attempt to counteract this by sponsoring a national women's convention in the lead-up to the Egyptian elections in September in order to organize Egyptian women's organizations so that they can "speak with one

voice.” UN Women is also “advocating for the establishment of an international facility to support women’s institutional participation, consisting of on-call experts that can work with local women to facilitate their involvement in all official processes.”

Bachelet believes that women’s political involvement and economic power are complementary. As she explained: “On the one hand, women are more likely to take on leadership roles if they have some degree of economic autonomy; while on the other hand, a greater number of women in leadership positions increase their ability to secure policies that advance women’s economic empowerment in different sectors.” Though progress has been made in this area, women hold only one in five senior management positions globally. One reason mentioned for this disparity is the “economy of care,” meaning that women are often limited professionally by their duty as caregivers. As President of Chile, Bachelet attempted to reconcile women’s private and public lives by creating thousands of daycare centers for low-income children and expanding free healthcare to cover many serious conditions.

Another focus of UN Women is to increase the involvement of women in peacemaking and post-conflict processes. A UN study found that women are vastly under-represented in conflict negotiation teams, since it is suggested that there are not enough women trained in this expertise. In addition, often one or both parties in a conflict veto the choice of a female negotiator. In order to ameliorate this problem, UN Women will be training

women in conflict negotiation and encouraging the inclusion of women in peacekeeping teams.

Ending sexual violence is another important priority. Bachelet emphasized that this is a problem faced by women in both the developing and developed world. Though many countries have laws prohibiting sexual violence, they are frequently not enforced. To combat sexual violence, UN Women will be working with UN HABITAT, city planners and officials, and local women’s organizations to make cities safer for women and enable their access to public life and political participation. Bachelet also believes that it is critical to engage men in the fight for women’s empowerment and to end sexual violence. Men are the primary focus of the UN Secretary-General’s UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign. Additionally, she feels that it is important to examine negative portrayals of women in the media.

Bachelet hopes to bring the experience that she gained as President of Chile and as Minister of Defense and work together with male and female colleagues to dispel negative attitudes towards women. As the first female President of Chile and the first female defense minister in the Americas, she was an important symbol of women’s empowerment and showed that women have the ability to address national security issues. In these positions, Bachelet used her power to improve the conditions of women in the military and the police forces, and to dramatically increase women’s political participation in her country. Now as the Executive Director of UN Women, Bachelet is working to empower women worldwide both politically and economically.



Michelle Bachelet and Patricia Ellis during the Q&A session



Michelle Bachelet with Patricia Ellis and WFPG Board Members Theresa Loar, Mary Catherine Toker, and Susan Rappaport

Beyond the Headlines

A Conversation on US-Pakistani Relations with Ambassador Husain Haqqani



Jun 29 – Ambassador Husain Haqqani addressed WFPG on the importance and future of US-Pakistani relations. His remarks were followed by a conversation on these subjects with *Washington Post* National Security Correspondent Karen DeYoung.

Ambassador Haqqani believes that many of the tensions in the US-Pakistani relationship stem from how differently the two countries perceive and approach their relationship. Pakistan prizes consistency in their bilateral relationships, while the United States favors a more functional and problem-solving approach. As a result, Pakistan has felt repeatedly abandoned by the US over the course of its relationship, especially following the Cold War. Haqqani emphasized the need for the two nations to invest in a long-term strategic relationship, stressing that, "the world is not a problem for America to solve; the world is a reality for America to understand and live with." He added that China has done a much better job than the US of maintaining a consistent relationship with Pakistan over the last half century.

That said, the Ambassador admitted that there is a "complicated reality" in Pakistan. Already high anti-American sentiment was further increased after the May 2nd Abbottabad raid to extract Osama bin Laden. Many Pakistanis feel that the raid impinged on their nation's sovereignty because the operation was conducted within their borders without notice. Haqqani stressed that there has been no evidence that his government knew where bin Laden was hiding, but conceded that of the 118 million people in Pakistan, it is possible for small groups of extremists to provide networks and safe havens for terrorists.

Haqqani went on to try to explain the discrepancy between the extensive amount of US aid to Pakistan (exceeding \$20 billion over the last eight years) and the low approval ratings of the US among Pakistanis. He emphasized that the US cannot buy approval. Haqqani asserted that the US needs to do a better job of explaining its policies to the Muslim world, a task impeded by the

lack of long-term diplomats and the closing of USIA cultural centers. Ambassador Haqqani added that threatening to cut off aid to sway a foreign country's policy decisions—a strategy Congress is considering using for Pakistan—has not proved effective in the past. Aid, he believes, should not be seen as a reward for good behavior or high approval numbers, but as a well thought out and consistent international effort to help stabilize a country for the long term.

According to Haqqani, another cause of anti-Americanism is the media's influence over Pakistani youth. Over half of all Pakistanis are under 18, and 48% of them do not have any formal education. Haqqani asserts that these factors have made youth more susceptible to the US conspiracy stories that are regularly broadcasted on Pakistan's 38 uncensored news channels. He suggested that the US follow Israel's example and have an Arabic-speaking spokesman on Al Jazeera to help influence the debate.

Throughout his remarks, Ambassador Haqqani emphasized the need for quiet diplomacy over strong-worded political rhetoric, cautioned against oversimplifying the situation, and expressed hope that Americans will adopt a more patient and historically cognizant view of Pakistan. He said confidently, "[We should] bring the decibels and the anger on both sides down, and move forward. I think we can, and I am quite certain we will."



[Watch online at c-spanvideo.org!](http://c-spanvideo.org/)

Embassy Series

Africa Women Leaders: Their Role in Promoting Investment, Trade and Peace



Jul 13 – WFPG members and guests gathered at the Embassy of Zambia to recognize the women ambassadors from Africa. Host Ambassador Sheila Siwela was joined by her colleagues Ambassador Tebelelo Seretse of Botswana, Ambassador Fatima Veiga of Cape Verde, Ambassador Faida Mitifu of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Ambassador Amelia Sumbana of Mozambique for a discussion moderated by WFPG President Patricia Ellis.

In her opening remarks, Ambassador Siwela spoke about the current rapid economic growth in Africa, and emphasized the role of African women in creating it. She said, "it's important to recognize the important role of the African women in the midst of all these developmental strides on the continent, otherwise we'll be forever invisible." Women do the majority of domestic and agricultural work in Africa, work which is often under-appreciated. Women who want to become entrepreneurs face many challenges, including a lack of access to credit, male-biased inheritance laws, weak IT skills, and a low tolerance of risk. To help women overcome these hurdles, Secretary Clinton launched the African Women's Entrepreneurs Program, which provides support to women producing exportable goods and sponsors an annual forum to share ideas and collaborate. Siwela added that women ambassadors in the US can create opportunities for women by facilitating bilateral relationships.

The Ambassadors of Botswana, Cape Verde, DRC, and Mozambique joined Ambassador Siwela for a discussion on South Sudan, food security,

and the role of China. They expressed support for South Sudan, but also acknowledged the challenges that the new nation will face. Ambassador Mitifu said, "we as neighbors, we as an international community at large, we have the moral duty of accompanying the people of Southern Sudan." On famine in Eastern Africa and food security, Mitifu praised the quick response of the World Food Programme. Ambassador Viega mentioned several regional and US programs that aid agricultural development and food security.

The growth of foreign investment in Africa generated a lively discussion. The ambassadors agreed that they welcome competition amongst investors, which gives African countries a stronger negotiating position. Chinese investment is particularly valued for its focus on expanding infrastructure, which facilitates the movement of people and goods to markets. Several ambassadors acknowledged potential drawbacks to foreign investment. Ambassador Seretse drew attention to how SMEs—many of which are women-owned—can be hurt by the influx of cheap foreign goods. She emphasized the need for legislation to protect local markets. When asked what US investors should do to remain competitive, Ambassador Mitifu praised US companies for their corporate responsibility programs. The ambassadors also urged the US to expand trade agreements such as the African Growth and Opportunity Act. As Ambassador Sumbana said, "[W]e need you, but we need you to face the challenges which are in Africa. Sometimes those who come earlier are those who get the best."

Embassy Series

Ambassador Chan Heng Chee of Singapore on The Impact of Asia's Growth: A View from Singapore



Jan 13 – Ambassador Chan Heng Chee hosted WFPG at the Embassy of Singapore for a program on Asia's economic growth and Singapore's unique role between the developed and the developing world. Chan emphasized the diversity in the region and the importance of analyzing each

country's economic development separately. She highlighted Singapore's substantial growth and called attention to countries that thrived despite political turmoil.

Ambassador Chan addressed the diverse levels of development in the region and outlined reasons for Asia's successful growth, stressing the importance of internal and external factors including sweeping stimulus packages at the beginning of the recession that prevented major unemployment and the positive impact of Chinese and Indian trade markets. Singapore's astounding 2010 growth rate of 14.7% was the highest in the region, standing in sharp contrast to the region's average growth rate of only 5%. The Ambassador did note however that over the last three years, Singapore's growth rate averaged 5%. The Singaporean government will continue to develop water, environmental, and other technologies, and is slated to grow by 4–6% in 2011.

The Ambassador also outlined the challenges that such rapid growth causes for the region, including inflation and insufficient food and energy resources to support the increasing demand, especially in China and India. Ambassador Chan also noted that without healthy markets in the US and Europe, there can only be a limited amount of growth in Asia. When the US recovers from the recession, she hopes that they will take advantage of trade opportunities in Asia as a new member of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. She reiterated that Singapore maintains a strong reputation in the global business world and hoped that companies looking for opportunities would explore her country.

Addressing the role of China in regional and global politics, the Ambassador commented that she would like to see the United States take a leading role in managing China's global growth. China has continued to expand its presence in Latin America and Africa by purchasing natural resources and arable land. The Chinese also plan to build ten megacities over the next fifteen years. In Chan's opinion, the US–China relationship is extremely important, but it has become increasingly tense over trade and North Korea. She hoped that after the upcoming state visit between President Hu and President Obama, relations between the countries would continue to improve so that these two great powers can jointly address key global issues like North Korea, Iran, and climate change.



Ambassadors to the US from Singapore, Zambia, Senegal, Tanzania, and Cape Verde, Ambassador to the OAS from Uruguay, and Patricia Ellis



Ambassador Chan greets Board Chair Maxine Isaacs

Beyond the Headlines

Foreign Policy and National Security Challenges For the Obama Administration



Jan 24 – Karen DeYoung, Senior Diplomatic Correspondent for *The Washington Post*, and David Sanger, Chief Washington Correspondent for *The New York Times*, joined WFPG for a conversation on foreign policy and national security challenges for the Obama Administration.

DeYoung addressed Afghanistan and how US priorities in the region have changed from an emphasis on military victory to a political settlement, which transfers security to the Afghan military, prevents the expansion of Taliban influence, and supports a legitimate civilian government. The Administration is focusing on Afghanistan in a regional context and has enlisted Pakistan's help. The US is particularly concerned with the Taliban's hold in North Waziristan and securing the nation's nuclear arsenal from insurgent infiltration. At the same time, the Administration is facing declining public support for the war at home.

Sanger focused on how China, Iran, and North Korea fit into Obama's policy of "engagement". Addressing Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit, Sanger said that China's fast-rising global prominence makes China a potential rival to the US. The relationship's "thorniest issues" relate to Chinese military capability and a growing ideological gap between different generations of military leaders in China. In terms of Iran, Sanger noted that the new sanctions have been ineffective in deterring Iran's nuclear ambitions. Sanger also noted that North Korea's actions are more unpredictable than Iran's.

During the Q&A, Sanger and DeYoung covered a broad range of topics including the ouster of Tunisian President Ben Ali, the role of the G20, the financial crisis in Europe, the emergence of Brazil, and the impact of recently released Wikileaks documents.



Ambassador Meera Shankar of India, Khojesta Ebrahimkhel of Afghanistan, David Sanger, Patricia Ellis, and Karen DeYoung



WFPG members and guests at the reception

Beyond the Headlines

Egypt: How a Virtual Revolution Became Actual

Feb 22 – Michele Dunne, Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Editor of Arab Reform Bulletin, spoke on the revolution in Egypt and the democratic uprisings throughout the Middle East. Dunne outlined the socioeconomic and political conditions which laid the foundations for revolution: the youth bulge, increased access to information through internet and social media, and the concentration of political power in the hands of a leader not “accountable via the ballot box.”

Dunne traced the Egyptian revolution back a decade to the founding of the Egyptian Association for Change—known as Kefaya, meaning “enough”—by protesters from the Second Palestinian Uprising in 2000 and the US invasion of Iraq in 2003. This non-ideological movement brought together Egyptians from across the political spectrum to demand President Mubarak’s resignation. Although unsuccessful, Kefaya played a critical role in breaking the taboo against protesting Mubarak’s rule. Starting in 2006, Egyptians became increasingly frustrated with the lack of change and workers began protesting in reaction to failed neoliberal economic reform programs, culminating in the April 6th Youth Movement Facebook group and protests in 2008. Discontent continued to heighten in 2010, with succession debates and outrage over corrupt parliamentary elections. Dunne remarked that in December the “tinder was very, very dry in Egypt, and then we saw a spark leap from Tunisia.”

The Muslim Brotherhood’s role in the revolution has been highly publicized in the West, but Dunne cautioned not to overestimate their influence. The Brotherhood announced that they will not have a candidate in the upcoming presidential election. The



Brotherhood’s positions towards the US, Israel, and the role of women are a cause of particular concern to the US and the international community, but Dunne notes that “there is no way to exclude the Muslim Brotherhood from politics in Egypt and yet carry out democratization.”

Turning to Egypt’s future, Dunne asked participants to follow two key issues, when the Supreme Military Council will hold free and fair elections and how Egypt will reform its economic system to attract investment. She asserted that Egypt must also address government corruption and the brutality of the internal security services, noting that, “if that doesn’t change, then nothing changes.” The US and the international community should also reevaluate and balance military, economic, development, and democracy aid. Dunne emphasized that it is crucial for the region’s stability that Egypt makes a successful democratic transition and is able to recapture its leadership in the Arab world.

[Watch online at c-spanvideo.org!](http://c-spanvideo.org)

The Unofficial War in Libya: What Now for the US?



Apr 15 – In her briefing on the situation in Libya, *New York Times* Pentagon Correspondent Elisabeth Bumiller discussed the US’s role, the challenges of supporting a rebel force with no clear leadership and the debate

over arming rebels. She explained that the US has taken a supporting role in the UN-mandated, NATO-led intervention—despite Secretary Gates’ warnings against involvement—leaving the leadership to France. Gates affirmed that there will be no boots on the ground “as long as I’m in this job,” but policies may shift once the new US Secretary of Defense is confirmed.

Celebrating Women Diplomats

Washington, DC and New York, NY

Apr 13 | May 19 – WFPG held its annual Celebrations of Women Diplomats to honor women diplomats in Washington, DC and New York, NY. The organization recognized the 30 women ambassadors and charges d'affaires to the US, the 24 women permanent representa-

tives to the UN, and the 21 women foreign ministers. This year's events also celebrated the centennial of International Women's Day. Many thanks to Ambassador Poptodorova and WFPG member Geraldine Kunstadter for hosting the programs.

Washington, DC Honorees

Deputy Director Anita Botti
Office of Global Women's Issues, US Department of State

Baronnes Mary Goudie
House of Lords, United Kingdom

Ambassador Houda Nonoo
Embassy of Bahrain

Ambassador Elena Poptodorova
Embassy of Bulgaria

Ambassador Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic
Embassy of Croatia

Ambassador Gillian Bristol
Embassy of Grenada

Ambassador La Celia Prince
Embassy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Kyllike Sillaste-Elling
Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Estonia

Mabel Gomez-Oliver
Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Mexico

New York, NY Honorees

Ambassador Isabelle F. Picco
Permanent Mission of Monaco to the UN

Ambassador Simona-Mirela Miculescu
Permanent Mission of Romania to the UN

Ambassador Sofia Borges
Permanent Mission of Timor-Leste to the UN

Laura Pizarro
Consul General of Costa Rica, New York

Koula Sophianou
Consul General of Cyprus, New York

Ambassador Ritva Jolkkonen
Consul General of Finland, New York

Aghi Balta
Consul General of Greece, New York

Arta Rama
Consul General of Kosovo, New York

Sanja Zografska-Krsteska
Deputy Permanent Representative, FYR Macedonia to the UN

Ambassador Alya Al-Thani
Deputy Permanent Representative, Qatar to the UN

Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo
Deputy Permanent Representative, US to the UN



UK Baroness Mary Goudie, US Deputy Director of Global Women's Issues Anita Botti, Patricia Ellis, and Ambassador Elena Poptodorova of Bulgaria – DC



Speakers Ambassador Ritva Jolkkonen of Finland, Ambassador Sofia Borges of Timor-Leste, and Ambassador Alya Al-Thani of Qatar – NY



Diplomats and guests listening to remarks – NY

Addressing World Crises at the UN

Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo

Jun 16 – Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo, US Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, spoke on the US’ role in addressing crises at the UN. DiCarlo emphasized the importance of US leadership and engagement. She explained how the UN could help the US achieve policy objectives such as combating nuclear proliferation, conflict prevention and resolution, and protecting human rights.

DiCarlo addressed the vital role that the UN plays in promoting peace and combating WMD proliferation. Obama chaired a Security Council session in 2009, which passed a resolution aimed at ending nuclear proliferation by 2013. The US also strongly supports the 1540 Committee, as well as tougher sanctions on North Korea and Iran. DiCarlo noted that the US cannot intervene in every conflict, so it relies on UN-led efforts to share the burden. The US also supports peace by contributing to UN relief and development agencies, which can intervene where the US is not welcome.

On the Human Rights Council, DiCarlo recognized its imperfect nature, but noted that "it gives us the best chance to be a constructive influence."

Among its achievements this year, DiCarlo called attention to Syria’s and Iran’s HRC candidacy withdrawal and Libya’s recommended suspension. She also applauded the creation of UN Women and elevated status given to IGLHRC.

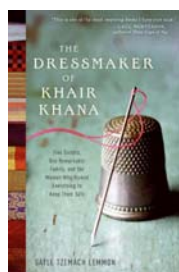
Regarding the political upheavals in the Middle East, DiCarlo outlined the principles that guide the US’ response: opposition to violence against unarmed protestors; protection of universal human rights; and support of the peoples’ desire for reform.



Ambassador DiCarlo with diplomats and UN ambassadors from Iceland, Ireland, and the Czech Republic

A Focus on Afghanistan:

From Women’s Entrepreneurship to the Refugee Challenge



Mar 17|21 – Author Gayle Tzemach Lemmon spoke in NY and DC on her new book *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana: Five Sisters, One Remarkable Family, and the Woman Who Risked Everything to Keep Them Safe*. The book tells the story of Kamela Sadiqi, who, desperate to support her brothers and sisters and unable to earn a living outside the home during the Taliban rule, started a dressmaking business in her living room which offered work to 100 women in her community. Together these unsung heroines made the difference between survival and starvation for their families. The event was co-sponsored by IIE in New York.



Feb 11 – Refugees International Senior Advisor Dawn Calabia updated WFPG on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. Calabia shared insights on the challenges for recently displaced people in Afghanistan, as well as those of 5.6 million refugees who have returned to the country since the fall of the Taliban. Calabia asserts that the humanitarian situation can only be alleviated if security improves and aid workers can reach those who need assistance most. She urges the international community not to focus on “major infrastructure needs, but on the humanitarian needs of the people, particularly for access to health care, basic education, and clean water.”

Mentoring the Next Generation of Leaders

DC & NY Mentoring Fairs

Feb 2 | Mar 3 – WFPG held its annual Mentoring Fairs at George Washington University in DC and at New York University in NY. This year's fairs gave over 300 students an opportunity to speak with accomplished professionals in fields such as the United Nations, the Department of State, think tanks, peace and security, international law, international business, and international development. Thank you to all our members and friends who volunteered to mentor and shared their experiences!



Public Affairs and Communications Mentors: Board Member Donna Constantinople and Kathy Gest

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Join us as a mentor! WFPG's 2012 NY mentor fair will be held on 2/22 and the DC date will be announced shortly. Contact: programs@wfp.org

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Donate to WFPG's internship fund. WFPG now offers competitive stipends to full-time interns. Contact: donate@wfp.org



International Health Mentor: Ashley Wolfington

Meet WFPG's Summer 2011 Interns



Summer Interns with Ambassador Haqqani of Pakistan

2011 Summer Interns:

Ashley Bazzarone, Brigham Young University
Sarah Craig, Princeton University
Victoria Cwyk, Mount Holyoke College
Nida Vidutis, Columbia University
Yuhe (Faye) Wang, Pomona College

Each semester WFPG welcomes students and recent graduates to intern in our office and learn valuable professional skills. The WFPG Internship Program is unique in that it gives interns the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of a wide array of international issues and to play a significant role in the planning and implementation of our educational programs. Interns meet senior women leaders in government, NGOs, international organizations, and the diplomatic community. This summer, interns met with Dr. Diana Villiers Negroponte at The Brookings Institution and Dr. Kathleen Kuehnast the United States Institute of Peace to learn more about their careers and organizations.

Learn more about our internship program:
www.wfp.org/page/internships

Corporate Advisory Council

June 15 – H.E. Meera Shankar, Ambassador of India to the US, hosted WFPG Corporate Advisory Council members for an intimate breakfast briefing at her residence. The off-the-record discussion gave Council members the opportunity to meet with the Ambassador and discuss topics of interest to them and their companies.

Council members are invited to private newsmaker briefings throughout the year. Prior to Ambassador Shankar's briefing, the Council met with Under Secretary of State for Economic, Energy, and Agricultural Affairs Robert Hormats for breakfast at the Department of State.

The WFPG Corporate Advisory Council has continued to grow and we are very pleased to welcome six new members so far this year! In addition to our private briefings, Council members



Council members representing Abbott, Boeing, CH2M HILL, Goodyear, Hilton, Host Hotels, and Raytheon are joined by Ambassador Shankar, Patricia Ellis, and Ann Korologos

also participate in frequent, substantive global issues programs to continually enhance their knowledge and contacts in the fast-changing field of international affairs.

Interested in joining the Council? Learn more at council@wfp.org or 202 884 8597

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Welcome New Council Members!

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The Brookings Institution

Ponchitta Pierce
Journalist

Susan Rappaport
Consultant

Mary Catherine Toker
General Mills

Patricia Ellis
Ex-Officio
Women's Foreign
Policy Group

Members in Action:

Betty Cole Dukert received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Drury University in Springfield, Missouri in May. Dukert served as a producer with NBC's "Meet the Press" for 41 years before retiring in 1998.

Patricia Ellis, Women's Foreign Policy Group President, has been reappointed to the US Department of State's Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy for another two year term.

Marlene M. Johnson, NAFSA Executive Director and CEO, has been appointed to the US National Commission for UNESCO. Made up of representatives from federal, state, and local government, along with several NGO members, the commission advises the State Department on scientific, educational, cultural, and communications issues.

Gail Leftwich Kitch, WFPG Board Vice Chair, has recently accepted a position as the Chief Operating Officer of The Voter Participation Center and Women's Voices at Women's Vote Action Fund. She had previously served as Executive Director of By the People, an initiative of McNeil/Lehrer Productions.

Hon. Ann McLaughlin Korologos, WFPG Board Member, and her husband, Ambassador Tom Korologos, were awarded Meridian Global Leadership Awards for International Understanding in June. The Korologos' have devoted their lives to public service and have each served in a number of high-level positions within the government and private sector.

Margaret (Margie) Lehrman, retired NBC News Emmy-award-winning producer, has been named Vice Chair of the Alumni Board at the Columbia University

Graduate School of Journalism, which celebrates its centennial next year.

Sherry Mueller, NCIV President, received the 2011 Fulbright Award in Citizen Diplomacy for lifelong contributions to global understanding one handshake at a time. In accepting the award, she praised the work of citizen diplomats and Senator Fulbright's belief in exchanges to achieve world peace.

Diana Villiers Negroponte, WFPG Board Member and Brookings Institution Nonresident Senior Fellow, has spent time on Mexico's northern border—Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana—assessing the impact of police reform and social programs on the drug related violence. She has also consulted with Mexican Presidential staff on their plans.

Sona Pancholy, Executive Vice President of the World Jurist Association, will host the organization's 24th Biennial Congress on the Law of the World in Prague, Czech Republic. The Congress will bring together legal leaders and judicial thinkers from around the world.

Ponchitta Pierce, an accomplished journalist, has rejoined the WFPG Board of Directors after a one-year hiatus. Pierce previously served on the WFPG's Board from 2003 to 2009.

Margaret Rogers returned from Afghanistan in July, where she worked as a Communications Specialist for Regional Afghan Municipalities Program for Urban Populations in Kandahar. RAMP UP assists governments in urban centers to increase the capacity of municipal officials and improve service delivery.

Adele Rossetti, attorney at McGovern & Smith, LLC, has relocated to Rome, Italy.

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