



Women's Leadership

Global Engagement

VOLUME VI - ISSUE I



International Financial Diplomacy

Lael Brainard, Under Secretary of the Treasury
for International Affairs

On June 25, 2012, Lael Brainard, Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs, addressed Women's Foreign Policy Group on "International Financial Diplomacy" at a Women Shaping the Global Economy event moderated by Chrystia Freeland, editor of Thomson Reuters Digital. Her remarks covered the importance of the new field of international financial diplomacy, the need for immediate resolution of the euro-zone crisis, the American role in the process, and the importance and challenges of US-China economic relations.

At the luncheon, Brainard described her responsibilities as one of America's primary international negotiators in finance. Her role is relatively new in the field of diplomacy—whereas the word 'diplomat' brings to mind such clandestine operations as Henry Kissinger's trip to China in 1971, finance ministers once acted solely in the domestic arena. When economic policies were local, there was no need for her position, but today it has become indispensable since, as she noted, "policies designed for domestic circumstances can matter as much or more to other countries as any international treaty." Today she is the US Treasury Department's point person for international economic policy and has been involved in economic negotiations all over the world, from the Strategic and Economic Dialogue in China to the Los Cabos meeting of the G-20, where she served as G-20 deputy.

The US has also been an active participant in European negotiations, despite criticism of the US for causing the global recession. Brainard asserted that America's "power is not primarily from our purse but from our ideas, our intensity, and our initiative." As a result, the US has still been welcomed to the negotiating table and there has encouraged the integration of European banking systems, including joint fiscal, financial, and political architecture. On Greece, Brainard said that the country requires urgent reform, and its government has only recently demonstrated commitment to making necessary changes. Brainard maintained that with immediate action "these challenges are manageable," and that the timeline for the Greek recovery was somewhat flexible, though weaknesses in Spain's banking system require a swift response. She said that



Under Secretary Brainard and moderator Chrystia Freeland

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“ The world of financial diplomacy could use a few more good women. ”

keeping borrowing costs for European countries low and ensuring that banks have access to loans were both sources of financial stress, though she did not commit to a particular design for firewalls to keep such economic problems contained. She also discussed the possibility of Europe lending directly to troubled banks rather than to sovereigns without committing to such a design.

According to Brainard, no conversation about international financial diplomacy could be complete without discussing the challenges and potential in US economic policy towards China. The Under Secretary, who participated in the recent US–China Strategic and Economic Dialogue, said, "We have sought to shape the policy choices facing Chinese financial authorities to increase their consistency with international standards and norms and to create a more level playing field." China may rely too heavily on resource-intensive export industries, devote insufficient efforts to trademark protection, and undervalue its exchange rate, but there has been progress as well. The yuan has appreciated against the dollar during Brainard's time in office and tax and tariff policies were recently updated to make foreign goods more competitive in China. China is and will remain a key focus of American international financial diplomacy.

When asked about the issue of work–life balance, Brainard responded that she did not usually discuss her private life, but that she loves both her work and her family and is thankful that technology allows her to stay in touch with her husband and three daughters while traveling. Although four of the countries in the G-20 are led by women and four boast women foreign ministers, only one has a woman finance minister. Brainard also mentioned that she is the only woman deputy from a G-20 finance ministry. In her words, "the world of financial diplomacy could use a few more good women."



Under Secretary Brainard and Chrystia Freeland with Board Members Mary Catherine Toker, Diana Negroponce, Maxine Isaacs, Theresa Loar, and President Patricia Ellis



Maxine Isaacs presents the Women Shaping the Global Economy Award to Under Secretary Brainard



Patricia Ellis with Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde of Finland, Ambassador Gary Doer of Canada, and Board Members Isabel Jasinowski and Debbie Dingell

A special thanks to Chevron, CH2M HILL, and Maxine Isaacs for their support of this event.

Women's Empowerment in the Middle East and Worldwide

Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women



Apr 20 – Women's Foreign Policy Group honored Michelle Bachelet, the first Executive Director of UN Women and former President of Chile, for advancing women's economic empowerment and political participation. Following her remarks on "Women's Empowerment in the Middle East and Worldwide," she discussed the status of UN Women one year after its creation and the remaining challenges that women face, particularly in the Middle East. The conversation was moderated by Judy Woodruff, Co-Anchor and Senior Correspondent for *PBS NewsHour*.

“ All over the world, women have shown time and again that no matter the difficulties, no matter the obstacles, no matter that we have to be twice as good, women rise to the occasion. ”

In terms of progress made by UN Women in its first year, Bachelet explained that, while successful, "we are just walking and we need to start running." She feels there is still much work to be done on women's political participation and explained why it is so crucial to have more women in political decision-making positions. "When women participate in politics and the economy, it [not only] reinforces women's civil, political, and economic rights, [it also] strengthens democracy, the economy, and sustainability" and creates a healthier society, which advances issues such as

housing, water, sanitation, and health. Out of 194 United Nations Member States, for example, only 18 have women heads of state or heads of government, statistics she says are "not to celebrate." However, she underlined the important achievements of women in the Nordic states, where women ministers account for 48% of all ministerial positions, and the Beijing Platform for Action goal, under which four new countries since 2010 now have more than 30% female representation in parliament. She also highlighted the importance of special transitional measures, such as quotas, in facilitating women's involvement in politics.

Bachelet addressed the specific challenges facing women in the Arab World, where they have been at the forefront of many of the uprisings but still are struggling to achieve equal participation. In her opinion, it is crucial that women's economic, social, civic, and political rights become enshrined in the new constitutions in Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt. She cited encouraging developments in two countries: Tunisia, where new laws to secure parity on candidate lists allowed 26% women to be elected, and Morocco, where the introduction of quotas for women parliamentarians resulted in a 6 point increase in women legislators last year. However, despite advancements, Bachelet pointed out that women still only represent 10.7% of parliamentarians throughout the Middle East and the region remains "the only one in the world

without any parliament that includes at least 30% women." To Bachelet, Egypt perhaps represents the most dramatic setback—in January, the country witnessed a drop from 12% to 2% of women in parliament.

On the subject of Afghanistan, she had better news since Afghan women have made important gains over the past decade—ranging from a constitution that protects gender equality, to quotas which ensure women's political participation, to the implementation of the country's first law on ending violence against women. Bachelet was happy to see that 2.4 million of the over 7 million children currently in primary or secondary school are now girls. While these may be signs of hope for a more stable, just, and democratic country, the main challenge now is to ensure the progress in women's rights not be reversed, particularly in terms of violence against women.

Looking towards the future, Bachelet said that women will strive to have their voices heard in upcoming summits around the world, including the NATO Summit meeting and the Tokyo conference on Afghanistan in July. Bachelet expressed hope for the future, stating that "all over the world, women have shown time and again that no matter the difficulties, no matter the obstacles, no matter that we have to be twice as good, women rise to the occasion."

The conversation ended with the question on everyone's mind, whether Michelle Bachelet is considering another run for President of Chile. In response, Bachelet reiterated her strong commitment to UN Women and how much she loved what she was doing; however, she did not rule out another run for the presidency.



WFPG Board Members Diana Villiers Negroponte and Dawn Calabia with Michelle Bachelet, Judy Woodruff, Patricia Ellis, and WFPG Pro Bono Counsel Sarah Kahn



UN Executive Director of Women Michelle Bachelet with the Ambassadors of Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Liechtenstein



Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs Esther Brimmer and Patricia Ellis

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Beyond the Headlines: Syria US Policy Towards Syria and Iran



May 14 – In a WFPG program on Syria and Iran, Congresswoman Jane Harman, head of the Woodrow Wilson Center, and moderator David Sanger of *The New York Times* covered strategies to prevent Iran's development of nuclear weapons and a peaceful solution for Syria.

On Iran, Harman asserted that there is substantial domestic and international support for sanctions and that we will see the impact this summer. Harman hopes that sanctions will force Iran to accept third party enrichment proposals, and highlighted the proposed IAEA-supported fuel bank. She warned that the US must focus on policy change rather than regime change.

Harman was less optimistic on Syria and rejected the UN proposed ceasefire as a hopeless endeavor that risks giving the Syrian government time to re-arm. She went on to dismiss disarmament strategies as ineffective and the arming of the diverse and disorganized opposition as too risky. Instead, Harman supports a "Yemen-like solution" in which the Bashar family would relocate to Russia and a more stable government would take its place.

In Harman's opinion, the US needs guidelines to address conflicts, whether they are wide-scale uprisings in Syria and Libya, or demonstrations in Russia or China. "In the end, we can't bomb our way to a win, or fight our way—we have to win the argument. And the way we win the argument is to be very clear about where we will use the US military and assist international military organizations in intervening and where we won't."



David Sanger, Patricia Ellis, and Board Members Donna Constantinople, Diana Negroponte, and Chair Maxine Isaacs

The UN's Role in Syria: What Options Remain?



June 1 – Colum Lynch of The Washington Post briefed WFPG and IIE on the UN's role in Syria. Lynch asserted that it is unlikely that the UN will approve military force in Syria and outlined alternatives for the UN. He also covered

the role of peacekeepers and social media in forming UN and global analysis of the situation on the ground. Lynch sees achieving peace in Syria as a very difficult task and that it's starting to look less likely that Assad will be ousted, and if he is, some experts warn that it could lead to further instability. Either way, in Lynch's view, the road to peace in Syria is rough, and its future is uncertain.

Beyond the Headlines:

Reform, Revolt and Revolution in Egypt and the Arab World



July 10 – Lisa Anderson, president of AU Cairo, outlined the transformations in Egypt and the region at an event at the Embassy of Slovenia. Her remarks focused on the domestic and international implications of Morsi's election.

Saddled with a failing economy and a still volatile society, Anderson believes that Morsi will prioritize national interest over foreign affairs. She thinks that the greatest challenge to the new government will be whether “the military will concede space to civilian policymakers.” On a less publicized issue, women's rights activists are concerned that initiatives to enhance gender equality were disbanded and that the new first lady, Um Ahmed, is not interested in politics or supporting the women's movement, as her predecessor, Mrs. Mubarak, did.

Anderson is “fundamentally optimistic about changes that have taken place in Tunisia, Libya and Egypt.” In Egypt, the military facilitated the overthrow in an attempt to save the regime, sparking tension between military and civilian leadership. She explained that Morsi is “testing the limits” of his authority among competing constituents, which he showed by participating in an unofficial inauguration ceremony in Tahrir Square before being sworn in by the Mubarak-appointed Supreme Court judges.

According to Anderson, the events in Egypt were “not just a revolution of rights, but a revolution of responsibility.” To illustrate the challenges of the transition and the changes in public responsibility and participation, Anderson shared an anecdote. “In 18 months, [my bodyguard] went from not having an opinion, to knowing that he hadn't had an opinion, to having fairly well articulated opinions about public affairs.”

Insight into North Korea: A view from behind the DMZ



July 18 – Katharina Zellweger, former North Korea Country Director for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, addressed WFPG on “Insight into North Korea: A View from Behind the DMZ”. Zellweger spoke about

the need for humanitarian aid and development cooperation and societal changes under Kim Jong -Un. The program was held at Swiss Ambassador Manuel Sager's residence, and DCM Guillaume Scheurer gave opening remarks.

Zellweger discussed her development cooperation work, which primarily focused on food aid. She stated that aid programs have been helpful but are underfunded and subsequently unsubstantial. For example, a North Korean receives only the equivalent of 1,400 calories per day from the public

distribution system. The majority of the population is malnourished. She emphasized that providing food aid is necessary for North Korea to progress. Zellweger's work also involved the training of North Korean mid-level managers and diplomats in finance and business.

She believes Kim Jong-Un's succession to be going well, and while nothing is certain, the regime seems open to Western influence. North Korea is undergoing changes in the areas Zellweger refers to as “the 5 M's”: Markets, Money, Mobile phones, Motor cars, and Middle class. As the country opens up, cell phones and cars have increased citizens' ability to communicate with others. However, the government still exerts oppressive controls on its citizens—only 4,000 of 24 million North Koreans have Internet access.

Ultimately, she believes that helping North Koreans is a wise investment because, if they thrive economically, we are more likely to achieve peace.

Celebrating Women Diplomats

Washington, DC and New York, NY



May 3 | June 7 – Women’s Foreign Policy Group held its annual Celebration of Women Diplomats, honoring the 23 women permanent representatives to the United Nations, 28 women ambassadors and charges d’affaires to the US, and 17 consuls general. The events

were hosted by WFPG member Geraldine Kunstadter at her home in New York and Ambassador Claudia Fritsche of Liechtenstein at her residence in DC.

The event in Washington featured remarks by Melanne Verveer, the first US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues, as well as Ambassadors Houda Nonoo of Bahrain, Elena Poptodorova of Bulgaria, Fatima de Viega of Cape Verde, Purificacion Angue Ondo of Equatorial Guinea, Marina Kaljurand of Estonia, Ritva Koukku-Ronde of Finland, Renee Jones-Bos of the Netherlands, La Celia Prince of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Fatou Danielle Diagne of Senegal.

Ambassador Verveer opened the program by describing her recent trip to the Middle East and Asia, saying that women there were making

“great strides”. After Verveer’s remarks, each Ambassador shared a comment about women’s leadership in their own country or in the diplomatic community in Washington, DC. The Ambassadors of Liechtenstein, Bahrain and Cape Verde shared optimism of growing numbers of politically active and influential women in their countries, and the Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea told her story of persecution and her efforts to promote women’s rights. The Ambassadors of Netherlands, Estonia, Senegal, Finland, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thanked the other female ambassadors for welcoming them to Washington and for their continued camaraderie and sisterhood. The organization also recognized deputy chiefs of mission from Romania, Portugal, Mexico, Sweden, Canada, and Thailand.

In New York, Ambassador Edita Hrdá of the Czech Republic, Ambassador Isabelle Picco of Monaco, Deputy Permanent Representative Josephine Ojiambo of Kenya, and Consul General Melita Gabrič of Slovenia spoke about women’s empowerment, both in terms of what has been achieved in their countries and what is yet to be accomplished. As Ambassador Picco noted: “this is about us reaching out for [other women] because we are lucky and we should lead by example.” Also recognized were the Deputy Permanent Representatives of Armenia, Bhutan, Macedonia, Jamaica, Zambia, and Zimbabwe as well as the Consul General of the Bahamas.



Patricia Ellis, Ambassador Verveer, and Theresa Loar with the Ambassadors of Equatorial Guinea, Cape Verde, Finland, Estonia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Senegal, the Netherlands, Bahrain, and Liechtenstein



Permanent Representatives to the UN, Ambassador Isabelle Picco of Monaco and Ambassador Edita Hrdá of the Czech Republic

The Value of Investing in Women Entrepreneurs

Dina Powell, President of the Goldman Sachs Foundation



Apr 30 – WFPG hosted a program on *The Impact and Value of Investing in Female Entrepreneurs* which included remarks by Goldman Sachs Foundation president Dina Powell, a conversation with ABC News correspondent and *Womenomics* co-author Claire Shipman, and comments by *10,000 Women* graduate Divya Keshav.

Women's economic empowerment is "just smart economics," Powell explained, echoing the words of World Bank president Robert Zoellick. While women's empowerment is often labeled the "nice" or the "right" thing to do, Powell declared that it is in fact imperative, citing the resulting dramatic increases in GDP growth and societal benefits.

Also the director of the *10,000 Women* project, Powell spoke about the program's importance in advancing women's economic power and improving society by providing training for female entrepreneurs around the globe. Of the 5,800 women who have completed the program to date—80% have increased revenues and 66% have created new jobs. Powell also explained that women's empowerment leads to healthier and more educated families and communities.

Powell underlined the two most important aspects of the program: its pragmatic approach and its focus on mentoring. While much has been done at the microfinance level, she cited *10,000 Women's* unique focus on the "missing middle," the small- and medium-sized business owners. The program provides them with practical skills to advance their businesses, including courses in accounting, marketing, and even negotiations, which she dubbed "confidence classes" and said are the favorite and most useful of all the modules. Encouragingly, nine out of ten graduates have continued on to mentor at least one other woman.

Keshav shared her story of how *10,000 Women* impacted her professional and personal life. Her family's printing business in India nearly closed in 2008, but she turned the company around using the skills she acquired through the program. She increased revenue by 300%, expanded her workforce by 33%, and instituted generous benefits for her employees. Keshav's message was "every woman has the power to change the social, economic, political, and cultural scenario if only she has faith in herself."



Dina Powell with Board Member Ann McLaughlin Korologos



Dina Powell, Claire Shipman, and WFPG Board Members

Embassy Series

Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde on The European Union: Present Challenges



Mar 27 – Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde of Finland, briefed WFPG on the economic and political challenges facing the EU. Washington Post International Economics Correspondent Howard Schneider moderated the discussion.

In her remarks, Koukku-Ronde discussed the eurocrisis and addressed the specific challenges in Greece, Spain and Italy. She is confident that the proper measures have been taken, and that it is now up to EU countries to ensure that they are effectively implemented. She also cited recent legislation to strengthen coordination, such as the "six pack" agreement and the Fiscal Compact Treaty, and stressed the importance of implementing austerity measures to rebuild confidence and restore growth.

Turning to foreign policy, Koukku-Ronde argued that while economic matters are dominating policy, the EU remains an important actor in the global arena. She expressed Finnish concerns surrounding what she sees as "a shift towards intergovernmentalism at the expense of the community method" in Europe. However, she considers the EU "a success story," noting its ability to attract new members and to intervene globally. Koukku-Ronde argued that the EU has been at the forefront of tackling global challenges by providing development assistance around the world. She noted that the EU is the world's largest

donor of development assistance and, along with the US, makes up 80% of global development aid. On global crisis situations Koukku-Ronde asserted that the EU's greatest strength is its "unique position to assist post-revolution development not by marketing or forcing [its] own political systems, but by demonstrating the power of democracy and free expression."

In closing, Ambassador Koukku-Ronde expressed the importance of a continued partnership between the EU and the US in order to build a "more secure democratic and prosperous world." The two powers have already been cooperating on a wide array of issues, including conflict prevention and crisis response in the Middle East and North Africa, common efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and human rights issues in the Asia-Pacific region. She sees EU and US goals as fundamentally aligned and looks forward to continued collaboration.



Ambassador Koukku-Ronde and Howard Schneider



International Women's Day

Mar 14 – Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova and Assistant Secretary-General of UN Women Lakshmi Puri gave remarks to the WFPG, the UN Foundation, and the UN Information Center at our annual luncheon celebrating International Women's Day. In recognition of the contribution of rural women, this year's theme was "Empower Rural Women—End Hunger and Poverty."

Author Series

Diana Villiers Negroponte on Seeking Peace in El Salvador



Jun 14 – Diana Villiers Negroponte, Brookings Institution Nonresident Senior Fellow, spoke to WFPG on her book, *Seeking Peace in El Salvador: The Struggle to Reconstruct a Nation at the End of the Cold War*. Negroponte focused on the repercussions of the civil war in El Salvador, the process of mediation, and the role of women in the war. The event was hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Tobin and the Honorable Henrietta Fore.

Although the civil war in El Salvador ended two decades ago, the violence continued in the country until last March and has continued to impact El Salvadorian society and the region. Negroponte emphasized the vital role played

both by international mediators—in this case the Catholic Church and the Jesuit priests—as well as the commitment of the El Salvadorians themselves in reaching a peace agreement.

As society in El Salvador struggles to heal after years of conflict, new challenges need to be met. Women, who once fought side-by-side their male relatives, withdrew from public life after the war. Negroponte added that the post-war constitution allotted 30% of legislature seats for women, but that it was difficult to find women willing to fill the reserved seats. El Salvador also needs to address the unique challenges that face a generation of youth raised amidst violence. Some of these young men have emigrated to the US, particularly to the LA area, and have been recruited by gangs or *maras*, which play a large role in the drug trade.

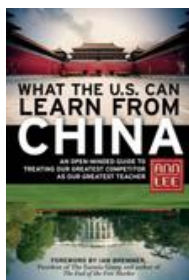


Diana Negroponte signing Board Member Dawn Calabia's book



Hosts Joan Tobin and the Honorable Henrietta Fore, Patricia Ellis, and Board Member Donna Constantinople

What the US Can Learn from China



Jan 27 – Demos Fellow Ann Lee discussed her book *What the US Can Learn from China* at a WFPG event in New York. She provided an overview of the areas in which China has excelled economically and politically: meritocracy, strategic planning and economic

reform. She also addressed areas where China needs to improve, including stereotypes. Lee said relations between China and the United States are doing relatively well, though communication between the two nations could be improved. She also discussed how lessons from the Chinese experience could help the US through the economic downturn.

Beyond the Headlines

Challenges and Opportunities in US–Russian Relations

Apr 4—Celeste Wallander, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia Policy, joined CNN Foreign Affairs Correspondent Jill Dougherty to discuss US–Russian relations.

According to Wallander, relations remain strong despite the “reset”. The US’s goal is to collaborate on issues “where we can collaborate” and to communicate “clearly and honestly” when the two countries do not see eye to eye. She emphasized the importance of regular meetings between US, Russian, and NATO experts on key issues including counter-narcotics, counter-piracy, and terrorism. Additionally, the New START is an important step in reducing global nuclear weapons stockpiles and in re-establishing discussion and inspections.

While the US and Russia have generally agree on policy towards Iran, Syria remains a topic of dissent. Wallander noted that both countries agree on the need to end the violence, and cited the recent agreements in Seoul supporting Kofi Annan’s mission to Syria.

During Q&A Wallander also covered the disputed South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions, Russia’s rejection of the US–European missile defense plan, and recent civil demonstrations. On the protests, she reiterated that the US supports a “prosperous, secure, militarily modern Russia” and that she is hopeful that these demonstrations will provide proof of that. The turmoil over Putin’s return to power should not overshadow the importance of the core of the country, the Russian people.



Assistant Under Secretary Celeste Wallander and CNN Foreign Affairs Correspondent Jill Dougherty



Patricia Ellis, Celeste Wallander, Jill Dougherty, and Board Chair Maxine Isaacs

The US and Egypt • Political Reforms in Burma



Jan 20 – Michele Dunne, Director of the Atlantic Council’s Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, offered her assessments of Egypt’s political climate in a discussion on *The US and Egypt: Between Islamists and Generals*. In her remarks, Dunne covered the rapidly changing political landscape in Egypt and current and future relations with the United States.



Jan 13 – Refugees International advocate, Lynn Yoshikawa, briefed WFPG on the recent political reforms in Burma and their impact on the humanitarian situation in the country and Burmese relations with the international community. She shared her first-hand experience and covered the issues facing refugees, internally displaced persons, and ethnic minorities.

Mentoring the Next Generation of Leaders

DC & NY Mentoring Fairs

DC Feb 6 | NY Feb 22 – Women’s Foreign Policy Group held its annual Mentoring Fairs at George Washington University and at New York University. This year’s fairs gave over 350 students an opportunity to speak with accomplished professionals in fields such as the Foreign Service, United Nations, international law and security, think tanks, international development, human rights, and public affairs and communications. Thank you to all our members and friends who volunteered to mentor and shared their experiences!

“ It was unbelievably inspiring, informative and exciting to talk to each and every mentor. In fact, at the fair, I was reminded of my passion in life; to have an international career through which I can have an impact on the world. ”

- Asli Sevinc, Oberlin College



DC Human Rights & Refugees:
WFPG Board Member and Mentor Dawn Calabia



NY Corporate Social Responsibility:
Mentor Dan Konigsburg, Deloitte

Meet WFPG’s Summer 2012 Interns



Summer Interns with Under Secretary Lael Brainard

Each semester WFPG welcomes students and recent graduates to intern in our office and learn valuable professional skills. Our program gives interns the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of women’s leadership in international affairs, pressing foreign policy issues, and operation of NGOs while playing a significant role in our programming and meeting senior-level policy leaders, authors, and journalists.

2012 Summer Interns

Vivian Lehecka Coyne, Columbia University
Lesley Harkins, Boston University
Kim Quarantello, Wellesley University
Elizabeth Sklar, Emory University
Arielle Spinner, University of California, Berkeley

Support our intern program and mentoring initiatives. Contact: donate@wfp.org