

Term Member Program

The Stephen M. Kellen Term Member Program encourages promising young leaders from diverse backgrounds to engage in a sustained conversation on international affairs and U.S. foreign policy. Each year a new class of term members between the ages of thirty and thirty-six is elected to a five-year membership. The program provides them the opportunity to interact with foreign policy experts and participate in a wide variety of events.

In the fall, term members convened in both New York and Washington, DC, to welcome the new class and brainstorm about the issues they hoped to address during the program year. New members were paired with more seasoned ones to familiarize the incoming class with the program. This spring, third- and fourth-year term members were also paired with life members to foster their integration into the Council and provide meaningful interaction between term members and life members.

In its twelfth year, the annual Term Member Conference remains the premier event of the program. This year's conference, *Campaign 2008: The Foreign Policy Challenges Ahead*,

focused largely on global issues the next U.S. administration will need to address. Highlights included a session with Council Co-Chairman **Robert E. Rubin** and former chairman of the Federal Reserve **Paul A. Volcker**, who candidly discussed the resilience of the global economy and challenges facing the next president. The conference also had panels addressing the war in Iraq and climate change policy. A panel with the permanent representatives of China, Germany, and Egypt to the United Nations offered views from abroad. Breakout sessions gave participants an opportunity to meet in small groups to discuss a range of topics, including intelligence reform, the future of Russia, China before the 2008 Olympics, and new challenges in Africa. A town hall meeting hosted by Council President **Richard N. Haass** concluded the conference with a discussion ranging from U.S. foreign policy challenges to the future of the Council.

Overall, this year the Term Member Program featured more than thirty-five roundtable sessions, movie screenings, and book club events in New York and Washington, DC. The program touched on

a broad spectrum of issues, including multilateralism and the United Nations, military strategy in Iraq and Afghanistan, and digital openness and the balance between privacy and national security. Term members also had the chance to speak over dinner with Council fellows, including **Walter Russell Mead**, **Noah Feldman**, **Michael J. Gerson**, **Michael A. Levi**, **Max Boot**, **Steven Simon**, and **Stephen Biddle**.

The Lessons Learned series continues to be an important highlight of the program's offerings. This roundtable series, where distinguished individuals reflect upon their career experiences, featured Council President Emeritus **Leslie H. Gelb**, Council Honorary Vice Chairman **Maurice R. Greenberg**, *Foreign Affairs* editor **James F. Hoge Jr.**, former U.S. Senate majority leader **George J. Mitchell (D-ME)**, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General **James E. Cartwright**, Council Board member and former administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency **Christine Todd Whitman**, and Carnegie Corporation president **Vartan Gregorian**.



Term Member Trips

Term members enjoyed five trips during which they met with the leaders and high-level officials of several institutions to deepen their understanding of current foreign policy challenges. In the fall, they visited the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for a day-long program focused on the role of the New York Fed in conducting monetary policy and on the evolving global economy. Federal Reserve Bank of New York president and CEO Timothy F. Geithner spoke on global challenges and policy responses from the view of a central banker. Term members gathered in January at the World Bank in Washington, DC, to discuss development in the world's poorest countries, business in the Arab world, and climate change. World Bank president Robert B. Zoellick led a conversation on the challenges of creating an effective multilateral system. In February, term members were welcomed to the U.S. naval base in Norfolk, Virginia, by Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, commander of the U.S. Fleet Forces Command, for two days of sessions on naval capabilities and strategic insights on foreign and defense policy. In the spring, term members met with senior officials at the Central Intelligence Agency for briefings on China, Iran, and counterterrorism, and visited Capitol Hill for discussions with members of Congress on shaping the foreign policy agenda.

Opposite: Helima L. Croft, Council International Affairs Fellow Michelle D. Gavin, and Adam Wolfensohn at the Twelfth Annual Term Member Conference.

Right: Andrew C. Huszar, Carie A. Lemack, and Dylan C. Pereira on a term member trip to Norfolk, Virginia.

