



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE PRESIDENCY AND CONGRESS

International Presidential Fellows Program
Fall Leadership Conference Summary
October 31-November 5, 2011

As the ability to collaborate with international counterparts and build a professional network that spans the globe becomes increasingly important for public service and business leaders in all fields, CSPC is working to expand our Presidential Fellows Program to include not only top students from U.S. colleges and universities but also those from around the world.

On October 31, 2011 CSPC welcomed Ms. Miki Ito from the University of Tokyo and Mr. Kenji Hayata of Waseda University as our inaugural International Presidential Fellows. These Fellowships were made possible by a generous gift from Toyota Motor Corporation and in partnership with the U.S.-Japan Research Institute (USJI) for the selection of the students.

Mr. Kenji Hayata is a senior at Waseda University where he is majoring in Economic and Industrial Development in East Asian Countries with a minor in Political Science. He is an intern with Foreign Affairs Japan, and is interested in researching the role of think tanks in the United States and how similar institutions might be established in Japan. He also spent a year studying in the United States at Bates College and a summer in DC working for the NHK Washington Bureau.

Ms. Miki Ito is a senior at the University of Tokyo where she is majoring in Law. She is a member of the U Tokyo Legal Consulting Office, and is interesting in researching the key components of great American leadership. She spent her junior high and high school years in the United States, graduating cum laude from Choate Rosemary Hall.

On their first day in Washington, DC, the International Fellows visited George Washington's Mt. Vernon Estate for a tour of the grounds and a discussion of Washington's impact on the formation of the U.S. government and critical precedents for the Presidency. In the afternoon, the Fellows went to the Embassy of Japan for a meeting with Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki. Ambassador Fujisaki fielded the Fellows' questions on the U.S. response to the recent earthquake and tsunami and the Ambassador's role in helping to coordinate aid; Japan's role internationally, especially as it relates to the rise of China; and the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.



The International Fellows meet with Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki and CSPC President Dr. David Abshire

In honor of Halloween, the Fellows concluded their day with a tour that visited many of the historic homes near the White House and heard many of the famous ghost stories associated with Presidents and other political leaders.



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The following morning the Fellows met with Dr. Jim Pfiffner, University Professor at George Mason University and noted scholar of the Presidency, and Mr. Bill Breer who had a distinguished 35-year career in the Foreign Service including 18 years at the U.S. Embassy in Japan reaching the rank of Deputy Chief of Mission and later became Japan Chair at CSIS. The International Fellows were able to ask detailed questions on their research subjects and get feedback from Dr. Pfiffner and Mr. Breer on the formation and function of think tanks in the U.S., the recent lack of compromise and political standstill on Capitol Hill, and the differences in political leadership in the U.S. and Japan.



The International Fellows meet with Mr. Bill Breer and Dr. Jim Pfiffner

Later that day the Fellows visited Capitol Hill, where they met with Ms. Elyse Bauer Anderson, Foreign Policy Director for Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA). They discussed a range of issues including Congressman Wolf's work in human rights and religious freedom. That evening they watched the Capitals, Washington's ice hockey team, defeat the Anaheim Ducks in overtime.

Wednesday's events included a meeting with Ms. Meredith Broadbent, Scholl Chair for International Business at the Center for Strategic and

International Studies. They discussed the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and other free trade agreements on the horizon for Japan and the United States. Ms. Broadbent was also able to explain to them the differences of environment from working in government as a professional staffer on the House Ways and Means Committee and as an assistant U.S. trade representative and her current work in a think tank. On Wednesday evening Mr. Shunji Yoshida, Vice President and Coordinating Officer of Toyota North America, took the Fellows out for dinner which also included Mr. Nobuaki Yasunaga, Manager of USJI's Washington, DC office.

On Thursday morning, Toyota North America hosted the International Fellows and the Toyota Fellow from Howard University Shelby Allen for a presentation. Mr. Sumio Ohtsuji, Senior Vice President and Chief Coordinating Officer, discussed with the Fellows Toyota's operations in North America, and Mr. Tom Lehner, Vice President for Government Affairs, discussed his work as a lobbyist for Toyota. The Fellows also had the opportunity to meet Mr. Yoshimi Inaba, President and Chief Operating Officer of Toyota North America.

The portion of the conference just for International Fellows concluded with a meeting with Dr. Greg Smith, Senior Researcher at the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, who gave them a presentation and answered questions on how religion and politics intersect in the U.S. He presented data from recent elections that show how consistently religious affiliation can predict party preferences in the U.S. After the meeting with Dr. Smith, the International Fellows joined the U.S. Presidential Fellows coming in from all over the country for the Welcome Lunch of the Fall Leadership Conference.



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Presidential Fellows Program Fall Leadership Conference, November 3-5, 2011

On November 3rd, the Center welcomed the 2011-2012 Presidential Fellows class to Washington, DC, for the Fall Leadership Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Sixty-six students from colleges and universities around the country joined the International Fellows and began the conference with a welcome lunch introducing the program.

After lunch, the conference kicked off with an engaging discussion on leadership and ethics led by the Honorable Togo West, former Secretary of the Army and Veterans Affairs. Secretary West touched on how leadership is defined differentially, based on institutions and individuals; the need for a code or a cause in order to be an effective leader; and how great leaders have standing principals. He offered several examples of challenging situations that he faced in his own career and answered a range of questions from the Fellows on leadership.



Secretary Togo West addresses the Fellows

Later that afternoon, the Fellows divided into six issue groups to discuss the development of their research papers with their peers and alumni counselors. The final papers that the Fellows will submit to the Center in May will be the culmination of many months of researching, writing, editing, and consulting with their on-campus faculty advisors, professional mentors provided by the Center, and their peers at the Fall and Spring Conferences. The top two papers will receive awards at the Center's Annual Awards Dinner in the spring, and the top twenty papers will be published in our annual anthology *The Fellows Review*, in the summer.



The Presidential-Congressional Relations group meets to discuss their papers.

On Thursday evening, the Center hosted a special dinner, film, and discussion on leadership and reform. The Fellows watched *Street Fight*, an Oscar and Emmy-nominated documentary on the 2002 mayoral campaign of Cory Booker in Newark, New Jersey. The film highlighted the challenges of ethical leadership in a political campaign and difficulties facing Booker as he challenges four-term incumbent Mayor Sharpe James and promotes reform in Newark.



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West Point Fellow Gabriel Royal chats with Adrian Fenty after the speech

After the film, former Mayor of Washington, DC Adrian Fenty discussed his experiences and campaign for re-election in 2010. Mr. Fenty talked about his aggressive educational reforms which improved test scores by 14%-17% in the DC school system after only two years but also left some of his constituents feeling excluded from the reform process. He also stressed the importance of tying funding to serious reforms and holding teachers accountable for students' successes as well as their failures. After his speech, Mr. Fenty took questions from the Fellows about how his reform efforts impacted his electability and about his views on various education reform efforts being promoted across the country.

On Friday morning the Fellows headed to Capitol Hill to meet with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Chief Deputy Majority Whip Peter Roskam (R-IL). During her address, Leader Pelosi discussed the danger of losing the American Dream and the importance of one generation taking responsibility for the next generation. She also encouraged the Fellows to pursue careers in public service but warned that it is not "for the faint of heart." Leader Pelosi also talked specifically about

the need for more women in public service. At the end of her speech Leader Pelosi gave each Fellow a copy of her book *Know Your Power: A Message to America's Daughters*.



Leader Pelosi speaks to the Fellows in the South Congressional Meeting Room.

Next, the Fellows met with Congressman Roskam, who discussed the ideological differences between the two parties' approaches to economic recovery. While acknowledging these differences, he emphasized the significance of compromise and the need to find a common ground. He said he believed common interest could be found on free trade agreements and reforming the U.S. tax code.



Northwestern Fellow Jonathan Green asks Congressman Roskam a question



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After the meetings, the Fellows returned to the hotel for a lunch with their mentors, professionals who are paired with Fellows to advise them on their paper and on potential career paths. The mentor lunch was followed by a lecture from by Dr. James Zogby, the Founder and President of the Arab American Institute. Dr. Zogby spoke about his concerns with U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. He argued that most citizens and even politicians know little about the Middle East, which has led to ill informed policy and two wars.

Dr. Zogby stressed the importance of having more dialogue and education about the region especially with the recent developments of the Arab Spring. Lastly, he expressed his hope that with the Millennial generation and those afterwards, the United States would become a nation increasingly tolerant of religious and cultural differences. After the speech the Fellows met again with their peer groups to discuss their paper proposals.



Columbia University Fellow Charles Stam asks Dr. Zogby a question

On Saturday morning, Center President Dr. David M. Abshire gave a lecture on leadership and shared his experiences in Washington. He told stories from his roles as Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations (1970-1973), Special Counselor to President Ronald Reagan (1987), and

the U.S. Ambassador to NATO (1983-1987). He also encouraged the Fellows to engage in the public policy process and dedicate at least part of their careers to public service.



Dr. Abshire shares stories from his time in Washington

Before heading back to their respective colleges and universities, the Fellows gathered in their peer groups a final time to discuss plans for the further development of their papers. In early February, the Fellows will turn in first drafts of their papers to be judged for the Marron and Moffett Awards that are given out at the Center's Annual Awards Dinner during the Spring Fellows Conference.



Waseda University Fellow Kenji Hayata and University of Wisconsin-Madison Fellow Alex Sommer listen as one of their peers presents



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ENDOWED FELLOWSHIPS

The Andrew Barth Fellowship at
Columbia University

The John C. Whitehead Fellowship at
Haverford College

The R. Gordon Hoxie Fellowship at
Long Island University

The Avery Barth Fellowship at
University of Southern California

The David M. Abshire Fellowship at
United States Military Academy

The General Edward C. Meyer Fellowship at
United States Military Academy

The Admiral Michael Mullen Fellowship at
United States Naval Academy

The David M. Abshire Fellowship at
University of Tennessee- Chattanooga

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