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[CSIS staff visit the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Aug. 2](#)

Racing the Clock

On June 28, thirty-two young professionals from around Washington participated in [AILA's largest competitive debate](#). Dubbed *speed debating* by AILA dean Linda Jamison, the exercise trains participants to argue “issues of the day” on a variety of topics, in a fast-paced environment, and in front of a judge. This design not only allows participants the chance to argue different sides of numerous issues and receive real-time feedback, but it also serves a secondary purpose of fostering professional networks. The organizations competing in this summer’s debate were CSIS, the Hudson Institute, the Cato Institute, and Young Professionals in Foreign Policy. The resolutions debated covered flag desecration, national ID cards, U.S. relations with Iran, North Korea’s nuclear program, and closing the military prison at Guantanamo Bay.



Debate judge and senior CSIS scholar Jeremiah Gertler provides feedback

At the start of the event, participants paired off into 16 teams and rotated from table to table, debating a different topic against a different team in front of a different judge. Following the initial rounds, the best debaters competed in semifinal and [championship matches](#). CSIS president & CEO John Hamre concluded the event with remarks about the importance of young people engaging in policy debates and learning the art of exercising and articulating reasoned opinions. [Watch our debate promo](#).

On the Road Passes through CSIS

On July 20—just days after hostilities broke out in southern Lebanon—AILA partnered with [Layalina Productions](#) to host a discussion among Arab visitors, a small group of CSIS associate staff, and young Arab professionals working in Washington. The event took place and was filmed as part of a documentary, called [On the Road in America](#), to be shown across the Arab world and the United States. The documentary is a road trip across the country, following three young Arab men and their firsthand encounters with Americans.



CSIS was one of the first stops for the cast and crew on the second day of their two-month journey. [Cast members](#) sat down with 25 young professionals for an informal exchange of views on politics and international events. The discussion focused on the conflict in southern Lebanon and the image of the United States from abroad. Opinions, beliefs, and personal backgrounds were all brought to the table in an effort to bridge the cultural and regional gaps. Both the discussion and the reception that followed were taped for the documentary.

Sanad Al Kubaissi, 19, Saudi college student, talks to CSIS's Mike Sulmeyer



A video camera captures the panel discussion at CSIS for the show's first episode.

(Panel from left): Mohamed Abou-Ghazal, Sanad Al Kubaissi, Ali Amr

“There is nothing to win and everything to lose in the Middle East.”

—Mohamed Abou-Ghazal, 27, Jordanian research physician living in Lebanon, when asked what he would like to say to President Bush.

Schreyer and Whitehead on Leadership

This summer, AILA held leadership conversations with two remarkable individuals who shared lessons and personal experiences from their lifetime of accomplishments.

[Bill Schreyer](#), *chairman emeritus, Merrill Lynch & Co, Inc.*, and *CSIS trustee*, was interviewed on July 7 by CSIS staff members Faith Cole, Office of Strategic Planning, and Dan Gregory, AILA. Schreyer spoke in front of 40 CSIS young professionals about his personal heroes, his time as CEO of Merrill Lynch, his service as the Pope's financial adviser, and his charity work. You can read about the work of Erik Peterson, *William A. Schreyer Chair in Global Analysis*, on the [Seven Revolutions](#) website.



Schreyer meets CSIS interns who attend the Schreyer Honors College at Penn State



Dan Gregory, *AILA program coordinator*, interviews Bill Schreyer



(From left): Midshipman Donald Horner, [Daniel Gregory](#), Sarah Feurey, Charley Frazier, Bill Schreyer, [Faith Cole](#), [Monica Kohli](#)



Linda Jamison, John Whitehead

[John Whitehead](#), *former deputy secretary of state*, discussed his life's work as detailed in his memoir, [A Life in Leadership: From D-Day to Ground Zero](#). He focused on the leadership lessons from three periods in his life when he worked in the public sector. From his struggle as a twenty-year-old commissioned officer in World War II, to a sudden appointment as deputy secretary of state, to being asked to chair the [Lower Manhattan Development Corporation](#) after 9/11, Mr. Whitehead was called on to serve his country by leading people through challenging times of change. He spoke at CSIS on July 19.

“Consensus means there are no winners and no losers. It takes a little longer, but it’s always better in the end.”

—John Whitehead

AILA Dean in the News



On July 26, [Linda Jamison](#), dean of AILA, released a commentary titled, [Peacekeeping is Tricky Business](#), an analysis of UN peace operations and the challenges for a mission deployment to southern Lebanon. Ms. Jamison appeared on CNN International to discuss the role of the UN in the region, as well as on BBC Radio and Washington talk radio, WTOP.

In August, Jamison traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to speak at the biannual conference of executive directors of community development corporations active in policy issues. Her presentation, “The Global Village: Lessons of the Leadership Food Chain,” emphasized the application of ethical and creative forces at all levels of decisionmaking.

Interns Present Their Ideas

CSIS hosts nearly 200 student interns a year. At the beginning of each term, AILA provides a workshop on the mechanics of preparing and presenting a policy recommendation—proper public speaking; effective use of PowerPoint as a presentation tool; and how to craft a policy argument. Linda Jamison maintains that “no intern should leave CSIS without this skill. Learning to develop and argue your professional opinion will boost any career in Washington.” Interns volunteer for the opportunity to put what they learn to use by developing a policy recommendation of their own and presenting it to a group of their peers. In addition to the benefits of honing their research skills and having a public speaking experience, two CSIS staff members evaluate each presentation so that the interns know how to improve for the future. This summer, presentation topics ranged from negotiating Arctic trade routes, to reconfiguring Eurasia, to enhancing the effectiveness of international nongovernmental organizations.



Laura McGorman
Africa Program
International NGOs



Mark Taticchi
Simon Chair
Climate Change



Leah Bellshaw
Americas Program
Remittances



Noah Bonsey
Middle East Program
Rescuing Lebanon

“My question is not whether or not people are willing to volunteer, but whether or not we are effectively mobilizing those who are willing to go to the ground in the areas we need it most.”
—Laura McGorman, intern, Africa Program, on enhancing the efficiency of international volunteer programs

Anne Armstrong Leadership Award

AILA congratulates the 2006 Anne Armstrong Leadership Award recipients, Jessica Varnum from Colby College and Ali Wyne from M.I.T. Jessica interned with the International Security Program and worked on nuclear proliferation issues. Before leaving, Jessica coauthored an [opinion editorial](#) published in the *International Herald Tribune* with CSIS fellow Jon Wolfsthal on Turkey's nuclear ambitions. Ali interned with the CSIS Global Strategy Institute, where he contributed in a variety of ways, including conducting research on the hydrogeopolitics of Turkey and rule of law. During his summer at CSIS, Ali's name appeared in several publications. Among these were letters to the editors of the *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *New York Times Magazine*, *Financial Times*, and *International Herald Tribune*. Ali also published an [op-ed](#) on India in the *Korea Times*.

The [Anne Armstrong Leadership Award](#) is given to two intern applicants each year who demonstrate leadership potential in the field of international relations. The award was established in honor of [Anne Armstrong](#), former ambassador to the Court of St. James's and current chair of the Executive Committee of the CSIS Board of Trustees.



"...the summer wouldn't have been what it was had it not been for AILA."

-Ali Wyne



Jessica Varnum proposes a policy recommendation on nuclear proliferation titled, "Enhancing the Transatlantic Dialogue on Proliferation Prevention."