

National Program

With more than one-third of Council members living outside of New York and Washington, DC, the National Program provides a forum for members across the country and around the world to discuss pressing foreign policy issues and contribute to the Council's research and publications. National Program activities take place in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, London, Los Angeles, Miami, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Fe, Seattle, and Tokyo.

The National Program Roundtable series builds on the expertise of members, Council fellows, and other leaders. This year's series, Global Challenges, addressed a range of issues, including global health in Seattle with PATH's **Christopher Elias** and in Atlanta with CARE's **Helene D. Gayle** and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's **Stephen B.**

Blount; the consequences of neglecting infrastructure in Atlanta, Miami, and Seattle with Council Senior Fellow **Stephen E. Flynn**; global trends in evangelical Christianity in Boston with Boston University's **Peter L. Berger** and Council Adjunct Senior Fellow **Timothy Samuel Shah**; and Latin American democratic transformation in Atlanta with Georgia State University's **Jennifer L. McCoy**. National members discussed U.S. foreign policy and the 2008 presidential elections with Council President **Richard N. Haass** in Boston, Chicago, London, Los Angeles, Miami, and San Francisco. Also in San Francisco, Harvard University's **Joseph S. Nye** discussed presidential leadership; in Boston, Chancellor **Alfred Gusenbauer** of Austria outlined Europe's globalization strategy; and, in San Diego, permanent representative of India to the United

Nations **Nirupam Sen** spoke on the future of the United Nations and India.

The roundtable series also focused on regional hotspots. In Chicago, Dallas, and Houston, **Gary Samore**, the Council's vice president and director of Studies, explored Iran's nuclear ambitions; in Boston, Harvard University's **Xenia Dormandy** discussed the future of Pakistan; and in London, American International Group's **Frank G. Wisner** outlined the scope of U.S.-Angola relations. In Los Angeles, RAND's **David L. Aaron** addressed the Middle East challenges facing the next administration; in Dallas, Houston, and Los Angeles, Council Fellow **Steven A. Cook** explored military and political development in Egypt, Algeria, and Turkey; in Atlanta, Senior Fellow **Stephen Biddle** discussed the future of the United States in Iraq; and in



Dallas, former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia **Robert W. Jordan** reflected on U.S.-Saudi relations, while Military Fellow **Jeffrey B. Kendall** analyzed NATO's role in Afghanistan.

In cooperation with local foreign policy organizations, the National Program organized private and public programs across the country. Council fellows who spoke nationally about their books included **Michael J. Gerson** on *Heroic Conservatism*, **Michael A. Levi** on *On Nuclear Terrorism*, **Walter Russell Mead** on *God and Gold*, and **Noah Feldman** on *The Fall and Rise of the Islamic State*. Members discussed **Paul Collier's** *The Bottom Billion* and **Jack L. Goldsmith's** *The Terror Presidency* as part of the Council Book Club series, and spoke with both authors in interactive conference calls.

As in past years, the National

Program leveraged the latest technology to connect members from coast to coast and beyond. International and domestic policymakers were made accessible through teleconferences and webcasts of select New York and Washington, DC, meetings. In addition, the National Program Conference Call series, chaired by Vice President for the National Program and Outreach **Irina A. Faskianos**, featured scholars and experts on current issues and crises. Audio and video files of on-the-record meetings are downloadable to iPods or MP3 players through RSS feeds and regularly updated podcasts and may be accessed through CFR.org, the iTunes Music Store, and Yahoo. Full-length recordings are also available on Princeton's University Channel and at FORA.tv.

Involving National Members in the Council's Work

A primary goal of the National Program is to convene Council members who live outside New York and Washington, DC, for seminars at which Council fellows discuss their research and writing. The purpose of these seminars is to involve members in the Council's research and expose the fellows to members' perspectives.

This year, Michael A. Levi led seminars on the draft report of the Council-sponsored Independent Task Force on Climate Change in Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle. Shannon K. O'Neil and Julia E. Sweig led sessions on the draft report of the Council-sponsored Independent Task Force on U.S. Policy toward Latin America in Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, and San Francisco. Adam Segal met with members in Phoenix to discuss chapters from his forthcoming book. National members reviewed drafts before each seminar and contributed their feedback to help shape the final product.



Opposite: Carla Anne Robbins polling National members on the challenges facing the next administration.

Left: Farah Pandith and Reza Aslan at the National Conference panel on Islam and U.S. foreign policy.

National Conference

The National Conference is the premier event of the National Program, bringing together members from around the world to the Council's New York headquarters for two and a half days of discussions with fellow members and other leading thinkers and practitioners. The Thirteenth National Conference, underwritten by a grant in memory of Peter E. Haas, was held from June 5 to 7, 2008, and featured the following speakers, topics, and sessions:

- **Melinda French Gates**, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, with Council Board member and NBC News special correspondent **Tom Brokaw** on how governments and nonprofit organizations interact;
- **Zbigniew Brzezinski**, CSIS counselor and trustee, and Council President **Richard N. Haass**, with *New York Times* deputy editorial

page editor **Carla Anne Robbins**, on prospects for American influence;

- Former deputy U.S. trade representative **Karan Bhatia** and Council Co-Chairman and former U.S. treasury secretary **Robert E. Rubin**, with Council Director of the Center for Goeconomic Studies **Sebastian Mallaby**, on the economic challenges ahead;
- A panel on Islam and the future of U.S. foreign policy with **Reza Aslan**, a fellow at the University of Southern California's Center on Public Diplomacy; **Noah Feldman**, Council adjunct senior fellow; and **Farah Pandith**, senior adviser at the U.S. Department of State's bureau of European and Eurasian affairs, with NPR's foreign correspondent **Deborah Amos**;
- A conversation between **Dennis McDonough** and **Randy**

Scheunemann, the foreign policy advisers respectively to Senators Barack Obama and John McCain, the 2008 presidential candidates;

- U.S. ambassador to Iraq **Ryan C. Crocker**, with KERA-TV's **Lee Cullum**, on the future of the United States in Iraq; and
- An evening at the UN headquarters with permanent representatives to the United Nations **Maged A. Abdelaziz** of Egypt, **Thomas Matussek** of Germany, and **Heraldo Muñoz** of Chile, with **Anne-Marie Slaughter**, Council Board member and dean of Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

Members also had the opportunity to interact with foreign policy experts, business leaders, former high-level government officials, and leaders of nongovernmental



organizations in smaller regional and topical discussion groups, as well as several town halls, on the following subjects:

- energy security and sustainability, with Edward L. Morse, Vijay V. Vaitheeswaran, and Diana Farrell;
- immigration, with Steven A. Camarota, Tamar Jacoby, and Edward Alden;
- terrorism, with Roger W. Cressey, Ellen Laipson, and Steven Simon; and
- trade, with Jeff Faux, Jim Kolbe, and Merit E. Janow.



Opposite left: Council members at the 2008 National Conference.

Opposite right: Adam Segal and Thomas J. Christensen lead the China discussion group.

Above: Council Board member Anne-Marie Slaughter, Thomas Matussek, Heraldo Muñoz, and Maged A. Abdelaziz.

Below left: Ryan C. Crocker and Lee Cullum.

Below right: Xenia Dormandy, Marshall Bouton, and Ashley Joachim Tellis lead the India and Pakistan discussion group.

