
OUTREACH

This year the Council spearheaded a broad set of outreach activities targeted to four constituencies: educators and students; religious leaders; state and local officials; and nonprofit, civic, and community leaders. The objective of the outreach initiative is to connect the Council with—and make it a resource for—these groups of interested citizens whose voices are increasingly important to the national foreign policy debate.

The Academic Outreach Program is designed to bring together the academic community with the Council's research and analysis. This year the Council raised its visibility and expanded its reach and offerings through exhibition booths and ads in conference programs at the annual meetings of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, the African Studies Association, and the International Studies Association. The Council also expanded its library of customizable academic packages, or modules, designed to assist educators in developing course syllabi. These modules—organized around a primary Council text with teaching notes written by the author, secondary source readings, related transcripts, video and

audio files of Council meetings, and *Foreign Affairs* articles—are accessible in a special “For Educators” section at CFR.org/educators.

Students and professors had the opportunity to talk with Council fellows and *Foreign Affairs* authors through an interactive Academic Conference Call series, in which more than ninety colleges and universities have participated since its inception in 2005. The Council also hosted eight student groups this year, including delegations from Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Fordham University.

The Council's Religion and Foreign Policy Initiative serves as a source of information and analysis for religious and congregational leaders, scholars, and thinkers. The monthly Religion and Foreign Policy



Vice President for National Program and Outreach Irina A. Faskianos and Senior Fellow Adam Segal lead a briefing with students from Fordham University's International Political Economy and Development Master's Program.

In addition to academics, religious leaders, and state and local officials, the Council began engaging nonprofit, civic, and community leaders, as well.

Conference Call series featured Council experts and religious leaders in nonpartisan, cross-denominational discussions including Council President **Richard N. Haass** on the Middle East, and Muslim Public Affairs Council executive director **Salam al-Marayati** on Islam in America. Audio files and transcripts of these discussions are available on CFR.org; these and other relevant Council resources are highlighted in a newly launched Religion and Foreign Policy monthly eNewsletter.

This year the Council began organizing private briefings between religious leaders and Council fellows and facilitating their appearances at annual religious conferences. Council Fellows **Steven A. Cook** and **Julia E. Sweig** briefed a National Council of Churches of Christ delegation to the Middle East and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, respectively.

The State and Local Officials Initiative provides a forum for nonpartisan discussion of pressing international issues that affect the priorities and agendas of state and local governments. The monthly State and Local Officials Conference Call series this year included a discussion with *Foreign Affairs* author **Michael T. Osterholm** on avian flu, drawing in a record number of participants—more than ninety—from city, county, and state departments of health.

Senior Fellow **Stephen E. Flynn** discussed policy recommendations from his book, *The Edge of Disaster*, with homeland security officials from Boston and Chicago, and **Douglas Holtz-Eakin**, then director of the Council's Maurice R. Greenberg Center for Geoeconomic Studies, addressed the National Conference of State Legislatures in San Antonio.

Technology is critical to the Council's outreach strategy. In addition to making select New York and Washington, DC, meetings available to academics, religious leaders, and state and local officials via teleconference and webcast, the Council began engaging nonprofit, civic, and community leaders, as well. Relevant Council publications were sent to targeted groups within each of the four constituencies and



Senior Fellow **Julia E. Sweig** and **Alberto R. Coll** at the Council's first Academic Workshop.

discounted *Foreign Affairs* subscriptions were offered to members of the American Committees on Foreign Relations and the World Affairs Councils. Through such measures, the Council's outreach initiative has the potential to make a significant and lasting contribution to American public and civic life.

Academic Workshop

The Council convened its first Academic Workshop in February at the International Studies Association's 2007 Annual Meeting, which brought together scholars from across the country focused on international affairs. The first session of the workshop showcased the Council's web-based resources, academic events, and the *Foreign Affairs* Academic Resource Program. The second featured a discussion on the Middle East led by Chicago Council on Global Affairs vice president **Rachel Bronson** and Douglas Dillon Fellow **Steven A. Cook**. Senior Fellow **Julia E. Sweig** and DePaul College of Law professor **Alberto R. Coll** led the third discussion on Latin America. The Academic Workshop produced a valuable exchange of ideas on pressing foreign policy issues and provided insights into how the Council can serve as a better resource for educators and students.